

Springfield Garden Club December 2020 President's Newsletter

Happy Holidays! At this time of year I am reminded to be grateful for many blessings. As I think back on this year, I realize how fortunate I am to be a part of our extraordinary Garden Club. Throughout the ups and downs of the pandemic you have all moved forward, cheerfully making sure our public plantings were the most colorful and successful ever and making sure our Club remained strong. I have benefitted from your upbeat, can-do attitudes more than you'll know. YOU have been my blessings this year and for that I'm deeply grateful.

Below are two important reminders for the new year.

Annual membership dues are due. We usually begin collecting dues at our holiday luncheon, so again, the way we've always done things must change. Please mail your dues to Membership Chair, **Barb Lacey** at 141 Baker Road, Springfield. Active Member dues are \$25 per year and Supportive Member dues are \$35 per year. Your dues help fund our operating costs, which includes such things as committee expenses, dues to the State and National organizations, our Yearbook printing and liability insurance. SGC is only as strong as its members. Thank you for your continued support.

Our **Winter Board Meeting** will take place on **Wednesday, January 20 at 9:30 a.m.** at the Nolin-Murray Center at the Catholic Church in Springfield. Two very important items will be on the agenda. Everyone is required to wear masks, except when talking during the meeting.

1. This is our annual budget planning meeting so attendance is especially important. Only our Board can vote but all of your comments are welcome. Please come!!
2. We'll be holding a full membership vote for the bylaws revisions passed at our Fall Board Meeting in September. Because of the virus we haven't had an opportunity to bring our full membership together.

The meeting schedule will be as follows:

- 9:30 a.m. – Board meeting convened
- 11:30 a.m. – Board meeting adjourned
- 11:30-11:45 – break
- 11:45 a.m. – Full membership meeting convened for discussion and vote on the bylaws revisions

All members received a copy of the bylaws changes in a September 30 email but another copy will be emailed to everyone again in early January. A quorum is required at this meeting. PLEASE come and make your voice heard and give us your vote.

We cannot meet or vote electronically until our bylaws are revised! Please contact Cheryl at scpierce83@comcast.net if you have any questions.

2020 SGC CALENDAR

June 10 – Postponed – Two Special Tours – Eshqua Bog and Doug Switzer's Azalea Gardens.

July 8 – Postponed - Garden Tour and brown bag lunch.

August 12 – Brown bag lunch and plant exchange at Bonny Andrews' Lake House.

Sept. 9 – "American Chestnut Trees", Tour of the Knight's Chestnut tree grove, 2:00 p.m. at Dr. Randy and Grace Knight's home.

Sept. 18 – Fall Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Claremont Savings Bank

Oct. 7 – Fall Gardens Clean Up, 9:00 a.m., Springfield Plaza (Peebles)

Oct. 14 – Fall Potluck and Festival of Trees Update - CANCELLED

Nov. 11 – FOT Wreath Workshop - CANCELLED

Nov. 14 – FOT Moving Day, 9:00 a.m. at Lane's storage. CANCELLED

Nov. 16– FOT Decorating Day, 9:00 a.m. at The Great Hall. CANCELLED

Nov. 20 – Festival of Trees Party - CANCELLED

Dec. 2 – Creative Workshop, 9:00 a.m. Great Hall, 100 Main St. CANCELLED

Dec. 9 – Annual Holiday Luncheon, CANCELLED

Jan. 9, 2021 – Winter Board Meeting, Nolin-Murray Center. 9:30 a.m. – Board Meeting 11:45 a.m. – Full Membership Meeting for Bylaws Vote. Masks Required

Please make these changes to the member contact information in your Yearbooks.

🌲 New email for **David King**: david@davidgking.com

🌲 New email for **Katherine Parker**: katherineparker760@yahoo.com

Message from **Lynn Likus**: "I have a leaf/ debris, brown, straight-sided bag with tan edging. It was left at the garden at Intersection of 10 & 106. Contact me if it's yours. llikus@me.com or 802-299-0772."

Santa Claus Club project update from **Deanna Dexter**: "Response from our members has been impressive. We obviously have a Club of generous Santas as well as talented gardeners! A few gifts are still available. If you'd like to participate, contact Deanna at.dexter@vermontel.net or 802-885-5812. Deadline is December 4.

A message from **Jean Swanson** as she and Allan are about to close on the sale of their house and move (temporarily we hope!) to Maine. "To all of my Garden Club friends.... What a great group of gals and we have shared so much over the years. We will be in Maine for the winter and hope to find something to buy or a few acres to build on in the Spring. So, I am not going to say good bye! Cause I will see you in the Spring. To the gals who have come and helped me pack... I couldn't have done it without you! You are true friends. Thank you so much! To the gals who have brought yummy dinners so I didn't have to cook... Thank you so much for thinking of us and blessing us with deliciousness twice per week. It does take the burden off. So very thoughtful. We are both grateful. And grateful for each of your friendships over the years. Hope to see you before we go. Or for sure in Spring. Thanks again so very much.. XO Allan and Jean. P.S. My cell doesn't work up there. I may try to purchase a new phone with a Verizon acct. But it may not happen for a couple of weeks. Will try to keep same cell number. Our new mailing address is: 2464 Forest City Road; Brookton, ME 04413. 207-448-2284."

Fundraising Campaign Update: We have much to be thankful for. As you know, Covid-19 caused us to cancel our annual Festival of Trees which is the sole source of funds for all of our community service projects. The fundraising campaign to replace these funds has been heartfelt and generous. To-date we have raised at least 75% of our normal Festival of Trees net income. Our Board must still make careful budget decisions next year, but it appears our major community service projects will be able to go forward in 2021, even if at a reduced level. The donations from our members were particularly generous. Thank you for believing in our Club and our cause.

Below is a list of the businesses that have donated as of the date of this newsletter. We have always been able to depend on area business owners for their contributions of money and labor to our community service projects. 2020 has been a particularly difficult year for many business owners. Please remember them and all local businesses when you're shopping for the holidays or need to call someone for service at your home. It's our combined support for each other that will create success for all.

- 🌲 All Seasons Construction
- 🌲 Bibens Home Center
- 🌲 Claremont Savings Bank
- 🌲 Davis Memorial Chapel
- 🌲 Images Hairstyling Salon
- 🌲 ImageTek
- 🌲 IVEK
- 🌲 Lawrence & Wheeler Insurance
- 🌲 Dr. Richard Marasa
- 🌲 Muse & Associates Real Estate
- 🌲 Smokeshire Design
- 🌲 Sunshine Acres
- 🌲 Tina's Hallmark Shop
- 🌲 Vittum Plumbing & Heating
- 🌲 Woodbury Florist
- 🌲 Young's Furniture & Appliance



Sandy Brown and Carol Eramo with the 2019 FOT raffle baskets, filled with many of the donated items received from our business friends.

There are many ways to define our Club and our members. For 2020, the words ingenuity and perseverance come to mind, as we've all worked to keep many of our programs going under challenging circumstances.

Therese Burton devised an ingenious plan to continue our Meals On Wheels program when the virus caused our normal monthly individual flower arrangements stop. As Meals on Wheels Committee Chair, Therese designed a note card to be included with two dozen meals each month. She enlisted the help of several members to search out seasonal-themed photos. She is working with **Abby Barney** who has been in charge of creating cheerful quotes included with the monthly flower arrangements. Therese includes one of Abby's quotes in each note. The result is a bright, joyful way to let people know we care. Kudos to Therese, Abby and all who contributed to this important program. One more bright spot to this project is the involvement of the Springfield Town Library, where Therese is having the notes printed. When the Library learned that the notes were a Garden Club project for Meals on Wheels, they cut their copy price in half! A warm and appreciative salute to our wonderful Library.

We need your help! As we look toward 2021, the Festival of Trees Committee Chairs are seeking suggestions for storage options for our 20+ trees, and many boxes of decorations and supplies. Everything is currently housed at what used to be Lane Eye Associates at 441 River Street. That building has been for sale for over a year now. We can't afford to assume we'll be able to use it once it's sold. We need approximately 800 square feet of space (maybe less), depending on how the space is set up for us to stack or pile the tree bags and boxes. Please contact **Lynn Likus** with your brainstorms – at llikus@me.com or 802-299-0772. Thank you.

Our Facebook presence continues to attract lots of attention. We had no idea when **Karen Vatne** launched this page on January 14 this year, how important the publicity would be for us – in a year when we couldn't get our faces out as much as we normally would.

November stats from **Karen**: Our **Facebook** page following continues to **GROW!**

- ✓ Our Followers grew from 90 to 102.
- ✓ Our Likes grew from 84 to 94.
- ✓ Likes of the July photos Karen posted to the Growing Up In Springfield site grew from 71 to 90. Everyone is missing our flowers!

Happy Holidays!

Cheryl



Reminisce...Festival 2019.
Lots of creative genius at
work. Oh, what fun we had!



Deanna



Sandy Mac, Margaret,
Rosann, Valerie and Glenna



Evelyn having fun at our
Creative Sales table.



Lynn and Karen