

Edelweiss Garden Club, Inc.  
Minutes  
February 8, 2012

President Joan Collick called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Following the singing of the Edelweiss Song, Linda Reinhardt introduced our special guest, Jerry Coger who led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Jerry is a board member and coordinator of Gaylord's Food Pantry. Jerry shared with us how he became involved with the Food Pantry, 15 years ago, and how many people have been helped over the years. This past year, 2011, had the highest number of people to receive help, serving 6,092 people. This number was made up of 1,834 families with 695 children between the ages of 0 to 5. Those families receiving assistance must live and/or work in Otsego County and may receive assistance two times a year. The Food Pantry is open 5 days a week, from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. Volunteers from local churches and the community help to distribute food to each family, during that period of time. The food comes from many locations, including donations and local food markets that supply fresh items as well as "rescue food", those items that must come off the shelves because of expiration dates. The cost of running the Food Pantry, even with all the donations, is \$173,000 a year.

Joan said our club will be helping this year by collecting food items at each meeting. This summer we are going to try our hands at "planting a row for the hungry", by growing some vegetables in our gardens to share with the Food Pantry.

Minutes from the January 11 2011 meeting were approved.

### **2012 Reports of Officers and Directors**

**Joan Collick, President:** Joan said the Board has met twice to discuss ideas generated at last month's meeting and make plans for 2012-2013 as to what we would like to see in our club. The Board will also be looking at changing our By-Laws, due to our change in Calendar Dates. Lois Kalis will be drawing up a draft with revisions.

When we have a speaker for our meetings, we will stop our meeting to present that speaker at his or her discretion.

Joan has been having some problems with her computer, so if you need to contact her, use her cell # [248-877-2255](tel:248-877-2255).

**Denise Matteini, First Vice President (Membership):** As of this month we have 63 members, 10 of which are honorary. Denise will begin collecting membership dues in April, with a deadline by May 31, 2012. If any of you are leaving the club, please return your binders to Denise. Also, inform her of any changes in phone numbers or e-mail addresses.

**Lois Kalis, Second Vice President:** Please remember to wear your nametags for meetings. This helps new members in getting to know everyone. Lois reported that some stores had complained about using their parking lots when we carpool for field trips. We have been

given permission to use the parking lot (north/east end) at Peace Lutheran Church, which is on Old 27 across from Otsego Lake and next to Preston Feather. Lois is checking on our May field trip to the Dairy Doo farm as far as the distance and interest in carpooling. The Otsego County Bus does not transport outside the county, so that is not an option. She suggested we might want to visit the Weather Station, which would not be so far to travel.

**Susan Hegarty, Second Vice President:** Sue will handling the lunches at B.J.'s each month and for March suggested something like "corned beef and cabbage" in keeping with St. Patrick's Day. Sue also decorated our tables for the Feb. meeting with a Valentine theme and the centerpieces were given as prizes.

**Linda Reinhardt, Treasurer:** As of today, we have a balance of \$7,128.30. Linda will be passing out a copy of our budget and expenses in April.

**Marge Williamson, Corresponding Secretary:** Marge has met with Jackie Skinner to select a book for the library in memory of Pearl Peurach. One they liked was a book of prose and poetry on flowers and gardening. They will soon be making a selection. Marge has sent many get well cards.

**Unfinished Business:** Marilyn McIntosh requested a need for 2 or 3 Garden Club members to be hostesses for the Michigan Garden Club State Convention on Mon. June 4, 2012, and would be responsible for directing other specific hostesses to a pre-determined table. The following members volunteered; Roseanne Kujawa, Diane Sheldon, Marge Williamson and Susan Hegarty.

**New Business:** Joan would like us to create a title for our Newsletter, so we are having a contest. Create a name/title, submit the name and your name to [jms1231@charter.net](mailto:jms1231@charter.net). The deadline is March 14, 2012, and you could win a \$25 gift certificate to "The Bearded Dog". Judges will be Myrna Naile, educator, Jackie Skinner, librarian and garden club board member Susan Hegarty.

**Pearl Peurach's Memorial:** Anita Davidson announced that the garden club had been given \$295 in memory of Pearl, and there was much discussion and many great ideas on what the money could be used for. Karen Gurchiek made a motion to table the discussion until we price objects that were mentioned. A second to the motion was made by Susan Hegarty. If you have ideas for what you think the money could be spent for, you can e-mail Joan.

**Plant a Row for the Hungry:** Joan suggested that we try to grow some vegetables in our "Garden Club" gardens this summer and report in the Fall how successful we were and what vegetables grew best. It is our hope that in 2013, we will be able to supply the Food Pantry with some fresh produce.

**Geocache Presentation:** Sally Hall gave a very interesting talk on geocaching, what is it and how does it work. Geocaching is a "treasure hunt" for little containers hidden out and about the world. You need the use of a GPS and certain coordinates to find these treasures. You locate the container, write in the log book, found inside the container, and leave the treasure where you found it, for the next treasure hunter. It is a fun way to get you outside and enjoy nature. Sally said there are 50 hidden treasures in and around Gaylord. Sally would be willing to work with anyone interested in doing this and is a way to publicize our club.

**Program:** Mr. Richard DeLonge, owner of his own tool sharpening business, demonstrated how we can take care of and sharpen our own gardening tools. It was very informative and some members brought their own tools to work on. If you want Mr DeLonge to sharpen your tools, you can call him at [989-732-3560](tel:989-732-3560) or drop your tools off at Advance Electric or Ace Hardware on Mon., Wed., or Fri. Check the cost as Ace might charge a handling fee.

Joan thanked all who helped with the meeting and Tammy Fairchild gave us a garden "tip" for the day.

Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted  
Nancy Pike, substitute secy.