

Edelweiss Garden Club, Inc.
“Keepers of the Earth”
January 9, 2013

The meeting was called to order by **President Joan Collick** at 10:30 A.M. The minutes from the November, 2012 Meeting were approved with a reminder that minutes are on the website.

Joan introduced our guest for the day, **Joanne Fury**. Joanne, whose home was on the July 2012 Garden Walk, thanked the Garden Club for the wonderful experience she had in participating in this event. She said we inspired her to create beauty in her yard and to make her feel like a real “Keeper of the Earth”. She shared a painting of her yard done by the Gaylord artist who was assigned to her home, sharing her talents as well. Joanne led us in “The Pledge of Allegiance” and then we all sang the Edelweiss Song before our Speaker was introduced.

Lois Kalis introduced our Speaker for the Day from The Headwaters Land Conservancy. **Kristy Mortham, Development and Outreach Coordinator**. Kristy gave a very informative presentation explaining their Program and why everyone should consider preserving their lands. To date, HeadWaters has successfully preserved over 8,700 acres of land, including over 28 miles of water frontage. There was a question and answer period following Kristy’s talk and literature was distributed. Information on this worthwhile organization can be found on their website www.headwatersconservancy.org Volunteers are needed as well. Paul, a new volunteer with the program, accompanied Kristy to our Meeting.

EGC Website: Joan thanked Nancy Valuet and Chris (the website set-up coordinator) for all their hard work in keeping our website up to date. We can now sign up on line for any Committee we’d like to join. Please check out their fantastic work.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS:

President’s Remarks – Joan Collick. Decorating our Room/Gardening Tips: Joan encouraged members to dig up pictures of their gardens and make a poster board to display in our Meeting Room to lend an atmosphere of what we do during growing season. She also announced, that to keep in tune with requests for more information on gardening during our meetings, that Suzanne Stock will be presenting a Master Series of Garden Tips during this coming year.

1st Vice President – Denise Matteini: Reported that there were 39 Members at the Christmas Luncheon with an additional 4 guests.

2nd Vice President - Sue Hegarty: Reminded the membership about the luncheon sign-up sheet for Arlene’s Diner after the Meeting. Announced that next month’s Speaker will be Donna Quandt, Executive Director, Otsego County Habitat for Humanity.

Lois Kalis: Described some of our upcoming trips and programs. She gave a thorough description on our planned May Field Trip to the Recycling Facility in Traverse City and took a count on how many were interested in going.

Treasurer – Linda Reinhardt: We have a balance of \$7681.00 in our Account.

Corresponding Secretary – Marge Williamson: Asked that members make copies of information sent to them by email and bring it along to the Meetings for reference. Acknowledged the January birthdays and sang Happy Birthday to these members. Will be sending a card to Jane Mead who is still recovering from her fall in December.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Green Sales & Deck the Halls: Pat Sitz and Pearl Kabacinski

Pat thanked everyone who was involved in the last minute switch of the site of pick-up for the Greens Sale to the Sportsplex. In spite of the confusion, due to the fire in the building next door to our original site, all went well. It was mentioned after it was over, that the Sportsplex actually seemed to be a better and more convenient place for the Greens pick-up. This will be checked out for next year. Joan Collick said she had thanked Bill for his splendid cooperation and Marge Williamson sent him a special thank you card for all of his help. Pearl asked someone to replace her next year as Pat's partner on this Committee. She said she would help whoever volunteers. Pat and Pearl also thanked their Committee for all their hard work with the Greens Sale. The net profit was \$2515.93. Pat Sitz noted that the decorations at the Patriot House (the Deck the Halls winner this year) were greatly appreciated by all who live there.

Christmas Luncheon: Mirja Hoeft

Mirja thanked her excellent committee for the success of the Christmas Luncheon which was held at Marsh Ridge this past year. A special thanks was given to Denise Matteini for her beautiful table decorations. 39 Members and 4 guests attended.

NEW BUSINESS

EGC Signage Proposal – Carol Breed

Carol Breed made a Proposal that we identify our EGC Gardens by purchasing and putting up small signs in front of each of our gardens that would read "Planted and Maintained by the Edelweiss Garden Club". A picture sample of some of the suggested designs were passed around. These signs would help to differentiate our gardens from the City ones. Carol suggested a 6" aluminum sign, (the cost being \$6.00) or whatever size the Members would like. A motion was made by Mirja Hoeft, seconded by Cynthia Hilling, voted on and passed. The motion read: "The EGC will order as many identification signs as are needed to place in our gardens with size, cost and design to be determined when information is brought back by Carol Breed.

Gaylord Flower – Pam Greve & Joan Collick

Pam Greve explained an idea that came out of a Board Meeting discussion, with Joan Collick, of identifying one particular flower to be used in all of our gardens and that we try to promote it as the “Gaylord Flower”. We would need a Committee to work on getting business owners, Chamber of Commerce, Board of Commissioners, city planners etc. to cooperate in this effort. We would also have to work with the color scheme of the city baskets and planters that are maintained by the city in the Downtown area. A suggestion of business front flower boxes and possibly the use of the marigold as our flower due to it’s sturdiness in our climate were two of the many suggestions made in the discussion that followed. Pam and Joan would like to form a Committee to head this up and asked for volunteers. This will be discussed further at our next Meeting.

Thought for the Day - Marilyn McIntosh

Thank You To – Marilyn (Thought for the Day); Marilyn McIntosh & Mirja Hoeft – Greeters; Table Decorations – Marge Williamson

Meeting adjourned at 11:35

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Williamson
(For Pam Karbowsky, Recording Secretary)