

**Lakemoor Hills Garden Club**  
**Lakemoor Hills Presbyterian Church**  
Thursday, November 16, 2023

The meeting was **Called to Order** by President John Bradley.

A **Devotion** was offered by Kristen Bianconi.

**Attendees:** John Bradley, Tanya Copeland, Sharon Gerkin, Linda Haynes, Kim Overman, Kathy Proctor, Holli Rogers, Barbara Taylor, Fran Thomforde, Margo Simmons, Sue Humble, Rosemary Burr, Cindy McLaughlin, Suzan Bowman, Jennie Sullivan, Carol Gray, Leslie Bazzoon, and Suzanne (Kabalka) Wedekind.

**Review/Approval of previous minutes:** A motion was made to approve and seconded. Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** was given by John Bradley using the bank statement. Motion to approve the report was made and seconded. Treasurer's Report was approved.

**New Members were officially greeted:** They are Carol Gray, Leslie Bazzoon and Suzanne Wedekind.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

Social Committee: Chair Tanya Copeland announced the Holiday Luncheon will be Thursday, December 21, at 10:30 AM. It will be held at the home of Tanya and Buz Copeland. While the club will provide ham and smoked turkey, attendees are asked to bring a side dish. Please text her at 865-207-6211 when you have an idea of what you will bring. Also, please bring a wrapped inexpensive gift for a "Dirty Santa" gift exchange.

Fundraising Committee: Sue Humble, Chair

Tanya reported regarding **Seasonal Mailbox Toppers**. Kathy Proctor and Fran Thomforde have produced the needed bows. Tanya gave examples of the types of greenery that will be used, noting that, because of our fall drought, the greenery should be immersed in water when cut, and re-hydrated. They will need to soak up enough to get them through the holiday period. Cuttings should be cut 16"-18" long. The near end of the greenery should be stripped to 4". For woody stems, the first ~1" should be smashed with a hammer or split longitudinally in order to facilitate the water uptake. Tanya distributed a printed document noting the types of evergreens and decorative elements that work well.

Assembly day will be 11/28 beginning at 10:30 AM at Tanya's garage. Bring pruners and garden gloves.

Suzan Bowman reported on **Pecan sales**. The orders may not be received from Stuckey's until after Thanksgiving.

Projects Committee: Kathy Proctor, Chair

Kathy and John Bradley reported on the 3 Alcoa Highway roundabouts. Lakemoor Hills Resource Council has committed to a \$3,000 grant to the Garden Club for the re-planting of the centers of the roundabouts. Discussion ensued regarding what happened to the originally planted pennisetum (fountain grass), which died in the big December freeze of last winter. Kathy is working on sourcing of the replacement plants (panicum (switchgrass) and pennisetum), which we expect to install in spring 2024.

John also discussed the ½ acre plot on the west side of the Maloney service road/on-ramp to Alcoa Highway South. It was planted by DOT in late spring 2023 with wildflower seed and the planting failed. Gene Burr obtained replacement seed from Knox Seed and has sought the participation of the Lakemoor Hills Homeowners' Association and our Garden Club in the re-planting. The Garden Club is not committed to lead this project, but John indicated that our members may wish to participate in the effort. The re-planting is proposed for early spring 2024. Site preparation is required. DOT mowed the plot low and top-dressed with topsoil in fall 2023. To suppress the emergence and dominance of weeds we propose to "de-thatch" the plot in late fall/early winter 2023, then to repeat the soil disruption twice more in late winter/early spring 2024 before planting the wildflower seed mixed with annual rye grass, as recommended by Knox Seed. John has the wildflower seeds in his freezer. We are awaiting rain to make the soil surface workable before starting this process.

Lakemoor Legacy Park & Garden:

The land is owned by Knox County, and they are responsible for some of the work that has been done, eg putting in the paved path through the garden and, more recently, removal of the dead walnut tree. Some monies have been donated to the Resource Council to support the development of the Park, some of which was "earmarked" for a project to encourage and serve birds. We have ordered a large (>10 gallon) basined water feature/bird bath that is to be delivered in January 2024. We plan to use a solar-panel driven recirculating pump for this water feature. The proposed location is between the red oak and the Gathering Place.

John reported on the various sections of the Park and discussed what plantings are in each. Discussion ensued regarding maintenance of the park, and what that consists of. John asked members to consider adopting a section of the Park to maintain. Fran Thomforde noted that more than one clean-up is required each year. The Homeowners' Association spring clean-up (before the Dogwood Trail opens) does include the Park.

Tanya Copeland stated that the folks that live on that street have increased land values because of the Park, so perhaps they should participate in its upkeep. Volunteer organizations such as Scouts may also be considered as potential sources of help.

Kristin Bianconi wishes to hand the reins of Lakemoor Legacy Park and Garden Working Group to another member and will walk anyone through the garden to explain the needs.

Rosemary Burr and Suzan Bowman offered to participate in the care for the Raingarden.

**Report re Fall Social:**

The Social Committee was thrilled that this year the weather was cooperative, which greatly enhanced attendees' enjoyment of the evening. None were more thrilled than our hosts, Buz and Tanya Copeland.

**Other business:**

Yearbooks have been distributed.

Dues for next year will be payable in April, 2024.

**Walk-In Business:**

There was no walk-in business.

**Announcement:**

Deep South Garden Clubs Convention will be held March 17-20. Theme is "Springtime in the Smokies". Our Garden Club may volunteer to make table favors.

A motion was made and seconded and the meeting was then **Adjourned** by President John Bradley.

A **Seed Swap** occurred following the meeting.

**Program:** Knox County Master Gardener, Marsha Lehman, offered and very well-received program on **Pruning**.