

LRA Garden Club First Meeting 9/2/2021

In attendance: Beth Brody, Carol Boise, Gloria Baker, Mike and Jack Widness, Tammy Adams, Betty Zito, Chessia Kelly, Cecile Baker, Will Melton, Ann Loughran, Kathy Jones

Not in attendance but expressed interest: Chris Simpson, Holly Fortner, Gail Hindman, Cindy Scudato, Heidi Zizza, Gary Curulla, Jim and Sue Clayton, Eliza Childs, Meg Streeter, Andrea McLaughlin, Doreen Harder, Kristina Goransson and Randy Fayan

LRA Garden Club Purpose and Mission Statement:

To engage our community in best garden practices, native planting, and overall gardening education in a fun, social, and no pressure environment.

To help with these goals we will use the Pollinator Pathways Program: pollinator-pathway.org, The Lakewise Program: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise> and the writings of Douglas Tallamy: <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/tallamys-hub-1>

Procedures:

We will have in-person monthly meetings from May – September for this first year. Meetings will be held on the Friday, Saturday, or Sunday of the third week of every month. That month's host will decide the day, time, and topic for the meeting.

Beth Brody will reach out in March or April for hosts for the summer. A meeting can be a field trip, have a guest speaker, or simply be a discussion of any topic of interest the host wants.

Tammy Adams has already volunteered to host the June 2022 meeting on the topic of foraging and growing an edible/medicinal garden. Thank you, Tammy!

Possibilities:

Below are lists of topics of interest that were brought up at the meeting.

Resources: Book links and lists, plus books to borrow; garden shops, websites; sharing plants and seeds

Topics of Interest for Future Meetings: General advice on planting; guest talk by the Milkweed Lady from Dummerston; mushrooms; composting/reducing trash/lower phosphate household products; bees; trees and maintaining trees; vegetable gardens/edible gardens; insects; erosion control; wildflowers.

Places: These are some places which came up as local (ish) garden centers with some native plants available:

Scotts Farm – Brattleboro

Walker Farm – Dummerston

Maple Hill Greenhouse and Nursery – Swanzey, N.H.

Nasami Farm Native Plant Trust – Whately, Mass

Jack Widness also said he would circulate the Windham Conservation Society Spring Plant List when it becomes available.

Communication:

Eventually, and by next summer, Alan Baker will be creating a Garden Club page on the new LRA website. The page will have book lists, resources, meeting dates, and links that will be available to view for all LRA members. There will also be a blog spot. Only members will be able to post. This is where we will post minutes, share information such as articles and links, let members know if you have plants to share, etc. This will ease the email burden and make communication accessible to all.

UNTIL THEN – yup. It's email.

Current member news:

Betty Zito has Iris, Liatris, and Sweet Sicily up for grabs

Carol Bois had Milkweed and Bee Balm available.

Jack Widness also has Milkweed and I think a couple of other things as well.

Advice for the Day:

Don't plant things too close together – Betty Zito.

Yup. We've all been there...