

THE SAINT LOUIS HERB SOCIETY

GENERAL MEETING

THE MONSANTO CENTER

JUNE 1, 2018

Welcome President Pat Schutte gave a special welcome to all members. 2018 Henry Shaw Member attendees Dianne Johnson, Andrew Wyatt, and Jennifer Smock were recognized.

Opening Remarks

- The Volunteer Service Recognition Luncheon will be held June 6 at the Garden. Congratulations to all who have reached milestones: (10 years) Carol Higgins, Parker McMillan, Maureen Jennings, Lee Streett (20) years Ann Case, Elaine Fleig (30) years Pat Leigh (50) years Mary Clair Wenger.
- Congratulations to those who were nominated for MBG volunteers awards: Bruce Chalker, Sheila Hoffmeister, Mary Hammer and The Saint Louis Herb Society. The nomination was an honor.
- Today we celebrate the 50-year anniversary of Mary Clair Wenger's membership in **The Saint Louis Herb Society**. A record found in our archives dating February 14, 1977 from **The Inn St Gemme Beauvais in Ste Genevieve** notes: Dear Mrs. Wenger- *Thanks for your inquiry. We would be most happy to serve lunch to your group on Friday May 6. The cost of our luncheon is \$3.50* President Pat Schutte noted Mary Clair has had many roles in TSLHS including presidency from 1978-1980.

Mary Clair shared some fond memories when she first joined the society and had 3 young children and garden work was a lovely diversion, that we used to grow our own plants and at one time met at the Museum building. Mary Clair's hope for TSLHS future is that **plants will always be the important thing, promoting plants, teaching, and sharing will be our main thrust.**

Mary Clair was presented a lovely Waterford crystal vase engraved "The St. Louis Herb Society – 50th Anniversary" with her name. All members shared in our joy of this celebration.

- Pat invited Dianne Johnson, Andrew Wyatt, Jennifer Smock and Stephanie Prade to step forward to present the Missouri Botanical Garden Horticulture and Living Collections Division with a check for \$20,000. Our gift is to be directed toward making the propagation features at the new greenhouse at the Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery fully functional. This gift was presented in appreciation of the partnership between The Saint Louis Herb Society and the Horticulture and Living Collections Division of the MBG. Andrew Wyatt accepted our check and thanked the TSLHS for our long history of mutual support of all MBG programs and especially this Hardy Plant Program gift.

TSLHS wanted to honor the extraordinary support of Jennifer Smock. A plaque acknowledging our appreciation of Jen will be installed in the Willam T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening. Dana Rizzo was thanked for her wonderful support of our recent and fabulous Herb Sale.

- Pat thanked all outgoing Officers and Committee Chairs for their service and welcomed their successors. Each chair came forward to present the highlights of their year-end report which will become part of the 2016-2018 archives.
- Nancy Kirchoff and Betty Guarraia shared fond memories of our treasured member Nadine Mahe who recently passed.
- Thank you notes were read from Eileen Flieg and Connie Lippert.

Approval of Minutes

The April 6, 2018 general meeting minutes stand approved with no corrections.

OFFICER REPORTS

President- Pat Schutte

Pat commented that the most important responsibility of a President is to appoint all committee chairs and committee members. It is these individuals that serve as the engine of our Society. Additionally, as Past-President/Nominating Chair, a President has the privilege and responsibility of overseeing the selection of new Society officers. President-elect Stephanie Prade has selected her Standing Committees as noted in the June 2018 Thymes.

Pat thanked her officers and chairs as they prepare to report on their many accomplishments in 2018.

Vice-President- Stephanie Prade

Stephanie informally asked and received member support to move our meeting room to The Monsanto Center. Members responded with applause for each reviewed monthly speaker program. Members warmly responded to our two outings, The Fall tour to Long Row Lavender Farm and Spring tour to The Spicery in Kimmswick, Missouri, and the Historic Ste. Genevieve "New France, the Other Colonial America". The Baetje Goat Farm and Cheese Tasting was a treat the next day.

Treasurer- Carol Higgins read by Pat Schutte

There is \$30,000 in our checking account and \$30,000 in our Money Market account for a total of \$60,000. This does not include the revenue from the Herb Sale. A final bank statement and updated financial report will be provided for the archives.

Corresponding Secretary- Barb Finbloom

Recording Secretary-Jean Beck

Minutes from all 2016-2018 will be submitted to the archives.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Education- Eileen Carr

Eileen thanked Katie Garner for her committee leadership through September 2017. Our Fall 2017 daytime class “The Saint Louis Herb Society Share Their September Secrets.... with You!” was a sell out with rave reviews. Our Spring 2018 class “The Joy of Herbs: The Newest Ideas for Growing, Cooking and Sharing”, had 22 Society members participating, sold over \$500 of products and was a sold-out success. Eileen also commented on the success of Bruce Chalker’s evening herb class which was conducted under Speakers Bureau.

Finance- Jan Hermann

Jan noted her role is to provide oversight of the financial operations of The Society, including cash management, budget preparation and insurance. Through our dedicated members volunteering at our revenue-generating events, (most notably the sale of products and publications, Speakers Bureau and Herb Sale) The Saint Louis Herb Society remains in very good financial position.

Historian-JoAnn Vorih

The purpose of the Historian is to maintain and preserve records of our workshops and places we go. JoAnn noted the eight hours of preparation that went into a fantastic slideshow of members and events throughout the year. She thanked Mary Hammer for her assistance in preparing the slide show.

Horticulture- Ted Atwood

2017 had an extended growing year, not closing the garden until October. Many members went to Ste. Genevieve, Missouri to help with their herb garden and boxwood garden. There have been 222 volunteer hours and 1800 plants planted by May 31 at TSLHS Herb Garden. Ted thanked Vice Chairman Betty Guarraia and shared the honor he experienced feeling that our garden is the “Heart of our Collaborative Team”.

Hospitality-Michael Stevens

Michael thanked members for the wonderful food brought to every meeting.

Librarian-Glenda Finnie

Glenda purchased two books for our library, “How to Read Nature: Awaken Your Senses to the Outdoors You’ve Never Noticed” by Tristan Gooley and “The Inner Life of Animals” by Peter Wohlleben. Glenda shared an interesting book “The Food Explorer, the Adventures of the Globe Trotting Botanist Who Transformed What America Eats” by Daniel Stone. This book is in our library, having been donated. We have out grown our library space but through book management will continue within our space allotted.

Membership- Lucyann Boston and Provisional Advisor- Barb O'Brien

Barb gifted Celeste Sprung and Pat Hillis with name tags, a bag, and her gorgeous tussie-mussie bouquet on moving to active TSLHS status. Pat and Celeste expressed their love of TSLHS organization and gifted the Society with garden supports and trellises to support our 20/30-foot hop plants.

Kathleen Woods was in Ireland last year when she and Anne Brackens were celebrated for the completion of their provisional program. They presented TSLHS with a Germander Trimmer, Product Wagon and Clippers, which were to be engraved.

Our new 2018-2020 provisional members Georganne Nixon, Deborah Grossman and Ginny Johnson were welcomed.

Speakers Bureau- Judy Harmon

Our volunteer speakers have made presentations at the St Louis County Library, horticulture and garden clubs, senior groups, historical societies, philanthropic organizations, volunteer groups, social organizations, a senior residents home, and a commercial nursery.

Bruce Chalker organized and presented two evening herb education classes at the Missouri Botanical Garden, under the umbrella of the Speakers Bureau. Both classes received enthusiastic reviews for the presentation and the exceptional member prepared food. In the future, Bruce will not organize these evening classes, and the format will likely change.

Judy hopes all members are inspired to become a St. Louis Herb Society speaker.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Herb Sale- Mary Hammer

Mary thanked her committee, John Wuest and his band, Dana Rizzo, Jen Smock, Kate Gleason, and the 56 Herb Society members who took part in this year's sale. Total plants sold 9,054, Total sales \$35,092.15, total expenses \$19,942.80, **Net Profit \$15,149.35**. The weather was helpful, people came early with enthusiasm and had a smashing time. This was one of our most successful joyous events providing revenue to support the use and knowledge of herbs.

Legacy Fund- Sondra Ellis

The Legacy Fund is to be used for future capital improvements or special expenditures to The Saint Louis Herb Society Garden. Gifts may be made to the fund through tributes, donations from individual donors and by The Saint Louis Herb Society. Our current total is **\$114,896.05**. We receive our official total after the MBG closes the year. Nellie La Vigne, our 2016-18 liaison, has resigned her position at Missouri Botanical Garden to become Development Director at Nerinx Hall High School. We are currently working with Lauren Wright until we are notified of an official liaison.

Medicinal Study-Suzanne Switzer/Joyce Driemeyer

The Medicinal Study group met four times to focus on Ancient Grains, Grasses, and Seeds. The following reports were given and discussed: Wheat, Camelina, Corn, Millet, Cocoa, Plant Sweeteners and Sorghum. A new learning experience of lunching at various ethnic restaurants to better understand different culture's utilization of plant foods, herbs and spices was added.

At the March 2018 study group gathering, those in attendance supported the idea that modernizing the name would better convey an emphasis on the importance of maintaining wellness. A new name "Wellness Through Plants" will be recommended to the Executive Committee and Board for approval.

Newsletter- Marilyn Miles

Marilyn shared her joy in providing information, entertainment, connectivity, and enthusiasm through our Thymes Newsletter. She thanked Bruce Chalker and other supporters in providing such a full reflection of our Society. Going forward the Newsletter will be part of the Communications Committee.

Planning/Bylaws-Kitty Ferrell

Kitty reviewed the Planning/Bylaws Revision two-year project which included over 40 meetings for all members to have input. Kitty feels we have kept our "magic" while adjusting our organization infrastructure to reflect our actual functioning. All committee and members who participated were thanked. The newly approved Bylaws will be printed in the 2018-2020 roster.

Products- Linda Meyer

This successful committee held 18 workshops, producing 29 products that yielded 1,208 units of merchandise! Inventory sold quickly, allowing the best items to return at the April sale theme of "Back by Popular Demand". The committee operated with such team spirit as they raised/expanded the bar with new twists on recipes, packaging and displaying.

Publications- Nancy Kirchhoff

Nancy provided a book inventory value of each book. We currently have only 40 books remaining of the new A-Z herb book. Liz Fathman, Director MBG Press, has noted that this book is selling well in the Chicago Press. Bruce Chalker has submitted a 300-page research of Herbs Around the Mediterranean to Liz Fathman for editing. This book is still in the planning stages.

Publicity-Mary Ann Hogan

The purpose of this committee is to create and implement information regarding the events and products of The Saint Louis Herb Society. The committee created new sources for our products and speakers. Mary Ann was also served as Chair of the committee for the 75th Anniversary celebrations and with the editing of The 75th Anniversary History of the Saint Louis Herb Society booklet. Since the publication of the book, *Herbs A to Z*, this committee has been responsible for the inventory and ordering of these books. When Herb Society events involve citywide media distribution of information, the Publicity Committee works in conjunction with the Communications Department of the MBG.

Volunteers- Judy Bolian

Judy thanked all who participated in our 12-week Herb and Heirloom program. Our cart was redesigned for more visibility. The Plant Lab outside the Children's Garden was established for rain days. Judy also thanked all members who participated in the Herb Sale and the Shaw Nature Market educational class.

Website-Val Whitney and Barb Ottolini – Anne Brackens reported

Brandon Miller, our contact with the Miller Group of St. Louis, hosts and troubleshoots the website for The Saint Louis Herb Society. Wordpress is the software used to host the website. **Our website log-in password for TSLHS members is "tslhs" and the password is "herbies 1941" (case specific and no spaces).** Personal emails are not accepted and have been removed as a sign in option. Statistical analysis of data collected from months, years and average per day views was provided. The website will now be under the Communications Committee.

What's New- Mary Clair Wenger

Talks included a report on Perilla, Christmas flavors of Anise, Cardamom and "Herbs of Love" in February by Mary Clair. Anne Cori reported on Vanilla with her special vanilla cookies. In March, Anne shared her secret of how to save a marriage with the recipe for perfect Cape Cod Potato Chips.

NEW BUSINESS

New Honorary Member

Pat noted conferring someone as an honorary member is the most prestigious honor TSLHS can bestow upon a member. Our bylaws state that honorary membership may be bestowed upon an active member who has exhibited outstanding leadership in furthering the various activities of TSLHS over a sustained period. The Executive Committee and the Board have unanimously approved Betty Guarraia for this honor. A motion was made to accept Betty Guarraia as an honorary member by Jean Beck, seconded, and unanimously

RESOLVED: to confer Honorary TSLHS Status to Betty Guarraia.

Betty was surprised, thrilled and most appreciative of this honor.

New President 2018-2020 -Stephanie Prade

Pat welcome our new President Stephanie Prade who felt humbled and honored to accept this position. Pat gifted Stephanie with an engraved gavel with her name, President – The St. Louis Herb Society 2018-2020.

Stephanie introduced her **Executive Committee** Vice-President JoAnn Vorih, Treasurer Mary Hammer, Recording Secretary Ted Atwood, Corresponding Secretary Eileen Carr and Past President Pat Schutte.

Standing Committee Chairs are Nominating Pat Schutte, Membership Jan Hermann, Education Nancy Schiller, Finance Carol Higgins, Herb Sale Celeste Sprung, Horticulture Barb O'Brien, Products Judy Harmon, Provisional Advisors Mark Kalk, Publications Judy Bolian, Publicity Val Whitney, Volunteers Bev Schmitt, Communications Anne Brackens (*Website Anne Brackens *Newsletter Pat Hillis), Speakers Bureau Barb Finbloom, Archives Barb Ottolini (*combines historian and librarian), Hospitality Rhonda Ruester. Committee members were also announced. Description of each chair role will be in our fall roster says Stephanie.

Stephanie gifted outgoing President Pat Schutte with a logo TSLHS lap blanket, a bottle of champagne and a lovely plate engraved with TSLHS, her name, and term.

Stephanie introduced our new Provisionals with their sponsors; Georganne Nixon sponsored by Betty Guarraia, Deb Grossman sponsored by Barb Ottolini , and Ginny Johnson sponsored by Ann Case and JoAnn Vorih.

Announcements

Suzanne Switzer announce the Medicinal Study Group will meet at Anne Cori's house to study garlic with a special treat of viewing her garlic garden on June 28, 2018 at 1pm.

Sue Cohen and Jan Hermann announced an event to celebrate the 20th anniversary of The Sophia M Sachs Butterfly House with a Metamorphosis Gala June 23, 2018. \$20 raffle tickets are available currently for a \$1600 major gift package. All members were encouraged to attend this exceptional event.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Eileen Carr, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by

Recording Secretary, Jean Beck.