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Lake Ramsey "Petal" Pushers Garden Club Meeting on February r, 2013

Our January meeting was held at the home of Nancy Hotard. Our guest speaker was beekeeper extraordinaire Julian Laine. He told us of his beekeeping saga and of the amazing life and habits of honeybees. Honeybees are vital to the agricultural industry and a good thing to have in our garden. Julian was accompanied by his lovely wife Judy who generously gave out seeds from her candelabra plant and bay leaves from her garden.

Darlene Parlipiano presented Julian with a copy of the Lake Ramsey cookbook as a token of the club's appreciation for being our guest speaker. Julian said when he has some honey ready to sell he will bring it to Darlene.

Our treasury has a balance of \$452.59.

Committee Chair Reports:

Paulette Hecker, *Seasonal Decorating*: The budget given to the HOA board was \$3,000.00 but the HOA budget allows for \$5,000.00. Courtland Crochet, HOA president, indicated he was pleased with the club's efforts and he thought we should be allowed any necessary funds for our beautification.

Kathy Zeringue, *Green Space*: The benches by the pond in the back will be cleaned up soon.

Sandy Miller, *Landscaping*: Paulette and I planted tall snapdragons behind the pansies for spring color. Fresh garden soil and mulch were also added to the area to build it up and give the azaleas a boost.

Nancy Hotard, *Welcoming*: Nancy and Paulette put together five welcoming baskets and are delivering them to new Lake Ramsey residents. I had a sneak peek at the lime green baskets filled with garden needs and an informative flier that Darlene wrote which is full of Lake Ramsey information and phone numbers. Topping off the baskets were bright pink petunias. The baskets were precious and make for very thoughtful welcoming gifts from the club.

Suzy Cochran, *Sunshine*: Birthday cards were handed out to Kathy Crochet for December, Juanita Bild and Nancy Hotard for January and Jan Clark was the February birthday girl.

Camille Steen, *Program*: Upcoming Events for the club are:

March 1, Tour of Longvue, \$10, leave here at 8:45 a.m., no meeting. Jan Clark will call members to make carpool arrangements.

April 8, Susie Boutte's, 11:30 a.m., Herb Luncheon, \$15 - give to Kathy Hymel by **February 13**.

May 6, Claire Hayden's, installation of new officers and plant swap (2), dinner provided by those who didn't bring food to the Christmas meeting.

Camille is also working on arranging a private tour of The Nature Conservancy, date to be decided.

New officers will be installed at the May meeting. Nominees for officers are Kathy Crochet for president; Jane Griffiths for treasurer; Susie Boutte for parliamentarian; secretary position is still open.

The club members voted to change the club's constitution. Originally our officers served one year. Effective at the May meeting, this was changed so that officers will serve a two-year term.

Volunteers to serve as committee chairs are Kathy Zeringue continuing at Green Space; Kathy Lyons for Sunshine; Susan Huff for Program Chair; Claire Hayden is continuing as Photographer and Ceanne Hirsutus is continuing as Historian. Open committee chairs are Seasonal Decorating and Landscaping. As before, each garden club member will be assigned to a committee so be thinking where you would like to serve.

Again, if attending the Herb Luncheon, please give your \$15 to Kathy Hymel by February 13.

Happy gardening,
Sandy Miller, Secretary.