

The Little Garden Club of Memphis
Membership Meeting
October 12, 2023
Memphis Botanic Garden
Goldsmith Room

Emily Kay, President, welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to approve the September membership meeting minutes. Barbara Williamson made the motion to approve the minutes as written; Liz Crosby seconded the motion.

Liz Crosby and Stephanie Wilson, Inspirations Co-Chairs, presented a video showing beautiful farm and resort scenery. At the conclusion of the video, Mary Celeste Beall, proprietor of Blackberry Farm and Blackberry Mountain, made a special recorded announcement that she was looking forward to being our speaker for Inspirations 2024. Stephanie told us that Blackberry is situated on 4200 acres outside of Knoxville in the mountains of Walland, Tennessee. Mary Celeste joined her husband, Sam, as he led the transformation of his family's resort and laid the foundation for the destination it is now. After his sudden passing, she took the reins and ushered in continued growth and development of Blackberry, all while raising their 5 children. Today, it is one of the most celebrated small luxury resorts in the world, having received three James Beard awards as well as accolades from countless well-known media. Mary Celeste has a limited and selective calendar that has included the Nashville Antique and Garden Show and the Aspen Food and Wine Classic, so we are truly fortunate that she has chosen to come for our event. She will speak to us about her personal journey as well as the Blackberry lifestyle, touching on all aspects of hospitality including design and décor, entertaining, gardening, and food and wine, thereby inspiring us to recreate the sublime and simple Blackberry aesthetic for our own lives. Stephanie announced that Inspirations will be held Thursday, November 7, 2024, and she and Liz look forward to working with everyone to make it an incredible event.

Tempe Thompson, Membership, presented a second reading proposing the following changes to Section 6 of the Bylaws:

Section 6: Election of New Members

1. (1) The Membership Chairman will announce the number of vacancies to the Board. The Board will determine the number of vacancies to be filled. Election of new members will be held in October. The Membership Chairman will have proposal forms available anytime at the request of the proposer ~~or at the September Membership meeting~~ **on or before August 31st**. All forms must be returned to the Membership Chairman no later than ~~one week after the September membership meeting~~ **the Tuesday following Labor Day**.
2. (2) *No changes*
3. (3) Each Active Member shall cast a ballot ~~in person by proxy, or by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be delivered before the vote is tallied at the election meeting.~~

by email to the Membership Chairman. Deadline is 5pm the day preceding the October meeting. Each member may vote for the number of candidates she chooses, not to exceed the number of vacancies.

Lisa Wilder made the motion to accept these proposed changes to the bylaws. Julie Hussey seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion passed.

Kate Connell and Michelle Dunavant updated us on Carpenter Art Garden. Michelle, Kathy Adams, and Kate Trammell recently met with CAG Director, and the decision was made that LGC would plant pansies in the garden to keep it looking bright throughout the winter months. The pansies will be planted Tuesday, October 17 from 1-3:00. Kate has emailed a Sign-Up Genius for more pansies and volunteers for planting. Please bring your own spade and gloves, and try to carpool.

Barbara Williamson and Kim Lowrance, Conservation, announced that they have collaborated with Elizabeth Coors, the Conservation Chair of the Memphis Garden Club, to have a combined Pop-up Conservation event. It will be held Tuesday, November 14 at 11:00 am at the Dixon. Jim Varner, President of the Memphis chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society will be talking about migrating birds and the good that they can do for our yards, and Irene Brownlow will talk about eagles. More information will be coming.

Stacey Hussey, Entertainment Co-Chair, announced that the New Member Party will be held at the home of Duncan and Abbie Williams on Thursday, November 2. Invitations will go out when we know who our new members are. The November Membership Meeting is November 9. The hostesses are Stacey Hussey, Garnett Hutton, Jean Johnston and Tempe Thompson and Rebecca Gardner of Rebecca Gardner House & Parties will be our speaker. The December meeting will be held December 7 at Mary Call Ford's home. The hostesses for that meeting are Mary Call, Linda Mallory, Courtenay McAllister, Barbara Williamson, and Denise Ware. Stacey reminded everyone that the list of hostesses for each month are printed in the yearbook and Kate Trammell pointed out that it is also on the LGC website.

Ruthie Taylor and Sue Clark announced that the trip to Chicago and the gardens of the North Shore was a huge success. All of the owners and gardeners were overwhelmed by and appreciative of the thank you notes from members.

Michelle Dunavant expressed her appreciation to Meredith Bishop for leading the hand tied bouquet workshop before the meeting.

Emily Kay thanked our hostesses for today's meeting: Gina White, Kim Gibson, Katie Eleazer, and Mimsie Crump.

Paige Proctor, Programs, introduced our speaker, Meredith Bishop. Meredith is a native Memphian who has lived in Nashville for 22 years. Her company, Bloom and Bounty, grows heirloom flowers from seed in local urban gardens, including her own. She arranges these

flowers and uses them for local events, flower deliveries, and bouquet subscriptions. She also holds workshops that teach all aspects of gardening and has an online shop selling home and gardening goods. Paige pointed out that Meredith truly appreciates and is motivated by beauty. Meredith gave a touching, poignant talk. Explaining that many gardening terms are also terms used in neuroscience, she feels that gardening is intrinsically connected to life. She took us through her journey to becoming a sustainable urban flower farmer and explained her process.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Emily Kay thanked Meredith and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Garnett Hutton, Recording Secretary