

Editor Shannon Brichon



BRANDON GARDEN CLUB

September 2014



President Deane's Message

Members, when you blinked did you miss our summer? Mother Nature has thrown everything at us this year starting with a long cold winter, a wet, wet spring, then a short hot spell and now we seem to be into fall.

It's a good thing we gardeners are a hearty and dedicated bunch. We did have wonderful weather for our club garden tour and BBQ: a big thank you to the organizers-Gwen, Esther, Bonnie and Cory. Also thanks to the members that generously opened their gardens.

The Flower Show and Tea were held in Aug. under the direction of Heather Morrison, Marlene LeGal and Jean Sukaroff. These gals did a fantastic job making it more professional with their layout, signage and decor. Every year I am amazed at the talent in our club, hopefully more of you will ask them questions and begin by showing your own arrangements.

These events that we present during the summer months are not possible without our volunteers from the club and I appreciate their time and talents.

Now is the time for you to start thinking of ways you can also help as the elections for the executive and directors are coming up in Nov. Not all of us will be continuing in our positions so we need you to elect

Tonight's Meeting

Carla Hrycyna—St. Mary's Nursery

Creating Fairy Gardens

Plant Swap—Bring One Take One

Your Donations Bloom Into A Project in Tanzania!

By Dinah Ceplis

The generosity of MHA members has bloomed into a partnership project with the Tanzania Society of Agricultural Education and Extension (TSAEE) based near Mwanza, Tanzania.

Background: This idea began with the January 2013 convention in Brandon which had a theme of “Out of Africa”. Dinah Ceplis of Minnedosa and Corina Lepp of Rivers, both from the Canadian Agricultural and Rural Extension Society (CARES) were invited to make a presentation about their activities with youth and agriculture with TSAEE in Tanzania.

Dinah Ceplis was an ex-officio board member of MHA in the 1980s and early 1990s.]Through the November 2013 MHA newsletter and at the 2014 convention in Carman, Board member Marion Tresoor informed MHA members who were inspired to support ongoing activities led by TSAEE.

Individual MHA members made voluntary financial donations to support this specific project. The amount of funds raised through members was generous (over \$800). This prompted Dinah & Corina to suggest that the MHA write a proposal in partnership with TSAEE and submit it to the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) <http://mcic.ca/> through its Community Solidarity Fund. The Community Solidarity Fund provides funding to Manitoba not-for-profit, community-based groups involved in development projects overseas. The fund is available to non-member and MCIC affiliate members and provides another way to help Manitobans work together with partners around the world.

If the proposal was approved for the maximum funding requested of \$5000, the MHA would be required to contribute a 10% levy (\$500) to MCIC, an amount



The Project: This means that TSAEE can now initiate, implement and evaluate a one year project titled “Improving Tanzanian Small Holder Farmers’ (SHF) Participation in the Tomato Value Chain”.

TSAEE will facilitate the association of small holder tomato growers (women/youth) in Misungwi District, Tanzania to improve their bargaining power, increase their market intelligence and to work with other players in the tomato value chain to attain a more competitive advantage. Because tomato is the major vegetable crop in Tanzania grown by SHF for domestic cooking purposes, this project proposes to support locally identified needs within the tomato value chain.

Agriculture extensionists in TSAEE have been teaching SHF youth and women’s groups on improved production practices to overcome challenges and, as a result, marketable yields have increased. Fresh tomatoes are sold mostly in open air markets. Prices of fresh tomato in the markets fluctuate significantly with the seasons. SHF face a number of obstacles to earning higher incomes because of poor bargaining power and limited transport methods.

This project will assist TSAEE to bring 50 Misungwi District SHF tomato producers (male/female) together in a participatory methodology to develop an action plan and to work with other players in the tomato value chain to connect to better markets and realize more of the crop’s value.

The MHA wants to support rural Tanzanian women and youth who are small-holder vegetable farmers to increase their income. MHA Responsibilities: The MHA will provide ongoing updates about the project through contact with CARES and TSAEE.

Members are encouraged to contact the MHA office or Dinah Ceplis Dinah.ceplis@gmail.com and Corina Lepp carescontact@gmail.com of CARES if they would like to learn





The Brandon Garden Club meets at 7PM on the third Wednesday of each month except July and August at the Seniors for Seniors Complex at 311 Park Avenue East, Brandon.

New members always welcome. Annual membership is \$20 single / \$30 couple. Non-members are welcome to attend meetings to take advantage of the Club's horticulture programme at a cost of \$5.00 per meeting.

For more information on club affairs contact the club secretary, Nancy Lytle at 727-8912 or e-mail thebrandongardenclub@mymts.net .

The club newsletter is published free for members and is distributed at monthly meetings. Contact the editor, Shannon Brichon at 727-3581 for e-mail or postal delivery.



October 15th Meeting

6:00 POTLUCK

NORTHERN BIRDS

