

Ladies of the Lake – August 2017
by Barbara Galvin

Nothing says, "Summer!" like the Ladies of the Lake meeting in August. The hostesses, Gail Maher and Bev Ver Steeg, made all the ladies temporarily forget about the heat outside when they entered the pavilion to find crisp, white table cloths covered with jewelry. On this August 2nd, all the ladies were asked to bring a favorite piece of jewelry with a story to share. The jewelry shop look was lovely and totally new. Everyone anticipated hearing the stories and of course, seeing some unique jewelry.

Another new event was seeing another table covered with delicious produce compliments of Nancy Powell. The Ladies of the Lake checked out the sweet onions, cucumbers, tomatoes (both large and grape tomatoes), cabbage and lovely peaches. A free will offering was given in exchange for some fresh produce. Thank you, Nancy!

Looking at the buffet, the Ladies of the Lake took note of the variety of healthy salads. Years ago, desserts generally outnumbered salads. Not anymore! There were only three desserts, which was more than enough for all the ladies.

The hot dishes were a Zucchini Casserole and a Pork Enchilada Casserole. Petite corn bread muffins topped the casseroles for a little accompaniment. A vegetable pizza was a new item. On to the salads: Pasta and Bean salad, 7-layer Salad, Fruit Salad, Pineapple-Mandarin Orange Salad, Quinoa Kale Salad, and a Cauliflower Salad. How healthy does that sound?

The three desserts were Jane Steven's specialty, Peanut Butter Pie, Special K Bars, and a Cherry Cake. Everyone enjoyed.

Jane Stevens called the ladies to order and gave the financial report. She reminded everyone that September would be a month of no cooking. The decision still has not been finalized, but the meal for September 6th will be catered. Both Club 41 and the Main Street Cafe were mentioned. Jane will call the ladies once the decision is final.

Barbara Potter questioned about whether the lake had a water problem, and was told the pump had been hit by lightning.

Sharon Butler invited the ladies to join her and Cora Lee Douglas on Monday, Aug 7, for lunch in Bernadotte. Several ladies were interested so they will be enjoying a new place for lunch.

Nancy Hoppes encouraged everyone to check out the produce brought by Nancy Powell.

Gloria Bewley asked if everyone knew about the sign east of Greenbush. It is badly in need of either repair or replacement. Nancy Hoppes responded that the board members had paid for the other signs placed around Little Swan Lake. She would find out more.

Then Bev Ver Steeg asked about the vote on siltation. Nancy Hoppes said people voted "No" but explained that we need to be "good stewards of the land." Elizabeth Hiel added that people were dissatisfied with the results from the 2009 siltation work, which did not conclude with a cleaner lake. Maybe a dam needed to be built to make sure the silt did not come right back into the lake, like it did in 2009.

Erosion was also brought up and the need for rocking shore lines, because dredging is useless without steps taken to slow down erosion.

On a positive note, Bev Ver Steeg then steered the ladies to focus on the jewelry both that decorating the tables and their own interesting jewelry.

Bev brought out a sterling silver belt her father had made for his daughters. We had to laugh because when Bev showed how the belt would be worn, it was short! She explained it had been longer and pieces had been broken off. The workmanship was exquisite.

Barbara Galvin showcased a gaudy, bright green, bean necklace with a large shamrock. It belonged to her dear mother, Dolores, who received it for a St. Patrick's Day celebration from neighbors, Jerry and Helen Vicare. Dolores loved that necklace and wore it every St. Pat's Day!

Gail Maher showed a ring her mother received from her father for their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Lovely.

Jane Stevens had a 200-year-old bracelet which her father had brought home from one of his trips to Chicago, where he sold his cattle. Jane wondered, why? (Was Dad in the doghouse?)

Nona Kempton brought a collection of her own handmade beaded jewelry. She had belonged to a group, The "Stitchers", who were talented in quilting, sewing and beading among other crafts. Nona showed how her talent developed from beading on an Indian loom. Her collection was unique with various techniques from using a square stitch in-between turquoise stones in a necklace to utilizing triangular stones in another necklace. The variety was elegant and unique!

Elizabeth Hiel shared her story which began with a phone call from her grandson. He asked if she had an old class ring. When Elizabeth asked why, he replied that Josten's Ring Company would give the student who had the oldest class ring, his own class ring for free. Elizabeth had a class ring from her family from 1934, but unfortunately someone else had a class ring from 1932, which won the free ring.

Elizabeth also told about another unique piece of jewelry, her grandmother's pin from Camp Ellis. It had her picture on it.

Nancy Hoppes began her story with a little orange blossom ring. The ring was given to her by her husband, Dave, as an engagement ring. Dave had sold his Model A to buy the ring. Twenty-five years later, Dave had a jeweler replace the engagement ring with a new ring, and the diamond was removed from the orange blossom ring, as the orange blossom ring was damaged. The new ring was a Christmas gift. The rest of the story: five years ago Nancy's daughter, Angie, had the original orange blossom ring restored. The ring hung by a cord on the Christmas tree. Nancy loved it! And then Nancy's grandparents' rings and her parents' rings were melted to design another unique ring.

Judy Brown brought out a little child's gold bracelet which was her daughter Jodi's. The bracelet was given to Jodi, and another to each of her other daughters, by Judy's parents. Her son Chad received a pocket knife instead.

Kay McKinley had a 48-year-old wedding ring on a chain. The wedding ring had been enhanced by the addition of an emerald stone to commemorate her birthday May 6, after a world tour.

Sharon Butler had her nurse's pin from 1964, when she graduated from Nursing School at Cottage Hospital.

Ladies of the Lake enjoying not only lunch, but also the jewelry stores were Gail Maher, Nancy Hoppes, Barbara Galvin, Elizabeth Hiel, Jane Stevens, Cora Lee Douglas, Sharon Butler, Barb Potter, Gloria Bewley, Nona Kempton, Kay McKinley, Judy Brown, and Bev Ver Steeg.

The hostess for September 6th will be Nona Kempton, who asked that the Ladies of the Lake bring a craft you have made. She said that whatever you have created, whether a quilt, stitchery, crocheted items, knitted items, or whatever else, bring it. Also remember the lunch will be catered. If you don't hear from Jane Stevens, call her to make a reservation for food being ordered.