

By Deb Frisby

Wreaths, bows and tributes

The November 10 meeting of the Garden Club was another workday, but not in the gardens this time. Members met at the Pine Knoll Shores public safety building for several hours of bow-making and were served cider and donuts while they worked. The bows are \$5 each and work well on the evergreen wreaths sold by the Garden Club. They will be available on December 1 during the wreath pickup at town hall. Any leftovers will go on swags club members will make on December 6 for decorating around town in Pine Knoll Shores and at the Cape Lookout National Seashore's Visitor Information Center in Beaufort.

As the business part of the meeting was concluding, club members spent a few minutes sharing memories of Lois Jean O'Keefe, a recently deceased club member who is much missed. Jean McDanal said Lois Jean was "the backbone of the club for

nearly 40 years. She joined the club as a young woman, quietly assuming leadership roles in many club activities around town." The meeting was one day before Veterans Day this year, and as final orders for the Christmas wreath fundraiser were collected, final preparations for the Veterans Day tribute honoring all who serve in the military were made.

The town and club co-sponsor a yearly ceremony at the Blue Star Memorial marker on the corner of Highway 58 and Pine Knoll Boulevard. This year Arleen Graczewski arranged the program and invited Jerry Price (Sergeant, USMC), Ed Powers (SP4, US Army), Major General Tom Temple (US Army, retired), Mayor John Brodman, Kathy Blowers, Kay Howe, Linda Pearson, John Ferguson (Captain, US Army), Colonel Ron Pearson (US Army, retired), Lt. Colonel Mike Ferneau (USMC, retired), Dick Watson (Lieutenant, US Navy), Fred Fulcher (Captain, USAF), and Cole Chapoton (ME3, USCG Reserve) to participate in the tribute to past, present and future service members. Arleen made closing remarks, and the

ceremony concluded with a rendition of "Taps." A wine and cheese reception, planned by Linda Langheld, who recruited volunteers from the club to provide the refreshments, was held behind town hall immediately following the ceremony. Please see the Town Crier in this issue for photos from this moving tribute.

December gardening tips from the NC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners:

- Poinsettia plants like indirect, natural daylight for five or six hours a day. Keep them away from heat sources, and do not over water, but do not let them dry out either, maintaining moist soil. This same advice applies to your cyclamen and amaryllis.
- Pansies and ornamental cabbage should be lightly fertilized.
- It is time to apply post-emergence weed control to your lawn before winter weeds begin growing. Apply once again in February for good measure.
- Lantana should not be cut back to ground level. Leave some stems and cover with mulch.
- Spring blooming bulbs can still be planted this month as well as up until mid-January.

Read more at pasquotank.ces.ncsu.edu/2018/12/gardening-tips-for-december-pasquotank/.



Left to right, Mary Kathryn Cooper, Jo McGovern and Mary-Brett Purnell make bows that became a part of the bounty shown below.



Poster celebrating Lois Jean's O'Keefe's contributions to the Garden Club and the town shared at the club's recent meeting.—Photos by Deb Frisby