

## **Weeders Meeting**

**March 9, 2021**

President Karen Shepard welcomed us to another virtual meeting. She made particular note of the sad and very sudden loss to our Weeder community of Wendy Bailey, asking us to keep her and her family in our hearts, remembering her warm smile and personality and all she has done for the Weeders. We held a moment of silence. Karen said when the Executive Committee meets later this month, she'll discuss ways to honor Wendy's ongoing commitment to The Weeders.

### **Announcements:**

February Minutes: There was a correction to the February Minutes concerning the Program Committee. Nancy Holmes and Laura Carpenter, not Laura Carpenter and Melissa Oeth, will be scheduling Zoom meetings for committee members to plan the programs for next year. The Minutes were approved as corrected, with Ellie Penniman making the motion and Alice Doering seconding.

Treasurer's Report: Michele Bolton had no report this month, but asked Committee Chairs to get their budgets together for next year.

Morton Award: Karen again reminded us to be thinking of a candidate for the Morton Award. If you have someone in mind for this award, which is given in June, please let her know.

Founders Fund: This is a grant established in 1934 by the Garden Club of America to advocate for community projects. Karen read a summary of the proposals for each of the three finalists before we voted for our choice among them. The Weeders chose the Seattle Garden Club's project "Rhododendron Glen."

Conservation Award: The announcement of the winner of the 2020 GCA Club Conservation Award was delayed until this morning as she was not in attendance at the June meeting. Biddie Edwards received this important award for immersing herself in the field of conservation and sharing what she learned with all of us – and so much more. Congratulations, Biddie! Please see her complete citation, which is attached.

Neophyte Bowl: The announcement of the winner for 2020, Michele Bolton, was made. This is given to a member of less than seven years standing who has earned the most points in both floral design and horticultural classes, not only in club flower shows but in any outside shows, too. Congratulations, Michele!

Jeanes Library: President Karen read a letter of thanks from the Jeanes Librarian to Sonya Driscoll and crew who spent so much time cleaning out the gardens there last year. Please see the attached letter.

### **Committee Reports:**

Conservation: Phoebe Driscoll reported that the focus of the (virtual) NAL/Conservation Conference this

year was global warming. She said the delegates attending the conference advise our elected officials of what we think is important. Her complete report is attached to these minutes.

Nancy Evans' tip of the month concerned the use of plastics. As 90% of plastic is not recycled, consider the ubiquitous hard plastic laundry detergent container, and others of its ilk. Detergents can be found online – at Amazon, for instance – that come in something more like a flexible plastic bag. Still plastic, of course, but using much less of the pernicious stuff! Also, let's not forget that laundry detergent can still be purchased in the old-fashioned form: powdered and packed in cardboard.

Fertilizer Fund: Nancy E. spoke about one of the beneficiaries of the Fund this year, Cloud 9 Rooftop Gardens, which turns rooftops into functional farms. A portion of what they produce is given to food banks, the rest is sold. They also partner with Simon Gratz High School to benefit Seniors.

Flower Show: Jeanne May reminded us that the Spring Flower Show is coming up April 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Friday. Follow the guidelines in the Blue Book and take photos of your entries. This time, the Show will be judged - virtually, of course.

Governance/Handbook: Ellie P. announced that all Officers and Committee Chairs now have their copies of the revised Handbook, hand delivered to them by herself and Nancy H. As the Handbook can also be found online, Nancy gave us a brief tutorial on how to find and use it, adding many thanks to Taddy Dawson for working this out for us. Taddy added that the password for the Weeder website is used only for Membership. Everything else can be found using the website address "theweeders.org".

Horticulture: Elaine Lisle thanked Alice for the workshops she held for us over the winter. They were a huge success and fun, too. They're working on setting up some Weeder garden tours, possibly on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup>. If anyone has ideas for this event, please call Cheryl Cheston.

Lorraine Wallace gave the tip(s) of the month: this is a good time to check trees for Spotted Lantern Fly egg masses and scrape them off; a credit card works well for this. Also, it's time to direct-sow annual poppy seeds. And, cut off dead foliage from Hellebores to expose the new buds. Finally, divide ephemerals right after blooming when you can still find them.

Photography: Melissa Bullitt made a last-minute request for photos for the Show. The deadline for entries is today, but there's still time to do it. Send via email. The show will not be judged, but is just for fun.

Program: Nancy H. announced that our May meeting will be held *Wednesday*, May 12<sup>th</sup>, on Zoom, and our speaker will be Weeder Amy Freitag. We're also trying to get her for an in-person meeting next year.

As of this moment, the June meeting is still scheduled to be held in Reggie Thomas' garden. She and Reggie have spoken and will make a decision closer to the date about holding it in person.

Nancy will be setting up a Zoom meeting for Program committee members to plan meetings for next year. Julie De Vuono has agreed to fill in for Nancy as Program Chair to the end of her term.

Karen adjourned the meeting at 10:25.

1<sup>st</sup> Draft, Weeder Minutes, March 9,2021

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Undercofler, Recording Secretary.

Nancy H. introduced our speakers, Dallas Heatherington and Joan H. Schiller, M.D. whose topic was 'A C-Change Conversation.' The organization, C-Change Conversations, is a non-profit one founded in 2014 by Kathleen Biggins of the Garden Club of Princeton, Zone IV, to promote productive, non-partisan discussions to audiences around the country about science and the effect of climate change.

While the earth has always gone through natural cycles of climate change, now, for the first time, human activity is affecting the process. Mr. Heatherington explained how our use of fossil fuels, once of great service to us, has begun to hurt us, and the issue of climate change is now seen as a political, not a scientific one. He said 97% of climate scientists agree on the dangerous nature of this trend. Using charts and photographs, he took us along a path of what-comes-next. It will affect geopolitical stability, produce civil conflict with resulting refugee issues, decrease food yields, increase ocean acidity, lead to a dwindling snow pack, longer wildfire seasons, an increase in mosquito-borne diseases and other health issues and a loss of biodiversity and ecosystems. The U.S. Department of Defense has called climate change a national security risk.

Fortunately, there is hope ahead. He says the economic equation has changed. Other countries have joined the effort to reverse the trend, and Wall Street and corporate institutions are driving climate action. Renewable energy costs are dropping and there is new tech on the horizon which is closer than we think. And we shouldn't forget the power of nature to regenerate. We're less divided on this issue than ever and we can all work to move change forward.

A Q and A period followed and in response to one question, he said more information could be found on their website, where we can also sign up for their newsletter.

[c-changeconversations.org](http://c-changeconversations.org)