

## MEETING OF THE WEEDERS, OCTOBER 14TH, 2014 WILLISTON CONSERVATION TRUST, NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA.



Weeders gathered on a sultry autumn day on the beautiful grounds of the Trust headquarters. President Marilyn Sprague rapped the meeting to order at 10:05; the same rapping managed to crack the glass of the 50 Year Membership Award, which was to be presented to Weezie Johnston. (Congratulations, Weezie!) Twenty-seven Weeders, one guest and one baby were in attendance.

Marilyn thanked our Chair, Julie DeVuono and Karen Doyle in abstentia, and the hostesses Wendy Bailey and Patty Greenhalgh. Wendy introduced her guest, her cousin Alice Macy, who introduced us to a novel weed-destroying tool. Little baby (7 weeks, approx.) Elena Rose Bullitt attended her second meeting, and was much admired. Marilyn also noted the welcome presence of Marj Frazier and Ella Jackson.

Marilyn displayed Weezie's broken Award, promised a replacement, and said that both of Weezie's grandmothers, Marie Louise Poe and Caroline Roberts had been founders of the Weeders. Her mother, Weasel, and virtually all of her aunts were Weeders, as is her sister Pat.

Linda Anderson asked to clarify from the September Minutes that The Weeders this year are in charge of the Nov. 5th Joint Meeting of the Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America, to be held at the Philadelphia Country Club. The Weeders helped found the PCGCA 50 years ago. Also, that it was Betsy Crowell, Co-Chair of Zone 5, who asked the Weeders to serve as seconders to the Wissahickon Garden Club's proposal of Stenton's one-acre meadow for the Founders Award.

Lloyd Brown, as our GCA representative, attended the Meneice Conference in Louisville, KY. the prior week, where she scored lots of "unusual seeds" for us to propagate, with help from the GCA website. There was great emphasis at the conference on pollinators, with the remarkable tip that a Black Cherry attracts 400 types of butterflies! Also, she described the use of "biochar" to increase fertility of acidic soils; buy real charcoal from a hardware store, wrap it in a tarp, run over it many times with your car to reduce it to smithereens ("small pieces"), then mix it in a trash can with liquid fertilizer, and use ¼ cup of the mix per new plant or 1 cup per square foot. (Don't wear nice clothes.)

The trip also entailed visits to beautiful parks and arboretums, mint julips and dinner at Churchill Downs, and a visit to a private farm with bison, horses and donkeys and extensive view of the Ohio River. Next year, Seattle, so register!

Linda said that she and Ellen Pemberton were providing the underpinnings for the Joint Meeting of the

PCGCA, and that so far only 13 Weeders have signed on. Contact Shan Knight of the Planters for registration matters. Please also contribute to the Fertilizer Fund if you haven't already.

The Christmas Sale Bring comestibles!!!!!! That was the essential message; Becky Caldwell is Chair, and since we had to cancel last year, we need to replenish our coffers. Biddie Edwards, Ellie Penniman, and Nancy Evans are also helping.

Other suggestions were offers of gardening counseling, other services such as cooking, and large things that cost money. Bring friends and coerce them to buy!

Beth Bartle was thanked for her great works on the Club Flower Show (77 entries), as well as for her work on the floral design entry for this week's ZoneV meeting, hosted by the Huntingdon Valley Garden Club..

#### Community Affairs:

Strawberry Mansion Decorating Lynn Gibbons and Patty Doolittle are in charge, and evidently Weeders have been quite delinquent in attending the first two workshops, only 2 people at the first and 3 people at the second. We were greatly outnumbered by other Clubs, despite the fact both breakfast and lunch are provided. Watch for an email with the date of the 3rd workshop, and then hop on over, and learn how to make amazing things!

Ronald McDonald House Wendy Bailey said the workshop would take place at her home at 9:30, Monday, October 20th.

Magnolia Tribute Garden The fall clean-up day will be on Wed. October 29th at 10am. Volunteers were solicited.

Conservation Committee Our Fair Lady of Trash, Nancy Evans, announced that our next expedition into the wondrous world of trash disposal, on Nov. 12th at 10am at Covanta, a trash-to-steam operation in Plymouth Meeting, near Ikea. We will be given a 1½ hour tour by an environmental engineer.

Horticulture Diane McCallister reported that all but one of the challenge plants had been scooped up, and proud new owners should try to keep them in good shape for the next Weeders Flower Show. If more are wanted, contact Meadowbrook, to get them from a PHS source.

Also, a hort tip: do NOT prune in October unless the object is dead; it will encourage new growth that will get zapped when it freezes. Wait until everything is dormant, around Christmas.

Photography The deadline for photo entries in the March competition is the February 10th meeting, according to Chair Melissa Bullitt. PLEASE take your photos NOW!

Random comments and observations:

Lorraine Wallace and Cheryl Cheston were thanked for their excellent work with the mysteries of Communication;

Regina is seeking nominations for the Hull Award, honoring a person in the community who educates children under 16 in environmental matters;

Alice Doering is Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to review and make recommendations about our Club Flower Shows;

Weeders have approved a \$2000 donation to Stenton, in support of its meadow project and nomination for the Founders' Fund Award.

**For the Good of the Order:**

Cynthia Wallace is in the Health Care unit at Quadrangle and, very sadly, is having a difficult time;

Sonya Driscoll is still flat on her back in Boston, being treated for a spinal fluid leak at Brigham Young Hospital, but she is getting up more easily each day, and yesterday managed three hours (Please call her on her cell phone, [610-348-3337](tel:610-348-3337));

Sarah Price has had a hip replacement, and is recovering at home.

Children's weddings are celebrated this season by Cheryl Cheston (2), Wendy Bailey (2), Jackie Burke, and others.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Cadwalader,  
Recording Secretary

Unofficial.

Julie DeVuono introduced Lisa Kizuik and Fred de Long, who gave us a fascinating overview of their work at Williston, "Food and Feathers: The Interaction of Organic Farming and Bird Habitats." Both were terrific, informative, and enthusiastic proponents for their work to restore a healthy and natural ecosystem to their beautiful 6000-acre preserve. An inspiring and well-spent morning!