

April 2015 Minutes

April 14, 2015

Jenkins Arboretum, Devon, PA

Marilyn Sprague, President, called the meeting to order at 10:05, just as your tardy Secretary arrived. Marilyn thanked hostesses Biddy Edwards, Polly Garnett, and Wendy Quereau for providing lovely breakfast fare, and introduced Ellen Pemberton's guests, Martha Cyphers and Sam Orleans, Maria Thompson's guest Charlotte McLean, and Wendy Bailey's guest, Alice Nacey, who was with us for a second time.

The Minutes of the February 10th, 2015 meeting were approved without objection, and Laura Mitchell presented the Treasurer's report, showing income since December of \$4,776.52, expenses of \$1615.99, and total assets of \$53,262.37

Ellie Penniman, speaking on behalf of the Admissions Committee, announced that Kim Frisbie is nominating her friend and neighbor, Daryle Hanlon to membership in the Weeders. The nomination is being supported by Cheryl Cheston, Bea Bast, Karen Doyle, and Lorraine Wallace. Ellie read the nominating letter, citing Daryle's curiosity and enthusiasm, and many other excellent qualities that would make her a welcome addition to the gang. There are 30 days for comments, which may be made by email to the Admissions Committee.

Marilyn noted that the presence of Baby Elena Rose Bullitt along with our more seasoned members, Marge Frazier and Ella Jackson, produced an age span of 99 years! She also thanked Maria for generously covering the \$125 cost of evaluating the Morton Award Book.

The Club Flower will be held on May 12th at the Kroc Center. Patty Minehart encouraged any newbies to seek help from any Flower Show Committee members. Lorraine recommended doing the paper work the prior evening, and she had printed out sample entry forms for distribution. Diane McCallister noted that keeping a list of all one's garden plants' horticultural names could speed up that process. Cheryl added a plug for the Kroc Center itself, a "fabulous" inner city recreation center, funded by the Krocs of McDonalds' hamburger fame, which is run in conjunction with the Salvation Army. Cheryl Cheston will lead a flower-arranging workshop for clients of the Kroc Center at 2 pm on Monday the 11th.

Marilyn thanked Lois Renthal, Alice Doering, Beth Bartle, Melissa Bullitt, Cindy Pierce and Ellen Pemberton for representing the Weeders at the Philadelphia 2015 Flower Show with their individual entries. She announced that the Weeders have applied for entry in one of the classes for the 2016 show, and results will be known about April 15.

Lorraine, our Communications guru, said that the Weeders' website has a list of worthy nurseries to visit; go to: www.theweeders.org and the password is "roses."

Community Affairs. The Fairmount Park Houses will present "Rooms in Bloom," and Weeders have selected the Oval Room at Lemon Hill, where arrangements will be shown on May 16th. Artists may also present their own work for sale. Polly Garnett said that the work at Stratford Station is on Tuesdays from 9 to 10 am, and they have been planting pansies. At the Ludington Library, Cheryl reported that giving yesterday off was a huge mistake, but urged others to help out on Mondays from 10am to noon. Also, May 7th would be the volunteer day to work in the Physics Garden at the Pennsylvania Hospital, where her very own daughter, Dr. Emily Cheston, will be gainfully employed, delivering babies!!

Conservation. Nancy noted that of all the organizations we have contributed to in the past, only "10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania" has made no effort to acknowledge the contribution, nor can she find much information about the group. Decisions will be made at the next Executive Meeting, for final recommendation to the members as to this year's recipients. Yours Truly, the designated Weeder

representative this year to the GCA's National Affairs and Legislation annual meeting in Washington, D.C., (Feb. 23rd to 26th), delivered her report to the membership.

To re-cap the NAL gathering, briefly: one optional day of tourism, followed by two very intense days of speeches by an extraordinary line-up of conservation-minded organizations and conservation-oriented members of Congress, followed by half a day of meeting with our various representatives, or their higher or lower staff members. Senator Casey met with many of us at breakfast, and then sent his chief-of-staff and environmental assistant to meet us for 45 minutes. Sen. Toomey sent a very young man, with two months experience as the environmental point-guy, to meet with our same group. A smaller group of 6 then proceeded to Representative Chakkah Fattah's office, where he bounced out of his inner sanctum to welcome us therein, and assured us he was in entire agreement with GCA positions. He was very charming and engaging, but appeared not to know much about the digital billboards' controversy.

The winner of the GCA Founders' Fund will be announced at the Annual Meeting in May, in Rochester N.Y. (GO STENTON!) The Garden History and Design Committee is documenting the Krumholtz garden in West Chester, PA., and Polly Garnett, Jane Kline, and Lesley Undercoffler will attend a GH&D Zone V meeting on April 15th at Morris Arboretum.

Horticulture. Diane McC. advised WAITING before cutting back on winter-damaged hollies; they will soon recover by themselves. Cheryl reminded us of the "Dig and Divide" at her house, April 28th (her birthday!); bring any of your own divisions to sell that day.

PCGCA. Sonya and Regina reported that the Fertilizer Fund had given \$32,000 to various worthy projects in Philadelphia, and that the only one that failed to live up to its promised activity has been blackballed for future requests.

Members interested in Photo Contests, contact Melissa Bullitt. Julie DeVuono said that the Program Committee is working on a day-trip to NYC, on the 2nd Tuesday in October, to visit the High Line, and that Amy Freitag (very exalted Weeder!) will meet us there. (VERY cool.....)

For the Good of the Order: Sally Wood is recovering from a double by-pass and valve replacement; she had a small stroke during the operation, but daughter Julie says she is regaining strength and getting around with a walker. Condolences to Diane McCallister, whose mother-in-law died in early April. Beth Bartle, present at this meeting (bravo!) is recovering from face and shoulder injuries. And, our dear Phil Price has recently had a hip replacement, probably just to comfort Sarah after her various adventures.

The speaker, Betty Mackey, was introduced, and spoke about "Troughs and Travels," with slides of her admirable troughs.

Our very best to all of you!

Sincerely yours,

Sandy Cadwalader, Secretary