

# February 2015 Minutes

Hilltop House, Devon, PA  
February 10, 2015



President Marilyn Sprague opened the meeting at 10:00, thanking Diane McCallister for serving as Meeting Chair, and Dixie Chapman, Lesley Undercofler, Polly Garnett, and Jane Kline as hostesses. Twenty-five Weeders were in attendance on an iffy February morning, and they were treated to a delicious breakfast.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as emailed.

Big news from GCA is that our very own Lloyd Brown has been named Secretary of the whole shebang. CONGRATULATIONS, LLOYD!

**Archives** Maria Thompson is in charge of producing another book to serve as Vol. 2 of the Morton Award. She is also working to repair and conserve the original, and has a budget of \$1000 to \$2000 to accomplish the project; the new volume will be waterproof and UV protected. Marilyn pointed out that the two volumes could perhaps be kept together, and that the Morton Award, first given in 1943, is our only true artifact.

**Little Weeders** Grace De Vuono and Isabel(le?) and Eve Bolton were introduced, all three having a brief indoctrination to Weederdom, thanks to a late school opening.

**Awards** Jackie Burke asked for nominations for the Biddle and Morton Awards.

**Admissions** Ellie Penniman has created a draft of the various new procedures for the

Committee, and it was suggested that a pamphlet be created for prospective sponsors when Ellie's work is complete.

**Club Flower Show/Floral Design** Beth Bartle spoke of arranging Horticulture and Floral Design "moments", and said she had hand-outs listing pointers about what to look for in floral designs. Patricia Doolittle, Chair of the Club Flower Show Committee will have a meeting at her house on March 10th at 9:30.

**Conservation** Marilyn said that any conservation issue may be brought before the Weeders, with advance notice to the President and/or Conservation Chair, and that members may choose their own level of activity in various issues. We should refrain from maligning political figures with whom we disagree. You mean Toomey? (Just kidding!) The GCA has position papers on its website about clean air and water, sustainable agriculture and seed diversity, climate change, national park system, native plant preservation, national public land, and environmentally responsible transportation, and we should follow issues in these areas.

Nancy Evans, sporting a brand new hip from California, re-capped the issues in her recent email to us, concerning the pernicious issue of proliferating digital billboards. They are officially protected by a decision of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The digital guys fight dirty; a western Pennsylvania couple who complained to advertisers of the horrors of the flashing lights in their windows 24 hours a day from the billboard across from their house, found themselves sued for \$30,000 by the offending digital billboard owner!

One of Nancy's Town Commissioners explained his vote in favor of a digital billboard, saying that due to the Supreme Court's ruling, he had no legal ground to oppose it. Nancy promised to look further into the decision, and suggested we might seek out a speaker from Scenic Philadelphia. She also noted the increasing attention to the importance of threatened pollinators.

**Horticulture** Diane McCallister will have a Committee meeting at her house (840 S. Waterloo Rd., Devon) on Wed., March 18th.

Alice Doering gave a nice discussion of several challenge plants, hoping to "de-mystify" their care and nurture. She spoke tenderly about an African violet; that is was well rounded and had been given the proper amount of light. She recommended switching it to a terra cotta pot for the judging. A sample geranium needed a blast of light she said, and was over-potted. She suggested a top-dressing for the new pot, either fine (non-white) pebbles, or her special blender-mixed orchid bark. Keep it pinched way back, and watch out for humidity-induced browning of leaf edges. She admired the rich color of the begonia's leaves, and questioned whether it was one buried crown with four off-shoots or four separate plants. Call her for any tips about your entries!

Lastly, there will be a Jenkins Arboretum trip to the New Jersey Pine Barrens on May 21st, limited to 65 people and with lunch on the bus. Hurry and sign up!

**Nominating** Sally Wood is working on a new slate of candidates for the Admissions Committee and for the three Secretarial positions; the slate will be mailed with the dues. The vote will take place at the June meeting. (Your Secretary is planning an Emotional Farewell Speech!)

**PCGCA** Jackie Burke said that we STILL need greater participation in the Fertilizer Fund, and if in doubt about having contributed, check with her; she has a list of the Weeder-Scrooges. She said that Linda Anderson had made a great report at the PCGCA meeting at the Ebenezer Maxwell house about last fall's Joint Meeting.

**Program** Julie DeVuono and Karen Doyle circulated a clipboard for future meeting suggestions

**Photography** Entries for the March Photo Show should be given to Lorraine, who kindly volunteered to print them out herself (from and e-mailed version), if that were easier. Melissa Bullitt, Photography Chair will host a workshop to assist photographers with their entries.

**Scholarships** No Committee report, but Regina Wagner sent some thoughts, read by Lois Renthall about how best to spend our accumulated riches. The gist of her idea was to reward local organic farmers, including urban ones. She is gathering a list of possible candidates who serve neighborhoods with fresh fruits and veggies, many of whom also provide community programs and education. She imagines several one-time stipend to a number of farms, and one larger "no strings attached" to a particularly worthy individual. Contact her with ideas.

**For the good of the order** Marilyn reported that Louise Stengel has been hospitalized. Nancy Evans has recovered well from hip replacement surgery.

Marilyn adjourned the meeting at 10:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Cadwalader, Secretary

*Diane McCallister introduced Chase Rosade, a bonsai specialist who riveted Weeders not only with his extensive collection on display, but with his demonstration of "instant bonsai"; he grabbed a potted juniper, spun it around to peer at all angles, then proceeded to torture it with wire wrapping, and presto, a haggard, windswept Bonsai work of art!*

*Valentine cookies were given to all who braved the weather to attend.*