

Weeders Meeting

January 20, 2016
St. Christopher's Church, Gladwyne



On a typical cold January morning, 34 Weeders and 5 guests assembled at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Gladwyne for the January meeting and an interactive lesson in table arrangements. The meeting was called to order by President Marilyn Sprague at 10:15 a.m., after which she thanked meeting chairs Lorraine Wallace and Cheryl Cheston and hostesses Wendy Bailey, Ellen Pemberton and those presenting the program. She then requested that sponsors introduce guests: Polly Garnett –Jeanne May; Wendy Calhoun – Lee Churchman Manonian and Carrie Griffith; Sally Wood and Julie de Vuono- Pattie Littlewood and Nancy Holmes.

A spelling correction was made to the December minutes: new member is Alice Nacey not Lacey.

There was no Treasurer's report, as this meeting was announcements only.

Ellie Penniman, Admissions Chairman, welcomed to Weederdom new member Elaine Lisle, who was proposed by Lorraine Wallace and Cheryl Cheston. She then read the letter written by Leslie Undercoffler proposing Ellen Spragins, formerly a resident of Princeton, NJ and member of a GCA club there, now residing in Malvern. The booklet "What it Means to be a Weeder" is now available to be given to new members, and will be placed in the Weeder book.

The Chairman of Awards, Jackie Burke, announced the coming meeting of her committee on the next day and would welcome ideas for award recipients

from members.

Karen Doyle, chairman of the December meeting, thanked everyone involved in various aspects of that meeting : contributors of greens, hostesses, sale chairmen, contributors of baked goods, handmade and other items and Weeder services. The \$1400. Believed to be the second largest sum earned, will be used to benefit community organizations such as The Stroud Water Center and the Wissahicken Watershed.

Representing horticulture, Alice Doering explained that she will postpone the hardwood cuttings workshop until this area has experienced a hard frost; notify members of date and time via email. A consummate propagator, she had in hand, cuttings of the fern, *Adiantum cuneatum*, a houseplant, to give away, pointing out that this promiscuous plant likes soft light and constant moisture. She and Diane McCallister also offered the answer to a question that many of us had as to the identity of a shrub located in the church courtyard: it is *Edgeworthia chrysantha*, which had tiny silver lantern like flowers; pointed out that it needs to be planted in a protected spot.

Lorraine Wallace will again, very generously, be hosting what has become an annual event: the gathering known as the “fireside chat” or “potluck dinner” at her house on Wednesday, January 20 6:30. Please look for the email invitation and indicate what goodie you would like to bring.

Nominating Chairman, Sally Wood, will be holding the committee meeting following the executive committee meeting next week. Please pass along to her any ideas for officers you might have. Sonya Driscoll, our representative to the consortium of 10 GCA clubs in Zone 5 known as PCGCA, would be happy to accept any further donations to the Fertilizer Fund, which are funneled to many worthwhile community horticulturally related projects. Some of this year’s money is to be used by McGee Rehabilitation Center to extend an overhang which will give shade those who gather in their rooftop garden area. She passed around a signup sheet for anyone interested in attending one of the PCGCA monthly meetings.

The talented trio, Diane Mc Callister, Melissa Bullitt and Julie deVuono, are busy working on the design phase on the Weeders’ entry for the Philadelphia Flower Show. The class “Coming Home” is a new smaller version of the entryway class wherein containers will predominate. They are basing the exhibit on “Ghost Ranch” an adobe building located in NM where Georgia O’Keefe lived and had her studio. Once they reach the ‘crafty stage’, they will welcome assistance with painting, gluing, etc. Watch for a ‘blast’. Kudos to

member, Reggie Thomas who headed the selection committee to find the new head of PHS, Matt Rader.

Melissa Bullitt encourages us to check through our photographs for possible entries for the Photography Show held at the March meeting. Any entries should be submitted by March 8, but she suggests that you try to bring them to her at the February meeting. See class descriptions in Weeder book.

As an incentive to those hesitant to enter arrangement classes of our flower shows, the flower show committee has arranged a workshop which Patricia Doolittle, Chairman, suggested we attend. It is to be held at the Haverford Reserve in CREC center on May 9, the day before our meeting at 1:00. Lynn Gibbons, speaking for herself and co-chair Patricia Doolittle, thanked the group of Weeders for doing a superb job of decorating a room in the Strawberry Mansion in preparation for the Fairmount Park Christmas tour.

The Program Committee, led by Julie deVuono and Karen Doyle will be meeting in the next few weeks. If anyone is interested in attending who is not currently on the committee, please let them know.

A flyer publicizing the Herb Society Sale to be held on May 12 was passed around.

Program

This being the ideal time for inspiration after the hustle of the holidays, meeting chairs, Lorraine Wallace and Cheryl Cheston formulated a program asking that 5 teams of Weeders design a single table setting for dinner at home. The teams were to pick a theme, then to explain how the accessories used carried out the theme, note where they acquired the plant material and any other pertinent info.

Ellen Pemberton's team, got their idea of a hunting theme from team member, guest Lee Manonian, who is a 'beagler'. They used a plate decorated with a hunting scene, a beagle, fox figure salt and pepper shakers, flowers and linens reminiscent of a natural landscape. They purchased the flowers at Produce Junction. Other members of her team were Wendy Bailey and Jackie Burke.

Sally Wood's team, Julie deVuono, Michelle Bolton, and guest Pattie Littlewood, started with a mug that had been presented to Sally's late husband, Tom, as the container, which suggests a Star Wars character, leading to their theme, 'Star Wars', further defined by several accessories made by Wood – deVuono family members, and a sword. They found the

plant material, in their and Cheryl's gardens.

The third team, headed by Diane McCallister, with Beth Hayes and Lloyd Brown, used wonderful varieties of witch hazel and red twig dogwood, homegrown, assembled in a pottery piece made by Weeder, Louise Carter, and supplemented by material, such as Dianthus 'Green Trick' from the cut flower exchange in Conshohocken.

The next team, with Patty Greenhalgh and Nancy Evans, headed by Melissa Bullitt, followed an minimal Asian theme. 3 Calla lilies, and 3 Gerber daisies were adhered to a black container by double sticky tape and glue dots. Melissa purchased the container, named "Build Your Own Sculpture", which comes in 7 pieces and can be assembled in many ways, from the website 'Joy' #4 Design.com. She pointed out that the Calla lilies can last a few days without water; have a thin stem which needed to be gently stroked into the curve used. Lilies came from Whole Foods, Gerber daisies from Trader Joes, Dianthus used at base from the flower exchange, noting that sometimes one needs to scramble around to find plant material.

Patty Minehart, assisted by Leslie Undercoffler, Daryl Hanlon and Carrie Griffiths, confessed to a habit of scouring sale venues to acquire accessories to be used in her table arrangements. Her theme "Spring Garden", resulted from the decoration on a plate found at one such sale and was further carried out in use of two china containers which could be placed as a circle or an S shape. The containers had narrow, shallow openings at the top into which short lily and carnations and greens were placed covering the top. She demonstrated how one could make the setting more or less formal with the choice of accessories. The flowers used were purchased from Giant; greens provided by Leslie.

For the good of the order: Marilyn mentioned that member Floy Erwin is about to or has moved back to the area.

All of these announcements and activity make it appear that the Weeders are scooting out of the gate in 2016!!

Respectfully submitted,
Polly Garnett, Assistant Recording Secretary