

September 2013 Minutes

The meeting took place at Cheryl Cheston's house. While the judging of the Club Flower Show took place, Linda Anderson opened the meeting at 11:15 a.m., and introduced Alice Doering's guest, Janet Haas. Janet noted "the family tradition", that both her mother-in-law and Carole Haas Gravagno were/are Weeders. Linda thanked Cheryl as generous home provider, Cindy Pierce as Chair of the meeting and her team of yummy food providers: Maria T., Anne R., Lesley U., and Ellie K.

The June Minutes were duly moved, seconded and approved.

Laura Mitchell gave the Treasurer's Report, noting the excellent news that the GCA had returned the entire \$3960 that we had provided them, and that there might even be MORE \$\$ from them. The total assets are a healthy \$44,512.84, with more than 60% of the dues collected. Her report was etc. etc. and approved.

Linda, describing the proposed Budget as a "flexible instrument", asked that it be approved and the agreeable ladies complied. She then explained the knotty issue of seeking a Pennsylvania Sales Tax number, which would allow us tax-free and wholesale purchases. Laura Mitchell and Marilyn Sprague have bravely agreed to evaluate the issue, and make their recommendation.

Sonya Driscoll announced that donations last year to the Fertilizer Fund increased by 12% both in participation and monetary yield. (Yay, Weeders!) She noted that this year's Christmas Sale is seeking specific services that individuals could provide, such as growing seedlings for sale, offering computer tutoring, or cooking dinners. She reminded us that the profits go entirely to our Community Conservation efforts, and that we have averaged about \$11 to \$12,000 a year.

Linda announced that this year the Weeders will be doing the Christmas Decorations

at Strawberry Mansion, recently reopened after five years of renovations. We will decorate the front hall and Lewis Parlor. Strawberry Mansion is run by the Committee of 1926, a women's organization founded by Phil Price's grandmother.

Nancy Evans will have a dinner on September 26th to discuss Conservation Committee matters.

Polly Garnett announced for the Garden History and Design Committee that we would be documenting the private garden of Inta Krombolz. Also, Fabulous News that Phoebe Driscoll's "Tunnel Farm" is now featured on the Smithsonian Website! Phoebe noted that GCA gave all its glass slides to the Smithsonian in 1991, thereby initiating the Smithsonian's Garden History Program.

The Horticultural Committee is undertaking the collection of seeds from ornamental plants to send to the Seed Exchange Conference. WEEDERDOM ALERT! Gather ye up all such seeds and deliver them to Lloyd or Lorraine by October 1st; Lloyd will take them to said conference.

Alice Doering said Concourse Lake needs Chestnut trees, and Cheryl and Whitney Harrison each volunteered one.

Linda Gave special thanks to the Communication Committee for the wonderful new publication, The Weeders; Who We Are and What We Do. Cheryl and Lorraine deserve particular thanks.

New Business Maria, Lorraine, Marilyn and Lia have been designated as an ad hoc Committee to solve the conundrum of how to perpetuate the Morton Award, given that it only has a few remaining blank pages. They are seeking advice from the Athenaeum and the Library Company. All existing pages may be seen on the Weeder's Website.

PARTY in May, 2014 at Laura and Ken Mitchell's new house, which was Joe Calhoun's old house before

he married Wendy. Wendy promptly (and very nobly!) volunteered to serve as Chair. Weeder News; Regina a big-wig at the Methodist Home's Heritage Fare on Sept 19th; Bea and Bob Bast to be honored by the Wissahickon Watershed on Sept. 28th; Sandy Cadwalader honored by the Philadelphia Magic Gardens on Sept 21st; and Liz Price honored for her many years as President of the Fleisher Art Memorial on Sept. 24th. Julie DeV. still active on Bartram's Garden Board; its Annual Party on Oct. 3.

AMY FREITAG! Our very own Amy, whose speech at the GCA Centennial received a standing ovation, reprised the talk especially for us. Cindy Pierce introduced her with so many titles, awards and accomplishments that Yr. Humble Secretary was left in the dust. Hugely Impressive! She now serves as Executive Director of the New York Restoration Project, which was founded by Bette Miler in the wake of the devastation left by Hurricane Sandy. The Project, with strong backing from Mayor Bloomberg, is well ahead of schedule in its aim to plant a million trees in the poorest areas of the city.

In East Harlem, with the highest crime, poverty, and asthma rates, they have already planted 12,000 new trees!

Amy then proceeded with an thorough survey of GCA leadership and accomplishments, arguing that too little is known about the astonishing achievements of so many highly talented and committed ladies, to wit: the banning of DDT; the reduction of bill-boards; the founding of Joshua Tree National Park; the founding of the Student Conservation Corps.; greater protection for the Arctic Wildlife Refuge; and the founding of the Friends of Columbia Gorge.

Her final example of an intrepid GCA lady was none other than our own amazing Phoebe Driscoll, who with her husband Lee gave an easement to the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association for 72 acres; 48 of those are now owned by the Natural Lands Trust, and the remaining 24 acres will only allow agricultural structures, i.e., NO HOUSES!

Not to be outdone by the GCA, the Weeders provided another standing ovation at the conclusion of Amy's excellent talk, and basked in the happiness of having such fabulous people as Amy and Phoebe included in Greater Weederdom!

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Cadwalader