

Weeders Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

President Karen Shepard welcomed us to the meeting and introduced Julie De Vuono, who, in turn, introduced her guest, Audrey Kese.

Announcements

March Minutes: Ellie Penniman made a motion to approve the March Minutes, seconded by Alice Doering. The Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Michele Bolton said we have a surplus in our bank balance and she will be holding meetings with the Conservation and Scholarship committees to determine how much money to give in each area and to which organizations. She also noted that two of the checks distributed last year were lost in the mail and needed to be sent out again.

Photography: Melissa Bullitt said she has the photos that were submitted for the show and is putting everything together for viewing online. She'll put the link in an email.

Executive Meeting: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, to discuss the 2021 Conservation donations.

Dues and Slate of Officers: These will be sent out by email. Please note that the **deadline for returning your Dues is June 1.**

Schedule Update: Flower arrangement day for St. Christopher's Hospital will be Thursday, April 29th at 9:30 at Ellen Pemberton's home.

30x30: Karen explained that there is currently a bill in the U.S. Senate proposing that 30% of land/water be protected by the year 2030. A video was shown at NAL Conference describing the proposed bill, referred to as 30x30. See the Weeder email dated 4/11/21 for complete information and video link.

David Culp: Garden Design magazine has partnered with David Culp to produce a monthly webinar. He speaks on the subject of his garden over the course of a year and it is reportedly fun to watch, very informative and it's free. You need to register, so please see the complete information in the Weeder email dated 4/11/21.

Lorraine Wallace noted that Scott Arboretum hosts walks through their arboretum in another free webinar. She will forward the link.

Native Plant Month, Contact Legislators: Please see Weeder email dated 4/6/21 for information regarding the possibility of naming April as National Native Plant Month and what you can do to help the effort.

GCA Annual Meeting: It's virtual this year, of course, which means all GCA members are welcome to attend, and it's another free event. The link can be found in the Weeder email dated 4/6/21.

Philadelphia Flower Show: This not-to-be-missed event will be held outdoors for the first time ever! It's described in detail in an attached flyer to the Weeder email dated 4/11/21. Make sure to apply for tickets early as there is a limit to their number.

Jeanes Library, Gazebo Garden and Hilltop House: All are looking for volunteers. It's a great way to get outside and *socialize!* Please let Sonya (Jeanes), Cheryl (Gazebo) or Nancy H. (Hilltop) know if you can lend a hand.

Crazy for Containers: Ellyn reported that our plants/containers will probably be delivered May 4th or 5th. She'll need volunteers, so let her know if you are able to help.

Committee Reports:

Conservation: Nancy Evans' tip of the month concerned recycling. She said the only plastics consistently recycled are #1 and #2, so please buy in glass if you can. She also noted that TVs can no longer be recycled at Best Buy, nor can books be recycled.

Flower Show: Jeanne May urged us to get our flower photos to a passer – April 14th through 16th. Contact Monica Church for entry forms and fill in all pertinent information, making sure you follow the rules requirements for the class. Try to show your photo in such a way as to prove you're within the height and width requirement, then send your pictures with your name and entry number to a passer by the deadline above. If you have any questions, email Monica.

Horticulture: Julie De Vuono gave us another tip-of-the-month: banana peels make great fertilizers in general and are especially good for tomato plants with all the minerals they supply. Simply dig a hole for your plant, lay a banana peel, whole or chopped, at the bottom, cover with some soil and plant your tomato over it.

Garden Field Trip: Cheryl Cheston has organized a garden tour of four or five Weeder gardens for us, to be held May 25th, with a rain date set for the 27th. The gardens will be in the Gladwyne/Villanova area and will be repeated in the fall.

Magnolia Tribute Garden: Marilyn Sprague thanked all those who volunteered to help at the Garden this year. The date is set for Wednesday, April 21st.

Program: A reminder that the May meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 12**, not Tuesday, the 11th, to accommodate the schedule of our speaker, Weeder Amy Freitag.

Ellie P. moved to adjourn the meeting, Alice D. seconded, it was approved and we adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Undercofler, Recording Secretary

Nancy Holmes introduced our Speaker, Kim Eierman, an environmental horticulturalist specializing in ecological landscapes and native plants, and founder of EcoBeneficial, LLC. She teaches at a number of institutions and is the author of a new book *The Pollinator Victory Garden: Winning the War on Pollinator Decline*. She presented an intriguing, informative, sobering assessment of the way gardening is approached for the most part, noting how lawns, plants that are cloned rather than grown from seed, and the use of pesticides are not just counterproductive ways to manage a garden and the environment, but harmful for the bio-/genetic diversity that is so important. Reviewing a long list of pollinators beyond honeybees that work in our favor, she stressed the importance of using regional natives in our gardens, repetition and succession of bloom, planting both wind and animal pollinated plants, and advised us to keep in mind the importance of a well-layered landscape of ephemerals, trees, shrubs and annuals/perennials, which will attract a succession of pollinators throughout the growing season. The elimination of pesticides/herbicides, and an acceptance of the inability to solve some problems, such as deer and the ubiquitous invasive plants we all deal with, is just as important. A really wonderful program!