

Weeders Meeting

April 12, 2016

Bartram's Garden

Having called the meeting to order at 10:05, President Marilyn Sprague thanked meeting chair, Julie deVuono and hostesses Meg Devereaux and Lynn Gibbons for the lovely breakfast offerings. She then introduced the assistant director of Bartram's, Stephanie Phillips, who, using drawings of the property, described future changes which will be made to the west side and front entrance, showing the Bartram's Mile Trail which will pass through the front of the farm. She also outlined some new programming ideas. Marilyn then asked Regina Wagner, Scholarship Co-Chair, to introduce Weeder grant recipients, Chris Bolden Newsome and Ty Holmberg, who as head farmers of the community garden started at Bartram's five years ago. Each spoke of the meaningfulness of this work. Working with the residents of this low income area, they show how to grow healthy food which is shared with the surrounding community. They thanked us, particularly Sonya Driscoll and Regina Wagner, for the grant money which has assisted them in this endeavor.

Our president proceeded with Weeder business, asking and receiving approval for the March minutes. She called upon:

Treasurer: Laura Mitchell, pointed out that our expenses currently outweigh income, due to several factors: cost of flower show exhibit, some member dues outstanding, rising cost of meeting sites. Conservation memberships and donations can qualify as 501c3 expenses and can, therefore, justifiably, can be drawn from our Vanguard account, set up as a foundation. Administrative costs should be covered by dues, payable by June 1, and with this in mind, encouraged members to remit same when present at a meeting, in doing so, save postage.

Awards: Jackie Burke would appreciate suggestions, sent via email, for recipient of Morton Award to be given "to any member, who in the opinion of members, has accomplished an outstanding piece of work during this or any other year having to do with garden club interests." The new Morton Award book production is being overseen by Maria Thompson.

Admissions: All future letters regarding the proposal of new members may be sent via email. There are no requirements for membership in the Weeders, but there are expectations: that a member pay dues, that she periodically act as a meeting hostess, that she participate on a committee, with the reminder that the more one is involved, the more one gains. Those sponsoring new members should make this understood.

Bulletin: In the April GCA Bulletin there is an article, with picture, noting hort workshops given by Alice Doering to the Weeders.

Club Flower Show: Patricia Doolittle announced the upcoming floral design workshop on May 9. Look for the invitation in your email and please respond.

Community Affairs: The Weeders maintain gardens both at the Ludington Library (Monday) and Strafford Station (Tues. 9-10 a.m.) We encourage members to join in, at least one time during the season (April-Nov) when they will enjoy the opportunity to get to know one another better, share stories and laughs while improving these community landscapes.

Wendy Bailey invited anyone interested to come to her home on April 26, 9:30 a.m. for preparing arrangements to be taken to the Ronald Mc Donald House in Philadelphia.

Communications: All communications pertaining to Weeder business should go through Lorraine Wallace, communications chairman, or the president. Lorraine had back surgery on April 13. Anyone who can, is encouraged to provide a dinner (for 3) during her recuperation, and if planning to do so, is asked to communicate with Cheryl Cheston as to intended date and menu for this sharing. An on-line site will be used to organize the meals.

Conservation: Nancy Evans, chairman, was among 300 women representing states across the nation who attended the GCA National Affairs and Legislation meeting, addressing environmental and conservation issues which took place in D.C. in February. Speakers included arboretum directors, conservation representatives, environmental lawyers, as well as congressmen and senators. The women stated their opinions with state reps on topics regarding clean water, clean power, funding National Parks, the Toxic Substances Act, the Pollinator Amendment. Tidbits she passed along to us: check website SeafoodWatch.org to help obtain sustainable seafood; monarch butterfly population up, plant asclepias to

help its increase; stop using floral foam as it contains toxic elements.

Horticulture: Diane McCallister, chairman, noted our good fortune to have arborist Jim Ward demonstrate pruning techniques on March 22; notes taken at this workshop to be distributed to members via email at a later date.

Nominating: Chair Sally Wood announced the slate of officers nominated for years 2016-18; to be voted on in May.

Program: The committee is in the midst of formulating next year's program, says chair, Julie deVuono, also requesting site suggestions for the February meeting and ones suited to flower shows. The committee attempts to balance sites "on both sides of the river."

Announcements: Following her mantra, "do what you love", member Taddy Dawson has written and published a book entitled "First Foot, Second Foot" which incorporates her two talents, poetry and photography. One can obtain the book via her website: td2books.com. She also passed along a point, "do not enter a flower show for the judging cudon, but for the love of doing it".

Laura Gregg is holding a trough workshop and trough plant purchasing opportunity at her home on May 3 in the a.m.

On May 17, there will be a workday at Stenton Mansion. A signup sheet was passed among members present.

For the Good of the Order:

Sadly, member Linda Anderson has experienced the loss of her sister.

All thoughts are with Lorraine and her upcoming surgery.

Lois Renthal has graciously offered to needlepoint name labels for any member who might not yet have one.

Weeder business being concluded, we were treated to background information about the Carr Garden which once existed on the west side of the Bartram's farm and is about to be restored. Joel Frye, responsible for the collections' care, spoke of and showed examples of correspondence between members of the Bartram family and nurseries in London and US territories, catalogues of plants offered by same, plans and pictures of the original garden, remarking on the extensive inventory of plant species which existed there.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Garnett, Assistant Recording Secretary