

February 2014 MINUTES

Meadowbrook Farm, February 11, 2014

A jolly group of The Weeders assembled in the former home of J. Liddon Pennock, now maintained by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. The house remains furnished as when he was alive, and various alert ladies spotted photos of Mr. Pennock attired in quite astonishing sartorial splendor. There were copies of his invitations to dine with Queen Elizabeth, and other items evidencing an extraordinary life.

At 10:30, Linda Anderson called the meeting to order, noting the many difficulties many Weeders and their families experienced during the recent power outages from heavy snows. She thanked hostesses Cheryl Cheston, Jackie Burke, and Nancy Evans and introduced Courtney Homan, guest of Julie DeVuono, and Louise Huber, Zone V Chair. Our Lloyd Brown, Zone V Director also attended the meeting and both discussed their GCA roles.

Minutes of the January 14, 2014 meeting were approved without objection. Linda reminded members that documented expenses over \$250 for a Weeder cause could be deducted from income tax returns.

Program Committee will meet at Julie DeVuono's on February 18, 2014, to begin planning for the new year.

Lloyd and Louise Huber gave a synopsis of their respective GCA duties. Lloyd, as a Director, monitors Conservation Committee, and Garden History and Design Committee and sits on the GCA Executive Committee. Louise, Zone V Chair, is rather like a "governor" of the Zone. Zone V has 14 clubs in Pennsylvania (with one in Delaware). Overall, GCA encompasses more than 200 clubs and 18,000 members. Both attend quarterly meetings in New York at GCA headquarters.

The GCA Survey for Strategic Planning was discussed. The survey is found on the website for GCA and in the recently received issue of the GCA Bulletin. Individual input is needed! GCA President, Katie Heins, is emphasizing bottom-up governance, not top-down.

Announcements before the speaker: Cheryl Cheston will host a potluck prior to the new season at the Gazebo Garden in Bryn Mawr. Work will commence in June.

Melissa Bullitt reminded all that photos are due today. They will be judged next week and on view at the March meeting.

Robbyn O'Neill described the wine and food evening meeting to take place in March in her home. Husbands and guests are welcome. Chip Roman, restaurateur, will give a cooking demonstration. Robbyn's husband, knowledgeable about wines, will conduct a

tasting of inexpensive but good wines that are available. (Sounds Great!)

Sally Wood has seen two snowy owls in her yard! Rare for this part of the world and noted in a recent NYTimes article they have been sighted.

Jacqueline Fisher, acting Director of Meadowbrook Farm, was introduced and gave a brief history of Meadowbrook, a 150 acre property given as a wedding gift to the young Pennocks in 1936 by the bride's parents. The house was designed by the couple with every room having a garden view. Liddon Pennock came from a florist family and later served as official White House florist during the Nixon administration.

Jacqueline introduced Brandon Huber, head grower at Meadowbrook, winner of over 250 ribbons at the PHS Flower Show. He presented a show-and-tell of ten recommended houseplants, hereby giving your Secretary palpitations with his facile use of horticultural nomenclature. Herewith, an attempt to summarize:

1. Begonia "Plum Gorgeous Carefree."
2. Philodendron "Prince of Orange." Likes deep shade in summer
3. Aglaonema "Sparkling Sara". Likes low light
4. Streptocarpus. Similar to African violet; bottom water, use blossom booster for long blooming periods
5. Phalaenopsis. Easiest of the orchids. Repot every 2 years; water weekly; North, West, or Eastern exposure; cut stem at second or third node after blooming; don't water center of plant; forget ice cube tricks as they might freeze the roots.
6. Cactus ?, similar to Aloe. Grows in winter and can take some shade.
7. Euphorbia. This is a Thai hybrid with larger leaves. Likes sun.
8. Pavonia multiflora "Brazilian Candles". Blooms year round.
9. Lady Palm. Best palm as a houseplant. Happy without much heat or light.
10. Calathea "Rattlesnake". Fine with Shade. Use distilled (not purified) water.
11. Pseuderanthemum. Nice little flowers. Likes bright light. A dividend!

Meeting was adjourned for a tour of the green houses.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Cadwalader