

Weeders Meeting

February 16, 2021

Ellie Penniman began the meeting as head of the Governance Committee. She explained the unprecedented situation that arose during the past month due to President Patty's medical diagnosis, and referred to the procedure in our by-laws covering the need to vote for a new Vice President. She then introduced Karen Shepard as our new President. Karen's first order of business was to oversee the vote to fill the vacancy of Vice President.

As per our by-laws, when Patty Greenhalgh resigned as President of the Weeders, and that resignation was received and accepted by the Executive Committee, Karen Shepard moved from Vice President to President. As per the recommendation of the Governance Committee, to the Executive Committee, Nancy Holmes, who had been serving as Program Chair, has been presented to the Membership to be elected to fill the vacancy in the position of Vice President. As per our by-laws, a motion to elect Nancy to the position of Vice President was made by Karen Shepard and was seconded by Maria Thompson. The unanimous vote in favor of this action by the members in attendance at the meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, elected Nancy Holmes to the position of Vice President.

Karen then thanked Lorraine Wallace as Past President, who will be mentoring her through her first year, Jackie Burke for stepping in to fill the position of Awards Chair, Nancy Holmes for stepping in as Vice President and Laura Carpenter for moving up to Program Chair.

Karen then asked for a motion to approve the January Minutes. The motion was made by Ellie Penniman, seconded by Lorraine Wallace and approved by the membership.

Announcements:

Treasurer's Report: Michele Bolton said we're in good shape financially. She will be in touch with the Program Chair about their estimate of needs for next year's programs and asked the winners of our December Auction to send in their checks, please. She announced that we've saved money on programs and conferences and she expects to have about an \$8,000 surplus at the end of the year. The Treasurer's Report was accepted and is attached to these Minutes.

Morton Award: Karen read a description of the Morton Award. "This award was created as a memorial to Esther Lloyd Morton, who was one of the founders of the Weeders. The award may be given annually to that member of the Weeders who, in the opinion of Club members, has accomplished an outstanding piece of work, during this or any other year, having to do with garden club interests." Please contact Karen if you have any suggestions for the Morton Award.

GCA National Affairs and Legislative Conference: Nancy Evans as our NAL Chair, and Phoebe Driscoll as Delegate will be attending the Conference this year. It will be held virtually, of course, and any GCA member who wishes to attend may do so. It is free, but you must sign up by the deadline, 2/19/21. The Conference takes place from 2/23 to 2/25 and you may choose which sessions to attend. Sign up using the link in the email reminder blast or through the GCA website.

Photography Awards: Nancy Holmes spoke up to recognize Taddy Dawson's recent photography awards. She won a First Place and a Best in Show in the Zone V Photography Show and an Honorable Mention in GCA's "America the Beautiful" contest. Congratulations, Taddy.

Crazy for Containers: Ellyn Spragins said we were a little slow out of the gate this year, but had orders totaling \$9,720 and a contribution of \$100 by the deadline. After expenses we should clear about \$3,479. She said we also placed an order for a container of 'Argentea' as a gift for Patty.

Committee Reports:

Flower Show: Jeanne May announced we will hold the April 10th flower show virtually, and it will be judged this time. She said it will follow the schedule set out in the Blue Book.

Horticulture: Alice Doering reminded those who signed up for the seed propagation workshop that the kits are on her back porch for pick up, along with the cash box for the fee. Nancy H. will be sending out the link for the workshop shortly before the date. Alice's tip of the month is to plan your veggie garden ASAP. Seed companies can run short of stock quickly in times like these when so many people are gardening. She likes Burpee for veggie seeds.

Membership: Marilyn Sprague introduced new member Gretchen Kiernan, attending her first meeting today. Over the years, Gretchen has been involved in such a variety of work and activities, from U.S. Army Intelligence School to real estate, libraries, Jenkins Arboretum, pursuing so many interests. Please see Marilyn's attachment for more complete information and get to know Gretchen better. Marilyn also spoke briefly about Admissions Committee issues; the GCA Bulletin, thanking Lorraine for her work ensuring that the photos we send to accompany articles for inclusion in the magazine are properly formatted so as not to be rejected; and our responsibilities regarding Magnolia Tribute Garden. Please see her second attachment for more complete information about these subjects.

PCGCA: Nancy E. gave an update on the Fertilizer Fund. Weeders were generous this year, coming in 2nd among all the Clubs in amount given, and 4th in the number of members participating.

Photography: Melissa Bullitt announced there will be a Photography Show March 9th, which will follow the schedule set out in the Blue Book. As there will be no judging, there will be no reason to feel intimidated about entering and she encouraged everyone to participate. Please send your photos to her via email and she will set up the show.

Program: Laura Carpenter and Melissa Schweiter Oeth will be scheduling Zoom meetings with committee members to plan programs for next year. She said the March 9th Weeder meeting will begin at 9:30 instead of in the evening, and keep the originally scheduled program, 'A C-Change Conversation'.

Founder's Fund: Sonya Driscoll announced that the three finalists competing for the Founder's Fund award, which we'll be voting on at the next meeting, are all worthy choices. She also reported she received a note from the Librarian at the Jeanes Library thanking the crew for their hard work on the garden there last fall, and expressing the hope that the project will be continued this year.

Other:

Nancy H. let us know that the PHS magazine 'Grow' has an article on Reggie Thomas' garden.

Phoebe Driscoll noted that the NAL meeting will focus on global warming and reminded us that we can all attend, virtually, this year.

Taddy Dawson asked us to let her know if we want anything posted on the website.

Patty Greenhalgh joined the meeting at this point and was welcomed by Karen. She had joined to watch the program and, although we know she has a long recovery ahead, it was heartening to see her smiling and looking so well. She assured us she was on the mend, thanking Karen for stepping into her new position, and everyone for their cards and their kind words of encouragement.

Guests: Karen took time to welcome and introduce the following ladies: Polly Robbins and Maureen Fendrick, guests of Laura Carpenter; Kathy Spagnola, guest of Diana Mason; Jodie Spragins, Tricia Winton, and Ainsley Gardner, guests of Ellyn Spragins; Robin Smith and Pam Bennett, guests of Annette Toebe; Linda Sirak, guest of Chris Cacioppo; Melonie Wallace, guest and daughter-in-law of Lorraine Wallace; Audrey Clancy, guest of Beth Hayes; Carol Rush, guest of Linda Anderson; and Audrey Kese, guest of Julie De Vuono.

Karen adjourned the meeting at 12:45

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Undercofler, Recording Secretary

Program: Nancy Holmes introduced our speaker, Margaret Roach, whose topic was "Non-Stop Plants: A Garden for 365 Days". She is a noted author and lecturer, working for 15 years for Martha Stewart and a decade each for Newsday and the New York Times. She has created the nationally acclaimed blog and newsletter awaytogarden.com along with an accompanying radio podcast. She has a regular column in the New York Times called "In the Garden."

Ms. Roach began by describing her personal journey of garden discovery starting with the purchase of her home in the Hudson Valley. For many years she lived there on weekends only, commuting between city job and country living. She restored the home, began gardening and, over time, learned through trial, error and observation what was important to her, changing a number of her original concepts about gardens, nature and the most effective way to live and work with both. She encouraged us to appreciate all seasons for the beauty each has to offer; to make a point of using native plants; allow an area in the garden to grow naturally to see what emerges; embrace the value of bugs and insects – indeed, all creatures great, small and even slithery – as garden helpers, not scourges.

She asked us to consider not entirely removing a dead tree, unless it's in a position to cause harm, but to remove the dead parts, cut off the top and allow what's left to remain as a source of food and nesting

for bugs and birds – a natural sculpture. If we must remove the whole tree, please don't grind out the stump!

Above all, she stressed the importance of eliminating the use of all chemicals, as nature cannot thrive in the presence of these, assuring us that nature can do a better job at curing garden ills and making healthier plants if we learn how to go with it. She was a compelling and inspirational speaker and a lively question and answer period followed.