

June 2014 Minutes of the Annual Meeting

Home of Lloyd Brown June 10, 2014

THE WEEDERS MEETING (ALSO COMPRISING THE 107TH ANNUAL MEETING)

Weeder ladies gathered at Lloyd Brown's wonderful home. The meeting began at 10:50 a.m. with President Linda Anderson presiding. Thank you's to Lloyd for hosting, Diane McCallister for the artistic flower arrangements, Chair of the Day Marilyn Sprague, who, along with Patty Minehart produced the special chicken salad, Jackie Burke for hosting in Lois Renthal's stead, Lorraine Wallace for the great home made bread and terrific wheatberry salad, and Sandy Cadwalader for the desserts.

Kim Frisbie introduced her guest, Daryl Hanlon, already known to a number of Weeders and who showed her good nature listening to the many reports that ensued.

Minutes of the May meeting at Jenkins Arboretum were approved.

Treasurer Laura Mitchell was exemplary in her brevity; dues have produced \$7,250. Our total assets as of May 6 stood at \$45,068.97.

Announcements:

Diane McCallister announced that the challenge plant, Brugmansia Little Angel was fully spoken for and Weeders could collect their plants at the end of the meeting. The plants are unusual as early bloomers, but will need immediate repotting into a larger vessel. Further, lots of water, full sun and plant food. The Brugmansia is very fragrant at night, but when inside, attracts aphids. Note: the plant is poisonous so pets and wandering children should be carefully watched near the plant.

The May meeting at Jenkins was a great success. Laura Gregg demonstrated flower arranging with containers one has around the house. The left-over flowers were given and recycled via Wendy Bailey for use at the Ronald McDonald House.

Photography Chair Melissa Bullitt urged members to register on-line in September for the Photography Classes at the Zone V meeting on October 15-16. The theme of the Meeting Flower Show is "North by Northeast". We are encouraged to produce two entries per each of the four classes.

Annual Meeting Attendees Lloyd Brown as Zone V Director (along with Marilyn Sprague, delegate and incoming Weeder President) coordinated a report given by Lloyd highlighting events of the GCA Meeting in New Orleans. Tulane University President Scott Cowen spoke of the ruination of the city of New Orleans in the wake of Katrina and the enormous challenges faced in the reconstruction of the impoverished community from scratch. The successes have been impressive. The School District, formerly 97th out of 100 worst systems in the country, now boasts of 85% of its students enrolled in Charter Schools. Leadership was necessary in the vacuum they experienced and the transformation of the city was one of the largest experienced in the United States in decades. Garret Graves spoke of the Gulf States as the seventh largest economy in the world (Who knew???).

GCA is designating Photography as a new Committee and emphasis. As of July, Photography will be a new discipline.

Headquarters will remain in New York City after a study of alternative sites. The GCA Bulletin will reduce publications to four issues a year with fewer pages. The "Bridge the Gap" campaign to repay debt incurred in saving a 5,100 acre redwood forest, met its \$270,000 goal!

GCA's operating income is \$1.8 million, half coming from dues and the remainder from

endowment. Operating Expenses were \$1.6 million and managed to give \$500,000 to worthy causes, the difference coming from donations and investment income.

The 2014 Founders Fund winner is the GC of New Haven for its proposal, "Safeguarding the American Elm."

Lloyd and Marilyn rounded out the meeting with further workshops, zone dinners and garden tours.

WEEDER'S ANNUAL MEETING OF 2014

Linda called the meeting to Order at 11:06 a.m.

Cindy Pierce, standing in for Nominating Chair Sally Wood, was asked to present the Nominating Committee's report. Nominees are:

President-Marilyn Sprague; First Vice President-Jackie Burke; Second Vice President-Ellen Pemberton; Recording Secretary-Sandra Cadwalader; Assistant Recording Secretary-Polly Garnett; Corresponding Secretary-Lorraine Wallace; Treasurer-Laura Mitchell; Assistant Treasurer-Tessa Davis; and Admissions until 2017, Beth Hayes and Liz Price.

We then followed very faithfully the decreed methodology: Linda asked for further nominations from the floor; none was proffered; nominations were duly declared closed. Whereupon, Ellie Penniman moved that "the report be accepted, and that the Secretary cast one ballot in favor." The Secretary, an agreeable sort, did what was requested. Ellen Pemberton seconded, and The Weeders may sigh with relief once again that our elections remain so tranquil. Linda announced that "The Officers in the Nominating Committee Report have been duly elected!!" Weeders, avoiding wild pandemonium, murmured polite approval. . .

Reports of the Committees continued. (Scroll down for full reports and Awards)

Second Vice President Ellen Pemberton described her position as working with the Admissions Committee, helping new members feel welcome and encouraging sponsors of new members to continue mentoring new members.

Admissions reported one new Member, Margaret Sager. Margaret is a partner in the law firm of Hecksher, Teillon, Terrill and Sager. We are delighted to welcome her while sorry to hear of the demands of her mother's recent illness.

Membership recorded the loss of dedicated and long-time members Peggy Stevenson and Frenchie Prichett who died within the last year. Tricia DiSesa has sent a letter of resignation.

Archivist Maria Thompson treated us to a well-researched overview of Weeder activity during the earlier war times. In 1914, Mrs. Randal Morgan, of Chestnut Hill, hosted a Weeder gathering with the speaker noting the three existing garden clubs then in Philadelphia. Intrepid Maria then found that the 1944 D-Day Invasion coincided with the initial Weeders presentation of the Ether Lloyd Morton Award! Now, 70 years later, the Weeders' sacred book has only a few pages left in the original volume for future awards. (Fear ye not; smart people are working on solutions). Finally, Maria announced that despite much confusion, we, The Weeders, should accept 1907 as our official founding year).

Community Affairs:

Strawberry Mansion Decorating for Christmas-Lynn Gibbons, along with Patricia Doolittle worked with Committee of 1926 Chair, Beth Kowalchick (overseeing organization of Strawberry) to decorate for the Holiday Tours in Fairmount Park. The house had been closed for five years to undergo extensive renovations. This new opportunity for The Weeders was undertaken by 12 hardy souls who glued popcorn on a Christmas tree, prepared nut balls, stuck cloves in oranges and used fresh greens to create

a festive interior of the Lewis parlor and front entry hall. We have been invited to come back next year.

Ronald McDonald House was overseen by Wendy Bailey. Her crew created arrangements in the fall and also after the Weeder May meeting, created further arrangements for Ronald McDonald House at St. Christopher's Hospital.

Strafford Station helper Polly Garnett presented Alice Doering's report. The group meets every Tuesday during the growing season at nine a.m. except when there is a regular Weeder meeting. In addition to regular maintenance, they decorate at Christmas and rotate annuals in seven containers over three seasons. In Winter, the containers are filled with greens. Marilyn Sprague obtained 5 new Knock Out roses for the area. The station looks better every year, evidenced by the enthusiastic reception from commuters, neighbors and SEPTA employees.

Gazebo Garden at Ludington Library, Bryn Mawr. Cheryl Cheston reported a successful year beginning with a massive chainsaw clean-up in the Fall. In the Spring, the emergence of hundreds of bulbs appeared. Summer has brought replanting of the more difficult perennials with flowering shrubs and/or colored foliage. Workdays continue on Monday mornings", mused Cheryl. She has entered the garden in the PHS Community Garden category for the coming year.

Scholarship Chair Sonya Driscoll's report announced that the Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award entry prepared by Sonya and Regina Wagner for Bartram's Garden's farm did not win but they were encouraged to re-submit next year. Phoebe Driscoll helped with the submission of the Wissahickon Valley Watershed's proposal of their Education Director and Program which was successful.

Garden History and Design Chair Anne Rhoads described the beginning of the documentation of Ina Kromboltz's garden in Malvern.

Horticulture Chair Diane McCallister and her Committee created four workshop opportunities for the year. In June, Diane provided sturdy cedar planters made with her husband to hold a rich variety of succulents and perennials. Several squares, which survived a wet summer, were entered in the Weeder Fall Flower Show, where judges commented very favorably. In October, there was a private tour of Ridge Goodwin's conifer garden. The January "Fireside Chat" and potluck at Lorraine Wallace's has become an annual winter event. The aim is to discuss seed starting and catalogue finds in addition to having a lovely evening get together.

On June 25, 2014, Alice Doering will host a Semi-hardwood Cuttings of Special Selections workshop in her home. Time is 9:30 a.m. and cost will be \$5.00 to cover materials.

Program Chair Jackie Burke reviewed the year of Programs. A schedule of next year's calendar was passed around for additional help in hostessing. Julie DeVuono will chair with Karen Doyle as Assistant Chair.

Visiting Gardens Chair Polly Garnet hopes to have a garden tour next year and encouraged Weeders to give her suggestions. She finds that the preference for trips within two hours of the Philadelphia seem to work best. Past trips have been to New York City, Monckton, Md. and Chestertown, Md.

Fertilizer Fund Weeder donations increased by 12% this past year.

Very respectfully submitted,

Sandy Cadwalader

Secretary