

June 2015 Minutes

Reggie Thomas' Home, Haverford
June 9, 2015



Marilyn Sprague called the meeting to order (with some difficulty) at 10:10 a.m., as Weeders were much distracted by the glories of hostess Reggie Thomas' stunning gardens. After thanking Reggie, program chair Cheryl Cheston and co-hostesses Connie Carlson, Kim Frisbie, Diane McCallister, Patty Minehart, and Anne Rhoads, she welcomed Dina Spinelli, grandmother of our little Weeder, Elena Rose Bullitt, i.e. Melissa's mother. Forty-one members were in attendance.

As by-laws require the election of club officers prior to the Annual Meeting, we proceeded to do so. Sally Wood, nominating chair, read the slate: Maria Thompson, recording secretary;;; Polly Garnett, assistant recording secretary; Lorraine Wallace, corresponding secretary; Cheryl Cheston and Cindy Pierce, members of the admissions committee, and Ellie Penniman as ad hoc coordinator of the admissions committee. There were no objections, violent or otherwise, or additional nominations from the floor, so Your Secretary, exerting enormous power, cast her sole vote in favor of the slate. And thus it was done.

Marilyn could now officially declare the Annual Meeting to be in session. The minutes of April and May meetings were approved (many thanks). We then began our march through the annual reports, beginning with Laura Mitchell's treasurer's report, which showed assets of \$49,728.38, \$44,702.77 of which is safely invested in a Vanguard account (N.B. The full written reports will be maintained with these minutes).

Ellie Penniman presented the admissions committee report for Isabel Wister, who, with Karen Doyle, is rotating off the committee this year. Ellie welcomed our two new Weeders, Michele Bolton and Daryle Hanlon, and outlined the streamlining of the admissions procedure, which had been batted around in various executive committee meetings, and which should clarify AND simplify things. It will be included in next year's Weeders program. Ellie then read a letter from Wendy Bailey, proposing her cousin Alice Long Nacey for membership. Alice has returned to Philadelphia after many years of very active

membership in the Trotwood Garden Club near Pittsburgh. Supporting letters have been received from Ellen Pemberton, Marilyn Sprague, Cindy Pierce, and Patty Greenhalgh.

Historian/Archivist for life, Maria Thompson, provided us with a lively glimpse at the Weeders' activities via minutes of the meetings held on October 20, November 10, and December 2, 1915 in members' homes. However, by 1964-1965, Maria found that the Weeders had no minutes (extant, at least) – a GREAT idea, thanks your retiring secretary, and as your incoming one, Maria, may soon learn, and her sleuthing found only programs to use for information.

In addition to the three known Weeders' artifacts (the Morton Award book, the president's Weeders sign, and the silver box now at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Maria and Nancy Evans have discovered the existence of a Weeders' chair, whereabouts presently unknown, which sported an animal's head protruding from the middle front of the seat. Very exciting news, ladies, and Nancy and Maria will attempt to track down the beastly chair.

The Christmas Sale garnered triple the \$\$\$ from past years, mainly thanks to efforts of Ellie Penniman, Becky Caldwell, Biddie Edwards, Nancy Evans. Polly Garnett again organized the creation of tabletop decorations for Bryn Mawr Rehab patients.

The Club Flower Show committee hosted two shows, September 16 at Heritage Farm at Methodist Home, and May 12 at the Krok Center. Of 77 September entries and 85 May entries, only five floral design entries were received at each show. Beth Bartle was thanked as retiring club flower show chair, and Patricia Doolittle was welcomed as incoming chair. Marilyn thanked Alice Doering for serving as judging representative to GCA and at the club show level.

Fairmount Park: Beth Bartle also reported that "Rooms in Bloom" at the Fairmount Park Houses had been very successful. Beth provided arrangements for the parlor at Lemon Hill, with Margo Bennett of Four Counties. A steady stream of visitors admired the floral designs.

Strawberry Mansion decorations at Christmas, chaired by Patricia Doolittle and Lynn Gibbons, featured very imaginative recycled items.

Ronald McDonald, chaired by Wendy Bailey, again provided wonderful floral arrangements for the Ronald McDonald House at St. Christopher's Hospital.

Strafford Station: Alice Doering thanked her worthy helpmates, Polly Garnett, Marilyn Sprague, Leslie Undercofler, Laura Mitchell, Ellie Kirk, Ella Jackson, and Wendy Quereau. The Weeders have been beautifying the station for over 32 years. A new rain barrel will be installed on the north side, allowing for greater convenience in watering all the new shrubs. In addition to maintaining the beds of day lilies, roses, hydrangeas and magnolias, the committee continues to fill seven planters with annuals.

Gazebo Garden at Ludington Library: Cheryl Cheston and her crew continue to work through the summer on the beautiful garden, which looks better than ever, thanks to the efforts of the group.

Conservation: Nancy Evans said she is planning our third "Follow the Trash" trip, this one to a recycling center, for next fall.

Stenton: The Weeders are rightly proud of their involvement as seconding club for the \$30,000.00 Founders' Fund received by Stenton, as proposed by Wissahickon Garden Club.

Garden History and Design: Anne Rhoads reported that her committee is in process of documenting the Inta Kromholz's 3 ½-acre garden for the GCA archives of American gardens at the Smithsonian.

GCA Annual Meeting: Lloyd Brown reported that she, Jackie Burke, and Marilyn Sprague had gone to Rochester, New York May 17-19 for the annual meeting. First and foremost, she demonstrated her spanking new GCA scarf (order one now, ladies – it actually IS very nice!!) Speakers included the

presidents of the Cultural Landscape Protection and the Rainforest Alliance. In addition to workshops and garden visits for the delegates, they were particularly pleased that not only was Stenton awarded the Founds Fund Award, but also that local notables, Robert McCracken Peck and Dorrance Hamilton, both received GCA medals. Philadelphia cleaned up! GCA scholarships of \$300,000.00 were shared among 86 candidates, now publicized via Twitter. The big dinner was held at Eastman House, probable home of Linda Eastman McCartney, OR Mrs. Paul the Beatle (if anyone is reading this, you deserve little tidbits). A Chihuly-like chandelier, made entirely of painted recycled water bottles, which adorned the tent at the dinner, was on display, and taken home by an enterprising Weeder for yet another recycling effort.

GCA Bulletin: Kim Frisbie and Marilyn plan to submit an article about the Weeders meeting at the Krok Center, and the workshop for clients conducted by Cheryl Cheston.

Horticulture: Diane McCallister passed around a sign-up for a propagation workshop at Alice Doering's house on June 16. The cost is \$5.00, and participants are asked to bring cuttings from favorite shrubs.

PCGCA Joint Meeting: Linda Anderson and Ellen Pemberton served ably as co-chairs for the 50th anniversary meeting of the Philadelphia Committee, November 5, 2014. Next year's duties go to the Planters, who handled this year's invitations and registration. Diane McCallister, Ellen Pemberton, Wendy Bailey, and Lloyd Brown all contributed to the beautiful floral decorations on each table for lunch. Speaker was Jane Pepper, retired head of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. The event was a success, and an occasion to celebrate the good works of PCGCA's Fertilizer Fund.

Fertilizer Fund: Sonya Driscoll's dedication to said Fertilizer Fund was quite properly recognized. Sonya then spoke of one of the projects supported by the Fund: the St. James the Less School at 33rd and Clearfield Streets in East Falls, Philadelphia. The church has operated a school for 11 months; neighborhood children have a wonderful educational opportunity, and also learn about gardening and tending chickens.

Scholarship Committee: Sonya Driscoll then put on her scholarship hat and said that she and Regina Wagner had once again applied for the Hull Award to honor two farmers at Bartram's Garden for their outstanding work with children, but they were turned down again. The award would have given each person \$500. Sonya suggested the Weeders give this money instead, the worth of these men's contribution already vouched for by our worthy scholarship team. Our generous-spirited group consented unanimously. Congratulations, Sonya and Regina, and the two deserving farmers! Presentation of this award will be announced to the Weeders, and the farmers will be invited to attend the Weeders meeting at Bartram's Garden in the spring.

Sonya then suggested that (yet another!) committee be formed to discuss a worthy donation from the healthy Weeder coffers. The committee would look into an award of \$10,000, or perhaps two awards of \$5,000. A sign-up sheet was passed among members.

Philadelphia Flower Show: Diane McCallister and Melissa Bullitt are chairing the Great Return of the Weeders to the Big Show; the overall theme is a celebrate the 2016 centennial of our National Parks, while our class is entitled, "Welcome Home," featuring a house front to be made appropriately welcoming. BAD NEWS ALERT: PHS turned down an incredibly clever Weeder proposal to feature an Airstream trailer with "home is Where You Park" as its caption. (Get it?? PHS authorities evidently didn't, although the official reason is that it didn't use the provided materials (a front stoop and a window) as required to be fair to all entries). Diane and Melissa are toying with other ideas. Keep posted.

Our intrepid hostess, Reggie Thomas has been named chair of the PHS committee charged with finding a replacement for departing head, Drew Becher. What a tough job – and thank you, Reggie!

Photography: Melissa Bullitt, chair, reported that at the Zone V Flower Show in October, she and Nancy Evans, won 1st and 2nd places. The Weeders photography show on March 10 at the Woodmere Art Museum had "Philly Music Scene" as its theme, with three Rock 'n Roll (cleverly) themed classes. Six Weeder photographers entered 32 photographs, and Taddy Dawson won best in show. Also featured

was a new photography display system, created by Melissa and her father, Tony Spinelli.

Program: Julie De Vuono recounted the nine programs of the year, a wonderfully diverse and interesting series of meetings. Congratulations! Next year's programs include an October 7 (Wednesday) bus trip to New York to visit Wave Hill and to walk the High Line with Patrick Cullina, the landscape designer involved with the project, and our own Amy Freitag. Wow! Julie also thanked her committee, of which I am one worthless member, but others are Karen Doyle, Linda Anderson, Wendy Calhoun, Cheryl Cheston, Meg Devereux, Sonya Driscoll, Laura Mitchell, Diane McCallister, Marilyn Sprague, Lorraine Wallace, and Sally Wood.

Visiting Gardens: Polly Garnett is working with Linda Anderson and the program committee on the Wave Hill/High Line trip. She reminded members that GCA membership entitles each of us to visit gardens in any city we are lucky enough to visit. Polly can share details of how to make appointments.

Recognition of Retirees: Marilyn thanked me (Sandy Cadwalader) and acknowledged the Transfer of Power as secretary to Maria Thompson, mentioning that humorous recording of facts is indeed a Weeder tradition. She thanked Isabel Wister and Karen Doyle for serving on the admissions committee, and welcomed replacements Cheryl Cheston and Cindy Pierce. Beth Bartle was thanked as club flower show chair, and Patricia Doolittle welcomed to the position.

Awards: Jackie Burke then began the most awaited part of the annual meeting: presentation of Weeder awards. Melissa Bullitt, flower show point chair announced the following:

Cadwalader Award – Patricia Doolittle

Neophyte Award – no winner

Sweepstakes Award – Alice Doering

Horticultural Award – Alice Doering

Floral Design Award – Diane McCallister

Photography Award – Taddy Dawson

Founders' Cup – Alice Doering

Jackie Burke then announced there would not be a presentation of either the Morton Award or the Biddle Award this year.

She then awarded a club Floral Design Certificate to Melissa Bullitt, for excellence in flower arranging in her club and community

Sally Wood was then honored with a GCA Club Medal of Merit for 47 years of contributions of exceptional merit, dedication, and leadership on behalf of the Weeders and garden club interests.

The Trusty Trowel Award was presented to Tony Spinelli for his remarkable efforts on behalf of Weeder projects. This award was accepted by Dina Spinelli, wife, and Melissa Bullitt, daughter of the dearly missed Tony.

Marilyn concluded the meeting with an ode to the thirteen past presidents who continue to serve the Weeders.

The meeting was adjourned, followed by a lovely luncheon in Reggie's garden.

Sayonara

Your (no longer or maybe never) trusty secretary, Sandy Cadwalader