

The Weeders Treasurer's Report June 14, 2016

Cash balance on hand June14, 2016

Income since April 12, 2016:

\$ 8,503.12

Dues 2016-17

10,575.00

Club Flower Show Workshop

160.00

In Memorium (Ella Jackson)

335.00

Total Income:

\$ 11,070.00

Expenses:

Club Flower Show - Workshops Program Committee

March meeting - projector rental May meeting - hall

May meeting - speaker GCA Annual Meeting Registration PHS Flower Show

Ronald McDonald - two workshops Morton Award - new book

PCGCA Fert. Fund - came in with dues

Total expenses:

Vanguard GNMA Fund account as of 6/8/16

Total Assets as of June 14, 2016

Respectfully submitted, Laura Mitchell, Treasurer

389.59

25.00
200.00
150.00
590.00
105.48
152.87
1,368.95
75.00

\$ 3,056.89

\$ 34,839.41

\$ 45,461.86

Weeders 2016-17 Budget

INCOME

Administrative
Proposed 14/15
Actual 14/15
Proposed 15/16
Actual 15/16
Proposed 16/17

Dues (\$100,\$150)
10,900.00
10,350.00
11,000.00
11,950.00
12,750.00

Donations

70.00

Nametags/Binders
40 .00

40.00
20.00
20.00

Plant Sales (Hort. Cttee)

100.00

100.00

307.03

100.00

Workshops (Hort. Cttee)

150.00

10.00

150.00

Program/Feb 2016 mtg Hostesses

250.00

250.00

Program/Income from Oct bus trip

Civic Projects

3,840.00

Annual Party/Fundraiser

Christmas Sale

1,000 .00

3,211.00

1,000.00

1,478.75

1,000.00

Philadelphia Flower Show Stipend

1,200.00

1,300.00

PCGCA Flower Show Tips Book

40.00

Strafford Station Community Fnd

500.00

530.00

500.00

512.00

500.00

In Memorium/Tribute Fund

100.00

100.00

85.00

100.00

Vanguard Interest

900 .00

1,086.11

1,000.00

948.14

900.00

TOTAL INCOME

13,580.00

15,177.11

15,340.00

20,770.92

15,520.00

EXPENSES

Proposed 14/15

Actual 14/15

Proposed 15/16

Actual 15/16

Proposed 16/17

Administrative

President

100.00

Secretary, corresponding/Webs ite

100.00
109.04

67.44
75.00

Communications/Program/Printing/Mailing

100.00
334.13
500.00
294.95
500.00

Treasurer

GCA Dues&Insurance (\$62)

4,300.00
4,920.00
5,270.00
5,270.00
5,394.00

GCA Meetings/Travel

840.00
440.00
800 .00
790.00
800.00

GCA Zone V Meeting

500.00

PCGCA Dues/ Joint Meeting

300.00
300.00
300.00
300.00
300.00

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Actual 15/16

Proposed 16/17

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800.00

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PCGCA Dues/ Joint Meeting

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300.00
300.00
300.00
300.00

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Weeders 2016-17 Budget

EXPENSES (con't)

Committees, Administrative/Operational

Proposed 14/15

Actual 14-15

Proposed 15-16

Actual 15/16

Proposed 16/17

Admissions

Morton Award Book

1,868.95
400.00

Awards (Engraving)
150.00
250.56
1,775 .00

250.00

Club Flower Shows
500.00
316.92
750.00
809.34
750.00

Club Photography Show
200.00
312.66
200.00
32.08
200.00

Club Flower Shows Judges Gifts
125.00
64.68
100.00

100.00

Conservation (travel, NAL)
800.00
1,197.09
800.00
250.00
800.00

Garden History & Design
50.00

50.00

50.00

History/Archives

Horticulture
250.00

250.00

250.00

Horticulture Conferences/Meniece
750.00

750.00
1,633.03
750.00

Nominating

Program (speakers, halls, equip)
2,000.00
2,190.64
2,500.00
2,450.47
2,500.00

Program/Expenses for Oct bus trip

3,206.91

Visiting Gardens
50.00

Total Administrative Expenses

11,115.00
10,435.72
14,045.00
16,973.17
13,119.00

Committees, Civic Projects

Ludington Library Gazebo Garden

500.00

441.89

500.00

500.00

Magnolia Tribute Garden (one-time expense)

3,000.00

PMA Park House Christmas Decorations

300.00

300.00

172.28

300.00

Philadelphia Flower Show

25.00 stipend

3,574.06

Ronald McDonald House

100.00

135.80

110.00

152.87

110.00

Strafford Station

400.00

77.80

400.00

36.13

400 .00

Strafford Station Community Fnds.

500.00

500.00

1,034.16

500.00

Holiday Tabletop Decorations

20.00

25 .00

25.00

Donations/Community Projects

1,242.59

4,000.00

Memberships/contributions

2,250.00

5,000.00

5,000 .00

5,000.00

5,000.00

In Memorium

Total Civic Expense

4,070.00

6,898.08

6,835.00

16,969.50

6,835.00

TOTAL EXPENSES

15,185.00

17,333.80

20,880.00

33,942.67

19,954.00

2

WEEDERS ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT, JUNE 2016

The Admissions Committee was active and productive this year: Our membership stands at 85 total.

Regular - active 76

Sustaining 3

Junior

Out-of Town 6

Activity:

We completed the new *Membership procedure* - A user-friendly version is being printed for binder and the more detailed version will be kept in the files for access as needed. A *Reinstatement Procedure* was also completed.

A New Member Questionnaire was put together to provide contact and other information for our new members. This will be particularly helpful to Lorraine, our communications guru.

New Members:

Elaine Lisle

- Proposer: Cheryl Cheston
- Secunder: Lorraine Wallace
- Supporters: Wendy Bailey
 - Diane McCallister
 - Ellen Pemberton
- Husband: John

- Date of Admission: Jan 12, 2016

Ellyn Spragins

- Proposer: Lesley Undercoffler
- Secunder: Jane Kline
- Supporters: Polly Garnett
 - Marilyn Sprague
 - Cindy Pierce
- Husband: John Witty

- Date of Admission: 9/01/ 2016 Resignations: Robbyn O'Neill, Isabel Wister

Weeders Admissions/Membership Procedure Spring, 2016

1. The proposer will accompany the candidate to at least two Weeders meetings or combination of meetings and/or workshops to allow her to meet members and see the club at work.

1. The proposer should give the candidate a copy of the brochure "What It Means To Be a Weeder," going over material with her, insuring she understands expectations that go with membership.
2. The proposer shall obtain written letters of support from a seconder and three additional

supporters (a total of five letters), and present these letters to the Admissions Chair, with a copy to the President. Email is considered a written communication for By-Law compliance. The Admissions Chair will distribute the proposing letters to the Admissions Committee so that the candidacy is known before formal process begins.

1. The candidate is announced at a Weeders meeting by the Admissions chair, and letters of sponsorship and seconding are emailed the membership. Admissions Chair informs membership that 30 days are allowed for comments in writing to the Admissions Committee.
2. After 30 days, tracked by the Admissions Chair, if there are no adverse comments, the Admissions Committee votes on accepting the member. Email votes are acceptable. Membership is thus confirmed, and Admissions Chair informs the President.
3. The Admissions chair will call new member and her proposer to welcome the new member and encourage her to come to the next meeting.
4. The President will write a letter of welcome and make certain new members receives a binder, inserts, and a questionnaire to be returned to the President, including all contact information necessary for the Communications Chair, including name, nickname (or how she wishes to be addressed), spouse's name, address, phone number, cell number, and email. Names of proposing team should also be recorded. The proposer is responsible for contacting the new member to accompany her to the next available meeting, and proposer, seconder and team will support the new member for at least a year in Weeder activities.
5. Dues may be pro-rated at this point by the President and Treasurer.
6. A simple gathering of Weeders is planned, inviting candidate, proposing team members, and other key Weeders, so that aspect of Weeders membership can be fully explained. This meeting should be casual and not overwhelm the new member, and may include more than one new member if appropriate. Information will include expectation that new Weeder will serve at club flower shows as available, and join one of the major committees (Conservation, Floral Design/Flower Show, Horticulture). She will be encouraged and informed about other committee opportunities, such as community projects, and encouraged to join more than one committee and as many activities as possible.
7. At end of above orientation, new Weeder will be under care of membership team and her proposers.

Note: Lorraine Wallace and Cheryl Cheston have suggested that they work on a pamphlet that would be available to proposers, thus better informing them of their responsibilities toward proposing a new member and better assisting that member to assimilate into the Weeders.

The Weeders Procedure for reinstatement
For discussion at executive committee meeting January 19, 2016

If the Weeders are so fortunate as to have past members wish to reinstate, for any reason, we should have a policy and procedure to cover the process.
There are no by-laws or rules covering this topic.

1. What is required?
 1. Request in writing for reinstatement (emails are now acceptable as written correspondence) by the resigned member.
 2. Determination of dues payment 1. Current year only?
2. Reinstatement fee (small?)
- c. Vote of executive committee to reinstate?
 1. Where to record written procedure(s). Perhaps a page in (revised) Weeders binder? (Many members no longer have a current copy of the by-laws.
 2. Is there a way to update by-laws, procedures, and distribute by email? Just too expensive to mail too often, but needs re-distribution.

WEEDERS GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

The position of 2nd Vice President is to assist the President and help new members get acclimated. When a new member joins, reminders are given to the proposer to invite the new member to accompany her to the meeting or see to that one of the supporters does so. Basically this job is to be an active and friendly member and to be involved with most of the Weeder activities including attending workshops and executive meetings.

This year three new members joined our club. Alice Nacey joined last summer and has already become a very involved member. Elaine Lisle and Ellyn Spragins joined this past winter. Elaine, a well known artist, helped with our entry in the Philadelphia Flower Show this year by painting an original "Georgia O'Keefe" which was used as an important prop in our exhibit. Ellyn Spragins has moved to the area from Princeton where she was active in a GCA Club. I have had two luncheons, one last summer for Alice and Daryle Hanlon, and another this winter for Elaine and Ellyn. Both were attended by a handful of Weeders, including our President, to welcome them in an informal and fun manner.

Ellen Pemberton

The Weeders
Annual Report of the Historian/Archivist June 14, 2016

Magnolia Tribute Garden

Last spring our president Marilyn Sprague learned of an initiative by the Garden Club of Philadelphia to raise funds to restore the Magnolia Tribute Garden on the south side of Locust Street in Society Hill.

Early on the Weeders agreed to support the project and it became a focus of the ten GCA clubs in the Philadelphia region. Your historian became involved because Marilyn realized the garden was proposed to the GCA by Weeder Mrs. Frederic Rosengarten, nee Marion Sims, of Chestnut Hill. Her ally in the effort was her sister Dorothy, Mrs. Charles Platt of the Garden Club of Philadelphia. Lest that club try to walk off with all the credit, Marilyn and I poured over copies of minutes of the GCA Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and relevant articles and notices in the *Bulletin*. I consulted our club minutes from 1949 through 1960, looked through programs, checked Social Registers to sort out who was who and happily was able to make use of extensive notes from two projects that had nothing to do with the Weeders but everything to do with the development of Independence National Historic Park. Payday! Not only did Marion Rosengarten suggest "a Magnolia Mall" near Independence Hall in May 1949 but she saw the whole thing through to its formal dedication ten years later. Weeders were involved in multiple ways - at Mrs. Rosengarten's request, Mrs. Fife photographed the old buildings near Independence Hall in 1957 and these images are now in the GCA collection at the Smithsonian.

It didn't hurt that the one person most responsible for the creation of the park, Judge Edwin O. Lewis, was married to a Weeder.

Esther Lloyd Morton Award

As a club, we award prizes at flower shows and at the annual meeting that recognize the achievement of our most successful flower arrangers, horticulturalists and photographers. We also acknowledge

behind-the-scenes efforts and community service. In addition to the accolades, some of these awards are physical objects like silver bowls and the Founders Cup. But our most precious object is a hand - made leather bound book.

Once, there were three sisters who were all Weeders. The one I knew was Mary Lloyd Wister, who, as an aside, was the mother-in-law of our beloved Weeder Cynthia Wetherill Wallace who, today, celebrates her 99th birthday. Two of Mrs. Wister's granddaughters were Weeders - Cindy Welch and Isabel Wister. Anna Lloyd Hayward was a most revered Weeder, legendary even in my time. There used to be an annual program that carried her name - the Anna Lloyd Hayward lecture. Mrs. Hayward's daughter Nancy Lisle was a Weeder and helped me sort out the complicated tale of the garden club's beginning years. But the Lloyd sister whose name has never been forgotten is Esther.

After Esther's death, Mary Wister made a hand tooled leather bound book to record the names of those receiving an award named for her sister. The book served the Weeders for seventy years from 1944 through 2014. Last year the book spent the summer at the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts and I began to investigate the creation of a companion volume, learning more about the vagaries of bookbinding than I ever imagined.

I am pleased to report we have a new book hand made by Paul Vogel of the Vogel Bindery in East Hampton, New York. The burgundy red goatskin leather was tanned and dyed in England. The pages

are made from buffered, 100 percent cotton, French paper suitable for watercolor and the decorative hand blocked printed endpapers based on a historical pattern were made in Italy. Paul used antique tools to apply the gold leaf, considering the scale of the design, to insure that volume two would be every bit as handsome as volume one.

Polly Garnett did a masterful job with the calligraphy for the title page, a two paragraph introductory page and the citation for the honoree. She worked diligently and researched various styles before settling on the one she thought most appropriate for the book. Then Linda Anderson worked her magic with subtle decorative details for the title and introductory pages modeled on those of Mary Wister's tribute to her sister. Linda also did the watercolor for the award page. The new book is truly a collaborative Weeder effort.

The text of the introductory page reads:

"In 1943, Arthur Morton made a contribution to the Weeders to establish an award in memory of his wife Esther Lloyd Morton, who was a founder of the club. He wanted the recipient to be a member 'who has done the most outstanding work in any field of garden club activities, in horticulture, conservation, literature, landscaping, etc.' The award is very personal and, even many years later, embodies a spirit of the Weeders that Arthur Morton expressed: 'I think Esther was connected with this club longer than with any other organization, and I am happy in the thought of some little thing being done by her associates to keep alive her interest in the Weeders and her affection and friendship for its members.'"

"Mary C. Wister, Esther's sister, made a hand tooled, leather bound book to record the name of the award recipients and her book served the Weeders for seventy years from 1944 through 2014.

In 2016 the Weeders commissioned a companion volume, also handmade, to continue the tradition established by Arthur Morton to recognize "an outstanding piece of work having to do with garden club interests."

Now, all that remains to complete the project will be the fabricating of two decorative clam shell boxes for storage. Research on that aspect of the project is underway.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria M. Thompson Historian

Patricia Doolittle, Chair Patty Greenhalgh, Co-Chair

We held two Flower Shows this year. The first was held on September 15th, 2015 and the other on May 10th, 2016. A Photography Show was judged separately and was held in conjunction with the evening meeting on March 15th, 2016.

The theme for all three shows was "Art In The Garden"; inspiration for the various classes was found with famous artists and their work.

Fall Show

The Fall Show was held at Cheryl Cheston's home. It was a beautiful day and we were fortunate to have the class tables arranged in her garage with the greeter, grooming and registration tables out front.

Committee members set up the afternoon before. 10X8" tables and 4X6' tables were ordered and we also used an additional six and five foot table along with a card table for the reference books.

There was difficulty securing GCA judges for this show so we employed a method of self-judging using pennies to indicate the popular vote. It made for a fun and educational show, giving participants an inside view of the judging process and demystifying it. Weeders 'experts' gave us tips on what to look for when judging.

Total Entries were 61, with 43 for Horticulture and 18 for Floral Design.

Photography

The show was coordinated by Melissa Bullitt. Entries were sent to her by a certain deadline and judged prior to the show.

Spring Show

This show has a wonderful display of horticulture and floral design entries. We set up at 8pm the morning of the show in the beautiful facilities at the Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center. It was set up in the entrance hall and had a format that allowed for public viewing.

As with the fall show; committee members helped with set up, greeting, passing, registration, clerking and take down. New committee members were mentored by

more seasoned members who instructed them in how to do the various jobs. It worked well and we will continue with this practice next year.

Newly organized Flower Show supplies have streamlined the set up and take down process.

Total Entries were 88: Horticulture had 73 and Floral Design had 15.

In an effort to increase interest and participation in the Floral Design classes, we organized two workshops that were held the day before each show. The Flower Show committee planned and executed them, with Melissa Bullitt giving the fall demonstration and Beth Bartle and Diane

McCallister demonstrating the method of 'bridge design' for the spring workshop. An increased in the budget from \$500 to \$700 allowed us to under-wright these floral design workshops. It was not enough to fully fund them so we also charged \$20 per person. This did not deter participation as we had eleven enthusiastic participants in September and ten in May for the challenge classes. They were a lot of fun. We will plan further workshops next year.

Sincerely submitted, Patricia Doolittle
June 2016

Fairmont Park Historic Houses Holiday Tours

The theme for the holiday tour for 2015 was 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. The Weeders committed to decorating Strawberry Mansion for the third year in a row. We were assigned to decorate the parlor and our theme was Three French Hens.

Patricia Doolittle was very creative and collected many decorations using the Three French Hen theme, and made several sample ornaments for us to recreate on the day of decorating.

Twelve Weeders met on November 30, at Strawberry Mansion to decorate our parlor. Everyone pitched in and the room was transformed in no time. We all had a fun time being creative (and a little messy) with feathers, beads and glue sticks. The greens were perfectly hung, the mantle was transformed, and all the ornaments looked great hanging from our tree.

When we were finished, Connie Ragsdale and her committee at Strawberry Mansion hosted a lovely luncheon for us all.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Gibbons
Patricia Doolittle

The Weeders Gazebo Garden Report - June 2016

Progress continues at our project in Bryn Mawr. Since adopting this garden in 2012, our efforts have been aimed at lowering the maintenance needs of these huge borders, primarily by adding shrubs and removing overly aggressive perennials. The garden has been greatly changed during our time there.

Significant additions in 2016 included three Emerald Green Arborvitae and a Shasta Viburnum. Last year we realized just how much colorful annuals add to the mix, and so this year we pretty much tripled our efforts by planting a lot of cosmos, zinnias and petunias that are already transforming the garden.

As I've said many times, I have relied primarily on Weeders who live in Lower Merion Township to

show up on Monday mornings between April and October.
I'd like to remind everyone, however, that this is a club project and when I put out an APB from time to time, your help is urgently needed and greatly appreciated. I promise you will not be discriminated against if you live somewhere else!

Do drive by next time you're in Bryn Mawr. The garden is directly behind the Ludington Library on Bryn Mawr Avenue.

Many thanks to those on the Gazebo Garden committee, most especially to Marilyn, who never misses a Monday. Without The Weeders, this garden would have reverted to jungle by now. Instead, it's getting better each year and is greatly appreciated by scores of people every day during the growing season.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Cheston

STRAFFORD STATION 2015-2016

Strafford Station continues to grow and thrive with new plants and newly seasonally planted containers. The team of Marilyn Sprague, Leslie Undercofler and Polly Garnet conscientiously tends to the gardens and containers. We miss our faithful pruner of the Roses, Ella Jackson. She had been a reliable hardworking part of the team ever since we started gardening at the station. I have included some pictures of the garden, as pictures are certainly better than a thousand of my words!! Many thanks to the team!!

Bonica Roses and Kousa Dogwoods

Bonica Roses and Oenothera speciosa on busy station corner

10-L-M-a-il--Message

View

5/26/16 6:00 PM

Annual report
From: Wendy Bailey <wcb5x2s@aol.com>
To: Marilyn Sprague <mwsprague1@verizon.net>

Date: Thu, May 26, 2016 5:50 pm
Ronald McDonald House Report to President
June 2016

Monday, October 19, 2015 was the date of the Fall workshop at Wendy Bailey's home to create flower arrangements for the Front and Erie location. This house serves St. Christopher's Hospital for Children which is affiliated with Drexel University College of Medicine. In attendance were Wendy Bailey, Connie Carlson, Daryle Hanton, Weezie Johnston, Laura Mitchell, Lorraine Wallace and Marilyn Sprague. Five beautiful arrangements were made and delivered by Marilyn Sprague along with some Halloween candies.

Tuesday, April 26, 2016 was the date of the Spring workshop. Wendy purchased Spring flowers and along with azalea, lilac and boxwood cuttings from our gardens nine beautiful arrangements were made. Patricia Doolittle, Cheryl Cheston, Wendy Calhoun, Alice Nacey, Sally Wood, Wendy Bailey and Laura Mitchell were in attendance. Wendy and Alice delivered the flowers and placed two on the front counter, one on the round table in the front room, one on the table near the kitchen, one on the kitchen island, two in the living room, one in the check-in room and one in the computer room downstairs.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Chair of the Ronald McDonald House committee these past five years and will be ably chaired by my successor Laura Mitchell.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Bailey

GCA ANNUAL MEETING.

2016

On May 21 and May 22 Patricia Doolittle and I attended the GCA Annual Meeting in Minneapolis Minnesota. We were proud to see Lloyd Brown GCA secretary on the dais. She read congratulatory notes from past GCA Presidents who were unable to attend the meeting.

Anne Copenhagen. President of the GCA called the meeting to order. She welcomed Congresswoman Betty McCollum House of Representatives representing Minnesota's 4th district, which includes St Paul.

Congresswoman McCollum's top priorities are protecting clean air and water, wild lands and our nation's national treasures as part of her leadership role on the Interior-Environment Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. She authored the National Park and Wilderness Waters Protection Act in the spring of 2015.

The Keynote Speaker was Joe Wiegand, Theodore Roosevelt Reprisor. Prior to portraying TR, Joe had a twenty-five year career in politics and public policy in his native Illinois.

He was a dynamic speaker and stayed in character the entire weekend traveling to lectures,

outings and dinners. Having TR at our meeting was very appropriate, since we are celebrating the 100th year Anniversary of our National Parks. TR took questions from the audience with style and confidence. He performs eleven months of the year in all fifty states and internationally.

The rest of the morning meeting consisted of President's remarks, treasurer's report and reports from all the Zone Chairmen. Jorie Nailor gave the Zone V report.

Following lunch, we attended workshops; one for club presidents and one for delegates.

My workshop consisted of a Panel: The Advantages of Associations, which tackled:
Strategic planning, Fund Raising and Membership
Development. This was followed by a Round table discussion with our luncheon table. I got some amazing ideas from this panel. So watch out next year.

There followed a review on how to navigate the GCA website. In the afternoon, Patricia and I attended a Mississippi River Walking tour and learned a little bit about the history of the great mills and the dam and lock system of the upper Mississippi.

That evening we were bussed to one of three locations for a wonderful dinner.. We were lucky to go to the Minikahda Club overlooking Lake Calhoun. It is the oldest

country club west of the Mississippi River. It was a unique and special setting and a great place to mingle with other Zone V attendees.

On Sunday, May 22, the morning meeting consisted of Committee reports from all the GCA committees. We then heard from Tom Oslund, Recipient of the 1991 Rome Prize Fellowship in Landscape Architecture.

After adjournment, we took a bus to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for Lunch, lectures and Garden Tours.

Sunday evening was dinner and the National Medal Awards Program where 11 medals were presented. It was an inspiration to hear their stories and life achievements.
The 2016 GCA Plant of the Year: The Montine McDaniel Freeman Horticultural Medal went to *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium* var. *angustatus* 'Raydon's Favorite', a dazzling compact bright blue-purple aster believed to be from Lookout Mountain Tennessee.
It was also nice that we were treated to a wonderful dinner with great wine.

Did I mention that in our spare time there was a wonderful Flower Show titled Postcards From The Journey? In addition to Floral Design, Hort. classes and Photography, there were Conservation and Education Exhibits. Patricia and I were fortunate to have Laura Greg spend some time with us as we viewed the exhibits and she reviewed the judge's critiques with us.

There was also the Heartland Boutique with 23 fabulous vendors if you like that sort of thing. Patricia seemed to and will look pretty spiffy in her new dress, scarf and shoes. I controlled myself and spent more time studying the Latin names of unusual plants at the Flower show. I did need a new comfortable pair of shoes for this occasion of course

It was a wonderful opportunity and I did come away with some exciting new ideas for next year. Thank you for letting us attend.

Respectfully submitted Jackie Burke.

GCA Annual Meeting 2016

With great anticipation and some initial trepidation I accepted my first invitation to attend the GCA Annual Meeting. I had little concept of what to expect nor indeed was fully prepared for the stimulating journey I was about to undertake.

'Journey to the Heartland' was the theme chosen by our host region, Zone XI. This six state and 18 strong Club zone, warmly greeted us and hosted us most generously over a three-day period in the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

A wealth of experiences were planned to showcase their anthem of 'sky blue waters, amber fields and green forests' that was embodied in every aspect of the meeting.

This concept was to be found at the heart of an exceptional horticulture, floral design and photography show.

We were treated to a schedule of events that afforded unique opportunities to explore: private and public gardens, majestic parks, lakes and rivers, not least of which was the mighty Mississippi. Zone XI should be commended for their attention to every detail that assured a seemingly flawless and elegant sojourn in the Heartland of America.

The whirlwind program of activities and meetings offered little down time but kept us fully engaged. Annual Meeting is an invaluable arena in which to make connections and foster friendships, to exchange and gather information. It afforded me the chance to reflect upon what for me lies at the heart of the GCA but more personally - The Weeders.

Friendship; the gift to meet like minded individuals from all over the country and in my back yard, who have similar passions and concerns for our environment. This also speaks to the need to bridge the generations, to mentor our new members and bring them along.

The opportunity for growth; our club and GCA offers so many opportunities to stretch and challenge us. One is never too old to learn new tricks or at least to try! Let's accept the challenge of 'newness' - don't say no to that next job and do try everything our club has to offer.

The GCA website, was highlighted at the meeting and needs special mention. It is a powerful tool for us. It provides a huge resource for ideas and support and offers a platform to put forth our initiatives. Go ahead and take a tour it's very easy to navigate!

I had a wonderful GCA trip and plan to make all that it encompasses a lifetime journey.

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Horticulture Report for The Weeders June 14, 2016

Diane McCallister, retiring Chair

Program Notes Pertaining to Horticulture

September 15-meeting

We presented a Club Civic Improvement Commendation to Ken Kolodziej for his efforts with urban organic farming at the Methodist Services community organization.

The meeting also included "Weeder Wit and Wisdom," during which each of the committees provided something of interest. We had our fall club flower show, entitled "Art in the Garden."

September 21-23rd

Shirley Meneice Horticulture Workshop Julie DeVuono and Michele Bolton attended.

October 7-meeting

Bus trip to the High Line and Wave Hill in NYC. This was a most successful event. It consisted of great horticulture and camaraderie. It was also exceptionally informative about the socioeconomic impacts of city park development.

October 28

PCGCA Magnolia Tribute Garden workday-to include upgrading this national park with additional plantings and irrigation.

November 11 PCGCA joint meeting

William Cullina, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens

December 1st

Alice Doering had a seed-starting workshop at her home which demonstrated the milk-jug approach!

January 20

Potluck supper at Lorraine Wallace's. A most appreciated social event with terrific food (in the guise of a horticultural evening).

January 26

Houseplant propagation workshop at Alice Doering's home. February 9

The scheduled program was Barb Eliot and Edie Parnum 'Valley Forge Audubon Society: Planting with Purpose', however this was cancelled due to snow.

March

We participated the the PHS Flower Show. Our exhibit evoked Georgia O'Keefe's studio at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico.

March 15

An evening meeting with spouses and guests. Mark Focht, formerly the First Deputy Commissioner Philadelphia Parks and Recreation presented a thoroughly insightful review of "Fairmont Park and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway: New Projects and Exciting Innovations"

March 22nd

Pruning workshop with Jim Ward at Lorraine Wallace's home. This was considered a very valuable and instructive workshop by all who attended.

April 12

Joel Frye, Curator of Bartram's Gardens: "Flowers on the Frontier". A most interesting discussion of the history of garden development at the historic homesite.

May 10

Jim Bobb: "Amazing Bees". Great photos with a detailed discussion of honey bees-who are amazing social insects with innate roles and tasks. "You are what you eat" takes on new meaning in the bee world. A new appreciation for the Italians! The importance of pollinators to our horticultural world was made clear.

Oub Flower Show including Horticulture and Floral Design classes. "Art in the Garden" theme is continued.

Ideas presented for future Workshops/Meetings/trips

The following ideas have been suggested by Weeders. You may want to consider these again.

Michael Bowell on orchid dividing and care at his greenhouse. (Winter workshop)

Hyper-tuffa trough workshop with a brown color added (think of Dr. Bara t's pots). (Could be summer or winter.)

Field trip to Elise DuPont's garden in Greenville. (Spelling???) Maria Thompson is our connection here. Early September might be ideal-but it is up to Mrs. DuPont.

Field trip to the Morris Arboretum with a talk in the rose garden by their Rosarian (early June, 2015 or 2016).

Trip to Concourse Lake and the River Walk to see how our efforts are progressing. Trip to David Culp's garden (Helebore season)

Workshop with young children / grandchildren. Focus on plants for butterflies at various stages of their life cycle? Presumably summer. Or, terrarium in winter.

Seed collection workshop. How to collect and store various seeds.

Parting Notes:

My heartfelt thanks to Alice Doering for her consistent devotion to horticultural workshops for the Weeders-propagation, pruning, seed starting and more.

So glad to be passing the baton to Alice.

From: Sonya Driscoll <mrssamsir@aol.com> Subject: Fertilizer Fund Representative
Date: June 5, 2016 8:10:12 PM EDT
To: The Weeders <theweeders1907@gmail.com>

FERTILIZER FUND REPRESENTATIVE TO PCGCA

At the September meeting distribute appeal letters and mail the rest to those not in attendance. Give a brief plug at each meeting, show pictures when possible. There are some photo panels that wander from club to club. Ask who has them at a PCGCA meeting. Talk about a specific project. Report how many have given and encourage all members to give, participation is more important than the amount of the donation. Invite to one of the PCGCA meetings a newer member or one you think might be interested. After Christmas e mail those who have not given a gentle reminder and continue to do so occasionally. And enjoy the meetings they are always so interesting .

From: Sonya Driscoll <mrssamsire@aol.com>
Subject: Scholarship Chair
Date: June 7, 2016 8:20:05 PM EDT

THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

We instituted a Community Service Award in recognition of outstanding service in a community.

The Scholarship committee had a very productive year. We suggested giving money directly to worthy candidates. Regina obtained suggestions from PHS, we interviewed 4 farmers and were most impressed by their involvement with the community and young people. They wish to remain directly involved with hands on farming and engaging the young in particular. The awardees are Ari Rosenberg, Nicole Sugarman of Guild House West, Troy Johnson of Heritage Farm and Nina Berryman of Weavers Way They were each presented

with a \$1000.00 check for their personal use.

These awards may not be given every year. It depends on the financial situation of the club and anticipated expenses, and also finding worthy candidates, who may not be farmers, but involved in projects with a horticultural focus. It is hoped the members will suggest candidates.

PCGCA Meeting, June 15, 2016

Magnolia Tribute Garden Report to the Weeders

This was a year of restoration of Magnolia Tribute Garden, honoring its founding by the Philadelphia area clubs in the late 1950's, after ten years of effort to see this garden on Locust between 5th and 6th streets, part of the National Historic Park System, reclaimed its former beauty.

The Philadelphia Committee raised a total of \$23,740.78 (\$22,800.00 from each of the ten clubs, plus a \$940.78 donation for the purchase of bulbs, which were planted in the fall. The irrigation system already in place was repaired and expanded for \$13,200 in early December. In March, McFarland was paid \$4,250 to supply and plant replacement azaleas, and add boxwood, hydrangeas and soil amendment.

The National Parks Service was a wonderful partner, supplying all the mulch and fertilizer for the spring workday. The balance of money (\$5,350) will be used for future azalea replacement after evaluation. The spring workday was spent pruning the existing azaleas, weeding, adding Hollytone, and mulching the entire garden.

The school children of St. Mary's, who give heavy use to this park as their outdoor space, came to assist at the spring workday, chopping up and bagging brush most efficiently.

Next spring, on May 7, we will host a Garden Party for all PCGCA garden club members, celebrating what our club members (remember Mrs. Rosengarten, a Weeder, and her sister Dorothy Falcon Platt?) accomplished about 50 years ago. You are all invited.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Sprague, Weeder delegate to PCGCA, Co-Chair, Magnolia Tribute Garden

Photography Committee Report 2015-2016

This year the spring photography show was held at Marilyn Sprague's house on March 15, 2016. We had 4 classes following the theme of this year's flower shows, which were inspired by artists in the garden- Ansel Adams, Johannes Vermeer and Henri Matisse were the inspiration for our photography classes. In this show, we received 40 photos from 5 different entrants. Later that day, after judging, we hauled all the photos and display boards, and re setup the display to show off our photos at our evening meeting at Hilltop House. Spouses and Weeders alike got to view our wonderful entries while munching on hors d'oeuvres and sipping cocktails. Next year we will display our show again at our evening meeting, this time in April. The theme for next year's photography classes will follow the flower show theme which revolves around fashion designers. So stay tuned for the show schedule and keep your cameras handy this summer!

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Bullitt Photography chair

PROGRAM COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2105-16

This year's program began with our September meeting and Flower Show at the Club's unofficial headquarters, Cheryl Cheston's home. "Weeders' Wit and Wisdom" inspired us, as the judges studied our beautiful show, and we dined in spectacular Weeder fashion.

In October, we took our meeting on the road, and traveled to New York to tour Wave Hill and The High Line. This was an exceptional day, expertly planned and executed by Linda and her team of hostesses.

Our December meeting was at St. David's Church, where we made our traditional tabletop arrangements and enjoyed each other's contributions to the Holiday Sale.

"Weeders' Home Grown" was the theme of our January meeting at St. Christopher's Church, where we were entertained and enlightened by our teams of tabletop arrangers.

Alas, Mother Nature forced us to cancel our February meeting, but we reconvened in March at Hilltop House for an evening with our guests and a spectacular photography show. Mark Focht brought us up to speed on recent developments in Philadelphia with his presentation on *Fairmount Park and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway: New Projects and Exciting Innovations*.

In April we traveled to Bartram's Garden where we learned about the status of the Bartram Mile, the farm and the Carr Garden renovations, in addition to learning about *Flowers on the Frontier* from Bartram's Garden's curator, Joel Frye.

May brought us to the Haverford Reserve Community Recreation and Environmental Center for our second flower show of the year and a fascinating talk by Jim Bobb on *Amazing Bees*.

And here we are in June, at Kim Frisbie's beautiful home, for our Annual Meeting!

It has been another full year. And, yet, there is more to do! In this upcoming year, we will study landscape photography; learn what to plant in our garden for pollinators; discover new shade garden plants; be inspired to create beautiful arrangements from our gardens; hear about the history of the water ways of Philadelphia; and learn all about mushrooms! Mark your calendars now for the second Tuesday of every month, with the exception of April, when we will meet on the 18th, due to the Easter holiday.

Please keep in mind that each and every one of these meetings requires a team of hostesses to make it happen, and it is an expectation of membership that each Weeder take a turn as a hostess. The sign-up sheets are coming around. Please pick a date!

I would like to give a shout out to my Vice-Chair, Karen Doyle, who has done an outstanding job at *trying* to keep me focused and organized and at staffing all of our meetings with chairs and hostesses. And, to our wonderful committee: Linda Anderson, Jackie Burke, Sandy Cadwalader, Wendy Calhoun, Cheryl Cheston, Meg Devereaux, Sonya Driscoll, Patty Greenhalgh, Laura

Michell, Diane McCallister, Patty Minehart, Marilyn Sprague, Lorraine Wallace and Sally Wood,
without whom I could never have pulled this off!

A big thank you, also, to all of our hostess and meeting chairs throughout this past year!

Respectfully submitted, Julie DeVuono
Program Chair

The Visiting Gardens Committee Report- June, 2016

Thirty Weeders and ten guests traveled by bus to the New York City area on October 7, 2015 to visit two divergent garden venues. The venture, initiated by President Marilyn Sprague was chaired by past president Linda Anderson, working with New York City based member, Amy Freitag, assisted by members of the Visiting Gardens Committee. The first stop, Wave Hill, located in the Bronx, a former estate overlooking the Hudson River was deeded to NYC as a public garden in 1960. Marco Polo Stephano is responsible for the design of its imaginative, varied garden areas. As we headed south to our next destination, The High Line, we enjoyed a box lunch provided by the committee (sandwich outsourced); having also been treated to breakfast goodies made by Linda in the morning; were to be given other finger food and liquid refreshment on the return trip. We met Amy and our guide, landscape designer, Patrick Cullina at the Whitney Museum, where our tour of our second stop, the High Line, began. The New York based daughters of members, Weezie Johnston and Wendy Bailey joined our group at this point. It is hard to imagine that what was once an elevated train line serving the meat district of Manhattan has been transformed into a serene, much used 1 1/2 mile wooden walkway bordered on both sides by naturalized plantings. As we ambled along, stopping every so often in larger common spaces to hear Patrick's description of the history of the area and the reconfiguring process, we saw people can resting on benches, eating lunch, enjoying their surroundings in the midst of the city.

Thank you Marilyn and Linda for their considerable time and efforts, to them and Sonya Driscoll, Patty Minehart and Wendy Quereau for providing food, drink and paper goods.
Polly Garnett, VG Chairman.

THE WEEDERS NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The Nominating Committee is composed of past Weeder presidents Cheryl Cheston, Alice Doering, Sonya Driscoll, Ellie Penniman, Cindy Pierce, Linda Anderson and myself. We met in February 2016 to propose a slate of nominees for officers to serve until 2018 and two nominees for the Admissions Committee to serve until 2019.

The nominees are:

President Jackie Burke
First Vice President Patricia Doolittle
Second Vice PresidentWeezie Johnston Treasurer
Nancy Evans
Assistant Treasurer Leslie Undercofler
Admissions Lloyd Brown and
Weezie Johnston

The committee thanks those officers who have served The Weeders During the past two years. We also thank these nominees for being willing to accept the responsibilities of office if elected.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Wood, Chair Nominating Committee

Flower Show Awards 2016

Cadwalader Award (FRAME)- Given by Emma W. Cadwalader and presented to that member of the Weeders who makes the most entries, prize-winning or not, in arrangement classes in the club flower shows during the year.

third -(6 way tie 2 entries each)-Diane Mccallister, Jackie Burke, Patricia Dolittle, Pattie Greenhalgh, Weezie Johnston, Jane Kline.
second - Melissa Bullitt (3 entries)
Winner: Beth Bartle Cs entries)

Neophyte Bowl (BOWL) - Given by Mrs. Edgar Allen Poe and presented to that member of less than 7 years standing who has won the most points in both arrangement and horticultural classes, in club shows and any outside shows. At least 2 entries must be in arranging classes. Anyone who has won three times is not eligible.

Winner: no winner this year none of our newer members had 2 entries in arranging classes

Sweepstakes Award (FRAME) - Given in honor of Mrs. Carroll R. Wetzel to the Weeder who accumulates the greatest number of points for exhibits in hort and/or artistic in non-Weeder shows.

third - Lorraine Wallace 10 pts second- Beth Bartle 11.5pts
Winner: Alice Doering (for her outside hort entries) 86 pts

Horticulture Award (BOWL) - Presented to the Weeder accumulating the highest number of points for horticultural entries in club shows. Min 25 points
third - Julie DeVuono 47.5 second - Alice Doering pts 66.5
Winner: Lorraine Wallace 67.5 pts

Arrangement Award (new) (FRAME) - Presented to the Weeder accumulating the highest number

of points for arrangement entries in club shows.

third - Diane McCallister 12.5 pts second - Beth Bartle 12.5 pts Winner: Melissa Bullitt 24.5 pts

Photography Award (FRAME) - Presented to the Weeder accumulating the highest number of points for photographic entries in club shows.

third - Lorraine 5.5 pts

second -tie for 2nd 11.5 pts each- Nancy Evans and Melissa Bullitt

Winner: Taddy Dawson 47pts

Founders' Cup (TROPHY, PLATTER) - Presented each year to the Weeder who wins the most points for all classes in club flower shows.

third - Melissa Bullitt 46.5 pts second - Julie DeVuono 47.5 pts Winner: Alice Doering 66.5 pts

+weeders 7 years

* Weeders 10 years or

The President's Commendation June 14, 2016

Linda Anderson, while president of the Weeders, designated a new award that could be given by the president. Linda honored Alice Doering, for her unbelievable contributions to Concord Lake and to the GCA Annual Meeting, held in Philadelphia. Those are unmatched contributions, by a member who has also given a lifetime of service to the Weeders.

This year, I am choosing to give the President's Commendation to a Weeder who has been personally inspiring to me. Sally Ann Wood has served the Weeders for over 48 years, and has been often honored: She was president in 1998, having already served as Zone V Horticulture Chair (93-94), and Zone V Flower Show Chair (95-96). For the Weeders, she had chaired the PHS Flower Show three times (72, 83, 01). She has served on almost all Weeder committees, and chaired horticulture for a total of over seven years, program committee twice, club flower show, garden history and design. She is currently our nominating committee chair, for over 12 years. Sally received the Dorothy Falcon Platt award in 2001, for excellence in floral design and artistic endeavors. Sally received the Weeders' Morton Award in 1993. Last year, she was honored by the Weeders with a GCA Club Medal of Merit. So Sally has not gone unrecognized by the Weeders or by horticulture and floral design in our region. She serves on the Jenkins Arboretum board of directors as well. But I said this award was about personal inspiration.

I remember when Sally was hosting a Weeders meeting at her beautiful home and Thomas Sears garden, which I understand may get land conservancy dedication if she has anything to do with it. I was a hostess for the meeting, and felt very busy providing food for all the Weeders. Sally called all the hostesses to meet at her house the day before the meeting to make the floral arrangements that would be used on the tables for the meeting. She was giving a perfect reminder of what we are all about - we love the food and comraderie, but the basic interests of the Weeders center on growing and arranging, and she was gently reminding us of that fact. Sally makes grace look easy, whether she is demonstrating how to make a table centerpiece out of vegetables, or designing a garden.

When you sit on a committee with Sally, you trust that great ideas will come forward. On program committee, she is forever finding some interesting, inspiring topic to be explored. On awards committee, she is the one member who is always conscious of those members that should be honored. And on nominating committee, she somehow identifies and coerces (gently) the kind of talent that is just what the Weeders need. This kind of dedication and enthusiasm, after 48 years, is remarkable indeed, and we are fortunate to have such a voice among us.

Sally thinks big - if she works on a garden, she has no qualms about telling you to blast a hole in the back of your house to make better use of your patio. She has ideas about how the land near the Devon Horse Show should be used as a town center. Sally may not have to be practical - that can be for someone else, because she is inspirational.

Through her career, through her caring, Sally is indeed a personal inspiration to me and to many others. Even though she has been recognized, I hope today will serve as a reminder to Sally to keep on inspiring us, and keep giving us those ideas. It gives me great pleasure to present Sally Ann Wood with the president's commendation.

Marilyn's Poem

There is a special feeling, just because you are here.
The kinship of a garden, of the things we all hold dear.
You might be a great big blossom, of whom we are so proud
Or maybe a quiet perennial, with a voice that is not so loud.
Among us are lots of native plants, tradition wide and deep
But we have room for some exotics, whom we intend to keep.
Some of you bloom often and bless us every day
Some are more biennial, but help in their own way
To make a Weeder garden of which you all can say
YOU play a part in Weederdom, and what it is today.
Well done! Hooray! Hooray!