

## 2023 Weeders Annual Meeting Committee Reports

The Weeders  
Annual Report of the Admissions Committee  
June 6, 2023

The committee oversaw the admission of one new member, Sue Heckrotte (Mrs. Douglas S.) of Mount Airy. She was proposed by Sonya Driscoll, seconded by Ellie Penniman with supporting letters from Avery Bissell, Polly Garnett, Coco Jarvis, and Weezie Johnston, for a total of six letters, which exceeds our requirement. As an aside, I happen to know Sue and am not surprised members were eager to support her candidacy. Welcome Sue Heckrotte.

The committee met in early February to discuss the admissions process and how we could best convey the need for active participation to prospective members. Clearly, the responsibility lies with the proposing member and the team she assembles to support the candidate. We determined the current information/interest form is misplaced as after the fact and ought to be rethought as a kind of application that is completed by the proposer and candidate at the start of the admission process. We also decided to require attendance at two (not one) meetings and one workshop or special event. Active work in one of our four gardens may count as a workshop. The effort is to assure prospective members understand we are an all-volunteer organization – one cannot expect to pay dues and have programs just happen. In addition, potential members need to understand that to maintain our non-profit status we must do community service – it's not just feel-good window dressing.

Monica Church and I rotate off this year. We welcomed Diane McCallister to fill the seat vacated by Annette Toebe who resigned because of a move and going forward we greet the newly elected members of the committee. Long live the Weeders.

Maria Thompson, Chair

The Weeders  
Annual Report of the Archives Committee  
June 6, 2023

So, here's a tidbit – there's a fairly recent biography of Bunny Mellon (2022), designer of the White House Rose Garden, other important landscapes and noted bibliophile for the riches of her holdings in garden history – well, she was a Weeder. Bet you didn't know that!! She married Stacy Lloyd, Jr. whose mother was a Weeder, so for a very brief period, Bunny was too. She and her husband moved to Virginia in 1936 and that's the year her name was crossed out in our program booklet. There you go for the importance of our archival records and the nerdy types (I'll speak for myself) who are familiar with them.

At our April meeting I gave a short status report and I'll repeat it here, with updates, so we have everything in one place.

Your committee of Laura Mitchell, Marty Morse and I are proceeding with our "The Weeders Forty Years On" project and have interviewed, or will, members who fit that category. Interviews conducted so far have been informative, interesting and entertaining.

We continue to compile fundamental records for a long overdue, anticipated deposit of Weeder records at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. With respect to our program booklets, Floy Ervin got the ball rolling in a big way but we have a few gaps. I put out an SOS and Marilyn Sprague responded filling in four years, but we are still missing the following: 2001-2; 2005-6; 2013-14; 2018-19. Please help. You never know when the next Bunny Mellon might be listed among our members.

Maria Thompson, Chair

**The Weeder Garden Club 2023 Awards**  
**June 6, 2023**

**Ester Lloyd Morton Award** – May be given annually to a current 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. Suggestions for awardees are to be given to the Executive Committee

Ellyn Spragins

**Katherine L. Biddle Award** – given by Henry Keep in memory of his mother, and is presented to a Weeder who, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, has performed an important service to the community.

Louise “Weezie” Johnston

**Club Civic Improvement Award** – presented to one or more GCA club members or a member club for outstanding efforts within the club, which enhance, protect, or restore the local environment, or improve the community through sharing the knowledge of plants and/or gardening.

Alice Doering

**Club Appreciation Award** – Awarded for dedicated and sustained participation in activities within the recipient’s own club.

Jackie Burke

**The Cadwalader Award** — 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. In case of a tie, the most accumulated points\* will determine the winner.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Tie, Diane McAllister and Beth Bartle - 8 points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Coco Jarvis - 20 points

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Melissa Bullitt - 46 points

**The Neophyte Bowl** — Given by Mrs. Edgar Allan Poe and presented to that member of less than 7 years standing who has won the most points\* in both design and horticultural classes. Points won in outside shows may also be included but outside points are not necessary to win. At least one entry must be in floral design classes during the year.

First Place: Monica Church

**The Sweepstakes Award** — Given in honor of Mrs. Carroll R. Wetzel to the Weeder who accumulates the greatest number of points\* for exhibits horticultural and/or artistic (arrangements, photography, botanical arts) in non-Weeders shows.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Melissa Bullitt -11 points  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Alice Doering - 21.5 points

**The Horticultural Award** — Presented to the Weeder accumulating the highest number of points\* for horticultural entries in club shows. A minimum of 25 points is required.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jeanne May - 36.5 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Diane McAllister - 65 points  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Alice Doering - 120 points

**The Floral Design Award** — Presented to the Weeder accumulating the highest number of points for arrangement entries in club shows.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Diane McAllister - 8 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Coco Jarvis - 20 points  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Melissa Bullitt - 46 points

**The Photography Award** — Presented to the Weeder accumulating the highest number of points for photographic entries in club shows.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Ellyn Spragins - 9.5 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Melissa Bullitt with 11.5 points  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Nancy Evans - 24.5 points

**The Founders Cup** — Presented each year to the Weeder who wins the most points for all classes in our own club shows.

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Melissa Bullitt - 60 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Diane McAllister - 73 points  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Alice Doering - 120 points

NHH 6/6/23

## **WEEDER'S CHRISTMAS EVENT 2022 – Committee Report**

A special thanks to the great group of ladies who organized this annual fun holiday event: Linda Anderson, Pam Bagby, Michele Bolton, Laura Carpenter, Monica Church, Heather Gallagher, Nancy Holmes, Jeanne May, Melissa Oeth, Laura Riedel, Robin Smith, and Linda Schanne. Annette Toebe and Kathleen “Murfee” Aceto were the chairman.

The event was held at St. David’s Church due to renovation to the Hilltop House from a falling tree.

We were approximately sixty people who enjoyed beautiful cookies, hot cider and coffee by the hospitality team of Laura Carpenter, Nancy Holmes and Coco Jarvis. Linda Anderson instructed the group in how to make wreaths and bows and it was very successful with live greens from member’s gardens.

The sale was an abundant array of homemade items from people’s kitchens, gardens, and crafts. Harp music played Christmas carols in the background adding to the holiday spirit.

A special auction was held and bids were made for an autumn luncheon and a beautiful fairy house made by Diane McCallister.

Respectfully submitted by Annette Toebe and Murfee Aceto.

## **The Gazebo Garden Committee**

Annual Report 2022-2023

There’s not a whole lot to report this year. The garden has been fully planted for some time, and our main tasks during the growing season are to weed, prune, beat back or remove plants that are too aggressive, exchange tips on books worth a read and keep up with Weeders’ news. There are typically five or six of us on Monday mornings; people show up as they are able, and enough seems to get done.

I hope you appreciate my brevity!

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Cheston

## **Hilltop Annual Report – 2022-2023**

**Nancy Holmes, Chair**

**April 11, 2023**

### **Highlights:**

1. We are beginning our 4<sup>th</sup> year of maintaining the gardens at Hilltop House that begins in April and continues through the summer and fall.
2. The plantings for the renovated courtyards which we planted in November of 2021 survived the winter with little damage. The deer did a number on the two American Beauty hollies that we installed but we are determined to save them!!! DEER OUT!!
3. The 4 new teak benches were installed earlier this year and our new urns are ready for planting. Easttown Township has been kind to us by providing a locked deck box to hold our gardening supplies as well as providing us with new garden hoses, a hose reel, watering cans and other miscellaneous items.
4. Also, I am happy to announce that Jeanne May will be taking over the Chair position for Hilltop House beginning in June. Thank you, dear Jeanne, for keeping the Hilltop Hoes motivated while I lounge around in Maine every summer!

And lastly, should anyone wish to get down and dirty on Wednesday mornings, please let Jeanne or me know – we would be happy to expand the Hilltop team!!

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Holmes

## WILLIAM JEANES LIBRARY 2022-2023

The beds we maintain at the Library have done well over the winter. We plan to mulch the beds in the next week. Communication with the Library and the Township is much improved.

The happy band of workers includes Avery Bissell, Ellie Penniman, Coco Jarvis, Nancy Evans, and Weezie Johnston. We miss Beth Bartle who was a very faithful worker.

Our efforts are very much appreciated by the Library and the community.

Respectfully submitted.

Sonya Driscoll

## **Ronald McDonald House Committee Report 2022-2023**

Ellen Pemberton, Chairman

Laura Carpenter, Monica Church, Lynn Gibbons, Diana Mason, Diane McCallister, Marty Morse, Lorraine Wallace

I contacted Lori-Ann Miller, the head of Volunteers at the house in late spring and gave her the dates when we would be delivering flowers to the Ronald McDonald House at St. Christopher's Hospital.

We decided to add a summer arrangement instead of making flowers in January and this worked out very well. We went in August and cut zinnias at Maple Acre Farm in Plymouth Meeting and made 10 colorful arrangements and presented them to the House. Maple Acre Farm is a great place to economically get many beautiful flowers.

In October we again met at my home and made about 10 arrangements out of flowers,,including dalias, mainly from our gardens. We also met in April and again made about 10 arrangements using special tulips that we grew.

By meeting in August, October, and April we are able to use flowers mostly from our own gardens. We have a great committee and the Ronald McDonald House is very appreciative.

## STRAFFORD STATION

Another year is again behind us of planting and caring for the plantings at historic Strafford Station. We planted annuals in the seven containers and perennials in the islands in the parking lot. We have once again planted shrubs on the north side. The challenge is not the planting and caring for the plants but preventing the well marked and flagged shrubs from being weed-whacked to death. After another go around of complaints given to the landscape crew by SEPTA, SEPTA has now hired a new landscape company. We will see.....

We have two new members to the group:

Angela Scully—a Strafford Village resident who has been an avid supporter of our planting efforts for many years.

Sarah Harrity—a new Weeder who has jumped into the group with great enthusiasm for which I am most grateful. She has even taken up the watering task mid-our Tuesday workdays during the incredible drought. I couldn't be happier!! She is also now the Vice Chair of the Station team.

The faithful committee:

Melissa Oeth—Chair  
Sarah Harrity—Vice-Chair  
Pam Bagby  
Laura Carpenter  
Monica Church  
Polly Garnett  
Nancy Holmes  
Gretchen Kiernan  
Jeanne May  
Wendy Quereau  
Marilyn Sprague  
Lesley Undercofler

Alice Doering ex-chair!!!!!!



**WEEDERS CONSERVATION REPORT**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**6/06/23**

The Weeder Conservation Committee heads were not appointed until the 23-24 year had begun. We stepped up to the plate in time to survey our stalwart committee. We bounced around ideas electronically. The committee chose to follow Doug Tallamy's lead and bring nature home to our own backyards. Members suggested adding native oaks and native pollinator friendly species to our landscapes. We discussed the benefits of leaving debris under our native trees.

This March we attended the National Affairs and Legislation Conference in Washington. We were joined by 250 other GCA members from all over the country. We learned that our Senators and Congresspeople really do care about seeing and hearing from us. We hope to encourage Weeders to become more proactive voters and citizens.

On April 20, the Conservation Committee met to discuss one more year with our focus, Lawn to Habitat. We hope from input from the Conservation Committee and all Weeders!

Respectfully submitted.

Lloyd Brown

Weezie Johnston

**NAL Report for the Weeders**

Weezie and I represented the Weeders at the NAL Conference. We were joined by roughly 300 other GCA members from all over the country. Our speaker at the opening dinner was Douglas Brinkley who spoke about his recent book, Silent Spring Revolution, the history of the environmental movement since Rachel Carson. For the next two days we heard a raft of compelling speakers. We had a senators and representatives from each side of the aisle, the Senior Advisor to the President on Clean Energy, the Under Secretary of Agriculture the CEOs of the Nature Conservancy, Earth Justice, Rachel's network, and Casey Trees and so many more.

On the third morning we met with GCA's Zone V members in our Senators offices before breaking into Congressional districts to meet our own Representatives. We spoke of the staff environmental issues of GCA's concern in which had been thoroughly educated by our speakers.

All were most interested in the Farm Bill which is coming before Congress shortly. We asked that they guard against any siphoning off funding for non-conservation and climate goals within **the Farm Bill**.

Many members of the Weeders Conservation Committee wrote Senator Toomey regarding **Recovering America's Wildlife Act, RAWA** In the last congress. The bill did not pass because

there was not a match for funding, but now there is, and the bill will be reintroduced in the House and Senate. It provides funding for conserving and restoring habitats, fighting invasive species, and reintroducing native plants. I hope all the Weeders will send emails at the appropriate time to push this over the finish line.

We asked our Senators and Representatives to support, **The Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act** and **Save our Seas Act** to address marine debris.

We also asked our Senators to support **the Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies Act and Ecosystems** and sign a federal resolution to declare **February Native Plant Month**.

We asked our Representatives to support the reintroduction of The **Save Our Sequoias Act**

In both houses we talked about the need for government to strengthen regulations and create legislation **to protect our health and environment from Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS)**.

We both felt we delivered important messages to our legislators, but we had fun too! We ate amazing meals with Zone V and other spectacular GCA members in wonderful venues. We learned so much!!! The Weeders send a delegate every year. This year there was room for Weezie and me. The Weeders and can provide a stipend for your expenses. If you are lucky enough for our president to ask you, say "YES"!!!! It is an incredible experience that you will never forget!

### **Crazy for Containers Committee Report**

Crazy for Containers! completed its 4<sup>th</sup> year in a truly spectacular way.

We sold 434 collections, baskets and bedding plants! We had 75 customers this year and for the first time, Friends of Weeders' orders outnumbered Weeders' orders! This was due in part to two innovations. We posted about CfC! on Facebook and Instagram. And we asked you to bring forms and your enthusiasm to your book clubs.

The result: a record \$17,000 in sales, and profit of \$7,642.

This was my last year as Chair of Crazy for Containers! I'm so grateful to all of my "crazies." I especially want to mention Cheryl Cheston, Jeanne May, Ellie Penniman, Laura Carpenter and Cindy Pierce. Each holds a vital role in our annual fundraiser and has exhibited tremendous skill and steadfast enthusiasm.

Finally, my thanks to Patty Greenhalgh and Jackie Burke who will become CfC!'s new co-chairs. I know Crazy for Containers! will continue to flourish in their capable hands.

**Weeders Club Flower Show  
End of Year Report  
2022/2023**

**Monica Church, Chair  
Jen Fryberger, Co-Chair**

We were thrilled to return to in-person shows this year. We had two wonderful shows at Hilltop House in the fall and spring. The theme was “Earth, Wind and Fire” providing inspiration for entrants.

The fall show was held on September 20, 2022. There were 11 entrants with a total of 47 entries. Two Best in Show were awarded in the Horticulture. One was designated for “cuts” which was awarded to Diane McCallister for her gorgeous and artfully arranged collection of five or more specimens from her garden and the second for “containers” which was awarded to Alice Doering for her interesting and beautiful fern entered in potted plants less than six inches, foliage. Melissa Bullet wrapped up the Best in Show for Floral Design with her wonderful entry for “On Solid Ground”.

The Photography Show returned this year in conjunction with our evening meeting on March 14, 2023. The theme “Footloose and Fancy Free” was carried over from the previous year. There were 4 entrants with a total of 11 entries with Nancy Evans winning Best in Show.

The spring show was held on May 8, 2023. There were 12 entrants with a total of 58 entries. Having altered the usual day of the flower show, we were pleased with the participation level for the Monday show. In addition to Diane McCallister and Melissa Bullitt winning best in show for Horticulture and Floral Design respectively, two other commendations were awarded by the judges. The Propagation Award, which is a new award and a Certificate for Appreciation, Outstanding Educational Display both were awarded to Alice Doering.

Respectfully submitted,  
Monica Church, June 9, 2023

**Weeders Governance Report for Annual Meeting, June 2023.**

Over the past year, the Governance Committee has continued to oversee general Weeders’ operations and make appropriate recommendations to Exec. As a result, several changes have been made to committee structures and Officer and committee Chair job responsibilities.

Nominations is a function of Governance. The Slate for 2023-24 reflects changes needed to get our club onto the correct officer rotation schedule by 2026. To accomplish this Karen Shepard and Nancy Holmes, incoming co-Presidents, will have far exceeded what would normally be expected of a Vice President and President – each serving about 5 years total. For this we are

extremely grateful and owe them a big round of applause. What every Weeder CAN do is to support these two ladies in any way possible.

Thanks to my committee - Michele Bolton, Laura Carpenter, Nancy Holmes, Karen Shepard and Maria Thompson. It takes a Village!

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellie Penniman,  
Governance Chair.

## The Weeders Slate for 2023 -2024

The Nominating Committee is recommending the following slate for election by the Weeders membership at the Annual Meeting:

To be elected for one-year terms ending in 2024:

Co-Presidents Karen Shepard and Nancy Holmes

Officers to serve two-year terms ending in 2025:

Recording Secretary Jeanne May  
Assistant Recording Secretary Heather Gallagher  
Corresponding Secretary Ellyn Spragins

Admissions –

Two new members with 3-year terms ending in 2026:

Julie DeVuono > 2026  
Melissa Oeth > 2026

Remaining on Admissions:

Marianna Wilson > 2024  
Diane McCallister > 2024  
Jackie Burke > 2025  
Hazel Hannaway > 2025

Rotating off Admissions:

Monica Church > 2023  
Maria Thompson > 2023

With thanks to Maria and Monica. Thanks also to Diane who has agreed to fill the vacancy created by Annette's move to Idaho.

Respectfully submitted, Ellie Penniman, Governance Committee Chair

**HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE**  
**2022-23**

This is a report of gratitude for the horticultural wisdom shared so freely and generously by Alice Doering in her propagation workshops and her careful selection of bulbs, house & garden plants that educate and challenge us. Our gratitude extends to Lorraine Wallace and Diane McCallister for giving Weeders the opportunity to enthusiastically “Dig & Divide” in Lorraine’s carefully designed and cultivated gardens. Additional thanks go to Diane for leading the charge in the creation of a mini Frederick Law Olmstead garden for the Zone V meeting and for organizing an impromptu tour of Andy Schenk’s very special collection of plants in late May. Lastly, my gratitude extends to the entire Horticulture Committee for their support and enthusiastic sharing of ideas that are taking shape to create another great year of opportunities for learning & pleasure (and dare I say fun?!?) throughout 2023 & 2024.

Cindy Pierce  
Chair, Horticulture Committee

**PCGCA Fertilizer Fund Report:**

The Philadelphia Committee of the Philadelphia Garden Club (PCGCA), is so delighted to announce that

The Weeders are #2 at 95% in member participation but the club that is #1 has half as many members. Much harder to pull off!

We were #2 for total highest giving, challenged only by a club that has a much lower member participation, which means that they have a few members who gave a lot, vs The Weeders who came together as a team .

You can feel very proud that The Weeders are assisting in funding 15 urban gardens, among them Bartrams, The Physics garden, and Kensington.

Go to the PCGCA.com website which is up and running, readable and appealing to learn more.

Respectfully submitted

C.Nancy Evans  
Weeders, Fertilizer Fund rep

## Photography Committee Report 2022-2023

With things finally getting back to normal this year, once again, Weeders and their spouses and guests were able to view our photos in person at our annual evening meeting on March 14, 2023 at Heather Gallagher's barn...

Our 2023 photography show consisted of 4 classes, 4 participants, and a total of 10 photos in the show! The show was called "Footloose " and featured the following classes:

- 1) "Kick Off Your Sunday Shoes"  
A landscape photograph of a peaceful, relaxing, or healing place.
- 2) "Lose Your Blues"  
A photograph featuring bright or contrasting colors.
- 3) "Before We Crack"  
A photograph featuring something old, used, or broken surrounded by nature or beautiful plant material.
- 4) "Let's Dance"  
A photograph featuring graceful rhythm and/or motion.

This year, in keeping with other photography shows in gca, we required entrants to submit mounted photos on foam core. Although it did require a few extra steps to prepare your photos for entry, some of you rose to the challenge ! The result was a more uniform, clean, modern look to the show, that the judges appreciated. I applaud everyone who tried something new and who submitted entries in this year's show.

After much consideration, I'd like to let you know that I've decided to step down from my position as the weeders photography chair. Looking back at the past 11 years, I have watched the weeders interest in photography blossom from, for display only, to judged shows. Our photos grew in size from 3x5" photos to 5x7" and 8"x10" . We progressed from Matt frames displayed on plate stands, to flush mounted photos on professional looking black felt covered display boards.

I've enjoyed our photography journey together. Thank you to those who have participated in, or helped with our photography shows over the years. I'd also like to thank those of you who have expressed your appreciation for the photos that were on display in our shows. If anyone is interested in stepping up to become committee chair, please let Karen know. I will of course be willing to lend a hand...

Though there may not be an official weeders photography show next year, as always, I hope that you will continue to take lots of photos of your beautiful gardens this summer and share them in other shows, on the gca website, or in gca publications!

Respectfully Submitted  
Melissa Bullitt  
Photography committee chair

## **Program Committee June Annual Report 2022-2023 Calendar**

Our 2022-2023 calendar year of programming was an exciting one. We were almost 100% in person! Only one speaker, Michael Bowell, from Create a Scene was moved to January 2024. Our February meeting was our first joint Zoom meeting with the Gardeners and the Planters with author Scott Weidensaul. We had a wonderful evening in the Gallagher's barn with Bill Marrazzo and heard from our own doyennes of daffodils and history, Alice Doering and Maria Thompson. Our ears are still ringing from Kent Russell's laughter and outrageous stories and we are all so grateful to Reggie for opening up her beautiful home and spectacular gardens to us. Next year we will meet in a new venue- Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania in Lafayette Hill thanks to Sonya Driscoll and have something fun up our sleeve for the March evening meeting and close the year at Julie DeVuono's fabulous property. Thanks so much to the committee and venue contacts for brainstorming, making phone calls, and securing speakers for next year. All we need now is our volunteers- don't make me hunt you down!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carpenter

### **THE WEEDERS SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE 2022-2023**

We would like to award \$1,000.00 in honor of Teresa Elliot, the Director of Norris Square Neighborhood Project. Teresa has kept the project running during Covid, increased the Board of Directors, and expanded educational programs and activities that support intergenerational relationship building, skill mastery, and cultural pride. She directed the development of the farm stand from start to finish, clearing the lot, installed electricity, and water, got work tables to prepare produce and use to sell vegetables and crafts.

The money would be used to continue improving the gardens.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Driscoll

## **Weeders Trips Committee**

### 2022-2023 Annual Report

Once again, we had the great pleasure of visiting some gardens of our own members. In 2021 we were treated to exquisite gardens in the Bryn Mawr, Haverford, Gladwyne area; then last year we headed west to Devon, Berwyn and environs.

This year we got to see the always exceptional property of Wendy Quereau in Wayne. It was simply elegant when I first visited around 2000 with Shipley's Secret Gardens. It's even better now!

Ellyn Spragins has clearly been busy since arriving in this area. Her most recent project, with the aid of Diane McCallister, has been a magical allee fronting an adorable garden house. Unfortunately, the visit was during the daytime, and we missed seeing it lit up for the evening.

Many of you have enjoyed Sally Wood's former garden on Beaumont Road over the years. Thankfully she drafted the new owner, Heather Gallagher, to The Weeders. Heather hasn't skipped a beat and is taking the property into simply incredible new directions with the reconstruction of the burned-down barn behind the house.

I can't thank enough those of you who've invited your fellow Weeders over the years!

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Cheston

## **Weeders Website June 2023**

### End of year report

Right now, I am the chair and the committee for the Weeders' website. I had the wonderful assistance of Taddy Dawson, the outgoing Website coordinator, as well as the Weeder intern in May who helped to update some of the website files and look into new ways of using the website. This year I was able to accomplish the following:

1. Kept the website updated each month with latest Weeder news and upcoming events
2. Set up online payments so we were able to collect payments for the wreath-making workshop as well as the Crazy for Containers Fundraiser in December & January. We are now collecting dues payments online as well.
3. I have put a sign-up form on the website for the upcoming horticulture workshop: semi-hardwood propagation with Alice Doering in June. This is a great way for people to sign up for things in the future. Everything from scheduling hostesses for meetings and special events can have their own forms on the website.
4. Cindy Pierce suggested using the website as a place for Weeders to post photos of their gardens. This has been set up, but may be improved in the next year.



5. We are in the process of adding all Weeders to the website and hope when they are invited they will join the site as a member.
6. I am continuing to work on developing ways for Weeders to use the website to communicate with each other, sign up for events, pay for dues, fundraisers and events.
7. I hope to recruit an assistant to help with new ways to use and update the site.

Submitted by,  
Elaine Lisle  
June 5, 2023

### **GCA Annual Meeting Report**

The GCA Annual Meeting was held in Columbus Ohio this year at the end of May where GCA members gathered from 199 clubs across the country... even Hawaii!! The conference is an opportunity for members from around the country to gather to learn and share ideas, enter a GCA flower show and honor those in the community at large for their many contributions to Horticulture, Flower Design and Conservation. On the fun side... we visited local gardens, ate in a member's home with other Zone V attendees and shopped in the boutique!

I will share just a few of the highlights for me at this year's conference:

- **The Medalist Ceremony:** 2 medalists of interest to me: the Boston symphony orchestra, for encouraging the love of nature through their outdoor concert series both in Boston and at Tanglewood ; Jack Nicklaus , for creating golf courses that use native plants, need less water and use fewer pesticides.
- **President's round table discussion:**
  - Men? Some clubs have them.
  - Communication... GCA recommended the book "Smart Brevity"
    - In emails... use bullets, **and bold!**
    - Write like a human...forget the "SAT" words.
- **From our Zone Reps:**
  - All Committee Chairs have a Zone Rep. Use them, they can very helpful!
- **Light Pollution...** from the Director of Dark Sky on outdoor lighting:
  - Add light only where it is needed
  - Use dimmers on outdoor lights.
  - Use warmer lights; they are more welcoming and more earth friendly!

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Shepard, President

## President's Annual Report

I am happy to report that this past year we only had one virtual meeting....and it had nothing to do with Covid! It was a year that allowed us to resume many of our treasured Weeder traditions, however it was also a year of many firsts. Or at least "firsts" since I became a member in 2005!

One of the Weeder traditions I think we all had missed was the January Potluck Dinner and it was a joy to have so many of us come together at Laura Carpenter's welcoming home on a rainy January night. We were also able to stay the course this year and hold all our program meetings and flower shows as planned, in spite of several spikes in that damnable Covid! And, for the first time in 3 years we were able to hold the March evening meeting at Heather Gallagher's beautiful barn. Members and spouses/guests were so engrossed in eating, drinking, chatting and viewing the photography show that they needed to be herded upstairs....but thankfully our speaker from the Waterworks then captivated the audience.

GCA also resumed holding in-person conferences, and Lloyd Brown and Weezie Johnston reported back from the Conservation NAL Conference in March and encouraged all Weeders to jump at the chance to attend.

Thankfully, one Weeder tradition did not have to be paused over the past couple of years. The Weeders have been able to continuously care for all our community gardens throughout Covid thanks to the persistence of so many of you who show up weekly... and do the work!

But this was also a year of firsts. This was the first joint program meeting with two other clubs. We hope this will become a tradition. This was also the first time that that we held a flower show on a Monday, so that the flower show committee could enjoy our speaker...and what a speaker he was! We are making great progress in the digital world and this was the first year that we could pay for both Crazy for Containers and our club dues through the website....way to go, Elaine, for making this possible! And this is the first time we will be having Co-Presidents. Ok, that may be cheating, as it will not begin until this summer.

What I am so thankful for is the Weeders ability to honor our traditions while also exercising flexibility as times change, along with the needs of our membership. We will be reaching to all of you in the fall to ask "what do you value about being a Weeder?". Through our Vision Committee, we are hoping to give information, and especially, gather information. Be ready!

I am thrilled that we were able to return to some of the traditions that Weeders hold dear, while making progress as we approach the quarter mark of this century. However, none of this would be possible without the ongoing work, care and humor brought by every one of you. I am once again honored to be leading this amazing....and funny... group of weeding women.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karen Shepard, President