

# WISSAHICKON GARDEN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

October 9, 2018

LOCATION: Sandy Greenwood's home, 511 Auburn Avenue, Wyndmoor, PA

Hostesses: Diane Drinker, Stacey Blankin, Melen Boothby and Kim Drake

ATTENDANCE:

ACTIVES: Carolyn Adams, Cindy Affleck, Sarah Andrews, Joan Biddle, Stacey Blankin, Melen Boothby, Maryalice Cheney, Barbara Anne Davey, Gail Detweiler, Kim Drake, Diane Drinker, Deb Erdman, Debby Evans, Alice Farley, Jennifer Fiss, Alice Flint, Sarah Frank, Jane Good, Jane Grey, Kris Henry, Maryl Hitchings, Joan Holmes, Jennifer Nagle, Mindy O'Connor, Allison Romig, Barrett Stewart, Lauren Taylor

PROVISIONALS: Alyssa Barrick, Kelly Culley, Sarah Salmon, Rita Salva, Laura Savage

SUSTAINING: Chris Clayton, Sandy Greenwood, Bonnie McCausland, Susie Stanley

ASSOCIATE: Patty Webster

EXCUSED: Wendy Concannon, Ann Kelly, Emily Lapham, and Anna Woodward

## WELCOME

President Adams welcomed everyone to the meeting. Carolyn thanked Ann Kelly for doing a stellar job of running the September meeting.

President Adams thanked our hostesses for organizing the lovely meeting: Diane Drinker, Stacey Blankin, Melen Boothby and Kim Drake.

No guests were present at the meeting.

President Adams reminded all members to silence their cell phones and the attendance sheet was passed around to members.

## SPEAKER

President Adams stated that we have a pertinent program today that directly relates to one of our GCA missions to restore, improve and protect our environment. Maryl Hitchings then introduced our speaker for the meeting: Maura Jarvis, Community Outreach Specialist, with the Philadelphia Water Department. Ms. Jarvis delivered an informative and entertaining speech on programs the water department

sponsors including the Green City, Clean Waters initiative, the Rain Check program and the Stormwater Management Incentive Program (SMIP).

## **BUSINESS MEETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The September minutes were approved as written.

President Adams added a follow up on the same topic of clean waters. The Friends of the Wissahickon and the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association will co-host "Communities Connecting for a Clean Wissahickon," to share progress on the Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership. The event will be held on Wednesday, October 24th, from 6:30 to 8:30 at SCH Academy, Cherokee Campus. A panel of experts will brief the audience on the importance of upstream, small streams and wetlands and their impact on downstream watersheds.

President Adams also shared information regarding GCA on the Road – Dede Petri initiated this series of educational programming as a way to bring the GCA to its members. The next program in our area is at the GCA headquarters in NYC on November 2nd from 11:30 to 4pm to learn about Beatrix Jones Farrand, one of the first women landscape architects in America. Members will have lunch at the headquarters and then hear a lecture by Karyl Evans, GC of New Haven. Ms. Evans created a documentary on the Life and Gardens of Beatrix Jones Farrand. If you are interested, please sign up on the GCA website. The price is \$50. Carolyn plans to go and would love to have some company.

For GCA Publications, did you know that you can receive an email alert that a GCA publication is now available to read online? It is an easy process to sign up. Go to the GCA Members page, click on tab "Read, Watch and Shop." On the GCA Publication landing page underneath the "GCA Publications" click on "Manage My Publication Notifications." The list of publications that are available to read online include: The Bulletin, By Design, Call to Action, Conservation Watch, Focus, Real Dirt. Click on the notify me box to receive an email when a new online issue is released. Two of our club members are active on GCA Publication committees: Alice Farley is the editor of Focus and Allison Romig is Coordinator of Subscriptions to By Design.

The Discovery Center is now open! We are organizing a club tour for November 15, 2018 at 11 am. Joan Biddle sent around a clipboard to sign up for the tour or members can contact Joan directly.

President Adams and Wendy Concannon attended the Zone V Meeting hosted by the Carrie T. Watson Garden Club in Erie, PA from September 10th to 12th. President Adams presented their joint report of the meeting.

Summary of the Zone V Meeting held in Erie PA and hosted by Carrie T. Watson Club on Sept. 10 – 12, 2018

Carrie T. Watson is an old club, founded in 1925, but new to GCA as they joined GCA in 2009. This was Carrie T. Watson first time at hosting a GCA Zone V Meeting. The meeting hotel is located on the shores of Lake Erie with a view out to Presque Isle. Presque Isle is a 3200 acre State Park and boasts Pennsylvania's only sea shore – all 7 miles of a sandy beach. We must thank Ben Franklin, who claimed part of Lake Erie's shores for Pennsylvania.

Originally Deb Erdman was to be our club delegate. However, her daughter grabbed a huge opportunity to train this coming year with a Russian skating partner. Deb drove them to their Russian skating coach's academy in Michigan and helped them find an apartment and settle in. Thus Wendy Concannon freed up her schedule and served as our club delegate. Wendy is not with us today as she is in Highpoint NC promoting her photography business at the Fall Furniture Show. Wendy has contributed to this report.

First off, let's review all the ribbons that Wissahickon won. Jennifer Ponce and Ginny Simonin captured a blue ribbon for their Gone Fishing niche arrangement. The judges comments were spot on: Crisp and elegant design. They had no competition!! Yes, there were 3 other entries but they pale in comparison with Jennifer and Ginny's design. Kudos to Wendy for doing the final install steps at the show as Carrie T. did not ship their unique size box to us. In the Photography Division of "Still Water," Emilie won a blue ribbon and a Carrie T. Watson club award for her innovative photograph which was distinctly different from the other 5 entries. In the Horticulture Division, Alice won two blue ribbons and a Best in Show for her rare Euphorbia poissoni. Joan's fern (which was sheared last year) won a blue ribbon. Debby, one handed this past month, won a red and a honorable mention for her two Gasteraloe entries.

Dede Petri, GCA President, attended the Zone V meeting. Dede highlighted several of her key initiatives: expanding the communications with the clubs and members such as posting videos of the GCA annual meeting speakers, GCA on the Road, Board meeting minutes are public on the website, and setting up a fund for National Restoration Initiatives for clubs to restore gardens/parks after major storms, support of botanists through a Botany Bill in Congress, and removing the 150 acre limitation for Partners for Plant projects, etc.

After hearing reports from each Club President and Zone Representative, we hopped on a trolley to visit the Erie Art Museum. Susan Kemenyffy, Carrie T. Watson member, co curated "Archiving Ephemeral Beauty," an exhibit of the 15 garden submissions of her club to the Archives of American Gardens. The exhibit highlights the variety of Northwest Pennsylvania gardens and how important it is to capture

these artistic endeavors. Next we toured the Presque Isle State Park via the trolley. This beautiful peninsula juts out into Lake Erie and creates a bay which is perfect for all sorts of water recreational activities. Dr. Jim Bissell highlighted the invasive water plants such as Phragmites and how the State Park is recovering the swampy areas from invasive and nurturing native plants. There are 80 rare plants only found in this Pennsylvania State Park. The Isle is a magnet for tourists as over 4 million people visit the park for its sandy beaches, walking and biking trails, and birding. The state park houses the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, where the Great Lakes EPA office is located. The Center, which serves as the park's welcome center, showcases the development of the Great Lakes, their unique environmental conditions, animals and plants that live in/around the lake, and the threats to the lake's health.

In the evening, it was time to unveil the Zone level awards:

- The Garden Club of Philadelphia's Dorothy Falcon Platt Award went to Susan Kemenyffy, Carrie T. Watson
- The Zone V Judging Award went to Alice Doering, The Garden Workers
- The Zone V Floral Design Achievement Award went to Wendy Mahoney Russell, GC of Wilmington
- The Zone V Appreciation Award went to Kelly Asplundh, Huntingdon Valley Garden Club
- The Zone V Civic Improvement Award went to Meg Cheever, Garden Club of Allegheny County

### **PHS Flower Show 2019 Club Entry Update**

Lauren Taylor, Chair, gave a brief update on the club entry in the container class and shared a small model of the planned entry.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **BULLETIN & PR**

Lisa Walker is working on another article for the next GCA bulletin.

### **CIVIC & CONSERVATION**

Sarah Andrews reported:

In September, I gave a long list of things that the Conservation Committee was proposing to do for 2018-19. We are beginning to start our work. I will be meeting with Stacey Blankin before our next meeting to add features

to the Conservation page of our website. In the meantime, Jane Good looked into an alternative to oasis called flora soil. The bad news is that it hasn't been a successful substitute for oasis. This year again, our boxwood trees will be made with oasis.

## **FERTILIZER FUND UPDATE**

The PCGCA Joint Meeting is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> at Philadelphia Country Club. Bloom Again Brooklyn is the speaker for the meeting. Diane Drinker and President Adams encouraged more participation from Wissahickon with PCGCA and the Fertilizer Fund.

## **FLOWER SHOW**

Alice Flint encouraged members to sign up for the flower show. She sent around a sign up sheet. The flower show is at the November meeting at Highlands.

## **HISTORIAN AND LOG**

Joan reported that we are going digital for our scrapbook this year by uploading photos to our club website. A digital scrapbook approach will improve the access of our photographs to our entire club membership.

## **HORTICULTURE**

Debby Evans and Kim Drake attended the Shirley Meneice Conference as our club delegates. Kim presented her report.

Debby Evans and I thoroughly enjoyed our time at the 17th Annual Shirley Meneice Conference September 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>. Starting with a breakout session with our zone, we were reminded about how valuable the GCA website is. There is an e-handbook on plant propagation and The Real Dirt is a quarterly e-newsletter with in-depth articles on gardening tips from how to amend your soil to forcing bulbs for spring. We then loaded on a bus for Winterthur with its 175 room mansion for a fabulous tour of what it's like to be a horticulturist for the fabulous historic estate. A favorite time to visit Winterthur is in the spring. With over 450,000 daffodils planted in large drifts as one variety with coordinating flower times and gorgeous flowering Cherry trees to compliment the spring flowers. In the woods, the Wood Hyacinth and Scilla are planted so close together it appears to be blanketed in blue.

Then off to Longwood Gardens we departed for tours of the grounds, a seed share which we are sharing with you, followed by a dinner in the Conservatory, a real treat. We even got to hear the old organ play followed by an incredible fountain show with extraordinary lighting and choreographed music.

Saturday we started early with tours and workshops ranging from how to grow a moss garden to an insider's tour of the conservatory and Orangerie, the Hillside garden tour, planted in 2016, with less formality and more whimsy than the typical Longwood Garden layout. Great detail was giving to attracting pollinators. We took a tour of the greenhouses and finally an exciting talk from the chief arborist about the trees of Longwood. and yes there are still trees that exist from the Pierce and Dupont Days.

Thank you Wissahickon for allowing Debby and me to go on this memorable and educational conference.

## **JUDGING**

Allison Romig (on behalf of Mary Jane Greenwood) congratulated Kim Drake for advancing from a prospective judge to an approved GCA Horticultural Judge. Kim has worked long and hard to achieve this status. Anne Coste has moved to Floral Design Judge Emeritus status after many years of serving as a Judge in Zone V shows. The Club applauded both Kim and Anne for their achievements.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

President Adams reported for Emilie Lapham that for the first time, the PHS Flower Show will have a photography class. There are six classes: It's a small world, Sitting pretty, Summer of love, Tapestry, Avant-garde, and Seasons. The class sizes vary from 6 entries to 12 entries. The first 35 entries received per class will be submitted to the jury for the selection of the finalists. So, submit your entry ASAP.

## **PROVISIONALS AND WORKSHOPS**

Jane Good reported that 18 members (including all of the provisionals) attended Deb Donaldson's the succulent workshop on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Deb prepared an amazing "hunt" brunch for the group before sharing her knowledge and incredible plant collection. Her handout is posted on the club's website underneath the Hort. Tab.

## **SCHOLARSHIP**

Alice Farley reported that a Hull Award nomination has been submitted from the club in September.

## **WEBMASTER**

Stacey Blankin reported that there is a new category on the WGC website under WGC- Hort providing horticulture show entry tips and the Deb Donaldson's succulent growing tips.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

Alice Farley and President Adams reported that on October 1, the GCA Focus Glorious Gardens Photography contest opened and will close on November 1. You may enter one photo in each class (with openings). You may enter up to 18 photographs given the many classes. However, each class will be juried down to 8 finalists per class. Anyone who is online Focus reader will be part of the judging community of this contest. So hurry up and enter some of your beautiful garden photographs. Some of the classes are Moorish Garden, Exotic Garden, Beatrix Farrand, Capability Brown, Thomas Church, etc. Go to the GCA website, click on member area, click on GCA committees, click on Photography company. On the Photography landing page you will click on Glorious Garden Details to learn more about the classes and how to enter.

President Adams also reported that our Concourse Lake Workday was rescheduled from the 25th due to rain to Monday, October 1st. About 18 people worked for two hours pruning and weeding. There was another volunteer group working that day in the park and all of our joint efforts made a large impact on the park's appearance. Many thanks to Sara Emlen and Maryalice Cheney for joining Carolyn to represent WGC. Unfortunately Diane Drinker had to miss this event due to a stomach bug.

President Adams adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barrett Stewart  
Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting:**

**November 13, 2018**

Location: Highland's, 7001 Sheaff Lane, Fort Washington, 19034

Speaker: Rob Fleming: Olmsted in Chestnut Hill and the Flower Show.

Hostesses: Gail Detweiler (Lead), Barbara Ann Davey, Jennifer Fiss, Mindy O'Connor