

**Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton
Membership Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2019**

The November 2019 Membership Meeting of the Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton was held on Wednesday, November 20 at All Saints Episcopal Church at 1:00 p.m. The president was in the chair and the recording secretary present. The minutes from the September 2019 and October 2019 membership meetings were approved.

Anne Poarch read *Summer Epiphany* from her new book of poetry, *The Grit and Joy of Being*, for the meeting's reflection.

Program

TGC members Freddie Gray and Abbie Wharton presented the documentation of the landscape of *Upper Weyanoke*, a historic property on the James River in Charles City County, for the garden archives at the Smithsonian Institution. The landscape of *Upper Weyanoke*, property of Freddie and Lawrence Gray, was neglected and overgrown when they purchased the property in 2010 and the Grays embarked on a years' long research and restoration project to reclaim its beauty.

The Grays began the landscape restoration with noted landscape designer Chip Callaway, but Hurricane Irene destroyed much of the initial work. The work resumed in 2014.

Freddie and Abbie, as co-chairs of our Garden History and Design Committee in 2016-18, along with member Sue Thompson, began documenting the landscape restoration in 2016. Their presentation highlighted the history of the property, the restored design of the Garden Path which reflects four seasons of interest and the historic and notable specimens discovered on the property. The proposal for documentation of this significant property was accepted into the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens in March 2019.

President's Announcements

- Betty thanked the meetings' hostesses: Karen Gilmore, RoseMarie Bundy and Rita Ryan for the delicious refreshments. She also thanked Barrie Edlich for hosting us in her home for the pop-up floral design workshop prior to the meeting and acknowledged RoseMarie Bundy, Frannie Philips, Julia Borden Rose and Cynthia Ferrell for organizing the workshop and Peyton and Meredith Lauter for offering outstanding instruction and mentors.
- National Affairs and Legislation Conference
The GCA hosts The Annual National Affairs and Legislation Conference (NAL) in Washington, D.C. every February. This year's conference will be held on February 23rd through 26th. The conference agenda includes an advocacy training session, a day of expert speakers relating to environmental issues covered in GCA position papers, a day of updates from our elected officials and a day of advocacy in support of issues that impact member's local communities and the country at large. Sue Thompson is a delegate and the club would like to have another representative. Anne Poarch briefly shared her experience at this conference last year ~~to~~ explaining what it meant to her to attend. Betty asked anyone who is interested in attending to let her know. Early registration is open now through December 3.
- *GCV Refuse to Use Single Use Plastic Pledge*. Betty announced GCV's initiative to reduce single-use plastic consumption by asking member clubs to pledge to reduce and eliminate our use of single-use plastic. A

copy of the pledge (attached) was distributed. The Board approved the pledge AS A CLUB (note, not committing individual members) for club events and programs. Betty explained that this is an effort to bring AWARENESS to our dependency on plastic, in hopes of finding alternatives to plastic and potentially lead to a change of habits.

- GCA Healthy Yard *Pledge*. Betty noted that in the recent newsletter she included information on the GCA *Great Healthy Yard Pledge*. A copy of the pledge (attached) was distributed. Betty has taken the pledge and encouraged us to do so. Betty shared easy steps to abide by the pledge at the bottom of the agenda.
- Conservation Announcement. Eva Clarke from the James River Garden Club is the GCA Zone VII Conservation Committee Chair. Eva has a wealth of conservation information to share especially as it concerns our health. Eva invited our club to join her private Facebook group called *The Queen Bee Challenge* where she shares her conservation ideas, projects and concerns. She posts news articles, photos and RVA happenings. Betty will share the club's email addresses with Eva who will extend individual invitations to join this Facebook account. You may choose to join or opt out. If you do not want Betty to share your email address with Eva, please let her know after the meeting.
- Club Self-Study. Jennifer Sisk and Kelly Armstrong will be conducting a self-reflection study, looking at the mission of our club to see how our club supports the mission and which activities align with our mission. They are calling the initiative *Project Perennial*, with the goal for the club to stay strong and vibrant year after year. They will begin in the winter with a survey of the membership as to what activities we like and which ones we need to reconsider. They plan to report back in the fall.
- Kudos to our Newsletter. Betty received an email the morning of the meeting from the Vice Chair of Zone 7 with compliments of our November newsletter. Apparently it has made the rounds among the GCA Zone 7 leadership and they want to post it on Zone 7's landing page on the website. The comment, "IT IS TERRIFIC!" does not surprise Betty one bit. Betty congratulated Jill Mountcastle and all those who contribute articles.
- January Meeting Announcement. Lena Scott announced that Margot Show, editor of *Flower* magazine will be our program. The magazine sent complimentary copies of the November/December issue and are available at the nametag table. 50 copies of Living Floral, Margo's new book, will be available for sale \$45 at the meeting; Margot will sign the books.

Other Announcements

- **Finance**-Bonnie Cricchi (TGC Treasury) and Peyton Wells (Endowment)
 - TGC Treasury. Bonnie said 12 members need to pay their dues immediately, or else she will levee a penalty.
 - Endowment. Peyton said we have 3 months to raise \$2750 to meet our goal of \$6000. Make checks to Tuckahoe Garden Club, and on the memo line write *endowment*. Send checks to Bonnie. Donations can also be made via our website. We donate the interest from the fund to the community.
 - Kudos to Bonnie Cricchi. Betty recognized Bonnie for her extraordinary, yet unsung efforts, as Treasurer of our club. She gave her a little hand-made angel that is made by women fleeing homelessness, domestic abuse and sex trafficking in a group home in Birmingham Alabama. Moved by this mission, Betty bought several of the angels and recognized Bonnie as one who does so much for our club behind the scenes with little recognition.
- **The Common Wealth Award**-Sara Cann. Sara announced the Common Wealth Award was won by Boxwood Garden Club for work at Peter Paul Development Center.

- **Committee Preference Sheet.** Sara distributed the Committee Preference Sheet (attached) and said by filling this out with your preferences as to how you would like to serve the club for the next two years, you can help the incoming president fill the positions. December 4 is the deadline to return the form to Sara.
- **Christmas Sale and Party.** Shelley Roberts and Beth Norfleet. New this year ~ raffle tickets! Shelley has forms (online) and will be sold the day of the sale. Beth asked for folding tables for workshop.
- **Membership - New Members Voting Results-**Janie Pinney/Elizabeth McGill. Proposers are to notify the new members and let Janie know if they accept. New member orientation is January 13. New members announced:
 - Meredith Arendale
 - Kate Christner
 - Suzanne Duncan
 - Stephanie Lansing
 - Mary Middleton
 - Cara Rogers
 - Chris Shands
- **GCA 2020 Meeting**
 - Volunteers. Kathy Watson, volunteer coordinator. Kathy is firming up volunteer commitments with those who previously expressed interest in attending the meeting as a volunteer. Backup volunteers will be taken.
 - Betty announced the following members have entered the following divisions:
 - Tricia Sauer has entered 2 photographs for consideration in the photography division.
 - Cynthia Ferrell has entered in the Salad Bowl class in the Horticulture Division.
 - Susan Ewing and Mary Horton have entered in a class called “Eye” Got Rhythm: Rocks and Rills.
 - The Ryan team, Missy and Rita, have entered in a Zone 7 challenge class using native plants planted in a box.
- **Spring Sale.** Martha Moore and Kathy Watson. Spring Sale will take place on April 15 at Jennifer Sisk’s home. Martha reminded us that herbs need to be pre-ordered in January, so contact Martha with your list prior to January 1.
- **Exhibit Results**
 - **TGC Floral Exhibits Results-** RoseMarie Bundy, Frannie Phillips, Lynn Jacob
 - Class I: Early Colonial Floral Design
 - Blue: April Greenwood
 - Red: Meredith Lauter
 - Yellow: Anne Poarch and Jill Mountcastle
 - White: Susie Benson
 - Class II: Thanksgiving Centerpiece
 - Blue: Lisa Elliott and Shelley Roberts
 - Red: Martha Moore, RoseMarie Bundy, Peyton Wells
 - Yellow: Tricia Sauer, Lynn Jacob, Renee Gardner, Frannie Phillips
 - White: Jeanine Hinson, Linda Hanson
 - **TGC Horticulture Exhibits Results-**Barrie Edlich, Cynthia Ferrell, Julia Borden Rose
 - Class I: Holly
 - Blue: RoseMarie Bundy

Red: Patricia Hunter
Yellow: Martha Moore

Class II: Grasses
Blue: Betty Jenkins
Red: Liza Cabell
Yellow: Patricia Hunter

Class III: Late Blooming Flower
Blue: Ann Poarch

Class IV: Feed the Birds
Blue: Kathy Watson
Red: Patricia Hunter
Yellow: April Greenwood

- **TGC Photography Exhibits Results**-Chandler Klevana ****Subject to confirmation from Chandler****

Class I Woodland Fall Scene
Blue: RoseMarie Bundy
Red: Libby Robertson

Class II An image featuring weather
Blue: Jennifer Sisk
Red: Libby Robertson
White: RoseMarie Bundy

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Buoyer
Recording Secretary
December 3, 2019

Attachments

- Single Use Plastics Pledge
- Healthy Yard Pledge
- Job Preference Sheet