

## **Tuckahoe Garden Club Membership Meeting Minutes February 20, 2019, Grace Baptist Church**

Attendance: Kelly Armstrong, Lisa Brennan, Lynn Brooke, Lisa Burlee, Sara Cann, Betsy Carney, Charlotte Clarkson, Bonnie Cricchi, Fraser Davis, Barrie Edlich, Lisa Elliott, Susan Ewing, Betsy Fautleroy, Cynthia Ferrell, Renee Gardner, Karen Gilmore, Freddie Gray, Betty Jenkins, Susan Jones, Jessica King, Chandler Klevana, Susan Landin, Preston Lee, Christina McCoy, Betsy Mitchell, Jill Mountcastle, Lauren Neal, Beth Norfleet, Kate O'Hagan, Frannie Phillips, Anne Poarch, Ann Ramsey, Mollie Reinhart, Molly Revere, Libby Robertson, Julia Borden Rose, Jennifer Sisk, Melina Smith, Tricia Sauer, Sue Taylor, Sue Thompson, Carey Viego, Kathy Watson, Peyton Wells, Abbie Wharton, Kelly Wilbanks, Caroline Williams, Macon Willingham, Mary Kathryn Woodward, Hylah Boyd, Valerie Coleman, Dee Ferguson, Cabell West, Tibby Gardener, Ruth Hill, Alice Tilghman.

Betty Jenkins, Tuckahoe Garden Club (TGC) President, thanked those present for attending the meeting, in spite of the adverse weather, and expressed appreciation for the staff of Grace Baptist Church for agreeing to remain open to accommodate the February, 2019 program and meeting.

### **I. Program Speaker: Anna Killius, James River Association:**

Susan Jones, TGC Programs Co-Chair, introduced the meeting speaker, Anna Killius, Policy Analyst with the James River Association, who presented and explained the association's annual "State of the James Report". Anna described the mission of the James River Association is to be a guardian of the James River and take action to promote conservation and responsible stewardship of its natural resources. JRA monitors the river, responds to problems, seeks policy changes, and implements on-the-ground projects to restore the river's health. Anna presented the 2017 report findings and supplemental graphs to illustrate the progress, shortfalls and long-term goals. She was pleased to announce that just a few days ago, as part of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly, the House of Delegates passed SB 1355, bipartisan legislation to fully remove coal ash from leaking storage ponds across Virginia. The Senate advanced identical legislation, HB 2786, earlier last week affirming a bipartisan agreement announced last month that more than 28 million cubic yards of coal ash across Virginia must be either recycled or excavated and moved to a permitted landfill. This legislation places public health first by removing coal ash from leaking, unlined pits along Virginia's riverbanks that fail to meet modern standards. TGC members enthusiastically applauded.

At the end of her presentation, Anna suggested that community involvement is as important as any governmental action. She encouraged attendees to check out the JRA website and join the organization. There you can find simple ways each person can contribute towards a healthy James River including how to prevent pollution at home and ways to volunteer to help keep the James River clean.

### **II. Business Meeting:**

Betty Jenkins thanked Anna Killius for enlightening attendees on the health of the James River. She thanked the meeting hostesses, Betsy Mitchell, Lynn Brooke and Lisa Burlee, for the delicious refreshments. She circulated a copy of the December, 2018 Membership Meeting Minutes which resulted in no further discussion and received unanimous approval by the members present. Sara Cann read "A Garden Prayer".

***Announcements:***

Betty announced that Tricia Sauer and Chandler Klevana have started to take individual photos of members for the TGC website (in password protected section) and will continue to do so until the last meeting in May.

She brought attention to the table set up by the Spring Sale Committee in order to showpiece a few of the items that are available today and through presale which will be activated next week.

Daffodil Day will take place on March 27<sup>th</sup> at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and any test collection participants with exhibits should contact Sue Taylor by March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, Betty brought along additional copies of the GCV directory as well as GCV Centennial magnets.

***Finance Committee/Budget and Gifts:***

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Sara Cann, Finance Committee Chair, and Bonnie Cricchi, Treasurer, introduced the committee's memorandum and recommendation relating to monetary business, gifts and the proposed budget for 2019-2020 (attached). These documents were presented to the TGC Board on February 11, 2019 and received unanimous support. Regarding the budget, Bonnie clarified where there were noteworthy increases/decreases, explained the new Quicken format and described TGC as "fiscally healthy". The vote accepting the proposed budget will take place, as outlined in TGC's Standing Rules and Procedures, at the Annual May Meeting. Susan Landin presented the Finance Committee's recommendation regarding gifts and memberships. After discussion, Sara recognized Susan's motion to pass the proposed gifts and memberships as outlined. The membership eligible to vote did vote unanimously in favor thereby approving the described "Special Gifts, Long Standing Gifts and Memberships" of the Finance Committee memorandum.

***Endowment:***

Assistant Treasurer, Peyton Wells provided the following thoughtful history of the TGC Endowment Fund:

In February 1995, during Hylah Boyd's presidency, the Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton established a Funded Endowment Account to ensure a steady, future source of funds for its projects [e.g. Capital Trees, Bandy Field, Extreme Stream Make Over, P4P]. On March 22, 1995, Tricia Sauer deposited \$17,528.24, our initial principal, into a Crestar account, a large portion of which was proceeds from the sales of The Tuckahoe Garden Club's Gardening Guide Book. As of 2019, through generous gifts, further proceeds from the Club's Gardening Guide Book and conservative investment strategies, we have tripled the original amount placed in this account,

having a **total of \$53,952.86; \$50,180.14 of which is principal and \$3,772.72 of which is interest.** The interest is what we use to fund our Club projects. This money is now held at Davenport in two separate Investment Funds and a small SunTrust Account.

To mature our 24 year-old endowment account, Peyton suggested we should strive to grow its principal to twice the size of our operating budget, which is at present \$27,972.00. Tax-deductible donations may be made to the account at any time throughout the year, by sending a check, cash or credit card information [3% fee will be added, for credit] to our Tuckahoe Garden Club Treasurer, at present Bonnie Cricchi, with a note of your intentions. In addition, bequests are encouraged as well as gifts in memory or in honor of members.

In the past, there have been lovely gifts from members and friends of members, given in memory of a member past or in honor of a member that has touched many with her extraordinary dedication to the Club or perhaps to the Community at large. Please think if there is someone in our Club that has mentored you or that you have been exceedingly thankful for this past year. Giving in her/their honor or memory would be a wonderful way to support the future of our Club and to help our Club fulfill its mission in the community at large.

Peyton outlined the goal for the 2019 fiscal year was to grow the endowment principal to match twice the amount of our Annual Operating Budget; \$55,944.00. An additional \$6,000 would make this a reality, depending on market volatility. That would be approximately \$50.00 a member, based on our current membership of 116 members.

Peyton concluded by asking the membership to consider, in 2019, while in private or with your financial planner, a tax-deductible donation or gift in memory or honor of a member special to you, that fits your appreciation and satisfaction level of being a member of this group.

#### ***GCV Centennial:***

Cabell West presented the ideas discussed at a meeting of the four garden club presidents, centennial liaisons and program chairs regarding the celebration of the Garden Club of Virginia's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday year, May 2019 – May 2020, with the official celebratory weekend set for May 13 – 14, 2020 at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. After consideration of several proposals, the TGC Board supports the idea of a joint meeting with the four Richmond GCV clubs at a tree planting of one large tree at the Low Line (coordinating with Capital Trees) sometime in October. A proclamation from the mayor of this event will be sought and he will be invited to attend. Tea and birthday cake will be served. Also, Peyton Wells agreed to lead a fun and fabulous four-club effort in April 2020, to create a flash flower exhibition in a visible location in Richmond with leftover flowers from HGW, 2020. Lastly and in coordination with the GCV Centennial, the TGC Board recently approved the proposal to join forces with Boxwood and Three Chopt Clubs to propose to Powhatan State Park a joint initiative supporting the park in a grant request to GCV for funds for a project within the Powhatan Sate Park.

Cabell West will relay the TGC Board and Membership support at the next GCV Centennial meeting.

#### ***By-Laws/Membership:***

Betty Jenkins presented, on behalf of Membership Co-Chairs, Elizabeth McGill and Janie Pinney, proposed new language in sections of Article V – Election of Membership as it relates to “proposers” and “endorsers” removing any limitations on how often an active member may endorse a candidate for membership. Within Standing Rules and Procedures, Section 2, Procedures related to By-Laws, Janie and Elizabeth sought to clarify any confusion related to electronic voting particularly in event of a tie. These changes to the By-Laws and Standing Rules and Procedures (attached) received approval from the TGC Board on February 11, 2019. After considerable discussion, it was decided to table this proposal until March. The members present requested further simplification of the language of Section 13 of Standing Rules and Procedures where it pertains to voting online for a candidate. The Membership Co-Chairs will present new language at the next TGC Board meeting for a hopeful passing at the March membership meeting.

***Historic Garden Week:***

Anne Poarch mentioned that HGW (celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> year) assignments have been announced and reminded all that should you be unable to fulfill your shift, you must secure your own replacement. TGC has been assigned shifts on all three days during the Richmond tour week – with Historic Richmond on May 1st, the Gottwald home on May 2nd, and the Fautleroy home and Tuckahoe Plantation on May 3rd. Lisa Brennan, incoming Co-Chair of the Richmond tour, asked members to follow, like and share HGWRVA on their various social media accounts (specifically, Facebook and Instagram). Lisa was pleased to announce that a refreshed HGW marketing strategy is underway to promote the tour throughout Richmond (beyond the near west end) hoping to attract a younger, broader audience. Be on the lookout for signature garden week cocktails available at popular eateries, as well as napkins promoting the week, a special sushi role at Osaka, and HGW sponsored shopping events. The popular HGW guidebooks will be available shortly at businesses throughout Richmond and Betty Jenkins will have a basket of guidebooks by her front door.

***GCA Founders Fund/First Vice-President, Sara Cann:***

TGC Members were instructed to, prior to the February membership meeting, review the nominations (sent electronically) for both the GCV Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award and the GCA Founders Fund Award. For the 2019 Bessie Bocock Award in the amount of \$7000, a show of hands vote resulted in the TGC support of the Abrams Creek Wetlands Proposal put forth by the Winchester-Clarke Garden Club. The GCA Founders Fund Award grants \$30,000 to the finalist and \$10,000 for each of the two runner-ups. Another show of hands resulted in TGC support of the Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve (once again, a nominee. More information on the awards is available in the January TGC Newsletter.

***TGC Spring Sale (and Newport Trip):***

Kathy Watson, Spring Sale Committee Co-Chair, reminded attendees that the TGC Spring Sale will be held on Wednesday, April 24th at the home of Liz Carden with presale forms available starting March 1<sup>st</sup> and order due date of April 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition to perennials, annuals, herbs and shrubs, basic garden supplies will be available as well as the beautiful book, *Living Newport: Houses, People, Style* by Bettie Beardon Pardee, a dear friend of Ruth Cunningham and one of

our hostesses on the upcoming Newport trip. A former contributing editor with *Bon Appetit*, Bettie is allowing us to tour her garden in Newport during the June TGC trip and the book will be available on the presale for the TGC Spring Sale. She will autograph the books for anyone who would enjoy a signed copy. Regarding the Newport trip, Martha recently relayed that the trip is at capacity and there is a short waitlist.

***Programs:***

The March Membership Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at Shagbark located at Libbie Mill. There will be a short business meeting starting at 11 am followed by a private farm-to-table lunch prepared and explained by acclaimed chef Walter Bundy. While this program is at capacity, please do not hesitate to contact Lena Scott about potential openings.

***2/20/19 TGC Horticulture Awards/Cynthia Ferrell***

Class A - Potted Plant

Herbs:

No entries

Succulents:

Blue - Betsy Mitchell

Red - Libby Robertson

Bulbs:

Yellow - Dee Ferguson

Class B - Bones of a Garden - Bare Branch:

Blue - Bitter Orange - Julia Borden Rose

Yellow - Curly Willow - Jill Mountcastle

Yellow - Styrax 'Fragrant Fountain' - Peyton Wells

Class C - Photography - Warm weather scene to brighten cold winter day

Blue - Jennifer Sisk

Yellow - Peyton Wells

Yellow - Libby Robertson

Class D - Photography - Winter Scene

Blue - Peyton Wells

Yellow - Tricia Sauer

White - Libby Robertson



*Artistic awards  
for  
February  
2019*

Member Membership Status

Entries are awarded points as follows:  
 One point: Entering with no ribbon awarded; Two Points: Honorable mention; Three Points: 4<sup>th</sup> place; Four Points: 3<sup>rd</sup> place; Five Points: 2<sup>nd</sup> place; Major awards above and beyond these awards receive an additional point. If Member entered a show June-August points can be placed in Sept. Br.

Name	A	S H	Sept. Points	Oct. Points	Nov. Points	Feb. Points	March Points	April Point %	May Point %
Patricia Hunter	A		5						
Murtha Moore	A		4						
Jill Mountcastle	A		3	5			4		
Susan Emry	A		2						
Meredith Lauter	A		2						
Liza Cabell	A		2						
Raddie Gray	A		1						
Missy Ryan	A		1						
Rayton Webb	A		1						
April Greenwood	A			4					
Anne Peareh	A			5					
Lynn Brooke	A						5		
Lisa Elliott	A					4			

