

**Perennial Garden Club  
General Membership Meeting**

November 8 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Home of Betsy Burke

5509 Chamberlin Drive, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

**PENDING APPROVAL**

**Members Attending:** Gay Barclay, Alicia Brown, Betsy Burke, Kathy Byrnes, Elizabeth Cutler, Ellie Denker, MV Dye, Caroline Ervin, Sarah Mathias, Joan Minshall, Penny Morrill, Brooke Morton, Pamela Murphy, Georgia Nassikas, Sharon Nemeroff, Betsy Nottingham, Catherine Nottingham, Weezie Owen, Molly Raymond, Peggy Rhoades, Linda Rogers, Sarah Salomon, Paige Vietor, Louise Williams, Catie Woolley, and Jill Young.

President Sarah Mathias presided over the meeting. Kathy Byrnes recorded the minutes.

The June, September, and October meeting minutes were voted on and approved unanimously.

**President's Report**

President Mathias thanked Betsy Burke for hosting today's meeting, and the hostess committee of Louise Owen (Lead), Sharon Nemerof, Sarah Salomon and Carrie Smith who provided the refreshments, set-up and clean-up of today's meeting.

A discussion ensued about the preferred format for future meetings. Members expressed support for occasional evening meetings, with only very light appetizers and refreshments necessary, and enthusiasm for BYO lunch meetings that decrease the burden on the hostess committee. More feedback is welcome as we begin to plan next year's programs.

The GCA's annual Zone VI Mini-Meeting was held last month in Baltimore, where zone representatives, club Presidents and their delegates exchanged ideas and information. Representing Perennial Garden Club was President Sarah Mathias, and Peggy Rhoades and Elizabeth Wise, who were our delegates. Suzie Bissell attended as the GCA Zone VI Communications Representative and Brooke Morton attended as the GCA Zone VI Bulletin Representative. An overview of the GCA Annual Meeting plans was provided as well as reports from all the Zone VI clubs on their recent activities and plans for the remainder of the year. The topic of visiting gardens was discussed, reminding members to take advantage of the offer to see other GCA members' gardens while traveling and to arrange opportunities to set up garden tours between local, neighboring clubs. An in-depth overview was provided of the extremely lovely Hampton House, a national historic site in the Baltimore area, which will be one of the Annual Meeting side trips.

Each club was asked to provide a centerpiece for the meeting that depicted one of the National Parks. PGC member Georgia Nassikas created a stunning centerpiece evoking Saguaro National

Park in Arizona. A photo of her creation was passed around the meeting and is included at the end of these minutes.

### **Executive Committee (EXCO)**

The EXCO voted to standardize the club's gifts in memory of deceased members in the amount of \$100, and to standardize honorarium for speakers in the amount of \$125. Anything exceeding these amounts must be approved by the EXCO.

### **Committee Reports**

Bishop Walker School - The school has announced there will be a clean up day at Bishop Walker School on Saturday, November 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Members are urged to attend and bring their own tools if possible. Staff from the Washington Youth Garden and parents of BWS students will also attend.

The annual BWS Birdseed Ornament Workshop for grades K, 1 and 2 will be held on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Members willing to volunteer and to bring snacks should contact Brooke Morton. Kathy Byrnes will host a prep workshop at her house on December 6 and will include a light lunch.

The BWS Committee will submit a budget request for funds to cover the cost of two round-trip bus trips for the BWS students to attend workshops at the Washington Youth Garden at the US National Arboretum.

Horticulture Committee – Kudos and thanks were expressed to our Perennial Garden Club members Liz Dugan and Ellie Denker who assisted with the National Arboretum's recent Native Magnolia Propagation Workshop. Liz Dugan was responsible for organizing this outreach to the local garden clubs. It provided an opportunity for participants to learn about the arboretum's pioneering efforts to protect and improve the nation's seed bank and, lead by Ellie Denker, to learn how to propagate their own native magnolias using seed from the arboretum's own collection.

Program Committee - Catie Woolley suggested we organize a road trip to see Mrs. Mellon's Library, to much enthusiasm.

### **Annual Meeting News**

Information on the GCA Annual Meeting is now posted on the GCA website. Any members needing assistance with signing into the website, please contact Sarah Mathias at [samathias@me.com](mailto:samathias@me.com).

PGC members are urged to read the Annual Meeting Flower Show schedule carefully for deadlines and to enter early and often. There are five different categories for submitting

exhibits: Floral Design, Horticulture, Photography, Botanical Arts and Conservation. Gay Barclay implored the club members to plant bulbs now so you will have specimens for the Horticulture category in May.

GCA has asked host member clubs to practice with their members the full compliment of entries listed in the schedule. PGC will hold it's own non-judged practice show in March. Members should start thinking about what they would like to enter in our own show. Sign up sheets will be circulated in January.

Logistics for PGC members volunteering for the Annual Meeting should be organized to maximize the opportunity for ride sharing and sharing hotel rooms, as necessary. The club members should consider attending the Thursday night volunteer dinner May 3<sup>rd</sup> which sounds like great fun.

Sarah Salomon, who is co-chairing the decorations for the Annual Meeting Awards Dinner on Saturday, asked for members to help with the allium-painting workshop at her house next week. Please e-mail Sarah if you can help.

Meeting adjourned.

## **Program**

PGC members Peggy Rhoades and Betsy Burke gave a fact-filled demonstration and shared their insider's tips for arranging fall flowers. Members were delighted to talk shop with two of our best arrangers.

It was noted that Trader Joe's, Whole Foods and Bethesda Women's Farmers Market had great flower selections at reasonable prices.



Seguaro National Park, Arrangement by Georgia Nassikas