

**Bedford Garden Club**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Home of Nancy Kronenberg**  
**187 Guard Hill Road, Bedford Corners**  
**November 6, 2019**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**Attendance:** Nancy Kronenberg, Robin Ashley, Ellen Conrad, Wendy Cushman, Mary Finnegan, Deirdre Glascott, Linda Merrill, Janet Robinson, Denise Santomero, Anita Stockbridge, Adele Talty, Natica Von Althann, Tina Winchester, Leslie Wortmann

**President Nancy Kronenberg** called the meeting to order.

### **Programs**

**Denise Santomero** brought us up-to-date on a few changes and additions to our up-coming programs. On Thursday, November 14, **Robert O’Byrne** will discuss Irish gardens at St. Matthews. We are honored that he is including us in his short, busy tour in the states. Susan Burke, to whom we are much indebted for arranging for him to speak to us, will provide the introduction. For our April 15 general membership meeting we have engaged Ellen Hoverkamp, an artist who scans flowers and other plant material. Susan Burke’s newly renovated barn will serve as our meeting place. Denise is not sure that we will be able to fit in the speaker on Russian gardens whom we initially had planned for the November meeting.

Our December meeting, Greens Day, will be held, as usual, at Westmoreland Sanctuary. Leslie advised Denise to contact Westmoreland to confirm the date as well as to let them know that she will be bringing in deliveries the day before.

The discussion turned to events for which we either are sponsors or participants at the Bedford Playhouse. The recent screening of ***The Pollinators***, sponsored by Bedford 2020 in partnership with ourselves, Rusticus Garden Club, and Healthy Yards, was a hit in terms of attendance and positive responses, although not well attended by our members. The event was accompanied by a panel discussion moderated by Kim Eierman with panelists, ***The Pollinators*** director, Peter Nelson and Jack Algieri, Farm Director at Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture.

Denise reminded us of the up-coming, November 18 showing of ***Fantastic Fungi***, also at the Bedford Playhouse, which had been announced to our membership. Anita recommended that we try to get the Playhouse to show a new film about “secret” gardens in Washington, D.C. Denise believes that we can influence their choice of films if we can demonstrate that we can drive traffic to the theatre.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Nancy led off by announcing that she along with **Treasurer Tina Winchester** and Natica Von Althann had concluded their study of how we might invest our endowment funds for higher income while

providing safety of principal. As a result, the several endowment funds, some of which are restricted in their use and others unrestricted, totaling \$150,000 were combined and invested in one insured 11-month CD yielding 2%. This will result in income of about \$3,000. Previously, these funds had been earning minimal interest. During the investment period, funds in our operating account will be used to satisfy both operations and those uses for which earmarked endowment funds might normally be applied. The income will be used to pay for one of our Horticulture chairs to attend the GCA sponsored Shirley Mineices Horticulture conference in summer 2020. Ellen told the group that this conference is very popular and the number who may attend limited. It is important that we respond as soon as the conference is formally announced. She said that we can find out the dates before the conference sign-up is available. With that in mind, Nancy directed Robin to do so now. The Horticulture chair has first dibs to attend. Nancy said that if we do not use all or part of the investment income, we will simply roll it over with the rest of the endowment funds.

As it stands now, Nancy said, we have about \$14,000 in the Waller fund that is earmarked for attendance at NAL meetings and a little over \$12,000 in our Zone meeting reserve which will be used to defray our share (\$20,000) of the cost of the Zone III meeting we will be hosting with Rusticus in 2023. Attendance at GCA meetings (this year's to be held in Ashville) and Zone III meetings (with such meetings now reduced to only one every other year) is now covered out of our operating budget. We pay for travel, accommodations and registration fees for our president and a delegate.

Nancy brought up the subject of the GCA 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Campaign which Liza Clymer had introduced at our October meeting. The GCA has requested that member clubs each contribute \$10,000 if they are to be among those listed on a plaque commemorating gifts. As a founding member of the GCA, the sentiment was that this is an appropriate and necessary contribution for the Bedford Garden Club to make. To do so, Nancy said that we will raise dues on each member by \$25 in each of the next five years. An explanation for this increase will be given to each member on her annual bill. She first suggested by that this would be a special assessment that would expire after five years. However, the consensus was, with no one present voicing an objection, that this would be a permanent increase in each member's dues and was not unwarranted after several years of no increases.

In view of the need to continue to raise substantial funds for our various activities, the subject turned to our next fundraiser scheduled for the 2021 year. Robin commented that our format over the last several years, which includes a party (and a wonderful one!) with a silent auction in which mainly just our members participate, had grown a bit tired. A party and auction require tremendous effort yet this year's one did not achieve our fundraising expectations. One major disappointment was that our potentially most significant auction item, a stay at Fairlight Hall, U.K., generously donated by our member Sarah Kowitz, raised far less than expected. Robin and others agreed that we need to identify and plan for another type of event. Both Ellen and Wendy recommended that we look for ways that would engage the community and not rely almost exclusively on members support. Wendy suggested including a flower show as part of our program. Deirdre suggested a garden tour, noting that these were tremendously popular. Robin agreed and suggested gardens of some of our members. Nancy asked Wendy and Deirdre to spearhead an effort, starting now, to begin planning our next event with a target for raising \$40,000.

### **Civic Affairs & Conservation**

**Co-Chair Ellen Conrad** echoed the sentiment expressed early in the meeting that although *The*

**Pollinators** was fabulous and the accompanying panel discussion very informative, it had attracted few of our members. Her take-away was that the film was really about regenerative agriculture (sustainable farming) which is tremendously important to the propagation of pollinators and sustaining bio-diversity. She would like to get the film back for more of our membership to see.

Ellen announced that this year's NAL conference in Washington, D.C. would be held the last week in February, with delegates arriving on February 23 and departing on the 27<sup>th</sup>. We are allowed to send two members and, as previously mentioned, the cost of their attendance is covered by the endowment established by Mrs. Waller. She said it is open first to members who have never attended. She asked that anyone interested get back to her within a week's time as the conference is tremendously popular and sells out quickly.

### **Floral Design**

**Leslie Wortmann** reminded us that BYOV at Varner's studio would be coming up soon on November 26. The price is \$50 per person with reservations to be made with her and a check sent to Tina. She needs to have attendance confirmed by November 18. She said that she had received great feedback from many on flowers that participants particularly wanted. She and **Lindsay Matthews** will be ordering and picking up flowers from East Coast Wholesale Flowers. They will have wire mesh, along with a minimal amount of foam, for participants to use in making their arrangements.

For Greens Day on December 4, our boutique will feature topiaries, paper whites, amaryllises and other plant material as well as a few individual wreathes, all of which have been particularly popular with our membership. There will be no baked goods, jellies or gift items. Leslie plans to have three quick demonstrations: an indoor floral decoration, Leslie; wreath making, Lindsay; and an outdoor floral display, Betsy Mitchell. The boutique items will be marked up from our cost, but still offer good value to our members. She is planning to set things up the day before. (Subsequently to this meeting she needed to revise plans for the set up to the morning of the event.) After the demonstrations, eight community wreathes will be decorated and delivered.

Leslie said her recent email request to our membership asking for those with interest to sign up for the Floral Design committee, resulted in five committee members. After a brief discussion, those present agreed that, in the future, it would be best to email all committee sign-up invitations as one communication rather than sending each separately as had been done this year and send the request in September.

### **Horticulture**

Co-chair **Robin Ashley** said the trip to Bear Creek Flower Farm, Stamfordville, NY on October 23 had been a "blast". She had loads of photos to send to Joyce Corrigan to be posted on Instagram. As for future workshops, the potager workshop at Dana Worlock's garden would need to be postponed.

### **Membership**

**Janet Robinson** confirmed that, at present, there were four slots available for new members. Although there were still nine members who had not yet paid their dues, the feeling was expressed that most, if not all, would step forward. Nancy K has written reminder notes to all. Discussion touched on the

possibility of continuing to retain certain longtime members at no cost to them if the cost is too onerous for some older members. It was pointed out that dues for such members are only \$62, which is our cost per person for GCA membership.

Janet has heard from three members who have identified applicants. Others who have potential applicants spoke up at the meeting.

The discussion turned to how best to communicate with prospective members about responsibilities of club members. A cocktail reception held a few years ago during Liza Clymer's term as president to which prospective members, their sponsors, and Executive Committee members attended was thought to be highly successful in communicating requirements of membership. The party also helped us to evaluate the candidates as well as allowed them the opportunity to assess us. The concern was expressed that a sponsor may not want to be placed in the awkward position of exposing her candidate to scrutiny should the prospective member be rejected if there are not enough places available or other reasons. The advantages afforded by such a get-together seemed to outweigh this concern. It also was pointed out that if there were simply not enough places, membership would just be delayed for a year.

### **Awards**

**Natica Von Althann** is working with Liza Clymer on awards. Planning is proceeding well.

### **Photography**

Nancy led by noting that at our previous meeting we had discussed the need to have one member designated as Club Photographer as well as have a yearbook produced annually. Committee chair **Anita Stockbridge** agreed regarding a club photographer. She will designate a member or fill the position herself to make sure that we have photographs taken for each meeting. Regarding a yearbook, she felt that production of one would be onerous and expensive, particularly if it were to be distributed to all members. Joyce, she noted, has been terrific with her Instagram posts on [Bedford\\_garden\\_club\\_ny](#).

Regarding joint committee efforts, Wendy and Anita will be speaking with Varner about arranging a visit to the NY Botanical Gardens to view the Kusama exhibit in 2020.

### **Flower Shows**

**Wendy Cushman** announced that she will be coordinating with Leslie to hold club bench shows every other month beginning in the New Year.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the October 2 meeting were approved unanimously by hand vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda J. Merrill  
Recording Secretary