

Bedford Garden Club
Executive Committee Meeting
201 Croton Lake Road, Katonah
September 6, 2017
9:30 a.m.

Attendance: Liza Clymer, Robin Ashley, Carol Bouyoucos, Jayni Chase, Janet Conner, Ellen Conrad, Joyce Corrigan, Debbie Gourd, Lisa Hennessy, Mary Kendrick, Nancy Kronenberg, Heather Langham, Linda Merrill, Lynda Morris, Varner Redmon, Janet Robinson, Nancy Vincent, Holly Warshaw, Dana Worlock

President

Liza Clymer

Liza welcomed all to our first meeting of the 2017 – 2018 year. As we have several members new to the committee, she asked each of us to introduce herself and identify her role.

Liza displayed our new program for the year with cover designed by Carol Bouyoucos: **Sex in the Garden: Birds, Bees, & Other Agents of Change**. She thanked Carol for her exquisite work. The title expresses this year's theme around which our programs and committee work will be focused.

This year's Zone III meeting, she said, is to be held May 15 – 17, 2018 in Cooperstown. Heather Langham volunteered to accompany her.

Minutes of the June 7, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting

Nancy Vincent moved to approve the minutes of the June meeting. The motion was seconded and given unanimous approval by hand by those present.

Treasurer's report

In Treasurer Tina Winchester's absence, former Treasurer Debbie Gourd presented separate financial statements for June, July and August. She highlighted the following items:

- Dues collection has been active with most members having paid since June.
- Through the end of August, over \$7,000 has been received for the upcoming, September 23 fundraiser. Many members have not yet responded but are expected to do so. The goal is to net \$31,300 from attendance, other donations and the silent auction to cover the budget for this and the following year. Liza encouraged us to reach out to friends who are not members as well as members of other garden clubs who are welcome to come.
- The Quebec trip to the Cabot family gardens, Les Quatre Vents Gardens, in June, showed disbursements for which revenues had been received in prior months from those who took the trip. \$933 was donated to the BGC from the net proceeds paid by participants in the trip and a \$5,000 donation was made to Ann Cabot.
- Annual GCA dues of \$7,378 were paid.

Horticulture

Chairs Robin Ashley and Dana Worlock are looking forward to carrying on the awesome work of former chairman Virginia Maybank. Reports are that Tina Winchester has located a potting shed on Harris Road that might be used for planting workshops.

Conservation

New chairmen Ellen Conrad and Jayni Chase outlined their plans. Ellen will be our kickoff speaker at the September 13 General Membership meeting on the topic of "Solar Pollinator Gardens". Her focus will be on a program developed by Fresh Energy, a Minnesota solar company, that has developed the use of photovoltaic solar allowing the planting of pollinator habitat under and around ground-mounted solar panels. Legislation for a plan for New York State did not pass in the spring legislative session but will be taken up again in January. Ellen would like for at least one of us who has a ground mounted solar panel to get a demonstration unit up and working prior to this. Jayni said she has one such panel that might be used.

Jayni discussed some of the topics on which the committee will focus:

- Composting. Kathryn Garcia, Commissioner, Department of Waste Management in NYC has initiated a plan to utilize all food for consumption rather than waste. She is said to be an excellent speaker whom we may want to invite to speak to the BGC along with Bedford 2020 and open to the public.
- Tree survey. We were asked to complete the tree inventory survey for each of our properties that former chairman Nancy Kronenberg had initiated.
- Pollinators and native plants.

Commented [NV1]: Not sure, but should it be "whom"?

Ellen suggested Heather Holms, author of *Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants*, as a future speaker.

As we may not have enough regular meetings available for another speaker, Varner suggested that a speaker might be brought in for a conservation event; Liza suggested a workshop or an expo in conjunction with a regular meeting.

Nancy K drew our attention to the email just sent to all club members regarding stilt weed removal (the time is now to pull out if seeds have developed or mow, if without seeds) and pulling out new garlic mustard growth. She also mentioned that, unlike last year, we have a bounty of crab apples. She proposed another crab apple jelly making workshop. Virginia Maybank and Vicki Morris have told her that they would like to include a session for making apple schnapps, an idea that was enthusiastically greeted by all.

Programs

Joyce Corrigan outlined what will be another year of stimulating programs, all revolving around this year's theme, for our general membership meetings. As the meeting hall at St. Matthews, where we frequently have meetings, is closed because of church renovations, we will use the Katonah Library, in one instance, and other venues, when available such as the Bedford Village Historical Hall.

September 13, 2017, our kick-off meeting held at the BGTC, will feature the above described talk by Ellen on solar pollinator gardens.

October 25, 2017 at Historical Hall will have Tim Stanley, Founder of Native Beeology, speak on the subject of "Unstung Heroes: Bee Pollinators in the Backyard". The suggestion was made to include exhibits. As some of our members, such as Robin Ashley, have experience in managing hives, we may plan a workshop in late winter/early spring.

November 15, 2017 at the BGTC will have Rod Christie Executive Director of the Mianus River Gorge on "The Hidden Value of Shade".

November 21, 2017 will be our annual BYOV at Varner's studio.

December 6, 2017 is our traditional **Greens Day** held at the Westmoreland Sanctuary. An outside speaker has not been engaged to allow sufficient time for our wreath making activities. If we are to have one, Joyce will arrange for a relatively short presentation.

January 17, 2018 will find us at the Katonah Library where Kim Eierman, Founder of EcoBeneficial, will speak on the "Butterfly Effect".

February 14, 2018 is as yet open. We are considering have a speaker on "The Latest Case for Composting".

March, 2018. As usual, a month off from Executive Committee and General Membership meetings.

April, 2018, we will welcome Janelle Robbins of the Bedford Audubon Society speaking about birds and their importance to plants, "The Birds and the Buds".

May 23, 2018 at the BGTC will feature a plant exchange. We may engage a speaker on the topic of "The Art of Seeds" for a short presentation.

June 13, 2018 will be our Annual Meeting. It is now planned to be held at the John Jay Homestead.

Website and Audubon Award

Nancy Vincent commented on the invitation sent by email to all club members inviting them to join with the Audubon Society in New York on Wednesday, November 8th for the annual presentation of the Thomas W. Keesee, Jr. Conservation Award and the Audubon New York Award for Environmental Writing. Among this year's honorees are club member Susan Burke and her husband Coleman Burke.

Nancy noted, too, that Sheila Brady who designed the NY Botanical Garden's native plant garden also will be honored. Diane Lewis was honored at last year's event. Commented [NV2]: Not !!

Regarding our website, Nancy V asked that when we want to have a committee meeting announced we need to have an email written as we want it presented and not just as an idea. Also, we cannot put a PDF file on our website but, rather a JPEG file. PDF is fine for an email.

Nancy V brought up problems in reproducing our long-standing logo. It is too large for many uses and, when reduced, does not look right. Carol pointed to the GCA logo as one that always looks great. She volunteered to design another logo for our review. Others felt that our logo, the original one, is representative of our long tradition and should not be changed even though it may look out of date to some of us now. Varner said that a new one, that looked right to us now, a decade from now might also look dated.

Nancy V said that she will be working on a public page for the website. Liza said that this need not be a priority.

Fall Fundraiser

Heather reported in her role as co-chair with Leslie Wortmann. All is going well, with sub-chairs on top of their jobs. Leslie is in charge of floral arrangements, among her other responsibilities. The plan is to fill mason jars with fresh flowers and have a few large arrangements. Most of the flowers are expected to come from our own gardens and should be dropped off at Beth and Sam Sachs' home on Friday, September 22.

Other comments, included:

- Robin suggested that an email be sent to all of those who have volunteered to bring a food item, reminding each of her contribution.
- We have an exciting array of items offered in our silent auction with Fairlight Hall, a stay at BGC member Sarah Kowitz's Sussex, England estate, already having resulted in expressions of interest.
- We also want to encourage friends who are not BGC members to come; to that end, Carol recommended that an email with the invitation and silent auction items be sent to all club members to send to friends and other clubs.
- Heather noted that there will be valet parking.

Visiting Gardens

Varner spoke of our up-coming October 4 trip to Governor's Island. We will have a fabulous tour of the island led by Mollie McGinnis, the Manager of Stewardship & Sustainability, who will explain the Island's horticulture, including New York's newest green space, The Hills, and the urban farm managed by GrowNYC. After a delicious lunch, we'll have another tour led by a representative of the Billion Oyster Project. A bus is being provided, leaving from St. Matthews at 7:30 a.m., for those who have reserved seats and paid.

Other Issues

- Jayni, who is a member-at-large, as well as a co-chair of the Civic and Conservation Committee, suggested that it would be appropriate for her to serve only in the latter position. Liza will see that this is arranged and another club member found to take her member-at-large position.
- Liza told us that the committee chaired by Wendy Cushman will be renamed "Floral Design" and no longer referred to as the "Exhibitions" committee. The new name reflects GCA nomenclature.
- Committee sign-up. To help ensure that members sign-up for committees on which they have interest, the suggestion was made that in addition to having clipboards circulating at our up-coming membership meeting that they be placed at the door where they can be signed as we enter or exit. Nancy V will also send out an email blast right before the meeting to alert members.
- Annual Program. As our schedule is generally not complete by September for printing in the annual program, Nancy V recommended that in the future we wait to print for distribution at the October meeting.
- Wednesdays. While days other than Wednesday may be used for committee meetings and trips, Varner suggested that club members be reminded that Wednesdays are garden club days so that they may be set aside for such use.
- Ways and Means Committee. Heather asked for clarification as to whether her and Leslie Wortmann's role as co-chairs of our biannual fundraiser constituted chairing the Ways and Means Committee. And, if so, was the fundraiser their sole commitment? The answer to both was "yes".

Commented [NV3]: Oops! I forgot to do this!!!

October 11 Executive Committee Meeting

The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. at Liza's home. Liza will arrange for another member to take minutes of the meeting in Linda's planned absence.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Linda J. Merrill
Recording Secretary

