

# **Weeders Meeting March 12, 2013 Woodmere Art Museum**

President Linda Anderson began our evening meeting at 7:15, welcoming members, guests and our speakers, Jack Hyland and Larry Wentz.

## **Announcements:**

Linda thanked Meeting Chair Nancy Evans and Hostesses Sandy Cadwalader, Patricia Doolittle, Cheryl Cheston and Patty Greenhalgh for the exceptional refreshments they served.

## **PHS Flower Show** winners are as follows:

Mini Arrangements:

1st Place - Melissa Bullitt

2nd Place - Ellen Pemberton and Cindy Pierce

Table Arrangement Entrance/Foyer:

2nd Place - Beth Bartle

Honorable Mention - Beth Bartle for an arrangement with Sidney Spahr

Horticulture – Plant

2nd Place - Alice Doering

**Ronald MacDonald House** flower arranging will take place at Wendy Bailey's home on March 25th. She asks that volunteers bring cuttings from the garden and a container; Wendy will supply flowers. All containers will be returned.

**Admissions Committee** has received proposal letters in support of Nancy Miller, who has been nominated for membership. Diana Mason, Admissions Chair, will receive any comments.

**Linda announced** sad news, the death of long-time member Anna Roberts. A Memorial service will be held at St. Asaph's Church in Bala- Cynwyd on Friday, March 15, at 11:15 a.m.

**GCA Centennial** is approaching and a big article about it appeared in The Philadelphia Inquirer on February 2nd.

**Linda mentioned** that our Speaker at the February meeting, Paul van Meter, had prefaced his remarks with a quote from Nathaniel Burt's 1963 book *The Perennial Philadelphians*, and since the quote concerns The Weeders, she read it for the benefit of those members not attending that meeting:

"Old Philadelphia womanhood has a firm grip on gardens now, and through the Garden Club of America, Philadelphia strongly influences, if it does not control, the world of the American garden. Representatives of the twelve original chapters of the Club met originally in Philadelphia in 1913 to organize themselves, and of the whole proliferating universe of American lady diggers, arrangers and exhibitors, these twelve remain socially and horticulturally elect. Three of the twelve were Philadelphia branches, the Garden Club of Philadelphia, the Gardeners and the Weeders. The Weeders were originally a group of girls, most of them now in their eighties, who got tired of waiting to get into the Gardeners and started their own branch. The name was considered a great joke, but it's taken pretty seriously now."

**The Photography Show** was on display at Woodmere during the cocktail hour before the meeting. The results are attached.

**People:**

**Penny Wike** was quoted in the PHS Flower Show Preview article in The Philadelphia Inquirer March 2nd.

**Program:**

**Linda introduced** our Speakers, Jack Hyland, a longtime investment banker, and Larry Wentz, AIA, LEED AP, an architect, both working in New York. They presented a thoroughly interesting program, telling the story of the weekend home and gardens they designed and built in Dutchess County, New York, near Sharon, Connecticut. In 2000, they discovered a For Sale sign in a large cornfield. The property contained 41 acres with 360 degree views of mountains, meadows and a distant barn, on land that sloped down to a lake. Their first decision after purchase was to determine how to build a house and gardens on a property with infinite views and make it fit into a landscape in a historic farm district. Following a design philosophy known as Critical Regionalism, which ties a structure to nature, and influenced as well by Italian gardens in general, and modern landscape designers Fernando Caruncho and Piet Oudolf in particular, their ideas took form. With barn architecture everywhere, they decided the house should be a long, narrow barn-like structure with a series of garden rooms flowing away from it into the greater landscape. They wanted to continue a New England tradition of the timber frame house using recycled timber and stone, and designed around the standard four foot measure for building materials. The home uses passive cooling, with windows placed to catch the breezes and circulate the air through the house, and passive and active solar heat. The gardens, begun before the house was finished, have been planted with perennials and grasses ordered in great numbers and arranged in massive drifts in order to be in scale with their infinite views. In keeping with their design philosophy, recycled plants were used as often as possible, and even the apple orchard was dug from an abandoned farm nearby and transplanted to their meadow. They feel light, especially in early morning and late afternoon, and misty light, and water are two most important aspects of a garden, and they have kept this in mind when planning the design. Trellises and tall columnar trees have been used as vertical accents and for shade.

After expressing our thanks to Mr. Hyland and Mr. Wentz, Linda adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Undercofler, Recording Secretary

**Weeder Photography Show  
March 12, 2013**

**Class 1: Close encounters** – a close up shot of a garden detail

1st - Melissa Bullitt  
2nd - Lorraine Wallace  
3rd- Melissa Bullitt  
HM- Nancy Evans

**Class 2: Extraterrestrial** – featuring the sky

1st - Nancy Evans  
2nd- Nancy Evans  
3rd- Melissa Bullitt  
HM- Lorraine Wallace, Melissa Bullitt

**Class 3: Alien life-forms** – unusual plant or unidentified part

1st - Melissa Bullitt  
2nd- Nancy Evans  
3rd- Nancy Evans  
HM- Melissa Bullitt

**Class 4: Out of this world** – landscape

1st - Nancy Evans (Best in Show)

2nd- Melissa Bullitt  
3rd- Nancy Evans  
HM- Lorraine Wallace, Melissa Bullitt