

Perennial Planters Conservation - NAL Committee Report 2016-17

Our first meeting for the 2016-2017 year was a Conservation meeting, as we gathered at the new Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park, long with members of the the Newport Garden Club. Park Ranger Kevin Klyberg regaled us with local history and plant information. We enjoyed a tour through the museum there and many stayed on for a picnic lunch. A contribution was made to the National Park Foundation in recognition of this trip.

At the members' dinner hosted by Catherine Taylor in her home in January, Jane Dennison gave a presentation on beekeeping and provided samples for tasting.

In February, Frances Trafton and Catherine Schneider attended the National Affairs and Legislation meeting in Washington DC. This three day conference attended by 300 GCA members from across the U.S. is an intense education in environmental legislative issues and environmental challenges, with speakers ranging from NGO's, private individuals (including a high school student!) to elected Congressional representatives. The Rhode Island delegation from all four RI GCA clubs had meetings with the RI Senators and Congressmen or their environmental aides on the final day. Catherine reported on the meeting at the April fundraiser party.

A March meeting with Sheila Dormody from the Nature Conservancy was cancelled due to low registration. She was to tell us about the new Metro Program addressing urban forestry, storm water issues, and other environmental concerns in the city. Providence is one of several cities involved. It is hoped that this program might be offered again at another time.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Trafton