

**GARDEN CLUB OF WILMINGTON**  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**APRIL 1, 2024**

**Location:** Vicmead Hunt club  
**Program:** “Discover Warm Season Ornamental Grasses”  
**Presenter:** Thomas Mrazik, Hardy Plant Society  
**Hostesses:** Plant Sale Committee  
**Attending:** B. Cooch; M. Davis; N. Draper; L. Swartz; C. van Eps; V. Sutton; B. Scott; N. Reese; C. Taylor; J. Spruance; B. Rowland; T. Fiechter; S. Parker; E. du Pont; L. Laird; B. Denham; C. Eaton; K. Maroney; J. Dugan; E. Deitrick; H. Scott; Z. Simonds; Anna Biggs; D. Abbott; J. Isken; E. Gregory; C. Wiles; M. Davis; C. Wissing; M. Hayward; L. Barton; N. Frederick; K. Ellsworth; E. Scott; L. Porter; A. Bray; k. Kristol; M. du Pont; P. Barton; B. McCoy; P. Stabler; F. Pyle; C. Rice; D. Fisher; W. Russell; C. Farris; P. Miller; M. Grant; L. Rosselle; M. Patterson; C. Jenney.

President Sally DeWees called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. Sally announced the sad news about GCW beloved member and friend, Judy Herdeg, who passed away last week. Peggy Barton delivered a lovely, heartfelt eulogy for Judy who will be missed by all.

**PROGRAM:**

- Marty Patterson introduced our guest speaker, Thomas Mrazik. Thom is a horticulturist, member of the Hardy Plant Society, contributing writer for Fine Gardening Magazine, and the owner of Goodly Gardens in Worcester, PA. He is an expert of warm season ornamental grasses for Mid-Atlantic gardens.
- Thom began his program with scientific-botanical basics of warm and cool season grasses. These grasses are perfect for meadow gardens but also mix well with perennials/annuals in almost any home garden.
- He provided descriptive and educational handouts to accompany his excellent slide show that illustrated how to design a meadow garden and a home garden with warm season grasses. The goal in each garden is to have multi-season, naturalistic interest with artistic character and while practicing good ecology. Beautiful!!
- One memorable lesson from Thom: “Don’t let your anthers hang out!”

**BUSINESS MEETING:**

**March Minutes:**

The minutes of the March meeting will be approved at next month’s meeting.

**President’s Report:**

- The DCH search for it’s executive Director is in the final stages. A new Director will be named soon.
- However, construction is in full swing. Sidewalks have been reworked and replaced, the parking lot is closed and being reworked, and new signage is being prepared. If visiting DCH, please park on Gilpin Street and walk through the lower garden to enter the building.
- Please support DCH’s annual spring event, “Dig It,” a Rare Plant Auction on April 27. Tickets are available online.

**Nominating Committee:**

- Betsy Mc Coy reported for Chair Pam Biddle. She announced the 2024/25 slate of officers. Voting and approval of the slate will take place at the June Annual Meeting.
- The slate of 2024/25 officers is as follows:
  1. President - Wendy Russell
  2. First Vice President - Meg Waldron
  3. Second Vice President & Corresponding Secretary - Carol Taylor
  4. Treasurer Libbie Fiechter
  5. Assistant Treasurer - Patti Miller
  6. Recording Secretary - Connie Wissing
  7. President Ex Officio - Sally DeWees
- The 2024/25 Membership Committee will include Laura du Pont; Pam Biddle; Eleanor Gregory; Linda Eirhart; Nancy Reese and Kathy Kristol.

**NAL Report:**

- GCW Delegates, Lynn Carbonell and Kate Ellsworth, traveled to Washington, DC March 17 - 20 for the GCA 2024 National Affairs & Legislation conference. They were among about 400 other GCA delegates. Our Zone had 18 delegates from DE and PA.
- Of all the speakers, Lynn and Kate were very impressed by the messages delivered by Spencer Glendon ([ProbableFutures.org](http://ProbableFutures.org)) and Kathleen Biggers ([cchangeconversations.org](http://cchangeconversations.org)).
- Spencer Glendon, a money manager, emphasized how detrimental the climate changes, invasive plants and harmful plastics are affecting our world.
- Lynn and Kate recommended GCW members visit these websites and, most importantly, become engaged with our local environment and conservation issues. Become a NAL participant!
- Our delegates visited with Tom Carper, Lisa Blunt- Rochester and Chris Coons.

**Flower Show:**

- Lynn Carbonell reminded everyone of “The Show & Tell’ exhibit at our May 6 GCW Meeting. No judging! Just bring a plant, floral specimen or foliage specimen.
- The GCA Zone V Flower Show “BUZZ’D” will take place September 25-26, 2024 at the Philadelphia Country Club. All Zone V clubs are required to enter! Please start thinking about an 8” pot with a succulent or foliage plant to enter.
- There are still Horticulture entries open for the “Wild Garden” Flower Show at Winterthur. Please go to our website to see register.
- Lynn will award a lovely bottle of Prosecco to the person that can find “the wooden test tube holder” that was crafted by Charles du Pont for a past Philadelphia Flower Show exhibit. Please check your barns and basements!

**Visiting Gardens:**

- Chair Nancy Reese reported that there are still openings for the Newport Garden and Flower Show trip. Please contact Nancy ASAP if you are interested in this fabulous trip.
- There is a trip to the Barnes Arboretum planned for May 9. The cost is \$40 per person which includes entry tickets and a boxed lunch. Guests are welcomed. There will be car pooling. Please visit the GCW/Visiting Gardens website to make reservations.

**Conservation:**

- Chair Katherine Maroney had a very important announcement about the alien Chinese and European Praying Mantis species that have invaded the US. Amazingly, these aliens do have one redeeming quality. They eat Stink Bugs and Spotted Lantern Flies!

- For your viewing entertainment, you can go on the GCA website to see them live, devouring Stink Bugs and Lantern Flies!
- DE has again proclaimed that April will be designated as Native Plants month! Thank you Conservation team for getting Delaware's state government on board!

#### **Ways & Means:**

- Wendy Russell reported for Grier Flinn and Pam Biddle.
- A very special "Leaf & Twigs" event is planned for May 22 at 6 pm. The event is open to GCW members and guests along with West Chester Garden Club members and guests. The exhibit will take place at the Brandywine River Museum. It will include a private tour of the "Leaf & Twigs" exhibit a lecture with a wine & cheese reception . Tickets will be limited. Visit the GCW website to reserve!
- The proceeds from this event will help cover the costs of the "Wild Garden" Flower Show to be held at Winterthur on Oct 14 - 15.
- Thank you to Pam Biddle for her help in organizing this event.

#### **Civic Improvement:**

- Chair Anna Biggs reported that GCW will be involved in the planning and maintenance of three gardens: DCH; Faithful Friends; and Ronald McDonald House. She asked for volunteers even if members can help only one time!
- Please contact Anna if you are planning to come. It is important to let her know in case there are any changes in the schedule.

#### **Photography/Gibraltar:**

- Lucinda Laird announced that Zoe Simonds has received a special honor. Zoe's photograph of a lovely Crocus was chosen by GCA last week as the cover for their Instagram, Facebook and Twitter pages. Congratulations, Zoe!
- Please let Lucinda know you will be helping with the Gibraltar Garden. Lucinda can then contact anyone if the weather doesn't cooperate.

#### **Plant Sale:**

- Chair Leslie Porter announced the next plant sale will take place at the June 3rd Annual Meeting at the Fiechters' home. It will feature a special "old fashioned" members' plant sale.
- Please contact Leslie if you have some plants to share or need help digging and potting! Please label all plants with your name and the plants' botanical name.

#### **Scholarship Awards:**

- Chair Judith Spruance reported that a record 99 students have received record funds amounting to \$459,000 .
- Betsy McCoy serves on the Scholarship Board and has been recognized by Sid Hancock, GCA Scholarship Chair, for Beck's outstanding dedication and passion in helping students receive scholarships. Congratulations, Betsy!

#### **Founders' Fund:**

- Chair Peggy Barton thanked GCW members who voted for the recipient of this year's Founders' Fund.
- Our club has chosen the project "Replanting Indigenous and Historic Northeastern Species to Create an Edible Plant Learning Center at the Jay Estate."
- Stay tuned to learn the winning Project. It will be announced at the GCA National Meeting.

Sally adjourned the meeting at 12:10. A lovely Spring lunch was served. Tables were adorned with beautiful donated floral arrangements. All the arrangements were sold with the help of Patti Miller.

Respectively submitted,  
Connie Wissing  
Recording Secretary

**DON'T FORGET TO RSVP TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 6TH AT  
VICMEAD HUNT CLUB!**