



The Garden Club Of Wilmington

FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE

YEAR-END REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL MEETING ▪ JUNE 5, 2023

Flower Shows are at the core intent of the founders of our Club; women interested in gaining knowledge of, and skill in, gardening through study, experimentation, demonstration, and competition within the Club. In addition to being educational and competitive, the shows foster creativity and camaraderie, are inspiring and fun!

Our “billing” this year were, the Fall show, “Flowers After Hours,” was presented at the club’s season opening cocktail party. Our Spring Show, “Hooray, Hooray First Day of May!” was beautiful despite a warm early Spring and four days of rain prior to the Show! The show will go on! There are two stunning Photography Shows, of course, and Lucinda will provide the details on them today.

As on Broadway, good shows start with compelling scripts; in our case, interesting and challenging schedules. Our hats off to members of the Floral Design and Horticultural Committees, led by Ann Ashley and Marion du Pont, respectively, plus the expertise of Flower Show Vice Chair, Lynn Carbonell and Wendy Russell for the expertise throughout the year.

Shows need theaters! We are most grateful to Pam Biddle and her husband, Joel Fishman, for hosting the cocktail party last September and allowing us to take over their whole first floor to stage a robust show of both Floral Design and Hort. We are grateful for their generosity, patience and graciousness through the planning, execution and vacating the premise! In addition, the facility and team at Vicmead are not to be taken for granted—a big set-up in a large, light-filled space set the stage for our Spring show.

You all, our members, with the loving care of your gardens, your potted plants, and your creative designs make those schedules come alive! You and your entries provide the entertainment, education and inspiration.

[Note: next 4 lines are for written report, when presenting, just read totals]

By the numbers:

Fall Hort Show: 72 entries, 16 members, 5 for first time, 2 new members

Spring Hort: 50 entries, 13 members, 1 for first time, 3 new members

Fall FD: 13 entries, 12 members, 1 for the first time, 1 new member, 2 novice

Spring FD: 10 entries, 9 members, 3 for first time, 3 new members, 4 novice

The two shows represented, in total:

Hort: 122 entries by 25 members, 6 first time, 3 new members, 4 novice.

Floral Design: 23 entries, by 13 members, 3 new members, 4 novice

Congratulations to all exhibitors for all the effort involved in growing, caring, and/or creating a plant, cutting or arrangement to show AND for sharing your beautiful entries with fellow members.

As chair of Judges for Zone V, our own Wendy Russell arranges for the panel of judges at each of our shows. As Chair of Judges for our Club, Lynn Carbonell provides them with the schedule, hosts and thanks the judges post-show. Thank you, Wendy and Lynn.

We all know, it takes a lot of stage hands to produce a show. Without our expert passers and clerks, the shows would not go on. Clerking is a particularly fun way for new members to get involved, meet people and see the operation behind the scenes. I hope each of you will step up when asked.

Also, in the Flower Show arena are Flower Shows hosted by other clubs for all GCA members, known as GCA shows. Kudos to Wendy Russell who exhibited at the GCA Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio a week ago. She received the Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award for her Red "Emerald Amaryllis." Wendy, Elise du Pont and Diana Wister also exhibited quite successfully at the Philadelphia Flower Show this Spring. We have a number of members in our mist who have exhibited quite successfully there over the years. If you are interested, they'd love to be a mentor. Finally, with regard to outside shows, thank you to Wendy and Lynn Ca for leading committees at the Philadelphia Show, a show of world-class stature.

Whether a helper or exhibitor, many thanks to all of you involved in making our Flower Shows robust and beautiful, educational, and fun! Check out the new class schedules for Flower and Photography shows next season so that you grow and snap this summer for plenty of entries next year!

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Cairns

Flower Show Committee, Chair