

## Horticultural Committee Report for 2022-2023

The Garden Club of Wilmington kicked off its 2022 - 2023 year in September with Cocktails and a Flower Show at the home of Pam Biddle and Joel Fishman. It was a beautiful evening for a gathering and the show was a success. Again our thanks to Pam and Joel for not only hosting the party, but facilitating a flower show in their home.

The Horticulture committee was responsible for two interesting and informative member lectures this year. John Frett presented 'The Characteristics of Trees in Winter' in January. To compliment his lecture, our committee gathered large leafless branches to install on each table as 'centerpieces' and challenged our members to an tree identification quiz.

Jenny Rose Carey was our harbinger of Spring with her March lecture 'How to Combine Shape Color and Texture to Create the Garden of your Dreams'. As always, she was warmly welcomed and she helped us focus our gardening energy on planning for changes and additions to our gardens.

Our Spring flower show, held at VicMead was a bit of a disappointment. Many classes from a large schedule were left unfilled. This was due to an unseasonably advanced spring that had many expected varieties of bulbs, perennials and flowering trees well past their prime for our May 1st show. Don't let that dissuade you from joining in the fun next season. We have recently completed the Fall and Spring schedules and hope they will entice you to plan your entries now for next October.

A GCA update ... *Lonicera sempervirens*, commonly known as Coral Honeysuckle, has been named the 2023 Freeman Medal winner by The Garden Club of America. *Lonicera* can create an interesting groundcover when allowed to sprawl, otherwise it is well-suited to climb arbors, trellises, fences, and climb/cascade over walls. It's highly resistant to deer browse, and tends to naturalize. That's one to look for in your nursery visits this summer.

Wishing all a Healthy and Happy Summer!

Respectfully submitted,

Marion duPont