

**GARDEN CLUB OF WILMINGTON  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
MARCH 11, 2024**

**Location:** Brown Education Center, Winterthur  
**Program:** "Attracting Eastern Bluebirds to Your Garden"  
**Presenter:** Bob Eaves  
**Hostesses:** Conservation Committee  
**Attending:** L. Barton; P. Barton; Ann Biggs; Anna Biggs; G. Butters; B. Cairns; L. Carbonell; M. Davis; E. Dietrick; L. Dobbs; N. Draper; J. Dugan; CV. Eaton; D. Fisher; N. Frederick; L. Giacco; M. Grant; E. Gregory; C.A. Tate; C. Taylor; Jenney; K. Kristol; L. Laird; E. Maroney; B. McCoy; P. Miller; M. Patterson; C. Hewitt; E. du Pont; K. Ellsworth; L. Porter; F. Pyle; N. Reese; W. Richards; B. Rowland; W. Russell; E. Scott; H. Scott; Z. Simonds; C. Van Eps; M. Waldron; C. Wiles; CV. Wissing A, Day; T. Fiechter; L. Fiechter; R. Hoopes.  
**Guests:** Kay Fahey and Jennifer Muse.

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 am by First Vice-President Wendy Russell.

**PROGRAM - "Attracting Eastern Bluebirds to the Garden":**

- Elaine Scott introduced the guest speaker, Bob Eaves, a volunteer at Longwood Gardens. He is very involved with the Longwood Gardens' Bluebird Program.
- Mr. Eaves covered many interesting aspects of Blue Birds. Some of the topics he covered included mating calls, habitat, historical relevance, population decline, breeding, predators, creating hospitable housing and planting beneficial food sources.
- The University of Cornell Lab's Merlin applications and their "Nest Watch" are useful tools.
- "Bluebird Book" by Stokes is very informative.
- Mr. Eaves prepared a handout "The Beloved Bluebird" based on his presentation. If anyone did not receive a copy, please contact Connie Wissing.

**BUSINESS MEETING:**

**Minutes:**

- Peggy Barton made a motion to approve the February Members' Meeting Minutes". The motion was seconded by Betsy McCoy. All approved the minutes.

**GCA/Zone V Guests:**

- Wendy introduced our two GCA guests: Jennifer Muse who is our GCA Zone V Chairman for Club Committees; and Kate Fahey who is the Zone V Chairman for Club Presidents.
- They explained their functions as liaisons between GCA and Zone V clubs. They urged everyone to use the GCA Zone V landing pages on the GCA website. They also encouraged members to say "Yes" when asked to get involved on the GCA level.

**NAL Conference:**

- The Annual 2024 NAL Conference will be held March 17 - 20 in Washington, DC. Lynn Carbonell and Kay Ellsworth will be our GCW delegates.

**GCA Annual Meeting:**

- Meg Waldron will be our GCW delegate to to the GCA 2024 Annual Meeting. It will be held in Hartford, CT April 26 - 29.

**GCW Website:**

- Wendy urged members to read all the new information posted on our website, including information about the following:
  1. The Garden Symposium at Winterthur on March 23.
  2. DCH news regarding the “Rooted in Resilience” community project, in which GCW members have been asked to help with the design and renovation of their front garden, expanded entry garden(The Bissell Garden) and various entrance safety features.
  3. “Dig It, A Rare Plant Auction’ will take place at DCH on April 27.
  4. UDBG will hold a virtual class on Ornamental/ Vegetable Gardening class on March 23..
  5. The UDBG Spring Plant Sale opens on March 21.
  6. The Andalusia Garden Symposium, a full day event, will take place on May 3, 2024. GCW has two tables reserved with three spaces left. Please contact Sally DeWees ASAP if you are interested in attending.

**Important Correction:**

- Wendy announced that the April 1 meeting “Discover Warm Season Ornamental Grasses” will NOT include a Plant Sale.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

- Libbie Fiechter requested that all chairmen submit their committee’s budget projections by the end of March. Please base income/expense forecasts on the current year’s budget.
- Credit cards will now be used for all transactions, including dues payments, workshop fees, plant sales, etc. This system will help streamline your record keeping/accounting system. The Exec Committee and Treasurer will monitor the cost of using credit cards going forward; there remains the option of passing on the 3% processing fee to the payee if needed. Checks will be accepted if you first contact Libbie to make special arrangements.
- Dues will remain the same FY 2024/25. All of our dues are tax deductible.

**Philadelphia Flower Show:**

- Carol Taylor reported on the GCA “Front Porch Stoop” entry. Their committee of 8 “new members” (now seasoned veterans!!) worked for 7 months on planning the design and execution. They received a Second Place Award and Class Commendation Award for their “Elizabeth Arden Red Door Design!!”
- Carol thanked other members of this talented committee: Louise Barton, Emily Deitrick, Kay Ellsworth, Cynthia Hewitt, Joan Isken, Patti Miller and Alletta Tate.
- Also, Carol recognized their “Crack of Dawn Maintenance Team”: Cynthia Hewitt, Barbara Cooch, and Elaine Scott.
- The Committee’s advisors were Ashlin Bray, Barbara Cooch, Wendy Russell, and Lynn Swartz.
- GCW congratulates this courageous team and their advisors on a job well done!
- Carol announced some other GCW distinctions: Wendy Russell won 7 Blue Ribbons in the Horticulture Classes. Cynthia Rice had two of her watercolors chosen for the Show by the Philadelphia Society of Botanical Illustrators.
- Congratulations to this great team!!

**“The Wild Garden” at Winterthur:**

- Lynn Carbonell announced that there are a few Floral Design and Hort spaces left. Register NOW before registration opens to the rest of the country! !

**Founders' Fund:**

- Wendy reported for Peggy Barton.
- Only a third of our club has voted for a recipient of this very important funding resource.
- Your choice is important. Please go to the GCW or GCA website and vote!!

**Floral Design:**

- Chair Barbara Cairns thanked Betsy Scott, Carroll Eaton and Joan Isken for leading the workshop "Floral Design Basics".
- The next workshop "Naturalistic Tablescapes" is scheduled for April 10 at Lisa Giacco's home. Please register now!
- Please see Barbara at lunch to purchase the book "Flower Arranging Secrets" by Jane Godshalk.

**Community Projects:**

- Lucinda Laird reported that garden work will begin on March 22 at Gibraltar, a Preservation DE project. If interested in joining, please contact Lucinda.
- Beginning on April 16 and every other Tuesday, gardening will take place at Ronald McDonald House. On the alternate Tuesdays, work will take place at Faithful Friends' garden or in the new entry garden at DCH. Anna Briggs will have more information at the April meeting.

**Conservation:**

- Chair Katherine Maroney gave tips about cutting back your plants in Spring...cut no shorter than 18". This will provide food and shelter for pollinators and other friendly insects and birds.
- Katherine brought an example of a Chinese Praying Mantis with the advice to destroy! This imported Praying Mantis kills our friendly, useful American Praying Mantis.

**Visiting Gardens:**

- Chair Nancy Reese announced that there has been a reduction in the price of the Newport, RI trip. This reduction is due to a change in the ground transportation costs. This trip includes attending the famous Newport Flower Show.
- If interested, please send a check for \$300 to reserve your spot.

**Trough Plants:**

- For those who attended and created a trough at the workshop, Beverly Rowland has some valuable information about plant resources. Please see her during lunch for more information.

**Adjournment:**

- Wendy adjourned the meeting at 12:32. She invited everyone to proceed to the Visitors' Center to enjoy their pre-ordered brown bag lunches.

**THE NEXT GCW MEETING WILL BE AT VICMEAD HUNT CLUB ON APRIL 1ST. PLEASE RSVP BY MARCH 26TH !**

Respectively submitted,  
Connie Wissing, Recording Secretary