

**Garden Club of Wilmington
November Membership Meeting
Monday, November 6, 2023**

Location: Vicmead Hunt Club
Program: "Growing Orchids at Home" & Plant Sale
Presenter: Arthur Chadwick
Hostesses: Horticultural Committee
Attending: D. Abbott; Ann Biggs; Anna Biggs; A. Bray; G. Butters; B. Cooch; E. Deitrick; B. Denham; S. DeWees; N. Draper; E. du Pont; L. du Pont; M. du Pont; C. Eaton; L. Eirhart; T. Fiechter; D. Fisher; M. Grant; E. Gregory; C. Hewitt; C. Jenney; K. Kristol; M. Laird; K. Maroney; P. Miller; M. Patterson; L. Porter; N. Reese; W. Richards; P. Roe; B. Rowland; C. Rice; W. Russell; H. Scott; E. Scott; M. Silliman; Z. Simonds; J. Spruance; P. Stabler; L. Giacco; V. Sutton; L. Swartz; A. Tate; C. Taylor; C. Van Eps; M. Waldron; C. Wissing; B. McCoy; L. Barton; J. Dugan; E. Maroney; A. Day; L. Carbonell; E. Phillips; C. Farris.

President Sally DeWees called the meeting to order at 11:08 am.

Brian Draper made a motion to accept the minutes from the October Membership Meeting. Peggy Barton seconded the motion. The membership approved the minutes.

Business Meeting:

Meeting RSVP:

- Sally stressed the importance of responding online for our monthly meetings and lunch. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month and the RSVP deadline is noted in each meeting announcement. The necessities for the RSVP procedure are to be in compliance with our GCW By-Laws, for meeting planning and to be fiscally prudent.

Delaware Center for Horticulture:

- Sally reported on the DCH groundbreaking ceremony held last month. The new DCH/GCW Garden (in honor of Gina Bissell) is in the initial stages of design. GCW members are encouraged to become involved in the design and plant selection. Please contact Anna Biggs or Sally for more information.
- DCH and GCW have had a longstanding relationship since 1977 when our members helped found the organization. DCH has been very generous to allow GCW to hold meetings/workshops in their facility. These meetings must have prior approval by our GCW Program Committee.
- Sally read a letter addressed to our members from Vikrum Krishmanthury, DCH Executive Director. He is resigning from his DCH post. He will be taking on a new role within the urban environmental and forestry mission.
- Ann Wick very kindly made copies for distribution of an early photo of the GCW/DCH coalition.

GCA Judging Program:

- Pinkie Roe, NCG Master Judge, invited other GCA Judges to join her at the podium. They included Wendy Russell, Dolly Fisher, Beverly Rowland, Sally DeWees and Kathy Kristol. Together they recognized Lynn Carbonell's recent approval as a GCA Horticultural Judge. Sally "pinned" Lynn with the special Judge's pin! Congratulations, Lynn!

Civic Improvement:

- Chair Anna Biggs distributed decorated jars/vases to be used for holiday bedside table arrangements that will be given to residents at Kentmere Rehabilitation & Nursing Home. The jars were decorated by Caroline Jennings. Please fill the jars with holiday flowers/greens and bring them to the December meeting. You will help spread the cheer and joy of the season!
- Community Projects maintain and care for the following gardens: Ronald Mc Donald House Children's Garden; Faithful Friends; Gibraltar's Marion Coffin Garden; and the new-yet-to-be-designed DCH garden. They generally meet on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.
- Please contact Anna or Nancy Reese for more information on how to get involved.

Gibraltar:

- Sally read Lucinda Laird's report. The garden at Gibraltar has been put to bed for the winter.

Conservation:

- Katherine Maroney reported on getting our gardens ready for winter. Don't cut the perennials! They are important for our pollinators to have a place to over-winter.
- Please contact Katherine if you have any conservation tips.

Horticulture:

- Chair Cynthia Rice explained how to navigate the Horticulture Committee's landing page on our GCW website. It is loaded useful information, such as tips and sources for companion planting.
- Please save your seeds! You may get seed envelopes from the Hort Committee. The labels and instructions about the GCA Seed Exchange are on our GCW website. There you can find information about how to make your seeds available to anyone in GCA and from around the country.

Floral Design:

- Vice Chair Lisa Giacco reported for Chair Barbara Cairns. They have prepared and distributed a Floral Design survey. Members are asked to fill out their preferences on the forms. Forms were distributed and collected. This input will enable the committee to offer workshops that are of interest to all members, including both beginner and experienced floral designers.
- Lisa invited everyone to see Floral Design's landing space for activities, dates and more information of interest. Find these upcoming learning opportunities and registration:
 - 1) David Culp & Garden Design Magazine present a holiday special on Nov 16 @ 6 pm via Zoom.
 - 2) "Holiday Greens" workshop on Dec 11, 1 - 3 pm at DCH. Leslie Bottaro, Horticulturalist at Greenville Country Club will help you decorate for the Holidays. Space is limited so sign up now!
 - 3) Longwood Gardens 2024 online courses for Floral Design Levels 1, 2, or 3.
 - 4) GCA Floral Design Conference via Zoom on February 6.

Garden History & Design:

- Vice Chair Linda Eirhart reported for Chair Woodley Habgood. GCA will host a Virtual Conference on Nov 16. There will be a number of noted presenters providing a valuable array of information. The conference is open to all but registration is required by Nov 14. Please visit the GCA website's Member Section to register.

Visiting Gardens:

- Chair Nancy Reese reported that there is great interest in the proposed trip to Santa Barbara, CA. The other option is to go to the Newport Flower Show.. Please contact Nancy to give your choice or for more information.
- For other GCA sponsored trips, please visit GCW Visiting Gardens' landing page. The 2024 trips are varied, from Naples, FL to Honolulu!

Plant Sales:

- Chair Leslie Porter reminded all members that this is the time to plant Bulbs and Plant Sales has them to buy now.
- The December Meeting Plant Sale will feature festive holiday decorations. Please call Leslie if you can donate some boxwood cuttings.

Spring Bulb Workshop:

- Betsy will lead a "Planting Spring Bulbs in Containers" workshop on Mon, Nov 13 at her home from 9:30-11am. These containers will surprise you with a colorful display in early Spring! For more information and to register, visit our the GCW website.

Presenter & Program:**"Growing Orchids at Home" by Arthur Chadwick:**

- Chadwick & Son, Inc. was started in 1989 by Arthur (Art) and his wife (Anne) Chadwick of Wilmington, DE after they purchased land in the Richmond, VA area. Their son, Arthur, joined the orchid business and helped "grow" the business and co-author two books devoted to the classic Cattleya orchid. Today Chadwick's has expanded to three retail locations in VA and greenhouses that grow thousands of orchid plant varieties. Plus, they offer "grooming and boarding" services to over 13,000 privately-owned plants in the Richmond area .
- Arthur guided us through a beautiful slide show while giving valuable tips for growing orchids while entertaining us with great his humor and dry wit.
- Members were fortunate to have the opportunity to buy Arthur's latest book (2nd edition of "The Classic Cattleyas") and to purchase orchids of different genera. He distributed printed orchid care instructions for 8 orchid varieties.
- A Q&A period followed the presentation.
- GCW received Art's personal invitation to come and visit his greenhouses for an amazing experience!

Adjournment :

Sally adjourned the meeting at 12:15 after which all enjoyed a lovely autumn lunch. Members had the opportunity to buy the orchid centerpieces that adorned each table. Thank you, Horticultural Committee!

Respectively Submitted,
 Connie Wissing
 Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 4th-"USING DRIED FLOWERS FOR HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS." PLUS THE HOLIDAY PLANT SALE! RSVP NOW!!!