

**GARDEN CLUB OF WILMINGTON
MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 2, 2023`**

Location: Vicmead Hunt Club
Program: Presentation on the GCA Scholarship Committee
Business Meeting
Hostesses: New Members Committee

Members Attending: D. Abbott; A. Ashley; L. Barton; P. Barton; P. Biddle; A. Bray; P. Bussard; B. Cairns; L. Carbonell; M. Davis; B. Denham; S. DeWees; E. Deitrick; N. Draper; L. du Pont; C. Eaton; L. Earhart; K. Ellsworth; E. Fiechter; D. Fisher; M. Grant; C. Hewitt; J. Isken; K. Kristol; L. Laird; B. McCoy; S. Parker; M. Patterson; E. Phillips; F. Pyle; N. Reeses; W. Richards; P. Roe; L. Roselle; W. Russell; E. Scott; H. Scott; E. Scott; B. Scott; M. Silliman; Z. Simonds; P. Stabler; L. Swartz; A. Tate; C. Taylor; S. Townsend; C. Wissing; C. Wiles; M. Waldron; C. Van Eps; A. Wick; B. Rowland; J. Spruance; P. Richards; Eleanor Gregory; B. Draper; M. Griffenberg; C. Rice.

PROGRAM

Scholarship Presentation:

- After President Sally DeWees called the meeting to order, she invited Betsy McCoy to explain the program goals of the 2023/24 GCA Scholarship Fund. Betsy is our Zone V GCA Scholarship Representative and is serving as a Vice Chair GCA Scholarship Committee. Judith Spruance is our GCW scholarship representative.
- This year the Committee has awarded \$405,000 to 86 Scholars through 29 different scholarships. The largest is the Royal Horticultural Society/Garden Club of America Interchange Scholarship. A USA student will spend a year in the UK studying at the Royal Botanical Gardens and a student chosen by the RHS will spend a year studying at Longwood Gardens.
- Betsy introduced Hattie Moore, the 2023/24 RHS Scholar. We had the pleasure of learning about Hattie and what inspired her interest in horticulture. Her first big project was planning and working on the Chelsea Flower Show.
- GCW members are encouraged to suggest candidates for these prestigious scholarships. Please give names to Betsy McCoy or to Judith Spruance.

BUSINESS MEETING

June 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes:

- Peggy Barton made a motion to accept the June meeting minutes. Anne Ashley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by the members.

Amendment to the 2023 Awards Record:

- Sally announced the Awards Record that was presented at the Annual Meeting has been amended to include Peggy Barton for her 45 years of outstanding service to GCW. Congratulations, Peggy!

New Members/Hostesses:

- Sally thanked our 2023/24 new members for creating the lovely luncheon table arrangements for everyone's enjoyment. Most of the plant material came from their own gardens. Thank you!

New Procedures:

- Sally asked that we do not schedule any committee meetings before or after our GCW meetings at Vicmead Hunt Club. Vicmead has been very gracious to give us time before and after our meetings but we do not want to interfere or take advantage of the staff's regular business.
- Members can now use their nicknames on our GCA Profiles on their web directory. It may make it easier for members to identify one another.

President's Report:

- Sally announced that the popular "Show & Tell" exhibit has been brought back for this meeting! For those of us who weren't members then, this casual, fun exhibit includes floral arrangements (straight from the garden!), photographs, horticultural specimens and anything else that would be of interest to our members. There were no judges...but members displayed fun, lovely, interesting objects to share with everyone. The exhibit did not disappoint!
- There will be a 2 day flower show at Winterthur on October 14-15, 2024. This is a GCA Show and will be hosted by the West Chester Garden Club and by GCW. There will be 4 classes and many opportunities to volunteer and be involved. Check your GCA and GCW websites!
- The Philadelphia Flower Show is back with "Welcome to the Neighborhood." GCW will be a part of the Show and our New Members have entered the competition! Ashlin Bray and Wendy Russell with the help of Barbara Cooch and Lynn Swartz will be guiding them through this wonderful experience.
- As you have noticed, there are judged Flower, Horticultural or Photography Shows this year. This will be a year of rebuilding, recharging and learning. The participation in the shows has waned and there is a lack of support for committee representation. Instead, we will focus on workshops to educate and to reinvigorate our members. Our club can look forward to the Zone V show next October at Winterthur. There will be many opportunities to get involved to learn and to have fun.
- Check the GCA website to learn more about their upcoming event in Chalfont, PA.

Program Books:

- Lucinda Laird announced that a printed version of the GCW program/members book is now available. If you didn't get one at the September party, please get one from Lucinda. Please, only one booklet per person.

Finance Committee:

- Chairman Ashlin Bray distributed a Conflict of Interest document to all members. (See *Conflict of Interest attachment*.) She noted that this document is intended for our members with regard to non-disclosure of sensitive financial details, especially donations and grants. This document should be reviewed each year before we review our annual budget.
- Beverly Rowland made a motion to adopt the document. Cynthia Hewitt seconded the motion. All eligible voting members voted to adopt the Conflict of Interest document.

Flower Show Committee:

- Chairman Lynn Carbonell announced that there will be no GCW club flower shows this year due to the lack of member support with both the organizational duties and the lack of participation in the Shows.
- In lieu of the judged shows, there will be some informal "Show & Tell" exhibits that will encourage everyone to bring a personal favorite photograph, floral design, horticultural specimen, etc. Something that brings joy to the eye of the beholder!

- A series of club “how-to” workshops will be scheduled. All are designed for the novice flower arranger, photographer, and plant grower. However, there will be workshops and demonstrations for the more seasoned members, too. Please check both at the GCW and GCA Zone V websites.

Visiting Gardens Committee:

- Chairman Nancy Reese reported that the Santa Barbara, CA trip is taking shape. Please keep checking the GCW website to get the most current details.
- There is an all-day trip to the beautiful Glenstone Museum and Gardens in Potomac, MD. You will experience art, architecture and landscape coming together in an indoor-outdoor museum. Please call Nancy Reese (302-379-3162) for information.

New Member Committee:

- Vice Chair Lynne Swartz introduced our 2023/24 New Members: Carrie Wiles, Kay Ellsworth, Clair Van Eps; Joan Isken; Caroline Jenney; Patti Miller; Valletta Laird Tate; and Emily Deitrick.
- Chairman Barbara Cooch and Lynne have welcomed the New Members at an introductory/informational meeting. A future meeting will take them to GCA Headquarters in New York City...followed by lunch!

2024 PHS Flower Show:

- Chair Carol Taylor and her Vice Chair Joan Isken announced that GCW will enter this year’s event that will take place at the Philadelphia Convention Center March 2-10, 2024.
- 2022/23 New Members will join the 2023/24 New Members to create an entry that will include a door, steps, and a floor...you know that this will be a work of art!
- It will be chaired by Ashlin Bray and Wendy Russell and with the help of Barbara Cooch and Lynne Swartz.

Horticulture:

- Chair Cynthia Rice announced that the Shirley Menice Conference is scheduled for October 18th.
- This informational conference will be virtual and open to all members but you must register. Please go to the GCA website for more information and to register.

Garden History & Design:

- Vice Chair Linda Eirhart announced a virtual presentation and garden tour on November 16th. More details and registration will be on the GCW and GCA websites in mid-October. Stay tuned and watch the website for the location and details!
- Linda asked members to recommend local gardens of interest for design and historical documentation.

Judging:

- Pinkie Roe announced there will be a judging workshop open to all. It is scheduled after Thanksgiving. Please check our website for more information.

Make a Trough:

- Master trough builders, Beverly Rowland and Mary Patterson, are offering a workshop on how to create your own trough! It’s messy, fun and you end up with a work of art that is perfect for planting beautiful Alpine specimens and other smaller plant varieties.
- The workshop will be on Oct 23 in Mary’s barn. Please contact Beverly to sign up and for information about what to bring. Space is limited....so call now!

Begonia Show at Winterthur:

- Lynn Carbonell reminded everyone that the Begonia Show at Winterthur will open on Oct 13 for entries and judging and on Oct 14 will be open to the public. The show will be in the Brown Horticultural Center.
- GCW has many begonia growers...please register to enter. Go to the GCW website for the link to the Begonia Show.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08. Lunch followed the meeting.

Please remember that there is a \$25 fee (or as otherwise noted) for all GCW workshops. Prior to the workshop, send your check to : GCW Treasurer, PO Box 3855, Wilmington, DE 19807.

Respectively submitted,
Connie Wissing
Recording Secretary