**GARDEN CLUB OF WILMINGTON**

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**JUNE 5, 2023**

**Location:** “Patterns”

 2 Rockland Meadows Road

Rockland, DE 19732

**Program:** Annual Club Meeting, Awards, Plant Sales and Luncheon

 Judging of Floral Fancies

**Hostess:** Elise du Pont

**Members Attending:** D. Abbott; A. Ashley; P. Barton; L. Barton; P. Biddle; Anna Biggs; Ann Biggs; P. Bussard; G. Butters; B. Cairns; M. Davis; A. Day; E. Deitrick; B. Denham; S. DeWees; E. du Pont; C. Eaton; L. Eirhart; K. Ellsworth; C. Farris; T. Fiechter; D. Fisher; L. Giacco; M. Grant; M. Griffenberg; K. Hackett; C. Hewitt; C. Jenney; K. Kristol; L. Laird; K. Maroney; B. McCoy; P. Miller; E. Phillips; L. Porter; F. Pyle; N. Reese; C. Rice; E. Rose; A. Rose; L. Dobbs: Ellie Maroney; G. Flinn; L. Roselle; B. Rowland; W. Russell; Evie Scott; Elaine Scott; H. Scott; A. Silliman; M. Silliman; Z. Simonds; P. Stabler; V. Sutton; A. Tate; C. Taylor; S. Townsend; A. Wick; C. Wiles; M. Wiley; C. Wissing; S. Parker; J. Cushman; J. Isken; J. Spruance; L. Carbonell; E. Fiechter. Claire Van Eps was unable to attend at the last minute.

**Floral Fancy Judges Attending**: Vik Krishnamurthy; Richard Laird: and Chris Patterson.

**Advisory Board:** Dick Lighty; and Sally Lighty.

President called the meeting to order at 11:10 am. Sally welcomed our newly proposed members, Advisory Board and our Floral Fancy Judges (Vikrum Krishnamurthy, Chris Patterson and Richard Laird) and all GCW members.

Sally thanked Elise du Pont, her family and staff for hosting GCW. Then Elise personally welcomed everyone. She graciously invited members and guests to stroll through all the gardens and house after lunch. It was a lovely day and a beautiful setting. Elise received a resounding round of applause and appreciation.

**June Membership Meeting:**

**May Minutes:**

* Sally called for a motion to approve the May minutes. Ann Rose made a motion Louise Roselle seconded the motion.
* All members approved the minutes.

**Community Projects/Civic Improvement:**

* Sally announced that the Community Projects Committee, chaired by Anna Biggs, will now be called the Civic Improvement Committee. The Executive Committee felt it is important to align our community work with GCA’s newly established Civic Improvement Committee. This will allow opportunities to receive GCA grants within the Common Ground Collaborative, Founders’ Fund, The Hull Award, Partners for Plants and the Restorative Initiative.
* Please look at the GCA website under Civic Improvement Committee for more details. We will reconfigure our GCW committee lists to align with the changes. Check the GCW website later this summer.

**Polly Hill Propagation Award:**

* Sally announced a new award that will honor Polly Hill, a Wilmington native and GCW member from 1950 until her death in 2007. Pinkie Roe and Beverly Rowland proposed the Polly Hill Propagation Award to honor a legendary horticulturist and founder of the Polly Hill Arboretum on Martha’s Vineyard.
* This award hopes to encourage members to grow plants from seeds and cuttings.
* Propagation workshops will be added to next year’s schedule.

**GCW Records & Files:**

* Sally asked that any members and past club presidents please check for any files or information pertaining to GCW. Many important documents have gone missing but it’s hoped they will be found in someone’s closet, basement, etc.
* If anyone has the GCW domain password, please contact Sally.

**June President’s Report:**

* Sally gave a recap of the May meeting and activities. It included the third annual Weed Wrangle with the Friends of Wilmington Parks, April Native Plant Month proclamation in DE, and a recap of the GCA Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio.
* While at the GCA Annual Meeting, Wendy Russell received the Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award! Our new GCA President is Marilyn Donahue.

**2022/23 Annual Meeting:**

**Election of Officers:**

* Nominating Chair Joanne Cushman introduced the following slate of officers for a vote. There was a unanimous approval of the slate:

President- Sally DeWees

First Vice President- Wendy Russell

Second Vice President- Meg Waldron

Treasurer- Libbie Fiechter

Assistant Treasurer- Cynthia Hewitt

Recording Secretary- Connie Wissing

Corresponding Secretary- Meg Waldron

**New Members:**

* Sally introduced the 2023/24 candidates for membership (and their proposers):
1. Carrie Wiles (Wendy Russell)
2. Kay Ellsworth (Sally DeWees)
3. Clair Van Eps (Libbie Fiechter)
4. Joan Esken (Mary Patterson)
5. Caroline Jenney (Anna Biggs)
6. Patti Miller (Elaine Scott)
7. Aletta Tate (Peggy Barton)
8. Emily Deitrick (Carroll Eaton & Betsy McCoy)
* All candidates were approved to become New Members of GCW. Welcome!

**President’s Year in Review Report:**

* Sally recapped the GCW year including meetings, visits to gardens, flower shows, photography shows, gardening projects, workshops, programs and the introduction of our new website gcwilmington.org.
* The Philadelphia Flower Show will be held during the first week in March so our GCW monthly meeting will be held on March 11, 2024.

**Committee Reports:**

* The following committee reports can be read in full (please see attached reports):

Treasurer – Libbie Fiechter

Community Projects/Civic Improvement – Anna Biggs

Conservation – Pam Biddle

Horticulture – Marion du Pont

Flower Shows – Barbara Cairns

Floral Design – Ann Ashley

Photography – Lucinda Laird

Garden History and Design – Woodley Habgood

Visiting Gardens – Nancy Reese

New Members – Connie Wissing (for Barbara Cooch)

Founders Fund – Peggy Barton

Program – Mary Patterson

Plant Sales – Leslie Porter

Judging – Lynn Carbonell

Scholarships – Judith Sruance

Garden History & Design – Linda Eirhart

Awards – Ann Rose *Please see complete attached listing of awards.*

**Floral Fancy Judging:**

* Our Celebrity Judges were Vik Krishnamurthy (Lead Judge), Chris Patterson and Richard Laird.
* The highlight of the Annual Meeting had arrived when our judges announced their decisions:

*Rare Pattern & The Proud Peacock Award* – Elise du Pont

*Steel (or Sweet) Magnolia Award* – Evie Scott

*Audrey Hepburn Roman Holiday Award* – Peggy Barton

*Guara or Whirling Butterfly Award* – Ann Rose

*Sputnik Award* – Grier Flinn

*Flowers by Yukie Award* – Libbie Fiechter

*King Charles III Necklace Award* – Aletta Tate

*Lost in the Jungle Award* – Dolly Fisher

*Hanging Gardens Award* – Ann Ashley

*Rock Garden Award* – Marion Silliman

*New Member, Duchess of Devonshire Award* – Joan Eskin

The meeting was adjourned.

Members and guests were treated to a delicious, beautifully served lunch. Table favors for each person was a Sorghastrum nutans ‘Golden Sunset’ plant, thoughtfully selected by Wendy Russell and Carrie Wiles.

Following lunch, members enjoyed exploring the surrounding gardens and delighted in interesting house tours with our hostess, Elise.

Respectively submitted,

Connie Wissing

Recording Secretary