



The Garden Club Of Wilmington

Garden Club of Wilmington

Meeting of the Membership

Monday, March 6, 2023
at the Delaware Center for Horticulture

Meeting Minutes

Present:

A. Ashley, L. Barton, P. Barton, Ann Biggs, Anna Biggs, G. Butters, B. Cairns, B. Cooch, J. Cushman, A. Day, S. DeWees, L. Dobbs, N. Draper, J. Dugan, E. du Pont, L. du Pont, M. du Pont, C. Eaton, L. Eirhart, E. Fiechter, G. Flinn, L. Giacco, M. Grant, E. Gregory, M. Griffenberg, K. Hackett, C. Hewitt, R. Hoopes, K. Kristol, L. Laird, K. Maroney, S. Parker, M. Patterson, E. Phillips, L. Porter, F. Pyle, N. Reese, C. Rice, B. Rowland, E. Scott, H. Scott, M. Silliman, Z. Simonds, J. Spruance, V. Sutton, M. Waldron

Sally DeWees, Club President, brought the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes: Joanne Cushman moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting; Louise Barton seconded the motion. All in favor, motion approved.

Conservation

Anna Biggs presented a new idea to reduce energy use with “dryer balls,” and had hand-made sets of six balls with custom embroidery as well as bottles of lavender oil to add scent to your laundry through the balls. Packages of six balls were for sale for \$28, \$5 for oil, all proceeds to GCW. Anna sold the kits at the meeting and taking orders for more delivery at the June meeting.

Founders Fund

Peggy Barton reminded members there are three projects across the country to receive Founders Funds, to be voted on by all GCA members. Descriptions of the projects can be found in the Winter issue of the GCA Bulletin or on the GCA website, see Civic Improvement Committee’s landing page under the 2023 Founders Fund Finalists resource category. Vote on the GCA website for one of the three projects:

- Cylburn Arboretum Friends Nature Education Center Garden, Baltimore, MD
- Butterfly and Bee Pollinator Meadow at Chickasaw Park in Honor of Muhammad Ali, Louisville, KY
- Sowing and Growing Evanston Grows: Urban Gardens and Community, Evanston, IL

Visiting Gardens

Nancy Reese announced a tour of Hagley Garden and Picnic Lunch, Tuesday, April 25th, time tbc. Led by Hagley’s director, gardens and horticulture, Paul Orpello, the tour will focus on the

vision to restore Louise Crowninshield's garden behind the house. An article in *Smithsonian Magazine* about the garden will be posted to the Club website. Registration will be online on the Club website.

A clipboard was passed asking for an "Expression of Interest" is two trips, possibly for 2024 and/or 2025, to Newport, RI and Santa Barbara, CA. Members are not bound to the trip, having a sense of the number of people interested helps us know the viability of planning the trips.

Photography Show

Lucinda Laird announced registration for the Photography Show on April 3rd at Winterthur opens today, March 6th. Description of classes can be found on the Club website. Members are to send an email to Lucinda indicating their intent to enter up to two of the four classes. The registration form, mounted photo and entry cards are due to Lucinda by March 24th.

There is a photography workshop with Kate Fahey of Four Counties Garden Club on March 23rd at Lucinda's home. The topic is "Editing Photographs with Your Iphone." To register, send \$25 to treasurer, Libby Fiechter. Maximum attendance is 15 people.

There will be a brief Photography Committee meeting following this general meeting.

Request from The Delaware Center for Horticulture

Sally DeWees introduced the request from DCH for GCW to support the planting of a new garden in conjunction with plans for major capital improvements to the DCH entrance for beautification, safety, efficiency of operations and partnerships with other organizations to use needed outdoor space. The request to GCW is a grant of \$25,000 toward a new garden to be named in memory of former GCW and GCA president, Gina Bissell.

Sally explained \$23,000 of the grant would be made with funds from the sale of Diana Wister's plant collection intended to encourage greenery in public spaces, with the \$2,000 balance from operating funds. The Executive Board has approved the idea. Approval of the membership is sought.

Eliza Phillips further described the project and need in the community for outdoor meeting spaces. Other funding from the State and work with DelDot for lighting, traffic calming, and signage. Eliza shared Ann Wick's appreciation for support of the project also supported by the Bissell family.

Vikram Krishnamurthy, Executive Director of DCH, explained the plans in more detail with projected drawings of the parking lot, road and front of DCH. Elements of the project include:

- Safety crossing: reorient cross walk with direct line to DCH entrance
- Add a hut at the bus stop
- Expand greenspace with recommendations from RHS Landscape Architects, Rodney Robertson's firm.

- Relocate trash and recycling across the street
- Relocate DCH garden vehicles to the end of the parking lot, rather than in view in the lower garden area at DCH.
- Beautification with a new garden at the entrance, in honor of Gina Bissell.
- Lighting and signage to improve guest experience
- New sidewalks are part of a project with DelDot
- Timeline is to break ground this Spring, Phase 1 before the end of the year.

Mary Patterson made a motion to approved allocating \$25,000 to DCH in support of their capital plans. Lucinda Laird seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

Guest Speaker: Jenny Rose Carey, “The Ultimate Flower Gardener’s Guide”

Marion du Pont introduced our guest speaker, Jenney Rose Carey, passionate British horticulturalist, educator and author who has been director of two public gardens in Pennsylvania: Meadowbrook Farm owned by PHS, and Temple University’s Ambler Arboretum following time as an adjunct professor of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture at Temple. She has been lecturing nationally and internationally for many years.

Jenney Rose’s home and garden, “Northview,” a 4 ½ acre laboratory for 26 years are a basis for her thesis on flower gardening in addition to studying great English gardens such as Great Dixter, Sissinghurst, Hidcote, Helmarsh Hall and Cofon Manor. Known for her book about shade gardening, she was often asked to write a similar book about flower gardening and used the pandemic to do so.

Key points of the thesis found in her book, with inspiring pictures:

- A. Her style of gardens are: Plant packed, Intermingled, Floriferous, Pollinator friendly, Native plant heavy, Succession of planting, Seasonal
- B. Start small – point repeated numerous times!
- C. Build a Flower Wish List! Know why you want to grow flowers and what season. Study the different textures and flower shapes.
- D. Study and select different plants from life cycle types: Cool season annuals, warm season annuals, biennials, perennials, hardy bulbs, tender flowering plants. Examples listed
- E. Design your beds using flower shapes: verticals, horizontals, spherical, hemispherical, amorphous & airy, weaver and mixer. Examples listed.

Jenny’s books were available for purchase and signing. Post-meeting: Handout from presentation will be posted on the Club website, Horticulture Committee page.

The meeting was adjourned following the lecture.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Cairns