

**Garden Club of Wilmington
Membership Meeting
February 3, 2020**

Location: Mt Cuba Center
Program: Invasive Plant Species
Presenter: Nate Shampine, National Land Manager, Mt Cuba
Hostesses: Conservation and Horticulture Committee

Marion du Pont, President called the meeting to order at 9:40 am.

Nominating Committee:

Marion explained the nominating process to the membership whereby the GCW Nominating Committee consisting of Betsy Scott, Barbara Cairns, and Beverly Rowland nominate members to fill the vacancies for the Executive Committee and 3 positions on the Membership Committee. However, the bylaws also state any member may propose names of potential candidates to the nominating committee for consideration by the committee if submitted by February 16, 2020.

Currently the open Executive positions are as follows:

- 1st Vice President
- Corresponding Secretary
- Recording Secretary
- Assistant Treasure

Lucinda Laird is working on filling all open Committee chair and vice chair positions. There are 44 active members and 52 positions to be filled for next year. The available positions are listed below. Please contact Lucinda if you have an interest in any of these positions.

- Program Vice Chair
- Plant Sale Vice Chair
- Visiting Gardens Co-Chair
- Visiting Gardens Vice Chair
- Garden History and Design vice chair

Philadelphia Flower Show:

Connie described the GCW's flower show exhibit which will be a 10x12 room portraying a flower shop celebrating a new floral designer. The members of the committee were introduced followed by a request for membership sign-up help in daily maintenance for the show.

Shirley Meneice

Lucinda announced the Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference will be held in Chicago this fall. The GCW has an opportunity to send 2 delegates, but can only be assured of one delegate until a later date. The conference will be held Sunday, September 13 – Wednesday, September 16, 2020. The conference fee can be compensated the GCW through the Tribute Fund, however the transportation and hotel costs will be the obligation of the attendee. Please contact Lucinda if you have an interest in attending the conference.

Annual Meeting:

Marion announced we will be deciding on a new date and new location for the June annual meeting.

Flower Show Committee:

Joanne reported we now have 4 new pedestals for the flower show

Also, Joanne shared the good news that our new member Mitzi Rohrbacher has graciously offered use of her barn, which has heating and air conditioning for workshops.

Tuesday, April 14th Wendy will lead us in a floral design workshop in preparation for the “Hand Tied Bouquet” class in the spring flower show to be held on May 4. A Woozin invite will be sent for signup for the workshop, which will last 3 hours, costing \$25.00.

Rodney Square Donation:

Marion asked if the membership had read the summary of GCW’s involvement in the Rodney Square project which was emailed to the members. She then explained how the Rodney Square restricted fund account is only used for maintenance and expenses related to the Square.

Ann Wick reviewed the Garden Club of Wilmington’s historical involvement in the Rodney Square project and how originally a large portion of the money was donated by Charlie Cawley through MBNA. Part of the donation was immediately used for the project, while the rest was put in the GCW Rodney Square restricted fund, which has grown over the years. Our annual contribution for the Square’s maintenance is paid from the fund.

Ann explained how we had in reserve \$50,000 for trees which were never planted and we would now use those funds for the new donation request from the Rodney Square Conservancy.

Marion read a letter from Barbie Regal, who was unable to attend the meeting, but wished to express support for the donation.

There was discussion concerning the bi-laws of the RS Conservancy as to whether it was written that GCW would always have a seat on their board. Ann thanked Patsy Bussard and Mimi Griffenberg for their diligence in annually inspecting Rodney Square. Ann also thanked Lucinda for her current involvement with the RS Conservancy.

A motion was made and seconded to donate \$50,000 to the Rodney Square Conservancy which was passed unanimously by the membership.

Program:

Nathan Champine, National Land Manager for Mt Cuba Center spoke with great knowledge and expertise about invasive and native plants of this area. Nate explained how the eco system influences both native and invasive plants and the advantages and disadvantages of different types of control of invasive plants.

On May 18th, Nate will be leading an invasive species field workshop at Mt Cuba. You may sign up through Woozin.

Marion du Pont adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patsy Walls
Recording Secretary