

GARDEN CLUB OF WILMINGTON
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
January 9, 2023

Location: Vicmead Hunt Club
Program: *"The Characteristics of Trees in Winter"*
Presenter: Dr. John Frett, GCW Advisory Committee
Hostesses: Horticulture Committee
Attending: D. Abbott; P. Barton; Anna Biggs; G. Butters; B. Cairns; J. Cushman; S. DeWees; N. Draper; B. Draper; J. Dugan; C. Eaton; L. Eirhart; T. Fiechter; D. Fisher; G. Flinn; L. Giacco; E. Gregory; M. Hayward; C. Hewitt; K. Kristol; K. Maroney; B. McCoy; M. Patterson; E. Phillips; E. duPont; F. Pyle; N. Reese; C. Rice; W. Richards; B. Rowland; W. Russell; H. Scott; A. Silliman; M. Silliman; Z. Simonds; M. Stabler; C. Taylor; S. Townsend; M. Waldron; C. Wissing; L. Carbonell; M. Davis; L. duPont; M. Griffinberg; L. Laird; J. Spruance; W. Habgood; L. Fiechter; R. Hoopes; B. Denham; L. Porter; and B. Cooch.

President Sally DeWees called the meeting to order at 11:04 am. The December minutes were amended to show that Mara Grant was in attendance. Lucinda Laird made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Meg Waldron seconded the motion. All approved.

President's Report: (Sally DeWees)

- Register for the virtual GCA Book Club Lecture "Gardens and the Longue Duree", presented by Laurie Olin, a renowned landscape architect and Practice Professor Emeritus of Landscape architecture at University of Pennsylvania. The lecture will be held on February 2, 4-5 pm EST via Zoom. For more information go to the GCA website.
- GCA Restoration Initiatives have provided disaster relief funding in Massachusetts and New Jersey. GCA has awarded seven grants of \$10,000 to Lenox Garden Club in Lenox, MA and to the Garden Club of Englewood in Englewood, NJ. The funds will be used to help restore areas devastated by natural disasters. Sally reminded the membership that this grant is available and perhaps could be considered to assist the Brandywine Conservancy, impacted by flooding from Hurricane Ida in 2021.
- Attendance at Member Meetings has become a very important issue. Sally reminded the membership that: 1.) GCW by-laws require active members to attend at least 7 monthly meetings. 2.) Please RSVP by the deadline for meetings and lunch. The Jot Form online system will send a confirmation. 3.) It is very important for Vicmead to have accurate numbers for attendance and, especially, for the lunch count. If there is a last-minute conflict and you are not able to stay for lunch, please contact Meg Waldron.

Flower Show/Philadelphia Flower Show:

- Flower Show Chairman Barbara Cairns reported that the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show is returning to the Philadelphia Convention Center March 4-12, 2023. Please contact Wendy Russell or PHS to learn more about volunteer opportunities (and free passes to the Show!).

- PHS has scheduled a series of live free workshops on January 14, 21 and 28 at their headquarter offices. The topics will cover “Artistic Classes for Floral Designers.” Wendy Russell will lead a workshop on Jan 28 entitled “Interpretative Design.” Please see the PHS website.
- Lynn Carbonell announced that PHS has added a new cut specimen class to the Philadelphia Flower Show and encouraged members to enter. Preregistration for Hort Classes is now open. For more information, go to the PHS website.

Floral Design:

- Barbara Cairns reported for Floral Design Chairman Ann Ashley. The GCA will host a virtual Floral Design Conference on February 28, 2023 and is open to all members. Registration is free and is on the GCA website.

Photography:

- Chairman Lucinda Laird announced the GCA Virtual Photography Conference is scheduled for January 26, 2023. It is free and open to all members. Please register on the GCA website.
- The GCW Photography Workshop “Editing Photographs with Your Phone” scheduled for February 16 has been moved to March 23, 2023. Please check your GCW Photography Committee’s landing page.
- The next GCW Photography Show will be held at the April Membership Meeting. Registration will open in March.

Judging Workshop:

- Lynn Carbonell announced GCA will conduct a virtual Judging Workshop on February 6-9. It will include Floral Design, Photography, Horticulture and Botanical Arts. All members are encouraged to attend all or a selected category to gain a better insight to exhibiting, passing, clerking and becoming a judge. GCW needs more judges! It is free and open to all members. Please register on the GCA website.

Conservation/NAL:

- Sally reported for Kate Hackett and Pam Biddle.
- There will be a free virtual National Affairs and Legislation Advocacy Workshop for all members on February 23. Then on March 12, Lynn Carbonell and Carol Taylor will represent GCW at the conference in Washington, DC . See the GCA website for more details.
- The GCA/Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Partnership is supporting threatened native birds and providing useful information for land-management practices. See the GCA website for more info.
- The Frances K. Hutchinson Medal was awarded to golfer Jack Nicklaus for his service to conservation practices in golf course design utilizing native plants and limiting the use of pesticides.

Visiting Gardens:

- Co-Chair Nancy Reese announced two garden trips scheduled for April. The Portland Garden Club in Oregon has organized a trip to view spring wildflowers in the spectacular Columbia River Gorge. The other trip will be to Houston to see *Florescence:Metamorphosis*, a major GCA flower show, and to visit other cultural highlights. See the GCA website for more information.
- Grier Flinn reported that GCA has planned another trip that will be announced in March. Travel to Virginia to see the amazing gardens of Bunny Mellon! Stay tuned...

Membership:

- Co-chairs Laura duPont and Eleanor Gregory reminded everyone that nominations for membership must be sent to them before February 14th. Applications and seconding letters must be received by that time.

Other Announcements:

- Beverly Rowland reminded there are limited spaces left for the Andalusia Garden Symposium on May 4. It will include noted horticultural speakers and an opportunity to view this important historic house, gardens and arboretum. Contact Beverly for more information.
- Sally reminded all chairs and co-chairs that the GCW by-laws require that all committees must meet at least two times per year. Meetings may be virtual.

Sally adjourned the membership business meeting at 11:30. The program "*The Characteristics of Trees in Winter*" began.

Program:

- Lynn Carbonell introduced the guest speaker Dr. John Frett, a GCW Advisory Board Member, who recently retired from the University of Delaware as Director of Botanic Gardens. Dr. Frett delivered an informative presentation about tree identification during the winter months when no leaves remain visible.
- A special recognition goes our Hostesses who were the creators of the lunch table centerpieces. The centerpieces reflected Dr. Frett's presentation...mystery tree branches displayed some winter species characteristics for all to study and to identify!

The next Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, February 6 at 11:00 at Vicmead.

Respectively submitted,
Connie Wissing
Recording Secretary