

**GARDEN CLUB OF WILMINGTON
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MAY 1, 2023**

Location: Vicmead Hunt Club
Program: Business Meeting & Spring Flower Show
Presenter: Sharon Loving, Longwood Gardens
Hostesses: 2022/23 New Members
Attending: A. Ashley; L. Barton; P. Barton; P. Biddle; Ann Biggs; Anna Biggs; A. Bray; G. Butters; B. Cairns; L. Carbonell; B. Cooch; J. Cushman; M. Davis; A. Day; S. DeWees; E. duPont; L. duPont; C. Eaton; L. Eirhart; C. Farris; E. Fiechter; D. Fisher; N. Frederick; L. Giacco; M. Grant; M. Griffinberg; M. Hayward; C. Hewitt; K. Kristol; M. Laird; E. Maroney; S. Parker; L. Porter; N. Reese; W. Richards; P. Roe; A. Rose; L. Roselle; B. Rowland; Evie Scott; B. Scott; Elaine Scott; H. Scott; M. Silliman; Z. Simonds; P. Stabler; C. Taylor; M. Waldron; A. Wick; C. Wissing; B. McCoy; M. Patterson; F. Pyle; L. Dobbs; b. Denham; and R. Hoopes.

President Sally DeWees called the meeting to order at 11:04 am.

Program:

Presenter: Sharon Loving, Longwood Gardens:

Sally introduced Sharon Loving, Vice President, Horticulture at Longwood Gardens. Sharon provided a status report on Longwood's new renovation that entails five projects rolled into one master plan for the 17acre facility. Sharon's comprehensive presentation highlighted the impressive multi-faceted undertaking that includes scientific goals, restoration, biodiversity, horticulture, cultural features, and fine dining! Members are encouraged to view the Longwood Garden website "A Major *Reimagined* Moment" for the latest up-to-date photos and information.

Business Meeting:

Minutes from the March meeting were approved. There were no minutes taken at our April joint meeting with the Wissahickon Garden Club. However, there is a summary of the floral design presentation by T J McGrath. The summary can be found online on the GCW website.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer Libbie Fiechter presented the updated 2022/23 Budget with forecasted actual expenditures. (*See attached budget.*) The budget reflects our new fiscal year 7/1/23 to 6/30/24. Income is projected to be \$70,588 and expenses are projected to be \$81,510. Net Income is projected to be -\$10,922.
- Future revenue sources from Plant Sales, Workshops and Visiting Gardens. Projected expenses include the removal of the annual grant to the Polly Hill Arboretum, thereby, adhering to the GCW Financial Giving Guidelines.

- The Executive Committee had passed the revised budget. Libbie made a motion to the members to accept the revised budget. Betty Denham seconded the motion. All members approved.
- Annual member dues are due on July 1, 2023. Dues may be paid at the Annual June Meeting. Libbie will deposit dues payments on July 1st. This is in accordance with our new fiscal year.
- In response to a question about the need for a bookkeeper, an accountant and software program, Libbie explained the necessity for their services until we are operational within the new fiscal year.
- Libbie announced that GCW the Fidelity Investment account has about a \$268,000 balance. This is an investment account and will grow to provide income for our donations.
- Libbie reported that a Long Range Planning Committee will be formed to help survey our members to determine the club's mission and goals. This will give direction to our giving criteria. The target date for completing the survey is Sep/Oct.

Rodney Square Commission:

- Sally reported for Lucinda Laird. The Rodney Square Commission (formerly Rodney Square Conservancy) has changed their direction from fundraising to an ongoing maintenance organization.
- They would like to have a GCW representative on their Commission. Anyone who has any questions about his opportunity is asked to call Lucinda.

Finance Committee:

- Chair Ashlin Bray announced members of the Finance Committee: Judith Spruance; Elaine Scott; Ann Wick; President (Sally DeWees); 1st Vice President (Wendy Russell); and Treasurer (Elizabeth Fiechter).
- This committee has been charged with the responsibility of creating guidelines to support the Officers and Treasurer. The guidelines (*see attached Guidelines*) were distributed to all members. This document will help when determining recipients of donations, organizations requesting memberships/donations, etc. The guidelines were adopted by the Executive Committee.
- Ashlin requested a vote from the membership to adopt the Guidelines. A motion was made by Ann Wick. The motion was seconded by Libbie Fiechter. The members approved to adopt the Guidelines.
- Ashlin thanked Judith Spruance for drafting the Guidelines.

New 2023/24 Members:

- Sally announced that we have 8 New Members who will be introduced at the June Annual Meeting. They include: Kay Ellsworth; Caroline Jenney; Alletta Laird Tate; Joan Isken; Patti Miller; Carrie Wiles; Clair Van Epps; and Emily Deitrik.
- She asked their Proposers to accompany the members to the meeting and to prepare them a "Floral Fancy."

President's Report:

- Sally reported that she attended the Zone V Meeting.
- The agenda included club logistics, Native Plant nurseries in Zone V, and GCW Spring projects including Anna Biggs' environmentally friendly, embroidered dryer balls (an instant hit!).

NAL Report:

- Lynn Carbonell and Carol Taylor reported on their trip to the GCA National Affairs & Legislation Conference in Washington, DC, March 12-15. Carol and Lynn thanked GCW for sending them as GCW's delegates.
- They had a full schedule of meetings with legislators and attending sessions reporting on climate, environmental and sustainability initiatives and government processes. There were valuable exchanges with other GCA clubs. *Please see Carol Taylor's attached NAL report.*

Conservation:

- Pam Biddle announced the Weed Wrangle event at DCH scheduled for Saturday, May 6th, 9-11am. Meet at the Gilpin Street and N. Clayton entrance to the park. Anna Biggs will be the "point person" as Pam is unable to be there. Many of our New Members will participate in this important community project.
- Pam asked everyone to adopt the environmental movement "No Mow May." Help save our pollinators!

Founders' Fund:

- Peggy Barton reported that GCW voted to fund the Evanston, IL project. The project funds Urban Gardens in Evanston with the goal to help reduce food insecurity. All votes must be delivered to GCA by October 1st.
- Peggy made a request to increase the Founders' Fund budget to \$125.

Garden History and Design:

Woodley Habgood reported that there will be a virtual meeting on November 16th, 11:00 – 4:00.

Plant Sales:

- Leslie Porter announced that there will be a Plant Sale at the June meeting. The sale will include our members' plants...always a popular sale.
- If you would like to contribute some plants, please make certain that your plants are labeled with botanical and common names and with your name. Any questions, please call Leslie.

Membership Attendance:

- Barbara Cooch asked that everyone sign the attendance log.
- She announced that our New Members created the lovely centerpieces that adorned the luncheon tables. Thank you, New Members!

Spring Flower Show - “Hooray, Hooray, The First Day of May”:

- Flower Show Chair Barbara Cairns thanked our wonderful panel of judges, and our exhibitors. Members who helped with passing, clerking, entering and doing whatever was needed include: Pinkie Roe; Marion Silliman; Carroll Eaton; Peggy Barton; Beverly Rowland; Dolly Fisher; Kathy Kristol; Linda Eirhart; Lynn Carbonell and Ann Ashley. *Please see attached Flower Show Report for judges’ names and more information.*
- Congratulations to all our Floral Design and Horticulture winners! Best of Show in Floral Design goes to Mara Grant and Best of Show in Horticulture goes to Kathy Kristol. Novice Best of Show winners are Carol Taylor for Floral Design and Linda Eirhart for Horticulture. Thank you for all entrees...it was a beautiful show! *Please see attached Spring 2023 Flower Show Results for a complete list of awards.*

Andalusia Garden Symposium:

Sally confirmed the Andalusia Garden Symposium is scheduled for Thursday, May 4th at 9 am. Please let her know if anyone would like to carpool.

The Annual Meeting on Monday, June 5th will be held at “Patterns”, the home of Elise duPont. The meeting will begin at 11 am but come early & bring your checkbook for the special Plant Sale. Don’t forget to wear your best “Floral Fancy”! Please let Sally know if you need special parking accommodations.

Respectively submitted,
Connie Wissing
Recording Secretary