

**GARDEN CLUB OF WILMINGTON  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023**

**Location:** Vicmead Hunt Club

**Program:** "Using Dried Flowers for Holiday Arrangements"

**Presenter:** Heidi Militana, Longwood Gardens

**Hostesses:** Plant Sale Committee

**Attending:** D. Abbott; A. Ashley; P. Barton; L. Barton; P. Biddle; Anna Biggs; G. Butters; B. Cairns; L. Carbonell; M. Davis; A. Day; E. Deitrick; S. DeWees; L. Dobbs; N. Draper; B. Draper; M. duPont; J. Dugan; C. Eaton; K. Ellsworth; C. Farris; T. Fiechter; E. Fiechter; D. Fisher; G. Flint; L. Giacco; M. Grant; E. Gregory; M. Griffinberg; C. Hewitt; J. Isken; C. Jenney; K. Kristol; L. Laird; W. Russell; K. Maroney; E. Maroney; W. Maroney; B. McCoy; p. Miller; I. Morehead; S. Parker; E. Phillips; L. Porter; F. Pyle; N. Reese; C. Rice; W. Richards; P. Roe A. Rose; L. Roselle; B. Rowland; H. Scott; E. Scott; E. Scott; B. Scott; A. Silliman; Z. Simonds; J. Spruance; P. Stabler; V. Sutton; L. Swartz; A. Tate; C. Taylor; S. Townsend; C. van Eps; M. Waldron; A. Wick; C. Wissing.

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

Peggy Barton made a motion to accept the November Membership Meeting minutes. Ann Rose seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by the members. *Please note: Kay Ellsworth was present at the Nov meeting.*

**Program: "Using Dried Flowers for Holiday Arrangements":**

Barbara Cairns introduced our guest presenter Heidi Militana of Winterthur Museum and Gardens. Heidi is responsible for creating special floral exhibits at Winterthur. She designs and builds the many Christmas decorations, including the amazing dried flower Christmas tree. Heidi's creative talents are reflected in the special Ann Lowe Fashion Exhibition. She shared some of her secrets for successfully drying flowers and plants using silica. In addition, she demonstrated three dimensional art using dried materials.

While the business meeting proceeded, Heidi and her glue gun were busy creating a decorative, 3-D picture on a frame. The finished piece of art was later auctioned off at lunch with the proceeds being donated to GCW. Thank you, Heidi!

**Business Meeting:**

Sally called upon the following committees to give reports:

**Treasurer:**

- Libbie Fiechter reminded people to send checks or reimbursement requests to the GCW Treasurer, Post Office Box 3855, Greenville, DE 19807. Please DO NOT send checks, etc. to her personal mail address.

**Conservation:**

- Katherine Maroney announced the dates Mar 17 - 20, 2024 for the NAL conference. GCW sends 2 members to the conference in Washington, DC. No experience is necessary. Please contact Katherine for more information about this unique opportunity.

- Katherine shared ideas for the disposal of old Christmas trees. The list includes outdoor bird protection, feeding goats and donate to DCH to make chips for their walking paths.

#### **Membership:**

- Co-Chair Eleanor Gregory requested names for new member nominations. They are due by mid-February.

#### **Flower Show:**

- Lynn Carbonell announced a Zone V Flower Show in September 2024 at the Philadelphia Country Club. All 14 Zone V clubs are invited to enter. Each club is *required* to enter a horticultural specimen. The specimen can be either cactus, succulent or a foliage plant. An 8" pot must be used. Plant ownership must 6 months for cactus/succulents and one year for foliage plants.
- There will be a Show & Tell Show at our May meeting; bring your plant that could be a Zone V Show entry!
- Volunteers are needed for the Philadelphia Flower Show that will be held March 2-10, 2024 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Volunteering provides a wonderful opportunity to see and experience this international event. Please contact Lynn for more information.

#### **Visiting Gardens:**

- Chair Nancy Reese reported that GCA has opened registration for 3 trips:
  - (1) Oahu on Feb 11-17, 2024; registration is open.
  - (2) Palladian Villas, Italy on May 19-29, 2024; registration is full but wait list is open.
  - (3) Ashville, NC on Jul 14-19, 2024; registration will open soon.
- GCW members voted to visit Newport, RI, June 18-21, 2024. The cost has not yet been determined. Please call Nancy or check the GCW Visiting Gardens landing page for more information.

#### **Plant Sale:**

- Chair Leslie Porter invited everyone to check the Plant Sale table for a variety of holiday decorations...from the elegance of amaryllis to the humor of the Christmas Gnome!
- Lunch centerpieces are for sale.

#### **Program:**

- Vice Chair Lucinda Laird asked for 2-3 people to become audio/visual assistants to the Program Committee. These assistants will help guest program presenters during our meetings. Please contact Lucinda.

#### **Philadelphia Flower Show:**

- Chair Carol Taylor announced the PHS Saturday workshops in Jan. The workshops are packed with information. These FREE workshops are held at their Philadelphia location that has FREE parking. Please visit the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society website to see the variety of subjects and to register.

#### **Floral Design:**

- Chair Barbara Cairns reported that the Floral Design survey had a very good response at our last meeting. The responses resulted in at the following workshops:
  1. "Watch Party" for the GCA Annual Floral Design Conference on Feb 6.
  2. "Basic Mechanics of Design" workshop on Feb 8 led by Betsy Scott.

3. "Natural Table Arrangements" workshop in April led by Connie Wissing and Carroll Eaton.

- Longwood Gardens is opening their 2024 class schedule in January.
- Barbara urged members to become a clerk at the PFS and learn how the judges "judge."
- Stay tuned for the 2nd Annual Garden Symposium scheduled to take place at Andalusia on May 3, 2024, 9am-4pm.
- Barbara donned a Santa's Elf Hat to provide our members with a Floral Design Christmas Gift Wish List, a valuable tool to help Santa and our "significant others" to make good gift buying decisions. Well done!!

**Garden History & Design:**

- Betsy McCoy reminded members that there are over 3 hours of viewing enjoyment available from GCA's first Garden Design & History Conference held on Nov 16. You can watch these exceptionable speakers at your leisure, pick and choose topics or watch in its entirety. Visit the GCA website, select Garden Design & History and begin viewing! **Community Projects:**
- Chair Anna Biggs thanked everyone for the table side holiday arrangements. The Kentmere Nursing Home residents will be very pleased and thankful.
- Anna expressed appreciation to Caroline Jennings for creating the "wee vases" that we used to create the table side arrangements. Thank you, Caroline!

Sally adjourned the meeting at 12:05pm. Members enjoyed a festive Vicmead lunch and the auction of Heidi's 3-D artwork. An added highlight was singing Happy Birthday to Ginny Butters!

**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT DELAWARE CENTER FOR HORTICULTURE, MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024. PLEASE RSVP NOW!**

Respectively submitted,  
Connie Wissing  
GCW Recording Secretar