



## **Zoom Meeting September 10, 2021**

**Call to Order and Welcome:** President Alva Hutchison

**Celebrations and Introduction of New Members and Guests:** Karen Plis

Happy Birthday to Carol Bishop. September 30!

Membership stands at 46 active members and 7 associates.

Guests on this Zoom call are Linda Kall, Kathleen Leone, and Cindy Ream. It is the first meeting for all three. We welcome them. The mentoring procedure will be sent to all three.

**Minutes:** Ellen Dowling, Recording Secretary. There were no additions or corrections. Minutes will be filed on web site.

**Program:** Bonsai – Jim DeBastiani

Jim focused on the basics of bonsai; tools; finding a tree; trimming and styling; and soil. Jim is self-taught in the art of bonsai through reading and research. Jim is also a member of the Brandywine Bonsai Society which is an invaluable resource.

You may wish to join Jim, and several other GBTS members, at the Bonsai Club Meeting held the first Wednesday of the month at Inland Bays Garden Center (38320 Muddy Neck Road, Frankford); 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Jim mentioned a good starter book for Bonsai is 101 Essential Tips by Harry Thomlinson. This is available on Amazon for \$5.95.

## **Report of Officers**

**President Report:** Alva Hutchison

**Be like a tree.  
Stay grounded.  
Connect with your roots.  
Turn over a new leaf.  
Bend before you break.  
Enjoy your unique natural beauty.  
Keep growing.** Joanne Raptis

This quote expresses both a testimony of our past year and an inspiration for Gardeners by the Sea for the coming year. We stay true to our Mission, connected by the roots of our National

Garden Club, Central Atlantic Region and State organizations. It is and was a time for change and flexibility in order not to lose what is vital to our organization. We flourish in our uniqueness and the many of gifts and talents of our active members...and we MUST KEEP GROWING.

Thank you to Lee Blackwood and Laura Martin for the wonderful job with our Yearbook. The information has been sent out to members through email. You can print copies or have Karen Plis print for you for a fee. (See below)

We still have the flower show listed as an event for 2022. We will be sending out an email survey soon asking members for commitment. The results will be shared with the Board and the membership prior to our October meeting. There are many needs to have a successful Flower Show and we need to ensure the club members are still willing to support, work and participate.

**Vice President:** Maryanne Green

We have other October activities that will be discussed at our October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. However, I just wanted to give everyone a heads up that East Coast Garden Center Customer Appreciation (20% off everything) is scheduled from October 11-17. A one-time coupon will be issued prior to October 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Brandywine Garden Club's Flower Show is September 16, from 1-4 p.m. Location is First Unitarian Church 730 Halstead Road, Wilmington, DE 19803. All must wear masks and be vaccinated to attend.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Laura Martin

Nothing to report.

**Treasurer:** Carolyn Clipp

**Gardeners by the Sea September 2021**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Reflecting Activity Through September 10, 2021**

**Starting Balance**                      **\$10,411.70**

**Income**

**Dues**

Regular	490.00
Associate	180.00
Donations	80.00
Garden Party Fundraiser	1,622.00
Awards	570.00

**Expenses**

DFGC Dues	160.00
Administrative Expenses	115.99
Horticultural Challenge	59.92
Tree-mendous	100.00
Youth Program	41.75

**Ending Balance**                      **\$12,876.04**

\*\*\*Book-signing Fundraiser Receipts to date: \$1360.00\*\*

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Committee Report for Book Signing Event**

Our first Fundraiser this year is a Book Signing Event at the home of David and Kathy Green on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Local authors, Gregg Tepper and Ruth Clausen will offer their newly released book, "Deer Resistant Native Plants for the Northeast" for \$19.95!

Our current reservations are low with only 30 attendees. Tickets cost \$50 with all proceeds going towards the GBTS Scholarship Program and the many community programs we support annually. Purchase your tickets now by calling Carolyn Clipp, or Brenda Wimperis ! Your support is important to our club's success!

We also have three (3) Raffle Opportunities being offered at the Book Signing. Gregg has offered (2) one-hour personal consultation with Gregg at your home ~ a \$150.00 value each. Each offer is good thru August 2022. The third raffle item is a signed copy of Ruth's book, "Essential Perennials", which covers 2,700 different perennial plants for the home garden. Tickets cost \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00. You do not need to be present to purchase or win the raffle items! Call Brenda Wimperis for details and purchase!

Of course, we will be selling raffle tickets at the event. All book sales and raffle ticket sales are cash or check on the 18!

Ria Carraro, Karen Plis. Anne McKinney with Laura Martin as Chair are on the Food Committee, and they have planned a menu of gourmet hors d'oeuvres. Kathy and David Green are donating white wine and water.

This is an outside event with a rain date of September 19<sup>th</sup>. We all have worked very hard to assure this is a lovely, Covid safe event!

Having said all that, we need a couple more club members to help volunteer with the evening. We need a second "stair docent" on the patio and then someone to assist Gregg and Ruth with their book signings. If you can come and help that evening, please contact Brenda Wimperis. Come join the fun and help support your garden club with this fundraising event!

Brenda Wimperis, Committee Chair

### **Awards: Donna Gray**

Congratulations to all for a clean sweep this year with awards! We had 1<sup>st</sup> in all the following areas: Yearbook, Civic Achievement, Website, Roadside Improvement, Special award for Habitat and for our Hospice Tree, Presidents Standard Excellence Award was also first. The total of the awards was \$570!

Please take pictures of your events and send them to me with a write up of the event so that I can determine if the activity may be eligible for an award next year.

The DE Federation Garden Club has \$100 grants available for projects to grow in our community. Examples of how to grow membership are printing brochures, renting table at local events with information for community, seed packets with a business card for our club as

handouts. These activities are just a few examples. Please contact Donna for more information and ideas.

**OVHS:** Martha Gallagher

The gardens are doing okay we may need some new plants for those that did not survive. Donna suggested this may be a possible grant so please follow up with her.

**Coastal Cleanup:** Connie Ryan

Connie received no volunteers from the GBTS, but her neighbor and friend have agreed to help Connie with the clean up of Bethany Beach. There is an app that records all that is bagged, and Connie will handle this.

**Hospice Tree:** Judy Stuhl

Our theme is **Woodlands (Grace or Peace or Beauty?)** ~ a beautiful “snowy”, peaceful tree filled with lots of natural elements and woodland creatures ~ a perfect ode to a garden club! We found a wonderful quote to inspire us.

***Families are like branches on a tree. We grow in different directions, yet our roots remain the same.***

Hospice Tree Workshops will be held in the basement at Brenda Wimperis’ house. With seventeen club members on the committee, we need to divide the group into segments so that we can work comfortably and safely! Anyone attending the workshops needs to be fully vaccinated!

Any questions please contact Judy or Brenda.

**Hospitality:** Sallie Melvin

We have filled members for our lunches at our in-person meetings. I will send out two weeks prior a reminder for the coordinators with their list for that meeting. The coordinator will contact the members and let them know what is needed. The coordinator needs to be there early for set up and stay after to ensure all is cleaned up. We hope to meet in person soon!

**Membership:** Karen Plis

Karen introduced the potential new members on the call (see above) and mentioned the mentoring program. This can be found in our website and Karen will also send a copy to potential new members.

The Yearbook has been updated. Once the yearbooks are finalized, I will find out a cost for printing. If it is around the \$10-12 range I spoke of, I will have them printed for those who requested one. It was explained that as our guests become members, they would receive a copy in a binder, free of charge.

Members that have requested one are Donna Gray, Barbara Ware, Marilyn Adams, Lisa Arni, Maureen Siegert, Ria Carraro, Bea Nelson, Ellen Dowling and Judy Stuhl. If there are others who would like a copy, please email [karenplis@gmail.com](mailto:karenplis@gmail.com).

**Ways and Means:** Ria Cararro

We will be having a dine and donate at Northeast Seafood in Ocean View on October 14 from 4:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. It is lobster night so come out and bring family and friends. 10% of all sold will be given to our club. I have tried to reach Fins several times with no success. If any members have contacts for other potential dine and donate please let Ria know.

**Yearbook:** Lee Blackwood/Laura Martin

Lee did most of the changes/updates on the yearbook but Laura proofread many times all the changes. The files have been sent out. Kudos to the team! It looks great. The cover photo was chosen by Lisa Arni, (a photo from Ken Arni), thank you.

**Youth:** Pat Drizd

Lord Baltimore school is still undecided as to having volunteers in the school for 2021-2022. If we need to do kits as we did last year we will do so. Pat will contact her committee members when she knows more. Pat is having a knee replacement October 20 so will need help from team in the fall.

**Horticulture Moment:** Pat Drizd

Pat has shared a handout for Garden Ferns. It shows various kinds and what they need to grow successfully in your garden. The legend for this handout should read: M = moist, M-WD = moist well drained, M-PD = moist poorly drained, H = herbaceous, S = semi evergreen. Pat's favorite fern is the Japanese beech fern. It is hardy even in winter. Deer are not interested in ferns! Ferns spread through spores and do well in wooded areas. You can dig up and plant usually in early spring.

**Preparing for the December Horticulture Moment!** This will be "Gifts from the Garden". We are asking members to bring seeds from your garden to share with others at our December meeting. Gathering and preparing seeds to share takes some thought. A visit to the website below will provide excellent instructions.

<https://www.gardenclub.org/blog/saving-seeds-garden>

Once you have collected and dried your seeds place them in small envelopes, label them with the plant's name, and then put them in an air tight container (a mason jar works well). Bring your seed to the December Meeting!

**Announcements:**

Karen thanked potential members and reminded all our meetings are always the second Friday of each month.

Next month our speaker will be discussing African Violets.

Please sell raffle tickets. You need not be present to win, and we have many great prizes. Its not too late to join us on the 18<sup>th</sup>! Let your friends and neighbors also know of this fund raiser.

**Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Dowling