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GBTS Zoom Meeting

Jan. 14, 2022

Call to Order and Welcome: President Alva Hutchison

Alva thanked the members for their outpouring of care during her husband’s illness and death.

She also welcomed the time to browse plant and seed catalogues to plan your garden.

Welcome: Karen Plis, Membership

Peggie Ravida Jan 2, Linda Kall -5th Pat Drizd 21st and Pat Milstead 24th

New member Lonie Sculley joined this week. Marybeth Besosa is a guest, and this is her second meeting.

Minutes: Ellen Dowling

No minutes for December. It was the Christmas luncheon at Victoria’s. Alva will put something together so we can file the minutes.

Report of Officers

**President Alva Hutchison**

Today’s meeting is a unique opportunity for all of us to hear about the work and projects of our Club…through reports from the various committees.

The purpose of our Club is stated in our By-laws and on the front page of our website.

*ARTICLE II - (OBJECTIVES) The objectives of this club shall be:*

*• To encourage interest and knowledge of all phases of home gardening and flower arranging.*

*• To promote civic beauty.*

*• To affiliate with the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and the National Garden Clubs, Inc.*

*• To aid in the protection and conservation of natural resources.*

We face an ongoing Challenge: As much as we have “wished and hoped” to return to a normalcy…it is apparent that the new NORMAL may be different for a bit longer as this virus continues to re-invent itself, continuing to cause anxiety, limitations, illness and death.

* Please become very familiar with our website, especially the Members area where you can find past minutes, a current membership list, our pictorial directory which helps us to put a face with a name.

The Website is just one more way to stay connected.

* The passcode for the Members only section is easy to remember using Bethany Beach zip code: No space all one word. gbts19930
  + President’s motto is *Members matter most* – The key to success is active members! Active members who do – who support one another – who engage.
  + Challenge each member to join us to re-think the do – what we can do to support our mission – how can we do it! Think outside of the box.
  + Your Board will soon be seeking input for the budget for the next year…so this is the time to look ahead and anticipate both how we will fund our budget and what programs & projects we will do.

One of the joys of being a member of a Federated Garden Club, is the connection with our state and national organizations. Lisa Arni started a project when she was the president of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs. It is one our Club is proud to actively support. Members may choose to support by placing a donation in a box which is passed around each meeting.

DFGC TREE-mendous Tree Project: Lisa Arni

This project began with the initiation of the DE Botanical Gardens. The idea was to add flowering trees to the Woodland area. $100 per tree is for the actual planting. There are greater than 190 trees now. Going forward they will look at other areas for trees to be planted. This State project will continue. A certificate will be provided in honor of or in memory of a loved one, friend, garden club, etc.  Also, there is a donors' listing of all who have contributed on the DFGC website, delawaregardenclubs.org.  This project won a special award from National Garden Clubs as an outstanding project.   Also, there is a donors' listing of all who have contributed on the DFGC website, delawaregardenclubs.org.  This project won a special award from National Garden Clubs as an outstanding project.

The form if you wish to support this project will be added to the minutes and available on the website.

**Vice President: Maryanne Green**

* Programs are subject to change due to content when we switch from in-person to virtual meetings. We appreciate everyone’s flexibility, in particular Pat Wood, our Committee Chairs and Founder, in continuing to make our meetings informative and interesting on short notice.
* The same holds true for February’s Paper Roses Program. If we meet in person, please bring non-toxic glue and scissors for a hands-on Program led by Lisa Arni. If we cannot meet in person, Lisa will switch her “Happy Orchids” Program scheduled for April with the February’s Paper Roses Program. We will keep you apprised of which Program will be presented next month.

**Corresponding Secretary: Laura Martin**

Just a reminder that Laura’s role is to send out communications. These are not her own and there is a reference to the individual to contact for more information. Laura can reach out for you but it is better facilitated for you to contact the individual yourself.

**Treasurer: Carolyn Clipp**

**Starting Balance $14713.23**

Expense:

Hospitality 45.26

Community Projects 214.09

Membership 117.27

Youth Program 41.90

President’s DFGC Luncheon 30.00

Postage 11.60

DFGC Dues 12 members 120.00

Programs 16 poinsettias 124.00

Total Expenses ($704.12)

Income:

Membership Dues 10 regular 350.00

DFGC President’s Award 100.00

Donation friend of GBTS 20.00

Total Income $470.00

**Ending Balance $14,479.11**

**Program: Committee Reports:**

**Awards: Donna Gray**

Those new the club, we have an opportunity to win monetary awards for various activities thru Fed Garden Club. If you are committee chairs and have an event and are not sure if your activities qualifies, please run it by me and I can guide you accordingly.  
We have done well in the past on the following categories:

Yearbook Roadside Improvement  
Website  
Civic Achievement LBE School Cleanup Public Education  
Habitat for Humanity Hospice Tree  
Civic Achievement Brandywine Wreaths Presidents Award

**Community Projects: Maureen Eisenhart**

**Purpose:** We identify major gardening projects that we can design and maintain for the community. All of the projects started with Community Projects committee except Habitat of Humanities and Garden Therapy which were endorsed by NGC: These include but not limited to, Lord Baltimore School, Blue Star Memorial Marker, John West Park, and Ocean View Historical Society.

**New Project**:

Millville’s Evans Park - We are just starting to design our proposal which must be approved by our Garden club and the Town of Millville. We have talked with Eric from the Town of Millville and he is excited to have us participate. There is irrigation at this site.

**Garden Therapy: Margaret Woda**

We work with Seniors on gardens and social projects. Right now we may have restrictions on in person involvement. Would love suggestions for ideas without going on site. Please contact Margaret.

**Habitat for Humanity: Eileen Quigley**

When homes are completed by Habitat, there is a dedication ceremony for the owner. We usually provide a pot with plantings for porch, or wreath for door and perhaps an indoor plant. They are very grateful for our involvement. Please contact me if you are interested in participating.

**Historian/ Facebook Administrator: Maggie Baker**

The photos from our Christmas luncheon have been posted. You can send pictures through email to Maggie whether from your personal gardens or other garden tidbits that may be of interest to our members. The role of Historian would include activities by our garden club that can show our involvement and interests to others. Remember to share with Maggie.

**Horticulture: Pat Drizd**

The horticulture moment at each of our meetings would be a brief (5min) presentation of a plant, garden tips, challenges to the club members (e.g., photo display, plant challenge etc.), or arrangements to name a few. If you want to participate, please contact Pat.

**Hospice Tree: Judy Stuhl and Brenda Wimperis**

This project is a November fund raiser for the hospice organization where they auction off trees that have been decorated by others to organizations, business, or individuals. We usually have 14-15 members and we make the ornaments each year for our tree. The theme is decided by the chair and we make them at Brenda’s home. Covid has been a challenging but we have worked through it.

**Hospitality: Sallie Melvin**

We are responsible for providing refreshments for our monthly meetings.  Each committee member serves as the coordinator for one of the monthly luncheons.  He/she works with 5 GBTS member hosts/hostesses to prepare the menu, provide a floral arrangement for the food table, set up the food and beverages and clean up after the meeting.  The committee chair is responsible for managing the supply of paper products, cutlery and beverages that is funded by the club and for maintaining the host/hostess sign-up sheets.

**Lord Baltimore Gardens: Thea Chandross**

Members team together in the Fall and Spring of each year to maintain a section of the gardens at the school. Lord Baltimore Garden Cleanup will occur sometime in May or early June weather permitting.

Also, the important question to be discussed at the June meeting will be -- “Will GBTS participate in September’s Beach Cleanup?” This event is open to all interested Members that are willing to collect debris on community grounds such as at the beach, a schoolyard, roadside, etc.

**Membership: Karen Plis**

We welcome new members and our maximum members per our bylaws is 55. We currently have 5 on a waitlist. We will review the number of members in the spring after potential turnover. The Board will decide if we will increase our membership at that time. I urge everyone to go on the website and look at the Membership list for any errors. Information is always changing, and typos happen easily. As of right now the list is up to date, even with the newest members.

Enlists new members through various ways…Facebook, the website, events, friends, publicity, and advertising. Print, assemble, and distribute new yearbooks, and name tags to new members.

Each in-person meeting, a member is assigned to the welcome/ sign-in table.  Hosts a yearly tea for new members. Attendance and Committees are monitored to ensure requirements are met for each.  A telephone tree is maintained for sending out urgent messages.  Each member is a mentor to 1 or 2 new members, to serve as a resource person. They welcome them by explaining details about our club, exchanging interests and gardening experiences.

**Publicity: Mary Williford**

As stated in the yearbook, the GBTS Publicity Committeeis responsible for internal and external communication that promotes GBTS news and events by writing and distributing press releases, creating, and distributing fliers in a timely manner, and submitting an article quarterly for the DFGC Newsletter. Our involvement from the initial undertaking of any event or flower show enables the Publicity Committee to be aware and prepared for the event.

**Scholarships: Lisa Arni**

Each year we look for a good student in need from Del Tech. We work with Del Tech to determine these individuals. Several who have received our scholarships have done well after graduating. It is very rewarding. Our ways and means raises the funds that we use for this worthwhile endeavor.

**Ways and Means: Ria Carraro (new chair Ann Bendersky)**

We raise funds for our programs you have heard about today. This includes Scholarships, materials for Hospice tree, garden therapy, Lord Baltimore Gardens and many others. This has been done by Dine and Donates, Wine and Cheese party, and Plant Sales. Any new ideas please contact Ann as we are always looking for other fund raisers.

**Website: Lee Blackwood**

Lee is working on a new look which includes all the backend work updated with links etc. She would love anyone who is tech savvy to help with our picture gallery etc.

**Yearbook: Lee Blackwood/ Laura Martin**

This is usually worked on over the summer. It would show the activities we accomplished over the year which includes photos. If anyone would like to assist with being a proofreader we welcome the assistance.

**Youth Programs: Pat Drizd**

This program is held with a 2nd grade class at Lord Baltimore. We have an activity once a month to promote their love of nature and gardening as we integrate this with science. Since Covid we have been making kits for the students to work with. We also share a book and do lessons from it. Working outdoors is something we would like to do going forward. Any ideas please contact Pat.

**Horticulture Moment: Carol Bishop**

Lavender or Lavandula is our plant for today. There are 28 species and are part of the evergreen family. Lavender is used for perfumes, oils, sachets, medicines, and flavoring foods to name a few. We have Lavender Fields nearby which is a wealth of information to visit. The good thing about lavender is it blooms early to late summer, resistant to rabbits and deer, low maintenance, can use in rock gardens and can cut and dry it easily.

**Announcements:**

Lisa Arni stated the nominating committee is looking as positions for our club. If asked, please realize that you are thought of highly and consider participating.

Laura Martin wanted a shout out that our website is a valuable resource for all. Check it out!

Consider sending Dottie Howatt cards and get well. She has been such a great resource to our club.

Her address is 630 Pepperbush Court Wilmington, DE 19808.

Carolyn Clipp encourages all to send their expenses with the form (found on our website: Members/Forms) to her with receipts for reimbursement.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Dowling, Secretary