Final General Report A Tapestry of Nature-

Co-Chairs Sylvia Abbott and Kate Jamison

Plans for a flower show and fund raiser were discussed at the end of 2021 and it was approved by the Executive Committee shortly after.

In January of 2022, a date was chosen, and the various committee chairmen were put in place and work began on the schedule for the show. It was voted to sponsor a Garden Club of America flower show as opposed to a club show and to incorporate a Preview Party, Silent Auction and Boutique along with the show. This date was immediately sent to GCA in order to reserve the date for our club. The chairmen of Floral Design, Horticulture, and Photography were in charge of writing each of these three divisions. Educational exhibits would be formulated by the Conservation and Garden History and Design Chairmen. The GCA template was followed very carefully for format while the chairmen came up with the specific classes that would fit the season and experience of the club and zone. It was decided to have our theme be *A Tapestry of Nature* and that turned out to be an excellent theme that could include many diverse topics and classes.

By February 2022 we had a beautiful eye-catching logo that would be used for all of our paperwork and publicity. The Design and Horticulture schedules were completed by March. Photography was started by those with some photo knowledge, and then completed in early April due to the absence of the Photography chair in Florida. The completed schedule was then sent to the GCA committee for approval. This process took much longer than necessary and in early June, Co-Chair Abbott, pressed the GCA FS Chair for approval before our 2022 June meeting in order to have members and exhibitors have access to the schedule one year in advance as required for the horticulture Par Class. There were very few edits to our schedule and it was promptly sent to GCA and placed on their calendar. Then we all could relax and enjoy the summer!

In the fall, several meetings were held for the various chairmen in order for everyone to be sure of their responsibilities and for the newer members to see how a flower show actually comes together. We had an excellent group of chairmen and it seemed that all worked together without any problems. Flexibility is key when there are so many different demands for an event. Our staging chair did a splendid job of fitting the show into the Litchfield Community Center which was the choice of the committee for the venue. The LCC was reserved as soon as we had a firm date and schedule along with a tent to be utilized for the Silent Auction and as needed for staging.

Over the winter, we unfortunately lost a few of our key committee members at this time, but in the spirit of LGC and the commitment of the other chairmen, the slots were quickly filled and plans went forward with just the adjustment of eliminating the Boutique. Many thanks to these members who stepped up and took on additional unexpected responsibilities.

As the time came closer to the show, another general meeting of the committee was held to be sure of the timing for setting up and executing the proscribed schedule. Members were working really hard on getting auction items for the Silent Auction, and plans for the Preview Party were taken over and completed with great panache.

Everything went incredibly smoothly throughout the three days of set up, entries and judging, and public viewing, despite the absence of one photography judge whose place on the panel was taken by our professional photography for the show, Visko Hatfield. Many thanks for his last-minute help! All the classes in the three divisions were filled and the Conservation and Garden History and Design Committees did a superb Educational Exhibit for the show. All the top GCA awards were given which is an indication of the superb quality of the show in all four divisions.

The Preview Party was a huge success with the most delicious food ever and was overflowing with guests who were heard to say: “This is the best Litchfield Party I have ever been too!” and “I can’t believe the creativity that is here!” The event was a total success in every way thanks to the hard work of the committee, the support of the club members and the community participants. Viewers on Saturday were higher in number than at any of our past events. All in all, the club staged an event that was not only educational for all who attended, but beautiful to look at, fun to participate in, and financially a huge success. Thank you to all the Litchfield Garden Club members who worked so hard over a long period of time to show what a fine, community-oriented event we were happy to present. Amen