



# **SOUTH BREVARD GARDEN CLUB ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Date: April 3, 2023**

Mission Statement: SBGCA is a community-based organization providing a link between the members of six garden clubs in the greater Melbourne area, potential gardeners and the general public. It's objective is to increase the knowledge of horticulture, conservation, civic beautification and environmental focus.

The Board meeting was called to order by President, Joyce Barton at 10:03 am who then led the group in the pledge to the American flag.

Lisa Robinson, in a tribute to Earth Day, gave an inspirational reading by William Cullen Bryant: "There is no glory in star or blossom till looked upon by a loving eye; There is no fragrance in April breezes till breathed with joy as they wander by."

Joyce thanked Garden Club by the Sea for hosting the meeting. The presenter was chef, Vicky Mitterling, who entertained us while she prepared and shared a delicious Nasturtium Pesto.

**Board Members** present include:

- Joyce Barton, President
- Lisa Robinson, Vice President
- Lydia Barbour, Secretary
- Kathryn Merry, Treasurer

The revised **minutes** of the January Executive Board and the February and March General Meetings are posted on the SBGCA.org website and a copy of the March minutes were available here for anyone to review.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- March 1 Balance \$1984.67; \$25 was received during the month for door prize and plant table; there were no disbursements; therefore the balance at the end of the month was \$2009.67.
- The available balance, after subtracting the \$1500 minimum required by TD Bank is \$509.67, leaving less for donations than in past years.
- A motion made by Bernice to donate \$100 to the Fee Avenue Library, was seconded by Harriet, and was approved by the membership.

**Roll Call of the Garden Clubs:**

**Beach Gardeners of Melbourne Beach** (1 member present) Joyce Barton, President, reported:

- There was no meeting or field trip in March and nothing planned for April; however they are preparing for the May 6 Founders' Day Celebration.

**Garden Club by the Sea** (21 present of 45 members) – Valerie Karas, President. Charlotte Underwood reported:

- At the March meeting they made Kodedama Japanese hanging planters.
- On April 19 they will meet at a member's home and the speaker will be Lindsay Mayer, Outreach Manager for Florida Wildlife Hospital.

- They are hosting a pollinator fair March 3, 2024 at Nance Park in Indian Harbor. Attendance of 300 is expected and there will be vendors.

**Indian Harbor Beach Garden Club** (4 present of 71 members) – Suzi Hodge, President. Jane Mandeville reported:

- The March 20 meeting guest speaker was a gentleman from MRC, Jim Mayo
- Eight members took their annual field trip to Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden on March 29.
- Their April speaker will be Joe West, speaking about Monarch Butterflies and bringing plants to sell. They will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at Gleason Park at 10 am.
- IHBGC was invited to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Harbour Beach Arbor Day celebration. They will plant an oak tree at Gleason Park and Elfrieda Tullar will speak about the importance of oak trees. IHBGC will give away 30 baby oak trees.

**Island Garden Club** ( 1member present) – Julia Hill, President. Kathryn Merry reported:

- The March presentation was by a snowbird who lives off the coast of NJ but travels around installing nesting platforms for ospreys. Often they are installed with a plaque showing the name of the donor.
- The April meeting will be a tour of several members gardens and there was a short meeting at the home of one of the members.

**Melbourne Garden Club** (3 present of 33 members ) – Lydia Barbour, President. reported:

- Sadly Goldie McGervey died on 3/16. She served two terms as President of MGC in the 70s and 90s. We honored her when celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> year as a member of FFC last November. She was the fourth member who had died since August.
- We have also gained five new members in the last couple of months.
- Our program in March was a great presentation about orchids by Dave Riches. He gave us an orchid which we auctioned off. Ellen Noyd, a new member, outbid all the others for this gorgeous plant!
- We participated as a vendor at the Florida Friendly Landscaping Seminar 3/25 and sold lots of plants and caladium bulbs. Some of those are for sale here today at half price, and we're splitting the revenue with SBGCA.
- At the end of the meeting today we'll be drawing the winning ticket for the BIG Blue Wagon of great gardening materials and plants. If you have not yet bought your ticket yet, please see Kathryn or Harriet.
- Our April program will be about African Violets and we are planning a workshop at a member's home that month to plant succulents in various frames.

**Port Malabar Garden Club** (2 present of 38 members) – Becky Savage, President, reported:

- The March 10 meeting was a planning session for the annual fundraiser, a plant, yard and bake sale held 3/17.
- The April 14 speaker will be a PMGC member, Trish Ribadeneyra, who will talk about orchids.
- Maintenance continues at the Turkey Creek Sanctuary garden at the welcome sign.
- May will be our luncheon at the Kiwi Tennis Club.

**Meeting participants in today's meeting including the Board & Guests: 32**

### **Committee Reports**

Sunshine Report – Harriet sent one card.

Plant Sale Report – no report.

Door Prize Drawing – Charlotte Underwood, drawing went to Carol Nicholson.

**Old Business:**

- Website payments of \$42 are due to be sent to Kathryn. GC by the Sea decided to eliminate having a separate website and will be using the SBGCA website. Everyone was invited to attend a training session the following Thursday at 10 am.

**New Business:**

- These nominations for the 2023-2025 terms were made:

Joyce Barton, President

Carol Nicholson, VP

Robin Chang, Treasurer

Joanne Bertone, Recording Secretary

Harriet moved to elect this slate and the motion was seconded by Lisa Robinson. The motion carried and the installation will be at the May meeting.

- Melbourne GC held the drawing for the Big Blue Wagon full of gardening supplies, tools, plants, etc. The winner was Charlene Curran.
- Lydia made a motion to change the meeting schedule for the SBGCA meetings from seven to four meetings. There will be three meetings that 2 clubs would co-host: October, February and April or May. And one meeting in December would be the SBGCA fundraiser, hosted by SBGCA. Kathryn seconded it and the vote was unanimous to approve it. Details remain to be worked out and the Bylaws and Policies will need to be modified. Further discussion will be held in May to work out the details.

**Announcements:**

- SBGCA next meeting will be hosted by Island GC. Ben Thatcher will talk about Gardening Permaculture.
- Vicky Mitterling announced that any Florida resident can sign a petition available at [Barrier Islands Preservation and Protection Association \(bippafl.org\)](http://BarrierIslandsPreservationandProtectionAssociation(bippafl.org)). The mission is to prevent high density development on the barrier islands, including condos that would encroach on the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge.

**Meeting was adjourned.**