



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

**Date: March 7, 2022**

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 10:10 am who then led the group in the pledge to the American flag.

Lisa Robinson gave this inspirational reading: The heart is like a garden. It can grow compassion or fear, resentment or love. What seed will you plant there? Asked by Buddha. Lisa's answer: Plant sunflowers.

Joyce thanked the Beach Gardeners of Melbourne Beach Garden Club for hosting the meeting today.

Kathryn Merry introduced the speaker, Kathryn Wells PhD whose presentation was "How to Attract and Protect Wildlife." She shared lots of great advice. One note to remember: If you do nothing else for the birds, provide a source of water. If you want to have your yard become a Certified Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Foundation you can apply on line at <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify>, or designated as a Florida Friendly Yard with the University of Florida, you can apply online at <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/about-ffl/landscape-recognition/>. Each site has a check list you can download. The basic requirements are food, water, cover, places to raise young and sustainable practices.

**Board Members** present include:

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

The revised **minutes** of the 2/7/2022 General Meeting are posted on the SBGCA.org website and a copy is available here for anyone to review.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance as of end of February was \$2117.90. There is still \$74.72 to deposit from last month including \$18 from door prizes, \$14.72 from Plant Donations and \$42 from Indian Harbour Beach for their share in support of the Annual Web Account>

**Roll Call of the Garden Clubs:**

**Beach Gardeners of Melbourne Beach** (10 members present) Joyce Barton, President, reported:

- 60 Bookmarks were created, generating \$21 of income thus far.
- Town is ready to start planting in the Bicentennial park.
- The Exxon swale has been cleaned up and they've added native plants and mulch.
- Last month's speakers, Rebecca Gloddy & Carly, talked about Container Gardening.
- Next speaker is TBD.
- The Club donated \$500 for a project involving Gemini Elementary students in Melbourne Beach.

**Garden Club by the Sea** (3 members present) – Valerie Karas, President. Gloria Mandel reported:

- Last month they met in the park. Joanna Helms, a traditional Registered Herbalist and author spoke.
- On 3/16 they'll take a field trip to County Care Roses in Fellsmere. Carpooling from Yellow Dog Café where they will have lunch.

**Indian Harbor Beach Garden Club** (6 members present) – Robin Chang, President reported:

- They created and signed 300 Valentine's cards for Meals on Wheels.
- February's presenter was Marty Folk on bromeliads.
- March 16<sup>th</sup>'s presenter will be Lauralee Walko from Women of the Wild (WOW,) a conservation group with Brevard Zoo. They are "a diverse group of 150 women who gather throughout the year, inspiring and empowering each other to create positive change in our community through collective impact."
- Their next event will be the Spring Fest at the IFAS office in Cocoa, Saturday, 3/26 from 9-3 and Sunday 3/27 from 9-1. The address is 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa.
- They will be electing new officers at the March meeting. The current board serves for 3 years and the new board will serve for 1 so they can get back on schedule.
- They currently have 60 members and meet from 10 am to noon the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month September through May.

**Island Garden Club** (2 members present) – Julia Hill, President, reported:

- February's presenter was Nicole Perna of Go Native Landscaping. They also had an update on The Barrier Island EEL (Environmentally Endangered Lands) program, and the Hog Point Sanctuary.
- In February they had a great turnout at the Ocean Treasure's Festival, where they were selling plants from Beth Glover's Floridana Tropicals.
- On March 6, they visit Valkaria Gardens and lunch at the Lazy Turtle.
- They are partnering with the Town of Melbourne Beach for a ViVA FL Wildflower grant.
- There will be a Hog Point Sanctuary Tour March 31, requiring sign-up.
- April's meeting presentation will be by Go Native Landscaping about creating Lagoon Friendly Landscapes.

**Melbourne Garden Club** (2 members present) – Sandi Dix, President. Kathryn Merry reported:

- The March meeting was the annual auction fundraiser.
- A Bylaws and Standing Rules review is underway as is the election of officers.
- The Club is planning a fall celebration of 90 years of federation with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.
- A plan for landscaping the Blue Star Memorial is being developed for review by the city.
- The plans for the April meeting were delayed so a search for an alternative is underway.
- Melbourne currently has 41 members.

**Port Malabar Garden Club** (4 members present) – Becky Savage, President, reported:

- The speakers at the February meeting were from FFGC, Suzi Bailey, District VI Director and Marge Hendon, President. At the end of the meeting The Club voted to rejoin FFGC and has since filed the application. They will be welcomed back at the April FFGC Convention.
- The March meeting will be devoted to making the final plans for the Plant and Yard Sale which will be March 18 at Peace Lutheran Church on Port Malabar Road in Palm Bay. The drawing for Baskets of Cheer and Gardening will be March 20.

- The Club continues to work on installing the native plant garden around the Turkey Creek Nature Center sign.
- The Club is beginning the process of reclaiming the Blue Star Marker from Valkaria Gardens and moving it back to a highway venue.
- The Club currently has 33 members.

**Meeting participants in today's meeting including the Board & Guests: 33**

**Committee Reports**

Sunshine Report – nothing to report

Plant Sale Report – Marci has Ti plants available for shade.

Door Prize Drawing – went to Kris Ring-Wilson.

**Old Business:**

- Joyce distributed the Certificates to be used at Plant Sales. These should be on hand at any sale.
- The website is looking great: Every club now has a landing page.

**New Business:**

The discussion about nominations for making donation, scholarships or grants began with acknowledgements about the budget: Expenses will be \$100 donation to Fee Avenue Library and \$100 for the Christmas luncheon, and each Club will be paying \$42 for their share of the website expense. Organizations were proposed: Brevard Zoo's EEL program for rebuilding plant, clam and oyster beds in the Lagoon; Barrier Island Center, for Hog Point Cove, a donation which Island GC agreed to match if it was selected; Educational Horizons Charter School on North Wickham for a new entrance planting of native plants; and FFGC's Wekiva Youth Camp. A motion was made and seconded and carried to give each of these three \$300: BIC for Hog Point Cove; Educational Horizons Charter School on North Wickham; and FFGC's Wekiva Youth Camp.

**Announcements:**

SBGCA next meeting will be hosted by Garden Club by the Sea at the Fee Avenue Library

**Meeting was adjourned.**