



SOUTH BREVARD GARDEN CLUB ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 3, 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 10:08 am who then led the group in the pledge to the American flag.

Lisa Robinson gave an inspirational reading about our gardens nurturing us after reflecting on the those on Florida's West Coast who hit hard by Hurricane Ian on September 28.

Joyce thanked Indian Harbour Beach GC for hosting the meeting today.

IHB GC member, Elfreda Tullar, gave a wonderful presentation speaking from a chapter in one of her favorite books. One fact she shared that surprised many of us is that Spanish Moss is really a bromeliad, and told the history of how it was harvested, and modified for its use as 'hair' used in earlier years as cushioning for car seats. Fascinating!

Board Members present were:

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

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

Treasurer's Report: September began with a balance of \$1375.67 and ended at \$1350.67. The only transaction was a \$25 service charge from the bank for a balance lower than \$1500. Although the balance first fell below \$1500 in April, the first service charge occurred in August. Further investigation is planned to determine what can be done to eliminate these service charges.

Roll Call of the Garden Clubs:

Beach Gardeners of Melbourne Beach had 2 of their 12 members present. Joyce Barton, President, reported:

- Membership has diminished.
- Their last meeting was in May when they installed their officers at the Sunnyside Café in Melbourne Beach.
- Annie Hellen Thomas received the Honorary Member Award for her 58 years as a member.
- Their next program is 10/18 at 6:30 pm at the MB Community Center, when Shambala Art Gallery, located on Highland Avenue in Eau Gallie will make a presentation of hand-painted palm fronds.
- Bicentennial Park is complete, planted by Nichole Perna, and the town has assumed maintenance.
- A grant was received from the VIVA Florida Grant program for a landscape demonstration garden.
- Parks & Recreation will hold a Garden Party Night

- The continue funding work through bookmarks and Founders Day activities.

Garden Club by the Sea had 3 of about 45 of their members present) – Valerie Karas, President. reported:

- Their last meeting was 9/21, when MLK Honey from South Beaches Bee Keeping spoke.
- On 10/19 they will meet at Rita Everett’s home to hear Dr. Kevin Brackett discuss the book Entangled Life, about fungi, by Merlin Sheldrake.
- Work at Lily Park is ongoing, and a committee is identifying special future projects for the community.
- They plan to host a Veterans Day Ceremony.

Indian Harbor Beach Garden Club had 12 of 65 members present. Suzi Hodge, President. _____ reported:

- At their September meeting thy heard about hydroponics from My Gypsy Gardener.
- Their next program will 10/19 when they will hear from Keep Brevard Beautiful.

Island Garden Club had 4 of 25 members present. – Julia Hill, President. Kathryn Merry reported:

- Their 9/14 meeting was a plant swap & social event.
- They have made Nichole Perna an honorary member.
- Philanthropic projects include Hog Point Barrier Island, Melbourne Beach Public Library where they are planning natives with a grant from Conradina.
- Their 10/12 program will be Doug Tallamy’s video presentation at Julia’s

Melbourne Garden Club had 3 of 30 members present. – Lydia Barbour, President, reported:

- In September, Sally Scalera provided a terrific program about Keystone Plants for Brevard County along with a fabulously detailed handout.
- In October we will see Tina Coker, owner of Designs of the Times demonstrate designing techniques.
- November 18, we will celebrate 90 years of membership in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. It will be at 1471 Cypress Avenue, Melbourne. The location is in Eau Gallie close to the intersection of Route 1 and Eau Gallie Boulevard. \$10 tickets are being sold in advance. You will hear 3 great presentations, get to buy native and ornamental plants, buy \$1 opportunities for drawings for themed baskets (poker, gardener’s harvest, butterfly, etc. and other things such has hanging baskets, succulent gardens, bee house, potted plants and 50/50. We will also share a bit about Melbourne GC history and honor past MGC Presidents. Marge Hendon, FFGC President will be there to help us celebrate.

Port Malabar Garden Club had 2 of 40 members present) – Becky Savage, President, reported:

- Tim & Anna of Native Butterfly Flower Nurseries presented.
- At the October meeting, Brevard County EMS will provide Vial of Life containers, and instructions.
- October 15, they will be host at the Turkey Creek site on the Landscaping with Natives Tour of the Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.
- They have updated the SBGCA website.

Meeting participants in today’s meeting including the Board & Guests: 24

Committee Reports

Sunshine Report – None. Kent Armstrong’s Celebration of Life will be October 15 at Melbourne Village.

Plant Sale Report – Marci, income _____.

Door Prize Drawing – Charlotte Underwood, income _____, went to _____.

Old Business:

- Website was updated that morning.

New Business:

- Data regarding attendance during the past year was put together by Lydia from the reports in the minutes. It showed that monthly meetings are attended normally by a few members of the non-host club and by many more members of the hosting club as shown below:

Attendees at SBGCA Meetings from October 2021 - May 2022

| Host | | | | | | | | Club Data | | | SBG Avg |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|-------------|------|------|---------|
| | Oct '21 | Nov '21 | Dec '21 | Feb '22 | Mar '22 | Apr '22 | May'22 | Avg no host | Host | Diff | |
| BC | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 2.0 | 10 | 8.0 | |
| GC Sea | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 18 | 2 | 3.2 | 18 | 14.8 | |
| IH | 7 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 5.0 | 7 | 2.0 | |
| IGC | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 2.5 | 12 | 9.5 | |
| MGC | 7 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3.7 | 6 | 2.3 | |
| PMGC | 3 | 6 | 4 | 15 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 4.5 | 15 | 10.5 | |
| Total | 26 | 24 | 22 | 25 | 27 | 34 | 35 | 3.5 | 11.3 | 7.9 | 27.6 |

The discussion centered around whether the clubs felt the meetings were useful and whether a change to the frequency of full meetings was desired. Concerns about fundraising and getting officers were expressed. Monthly meetings produce about \$100 from donations for plants and the drawings. The December annual auction results in between \$200 and \$300. It was pointed out that a collective effort of the clubs for a plant sale at an event might raise \$1000 or more. Robin moved and Vicky seconded that we continue as we have through May and then reconsider our options. Everyone agreed. In the interim, Lydia will see what data might be available in earlier years, pre-Covid.

Announcements:

SBGCA next meeting will be hosted by Melbourne GC at the Fee Avenue Library.

Meeting was adjourned.