



SOUTH BREVARD GARDEN CLUB ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 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 10:02 am who then led the group in the pledge to the American flag.

Joyce thanked Melbourne GC for hosting the meeting today. She also mentioned that the room at Fee Avenue Library has been reserved for SBGCA meetings through the end of 2023.

Presenter Stacey Matrazzo, Florida Wildflower Foundation, Executive Director, was introduced by Sandi Dix and gave a wonderful presentation entitled Winning the Battle Against Invasive Plants. Not only did she tell us why invasives must be avoided, but she gave us alternatives to use in place of specific invasive plants. For example, not only does *Lantana strigocamara*, do the normal disruptive things, it is toxic to cattle, and pops up everywhere. The alternatives she suggested included pineland wild sage, *Lantana involucrate*, dune sunflowers, *Helianthus debilis*, tropical sage, *Salvia coccinea*, and Porterweed, but be sure you get the native *Stachytarphete jamaicensis*.

Board Members present were:

- Joyce Barton, President
- Lydia Barbour, Secretary
- Kathryn Merry, Treasurer

The **minutes** of the October 3, 2022 General Meeting have been distributed for review. Copies are here if you would like to review them.

Treasurer's Report: October began with a balance of \$1350.67 and ended at \$1406.67. Income included \$34 from the door prize and \$47 from the plant table. The only expense was the \$25 service charge from the bank for a balance lower than \$1500, which will continue as long as we remain with this bank.

Roll Call of the Garden Clubs:

Beach Gardeners of Melbourne Beach had 1 of their 16 (+5 maybe) members present. Joyce Barton, President, provided the report:

- Their last program was by Shambala, from the Art District, about palm frond painting. They wished more examples and a demo has been provided in the program.
- Next program will be the pressed flowers bookmark workshop.
- No specific projects are planned at this point.
- They will likely be providing an organizational announcement soon.

Garden Club by the Sea had 1 of about 45 of their members present) – Valerie Karas, President. _____ reported:

- They are planning a November 11 ceremony at Lily Park at 10 am.
- Their October program was a discussion by Kevin Bracket about Merlin Sheldrake's book, Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change our Minds and Shape our Futures
- The November program will be about Holliday Table Scapes by someone from Roses are Red Violets are Blue.

Indian Harbor Beach Garden Club had 3 of 65 members present. Suzi Hodge, President. Thank you to Robin Chang, who provided the report, and to Elfreda Tullar, who delivered it at the meeting.

- The October program was delivered by Mac McCandless, with KBB. He is in charge of the new composting project, currently available only to West Melbourne residents. Pick-up is twice a week and costs \$35 per month for 2 buckets of compost each year.
- The November meeting will be a holiday auction fundraiser at the Crown Plaza.
- They are planning their big fundraiser, the Bunco party they hold each year. The date is January 25th and the tickets are \$20 and must be purchased in advance. They will be available at the December meeting.

Island Garden Club had 6 of 25 members present. – Julia Hill, President. _____ reported:

- The October program was by Jane Rollins about the propagation of a new butterfly plant just being introduced.
- They are working with the Brevard Zoo to reintroduce native plants.
- They are working with Nichole Perna and the Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society to maintain the Melbourne Beach Library.
- In December they are working with Beth Glover to propagate plants from seed.

Melbourne Garden Club had 10 of 30 members present. – Lydia Barbour, President, reported:

- In November Betty Moore led a group of us with Fun with Flowers. It was really great fun and we each walked away with a great design.
- Our December meeting presenters will be Sandi Dix and Kris Baker who will be previewing our April workshop.
- 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 as 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 4 of 40 members present) – Becky Savage, President, provided and delivered the report:

- The October presenter had to cancel due to Covid. The planned delivery of the Vial of Life by our county representative did not happen.
- The November program is a workshop being provided by a member, who will lead the group using pressed flowers to create a candle.
- The group is taking a boat trip on November 18 to Pelican Island from Captain Hiram's.
- December will be the holiday luncheon at Yellow Dog.
- The Club hosted the Conradina Chapter's Landscaping with Natives Tour at the Turkey Creek site and helped with the plant pick-up, delivery and give-away at the adjoining Palm Bay Library parking lot.
- Several members attended FFGC's District VI meeting in New Smyrna Beach in October.
- A fund-raiser plant/yard sale is being planned for March.

Meeting participants in today's meeting including the Board & Guests: 25

Committee Reports

Plant Sale Report – Marci, plants are still available.

Door Prize Drawing – Charlotte Underwood; Poinsettia went to Kathryn Merry.

Old Business:

- Website

New Business:

- SBGCA December 5 Holiday Auction, hosted by the Board, who will provide a meat platter. Club members are asked to provide dishes to complete the potluck luncheon. Club members are also asked to bring gently used items for the auction.
- A role that this group can play is for native plant awareness. The Space Coast League of Cities advocates taking Low Impact Development (LID) practices to Tallahassee. The Marine Resource Council is very active in this regard.

Announcements:

- Each club is asked to ensure that their members understand that attending the meetings is open to all members.
- Elfreda wanted everyone to know that the tropical variety of the milkweed **must** be pruned to counteract OE (short for Ophryocystis elektroscirrha) disease by which a parasite infects the caterpillar and then the monarch butterfly. This will also encourage the butterflies to move onto their overwintering feeding locations.
- Kathryn noted that the atala butterfly is attracted to white blooming plants such as frostweed.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm