



SOUTH BREVARD GARDEN CLUB ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 2, 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 10:05 am who then led the group in the pledge to the American flag.

Joyce thanked the Island Garden Club for hosting the meeting today.

Kathryn Merry introduced the program, a YouTube recording of Doug Tallamy talking with viewers about the national initiative encouraging all homeowners to become part of the Homegrown National Park movement. He mentioned that in his book, Nature's Best Hope, he included a brief description of his vision of the Homegrown National Park. He talked about the woman, Michelle Alfandari, who made it a reality by setting up the website <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/> and arranging for everything that goes with a successful media presence. Following the video there was a discussion about efforts that many, including two Landscape Designers present, Nicole Perna and Kathy Brewer, are making, or can make, to change our yards, our governments and our culture to be committed to restoring native plants and animals to our environments through what we and developers can do with our land. This is the current data for Brevard County that you will find on the website.

County Name: Brevard
Land Area: 679,417 Acres
Total Planted Area: 55.423 Acres
Percent Planted: 0.01%
ZIP Code Count: 16
User Count: 28
Plantings Count: 43

When I looked at the website today, I found a tools tab that included the brochure that Kathryn shared at the meeting, and a flyer, and a template for a yard sign, complete with a QR code! Ready for me to send to a printer and place in my yard!

Board Members present include:

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

Lydia reported that the revised **minutes** of the April 4, 2022 General Meeting are posted on the SBGCA.org website and a copy is available here for anyone to review.

Treasurer's Report: Kathryn reported on receiving a thank you letter for the donation SBGCA made to Educational Horizons Charter School. Joyce received a thank you letter for the donation to the Fee Avenue Library.

April 1, there was \$2438.07 in the treasury. April income of \$144 included door prize money, auction of the Easter arrangement and the donations for plants. April expenses of \$700 were for the donations to the

Library, Wekiva Youth Camp and the Educational Horizons Charter School. The balance at the end of April was \$1882.67. There are outstanding transactions for the donation to Hog Point, renewals of the Website, domain name and FDACS nursery, totaling \$571 leaving \$1311.67 available.

EOY income (includes 5/2) from door prizes was \$217 and for plant donations was \$221.47.

Roll Call of the Garden Clubs:

Beach Gardeners of Melbourne Beach (2 members present) Joyce Barton, President, reported:

- 25 household members, meet on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 PM, October – May at the Melbourne Beach Community Center.
- April meeting presentation by Bonnie Wells postponed to October due to technical difficulties.
- May 26 meeting will be at Sunny Side Café, where installation of officers will be held. Annie Hellen Thomas will be recognized for being a 60-year member!
- Officers will be: Joyce Barton, President; no VP at present; Kelly Moes, Secretary & Patti Schenk, Treasurer.
- Melbourne Beach Founders Day is May 7. At the BGMB booth, membership will be promoted, kids will plant flowers, and there will be sales of succulents and pressed flower bookmarks.

Garden Club by the Sea (2 members present) – Valerie Karas, President. Barbara Dial reported in person and Valerie sent additional information:

- Membership increased by 5 this year to 45 active & 6 associate.
- The April program on Bonsai (pronounced bōne-sī) was presented by Dr. Robert Mandel. Business at the meeting included a budget approval for the upcoming year. They are investigating new “signature projects” and have appointed a Community Education Chairman so they can offer programs to children and scouts. Dues are now \$150.
- The May meeting will be the end of year luncheon at Eau Gallie Yacht Club, during which they will present their scholarship recipient with a \$2000 check.
- Lily Park received three awards at the FFGC Convention. The Club is honored to receive them.
- Officers will be: Valerie Karas, President; VPs will be Jeri Ronaldson & Lisa Robinson; Linda Sheedy, Secretary; and Carol Niles, Treasurer.
- They are planning another Veterans’ Day Celebration at Lily Park to which we are invited.

Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club (9 members present) – Robin Chang, President. Jane Mandeville reported:

- Currently have 60 members.
- Nicole Perna of Go Native Landscaping gave their April program about plants that like our sandy soil.
- The May 18 meeting, officer installation and luncheon will be at Eau Gallie Yacht Club.

Island Garden Club (12 members present) – Julia Hill, President. Kathryn Merry reported:

- Current membership is 25.
- Nicole Perna of Go Native Landscaping gave their April program.
- The May meeting will be at the home of Beth Glover in Floridana Beach, including a brown bag lunch and the program will be a tour of her yard and nursery.
- They continue to support the Barrier Island Center & Hog Point Cove.

Melbourne Garden Club (4 members present) – Sandi Dix, President reported:

- Current membership of 40 meets the 1st Fridays on the months from September through May at 10 AM.
- Recent passage of new Bylaws included an increase of dues to \$20 for Active Members.
- We participated in Melbourne city's Earth/Arbor Day celebration at Crane Creek Golf Course, where we had refreshments and GC information, and helped hand out good sized trees of several varieties. Also Space Coast Surfrider Foundation members planted a native garden on the edge of the course.
- The May meeting will be at the Eau Gallie Library for the installation of officers, followed by lunch at Squid Lips next door.
- Officers will be: Lydia Barbour, President; Kathryn Merry, 1st VP; Sandi Dix, 2nd VP; Janet Anderson, Recording Secretary; Christine Bamberger, Corresponding Secretary; Barbara Gallagher Berkovsky, Treasurer; and Paul Merry, Parliamentarian.
- This summer we will be planning the celebration of 90 years with FFGC. Date will be announced.

Port Malabar Garden Club (6 members present) – Becky Savage, President, reported:

- Current membership of 33 meets at 9:30 AM from September – May at the Peace Lutheran Church on Port Malabar Road.
- April program, Attracting Butterflies, was presented by two members who raise butterflies.
- FFGC welcomed PMGC as a returning member at the April Convention in Kissimmee.
- The Eco-tour boat trip from Capt. Hiram's was fully subscribed, including 21 PMGC members and 10 from other SBGCA clubs. Everyone enjoyed seeing dolphins, a very cooperative manatee, lots of birds and hearing about the history and particulars of the Inlet and Lagoon. We may go for a Pelican Island trip in the fall...stay tuned!
- The May meeting and end of year luncheon will be at Kiwi Tennis Club, May 13, during which officer installation will occur.
- Over the summer we will continue our maintenance of the native plant garden at the welcome sign at Turkey Creek Sanctuary. That planted area may be expanded with another project next year.

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

Committee Reports

Sunshine Report – none

Plant Sale Report – Marci reported that there were lots of plants left.

Door Prize Drawing – went to Dianne Collinsworth.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements:

SBGCA next meeting will October 3, 2022, hosted by Indian Harbour Beach at Gleason Park.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:18 am to enjoy the luncheon provided by Island GC.