



SOUTH BREVARD GARDEN CLUB ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 6, 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 10:02 am who then led the group in the pledge to the American flag.

Joyce gave an inspirational reading from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Go oft to the house of thy friend for weeds choke the unused path."

Joyce thanked the **Port Malabar GC** for hosting the meeting today.

Becky Savage introduced the speaker, **Steve Sharkey, Director of Marketing, from the Marine Resources Council**. He provided important information about the state of the Indian River Lagoon using the Report Card that was fashioned after that developed by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. IRLs Report Card uses the data collected by the State of Florida. Turkey Creek improved from a D in 2019 to a D+ in 2020; however the IRL in that area regressed during that same time from a F to an F--. Brevard voters supported a half cent increase in the sales tax to save the IRL. \$20M is coming from Florida for the same. He advises: compost, don't put stuff in the disposal, don't trash food, use rain barrels, don't use seawalls (their life expectancy is 3-4 years or until the next big storm), use native plants instead.

Board Members present were:

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

The revised **minutes** of the December General Meeting are posted on the SBGCA.org website and a copy is available here for anyone to review. The draft minutes of the January Board Meeting will be distributed after this meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of end of November was \$1551.17. Between the auction, which netted \$326, and income from plants and door raffle, the balance at the end of December was \$1924.67.

Roll Call of the Garden Clubs:

Beach Gardeners of Melbourne Beach (4 of 20 members were present) Joyce Barton, President, reported:

- The January workshop was attended by 8 members who made 50 pressed flower bookmarks.
- The February program may be provided by Rebecca Gloddy about the Children's Garden at Gemini School.
- The Club is remaining a separate entity.
- They are preparing for Founders' Day in May.

Garden Club by the Sea (2 of 44 members were present) – Valerie Karas, President. Charlotte Underwood reported:

- Ellen Monroe made a presentation about Scholarships and Dave Riches will be presenting about orchids on 2/15.

Indian Harbor Beach Garden Club (3 of 69 members were present) – Suzi Hodge, President. Robin Chang reported:

- They've had a 35% increase in membership.
- In January, Holly from Holly 's plants talked about orchid repotting.
- They realized \$3200 from bunco and thanked everyone who attended. Those funds will support Wekiva scholarships.
- Tim Harrison from Native Butterfly Flowers will present February 16.
- Two upcoming workshops are floral design in February and Landscape Design by Susan Hall in March.
- March 29 will be a field trip to Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens.

Island Garden Club (2 of 27 members were present) – Julia Hill, President. Kathryn Merry reported:

- They had a January 11 presentation on native orchids and a February 8 Valentine celebration. , and attended the Ocean Festival

Melbourne Garden Club (3 members of 31 present) – Kathryn Merry & Lydia Barbour, President reported:

- Since we last met we've had two meetings and two trips and will be taking another trip tomorrow.
- Our 01-07 presenter was Bert Alm of the Space Coast Audubon Society, who gave a great talk about the Audubon Society and the 100 Acres Hollows Preserve.
- Our 02-05 presenter was Marty Folk who not only told us about bromeliads, but brought some to sell and give away.
- Our trips have been 01-10 to Merritt Island Wildlife Preserve with lunch afterward at Steve's Diner; a visit this past weekend to the Vero Beach GardenFest; and tomorrow we go to 100 Acre Hollows Preserve.
- Our events in March will be a presentation by Dave Riches about orchids, a trip to McKee Botanical Gardens, and a fundraiser at the Florida-Friendly Seminar on 3-27.
- We will be bringing our garden wagon full of great items to the March & April SBGCA meetings as well as to the 3/27 seminar to offer everyone opportunities to get tickets for the drawing which we will hold at the end of the April SBGCA meeting.

Port Malabar Garden Club (13 members of 41 present) – Becky Savage, President, reported:

- No speaker for the January 13 meeting, we used the time to catch up from Christmas.
- Last field trip had a nice turn-out to Erna Nixon Park followed by lunch at El Chico.
- The 2/10 meeting will have the same program as provided today.
- We continue to maintain our native garden at Turkey Creek Sanctuary.
- The annual fundraiser will be 3/27 at the Peace Lutheran Church on Port Malabar Road and will include sale of plants, gently used donations, and baked goods.
- We are also researching holding a Bunco game next year as a fundraiser.

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

Committee Reports

Sunshine Report – Harriet Mirsajadi reported she sent two cards, 1 thinking of you and 1 sympathy.

Plant Sale Report – Marci McLean, reported about the plants available.

Door Prize Drawing – Charlotte Underwood, drawing won by Arlene Fedderwitz of Port Malabar GC.

Old Business:

- Website: Pages are to include a minimum of this information: About the club with contact information or a link, information re meetings, and a list of officers. Please update your page with this information if it is not already there. The recipe page appears not to have any traffic or input and will be removed. Lydia will add the Invasive Plant list to the Resource Page.
- Our \$35 Plant Permit requires that we provide a 30-day notice of any event involving plant sales. inspector is Victoria Benjamin. She may come to inspect nursery stock, selling, propagating or growing plants.

New Business:

- A Nomination Committee of three members is to be established. Because there were no volunteers, Joyce will reach out to the clubs to secure 1 from each of three clubs.

Announcements:

- The March 6 meeting will be hosted by Beach Gardeners at Melbourne Beach. Car-pooling is suggested. Mark Walters of the Platinum Coast Orchid Club will be presenting and have orchids for sale. The meeting will begin at 10 am.

Meeting was adjourned.