

WELLINGTON GARDEN CLUB
Meeting Minutes
Community Center, Wellington FL
April 1, 2019

I. Call To Order

- A. Meeting called to order at 10:16 AM by President Carol Coleman
- B. The Membership was asked to silence their cell phones.
- C. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.
- D. Carol Coleman clarified any misconceptions that every volunteer for the “Once in a Lifetime” Garden Tour at Deeridge Farms would be able to tour the garden ahead of time. She explained that so many had volunteered that it would be a loss to the club if all volunteers were able to go on the tour simply because they volunteered. Therefore, all Committee Chairs are not required to buy a ticket. All other volunteers are required to buy a ticket if they want to go on the tour.

II. Officer’s Reports

- A. President:
Nominating Committee Chair Joan Kaplan presented the slate of Officers for the September 2019 – May 2021:
President: Jan Seagrave
1st Vice President: Maria Wolfe
2nd Vice President: John Siena
Treasurer: Danese Sloan-Kendall
Assistant Treasurer: Kathy Hernicz
Recording Secretary: Carol Ralph
Corresponding Secretary: Kate Kouba
President Carol Coleman asked for nominations from the floor. None given, so the slate of officers was presented to the members for a vote of approval. The vote was unanimous in favor of the presented slate.
- B. Recording Secretary: Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 4, 2019 meeting was made by Harriet Samuels and seconded by Barbara Zenker. Motion to approve was carried unanimously
- C. Treasurer: Danese Sloan-Kendall gave the Treasurer’s Report as of March 31, 2019. See the report attached. Cash in bank \$25,743.60. The second meeting to complete the 2019-2020 budget will take place on Tuesday, April 2, 2019. The final budget will be emailed to all members to review and voted on at the May/Spring Luncheon.
- D. 1st VP:
 - 1. Jan Seagrave shared that Denise Friedlander is stepping down as the Hospitality Chairman and asked for anyone who might be interested in filling that position to contact her after the meeting.
 - 2. As the Chair of the Articles of Association and Policy Revision Committee, Jan Seagrave reread the changes to the Articles for the 2019-2020 year that had been emailed to all members. Motion to approve and accept was carried unanimously.

- E. Corresponding Secretary: Mary Drexler mentioned that Helga Mesmer had been briefly hospitalized and Roxanne Henry has returned to the club.

III. Committee Reports

- A. The Penny Pines & Coral Reef Restoration Jar was passed. Instructions were given as to how to pass the jar and all future items. It starts with the section on the left and is passed from row to row. Then given to the middle section, and then the right section.
- B. Newsletter – Stormi Bivin brought in a newsletter from the WGC dating back to 2004. It was only 2 pages...my how things have changed.
- C. Spring Luncheon: Dee Rolfe announced that Monday May 6 from 11:00am – 2:30pm the Spring and Installation luncheon will be held at Mayacoo Country Club. The theme will be “the Kentucky Derby – Run for the Roses” Tickets are \$35.00. Cutoff date is April 28. If you did not bring your checkbook today, please mail your check and meal selection to Deb Russell. 25 raffle baskets will be available and lots of fun is promised.
- D. Fundraisers:
 - 1. Once In a Lifetime Garden Tour:
 - a. 150 tickets have been sold for the Once in a Lifetime Garden Tour.
 - b. The Butterfly Garden is in the process of being certified.
 - c. Run through with golf cart drivers is on April 2, 2019
 - d. Carol Ralph will mail directions
 - e. A sanitation system that cost \$2,200 is being required by Mrs. Jacobs
 - f. Refreshments will be provided by Mrs. Jacobs
 - g. All volunteers are encouraged to wear WGC polo shirts.
 - 2. Fundraising at TKA: Stormi Bivin handed out the tickets for Newsies that will be attended on Saturday, May 4. Please see her report attached.
- E. Around & Abouts: Terrienne Tuskes invited everyone to Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens on Thursday, April 11, 2019. No charge to attend the garden; however, donations are suggested.
- F. Membership: Mary Drexler announced the two new members Dale Barnhardt – a horticulturist and President of Palm Beach Beautiful and Gail Visconsi – a part-time resident and retired landscape designer. Mary apologized that she did not have their welcome gift to give them. A guest by the name of Carole Anderson was introduced.
- G. Wekiva: Harriet Samuels announced 6 regular campers and 2 Critter campers will be attending. Stormi Bivin will be a leader for the week her grandson attends. Harriet announced that WGC is donating funds to cover an educational lecture during the week that Stormi and her grandson attend (week of July 1). There are additional camper funds available if space is available at Wekiva. Please contact Harriet if interested.
- H. Youth Garden: Wynnebrook Elementary garden has been helped by a high school student earning his Eagle Scout badge. He has built a growing tower powered by solar.

- I. Succulent Class: Kimberly Helms announced a class to be given at her home on April 30 from 12:00-1:30. The cost is \$25.00. Bring your container or she will have one for purchase.
- J. Environmental – Diane Rice organized Loggerhead Turtle Egg-Laying field trips. Dates suggested are June 17, June 19, and June 24. The viewing begins at 7:00pm and lasts until midnight. Please contact Diane if you are interested. Diane also explained shale oil exploration taking place in Florida and its possible harm to the environment. Please see her report attached.
- K. External Events Liaison – Kathy Siena submitted the attached report.

IV. Unfinished Business

- A. Planters at Wellington Mall - In cooperation with the Easter Bunny and the Wellington Mall, planters were filled with dirt and planted at the Wellington Green Mall. Linda DeSanti and Stormi Bivin were helpful in choosing the proper plants. See report attached.
- B. Tree Count – The report has been submitted to FFCA and included over 2,000 trees planted in the Western Communities.
- C. Unsolicited Landscape Design Submittal Award – Susan Hillson and Stormi Bivin examined 1 residence, 2 businesses and 1 municipal building using criteria that has been established to make the judging fair and consistent. The results have been submitted to FFGC and will be announced at the annual convention.
- D. FFGC Convention – Please see Carol Coleman if you are attending the annual convention in St. Augustine. Delegates are needed. Susan Hillson and Jan Warshauer are two planning to attend.

V. New Business

- A. Garden Week – Volunteers are needed to help celebrate gardening the first week of June. Please sign up or contact Twig Morris if interested.
- B. Petite Flower Show – Twig Morris shared her plan of hosting a Petite Flower Show in the next garden year. Susan Hillson will hold workshops to educate and excite members. Small plants will be judged so start growing yours today.
- C. Deep South News – Barbara Hadsell returned from the Deep South meeting and announced that the Wellington Garden Club Flower Show and Booklet held in April 2018 won FIRST PLACE.
WGC won another FIRST PLACE in the Outstanding Arbor Day Award for the work Larry Grosser, Scouts, Youth, and Master Gardeners contributed to the repair of Gene Joyner’s Unbelievable Acres.
- D. Adopt-A-Street – Kay Brown and Jim Thompson delivered a huge thank-you to all the volunteers who come out once a month to help pick up trash. More volunteers are needed on the last one of the current garden year: Tuesday, April 23 at 9:00am. Meet at Greenbrier at the Dog Park. Gloves, grabbers, and safety vests are provided.
- E. Earth Day – Wellington Garden Club has been invited to Pratt Whitney’s employee lunch area to display photographs of the many activities that WGC is involved in. Twig Morris, Jan Seagrave, Carol Coleman, and Carol Ralph will be attending.

- F. Coral Reef Restoration – a recent email was sent to all members regarding the impact that sunscreens have on our coral reefs. If you do not receive e-mails, please contact Carol Ralph and she will mail one to you.
- G. Horticultural Moment – Linda DeSanti gave an informative talk on the Cinnamon Bay tree. She passed around leaves from her large tree from her yard and also allspice leaves. A small tree was donated to the name tag raffle. Ann Cavaleri won the plant.

Meeting adjourned at 11:36

Speaker: Stephan Harbonis of YOU Farm explained his unique concept to hydroponic farming and giving back to the community and the world. His “Beyond Organic” growing techniques and his background in technology have opened doors for him to impact the world.

Maria Wolfe, Recording Secretary

Please visit WGC.org for attachments and more information on items mentioned in these minutes.

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External Events Liaison Report
Kathy Siena

State News:

- **FFGC Convention 2019:** The 93rd Annual Convention will be held **April 7-9, 2019** in St Augustine at the World Golf Village Renaissance Resort (Marriott.com). The registration deadline was yesterday, March 31. However, you can still register with a late fee of \$40.00. Hotel reservations deadline was March 25 but if you are still interested in this hotel, you could certainly contact them for information. Go to the FFGC.org website or districtx.org's website for fillable registration forms.

District News:

- **District X Spring Meeting:** Our District X Spring Meeting "Spring into Action" is next month on **Thursday, April 25**. It will be held at Benvenuto's Restaurant in Boynton Beach. Oleander Garden Club will be hosting. The cost to attend is \$41. Registration deadline is April 18, 2019. Registration forms are available online at District X's website at districtx.org. For further questions, see Oleander host chairman and our member, Barbara Hadsell.
- **District X Fall Meeting:** GC of Indian River County, located in Vero Beach, will host the fall 2019 District X meeting. More details to follow as we get closer to the date.

Wellington Garden Club Meeting - April 1, 2019

Florida Legislation is currently in session and so are environmental bills concerning water and fracking.

Please go to your email everyday and respond to the Action or Environment Alert. There it will be spelled out the issue and who to call and their phone numbers and why vote yes or no on the bills. These calls are counted and you can swiftly make the calls at night -- and be done in 5-10 minutes. Unfortunately --- we are all generally given 24-48 hours.

One of the items at legislation is fracking in Florida. The way Florida oil laws read is that anyone can pull an oil permit and then at a later date change it to fracking. And now it looks like Kantor Real Estate will be allowed to look for oil in the Everglades unless we as citizens make these calls to stop it. Mind you this oil exploration will affect the FL aquifer - your drinking water -- as well.

FFGC is one of the largest volunteer organizations in the state and so if we all make calls then we will have a large impact. Please make these calls --- if not for you then for your children and grandchildren.

My latest newsletter article on the fracking situation in Florida --- submitted to Blooming Tales and FFGC but too late to make our newsletter ---- has been emailed to Carol Ralph for WGC distribution.

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Loggerhead Watch Signup

As your Environmental Chairman, I am spearheading a Loggerhead Walk at John MacArthur Beach State Park on the third and fourth weeks of June, 2019. The tickets are listed as \$15 and I am asking for \$20 to give me some wiggle room to make this happen. If you always wanted to go and never wanted to take that lonesome midnight ride home then here is your chance.

We meet at the parking lot of the Village of Wellington - leave at 7 PM. Be at the John MacArthur Beach State Park at 8 PM to listen to the ranger and then start our walk at 8:45 PM. Be prepared to be thrilled by these loggerheads. Please note that once you start your walk you cannot leave early. I suspect we will be guided back sometime between 11-12 midnight. Oh ... you must be 12 years old or older to attend.

The nice lady at the park told me that last year over 1500 loggerheads laid their eggs at their beach. That there is an 86% chance to see loggerheads lay eggs. Refunds only if the ranger cancels due to lightning. In 2018 - no cancellations. In 2017 only 1 cancellation.

Please sign up with a check. I have 3 dates in mind with 8 to an evening. If we have more signups then I will open more dates. The last chance to sign up is at the Kentucky Derby luncheon.

This is one of those experiences of a lifetime in Palm Beach County. However, do not sign up if you cannot physically handle it.

National Garden Week

- National Garden Week is an ongoing project of National Garden Clubs, Inc., of which Wellington Garden Club is a member.
- It's always held the first week in June. This year that is June 2-8.
- The Mayor usually issues a proclamation and this has already been requested.
- During the week our club provides floral arrangements and/or plants to our municipal offices, the Wellington Library and other businesses in the community that support our club, like the Mall at Wellington Green, Van Dell Jewelers, and especially those who have supported this year's garden tour.
- In past years we have given presentations at the library, done planting projects with the children at Wellington's summer camp program in hopes of encouraging the public and our youth to become more involved in gardening and improving the environment.
- Plans for this year's celebration are not yet finalized. When they are, you will be hearing from me via email.
- I hope you will join in the celebration if you are here. And if not, celebrate National Garden Week wherever you are during the first week of June.

2020 Flower Show

- As you know, last year's flower show was such a great success and made over \$2,500 for the club. Recently, some of us have been talking about having another one in 2020.
- Our idea is to have what is called a Petite Flower Show. This means all the designs would be small, between 3" and 12" tall.
- To help members learn how to create small designs, Susan Hillson will be giving a series of floral design workshops on small designs in our next club year.
- There's also horticulture in a Petite Flower Show which must be dwarf or naturally small specimens. There are many plant families that have naturally small varieties – orchids, begonias, sansevieria, bromeliads, succulents, to name a few. The possibilities are very exciting to me and I'm already acquiring a few dwarf specimens.
- So here's the question to all of you – Do you think this would be an educational, rewarding and exciting experience?
- Can I have a show of hands of those in favor of having a Petite Flower Show in 2020?

Planters and Easter Bunny at Wellington Green

- WGC was invited to participate in Easter Bunny's arrival ceremony several weeks ago.
- The project was to work with children on the day the Easter Bunny arrived at the Mall and have the children plant large planters with colorful plants to be placed at the Mall during the Easter Bunny display in April.
- Several members advised on what to plant – Thank you, Linda DeSanti and Stormi Bivin
- Other members helped get the boxes ready for the planting – Thank you, Nancy Cinieri, Mary Anne Greely, Gigi Bard, Dee Rolfe, Carol Lazarino, Deb Russell and Linda DeSanti.
- Last Saturday was the big day! The kids helped plant the flower boxes, with assistance from Joan Kaplan, Susan Hillson, Caroline Kessman, Dee Rolfe, Kay Brown, me and the Easter Bunny who got to plant the final plant in one of the boxes. Thanks to everyone for all you did to make this a success.
- It was lots of fun, especially because the Mall staff bent over backwards to help in every way they could.
- Later this week the Mall will place a sign near the boxes crediting Wellington Garden Club with helping to create the boxes with the kids.
- A few of our members have volunteered to check on the plants twice a week when they go to the Mall for their morning walk. Thank you, Mary Anne Greely, Mary Drexler, Deb Russell and Linda DeSanti for agreeing to do this – and I will join you as often as I can.