

**Wellington Garden Club
Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 6, 2025
Wellington Community Center**

I. Carol Ralph called the meeting to order at 10:05 am

- A. A quorum was established.
- B. All cell phones were silenced
- C. All attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Membership voted unanimously to approve a change to the Articles of Association to allow Co-Officers.
- E. Horticulture Specialty Show Award Certificate from NGC was presented to WGC member Caroline Kessman for the "Earth Day Every Day" Flower Show.
- F. Jan Seagrave introduced four members of the Hartley family: Celia, Everett, Johanna (JoJo), and Madison who are Wekiva campers sponsored by WGC for many years, visiting today to share their experiences as campers at Wekiva. Celia and Johanna are also WGC scholarship recipients.
- G. Carol Ralph introduced and welcomed today: Guests Virginia McLoughlin, Robert Parkhurst, Dr. John Russo, Claire Valier, Susan Specht, and Todd Siena, and a New Member Debra Wilson.

II. Lisa Ferrano introduced the Speaker for today, CJ McCartney, Master Gardener. CJ spoke on the Topic: The Transformational Intersection of Nature and Us - Today and Tomorrow.

III. Officer Reports

- A. **Recording Secretary** - Minutes from the November 4, 2024 Membership Meeting were accepted as presented.
- B. **President's Report**
 - a. The basket was passed for Plant-A-Tree (the name has changed from Penny Pines). For info on Plant-A-Tree and see the changes to this program, go to gardenclub.org. WGC sends in a donation annually.
 - b. There were 98 attendees total at the November 4, 2024 Membership Meeting, 22 guests were members of the Valencia Reserve Garden Club of Boynton Beach.
 - c. No Sunset Social was scheduled for January, 2025. The Sunset Social on February 21st will be at Carol Ralph's garden, 15694 Citrus Grove Blvd, Loxahatchee, FL from 4pm-6pm
 - d. Carol Ralph completed the application to have The Wildflower Meadow certified as a Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. The Certificate was received. WGC Board of Directors approved the purchase of a sign from NWF to be placed at The Meadow to identify this certification.
 - e. An addendum to the WGC Yearbook was presented. It will be sent to all members when completed.
- C. **Treasurer's Report** - Marianne Forrest. See Treasurer's Report and P&L as of 12/27/24 which is included in the Recording Secretary files.

IV. 1st Vice Presidents - Carol Ralph introduced Annette Lubsen (2 year member of WGC) and Susie Stevenson (formerly 30-year member of the Portland, Oregon Garden Club) as our new Co-1st Vice Presidents.

V. 2nd Vice President - Kristi is not here due to her work. The speaker for February is Jason Mackey, Barefoot Orchids, to speak on the topic "Making Orchids Simple".

VI. Corresponding Secretary - Jan Seagrave. Received two thank you cards from Ellison Independent Living Facility in Lake Worth for the WGC donation toward their Garden. They planted two Bahama Strongbark trees for Arbor Day. Invited WGC members to join them on 1/17/25 at 2pm for their Arbor Day Dedication of the Garden. WGC member, Barbara Hadsell is a resident at Ellison. Also received a thank you card from Mary Anne Greely for WGC kind expression of sympathy and online tribute on the death of her husband, Jerry.

VII. Standing Committee Reports

A. Around & About - Kimberly Helms. The 1/16/25 A&A will be to Tropical Bamboo Nursery & Gardens and Excelsa Gardens Nursery in Loxahatchee. Will collect \$15 to cover a picnic lunch in the Excelsa Gardens Atrium. Kim will bring in various lunch items from Costco, Whole Foods, Panera. Advised everyone to wear comfortable shoes. Around & About on 2/13/25 will be to Bamboo & Orchid Gardens in Davie, FL. There are signup sheets on the Signup table.

B. Newsletter - Tina Richter. The Newsletter for January, 2025 was sent to the membership on Friday, January 3, 2025. There are only two issues left for the rest of the year. Tina requested that submissions of photos, poems, etc. continue to be sent in. These greatly add to the dimension of the Newsletter. Also, Tina is looking for someone to volunteer to take over preparing the Newsletter for next year. If anyone has any creative interests/talents, please email Tina. She can make the transition work very well.

VIII. Special Committee Reports

A. Arbor Day Celebration - Katherine Wagner-Reiss, Chairman, unable to attend today. WGC celebration will be Friday, 1/17/25 at 11:00 am at the Wildflower Meadow in Greenbriar Park. Carol Ralph requested members wear their WGC shirts to be identified by members of the Community and the dignitaries present. State House Representative, Anne Gerwig, and Village Councilwoman, Tanya Siskind are both hoping to attend. WGC will plant a Red Berry (Redberry Stopper) tree. Carol presented photos of the Wildflower Meadow flowers, grasses, and new benches. Justin Ramich, his family, and members of the Scout Troop will attend the Ceremony. WGC presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Justin for his work on the four benches.

B. Shredding Event - Annette Lubsen & Susie Stevenson, Chair. Saturday, 1/25/25, 9-11am at Wellington Community Center Complex. Have enough volunteers but anyone is welcome to join in the camaraderie of the day.

C. Mardi Gras Trivia Day - Stormi Bivin. To be held in The District Room at the Wellington Green Mall on 3/4/25 at 11:30 am sharp, arrive by 11:15 am. A small fundraiser for WGC. Will have tables and teams of up to 8 people. Will not be

announced to the public. 1-1/2 hours of Trivia. WGC will utilize CPK's fundraiser program called Pizza with a Purpose where WGC can earn 20% of the proceeds from the lunches. Cost of the Trivia is \$5 per person.

D. 2025 Unsolicited Landscape Design Awards - Storm Bivin. Soliciting submissions for consideration by the judges from FFGC landscape design consultants. Submissions are open to all Garden Club members. Keep an eye out for outstanding landscape design/curb appeal. Categories are small business, public facility, private facility, private residence (not a gated community as must be visible to the general public). Submit photos with the application form. Deadline is March 24, 2025. Email with details will be sent out this coming week to all members. Owners of the landscape being considered are not notified in advance.

E. Tropical Short Course - Marianne Forrest (For Maria Wolfe). 68th Annual Tropical Short Course "Off The Grid" Creative Approaches to the Garden, the Environment, and Floral Design on 1/23/25 and 1/24/25 at Wellington Community Center. Great program of speakers and floral demonstrations each day. Continental breakfast and box lunches provided. \$80 for both days, \$55 for one day. Deadline for registration is coming up soon. Members are eligible for 50% reimbursement of the registration fee.

F. Basket Collection - Marianne Forrest reported basket collection today totaled \$75.39 for the Plant-A-Tree program.

G. Hospitality - Thank you to all members who brought in the food for today's meeting, and a special thank you to the ladies who work tirelessly to manage the food/drink tables - Janet Jones, Joan Valitutto, Linda Mackin, Sylvia Kelemen.

H. Meeting Plant Raffle - JoAnn Akins reported today's raffle raised \$183.00. There are some free plants left over. Thank you to Paige, Kathy, and Libby for helping. This has turned into quite a large project.

I. Minute for Gardening - Carol Ralph for Katherine Wagner-Reiss. Slide show of the Eugenia Confusa (Redberry Stopper) which WGC will plant on Arbor Day. This is a Florida native tree that is endangered in the wild. It is a ficus-like tree with evergreen leaves, producing white flowers and red berries. WGC purchased the Redberry Stopper to be planted on Arbor Day from Jane Thompson at Indian Trails Native Nursery in Wellington.

J. New Member Reception - Thursday, February 27, 2025. Carol Ralph, Annette Lubsen, and Susie Stevenson are organizing the reception.

IX. New Business

A. NGC Small Standard Flower Show "All You Need Is Love" - Maria Wolfe, Chairs the Committee. More information coming. Sponsored by WGC. Will be held the same day as our Spring Luncheon, 5/5/25, 2pm to 5pm, at Wellington National Golf Club. Open to the public.

B. NGC Gardening School - Carol Ralph. Presented via Zoom on 2/10-12/2025, 8:15a - 12:00p. Course 2, Series 11. Registration Deadline 2/1/25. Sponsored by New Smyrna Beach Garden Club. Registration fee is \$65.

X. Announcements

A. John Siena commented on the disappointing number of members who do not stay for the entire meeting.

B. Stormi Bivin still collecting orders for tickets for West Side Story at The Kings Academy on Saturday, 3/15/25. Contact Stormi today or tomorrow if still interested in attending.

C. Kimberly Helms thanked all those who have brought in native plant seeds.

XI. Name Tag Raffle. Winners were Bonnie Olie, Kathy Hood, Mimi Borowy

XII. Meeting Adjourned at 11:52 am

Respectfully Submitted

Mariclaire “Mimi” Borowy and Carol Dima

Co-Recording Secretaries