

**Wellington Garden Club**  
**April 7, 2025 Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Wellington Community Center**

**Welcome by Carol Ralph**

**Meeting Called to Order at 10:00am**

A quorum was established  
All cell phones were silenced  
Pledge of Allegiance

**Moncada Presentation** - Carol Ralph, Lisa Ferrano, and Kathy Siena welcomed Will Gurney, Landscape Superintendent for the Village of Wellington. Will has been a good friend of WGC by providing landscape trees and shrubs for WGC public installation and assisted in the meadow planting, butterfly gardens, and Arbor Day events. Will spoke about Moncada, which is a 45 acre tract of land that the Village of Wellington purchased and added to the 365 acres of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas/Wellington Environmental Preserve. There is a phased plan to enhance the 45 acres with a canopy of Florida native trees, walking and horse trails, picnic tables, wildlife observation area, and learning center with botanical garden. Carol, Lisa, and Kathy presented Will with the FFGC Earth Steward Award certificate, a specially designed pin, and a framed wetlands photo.

**Introduction of New Members and Guests** - Allison Albury introduced guests: Lia Cooper, Rosalind Hare, H Albrecht, Joshua and Bianca Somers, Mel Shapira, and Marie Torres Perez. Also introduced six new members: Claire Valier, Karen Klotz, Ann and Frank Finch, Susan and Paul Specht.

**Speaker Presentation** - Carol Ralph introduced Charmaine Peters, Farm Director at Arden Farm, in Loxahatchee, which serves as a community resource for food education and home-grown fruits and vegetables. Topic was Smarty Plants: Safe Solutions for Diseases (and Critters) in your Garden.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Recording Secretary** Minutes for the March 3, 2025 Membership Meeting were accepted as submitted.

**President's Report** - Carol Ralph.

**Vote for 2025-2027 Slate of Officers.** Nominating Committee Chair Linda Messina, and Committee members Stormi Bivin, Twig Morris, and Kathy Hood. Linda read the slate of Officers nominated for the 2025-2027 Season, with no nominee for 1st Vice President. There were no nominations from the floor. The membership present voted affirmatively to accept the slate of Officers nominated.

**Plant-A-Tree Basket** was passed around. Carol Ralph reported that WGC has donated a total of \$2,591.39 since 2011 for this NGC project.

**Meeting Attendance** Carol Ralph reported there were 76 attendees, with 6 guests, at the March 3, 2025 membership meeting.

**Sunset Social** - Carolee Samuels. The April 11th Sunset Social will be at the home and gardens of Kevin Fritz, 8154 Pine Cay Road, in VillageWalk, from 4p-6p. Even though not a member, Kevin offered to host the event and generously offered to supply the food, beverages and harpist. Information and sign-up sheets are on the table. VillageWalk is a closed community, so sign-up is mandatory for entrance.

**District X** - Carol Ralph received an email from Mary Ann Cody, District X Director Elect (2025-2027) encouraging garden club members to attend the FFGC State Convention, entitled "Garden Club 101 Back to Basics", April 8-10, at Southbank Marriott, Jacksonville. The Garden Club of Fort Pierce is hosting the District X Spring Meeting entitled "Around the World with a Festival of Flowers" on April 24, at the River Walk Center in Ft. Pierce. All members are invited to attend.

**Treasurers Report** - Danese Sloan-Kendall. Presented the 3/1/25-3/28/25 Treasurers Report. Income \$3,391.36. Expenses \$1,721.05. Checking Account Balance is \$37,732.25.

**1st Vice Presidents** - Annette Lubsen and Susie Stevenson. Annette reported on the well attended Children's Day Event at the Mall at Wellington Green, on 4/5/25. Several WGC members volunteered to man the hands-on seed planting table. This was one of many wonderful volunteering opportunities available to our members. Susie Stevenson re-introduced the Suggestion Box asking members to share their ideas for the upcoming WGC season.

**Corresponding Secretary** - Jan Seagrave read a letter of appreciation from the Board of Directors of the Everglades Foundation for the \$100 gift from WGC. Sad announcement that life member of WGC and FFGC, Mary Ellen Chestnut, passed away at the age of 97. Maria Wolfe announced that Mary Ellen's daughter Silvia Evans, WGC member, is planning a memorial service and butterfly release at her home on 4/24/25. WGC will be planting a tree in the Wildflower Meadow in her honor.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS;**

**Around & About** - Kimberly Helms reported on the 4/16/25 Vizcaya Museum & Gardens tour in Miami. Cost is \$60 including transportation, entry fee, and box lunch. Looking at several modes of transportation to get there. Information and signup sheets are on the table.

**Newsletter** Still looking for a Newsletter editor to replace Tina Richter. Please consider volunteering for this position.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**2025 WGC Spring Luncheon.** May 5 at Wellington National Golf Club. Installation of Officers, Scholarship Presentation, NGC Small Standard Flower Show. Details and sign up sheet on the table, deadline to sign up and pay (\$47/person) is Friday, April 18.

**Earth Day Plant Sale - Carol Ralph and Huguette Damas.** April 26, 2025 Earth Day Celebration Event. Will use Indian Trails Native Nursery, Quintessence, and A-One Stop nurseries for consignment plants, and will get fewer and smaller plants this year which may sell better. There are two vendors (CR Orchids and C&P Growers), and have two food vendors (Ahmay Cuisine and CrepStick). Requesting member grown plant donations which provides full profit on those sales. Need volunteers for pick up and delivery, and to work the day of the plant sale. WGC provided two craft items for the Village Children's Craft Table. VoW contacts this year are Michelle Garvey and Markus Lockhart.

**Flower Show - Maria Wolfe.** FFGC Small Standard Flower Show "All You Need Is Love" is Monday, May 5, immediately following the WGC Spring Luncheon. VoW Mayor, Michael Napoleone, will be there to cut the ribbon for the event. Flower show is free and public is invited. Flyers are available here for posting around town. Hoping members find a plant to enter in the show.

**Flower Show Horticulture Workshop - Stormi Bivin.** In preparation for the NGC Small Standard Flower Show on May 5, Katherine Wagner-Reiss and Stormi Bivin will be conducting an informative workshop on Tuesday, April 15, at 10am, in the WiFi Room at Wellington Community Center, to discuss "The Schedule", the three horticulture sections, grooming plants, judges scoring, how to fill out registration and entry forms, do's and don'ts, and Q&A. Sign up sheets are on the table.

**Meeting Plant Table Raffle - JoAnn Akins** thanked everyone who brought in the wonderful selection of plants today, Raised \$192.

**Environmental Report - Diane Rice** requested participation by members to respond to their FL congressman against the unwarranted Florida House Bill 1175 which would radically change the way that Florida mitigates wetlands and would hasten a net loss in the Palm Beach County and South Florida Watershed. There is concern about this development in the Everglades as well.

**Hospitality - Carol Ralph** thanked all who brought in food for today's meetings and for the hardworking ladies making coffee and managing all of the set up and clean up.

**OLD BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Nothing to report.

**Name Tag Raffle Winners:** Ronnie Levay, Linda Messina, Evelyn Reibel, Bobbi Ziegler, Laura Johnson, Carolee Samuels, Dee Rolfe, Kathy Perinoff, Joan Valitutto, Joyce Smith.

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mariclaire "Mimi" Borowy and Carol Dima  
Co-Recording Secretaries