

## **Blowing Rock Garden Club Minutes - August 7, 2024**

Mary Babbitt introduced the speaker, Danielle Stewart from Mustard Seed at 12:00 noon. Danielle taught us a great deal about making beautiful centerpieces, including mechanics of flower arranging and color “stories.” She imparted a great deal of wisdom regarding cut flowers.

At 1:00 p.m., Mary called our meeting to order. New members and guests were introduced.

**Secretary’s Report:** Martha Anne Gilliam expressed appreciation for Joyce Zellner who recorded the minutes at our July meeting. There were no corrections to the minutes. Marie Caracuzzo moved that the minutes be accepted and Elmyra Morris offered a 2nd. The July minutes were accepted as broadcast.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Malia Shorts reported that we collected \$595.00 last month in members’ dues, \$89.00 from our raffle, and \$65.00 for our logo items for a total of \$749.00 in revenue. We had two expenses last month, \$100.00 for an Arborcrest donation, and \$17.09 in Bingo expenses. Our checking account balance is \$15,148.73

**President’s Report:** Mary Babbitt thanked Joyce Zellner for offering her barn for a new members’ tea to be held on August 26th at 12 noon and for allowing us to have a potluck dinner at the barn for members and significant others.

Mary said that Joyce is heading the nominating committee for our 2025 board members. Mary asked for volunteers to co-chair the nominating committee with Joyce. We are to let Mary know if we want to serve.

Alice Roess was thanked for a donation from Art in the Park. Alice thanked those members who volunteered to represent the Blowing Rock Garden Club at Art in the Park.

**Vice President's Report:** Marie Caracuzzo thanked her wildflower bingo committee saying they are a wonderful group. Wildflower Bingo is September 26th. We are asked to show up at 10 a.m. to help set up and decorate for the bingo that evening. All members are asked to bring a dish to share. We need fingerfood, as we do not want to be encumbered by utensils. We are only allowed to have 140 people in the building due to the fire code. Marie said that there would also be food donations from places like Subway and Food Lion. We will have the raffle items set up on the porch this year to allow more room for bingo tables. The food will be near the kitchen again.

The September general meeting will be held at BRAHM and Mary said she will bring a form to that meeting for people to sign up for what they are bringing or volunteering to do for wildflower bingo night. Marie asked if anyone might be interested in being Vice President of the club next year. If so, we are asked to let her or one of the board members know. She stressed what a great group we have and how supportive the group is of each other.

**Hospitality:** Mary Horsman was not present, but Marie thanked the people who had brought food and raffle items. Next month, when we meet at BRAHM, Marie asked for three more volunteers for snacks. Peggy Appleton, Lynn Armbrust, and Barbara Ballesty volunteered to bring food.

Marie thanked Shelley Pendleton, Ann Reynolds, Hope Estepan and Lise Jenkins for bringing food to the August meeting. (Marie also brought food - so thanks to Marie as well.) Marie thanked Darlene Kroneman, Lynda Steele, and Susan Sweet for donating raffle items.

**Membership:** Kathy Medosch was not present, but Mary B. said that Kathy had reported that we have 76 paid members.

**Horticulture:** Evenlight Eagles said that she and Lise Jenkins were giving a tour of the Memorial Gardens to Durham Master Gardeners today. She thanked all of the garden volunteers for their help in getting the garden looking so good after the rain. Presently, she is dividing and transplanting some of the plants as well as planting more native plants.

**Field Trips:** Mona Johnson said that the field trips to both the lavender gardens and to the blueberry patch were greatly enjoyed and she thanked Lynda Steele for setting up the field trip to Arborcrest. She said that we might go there again in October. We are going to Lynda Steele's home for "cider making" on October 6th. We are supposed to be there from 12 noon until 5 p.m. She said to bring a food dish to share and we are welcome to bring spouses or significant others. We should bring a container for cider. We will be picking 7 varieties of apples, washing them, cutting out bad spots, and pressing them. Last year, we made 35 gallons of cider. Marie Caracuzzo's neighbor will sing and play guitar for us. Mona announced that Melaine Campbell will co-chair field trips with her next year.

**Facebook:** Marilyn Green said to keep her informed of anything she should put on the Facebook page.

**Past President's Thoughts:** Joyce was not present.

**Mile of Flowers (MOF):** The MOF committee is doing well. There will be one more meeting this year at the home of Susan Sweet on Sept. 19th at 10 a.m. Anyone is welcome to come.

She will have a sign-up sheet at our May meeting next year for specific duties. MOF will be Friday, June 27th, 2025. This will be a huge undertaking and all are expected to participate.

**Special Programs:** Elmyra Morris said that we must sign up to go to our next general meeting which will be September 4th at BRAHM. Be sure to specify that you are a garden club member. This event is open to the public and is free for our garden club members as well as for BRAHM members. There is a charge for non-members. Ron Cutlip is our speaker and the topic is "Gardens are for People." The sign-up link is below:

<https://www.blowingrockmuseum.org/calendar/garden-club-talk>

We are asked to show up at 10:30 a.m. at BRAHM. The program is at 11:00 a.m..

There is a break after the program, and then our club will have a short business meeting. Club members are invited to tour two members' beautiful gardens, Alice Roess's and Ineke Thomas's. There will not be parking for individual cars. Elmyra asked for volunteer drivers whose vehicles can seat at least five people. Let her know if you'd like to drive.

Our October meeting is a covered dish social. Mary Babbitt spoke about the beautiful tablescapes last year. Some members brought their china, tablecloths, centerpieces, and silverware last year for this year's end meeting. She said that members could volunteer to do the same this year.

Mary Babbitt adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Anne Gilliam  
Secretary