

Blowing Rock Garden Club General Meeting Minutes - May 7, 2025

After our presentation by Paige Patterson, Marie Caracuzzo called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m..

President's Report: Marie Caracuzzo asked for introductions of our new members. She also announced that our official installation of officers would take place at our June 4th meeting.

Marie asked for a Bingo chair volunteer. Wildflower Bingo is planned for September 4th.

Vice President's Report: Marie announced that Crystal Miller, our new V.P., will be at our next meeting. She will be in charge of selling our Garden Club Merchandise. She also will take care of our news releases.

Secretary's Report: Martha Anne Gilliam asked if everyone had received the draft of our Sept. 2025 meeting minutes. There were no additions or corrections. Pat Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes, and Darlene Kronneman offered a second. The minutes were passed.

Treasurer's Report: Malia Shorts was not able to be at the meeting, however, Our account balance is \$28,010.47. Additionally, our Garden Club dues for 2025 are due on or before May 31st.

Membership Report: Kathy Medosch said that we have seven new members.

Horticulture Report: Evenlight announced that we have great crews working in the Memorial Garden. Work times are from 5:30 until about 6:30 Monday nights and from 8:30 until about 9:30 on Thursday mornings. She updated us on our watering situation. Our hose reels have been sidelined for now and the town of blowing rock will be doing all of our watering. Evenlight showed the club the type of plant tags she is ordering, 100 labels for native and non-native plants in the garden at a cost of \$580.00.

Additionally, we are working on a QR code which will link to a list of all of our Memorial Garden plants.

Hospitality: Mary Horsman thanked everyone for the goodies and raffle items they brought and passed around a signup sheet for future snacks and raffle items. She will remind each person when they are supposed to bring their food or raffle items.

Programs: Marita Higgins is our program chair. Our June 4th meeting will feature speaker Cantley Tanner, a well-known sculptor. She will talk about art in the gardens. Our website has a list of the 2025 speakers. The website is blowingrockgardenclub.org.

Field Trips: Mona Johnson and Melaine Campbell are our co-chairs. Mona said that the first trip to gardens in Lenoir was a big success. On June 20th, we will go to the Rhododendron festival in Roan Mt., TN. There will be a sign-up/registration on our website, or you may let Mona know if you plan to attend. Also in June (date to be determined), we will visit the Lavender Farm near Lansing, NC. You may check our website for a firm date. We may be able to visit Swinging Bridge Farm in Deep Gap for blueberry picking. August 23rd, we will pick our own flowers in Valle Crucis at Harvest Farm. The Dahlia Patch Festival will be in Sparta on September 6th.

Website: Lise Jenkins has a downloadable list of all the flowers in our garden. There is also a members' only page. The password is *GardenFun*.

Newsletter: Lynda Steele hopes to get the first newsletter out by the end of May.

Mile of Flowers (MOF): Susan Sweet is chair. Elmyra Morris and Mary Babbitt are co-chairs. Their committee has accomplished a great deal. The emphasis will be different types of gardens. Over 100 have reserved tickets which are \$35.00, or \$30.00 for any garden club groups of 10 or more. The event is June 27th. Tour guides will start at 9 a.m.. We will also incorporate the history of Blowing Rock; walking tour guides will use a script and stop

at several landmarks. After the tours through town and the selected gardens, the Tea Party will be in the American Legion Bldg. from 1 to 3 p.m.. Every member will bring either a sweet or savory treat for the tea party. Three golf carts will be available to transport non-walkers. Tours are beginning at the gazebo in the park, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. In addition to tour guides, we need garden guides and hostesses for the tea party. Volunteers will park at the school and be transported. June 13th and 14th are training days. Practice day is Wednesday, the 18th of June. Tickets are being reserved through Susan Sweet's email. We can handle 200 people, maybe more. We are encouraged to wear a BRGC shirt to work the event.

July 4th Parade: Joyce Zellner and Amanda Lugenbell chair this event. We will decorate a "float" in Joyce's barn, closer to time.

Special Event: Elmyra Morris chairs this. John Rothling, director of the gardens at Reynolda in Winston Salem, and his wife Adrien, will be our speakers at BRAHM.

After our raffle, Marie adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Anne Gilliam, BRGC Secretary.