

Blowing Rock Garden Club General Meeting Minutes - June 4th, 2025

After a wonderful presentation by Cantey Tanner, Marie Caracuzzo called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m.

Installation:

Pat Collins installed the following officers:

Marie Caracuzzo, President

Malia Shorts, Treasurer

Martha Anne Gilliam, Secretary

Crystal Miller, our new Vice President, was unable to attend.

Marie Caracuzzo welcomed the following Chairpersons:

Kathy Medosch- Membership, Ann Perley, co-chair, was unable to attend.

Evenlight Eagles-Horticulture

Mary Horsman- Hospitality, was unable to attend

Marita Higgins-Programs

Mona Johnson/Melaine Campbell-Field Trips

Lise Jenkins-Website

Marilyn Green-Facebook

Lynda Steele-Newsletter

Susan Sweet/Elmyra Morris-Mile of Flowers

Amanda Lugenbell-July 4th Parade, Joyce Zellner, co-chair, was unable to attend.

Elmyra Morris-Special Programs

Marie recognized outgoing president, Mary Babbitt, for her outstanding service.

President's Report: Marie Caracuzzo has ordered some new BRGC items for purchase.

Secretary's Report: Martha Anne Gilliam made one correction to the draft of our May 2025 minutes. Darlene Kronemann made a motion to accept the minutes, and Alice Roess offered a second. The minutes were passed.

Treasurer's Report: Malia Shorts said our account balance is \$29,161.48. Last month, we made \$1,120 on dues, \$220 on Bingo sales, \$85 on Logo items, and \$143 on the raffle. Additionally, our Garden Club dues for 2025 were due on or before May 31st. If you have not yet paid, please mail the dues to P.O. Box 2673, Blowing Rock, 28605.

Membership Report: Kathy Medosch said that we have 40 paid members so far this year, and we had 92 members last year.

Horticulture Report: Evenlight thanked the great crews working in the Memorial Garden. She plans to have all matching plant tags after Mile of Flowers (MOF). The black ones will be non-native and the green are native plants. Additionally, we are working on a QR code which will link to a list of all of our Memorial Garden plants.

Programs: Marita Higgins says our own Pat Wheeler will speak on tablescares and floral arrangements July 9th. Check the website, blowingrockgardenclub.org for information.

Field Trips: Mona Johnson and Melaine Campbell, our co-chairs, announced a trip to the Lavender Farm near Lansing, NC on June 18th. On June 21st, we will go to the Rhododendron festival in Roan Mt., TN. Sign-up/registration for trips is available on our website. For these trips, we plan to meet at the parking lot of the American Legion Building. Let them know if you'd like to be a driver.

Website: Lise Jenkins reminded us that there is a public site and a members' only page. The members' only password is *GardenFun*. The site not only has the sign-up capability, but also has the newsletter, our directory, and the minutes. We will be getting a link to every flower in Memorial Gardens there as well.

Facebook: Marilyn Green asks us to send her any news you might have for our Facebook page.

Newsletter: Lynda Steele says she will change the date of our July meeting to July 9th; it is not the first Wednesday in July! She had about 70 “clicks” on the Newsletter since it was broadcast.

Mile of Flowers (MOF) JUNE 27th: Susan Sweet spoke about the plans. The emphasis will be on different types of gardens. We will begin at the Gazebo downtown. Parking: If you are early, you may park at the lot in/ around the American Legion Bldg. Other parking includes the Wallingford parking garage, BRAHM, the 1st Baptist Church lot, and Rumble. The tour guides may park at the BR Elementary School.

- Tour Guides: Susan Sweet and Elmyra Morris are heading this. Guides begin at 9 a.m. taking groups of 10 or less after they have checked in with hospitality at the Gazebo. They will give a history of the town, stopping along the way at points of interest. Tour guides will be given a script and will have a training day on June 13th at 10 a.m. meeting at the gazebo. They will also have a practice day, same place and time on Thursday, June 19th. Walking tours should last about 90 minutes. Tours end at 12 noon.
- Tea-party: Kathy Medosch and Marilyn Green are heading this. **Everyone** in the club is expected to make sweet or savory items. Finger sandwiches will be needed as well as other tea-party favorites. Please get in touch with her via email to let her know what food(s) you are bringing. (email Kathy @ Kathy727@gmail.com or Marilyn @ magicmtn@live.com) Drop your food off in the morning at the American Legion Building. The building must also be decorated in the morning, beginning at 8 a.m.. We need tea party helpers. The tea party takes place from 1 to 3 p.m..
- Garden Guides: Susan Sweet and Elmyra Morris are heading this. We need a few more to sign up. Morning guides work from 9:00 to noon. Afternoon guides from noon to 3 o'clock.
- Hospitality: Peggy Appleton is heading this. Check-in is limited to 200 people. 185 people have already reserved tickets. We may take some walk-ins between 11 and 12 noon. Hospitality collects money,

provides water and a snack, and a wrist band. We do not need more hospitality volunteers at the gazebo. Those positions are filled.

Reserved tickets are \$35.00, or \$30.00 for any garden club groups of 10 or more. Three golf carts will be available to transport non-walkers. We can handle 200 people, but possibly a few more walk-ins. We are encouraged to wear a BRGC shirt to work the event. There will be visors for tour guides and garden guides. The tea party hostesses and hospitality people get aprons. Aprons may be purchased (while they last) for \$20 as well. Amanda Lugenbell is designing the brochure. People may use this and walk the mile of flowers on their own. As guides end their jobs at noon, they may migrate to the tea-party which begins at 1 o'clock. MOF is "rain or shine."

July 4th Parade: Joyce Zellner and Amanda Lugenbell chair this event. We will decorate a "float" in Joyce's barn, on June 29th at 3 p.m. There will be pizza. You may bring your own drink and other snacks or salad if you wish. In the parade, we will wear wide-brimmed floral hats. You may wear your club shirts in the parade or red white and blue.

Special Events: Elmyra Morris chairs this. John Roethling, director of the gardens at Reynolda in Winston Salem, and his wife Adrienne, will be our speakers at BRAHM on September 3rd.

Wildflower Bingo: Alice Roess and Darlene Kronemann will chair this event on September 4th at the American Legion Building.

After our raffle, Marie adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Anne Gilliam, BRGC Secretary.