

## **Blowing Rock Garden Club General Meeting Minutes -October 1st, 2025**

This month, we celebrated our final meeting of the 2025 season with a pot-luck lunch featuring gorgeous centerpieces by some of our talented members. Marie Caracuzzo called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and asked member Edith Gross to introduce Tammy Blanton, a sales director for Christian Tours. Christian Tours has organized a bus tour called "Gardens Galore" for June 2nd through the 6th, 2026. Tammy gave details of the trip which include: Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Hagley Museum/ Nemours Mansion and Gardens, Longwood Gardens (and Valley Forge), and Winterthur (followed by a dinner theatre). Following the tour overview, there was a brief business meeting.

### **President's Report:** Marie Caracuzzo

- Sculpture Committee: We need five members to serve. \$12,000 has been saved towards a sculpture of some kind for our garden. Some additional funds from our 2025 Wildflower Bingo profits will go towards this sculpture.
- Nominating committee: Joyce Zellner nominated the following slate of board members for 2026, and all were approved. Marilyn Green installed the three members present.

President - Marie Caracuzzo

Vice President - Crystal Miller to be installed in May 2026

Secretary - Barbara Law

Treasurer - Patricia (Tricia) Aiken

- New 2026 Hospitality Chairs Recognized - Joyce Zellner, Darlene Kronemann and Peggy Appleton.

-Marie thanked the following outgoing board members and committee chairs: Malia Shorts (treasurer), Martha Anne Gilliam (secretary), and Mary Horsman (hospitality). Each served three years in their respective roles.

-Lise Jenkins made a proposal which the board has approved: We will provide scholarships totalling \$3,000 for continuing education. Blowing Rock Landscape Specialist Cory Cathcart and his crew will accept \$1,500

to attend workshops in the spring. Some of our horticulture committee workers may get scholarships as well.

**Secretary's Report:** Martha Anne's August minutes were passed after Joyce Zellner made a motion and Darlene Kronemann offered a second.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marie said that we have \$38,406.05 in our checking account.

**Wildflower Bingo:** Darlene Kronemann and Alice Roess thanked all involved in the success of Bingo. Roughly \$6,200 was made, however, a finalized report will be forthcoming. Marie announced that Malia Shorts has agreed to co-chair this committee next year.

**Membership Report:** Ann Perley announced that we currently have 90 members, however 26 of those were unpaid. Membership chairs have reached out to those who have not paid. Kathy and Ann will serve as co-chairs again next year.

**Horticulture Report:** Evenlight thanked her crew and said we had received many compliments on the garden this year. She said we now have watering hoses. Evenlight will serve again next year.

**Hospitality Report:** Mary Horsman was thanked for her service over the last three years.

**Programs:** Marita Higgins has agreed to continue chairing programs next year and is already at work.

**Field Trips:** Melaine and Mona reminded everyone of the Arborcrest field trip Friday, Oct. 3rd at 1. They have agreed to serve as co-chairs next year as well. Mona announced she is having a Christmas party Saturday, Dec. 6th. You may bring your spouse or a friend. It will be in the afternoon.

**Website:** Lise Jenkins had to leave, but Marie said that Lise is gauging interest in a garden-focused book club. Let her know if you are interested. Please pass on ideas or suggestions. Happily, Lise will continue as webmaster.

Our website: <https://blowingrockgardenclub.org/>

**Facebook:** Marilyn Green has been posting fun and interesting things and will continue next year.

**Newsletter:** Lynda Steele says she has a great “open” rate for the newsletter. She is culling the email list to include current members only. She will chair again next year.

Reminders: If you are writing thank-you notes to downtown merchants, do not use a street address; use a P.O. Box. Use the club address as a return address. Save any baskets you can for Bingo next year.

Marie adjourned the meeting at 1:08.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Anne Gilliam, BRGC Secretary











Happy Fall, Y'all!