

Blowing Rock Garden Club Zoom Sept. Board Meeting (09/17/2025)

Members Present: Marie Caracuzzo, Crystal Miller, Martha Anne Gilliam, Malia Shorts, Kathy Medosch, Mary Horsman, Evenlight Eagles, Melaine Campbell, Lynda Steele, Marita Higgins, Lise Jenkins, and Mona Johnson, and club member, Edith Gross.

Marie called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m..

Secretary Report: Martha Anne's August board meeting minutes were approved. Mary made the motion to approve and Lynda and Marita offered seconds simultaneously.

Treasurer Report: Malia said we took in \$6,665 during Wildflower Bingo:

- \$3,200 ticket sales
- \$2,525 silent auction
- \$930 raffle tickets

Expenses - \$280.31

Net profit - \$6384.69

Checkbook balance: \$38,406.05

Marie says Tricia Aiken will take over as treasurer next year.

President Report: Marie

- introduced new member, Edith Gross, who spoke about a tour bus trip including garden tours which she has planned for June 2-6th, 2026. (*Details:* Spouses and friends of members are welcome to join!
See America's #1 Botanical Garden: Longwood Gardens
See America's #4 Botanical Garden: Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens
Plus, Hagley Museum, Nemours Mansion & French Formal Gardens, Winterthur, Historic Valley Forge and Toby's Dinner Theatre! Price Per Person: Double \$1230 Triple \$1149 Quad \$1099 Single \$1520)
- thanked Elmyra Morris for the September collaborative meeting with BRAHM featuring John and Adrienne Rothling from Reynolda Gardens in Winston.
- thanked Alice Roess and Darlene Kronemann for chairing Wildflower Bingo on 9/4/25

- gave a sculpture update. After some discussion involving the cost of bronze, it was decided that other materials will be considered as well. A survey committee is being formed.

Vice-President Report: Crystal Miller asked if we might need smaller sizes in our shirt inventory. She said she might also order hoodies, sweatshirts, and v-neck tees as well as crew-necks.

Old and New Business:

Membership Report: Kathy Medosch said that we have 77 paid members and 12 unpaid. She has reached out to all unpaid members. Kathy suggested we might want to invest some money in a CD due to the large balance in our account. Marie agreed to check with the bank.

Horticulture Report: Evenlight Eagles said we are now allowed to use hoses in the gardens, but no reels. There was some discussion about Bingo for next year. Malia has agreed to co-chair next year's Bingo committee. Mona, Lynda, and Crystal also want to be on that committee.

Hospitality Report: Mary Horsman said that there are not enough people who volunteered to decorate with complete table settings for our October 1st luncheon meeting. It was decided to use centerpieces only. Marie, Mary, Mona, Lynda, and Evenlight each volunteered to make a fall-themed centerpiece.

Programs: Marita will continue as our program chair again next year. She already has some ideas including the naturalist from Grandfather Mountain. Lise is speaking with Leanne Henion, author of Night Magic, about speaking to us.

Field Trips: Mona and Melaine will continue to chair next year. They plan to repeat the Dahlia festival next year. For October this year, a visit to Arborcrest has been planned for October 3rd at 1 o'clock. The limit is 12 people, and we will meet there.

Newsletter: Lynda Steele is having difficulty due to a 2-factor authentication. The notification for that has not been transferred to her.

Facebook: Marilyn was not present

Website: Lise Jenkins said she could change the password for our members' only page. She is adding Eventbrite. With that, we can purchase tickets on the website.

Special Programs: Elmyra Morris was unable to attend.

Wildflower Bingo: Alice Roess and Darlene Kronemann were unable to attend. The Bingo financial outcome was given by Malia.

Lise Jenkins initiated a discussion regarding using our funds in accord with the club's mission. Ideas discussed included scholarships/tuition for horticultural conferences for Blowing Rock's landscaping director or crew. Lise mentioned two professional development conferences which cost about \$750 per person. There was some discussion about destructive, invasive plants and how the town of Blowing Rock is still planting Knotweed. We were cautioned to invest into our mission as a club and avoid using money for the benefit of any individual club members. Additionally, Lise cautioned that we need to be careful about the amount of money we have in the account; we don't want to attract an audit. Another idea was a possible future endowment for ASU horticultural students. Following the discussions, Lise proposed that \$3,000 be set aside for professional development conferences, especially benefitting Blowing Rock's landscaping/horticultural employees and possibly our horticultural committee. Mona made a motion to approve and Crystal offered a 2nd. The proposal was passed.

Marie asked that each committee have an idea of their budget for the upcoming year. She also noted that we had received a couple of nice donations, one from Ron and Kat Perry, and one from Ron Cutlip.

Marie adjourned the meeting at 11:14.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Anne Gilliam