

## Lake Placid Garden Club, General Meeting, April 9, 2025

The meeting was held at the Lake Placid Government Center.

Wanda Dickson gave members a gardening tip, then delivered the invocation.

Lunch was a box lunch from WaWa containing a sub sandwich, chips and a cookie. Jennifer Marsh issued a challenge to members to keep the box to recycle or to repurpose. Decorated boxes can be brought to the May meeting; the most cleverly decorated box will win a prize. Members were called to lunch.

Sue Rood and Sharon Diaz gave tributes to Peggy Alexander whose 90<sup>th</sup> birthday is next week. "Happy Birthday" was sung to her, birthday cards were collected and slices from a festive sheet cake were distributed.

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 by President Sandy Rosch. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

Laura Krumm and Carol Lambert reported to the club on their recent presentation to the Lake Placid Noon Rotary. They told Rotarians about our Youth Gardening activities. Carol spoke to them about longevity spinach. The Rotary donated \$250 to the club for use in its Youth Gardening.

The club has been asked to return to the Breakfast Rotary meeting April 23. One or two volunteers are needed.

Nick Price reported that today's donations for Manna Ministries filled his car. He will deliver it Thursday.

The May meeting of the LPGC will be May 14 at the Lake Placid Government Center. Lunch will be quiche from Hartzell's. The centerpieces will be done by Donna Ferchen.

President Rosch quoted Benjamin Franklin in her President's message.

Guests included Kathy Nagy who came with Marian Chambers. Our two other guests were Marilyn Harper and Robin Ostertag.

These April birthdays were noted – Joyce Miles, Donna Jean Glenn, Wendy Parent, Deb Gunderlock, Peggy Alexander, Gia Cerbone, Doris Rohner, Marilyn Pier, Sally Kinsey, Agnes Smith, Robin Shear, Shannon Johnson and Deb Meyer.

LPGC 2025-26 dues are now due. Deb Gunderlock is collecting. Members are asked to complete a form to be returned with the dues.

Members are asked to check their listing in the Yearbook and report any mistakes and/or corrections/additions to Sue Rood as soon as possible.

Discussion about Standing Rules and By Laws has been tabled.

Robin Shear reported for the Call Girls Committee. She also reported as the chairman of next year's Holiday Home and Garden Tour. All homes have been secured. The HH&GT Committee will meet following this meeting.

Carol Coyle reported for the Sunshine Committee. Get well cards are requested for Ron Bomberger.

Co First Vice President Jeannie Dietl introduced David Austin whose presentation was "Bugs Beware." He is the Residential Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator and serves as the Highlands County Cooperative Extension Agent. He is employed by the University of Florida's IFAS.

Deb Meyer presented an interesting Horticulture segment about the different varieties, characteristics and requirements of the Tibouchina.

In the Fuss and Brag segment, Sharon Diaz showed members a bouquet of baby's breath and the purple variety of baby's breath, known as Queen's Wreath. Mary Greely spoke about moss roses and had packets of moss rose seeds available.

The Correspondence Committee reported. Mary Meisenheimer read a letter which expressed thanks for receiving one of the Holiday Home and Garden Tour's "giving trees." Laura Krumm read a letter from Jim and Maria Wolf, FFGC 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President-Elect, thanking the club for including them in the Membership Picnic.

Coins for Camp were collected. This money will be sent to Wekiva for their use.

The April minutes were accepted as written and will be filed.

Marian Chambers, Chairman of Garden Therapy, reported on the April 8 session held at the Lake Placid Health and Rehabilitation Center. She recognized flower donor Carol Coyle and Garden Therapy volunteers and noted the floral and choral talent involved.

The Nell Coe Award will be announced at the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' State Convention April 10-12. The LPGC submission was chaired by Robin Shear who again thanked members for their contributions.

Karen Denning, Acorn Project Chairman, told members their volunteers planted 1500 longleaf pine seedlings March 20. Their next meeting will be April 17 at the Royce Ranch with the first session being held 8-9:30 followed by another between 9:30-11:00.

Vicki Maxwell, Plant Sale Coordinator, reminded members this is the time to start plants and/or seeds now for next year's Plant Sale. She would like to offer more flowers and herbs at the next plant sale. She offered to care for any "sale" plants while members are away this summer.

Stephanie Moreo, Chairman, reported for the Scholarship Committee. 4 scholarships will be awarded to High School Seniors, 3 at the HS Awards Ceremony to be held Monday April 14 at the Lake Placid High School, beginning at 6:00. The 4<sup>th</sup> scholarship will be awarded to a senior who has been home-schooled. The winners, along with previous winners, will be invited to join us for lunch at the May meeting. Stephanie also read a letter from two previous winners who updated the club on their activities and educational progress. Sherill Trevino read a message of thanks from Mason, 4H Camp Cloverleaf, acknowledging receipt of and thanking the club for its recent donation of a \$450 campership.

Donna Ferchen, Treasurer, gave the Financial Report. The bank used by the LPGC, Heartland National bank, will be merging with Sea Coast Bank. The club checking account balance is \$7,785.47. The Vanguard account balance is \$46,059.91. Cash on hand is \$200. Total monetary assets as of March 31, 2025 is \$54,045.38.

The Membership Picnic, held March 29 at the Sun N Lakes Community Center was reported to be a success with outstanding weather and food. A highlight was the surprise presentation of President's Citations to each Mary and Jerry Meisenheimer for their 14 years of volunteerism at Wekiva Critter Camp.

Nick Price, Trips and Tours Committee Chairman, reported that the April 1 club trip to the Edison Ford Winter Estate and Garden was very well received and that the bus rides over and back were entertaining as well with trivia contests and raffles. Participants enjoyed lunch too. Since the afternoon was very hot, Nick is planning to offer a 2025-26 trip earlier in the new year.

Thanks to President-Elect Doris Rohner, Sue Rood and Wendy Parent, the LPGC club website is up and running. The address is [www.lakeplacidgardenclub.org](http://www.lakeplacidgardenclub.org). It is a public site but there is a member portal wherein only members can read content and contribute. The portal password in LPGC@2025.

The election of 2025-26 officers was conducted.

President, Doris Rohner

Co-First Vice Presidents, Stephanie Moreo and Monica Griffith

Co-Second Vice Presidents, Robin Shear, Karen Denning, Jan Vedernjak

Co-Treasurers, Donna Ferchen, Sandy Rosch, Sherill Trevino

Co-Recording Secretaries, Joyce Miles, Shannon Johnson

Co-Corresponding Secretaries, Laura Krumm, Mary Meisenheimer

Parliamentarian, Sally Kinsey (appointed by the President, part of the Executive Committee)

The proposed slate of officers was approved by an “aye” vote and will be installed at the May meeting.

Georgette Bonneville is soliciting donations of old jewelry and used corks for projects made to sell at the HH&GT boutique.

Outgoing President Sandy Rosch was thanked with a round of applause for two years of leadership and inspiration.

Because there have been misunderstandings and criticism of two recent Board purchases, members were asked to share their thoughts about the granite bench approved by the Board for the Masonic Lodge Botanical Garden in front of their Post Card mural and the sound system purchased for club use. It was noted that Parliamentarian Sally Kinsey stated that both decisions by the board were in keeping with parliamentary law.

President Rosch explained that the club has used the Masonic Lodge for events including the Plant Sale, the Holiday Home and Garden Tour and monthly Board meetings, for five years free of charge. When told that the Masons were asking the community to sponsor 4 or 5 benches for their planned park area, the Board voted to donate such a bench. The bench will be engraved with the name of the club. It was mentioned that the bench will bear the name of our club and may spark interest in the LPGC.

President Rosch also reminded members that the purchase of a sound system had been discussed for at least 5 years.

Both decisions brought statements of approval and no further criticism but it was agreed that the Standing Rules and By-Laws need to be studied and updated. They may need clarification; they may need to be changed. Many members felt they needed to vote on these purchases or at least notified of the purchases.

There was much discussion about the proposed budget. Since there has been talk about spreading out charitable contributions to causes other than scholarships, members were asked to offer thoughts and suggestions on that topic as well.

The amount allocated for both Youth Gardening and Garden Therapy has been doubled to \$300.

It was noted that much of the income generated by activities such as the HH&GT and the Plant Sale are recorded as profit but some of that income is actually due to the

generosity of our own members who donated materials, products and money. Janet Earnshaw stressed the importance of documenting such "in kind" donations as costs.

The suggestion was made to allocate more money to club members themselves, such as the club paying not only for the bus, but for all trip expenses for members.

Although some members dissented, most members were in favor of keeping \$8000 in the budget for scholarships.

The District IX Spring Meeting will be held at the Riverside Community Center in Fort Myers May 21, sponsored by the Cape Coral Garden Club. The deadline to register is May 7. Those participating are asked to call Doris Rohner.

Kathie Hutson conducted the 50/50 drawing. Donna Jean Glenn won \$130.

Winners of the Opportunity Table offerings were Ernie Bell, Kathie Hutson, Marcia Price, Robin Shear, Betty Zima, Marilyn Harper (2), Terese McDonald, Patricia Chong-Yen and Carol Coyle.

Those members purchasing the centerpieces, donated by Marcia Price, were Joyce Miles, Sherill Trevino, Kathleen Hartman, Lisa Hartman and Carol Coyle.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Miles

Recording Secretary