

Lake Placid Garden Club General Meeting, September 9, 2026

The meeting took place at the Caladium Co-op in Lake Placid beginning at 11:00. There were 63 members and 6 guests present.

Donna Ferchen gave the invocation. Members who brought bag lunches ate at this time. The Hostess Committee provided desert. The Hostess Committee consisted of Co-Chairmen Marcia Price and Jennifer Marsh and members Agnes Smith, Carol Lambert, Sherill Trevino and Scarlett Ray.

The centerpieces were made by Scarlet Bergner.

Susie Whitehead, President of the Highlands County Orchid Society, presented "Orchids." She is also a spokesman for the Master Gardener program.

She began by highlighting various Highlands County Garden Week events.

She brought attention to the club's orchid show, "Orchids: A Garden of Love," February 20-21. She also spoke of the Master Gardener event, "Let It Grow," November 21. Both events are at the Bert J Harris Jr Ag Center.

The Master Gardeners are focusing more on plants native to FL, especially to those native to Highlands County.

Orchids are easy to grow: one need only have a little knowledge about the variety of orchid and its water, light and weather requirements. Saving the tag on each orchid is very important as most orchids have been hybridized and it would be challenging to identify them.

She waters each Wednesday and fertilizes using 1/4 teaspoon each Epson salts and all-purpose fertilizer per one gallon of water. Each month, she skips the fertilizer one Wednesday. She has a battery powered sprayer to water with. If you are uncertain about your water quality, use distilled water.

She brought several of her orchids to show. Ed Fabik and Sharon Diaz each won a beautiful orchid as a door prize.

She urged club members to check out the Highlands County Orchid Society's webpage.

The meeting was called to order by President Danny Green. He acknowledged the Hostess Committee. A meeting of the Holiday Home and Garden Tour will take place after the General Meeting.

Members stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

September birthdays were celebrated. Those born this month are Sharon Diaz, Jennifer Marsh, Pat Reiser, Carol Coyle, Linda Hunley, Dorie Roa, Stephanie Moreo, Pam Rosenberg and guest Diana Boyer.

The Coins for Camp jar was passed by Sharon Diaz. Monies collected will be sent to the Wekiva General Fund.

Laura Krumm gave the Corresponding Secretary Report. Mary Meisenheimer thanked members for the support given her son in law.

Pat Reiser moved the May 2026 minutes be accepted as written. The motion passed.

Treasurer Donna Ferchen gave the Treasurer's Report. Total assets are \$53000. Two High School scholarships and one Continuing scholarship have been used by their recipients. The 2025-56 audit was successful.

Membership Chairman Jennifer Marsh introduced and welcomed new member Beth Pease.

The Horticulture segment was presented by Danny Green who spoke on canna lilies.

Canna lilies are not lilies at all.

They are extremely hardy and easy to grow from seed. They are pollinated by hummingbirds during the daytime and by hawk moths at night. They can't be overwatered. Spent blooms can be removed but leaves should remain. Canna lilies spread quickly.

All native plants grow and bloom much faster than hybridized plants and are immune to local viruses.

In Fuss and Brag, Sue Rood showed members a terrarium she made using mosses from Western New York's "pristine woods." She will be sharing information about that area's various mushrooms on Facebook.

Donna Ferchen told members about "Garden Revitalization," a new committee formed to assist fellow club members with their gardens. Applications are available at meetings, in the newsletter and on the website.

Robin Shear, Holiday Home and Garden Tour Co-Chair reported that the ticket booklets are at the printer's and will be available at the October meeting.

Sandy Rosch reported the Caladium Festival Arrangement Contest was a success. There were ten entries and good interest and attendance.

Vicki Maxwell, Plant Sale Chair, urged members to start thinking about plants they can provide. She will have a meeting for interested members after the October meeting. She can provide pots, information, encouragement and assistance. She would like to see more edible plants, herbs and vegetables offered this year.

Joyce Miles, Garden Therapy Chair, told members about their mutually enjoyable September session at the Lake Placid Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Sandy Rosch reported for ACT, a new committee manned by invited members only. She described it as an advisory committee team to assist the president and consider suggestions from club members. The team is currently looking into improving room setup, lunch procedures, meeting agendas, possible time saving changes and member retention. They have appointed a By-Law review committee.

Sue Rood spoke to members about the information contained in each yearbook and urged members investigate for themselves and to read their yearbooks thoroughly.

Sandy Rosch gave out the Member Appreciation Awards for the 2025-26 club year. Ray Adelman was awarded the "Man Behind the Scenes" award. The Golden Trowel was won by Mary Greeley. "Female Computer Whiz Behind the Scenes" was awarded to Deb Gunderlock. "The Beautiful Member" award was won by Nick Price.

Winners of Opportunity Table items were Kathleen Hartman (2), Kathie Hutson (2), and Mary Greeley. Vicki Maxwell drew the winning names.

The District IX Fall Meeting will be held at the Berne Davis Center in Fort Myers on September 22 and hosted by the Periwinkle Garden Club. Applications need to be sent by September 11.

Carol Lambert, Youth Gardening, told members that Crane Brook Academics has moved to Sebring. Their project for September will be potatoes. Volunteers are really needed. Carol also asked members to donate any potatoes they may have that have eyes. Next month, their topic will be pineapples so members are asked to save pineapple tops.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Margaret Gleave who won \$85. The drawing was conducted by Kathie Hutson.

Winners of the table arrangements were Denise Thomas, Marcia Price, Carol Coyle, Kathleen Hartman, Lisa Hartman, Stephanie Moreo, Marian Chambers, Larry Landress, Donna Ferchen, Josie Landress, Wanda Fitzgerald and Linda Hunley. Winners were drawn by Fran Bomberger. Each centerpiece winner paid \$5.

November's lunch will be a traditional Thanksgiving meal catered by Hartzell's. Those wanting lunch should sign up and pay \$15 to Fran Bomberger at the October meeting.

Joyce Miles, Recording Secretary