

**CALUSA GARDEN CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND  
MEMBER MEETING MINUTES  
April 8, 2021**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, outside in the Gathering Space, by President Sara Wolf. A quorum was present for the meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the March 8, 2021 Member Meeting were approved by consensus.

**Officer Reports**

1. President: Sara Wolf

- Apology and Election of Officers. Sara apologized to all that she forgot to have the membership vote on the new officers at the March 8 member meeting.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, the membership directed the Secretary to cast one vote for the slate of officers listed below:

- President – Susan Neustadt
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Program Chair – Kimberly Korb Porter
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Membership Chair – Monique Doyle
- Secretary- Laura Furlong
- Corresponding Secretary – Joan Husband
- Treasurer- Annette Kuhn
- Assistant Treasurer- Margie Bramel

Secretary Laura Furlong then cast the vote of the membership for the slate of officers listed.

President Sara Wolf then stated: The officers named have been duly elected as officers of Calusa Garden Club for the biennium May 1, 2021 – April 30, 2023. Congratulations to all!

- District IX Meeting – Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 10:00 by Zoom. Congratulations to our member Dale DeFeo who is the new District Chairman of District IX. Calusa Garden Club is the host of the meeting on Zoom. Watch your Email for the Call to the District Meeting.
- 2021 FFGC Convention is April 11-13 at Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Daytona Beach. Register on FFGC website [ffgc.org](http://ffgc.org). Sara does not plan to go; if any member wants to go, the Club will pay your expenses. Contact Sara if you are interested.
- Marco Island Center for the Arts Time Capsule- The topic for May submissions is “What Grows Where You Are?” Photos, drawing, written descriptions of flowers, plant, trees, landscapes--- you can even send in seeds. CGC will participate; Sara will chair; so far we have agreed to send our Gardening Guide, written descriptions of Marco Island plants, and photos of some of your beautiful landscapes. If you have something to submit, send it to Sara.

- Board Vote Regarding Attendance: The Board voted at the March 29 meeting to waive the attendance requirement that active members attend 4 general meetings of Calusa Garden Club during the year in order to be allowed to renew their membership. Due to the corona virus and not meeting in person, the Board agreed that an attendance requirement should not be imposed for the 2020-2021 Club Year.
  - Board Action on Veterans' Memorial at Marco Island Cemetery. The Board agreed to work with Marco Island Cemetery Association in re-landscaping the Veterans' Memorial established at the cemetery in 2007. The cemetery association will pay for the plants, and we will choose low maintenance plants and plant them. We will consult as needed after that but we have not agreed to assume maintenance of the landscape plantings.
  - Committee Chairmanships. We are recruiting chairs of all our committees – We Need You! Existing chairpersons will assist in transition, or co-chair with the new chair, in order to help the new chair in her duties. Please volunteer. We will send out a list of committees and duties so you can pick your area of interest.
2. First VP – Programs: Susan LaGrotta: Speakers for today's meeting: Our Members! Members whose gardens were not described at the March meeting will describe their beautiful gardens: Linda Spell, Sue Oldershaw, Janet Watson, and Linda Chute.
  3. Second VP – Membership: Susan Neustadt: 57 active members today and 12 associate members. No new applications.
  4. Treasurer – Annette Kuhn; Assistant Treasurer Margie Bramel.
    - Bank Balance is \$18,590.60. Notable deposits in March and April have been dues payments and April luncheon payments.
    - Annette set up our Square account to accept credit cards over the internet! Thank you, Annette.
    - Annette asked for 2 volunteers to serve as our Financial Reviewers and described their duties in reviewing the 2020-2021 financial records to determine if there are any discrepancies or misclassified income or expense entries. Barbara Messner and Kathy McNabbe volunteered for the financial review.

**Deadline for Member Dues Was April 1st. Dues are delinquent after April 15.** Annual dues are \$40 for active members and \$45 for associate members. Send a check to Annette Kuhn, 160 Delbrook Drive, Marco Island, FL 34145.

- You may pay by credit card! <https://calusa-garden-club-of-marco-island.square.site/> Prices for credit card payments have been increased to take into account the credit card processing fees.
- Members who have not paid dues by April 15 will be dropped from membership. The former member may be reinstated if the former member pays her dues, PLUS a \$10 reinstatement fee, by May 31.
- After May 31, if the former member wishes to reapply for membership, the application for re-admittance as a member shall be sent to the Board for approval. If the application is approved, the member shall pay their dues plus the \$10 reinstatement fee.

5. Secretary: Laura Furlong.

6. Corresponding Secretary: Cristina Leske. Cards Sent in March 2021:

- Thank you -Maria Lamb, for presentation
- Thinking of you -Sue and Lee Oldershaw, for husband's surgery
- Sympathy -Lee Maute, for husband's passing; 102 Hanover Rd, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046.
- Get well -Linda Chute, 137 Tahiti Road

### **Committee Reports:**

1. Blue Zones Project – Sharon Lewis. Calusa Garden Club is featured as a participating organization this month in the Blue Zones of Southwest Florida website. The link for the “Who’s Involved” page is:  
<http://bluezonesproject.hs-sites.com/southwestflorida/april-2021>. Please go to the Blue Zones website- <https://southwestflorida.bluezonesproject.com> – and sign up for emails on their activities, webinars, and other information to help you live a more healthy life.
2. Butterfly Garden – Susan LaGrotta. Susan, Laura Furlong and her husband, and others in the work group spent time doing a hard prune on the plants. Next work session Saturday, April 24.
3. Environment – Maria Lamb, Sue Oldershaw.
  - Environmental Report: As gardeners we are all too familiar with the use of Roundup for weed control. We may also see landscape crews walking around with the Roundup sprayer. However, according to the latest report on manatees, many of the manatees we see in our waters have been found to have glyphosate (the main ingredient in Roundup) in their tissues, with deadly effects. Already, they face hazards from red tide, boat collisions, scarcity of sea grass and habitat loss – and now we add glyphosate to that list. In the first three months of this year, more than 539 manatees have died in Florida, an alarming rate according to Save the Manatee Club. When the manatees’ blood was tested, the active ingredient for Roundup and Rodeo, glyphosate, was found in the plasma of 55.8% of the manatees.
  - We as gardeners need to lead the campaign to save the manatees by waging a public education campaign to find non-toxic alternatives to Roundup. As an island, what we put in our soil eventually will leach into our waterways.
  - Sue and Maria thank those of you who contacted our legislators as a result of Maria’s presentation on water quality issues affecting Southwest Florida.
4. Facebook – Susan LaGrotta. Please send Susan photos of your gardens, flowers, houseplants, and interesting info for the CGC Facebook page.
5. Gardening Guide Marketing Committee – Linda Colombo. MEMBERS, please consider buying 5 to 10 Gardening Guides to keep on hand as gifts and hostess presents. The price is \$10 and we have 800 on hand. Please support your Calusa Garden Club! ALSO – you may pay for Gardening Guides on the CGC Square website: <https://calusa-garden-club-of-marco-island.square.site/>

6. Publicity/Archives-- Sara Wolf (Maria Lamb also writes for *Coastal Breeze News*).
  - Maria Lamb submitted an article for *Coastal Breeze News* on the workshop on leaf manipulation we held on March 22. The photos were great! Thanks, Maria!
7. Scholarships and Camperships – Marianne Foley. Two recipients for CGC College scholarships have been chosen by the scholarship committee of Marianne Foley, Jackie Purvis and Bonnie Colman. Each recipient will receive \$1,350 since we have not awarded camperships to elementary school students this year. Marianne will make the awards at the Marco Island Academy awards night. Sara Wolf will attend to take photos and submit a publicity release to the local newspapers.
8. Special Events – Kimberly Porter, Janice Engel. Thank you, Kim and Janice, for organizing and arranging today’s luncheon!
9. Website- Linda Colombo. A committee of Linda Colombo, Sara Wolf, Sharon Lewis and Eva Kubinsky is researching providers and getting bids for a new website design. The committee will report back to the Board with its recommendations.
10. Work Group to Identify Plants at Marco Island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary. Sara Wolf. The group has continued to add to their identification of plants along the shell path at the Nature Preserve. They have placed temporary markers identifying plants visible from the shell path. Linda Turner will let us know the next steps.

#### Old Business

- By-Laws Revision. Tabled until the committee (Susan Neustadt, Opi DeFalco, Sara Wolf and Linda Colombo) completes its recommendations.

#### New Business

- **Installation of Newly Elected Officers.** Dale DeFeo, our newly elected District IX Director, will install our new officers. Congratulations to all!
- Congratulations to Janice Engel who won the City of Marco Island Beautification Advisory Committee Award for her home landscape in the category of “owner landscaped.”
- The membership celebrated Sara Wolf for her commitment to the Calusa Garden Club over the past two years!

**Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.**

Submitted by Secretary Laura Furlong - April 28, 2021

Approved: Past President Sara Wolf - May 1, 2021