

**CALUSA GARDEN CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 1, 2021– 10:00 a.m. by Zoom**

1. Call to Order: A quorum of 8 committee chairs plus 3 officers was present at the meeting, so President Sara Wolf called the meeting to order.
2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 5, 2021 Board Meeting were approved with one change.
3. Officer Reports, President – Sara Wolf made the following announcements:
  - Secretary Volunteers: Sara asked for volunteers to take minutes for the April board meeting and member meeting. She thanked Dale DeFeo for taking minutes of the member meeting in January, Anne Gary for taking minutes of the member meeting in February, and Margy Bruckman who volunteered for the March Board and Member meetings.
  - 2021 FFGC Convention is April 11-13 at Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Daytona Beach. Register on FFGC website [ffgc.org](http://ffgc.org).
  - Tickets for 2021 Opportunity Drawing at 2021 FFGC Convention: 20 @ \$2 each. Contact [sarawolf617@gmail.com](mailto:sarawolf617@gmail.com) or text or phone 513.706.8681. 10 more to sell.
  - Coastal Breeze Gardening Column: Maria Lamb writes this with input from Calusa Garden Club. January's column was about winter-blooming trees and shrubs. February will be about landscaping *faux pas*.
- 3.1. First VP – Programs: Susan LaGrotta: Speaker for February meeting cancelled, and Sue Oldershaw and Donna Kay have agreed to present their PowerPoint "Gardening on Marco Island."
- 3.2. Second VP – Membership: Susan Neustadt: Susan reported there are 57 active members today and 12 associate members. Member Nancy Knight will be inducted at the February member meeting, which will bring us to 58 active members.
- 3.3. Treasurer – Annette Kuhn. Assistant Treasurer Margie Bramel. Bank Balance is \$18,042.86. The largest expense in the last month was \$250 for two trees we planted in Leigh Plummer Memorial Park.
- 3.4. Secretary –Vacant. No report.
- 3.5. Corresponding Secretary – Cristina Leske. Thank you cards were sent to Donna Kay, for her workshop presentation; Eryk Jadaszewski, for his program presentation, and a "thinking of you" card was sent to Marsha and Gary Riss for Gary's health issues. Thank you, Eva Kubinsky, for ordering additional supplies of Calusa Thank You cards. Cristina suggested to Eva that it would be useful to order blank Calusa cards (without message),

so they can be used for all occasions. Currently, Cristina purchases various types of cards to send, depending on the occasion. Cristina appreciates being notified whenever members should be sent cards from the Club.

4. Committee Reports: Sara asked committee chairs to give her written reports for the Monday, February 8 member meeting. The reports will be typed into the Agenda for the member meeting.
  - 4.1. Awards- Dale DeFeo. No report.
  - 4.2. Blue Zones Project – Sharon Lewis. 20 members have signed up to be Blue Zones Members. The Blue Zones Project wants to schedule a “ribbon cutting” to publicize our Club becoming Blue Zones certified. Sharon will schedule the ceremony and let us know. Sharon is doing a column in *Smoke Signals* each month with Blue Zones encouragement and ideas.
  - 4.3. Butterfly Garden – Susan LaGrotta. Next work session Saturday, February 27. Butterfly release possible; still in the planning stages; problems with a large gathering due to Covid-19.
  - 4.4. Email Blasts – Marianne Foley. No report.
  - 4.5. Environment – Maria Lamb, Sue Oldershaw. Sue directs us to the Coastal Breeze News article published in Coastal Breeze News on January 21, 2021 on 2020 environmental hits and misses, by Maria Lamb.
  - 4.6. Facebook – Susan LaGrotta. Please send Susan photos of your gardens, flowers, houseplants, and interesting info for the CGC Facebook page.
  - 4.7. Flowers in Public Places- Marianne Foley. Marianne donated a floral design to the City of Marco Island at City Hall for the January 14 Open House/Art Exhibit. Kathy Hershberger donated a floral design to Bargain Basket in January. Marianne also reported that the Bargain Basket manager has suggested that they supply a container to CGC for a floral design, and CGC will do the design in the container for the Bargain Basket, which will then sell the container and the design. Marianne agreed that her committee will carry through on this idea.
  - 4.8. Horticulture – Dale DeFeo. The March subject will be plumbago.
  - 4.9. Hospitality – Margie Bramel (+ Margy Bruckman, Monna Hormel, Joan Gracey). No hospitality needed due to not meeting in person.
  - 4.10. Junior Gardeners – Donna Kay. Not meeting for 2020-2021.

- 4.11. Marco Town Center Garden Spaces – Sharon Lewis. No report.
- 4.12. Memorial Markers – Linda Colombo. No report.
- 4.13. Newsletter – Ami Ruiz: Due date for copy for February newsletter is today, February 1.
- 4.14. Parliamentary Advisor – Dale DeFeo
- 4.15. Publicity/Archives-- Sara Wolf (Maria Lamb also writes for *Coastal Breeze News*). Maria Lamb did an article on environmental issues for the January 21 *Coastal Breeze News* and an article on winter bloomers for the January 21 issue of *Coastal Breeze News*. Sara Wolf's article on CGC's tree planting for Florida Arbor Day was published in the January 25 issue of *The Marco Eagle*. Sara submitted an article on scholarships to the Marco Eagle and an article on Calusa Garden Club activities (including scholarships) to *Coastal Breeze News*.
- 4.16. Scholarships and Camperships – Marianne Foley. Deadline for scholarship applications is February 28.
- 4.17. Special Events – Kimberly Porter, Janice Engel. April 1, 2021; the Yacht Club has been reserved. Kim and Janice suggested the Board discuss whether we want to have the Spring Luncheon, which is traditionally held indoors, due to the pandemic. Sara suggested we discuss the April meeting under New Business.
- 4.18. Special Projects- Bonnie Colman.
- 4.19. Technical Support – Need a volunteer. (Annette Kuhn, prior chair, is now our Treasurer.)
- 4.20. Ways and Means – Need an overall chair
  - Member Luncheons -Need a new chair. Discontinue for 2020-2021?
  - Silent Auctions - Kathy Hershberger, Terri Pike. None are planned for 2020-2021.
  - Member Meeting Raffles – Linda Schwoeppe and Jenn Ferrier. Discontinue until in-person meetings.
- 4.21. Website- Linda Colombo. Several board members mentioned problems with getting to the Member section of the website. Members suggested an upgrade to the website platform so that members can re-set their passwords without the involvement of the administrator.
- 4.22. Workshops
  - Environment – Maria Lamb, Sue Oldershaw (1 workshop)

- Floral Design -Lindy Kowalczyk (2 workshops on meeting days); plus 5 more scheduled Floral Design workshops by Zoom presented by other designers or through online tutorials.
- Horticulture - Donna Kay (2 workshops).

4.23. Yearbook - Eva Kubinsky.

5. Old Business

5.1. ByLaws Revision – not ready for presentation or voting. Sara Wolf, Opi DeFalco, Susan Neustadt.

5.2. Work Group to identify plants at Marco Island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary – Sara Wolf. Sara announced the meeting on Tuesday, February 2 at 2:00 at the Nature Preserve. If you plan to attend, wear long sleeves, closed toe shoes, and long pants. Bring plant identification materials.

6. New Business –

6.1. Report of Nominating Committee. Eva Kubinsky, Sharon Lewis, Opi DeFalco.

- Chairperson Eva Kubinsky presented the slate of officers for 2021-2023 that was recommended by the Nominating Committee:
  - 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
  - Treasurer – Annette Kuhn
  - Assistant Treasurer- Margie Bramel
  - Secretary- Laura Furlong
  - Corresponding Secretary – Joan Husband.
- Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board agreed to present the slate to the members at the February 8 member meeting.

- Eva stated that the Nominating Committee also recommended several changes to our Club operations that had come to light in the conversations among the Nominating Committee and the prospective officers during the recruiting process:

1. The Nominating Committee suggests we modify the bylaws in 2 areas: rotating chairs of standing committees and others; and 1st VP is not required to be President upon accepting the job of 1st VP.
  - Rotation of committee chairs is not addressed anywhere in the Bylaws or standing rules. The Board referred the suggestion of rotating chairs of standing committees to the Bylaws Revision Committee.

- Article IV, Section 5 of the Bylaws could be changed by deletion of the last sentence. It now reads as follows:

“5. The First Vice-President shall conduct the business of the Club during the absence of the President. The holder of this office shall be empowered to sign all warrants in the simultaneous absence of both the Treasurer and the President. The First Vice-President shall serve as Program Chairman for the organization. **The First Vice-President shall automatically assume the office of President upon completion of the term as First Vice-President.”**

  - The Board discussed this proposed amendment and suggested several alternatives, including the idea of separating the Program Chairman from the office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President. The Board referred the proposed amendment to the Bylaws Revision committee.
- 2. Transition period for new officers shall be required from existing officers to teach, assist and coach as required.
- 3. Discussion of new website, for easier information flow and new member sign-up, user id and change passwords without webmaster involvement.
- 4. Since we have only 5 regular meetings plus 2 luncheons, floral design workshops could be done on another day, *e.g.* the third Monday of the Month. More time and more learning.

Sara thanked the Nominating Committee for their work, and reviewed the process of presenting the slate of officers to the Member Meeting on February 8, and voting on the slate of officers at the Member Meeting on March 8. Further, Sara stated that the other ideas presented by the Committee will be worked on by the Board and the Bylaws Revision Committee.

- 5. Censure or Expulsion of Disrespectful Member-Susan Neustadt. Susan Neustadt, in her role as Membership Chair, presented her opinion that member Linda Spell's Emails to the Club and to the chair of the Blue Zones Project Sharon Lewis were insulting and disrespectful to the Board and to the membership, both of which voted to pursue Blue Zones Certification for our Club. She suggested that there should be a consequence for Linda Spell for exhibiting that type of behavior. The Board discussed the possible courses of action to take to express the Board's concern over and displeasure with Linda Spell's actions. After thorough discussion, the Board members agreed by consensus that President Sara Wolf should telephone Linda Spell to discuss the Board's concerns and displeasure with her actions, both in using the Eblast list and in the nature, tone and content of her Emails. Sara agreed to make that call, and to discuss with Linda the problems presented by her actions. Sara also agreed to ask Linda whether she wanted to continue membership in the Club, based on our decisions to join the Blue Zones Project. Sara will report back on her conversation with Linda Spell at the March 1 Board Meeting.
- 3. Issue of Limiting the Number of Associate Members- Linda Colombo. Linda agreed to table this issue until the March 1 Board Meeting.

4. April 1 Spring Luncheon and Officer Installation: Sara led the discussion about whether to continue plans as normal and have luncheon and officer installation plus speaker Andee Naccarato at the Yacht Club on April 1. The Board members voted against having an indoor function on April 1, but Board members voiced their opinions that they preferred to have an in-person function, not a Zoom meeting. After thorough discussion, it was agreed that we would cancel the indoor luncheon, have an outdoor meeting and officer installation (wearing masks) at Wesley United Methodist Church outdoors, under their sanctuary entrance portico, and purchase box lunches for the members at members' expense. Kimberly Porter and Janice Engel agreed that they could arrange this type of function by the April 1 meeting date. Susan LaGrotta agreed to contact our scheduled speaker for April 1, Andee Naccarato of Naples Native Plant Society, to invite her to speak at our March 8 member meeting instead of speaking to us on April 1.
5. Adjournment. Sara directed the Board members to the schedule of upcoming meetings and events, and mentioned the "April" Board meeting would be held on Monday, March 29 by Zoom. After asking for additional business to be considered at the meeting, and hearing none, Sara adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

**NEXT MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

- **Monday, February 8 at 10:00 a.m.** – CGC Member Meeting on Zoom
- **Monday, February 22 at 10:00 a.m.** – Floral Design Workshop on Zoom
- **Saturday, February 27 at 8:30 a.m.** - Butterfly Garden Work Group- Calusa Park
- **Monday, March 1 at 10:00 a.m.** – CGC Board Meeting on Zoom
- **Monday, March 8 at 10:00 a.m.** – CGC Member Meeting on Zoom
- **Monday, March 22 at 10:00 a.m.**- Floral Design Workshop on Zoom
- **Saturday, March 27 at 8:30 a.m.**- Butterfly Garden Work Group- Calusa Park
- **Monday, March 29, at 10:00 a.m.**- Board Meeting on Zoom
- **Thursday, April 1 at 11:30 a.m.** –Spring Luncheon and Officer Installation.
  - **Scheduled** for Marco Island Yacht Club.
  - **On Hold. Covid-19 Epidemic Issues.**

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February 8, 2021**

7. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Sara Wolf, who then led the Pledge of Allegiance.
8. President declared a quorum present.
9. Minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting were approved.

**10. OFFICER REPORTS:**

**A. President, Sara Wolf:**

- **Florida Arbor Day:** THANK YOU to Linda Colombo for organizing Florida Arbor Day on Friday, January 15. We had 15 CGC members in attendance, plus guests and City Manager Michael McNees.
- **Volunteers Needed:** Need a volunteer to take minutes for the April Board and Member meetings. A HUGE Thank You to these members who have volunteered: Dale DeFeo - January Member meeting; Anne Gary – February Member Meeting; Margy Bruckman – March Board and Member Meetings; Cristina Leske- October Board and Member Meetings; Maura Kelley- November Board and Member meetings.
- **2021 FFGC Convention:** April 11-13 at Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Daytona Beach. Register on FFGC website [ffgc.org](http://ffgc.org). The Club pays expenses for President or her designee plus one delegate to the Convention. Sara is not attending due to Covid-19 issues; if you are interested in attending, please contact Sara.
- **FFGC Opportunity Drawing Tickets:** There are 10 tickets left for the 2021 Opportunity Drawing at 2021 FFGC Convention: 20 @ \$2 each. Contact [sarawolf617@gmail.com](mailto:sarawolf617@gmail.com) or text or phone 513.706.8681.
- **Coastal Breeze Gardening Column:** Maria Lamb writes this with input from Calusa Garden Club. January's column was about winter-blooming trees and shrubs. February will be about landscaping *faux pas*. If you have a suggestion for Maria, please contact her.
- **Events of Interest:**
  - Marco Island Historical Society Exhibit: A Pressing Matter: Preserving Marco Island's Flora.
  - Naples Botanical Garden Orchid Sale, in connection with Naples Orchid Society: February 19-21.

- 2021 Marco in Bloom Landscape Contest. Marco Island Beautification Committee sponsors this landscape contest. Property owners can self-nominate their residences or nominate their neighbors. Criteria for judging: creativity, use of color and contrast, adherence to Florida Friendly plants and foliage, minimum use of grass, water conservation, and curb appeal. Property owners can nominate themselves or their neighbors. Sara encouraged us to nominate.
  
  - B. **First VP – Programs, Susan LaGrotta:** Speakers for this meeting are Donna Kay and Sue Oldershaw: *Gardening on Our Island.*
  
  - C. **Second VP – Membership, Susan Neustadt:** 57 active members today and 12 associate members. Nancy Knight’s application was approved at the December Board meeting, and she was inducted as a new member by Susan at this meeting. Rick Kohnen was introduced and would like to join the club; he will be applying to join.
  
  - D. **Treasurer, Annette Kuhn.** Assistant Treasurer is Margie Bramel. Bank Balance is \$18,172.86. Major expense for the last month was \$250 for the 2 trees in Leigh Plummer Memorial Park.
  
  - E. **Secretary, Vacant.** Anne Gary took minutes for this meeting.
  
  - F. **Corresponding Secretary, Christina Leske.** Thank you cards were sent to Donna Kay, for her workshop presentation; Eryk Jadaszewski, for his program presentation, and a “thinking of you” card was sent to Marsha and Gary Riss for Gary’s health issues. Thank you, Eva Kubinsky, for ordering additional supplies of Calusa Thank You cards. Cristina suggested to Eva that it would be useful to order blank Calusa cards (without message), so they can be used for all occasions. Currently, Christina purchases various types of cards to send, depending on the occasion. Christina appreciates being notified whenever members should be sent cards from the Club.
11. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** (Note: All information provided beyond this point was written by Sara Wolf)
- A. **Blue Zones Project:** Sharon Lewis. 20 members have signed up to be Blue Zones Members. The Blue Zones Project wants to schedule a “ribbon cutting” to publicize our Club becoming Blue Zones certified. Sharon will schedule the ceremony and let us know. Sharon is doing a column in *Smoke Signals* each month with Blue Zones Project items of interest and ideas for us to live more healthy and purpose-filled lives.
  
  - B. **Butterfly Garden:** Susan LaGrotta. Next work session Saturday, February 27. Susan is working on a plan for a butterfly release for which we CGC members can purchase butterflies to be released in the garden in honor of or in memory of others. Susan will update us at the March meeting.

- C. **Environment:** Maria Lamb, Sue Oldershaw. Sue directs us to the *Coastal Breeze News* article published on January 21, 2021 on 2020 environmental hits and misses, by Maria Lamb. The web link is: <https://www.coastalbreezenews.com/articles/2020-year-end-environmental-hits-and-some-misses/>
- D. **Facebook:** Susan LaGrotta. Please send Susan photos of your gardens, flowers, houseplants, and interesting info for the CGC Facebook page.
- E. **Flowers in Public Places:** Marianne Foley. Marianne donated a floral design to the City of Marco Island at City Hall for the January 14 Open House/Art Exhibit. Kathy Hershberger donated a floral design to MICA in January. Bargain Basket has offered to permit CGC members to pick a container to use in making a floral design and then take the design to the Bargain Basket, where they will sell it to the public. Contact Marianne to participate.
- F. **Gardening Guide Marketing Committee:** Linda Colombo. The Gardening Guide was created by members in 2018. It is a fold-out pamphlet that is made of durable plastic. It is a month-by-month guide of what needs to be accomplished for each month along with helpful tips for gardening on Marco Island. Please contact Linda Colombo if you wish to purchase. They make great hostess and welcome gifts to new neighbors. The costs is \$ 10 for one. Contact Linda Colombo at [lindadeec@comcast.net](mailto:lindadeec@comcast.net) or 239 642 6845 for more information.
- G. **Horticulture:** Dale DeFeo. February horticulture information is on Plumbago. Dale will send out the handout by Eblast after the meeting.
- H. **Memorial Markers:** Linda Colombo. We maintain four markers on the island. There isn't any new information. If anyone would like to be on the working team please contact Linda Colombo at [lindadeec@comcast.net](mailto:lindadeec@comcast.net) or 239.642.6845
- I. **Newsletter:** Ami Ruiz. The February newsletter *Smoke Signals* was published Wednesday, February 3. Contact Ami Ruiz at [lucy14\\_4@hotmail.com](mailto:lucy14_4@hotmail.com) if you have not received the newsletter by Email. Deadline for submissions for March newsletter is Monday, March 1.
- J. **Publicity/Archives:** Sara Wolf. (Maria Lamb also writes for *Coastal Breeze News*). Maria Lamb did two articles for the January 21 issue of *Coastal Breeze News*: one was a review of 2020 environmental issues and the second was an article on winter blooming plants in Marco Island. Sara Wolf's article on CGC's tree planting for Florida Arbor Day was published in the January 25 issue of *The Marco Eagle*. Sara submitted an article on scholarships to the Marco Eagle and an article on Calusa Garden Club activities (including scholarships) to *Coastal Breeze News*.

- K. **Scholarships and Camperships:** Marianne Foley. Deadline for college scholarship applications is February 28. The application may be downloaded from the Club's website *calusa.org*.
- L. **Special Events:** Kimberly Porter, Janice Engel. The Board voted not to have our traditional April end of the season luncheon indoors at the Yacht Club. Instead, the April 1, 2021 Spring Luncheon will be held outside at Marco Island Wesley United Methodist Church, under the portico at the sanctuary entrance (on the canal side of the Church). Members will order box lunches in advance. Kim and Janice will inform us at the March member meeting of the costs for the luncheon for each attendee. We will have more information on the meeting schedule and time at the March meeting. Officer installation will be part of the meeting program. Kim and Janice will let members know if we need to bring a chair. Members will need to wear a mask.
- M. **Website:** Linda Colombo. *Calusa.org* is the official website for the Club. All information is public except for the Members Only section which contains financial info, minutes, the Club Yearbook and other necessary forms for members. Please contact Linda Colombo at [Lindadeec@comcast.net](mailto:Lindadeec@comcast.net) if you have issues creating a registration.

## 12. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **ByLaws Revision:**  
Sara plans a meeting of this committee in February in order to complete this task. Committee members are Sara Wolf, Opi DeFalco, Susan Neustadt and Linda Colombo.
- B. **Work Group To Identify Plants At Marco Island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary:**  
Sara Wolf and Linda Turner. The group met on Tuesday, February 2 at the Nature Preserve. Committee members will meet again the week of March 8 (date to be determined) to begin placing identification markers for the wildflowers, grasses and trees.

## 13. NEW BUSINESS:

13.1. Report of Nominating Committee. Eva Kubinsky, Sharon Lewis, Opi DeFalco. Eva Kubinsky, Chairperson of the committee, presented the slate of officers for the biennium 2021-2023 to the membership:

President: Susan Neustadt

1st Vice-President and Program Chair: Kimberly Korb Porter

2nd Vice-President and Membership Chair: Monique Doyle

Secretary: Laura Furlong

Corresponding Secretary: Joan Husband

Treasurer: Annette Kuhn

Assistant Treasurer: Margaret (Margie) Bramel.

Sara asked if there are any nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. At the March member meeting, we will vote on the slate of officers.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY KATHY MCNABB TO ACCEPT THIS SLATE, no second necessary, Motion passed.**

The Committee also recommended these ideas that came from discussions with members during their recruiting process:

- Would like to modify the bylaws in 2 areas: rotating chairs of standing committees and others; and 1st VP is not required to be President upon accepting the job of 1st VP.
  - Article IV, Section 5 of the Bylaws reads as follows:
  - “5. The First Vice-President shall conduct the business of the Club during the absence of the President. The holder of this office shall be empowered to sign all warrants in the simultaneous absence of both the Treasurer and the President. The First Vice-President shall serve as Program Chairman for the organization. The First Vice-President shall automatically assume the office of President upon completion of the term as First Vice-President.”
    - The Board discussed this proposed amendment at its meeting on February 1 and suggested several alternatives. The Board referred the proposed amendment to the Bylaws Revision committee. In addition, the Board referred the suggestion of rotating chairs of standing committees to the Bylaws Revision Committee.
- Transition period for new officers shall be required from existing officers to teach, assist and coach as required.
- Discussion of new website, for easier information flow and new member sign-up, user id and change passwords without webmaster involvement.
- Since we have only 5 regular and 2 special meetings, floral design workshops could be done on another day, i.e. the third Monday of the Month. More time and more learning.

**14. Meeting was adjourned at 10:57 am.**

Respectfully submitted by: Anne Gary Secretary *pro tem*

Approved by President Sara Wolf: 2/27/2021

**FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

- **Monday, February 22 at 10:00 a.m.** – Floral Design Workshop on Zoom
- **Saturday, February 27 at 8:30 a.m.** - Butterfly Garden Work Group- Calusa Park
- **Monday, March 1 at 10:00 a.m.** – CGC Board Meeting on Zoom

- **Monday, March 8 at 10:00 a.m.** – CGC Member Meeting on Zoom
- **Monday, March 22 at 10:00 a.m.**- Floral Design Workshop on Zoom
- **Saturday, March 27 at 8:30 a.m.**- Butterfly Garden Work Group- Calusa Park
- **Monday, March 29, at 10:00 a.m.**- Board Meeting on Zoom
- **Thursday, April 1, time TBA** –Spring Luncheon and Officer Installation
  - Wesley United Methodist Church,
  - Outdoors under the Sanctuary Portico
  - Bring chairs, wear masks. There is plenty of space for social distancing.