

**General Membership Meeting**  
**November 2, 2015**  
**FFGC University/Kapnick Center/Buehler Auditorium**

Roberta Ross President, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., welcoming members and guests.

Susan Kinkead Chaplain, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Raynelle Perkins, serving as Crowd Control Officer, made the safety announcements.

Roberta announced the new plan for refreshments placed on tables and encouraged attendees to enjoy them during meeting and program. She then introduced all Immediate past Board members, New to the Board Members and Continuing Board members and thanked them for their service and dedication to the club. Each received a calla lily flower. She also recognized the Florida Master Gardeners present and encouraged Provisionals and active members alike to consult them on questions of plant identification.

Pat Fosberg, Hospitality Chair, introduced Carol Greenwood, Head-hostess for this meeting, who thanked her committee: Margaret Boehmer, Jackie Frodsham and Denise Shields. Pat also asked members to consider bringing two dozen Christmas cookies on a platter to the December meeting.

Roberta reminded members to pick up their copy of the 2015-2016 Directory/Yearbook available from Candi Kelley in the lobby and to make certain their own information is correct. If not, to please contact our new Data Manager, Barbara Sampson. Roberta thanked Carol McMenany for her three years of service in this position prior to Barbara. Roberta announced the sale of a limited number of FFGC desk calendars which display photographs of creative floral designs along with tips on design and some horticulture botanical names.

Roberta requested a Motion: to adopt the Minutes of the April 6, 2015 General Membership Meeting as posted on our Website. Helga Arthur made a Motion to accept the minutes as posted; the motion was seconded by Betty Aymar.

Mary Beth Johns, Fundraising Events Chair (H&GT), announced the great news that her committee is moving full speed ahead and has acquired all four interesting and diverse homes for the 2016 Tour. Patron tickets go on sale November 11, with General Admission tickets going on sale December 1, 2015. She introduced Pat Frey who is in charge of the Preview Tour for members on Friday, February 5, 2016. Members must sign up for this tour as bus seats are limited. Sue Haley is in charge of Welcome tote bags and requested sign-ups to assist. Mary Beth thanked all her committee for their ongoing good work.

Mary Raymond Flower Show Chair, announced that the Naples Flower Show Schedule is

ready. An identified copy is available for each member. The Naples Flower Show, given in partnership with the Naples Botanical Garden, will be held March 18 and 19, 2016, with the Preview Party being held on Thursday, March 17, 2016. Information about this event will be on the Website November 9th. Mary introduced Polly Gallagher and requested that those planning to submit a design entry should do so early by emailing Polly to register. Judy Perkins described the 2016 Challenge Class which, influenced by the **Topicolor** theme, will feature colorful flowers. Nasturtium seeds will be distributed to participants in December followed by other flowers distributed in January.

Gail Pica, (Co-Chair) speaking for Kathleen Hawryluk, Awards Chair, announced two new projects for our club. A Naples Garden Club Service Award, an acknowledgement of those members who have gone above and beyond membership duties and have actively worked on committees over the years, has been established. A Nominator's form, an application to nominate worthy members, was given to each member present and also sent via email blast just prior to the meeting. Deadline for nominations is November 30, 2015

Gail also told members about Penny Pines, a reforestation/forest education project sponsored by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. as well as the USDA Forest Service. A container was passed around, and will be at each monthly meeting. Members are asked to place spare change into it (paper money also accepted!). This money will be used to purchase and plant seedlings to keep our forests healthy and productive.

Melinda Earle encouraged members to view the newly refurbished **Blue Star Memorial** which honors our Veterans who serviced our country, located in the median at 7th Avenue North and Rt. 41. This project was supported by the Naples Garden Club, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc. NGC originally placed the memorial over 30 years ago. There will be pictures featured in our next Trowel Prints, along with a dedication including Donna Fiala, town Commissioner, as soon as arrangements can be made.

Kathleen Maier, Development Chair, introduced the team working on Raffle Prizes for the HG&T Raffle. Sallie Miller and Margaret Brodeur were thanked for their outstanding work in obtaining many beautiful and creative items, some of which were on display. Kathleen encouraged members to solicit gift certificates from businesses they patronize and to buy and actively sell to friends the newly designed raffle tickets which will be given to members in packs of ten tickets. In the past, the Raffle has raised over \$10,000; the goal for 2016 is to raise \$20,000.

Kathleen also brought attention to the Aston Gardens Fall Art Festival, to be held November 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A \$10 donation is requested for this event which supports the Lighthouse of Collier County. Our Garden Club will be selling plants and homemade goodies. An invitation card with details was provided to members and guests.

Kathleen also pointed out the card/coupon given to each attendee to use at Oakes Farms, our principal sponsor for the 2015 HG&T. Members were asked to visit Oakes Farms and express thanks for their outstanding support while enjoying a complimentary drink. Members were asked to be aware who our sponsors are, patronize them and thank them for their generosity to our club. These and all sponsors are an important part of a successful organization.

Kathleen spoke about our Grants which are provided with funds raised by Development efforts. Members may help identify worthy non-profits whose work supports our mission. Grant applications are available on our Website; the deadline for submitting 2016 grant applications is December 15, 2015.

Speaking for Sudie Minamyer Educational Chair, Roberta reminded members to sign up for The Butterfly World trip, the Design Study Group and other workshops. Sudie was acknowledged for her fantastic job on planning workshops, trips and tours. Roberta also reminded the members and especially the Provisionals, that their first Design Workshop was coming up Thursday November 5, 2015.

Raynelle Perkins initiated the 'Cyber Drawing' from attendance list registered online in advance; it was won by Karen Medford. Mike and Jackie Malloy were thanked for their generous donation of a lovely Abutilon hybridism and photos were taken.

Raynelle Perkins Programs Chairs, introduced our Program Speaker, botanist David Southall who presented the program, ***Dirt Free Combination Planting***. A Master of Botany graduate of Cornell University, where soil-free medium was developed, David gave an interesting and informative presentation about our horticulture and the requirements for it to grow to full potential. He stressed that in-ground plants have very different needs than container grown plants.

Container plants need a medium that resists compression and pathogens. David recommended a mixture of equal parts peat and Perlite with Osmacote or individual nutrients added. He reviewed other possible combinations of soil medium. Using this mixture for mixed containers also requires that plants be compatible in growth pattern, moisture requirements, Ph. needed and growing season. He advised keeping accurate plant name identification tags and researching specific needs of plants grown in mixed containers.

The table centerpieces of 5-6 small succulents with accompanying packs of non-soil related medium of ½ Perlite and ½ Peat and a container were won by one person at each table. The plan is for these to be nurtured and entered in March, at our Naples Flower Show, either as combination plantings or a 'mini-challenge class.' TBD

The Raffle prize, a magnificent basket of Phalaenopsis orchids, was won by Helen Roth. Photos were taken by our resident roving photographer Joyce Colvario (also our NGC Historian)

In attendance were 15 Provisionals, 106 Active Members, 2 Guests and Guest Speaker and wife. Total in attendance 125

The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Lemmon Secretary  
15.11.7 DRAFT