**Benton County Master Gardener Association**

**Board Meeting**

**February 1, 2016**

**In Attendance:**  Hank Beuttel, Christina Clark, Kathy Clark, Brook Edmunds, Sally Elliot, Steve Jacobs, Judith Kenner, Deb Kern, Jennifer Klammer, Paula Lupcho, Pami Opfer, Sandy Piper, Jana Tindall, and Peggy Worthington

**Location:** Benton County Extension Offices

President Jennifer Klammer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Mission Moment:** Jennifer Klammer noted that the Oregonian carried an article about the holiday wreath-making workshop. Also, Janet May and James Baggett passed recently. Jana Tindall will write to the Gazette-Times recognizing their lives and contributions.

**Gardening Moment:** Jana Tindall is enjoying her gorgeous orange witch hazel and her candy tuff, both now in full bloom. Kank Beuttel’s sarcococca is thriving and fragrant.

**Adoption of Minutes: It was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the January 11, 2015 minutes as amended.**

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* Paula distributed copies of the monthly financial reports and explained that a negative income is indicated because there was less revenue than expenses. There were new expenditures, e.g., the Outreach Committee had expenditures earlier in the year.
* BCMGA now has 173 members, three more than in 2015. Today is the deadline for being included in the 2016 directory and reflects the number used to pay Oregon Master Gardener Associatgion dues.
* Jim Searcy will be conducting the financial review for the board this year.

**February BCMGA Program:** Peggy Worthington reported that Linda Hardison, Director, will talk about the Oregon Floral Project at the Benton County Master Gardener Association meeting, February 15th at 7:00.

**Search for Excellence:** Peggy Worthington asked for suggestions for nomination for the Search for Excellence Award. Kathy Clark reminded the board that last year board members discussed Seed to Supper with its child care component. It was then decided to postpone the nomination until this year, allowing time to strengthen it with data that still needs to be collected. Kathy and Jennifer Klammer will develop a survey, covering both pre- and post-testing. Perhaps visuals such as participating children’s drawings and/or posters made with the drawings could be included in the nomination. Nominations are due May 15, 2016.

**Nonprofit Board Training:**  Rich Taylor, Christina Clark, Steve Jacobs, Judith Kenner, Dee Wallace, and Peggy Worthington summarized their experience and what they learned at the Nonprofit Board Training, January 23, 2016.

* It was quite valuable, especially as a new board member.
* In talking to board members from other nonprofit organizations, it’s very clear that we are a highly performing board.
* As board members, we are not supposed to agree uniformly in order to meet our objectives. Instead, board members should recognize that they won’t always have the same ideas and respect each other during the process of discussion and deciding.
* Boards can create ways to address differences, for example, if something is bothering a board member who needs to discuss it again, ask for it to be written into the agenda so it is clearly addressed and doesn’t encourage division or build negativity.
* The general theme of the conference was “transparency.” Boards need to be transparent to their members.
* Attendees were disappointed in the Social Media presentation.

Jennifer Klammer asked the board to stay alert to ideas for discussion and development.

**Committee Liaison Assignments:**

* Jennifer Klammer reminded board members that it is the responsibility of the board liaisons to stay in contact with committee chairs and report to the board.
* Hank Beuttel will talk to Kathi Tucker regarding whether or not she wants to remain chair of Get-Outdoors-Day and the possibility of getting pictures from her to use on the website.

**Board Goals:**

* Farmer’s Market Topics: Sally Elliott reported that the committee is discussing many ideas, primarily around conducting classes:
  + They are still looking for ways to draw people into participating in classes plus working on the organization and presentation.
  + Classes might also be used multiple times in different settings. They can be developed to be presentable any time of the year, taking advantage of opportunities when they arise.
  + A good sturdy easel could be useful to draw attention to a class at the Farmer’s Market. Jennifer Klammer has one that could be used on a trial basis.
* Steve Jacobs reported for the Demo Garden:
  + There will be an organizational meeting February 24, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
  + They need better publicity for awareness of the Demo Garden. Considerations are for it to be included in the Gazette-Times “What’s Happening Today” and in the weekly emails to members.
  + February 17th there will be a grape pruning class. It will be cancelled if the weather is bad.
* Judith Kenner reported about developing signage:
  + She has had very few responses from phone inquiries to other Master Garden organizations in an effort to benchmark what they have done, asking:
    - For examples of their signs.
    - What kinds of materials are used?
    - What’s the cost?
    - What dimensions are used and/or effective?
    - What’s the intent of their signs, e.g., primarily informational or directional?
    - What’s the source of their funding?

**Oregon Master Gardener Association:** Rich Taylor will be attending the March meeting in Jackson County. Suggestions for the BCMGA report include:

* Seed to Supper with childcare
* Insights into Gardening
* Gearing Up for Gardening
* The range of activities in the Outreach Committee

**Committee Liaison Reports:**

* Gearing Up for Gardening, Tuesdays in January and February, Jana Tindall
  + Programs were well attended with good publicity from other Master Gardener activities.
  + Programs were mission-focused.
  + It’s good that they are free.
* Insights Into Gardening, Jana Tindall
  + There are about 200 registrations to date with February 5th as the cut-off for lower registration.
  + There are fewer exhibitors this year.
* Plant Problem Scenarios, Deb Kern
  + The scenarios are on track to what the committee planned.
  + It’s an excellent group of trainees who are providing good feedback regarding the scenarios.
  + The committee has brainstormed additional ideas, e.g., flashcards in addition to the scenarios perhaps asking, “This is my plant. What’s wrong with it?”
* Mentor Coordinator, Hank Beuttel
  + He has had good responses from the mentors and now has a 1:1 mentee:mentor match.
  + There will be an unofficial brown-bag lunch February 25th for mentors to be with their mentees.
  + He’s considering ways for additional training, especially for the desk. Kathy Clark suggested it could be open to any Master Gardener. Hank will include it in the weekly email and consider a different name, perhaps “Veteran Training Refresher,” for an update open to current Master Gardeners.
* Community Garden Action Team: Seed to Supper, Jennifer Klammer
  + There are many Seed to Supper classes beginning this week and next:
    - Alsea
    - Monroe—target of 20 people per session
    - Philomath—includes child care
    - South Side Corvallis—includes child care, perhaps Spanish next year
    - Albany—Spanish
* Outreach, Jana Tindall
  + David Hall developed a slide presentation for Insights Into Gardening addressing recruitment, upcoming events, and becoming a Master Gardener. Green Thumb Sponsors will be added.
* Plant Sale, Kathy Clark
  + The greenhouse has been cleaned.
  + Herb seedlings are ready to be planted.
  + Two weeks in March will be devoted to Dig and Divide dates.
  + Everything is moving as planned.

**Extension Report**

Brooke Edmunds

* Recent publications regarding use of water are now available on line.
* Training is going well. They are providing topics for the Spring Festival and clarifying requirements.

Pami Opfer

* Seed to Supper has great teams and community partners.
  + They are working on evaluation and hands-on components.
  + Some participants are expressing an interest in becoming Master Gardeners.
  + They are also addressing retention, working on ways to provide support to participants.
* She is working on the Master Gardener Directory, including ways to reduce the cost.
* The winter desk schedule is not meeting the increasing questions.

**Good of the Association:** Deb Kern acknowledged that she has received many thanks for her work as a Master Gardener. It feels good, and she encouraged all board members to recognize other Master Gardeners to pass the positive feelings forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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Sandy Piper

Secretary