

**Benton County Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting
April 6, 2015**

In Attendance: Hank Beuttel, Kathy Clark, Brooke Edmunds, Susan Hoffman, Steve Jacobs, Jennifer Klammer, Rich Little, Paula Lupcho, Janet Magedanz, Pami Opfer, Sandy Piper, Jana Tindall, Connie Treloar, and Debbie Wray

Location: Benton County Extension Offices

President Kathy Clark called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Mission Minute: Paula Lupcho pointed out that there were several trainees from this year's class that have participated in the Dig-and-Divides plus one who has helped at the demonstration garden. All are enthusiastic and eager to learn.

Gardening Moment:

- Janet Magedanz shared an article in Fine Gardening that presented research in making bouquets last longer. Surprisingly, a 1:3 ratio of non-diet lemon lime soda to water tested second best to commercially prepared Floral Life.
- Janet also excitedly reported on her recent visit to several nurseries in California—Filoli Gardens, the Ruth Bancroft Garden, and Annie's Annuals. She encouraged board members to go online to sign up for Annie's Annuals free catalog to see their unique items and helpful information. She enjoyed purchasing plants and brought one to show.
- Sandy Piper will be responsible for the May Gardening Moment.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the March minutes as amended:

- to delete *to include "before summer break"* regarding distribution of membership cards,
- to delete Debbie Wray's name under the board's vote to support Pat Wray's trip to accept the International Search for Excellence Award,
- to add Brooke Edmunds' name to those Paula Lupcho has communicated with regarding the same award,
- to add to the Treasurer's Report: *Board members who are interested in historical comparisons can refer to the 2015 Budget document that was distributed in January. It has part budget history.*

Amend August 2014 minutes: It was moved, seconded, and passed to amend the August 2014 minutes with the following sentence: *The board authorized all special allocations for 2014 totaling \$12,001.74, not limited to the \$3,750.00 specifically identified in the original minutes.*

Associate Member Ad Hoc Committee: Debbie Wray and Paulo Lupcho presented the committee's recommendations:

- No changes need to be made to the Benton County Master Gardener Association's Articles of Association.
- Amend the current policy on Membership in the Policies and Procedures to establish two distinct categories of Associate Membership and to clearly define the differences between them. See the attached committee report for complete details.

Debbie Wray volunteered to identify three people to develop an implementation process for associate membership. By mid-summer, they will report to the board recommendations for 1) an application, 2) criteria for acceptance, and 3) behavioral standards.

Nomination of Awards:

- No nominations were made for the Oregon State Master Gardener of the Year.
- After noting that couples can be nominated for this award, **it was moved, seconded, and passed to award Pat and Debbie Wray the Benton County Master Gardener(s) of the Year.**
- **It was moved, seconded, and passed to recognize David Hall as the Benton County Behind the Scenes Master Gardener.**

Search for Excellence: The consensus of the board was not to nominate a program now but to focus on strengthening a nomination for Seed-to-Supper next year. Special attention will be given to developing its impact on families and data for measurable results.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Paula Lupcho distributed the monthly Financial Summary.
- She reported that she has received a check for \$50 with Seed-to-Supper noted on it, thus it is restricted to the Seed-to-Supper program.
- She has send \$500 for this year’s part of a pledge of \$500 per year for three years to support the International Master Gardeners’ Conference. The money goes to the Agricultural Research Foundation, a 501-3C non-profit, not through the Oregon Master Gardener Association.

Square Credit Card Reader: Paula Lupcho researched credit card readers. Her recommendation is to use the Square. It costs nothing to purchase and has fewer usage inconsistencies. With board approval, she will make the arrangements for the Benton County Master Gardener Association to have two and to begin using them at the at the BCMGA’s annual plant sale. A 3% service charge will be added to purchases to cover the Square’s service charge.

Policy Review: Kathy Clark presented the following outline for reviews need to be completed no later than September:

Hours Reporting and Certification	Membership Secretaries
Vulnerable Populations	Past President and Ad Hoc
Health and Safety	Past President and Ad Hoc
Computer and Internet Use	Computer Committee/Kathi Tucker
Articles of Association (annual)	Secretary/Past President
Constitution and Bylaws (annual)	Secretary/Past President

Mini-College Donations: Kathy Clark reminded board members that the Benton County list of Mini-College donations for the silent auction needs to be turned in by July 15th. The suggested minimum value for each item is \$25; however, multiple items can be combined into one donation to meet the minimum value.

Liaison Reports:

- Steve Jacobs reported on the Demo Garden. He’s concerned about maintenance on the wheelbarrows and garden cart. He has been able to manage some repairs, but they need to be replaced. He asked about special allocations. Paula Lupcho suggested that the funds for replacement be incorporated into the new budget for the Demo Garden.
- Susan Hoffman enjoyed her visit to the Grace Center. She learned a lot and also saw that the gardens and raised beds need work. She will ask for volunteers to help.

Extension Report: Now that this year's Master Gardener Training is finished, Brooke Edmunds and Pami Opfer have had time to reflect on possible changes in the programs. Some ideas that were presented and discussed are:

- Master Gardener Training:
 - Tour Oregon State University to identify plants.
 - Tour Peoria Gardens to learn about propagation.
 - Codify the scholarship process, including advertisement, clarifying criteria for eligibility, clarifying payment/reimbursement process.
 - Change graduation to lunch, possibly checking with each class to see what would work best for its participants.
 - Change training days away from Tuesdays.
- Plan additional tours, perhaps using Doodle to identify the best dates. Pami and Brooke are open to suggestions for possibilities. They are also considering partnering with other organizations with tours.
- Formalize the Master Gardener volunteer component.
- Provide more structure for new trainees' first year including a clearer transition after training.
 - Let established Master Gardeners know who the new trainees are what their interests are.
 - Help mentors be more involved with follow-up. Perhaps Pami can work with Hank to identify ways to accomplish this goal.
 - Brainstorm ways to more effectively identify committees to the trainees.

Good of the Association:

- Kathy Clark reminded board members to distribute bookmarks advertising the plant sale.
- Debbie Wray invited all board members to a celebration potluck at the Wrays house April 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Sandy Piper
Secretary