

Benton County Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting
April 7, 2014

In Attendance: Kathy Clark, Brooke Edmonds, Bill Glassmire, Susan Hoffman, Derek Godwin, Don Lauer, Rich Little, Paula Lupcho, Janet Magedanz, Pami Opfer, Sandy Piper, Sheila Schweizer, Judy Shaw, Ellen Tappon, Jana Tindall, Lynn Trimpe

Location: Benton County Offices—Sunset Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 by Janet Magedanz.

Mission Moment:

- Janet Magedanz read a note of condolence sent on behalf of the Master Gardener Association to Oregon State University President Ed Ray on the recent death of his wife Beth. She also read his response.
- Kathy Clark distributed packets of mineral salts for building a butterfly pool as she had demonstrated to the board.
- Janet Magedanz raised the possibility of changing the board meeting time to mornings instead of afternoons so board members can have more time, especially in good weather, to work in their gardens. Pami will check the calendar regarding availability of the room. Janet will email board members regarding the May board meeting.
- Paula Lupcho reminded the board that monthly minutes and committee reports are to be distributed in the weekly emails.
- Ellen Tappon reported that all of the Seed-to-Supper classes are full with some of them having a waiting list.

Gardening Moment: Judy Shaw brought a Yacon and Oca, edible tuberous roots from The Andean highlands of South America. Paula Lupcho will do the Gardening Moment in May.

Adoption of Minutes: The March minutes changed to identify Paula Lupcho as Newsletter Editor and to clarify that the deadline in the minutes is for the Extension Express. The summary of the Oregon Master Gardener Report was also edited to be more accurate. The March minutes were then adopted as amended.

OSU Extension Idea for Other Benton County Communities: Don Lauer, a member of the Benton County Extension Advisory Committee, explained that each Extension entity has one representative on this committee; however, most of the activity is in Corvallis which results in the rest of the county being underserved. The committee is concerned about reaching a higher number of citizens in the outlying areas of the county and is gathering ideas regarding ways to achieve this goal.

- Perhaps educational meetings, workshops, or clinic tables could be held in buildings such as Monroe's new Community Building or Alsea's library. Ellen Tappon pointed out that the clinic table during Monroe's August Festival was well received.
- On-the-spot training, e.g., water or pH testing, could also be offered.
- The Advisory Committee is planning such events on a continuing basis. They want to identify needs in the communities and then identify the best time(s) and place(s) to meet these needs.
- Publicity will be local to the specific community and distributed via email.
- Master Gardeners who help with these presentations could include the hours as service hours.
- Sheila Schweizer congratulated the Advisory Committee on actually addressing ways to help satellite communities.

- Kathy Clark suggested such events could be a good place to recruit Master Gardener Trainees.
- Pami Opfer is assembling recruiting materials.

Plant Sale: Kathy Clark reported on the successful Master Gardener Plant Sale:

- This year is the 12th year for the annual sale. It is one of two major fundraisers for the Master Gardeners.
- The sale demands a tremendous amount of work. There is a core of about 12 people who participate on an ongoing basis, plus there is a huge amount of additional people who work on the set-up, sale, and clean-up.
- New Master Gardener Trainees are encouraged to participate. This year several have done so.
- Dig-and-Divide activities are critical to assembling plants for the sale. They yield a tremendous variety of plants and present educational opportunities especially regarding dividing and planting specific plants.
- Most of the potted plants are stored at Nellie Oehler's. This year about 95% of them survived which was a surprise given the harsh winter. Plants potted in the spring are taken to the Don and Debbie Lauer's for storage until the sale.
- Surplus plants at the end of the sale are first offered to gardening projects, e.g., the Central Park Committee, with the remaining donated to Habitat for Humanity.
- This year the committee purchased a labeling machine that greatly improved inventory management. Numbers are more accurate, appropriate space can more easily be allocated during set-up, actual inventory can be tracked both before and after the sale.
- They expect to have about 7,000 plants this year.
- Last year the Master Gardeners worked in partnership with the Philomath High School Forestry Department to build a greenhouse. In exchange, the Master Gardeners can use the greenhouse. This year it's being used for vegetables, herbs, and cuttings of shrubs and woody plants.
- In the future perhaps Master Gardeners can mentor forestry students regarding growing trees.
- Pami Opfer said that sometimes people who want to donate plants contact the Extension Office. Their names should be sent to Kathy who is the dig coordinator and who will follow-up with the offer.
- Each year many boxes are needed for people to carry their plants home. All are encouraged to collect and save them. Kathy makes regular stops at Winco to get empty boxes and take them to the Fair Grounds.

OSU Extension Report: Derek Godwin introduced Brooke Edmunds, the new Oregon State University Extension Horticulturist. Brooke expressed her top priority is to get to know as many people as soon as possible. Derek also reminded the board that Pami Opfer will be on maternity leave soon.

By-Laws Potential Change: Jana Tindall highlighted the changes suggested for the Benton County Master Gardener Association By-Laws.

- Article III, Section 3g: Wording was changed so that the Oregon Master Gardener Representative and Alternate Representative have one vote at the Benton County Master Gardener Association. The change was moved, seconded, and passed.
- Article IV, Section 1a: Wording was changed to include appointed positions and ex-officio position(s) on the board.
- Article IV, Section 1b: Wording was changed to include any other [than the newsletter editor] position that the board deems necessary to carry out the purposes of the Association.
- Article IV, Section 1c: Wording was added: Ex-Officio position(s) shall be the Home Horticulture Agent or his/her designee, and he/she or the designee shall serve as an advisor to the Board of Directors.

- Article IV, Section 4: This section regarding voting rights was added. Each elected board position has one vote; two people who share a position have one vote. Appointed members and ex-officio members are non-voting.
- One motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept all of the by-law changes in Article IV.
- It was also moved, seconded, and passed that any number specifying a particular edition of Robert's Rules of Order as a resource should be deleted. Only "Roberts Rules of Order" should be cited.
- The suggested change for Article IV, Section 2 was not passed. Janet Magedanz will appoint a committee to address the issue of replacing a president if needed and report to the board.
- Master Gardener Association membership will vote on these changes.

Awards Update: Sheila Schweizer summarized the qualification for each award and then presented the nominations. Motions were moved, seconded, and passed for each person.

- Mary Mellard for Oregon State Master Gardener of the Year. Mary's nomination will be passed on to the state level.
- Jennifer Klammer is awarded the Benton County Master Gardener of the Year for 2014.
- Barb Vollmer is awarded the Benton County "Behind the Scenes" Recognition. Barb's award will be forwarded for the state competition.
- Janet Magedanz will call each person to inform them of their awards.

Ad Hoc Committee to Review Standing Committees and Projects: Janet Magedanz will schedule via "Doodle" a time when Judy Shaw, Paula Lupcho, and Kathi Tucker can begin this work.

Annual Membership Picnic: Janet Magedanz presented a possible change for the annual Master Gardener September picnic: Instead of gathering for an evening potluck picnic for a short amount of time, organize a longer event in which attendees would be able to participate in activities as well as enjoy a picnic.

- Janet Magedanz offered her back yard as the location.
- Suggested time: 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with activities earlier in the day and ending with a picnic.
- Attendees would include members and partners but no children.
- People would be able to drop in for part of the day without necessarily committing to the whole time.
- Hypertufa and making decorative plant supports from rebar were suggested activities. Board members should email Jana Tindall with additional ideas.
- Goals include having fun together, getting to know each other better, and increasing participation in Master Gardener activities.
- Board members were enthusiastic about the idea.

Follow-up Regarding Trainee Scholarship to Honor Barb Fick: Janet Magedanz asked the board members whether they thought anything should be done right away regarding establishing this scholarship. The criteria, application, and process need to be developed. Action was postponed until a later unspecified meeting. The board did discuss whether or not the scholarship should be "needs-based," and consensus was that doing so complicates the process.

Planting a Tree in Central Park To Honor Barb Fick: It was moved, seconded, and passed to authorize the Central Park Committee to spend up to \$150 for a tree for Central Park. Kathi Tucker will talk to Chad to identify Barb's favorite trees. The committee will then select an appropriate one for the park.

Master Gardener Level of Involvement in the Training Program: The training in composting is quite scientific and not applicable to what most Master Gardeners need in their home gardens, thus the question was raised, “Does this group have any input in the training?” Pami Opfer answered, “No.” The training materials are developed independently; however, Master Gardeners can send their feedback to either Pami or Brooke Edmonds who will then talk to the instructors.

Update on Ad Hoc Committee to Recommend Instituting Public Relations Program: This committee will update the board at a later date.

Camera: The camera that Barb Fick used was purchased in 2008. The Benton County Master Gardener Association paid \$500 which was one-half of the cost. It was moved, seconded, and passed to declare the camera surplus and to offer Barb the opportunity to purchase it if she would like to. Janet Magedanz will research its current value.

Treasurer’s Report: Ellen Tappon presented the report in Steve Naberhuis’ absence.

- The Oregon Master Gardener Association gives the Benton County Master Gardener Association \$200 for a scholarship to Mini College. Not many apply. Paula Lupcho suggested that the reason is that the Benton chapter provides five of its own. It was moved, seconded, and passed to offer six scholarships to Mini College at the May association meeting.
- Ellen summarized the financial spreadsheet that had been emailed to board members prior to the meeting.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to move \$400 from the contingency fund into the board discretionary fund.
- Following a discussion regarding the Insights line item, it was moved, seconded, and defeated to move \$560 from the contingency fund into Insights.

Extension Report:

- Pami Opfer’s last day before maternity leave will be April 23rd. Pami will give Janet Magedanz an updated list of contacts to cover her leave.
- The help desk has recently been filled by trainees.
- The clinic tables are full at the Farmer’s Market.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.