

**Benton County Master Gardener Association  
Board Meeting  
May 4, 2015**

**In Attendance:** Hank Beuttel, Kathy Clark, Susan Hoffman, Steve Jacobs, Jennifer Klammer, Paula Lupcho, Janet Magedanz, Sandy Piper, Jana Tindall, Connie Treloar, Debbie Wray, and Drea Zigler

**Location:** Benton County Extension Offices

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

**Mission Minute:** This year's plant sale was a huge success. We had more plants to sell than any previous year; the new space at the Benton County Fairgrounds was great; a long line of enthusiastic shoppers waited for the sale to begin and seemed pleased with the selection; we took in more money than in previous years. The Spring Garden Festival was also well attended.

**Gardening Moment:**

- Sandy Piper shared her passion for perennials and her love of giving bouquets to others.
- Janet Magedanz was enthusiastic about her visit to the very large Clackamas County Plant Sale.
- Jana Tindall was amazed at a white Japanese maple she saw at the Seattle Garden Show.

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

- Two minor corrections were made:
  - In adoption of the March minutes, "part" was deleted from the last sentence thus correctly indicating that the 2015 budget document "has budget history."
  - Under Treasurer's Report, 501(3)(C) was correctly noted.
- By unanimous email vote following the April board meeting, board members nominated Paula Lupcho for Oregon State Gardener of the Year. **It was moved, seconded, and passed to amend the April board minutes to include this nomination.**

**Plant Sale Mini-Update:** Paula Lupcho clarified that her report is preliminary, because there are still some outstanding bills to be paid; however, the plant sale grossed \$23,995.30. She estimates that the net income will be around \$19,000. She distributed a table detailing revenue sources and expenses (see attached).

**Membership Longevity Awards:** Debbie Wray cited Debbie Lauer's suggestion of recognizing Master Gardener longevity, similar to the state's recognition of 20-year veterans, in an effort to diminish attrition which is especially pronounced after five years. Suggestions from board members included:

- Provide 2-, 5-, and 10-year service bars.
- Structure public recognition outside the Master Gardener Association, e.g., the Gazette-Times Good Words.
- Provide activities that encourage Master Gardeners, especially new ones, to feel more connected to the larger group.
- Recognize that people stay in groups because of internal feelings, not extrinsic awards. They are intrinsically motivated to contribute to a group's mission and to stay active.

Consensus of the board was to discuss this issue at a retreat in the late summer or early fall. The retreat would be open to board members, the Outreach Committee, and other Master Gardeners who wish to participate.

**Hosting the Oregon Master Gardener Association Meeting:** Jana Tindall talked about what will be needed June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> when the Benton County Master Gardener Association hosts the OMGA.

- The executive meeting will be Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. The BCMGA will provide drinks and snacks for this portion of the state meeting.
- The BCMGA will provide lunch and drinks for the full meeting on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Estimated attendance will be 50-70 people. Jana suggested a baked potato bar at which attendees can select what they individually prefer and which will be economical. The OMGA provides \$300.
- Board members offered to help. Jana will send emails to the board closer to the event to identify specific tasks and people to do them.

**Quarterly OMGA Report:** Board members suggested the following items for Jana Tindall to include in the BCMGA quarterly report to the OMGA.

- Plant sale
- Spring garden sale
- Associate member status
- Success in getting new trainees involved in activities
- Prescribed hours for desk service
- The new outreach committee and initiatives

Jana also thanked Kathy Clark for stepping up the last minute to provide a program on shade gardening at the April Benton County Master Gardener Association meeting when the previously arranged speaker couldn't make it.

#### **President's Report:**

- Mini-College silent auction contributions: Kathy Clark reminded board members to give Jennifer Klammer their donations. They can be left in the Extension Office.
- Marie Madison Scholarship: There were no applications this year. Sandy Piper read some changes in the application that the committee is suggesting in the hopes of making it easier for students to apply. Paula Lupcho asked that the suggestions be brought to a future board meeting in written form to facilitate discussion before deciding what changes to make.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Paula Lupcho distributed the monthly Financial Summary (see attachments).
- She reported that the dedicated donation for Seed-to-Supper has been used.
- Gail Langelotto sent a thank-you for the \$500 to support the International Master Gardener Conference.
- Paula distributed a summary of funds available for Mini College Scholarships this summer (see attachment) and asked the board to determine the number of scholarships this year. Total amount of \$1,525 available includes \$1,200 budgeted, \$200 for Send-a-Friend 2015 from the Oregon Master Gardener Association, and \$125 remaining for Send-a-Friend 2014. The Oregon Master Gardener Association allows scholarships to be for either one or two days. **It was moved, seconded, and passed to award five Mini College Scholarships this year.** Recipients' names plus an alternate will be drawn at the May Benton Master Gardener Association meeting.

#### **Liaison Reports:**

- Sandy Piper asked for clarity regarding Hospitality responsibilities for the monthly Benton County Master Association meetings overlapping with hospitality at the Plant Sale. The two are distinct with separate budgets.
- Pat Wray distributed a summary of the Outreach Committee activities and asked the board to support two recommendations (see attachment). Consensus of the board is to support both. As

recommendations from a committee, these items do not require formal motions to be seconded and passed.

- Adopt the phrase “We grow smarter gardeners” as the BCMGA motto. Pat is in the process of determining whether or not the committee can legally use the flower portion of the Master Gardener logo. If not because of copyright, committee members will develop another image for promotion.
- Implement the “Last Word Project” in which Benton County Master Gardeners are trained to end interactions with clients by asking them if they have considered becoming a Master Gardener. The current process of screening applicants and setting a maximum to be trained each year would continue.

**Good of the Association:** Kathy Clark underlined that being a Master Gardener is really enjoyable and asked to board to consider organizing activities being together and having fun. The board will brainstorm ideas at the June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

---

Sandy Piper  
Secretary