

**Benton County Master Gardener Association  
Board Meeting  
May 5, 2014**

**In Attendance:** Kathy Clark, Brooke Edmunds, Susan Hoffman, Don Lauer, Paula Lupcho, Janet Magedanz, Steve Naberhuis, Sandy Piper, Judy Shaw, Ellen Tappon, Jana Tindall, Lynn Trimpe, Kathi Tucker, Debbie Wray

**Location:** Benton County Offices

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Janet Magedanz.

**Mission Moment:**

- Paula Lupcho underlined how great the clinic tables have been.
- Judy Shaw indicated how great it was to see Brooke Edmonds and her children at the Spring Festival.
- Susan Hoffman invited women to participate in a future “She Project” in which volunteers have two hours to take a break from their busy lives and create art which reflects their everyday activities and feelings and which is subsequently assembled into a book. Susan had copies of the 2007 project to give to interested board members, either free or for a donation to the “She Project.”

**Gardening Moment:** Paula Lupcho reflected that, for her, the harsh winter triggered a philosophical reflection about gardening. The harsh reality is that some plants didn’t survive; however, spring does bring forth new growth. She was especially pleased that her “Midnight Mystique” rhododendron survived the winter.

**Adoption of Minutes:** The following changes were made to the April minutes:

- Judy Shaw included the OCA, an edible tuberous rooted oxalis in the Gardening Moment.
- Pat Wray’s name was deleted from the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Standing Committees and Projects.
- The spelling of Treasurer’s Report was corrected.
- The spelling of Paula Lupcho’s name was corrected under the Treasurer’s Report.
- Sandy Piper’s name was added to the list of attendees.

The minutes were then adopted as amended.

**Committee Report:** Kathy Clark reported that the plant sale was a great success. More people attended. More money was raised. The activity level was exceptionally high. The volume of plants filled the available space to its maximum. There were fewer leftovers than in the past. The debriefing meeting for the Plant Sale will be May 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Any interested person is welcome to attend.

**Get Outside Day at Peavy Arboretum:** Kathi Tucker reported on this new project that is focused on getting students and their families acquainted with the out-of-doors.

- Attendance for Kids’ Day for Conservation has been declining.
- In January the decision was made for Extension to Partner with the College of Forestry in support of this project which replaces the Kids’ Day for Conservation and sets a goal of providing kids and their families with educational outdoor experiences.
- Kathi noted that the Extension Service and Peavy Arboretum have enjoyed cooperative activities for several years.

- Master Gardeners will help during the activities which could include identifying poison oak, identifying native plants, leading small hikes, and/or conducting a scavenger hunt for outdoor items.
- Crown Miller Lake has been stocked with fish, and the kids will be allowed to fish without charge.
- Steve Naberhuis offered to have a clinic table set up. It will probably draw a different clientele, those who are more interested in native plants.
- Ellen Tappon cautioned that the inclusion of a clinic table could compete for Master Gardener volunteers in support of the other activities at the event.
- Judy Shaw suggested “Weed Bingo” as an activity.
- The date for this event is May 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Tree in Central Park in Honor of Barb:** Kathi Tucker reported that the Central Park Committee has selected the paperbark maple (acer griseum), Barb’s favorite, and the space in which it will be planted in Central Park. Kathi also has looked at possible signs that could include both the Master Gardener logo and a dedication message. No decision has been made regarding signage.

Janet Magedanz questioned timing regarding informing Barb of the ways in which the Master Gardeners are honoring her. Kathi will talk to Barb about a possible open house this summer and report to Janet.

**Oregon Master Gardener Association News** from Ellen Tappon:

Mini College:

- Registration is now open on-line, including opportunities both to take classes and to sign up as a volunteer.
- One way in which Mini College will manage a tighter budget is to ask for volunteers to provide cookies for the breaks.
- Mini College organizers specifically need general volunteers plus someone to coordinate the collection and distribution of cookies for refreshments.
- Posters (8 ½ by 11) are available for Master Gardeners to distribute.

Ellen will submit a report by May 31<sup>st</sup> to the Oregon Master Gardener Recorder.

Successes for her to mention include:

- Brooke Edmunds
- Seeds-to-Supper
- Get Outside Day at Peavy Arboretum
- Success of the Annual Plant Sale

Challenges include:

- Engagement and retaining members
- No chair for the Speakers’ Bureau
- Trainee numbers are down
- Outreach, specifically the diversity of who enrolls for training

**By-Laws Update:** Paula Lupcho drew to the attention of the board that the by-laws currently do not adequately address the issue of the vice-president becoming president when the president can’t complete a term. The concern is timing. If the president resigns after just a few months, the new president would hold the position for close to two years but would have been elected for only one year. It should be clear in the by-laws whether or not the new president who just moved into the position from the vice-presidency should automatically continue into the new year’s responsibilities or be elected as president.

Paula presented a clarifying change in the by-laws which will be taken to the May Benton County Master Gardener Association meeting for discussion and approval by the membership.

**Extension Express** from Paula Lupcho:

- June 13<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the July/August Extension Express.
- One highlight will be the Demo Garden.
- Elizabeth McGovern is the Extension contact person if Master Gardeners have announcement for the broader community.

**Clarification on the Role of the Community Garden Action Team:** Janet Magedanz reflected that over a period of several months there have been confusing discussions regarding the role of the Community Garden Action Team. The confusion needs to be addressed. When the proposal was approved by the board in July 2013 the minutes included that the team was “to help with fundraising,” which seems to underlie some of the confusion. Ellen reminded the board that formal proposal approved by the board stated that the committee purpose is providing education to community gardens. The proposal was developed by a group of Master Gardeners that represented a range of concerns and the proposal clarified that no financial activities would be undertaken without approval by the board. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to delete “help with fundraising” under the section “Continuing Business” in the July, 2013 board minutes. The motion also included adding the names of Paula Lupcho and Kathi Tucker.

**Ad Hoc Committee to Review Standing Committees/Projects:** Janet Magedanz reported that this committee has met.

- Chairs of committees should be certified Master Gardeners.
- Several committees are “inactive,” which is not to be equated with “eliminated.”
- They are working on establishing an amended schedule.

**Trainee Scholarship to Honor Barb Fick:** The details of this scholarship will be discussed at the August board meeting.

**Earth Fair at Crescent Valley High School:** Janet Magedanz received an email from Anna Graham representing Crescent Valley High School regarding this event on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Anna was inquiring whether the Master Gardeners would be interested in having a booth at the fair. Board members voiced concerns regarding the date’s conflict with other Master Gardener events, the involvement level and/or interest of the target audience (high school students), and the possible overlap with activities being planned for the Get Outside Day at Peavy Arboretum. Ellen Tappon will discuss this possible event with Jennifer Klammer and Kathi Tucker.

**Mini College Silent Auction Items:** Donations for the silent auction should be given to Kathy Clark , should be either new or in new-like condition, and should be valued at least \$20. Items of lesser value can be combined to made one auction item of a larger value.

**Camera Issue and Financial Gift to Barb:** It was moved, seconded, and passed to assign a surplus value of \$150 to the camera. The Benton County Master Gardener Association portion is thus assigned to be \$75 which will be taken from the members’ gift contributions for Barb.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Steve Naberhuis summarized the Treasurer’s Report:

- The current balance is \$37,541. He underlined that the Benton County Master Gardener Association is in good shape financially.

- The financial details of Insights into Gardening is almost complete. Steve will have a detailed report presented separately (for ease in reading) at a future board meeting.
- Brooke Edmunds suggested that there needs to be a discussion with Linn County representatives regarding the tracking of expenses for Rich Little's "Spineless Wonders" at Insights. Janet Magedanz will initiate this conversation. Rich will be invited. Brooke will attend as a listener.
- Kathy Clark requested funds to replace some of the winter's plant kill at the Benton County Fair Grounds, especially shrubs. It was moved, seconded, and passed to increase by \$100 the budgeted amount for the Fair Grounds.

**Extension Report:**

- Paula Lupcho requested that Master Gardener trainees, including on-line trainees, receive an email early in their training clarifying the process of reporting hours electronically.
- Linn and Benton County diagnostic specialists want to develop training scenarios and might request information from the Master Gardener Training Scenario Committee to assist them with this project.
- Maggie Livesay in the Benton County Extension Office wants to identify a Master Gardener to work on the Backyard Wildlife Collaboration in conjunction with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. Janet Throop is currently the Master Gardener representative on the Sustainability Coalition. Brooke Edmunds will contact Janet to discuss Maggie's request.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.