

**Benton County Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting
June 1, 2015**

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

Location: Benton County Extension Offices

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

Mission Minute:

- Janet Magedanz reminded board members that the Linn County Master Gardeners have a fundraising garden tour June 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Jana Tindall had a positive experience at Homegrown Gardens representing Benton Master Gardeners as a member of the new Outreach Committee. Several people expressed an interest and three signed up. Local nurseries are welcoming Master Gardeners in this role.

Gardening Moment: At Paula Lupcho's invitation, board members shared their preferences for sources of compost to amend their gardens. Janet Magedanz will be responsible for the July Gardening Moment.

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

- Under "Gardening Moment," "Seattle Garden Show" was changed to "Seattle Kubota Show."
- The third sentence under Treasurer's Report was changed to read, "Scholarships may be for either one or two days."
- A typo was corrected in the second-to-last sentence of the minutes.

Membership Committee Report:

- Debbie Wray asked the board to consider the amount of dues for Associate Members. After a brief discussion and at Kathy Clark's suggestion, a decision will be made at a later date in the whole context of dues. No date was set for this action.
- Debbie also asked the board to consider what to do to acknowledge 20-year Benton County Master Gardeners. Each year their names are turned in to the Oregon Master Gardener Association; however, the OMGA has no guidelines. After considerable discussion, it was moved, seconded, and passed **"To select 20-year award winners beginning with the year they were trained and who have been included in the directory for 20 years."**

Liaison Reports:

- Connie Treloar spoke to Sue Domingues about the Community Garden. Generally it is a huge success, although Sue suggested that they would benefit by having child care available.
- Jana Tindall reported that the Demo Garden now has a lot of plants in it. The trainees who came for a while are no longer coming. It was suggested that they might respond to a personal invitation.
- Pat Wray reported regarding the Outreach Committee.
 - They have initiated the "Last Word Project" in which the goal is to encourage Master Gardeners to end all conversations with others by asking if the interested person has considered becoming a Master Gardener.

- They are working towards having two separate buttons. One would say “Ask me about becoming a Master Gardener” and would include the OSU Extension logo. It could possibly be available for Linn County also. The other button would say “We grow smarter gardeners” and would be specifically for Benton County. Pat is aware of complications in design and colors associated with OSU and is carefully negotiating his way towards acceptable buttons. Pat will submit a special allocations request for the buttons.
- They have begun the nursery program in which committee members go to Benton County nurseries to answer questions and hopefully to recruit Master Gardeners. Nurseries have been very welcoming.
- Committee members are considering several additional projects that they will bring to the board as the projects are ready.
- Comments from the board included:
 - Suggestion to give a \$50 prize to the Master Gardener who recruits the most trainees.
 - Remind current members about the monthly meetings in order to keep them connected and improve retention.
 - Include the new motto on the Master Gardener stationery.
 - Anticipate two-to-three years for the Outreach Committee to be established.
 - Perhaps sell “We grow smarter gardeners” to other Master Gardener Associations.

Special Allocations:

- Paula Lupcho requested a fifth member for this committee. Currently it includes Steve Jacobs (who will serve as chair), Gilbert Seid, Christina Clark, and Loreen Olufson. Steve will contact first Charlene Pott and then Sally Elliott to see if either of them will serve as the fifth member.
- Kathy Clark suggested that requests that come from the board should not be automatic but instead should be discussed each year. The allocations must be to 501(3)(C) organizations.
- In the past, committee chairs have submitted relatively few special allocation requests. Kathy also suggested that board liaisons encourage them to do so, thus tapping into this source of support for their needs.
- This year’s deadline for requests to be submitted is July 10th.

Get Outdoor Day: Kathy Clark read a written report from Kathi Tucker regarding this year’s Get Outdoor Day. A total of about 450 people (children and adults) attended. Kathi T. was frustrated, for she had no responses to her request for help. Kathy C. suggested that Kathi T.’s experience is indicative of a larger issue. The Master Gardener Association has no structure to incorporate small established events and/or new events into the larger Master Gardener organization. Consensus of the board is that it’s a good idea to have someone chair “Community Related Education” (suggested name); however, there needs to be a clearer explanation of what’s expected. Kathy Clark will look into recruiting someone to assume this responsibility. No timeline was established.

Mini-College:

- Jennifer Klammer already has 10 items submitted for the auction, but more would certainly be great. June 30th is the deadline.
- Mini-College scholarship recipients were drawn at the last MGA monthly meeting. They are Pam Wilson, Margo Barajas, Kathi Tucker, Sue Piasias, Christina Clark, and Ruby Moon (alternate).

OMGA Report: Jana Tinall emphasized that Thursday there will be a special leadership training which is open to anyone and will emphasize retention, Friday there will also a session on leadership with several speakers each talking about a different aspect, and Saturday there will be a special board meeting in which all counties will be represented.

Treasurer's Report:

- Paula Lupcho distributed the monthly summaries (see attachments) and indicated that the BCMGA is in good financial shape. She suggested moving the deadline for dues to December 31st of each year and reserving \$22,000 for the upcoming budget.
- Paula also distributed a revised reimbursement form and asked the board for comments. She will make two changes and begin using the new form.

Extension Report:

- The Alsea Food Bank has property and is interested in a partnership with another Master Gardener committee. They would like to plant an orchard and perhaps build a greenhouse. Possible committees include the Community Garden Action Team or Seed to Supper. Such a partnership would provide an opportunity for the Master Gardeners to reach more into the Alsea area.
- Pami Opfer is planning a one-time social event for the trainees this year in the hopes of encouraging them to stay connected to the organization. They will also be invited to attend the monthly BCMGA meetings.

Fun Time Ideas: The board brainstormed possible activities for fun with the goal of building connections among Master Gardeners. Activities that are actually planned will be publicized. Suggestions include:

- Hyper tufa at Janet Magedanz's home
- Stepping stones with leaf molds
- Mosaics
- Luc Restaurant with commercial teaching kitchen—Susan Hoffman will check on this suggestion
- Stone soup—perhaps in September
- Garden photography—how to do it
- Field trip to photograph dahlias—perhaps at the Wray's garden
- Picnic at the fairgrounds
- Knight's game
- Bocce ball tournament

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Sandy Piper
Secretary