

**Benton County Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting
July 7, 2014**

In Attendance: Kathy Clark, Brooke Edmunds, Bill Glassmire, Susan Hoffman, Rich Little, Paula Lupcho, Janet Magedanz, Sandy Piper, Sheila Schweizer, Judy Shaw, Jana Tindall, Lynn Trimpe, Debbie Wray

Location: Benton County Extension Offices

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

Mission Moment:

- Debbie Wray brought rocks she had painted with the Master Gardener logo. She suggested that they could be used to weight down papers at outdoor Master Gardener events, and she offered to paint more rocks if requested.
- Paula Lupcho pointed out that the corn at the Master Gardener demonstration garden is being used as a fertilizer experiment and educational tool. It has been divided into five sections with each section being fertilized differently.
- Judy Shaw reported that Mini College is advertised at the Benton County Library.

Gardening Moment: Sandy Piper shared the reasons she enjoys gardening which is much more than growing plants. Gardening gives her a context for physical exercise, for learning and cognitive stimulation, for connecting with other people who walk by her garden and visit plus those who also join gardening organizations, for delighting in “playing in the dirt,” for sharing with others her abundance of flowers and plants, and for the memories associated with specific people for whom she has plants named after. She brought three dahlias that have meaningful names and six *Caryopteris clandonensis* seedlings from her garden.

Adoption of Minutes: After several typos were corrected, the June minutes were adopted as amended.

Membership Committee: Debbie Wray indicated that the survey given to the trainees each year is a lot of work and no longer matches the existing committees. It will be updated and continued. Consensus of the board is that it is tremendously helpful.

Plant Sale Committee: The Plant Sale Committee is planning to purchase two large (3’x12’) banners to direct people to the new location of the sale this coming year. Kathy Clark reported that the sale is being moved to the Solar Barn at the southwest corner of the Benton County Fairgrounds because it has outgrown the Floral Courtyard and because the weather is sometimes a problem. The reusable banners will redirect people to the new location. Estimated cost is \$120-\$150 each.

Special Allocations: Paula Lupcho reminded the board members that Special Allocations requests are due Wednesday.

- To date only two have been submitted; however, Steve Naberhuis, who is out of town, is expected to submit some requests.
- Steve’s requests are anticipated to be for items repeated annually. The board discussed the possibility of moving such requests into budget line items, considering factors such as implied priorities of repeated requests and the flexibility of the committee to deny requests or reduce

amounts. Consensus of the board is that the committee does have the flexibility and that board policy should continue to be followed.

Policy Review: Paula Lupcho noted that at this meeting the board is completing only the Treasurer's job description, not the comprehensive policy review. The following amendments were approved:

- An additional bullet was added under the Executive section of the job description: "Call a meeting of the Finance Committee to set the association budget for the upcoming year after special allocations are known and total association income is estimated."
- Under the Records section, the end of the fourth bullet was extended to be more detailed: Assemble full financial records that include: . . . e) board minutes "that bear on financial decisions of the board."
- An additional bullet was added under the Records section: "Submit year-end report formatted to OMGA treasurer's specifications to the OMGA treasurer."
- Under IRS Reporting, "state association" was added to clarify to whom financial reports are filed if they are not submitted directly to the IRS.

Extension Express: Paula Lupcho reminded the board that the deadline for the September/October issue is August 13th. She will send a reminder to committee chairs.

Pollinators: Rich Little informed the board about what's happening regarding pollinators:

- He is working on a demonstration collection to be displayed on a wall in the Extension office. Collection, preservation, and mounting of specimens take a tremendous amount of time.
- There are currently three sites for the Mason Bee Project with a total of 1,500 tubes.
- The misapplication of pesticides in Oregon has resulted in killing about 59,000 bees.
- The governor has appointed a 10-member task force to address the issue of declining bee populations.
 - Rich is included on this task force which has just begun to meet.
 - The members recognize the difficulty in working with and educating many diverse groups in the population at large.
 - e.g., Regulations for commercial application of pesticides don't apply to homeowner application which can sometimes be more than 100 times stronger than commercial pesticides.
 - e.g., "Big Ag" doesn't depend on bees but is extremely influential in setting policies.
 - The task force has been given only three months to do its work. Rich is hoping that its recommendations will be a first step leading to further action.
- Rich would like people to report to him any information they hear about pollinators.

\$200 from the OMGA: The board discussed what to do with the \$200 from the Oregon Master Gardener Association to "Send a Friend" to the Mini College. It was moved, seconded, and passed to keep the money, applying the \$75 used this year for the registration of its recipient and reserving the remaining \$125 for next year's Mini College scholarship.

Lunch Meeting with Barb Fick: Janet Magedanz had lunch with Barb to tell her about the gifts from the Master Gardeners. Barb was very pleased—"stunned, delighted."

Trainee Scholarship: In its August meeting, the board will discuss the details of the Master Gardener trainee scholarship to honor Barb Fick.

Check Signers: It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve Janet Magedanz, Kathy Clark, and Steve Naberhuis as check signers on the Master Gardener Association checking account.

Surprise Announcement: Janet Magedanz has been notified that Mary Mellard will receive the Oregon Master Gardener Association award as Master Gardener of the Year. It will be awarded at the Friday banquet for Mini College.

Marie Madison Scholarship Committee: Andrea (Drea) Zigler, Jeanette Fair, and Sandy Piper will serve on the Marie Madison Scholarship Committee this coming year. Jeanette will be chair.

Library Houseplants: Watering the houseplants in the Corvallis-Benton County Library has not been specifically identified as a responsibility of the Central Park Committee; however, two Master Gardeners have been doing it. The consensus of the board is that this task should be included as a responsibility of the Central Park Committee. Debbie Wray and Susan Hoffman volunteered to water the plants.

Weed Bingo Structure: Janet Magedanz has received an email clarifying that the request for reimbursement for building this structure was not for the structure itself but for the prizes associated with the game. John Kelley who built the structure considers it a prototype to be improved and wants to keep it, providing it for future events if requested. The board discussed the complexities surrounding this issue. Janet Magedanz will email Don and Debbie Lauer to determine what their interest might be and then email John.

Windowsill Gardening: This Master Gardener educational program for the schools that was moved from the second to the first grade curriculum has also been moved to the spring when the first graders are more mature. The current chair believes that moving it to the spring can be successful for first graders. She is stepping down as chair and is concerned that it will be difficult to find a replacement. Kathy Clark will check with the other members of the Windowsill Gardening Committee regarding their perceptions of the program and willingness to be chair.

Insights into Gardening contract: After a meeting with the manager of the LaSells Stewart Center regarding Insights into Gardening, Lynn Trimpe was asked to sign the contract. She questions that a member of the board or a committee has the authority to do so. Instead, shouldn't an Extension employee sign it? Paula Lupcho will review historical contracts to identify who has signed them in the past and then notify board members via email. Consensus of the board is that an Extension employee should be responsible for authorizing the contract. Lynn will forward an electronic copy to Brooke Edmunds who will review and sign it. Further concerns should be discussed at the August board meeting.

July 21st Summer Garden Tour: Jana Tindall has arranged for this tour to be at Sweet Earth Vineyards. She will send out two notices. It will be from 4:00-7:00 p.m. with a \$5.00 tasting fee applicable to the purchase of a bottle of wine. A minimum of 10 people and maximum of 30 are required.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Naberhuis distributed the Treasurer's Report before the meeting. There was little activity in June and no discussion at this meeting.

Extension Report: Brooke Edmunds had several items:

- Pami Opfer will return in early August. Her specific schedule will be set later.
- Linn County Extension has purchased the OSDA building in Tangent and will be moving its offices in the fall.
- She does not anticipate any changes to the Master Gardener training this coming year; instead, she is planning to observe it before making recommendations. One possible consideration is to change the day of the week in coming years.

- She is concerned about an increasing incidence of Master Gardeners signing up for desk duty and then not coming, a behavior that has created confusion for the Extension employees and creates a public relations issue. The board discussed possible reasons for this behavior.
- It's time to reorder new business cards. To avoid ordering them unnecessarily, Brooke asked if anyone has a stash not yet used.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.