

**Benton County Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting
October 5, 2015**

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

Location: Benton County Extension Offices

Vice-President Jennifer Klammer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Mission Moment: Jennifer Klammer talked to youth who are interested in becoming Junior Master Gardeners. Applications will soon be available and can be submitted until December.

Gardening Moment:

- Susan Hoffman brought her father's humorous "Old Man Gardener George" décor item which she is donating for display at the Master Gardener desk.
- Pat and Debbie Wray summarized their trip to the International Master Gardener Association Conference in Council Bluffs, Iowa:
 - About 800 people attended.
 - There were two keynote speakers and many classes covering both local and broad gardening themes; Pat and Debbie each took different classes.
 - Attendees were very interested in the Plant Problem Scenarios and asked a lot of questions.
 - In general the conference was well done, yielding some suggestions Pat and Debbie will offer at a later time regarding the conference when it is held in Portland.
 - Pat attended classes following a leadership thread which underlined that everyone is facing the same problems regarding recruitment and retention. He gave the board a list of ideas around leadership. (See attachment)

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the August minutes as written.

Nomination Committee: Jennifer Klammer reported that the committee is working on nominations for board members for 2016 with the goal of having a complete slate to announce at the October board meeting.

Fall Picnic: Jana Tindall reported that the annual picnic benefitted from great logistics at its new location at the Benton County Fairgrounds. The food was great, and attendees had fun. Jana asked if, in the future, we might need to attend to the discrepancy between the number of people who responded (70) and those who actually attended (about 40).

Nominations Committee Report: Jennifer Klammer presented the slate of 2016 Benton County Master Gardener Association board members identified by the Nominations Committee (Jennifer, Susan Hoffman, and Jana Tindall) after they contacted about 60 people. The nominations will be voted on at the October general association meeting. An * indicates candidates; others are continuing board members.

President	Jennifer Klammer
Vice President	Peggy Worthington *
President Elect	Judith Kenner *

Past President	Kathy Clark
Secretary	Sandy Piper
Treasurer	Paula Lupcho
Membership	Sheila Schweizer Sally Elliot *
Members at Large	Hank Beutel Josh Gulliver Steve Jacobs Dee Wallace * Christina Clark *
Newsletter/Outreach	Jana Tindall *
OMGA Representative	Richard Taylor *
OMGA Alternate	Deb Kern *

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the slate of 2016 board members as presented by the Nominations Committee.

Changes in Budget Policy: Paula Lupcho suggested changes in the Master Gardener Budget Policy that formalizes who serves on the Financial Committee, details what the committee does and when it meets, and adds information on how the budget gets approved. **It was moved, seconded, and passed to amend the Budget Policy as provided.** (See attachment)

Changes in Computer Use and Internet Policy: Steve Jacobs suggested changes in the Computer Use and Internet Policy that clarifies that the policy applies to any computer Master Gardeners use. **It was moved, seconded, and passed accept the revisions to the Computer Use and Internet Policy as provided.** (See attachment)

Quarterly Report to the Oregon Master Gardener Association: Items suggested by board members included:

- Pat Wray's list of suggestions from the International Conference
- October Dig-and-Divide schedule and activities
- Modifications to the Computer Use and Internet Policy
- New slate of board members

October Membership Meeting: Jana Tindall announced that the agenda will include:

- Election of board members
- Brief report from Pat and Debbie Wray
- Brooke Edmunds presentation of cover crops in the garden

Committee Budget Requests and End-of-the-Year Reports: Kathy Clark has emailed committee chairs that the budget requests are due October 30th and annual reports are due November 15th. Board liaisons should contact their respective committee chairs to remind them of the due dates and to suggest that it could be efficient for them to meet both tasks simultaneously.

Volunteer Hour Reporting: Pami Opfer reminded board members that volunteer hours are due by November 1st.

Treasurer's Report: Paula Lupcho distributed the monthly Treasurer's summary sheets and made the following points:

- Under revenue, the Benton County Master Gardener Association now has its first Associate Member, Robert Hoffman.

- Dues can be paid beginning October 19th at the monthly association meeting. She will post a gradually filling “Greenhouse” representing number of paid members.
- Mini-College requests for payments are still coming in.
- She’s been in contact with an agent regarding adding insurance to cover the shed and its contents at the Demo Garden. This discussion and decision are postponed until a later date.
- She stopped payment (\$20 cost) on a lost check that was mailed in May and reissued the check.

Extension Report: Pami Opfer had the following announcements:

- Deb Kern will be working with the Problem Scenarios this coming year and will also be revising the Question Notebook at the desk.
- Pami and Brooke Edmunds are looking at creative ways to facilitate Master Gardener Trainees being able to complete their service hours.
- Pami and Brooke are continuing to look for ways to improve the graduation ceremony, including the importance of giving certificates, questioning how valuable they are to recipients. Certificates will still be given this year but perhaps not in the future.
- Kathi Tucker has reported that the black rolling cart is missing.
- Applications have been sent out for the new class of trainees. About 120 people in each county have expressed an interest. It’s too soon to know what the responses will be to fill the 50 places. Board members wondered about the possibility of increasing the number of trainees. Pami indicated that greater numbers create additional challenges to find opportunities for service hours and for administrative management time.
- It’s likely that a Soup-to-Supper class will be offered in Spanish. They have identified a person to teach it but still need a location.
- This year’s graduation will be held at the Wheelhouse in Albany.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Sandy Piper
Secretary