

**Benton County Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting
October 6, 2014**

In Attendance: Kathy Clark, Brooke Edmunds, Bill Glassmire, Susan Hoffman, Jaya Conser Lapham, Debbie Lauer, Paula Lupcho, Janet Magedanz, Steve Naberhuis, Pami Opfer, Sandy Piper, Judy Shaw, Ellen Tappon, Jana Tindall, and Lynn Trimpe,

Location: Benton County Extension Offices

The meeting was called to order at 8:56 a.m. by Janet Magedanz.

Mission Moment:

- Paula Lupcho commended Janet Magedanz for hosting the board's annual picnic and for potting 308 plants (including 58 gallon pots of hostas, all named) from her own yard for the Master Gardener spring sale.
- Steve Naberhuis offered his surplus apples to anyone who wants them.
- Debbie and Don Lauer received an award from the Extension OSU Communication Department for their work with "Ask an Expert."
- Susan Hoffman commended Debbie Lauer for her recent workshop on worm composting.

Gardening Moment:

- Janet Magedanz shared first a card with an inspirational quote linking happiness and gardening and then a Cathy cartoon strip she enjoys and had framed.

Adoption of Minutes: The September minutes were adopted as amended.

Nominations Committee Report: Kathy Clark reported that the committee (Kathy, Jana Tindall, and Susan Hoffman) has been successful in identifying a full slate of officers for 2015:

President	Kathy Clark
President Elect	Jennifer Klammer
Past President	Janet Magedanz
Vice President	Drea Zigler
Secretary	Sandy Piper
Treasurer	Paula Lupcho
Membership Secretary	Sheila Schweizer
Membership Assistant	Debbie Wray
OMGA Representative	Jana Tindall
OMGA Rep Alternate	Ellen Tappon
Newsletter Editor	Susan Hoffman
Members-at-Large	Hank Beuttel
	Josh Gulliver
	Steve Jacobs
	Connie Treloar

Greenhouse Exploratory Committee: Debbie Lauer presented the Greenhouse Feasibility Ad Hoc Committee Report (attached) summarizing the history of the Master Gardeners' possibly building a

greenhouse, including possible location, financing the building and maintenance, design, size, and uses. The board's discussion included the following points:

- It is very difficult to find a suitable location.
- Would partnering with another organization be feasible for use or location?
- The committee looked at the possibility of building a greenhouse on the Oak Creek site on the OSU campus; however, the OSU administration is in the process of determining how that land will be utilized. No decision is imminent. Plus numerous additional questions would need to be addressed, e.g., ownership, integrating activities with the OSU Department of Horticulture, relationship to OSU union-represented workers, involvement of OSU students.
- The mission regarding the use of the greenhouse needs to be clear. What would it be?
- The actual cost would be considerably more than building the structure. Equipment, supplies, power, underlayment, gravel base, tables, possible fence, etc. all need to be included.
- Also needed would be space for potted plants (including shade) and storage for pots, soil, and tools.

All-in-all, the board recognized that building a greenhouse for Master Gardener use is a long-term project worth continuing to investigate. It was moved, seconded, and passed "To continue pursuing acquiring a greenhouse."

OMGA Information Request: Ellen Tappon asked for information to take to the Oregon Master Gardener Association Meeting on November 1. Suggestions included:

- Our continuing work towards acquiring a dedicated Master Gardener greenhouse.
- Our current work with the Philomath High School greenhouse.
- We have a full slate of officers for 2015.

Master Gardener Hours: Pami Opfer reminded the board that the hours are due to be reported by the end of October. Also, the graduation ceremony for the 2014 trainees is scheduled for November 13th.

October General Meeting: Jana Tindall encouraged board members to come to the October 20th MGA meeting. Bill Proebsting, member of the Audubon Society and retired OSU professor will be speaking about feeding birds in the winter and garden plants to include to attract and feed birds. The Master Gardener greens party will be December 3rd.

Outreach Committee Proposal: Pat Wray was unable to attend the board meeting but sent a letter (attached) regarding his concern about marketing, publicity, and recruitment. In summary, much of the work by Master Gardeners being done by too few people, and recruitment needs to be improved. He is offering to head a committee to address this issue. Points mentioned by board members include:

- The board needs to be cautious about establishing another committee that would involve yet more volunteers.
- How would such a committee impact the current non-active Publicity Committee? Would it essentially just change the name?
- Should education be added to the responsibilities of the committee?
- The Benton County Master Gardener Association has a specific form to request the formation of a new committee. Ellen Tappon will send it to Janet who will forward it to Pat with an explanation.
- We have a detailed description of the responsibilities of the Publicity Committee. Should these responsibilities be incorporated into the new committee that Pat is requesting?
- Steve Naberhuis reminded the board that the Farmers' Market is actively recruiting Master Gardeners.
- Paula Lupcho pointed out that our Articles of Association already include an Associate Membership category, thus no change in the articles would be necessary.

- Kathy Clark questioned whether or not an associate membership would be covered by our insurance. Steve will investigate this issue and report back to the board.
- The marketing and recruitment concerns are broader than the two areas (associate and student membership) emphasized in Pat's letter.
- Committee chairs need to be included in this process of establishing an Outreach Committee.

The board took the following actions:

1. It was moved, seconded, and NOT passed "To form an Outreach Committee." Instead, Janet Magedanz will invite Pat to the November meeting to further discuss his ideas and proposal.
2. An amendment to the initial movement "To establish an Outreach Committee as a replacement for the non-functioning Publicity Committee" was moved, seconded, and passed.
3. It was moved, seconded, and passed "To table the above amended movement until the board receives an application from Pat Wray to form an Outreach Committee."

Committee Chair Reports: Janet Magedanz has sent requests for annual reports to the committee chairs.

Center for Non-Profit Stewardship is offering training for presidents and presidents-elect November 22nd in Independence. Kathy Clark and Jennifer Klammer are authorized to attend.

Email from Eric Nielsen who serves as a one-person committee working with the Grace Center. He wants to stay certified but is having difficulty. Pami will send him the link to enter his hours electronically and to give him until the end of the calendar year to meet his volunteer hour requirements.

Windowsill Gardening Committee: Janet Magedanz called Lindy Burgess who has been chair of this committee but who cannot continue. Lindy gave Janet the names of people who have served on the committee who Janet then emailed regarding their interest. Two people responded and want to continue the work. Janet will email them to do so.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Naberhuis summarized that there was not much income during the last month and special allocations have now been sent. Also:

- Master Gardeners are now being charged for copies made in the Extension Office. OSU Extension pays the invoice and then bills individual organizations, e.g., Master Gardeners, for their copies.
- Some budgets still need to be spent for the 2014 year.

Extension Report: Brooke Edmunds reported to the board:

- Orientation meetings for people interested in becoming a Master Gardener are being held December 1st and 5th. People can attend either one.
- She is also considering changes with the on-line module that would make it easier for participants.
- She welcomed Jaya Conser Lapham, a trainee from this year who is attending the board meeting and who is translating Seed-to-Supper into Spanish.
- Linda McGovern will post on line the results of the survey identifying ways in which participants' home practices have changed because of Master Gardener information.
- Brooke is developing a survey regarding advanced training which she will discuss in greater detail at the November meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.