

**Benton County Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting
July 17, 2017**

In Attendance: Christina Clark, Sophie Grow, Steve Jacobs, Judith Kenner, Jennifer Klammer, Paula Lupcho, David Mandel, Cyndie Shaner, Richard Taylor, Kathi Tucker, Peggy Worthington, Pat Wray, Pami Monnette, Bob Smythe

Location: Benton County Extension Office

President Judith Kenner called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

Mission Moment: Judith shared that the International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC) met all expectations of our mission.

Gardening Moment: Rich gleefully told us that he picked green beans for the first time this morning.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Cyndie Shaner, seconded and unanimously passed to adopt the June 12, 2017 minutes, as amended.

Officer Reports:

Vice President: Sophie Grow gave an overview of upcoming tours and events.

- The Rogerson Clematis tour was a great success. The garden boasts over 700 clematis varieties, so there is something in bloom all year long. The gardens are open all year.
- There is a coast tour to Lincoln County MG gardens on Aug 29.
- The *Mother Earth News* Fair will take place at the Linn County Fairgrounds on Aug. 5-6. Sophie will be going on Aug. 5 and invited other Master Gardeners to come along.
- TBD: Possible tour to Marion Co. Demo Garden in the later half of August
- TBD: Possible tour to Lane Co. Demo Garden in early September
- TBD: Swan Island Dahlias at the end of Aug

Sophie proposed combining the September membership picnic with an open house event at Produce for the People Garden. After some board discussion, it was decided to have the event as usual at the fairgrounds. Sophie will confirm a date with the fairgrounds office.

President: Judith Kenner

IMGC Review: Judith asked those board members who attended the IMGC to share some highlights of their experience.

- Sophie Grow: Sophie mentioned 3 of her favorite classes that included one on insectaries, Kids Gardening by John Fisher (director of Life Lab that develops educational programs for schools), and Small Fruit Trees.
- Rich Taylor: Rich was in charge of our chapter's bicycle display and took pictures of all of the bicycles at the conference, which he shared with the board. He was impressed with the speaker from Penn State who has done research on pollinators and the plants that attract them. Native plants attract more pollinators than hybrids. Some of the classes by the same speaker were a repetition of the first talk, which was not indicated in the program.

- Steve Jacobs: Steve thought that the organization was well done. Over 1300 attended. There were lots of break, and Steve had mixed feelings about this. He thought that there was good diversity of the vendors and the food was good. His 3 favorite classes were urban birds by a researcher from the University of Washington, Dan Hinkley who shared the three elements of a great garden (texture, motion, & fragrance), and small fruit trees that presented a very different approach to pruning/training trees.
- Pat Wray: Pat concurred that the conference was well done and better than the conference he attended in Iowa. The food was good and the speakers were very high quality. He spoke with a Lane County MG and learned about their specialist program.
- Pami Monnette: Pami thought the conference was well organized and heard lots of positive comments about the extra effort that chapters extended. Pami led a tour of Willamette Valley farms. She also shared that the keynote speakers leant an inspirational tone to the conference.
- Judith Kenner: Judith learned that one chapter has placed a sign in their Demo Garden telling the public about how to become a Master Gardener. It has been a very successful recruitment tool.

David Mandel, recently returned from France, shared that he saw very different cultivation styles in apple growing between the southern and northern regions of the country. Southern France grows apples in hedgerows, whereas northern France has a more traditional style with large trees spaced well apart. There are also different harvesting styles.

Tool Lending Library Update: Judith has no new information. Jennifer Klammer spoke with the North Corvallis Food Bank about a hand tool lending library. They expressed interest about the possibility. The director has contacts with Home Depot. A rolling cart to house the tools that can be stored easily when not in use needs to be investigated. One of the food bank volunteers was interested in writing a grant for the project. This food bank also has a mobile unit that goes to Garfield School. The rolling cart could be used to transport tools via the mobile unit. Jennifer suggested that research is needed on the policies and procedures necessary to run a lending tool library. Judith will contact Anya at the Eugene Tool Library for further information.

Treasurer: Kathi Tucker

- Kathi presented the monthly financial reports. She pointed out that the allocation to the capital fund has been transferred to that line item.
- CD's: She presented a spreadsheet comparing 12-month CD interest rates from various financial institutions. At present, the association checking account earns .05% in interest. The comparative spreadsheet of 9 different financial institutions showed a range in CD interest from .1% to 1.4%. FDIC covers these financial institutions. **It was moved by Paula, seconded, and passed unanimously that Kathi Tucker is authorized to place our capital fund (\$34,250) into a 12-month Certificate of Deposit, using her discretion as to the best plan.**
- Insurance: Our liability and property insurance premium had a significant rise (25%) in the premium. Kathi investigated the reason for this as well as checking with other insurance carriers about policies. The premium is within the price range offered by other companies. We will continue with our present carrier.
- BCMGA has received a donation (\$1198) from Citizens for Benton County. The excess funds from this committee were donated to the various extension programs available through Benton County Extension.

Committee/Liaison Reports

- Update on committee funding needs: Judith reported that she had contacted many of the committee chairs and all of those she spoke with said that they do not anticipate any further funding needs for this year. She was unable to contact the chairs of Community Garden Action Team, Demo Garden, Insights Into Gardening, Outreach, Central Park, Desk, and Plant Problem Scenario. Pat Wray indicated that Outreach would not need any further funds. Kathi Tucker said that Central Park would probably need extra funds to replace a sign.
- Outreach: Pat Wray is stepping down as chair of the Outreach Committee. Bob Smythe will be taking over his duties. Pat will also be leaving the board. Judith Kenner has appointed Bob Smythe as Communications Liaison to fill this board vacancy.

Proposed Change to Bylaws: Postponed until August

Extension Report: Pami Monnette

- July 19 -- Tour of Willamette Park Community Garden
- July 27 – Plant Problem Walk with Brooke Edmunds at Oak Park
- July 29 – Advanced Vegetable class at Demo Garden. The DG team has been very helpful in developing the program
- Aug. 5-6 – *Mother Earth News* Fair: The Linn Co. MGs will have a much bigger presence in this year's program.
- Aug. 29 – Coast Tour of Lincoln County MG gardens
- Possible Pub Science talks in the fall (Pami is researching this to see if it is feasible.)

Pami reminded us of the Edible Garden Tours (3) sponsored by the Sustainability Coalition. See the weekly email for more information.

Brooke would like to make MGs aware of 5 upcoming webinars that will count for continuing education hours. Each is 1 hour.

Pami told us that training would be 9 weeks next year. The training will be on Thursday.

Good of the Association: Pami and Kathi cleaned out the storage shed. They request that if you store something in the unit, IT MUST BE LABELED! If you have questions about storage please consult Pami or Kathi.

Meeting adjourned at: 2:55 p.m.

Paula Lupcho, Secretary *pro tem*