

**LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 1, 2014**

Attendees

Betty Goergen, President  
Sharon Richards, 1st Vice President  
Marie Madison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Dan Borg, Acting Treasurer  
Ranee Webb, Secretary  
Pat Mason, Member at Large  
Randy Peckham, Member at Large  
Dave Krieger, Demonstration Garden  
Richard Little, Spineless Wonders  
Brooke Edmunds, Home Horticulture  
Pami Opfer, Extension Program Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm by President Betty Goergen in the Evelyn Downing Room of OSU-Linn County Extension.

**MINUTES -Ranee Webb (Secretary)**

- The March minutes, as circulated, were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT - Dan Borg-Acting Treasurer**

- The account balance at the beginning of March, 2014 was \$11,138.46. After expenses, there was an ending balance on March 31, 2014 of \$10,711.46.
- Expenses from January-March 2014 included: OMGA dues, reference materials, refreshment supplies, a laptop/projector and the Calapooia MS garden. The "Through the Garden Gate" tour will replenish the account.
- Income from January-March 2014 included clothing sales (shirts/vests) and membership dues.

**LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OF THE YEAR – Marie Madison**

- Marie has had 3 nominations so far. Membership nominations are open for about 2 more weeks. Send nominations to Marie via e-mail along with why you feel the person should get the LCMGA of the Year award.
- A biography of each nominee will be developed.
- Pami will send out the biographies and nominations in a Doodle poll for membership voting.

**EXTENSION REPORT - Pami Opfer**

- Pami introduced and welcomed Brooke Edmunds as the new Home Horticultural Agent. Her primary office is at the Linn County Extension Office. Brooke will be checking on the help desk questions, but she will have some time restraints, since she will be covering Linn, Benton and Lane Counties.
- Pami passed out a list of contacts. These are the people to contact while she is on maternity leave. Pami's maternity leave will start approximately April 23rd and she plans to return in early August. Laurie Gibson will cover with the extension office needs, the website, weekly e-mails, article content for the "Growing" publication (formerly the "Update"), etc. Ranee Webb will be the contact for trainee/veteran help desk needs. Betty Goergen will coordinate requests for speakers and project requests.
- Directories were mailed out. The packet includes a nursery discount card and other

information on upcoming events.

- Seeds to Supper report- The first classes have been very well attended. Susan Morton and Sheryl Casteen are presenting the Lebanon trainings. There were about 40 people at the first class in Lebanon. Pami Opfer is presenting the Philomath trainings. There were about 25 people at the first training there. Albany may not have a Seeds to Supper training this year after all.
- Pami shared a draft of the new “School Garden Request for Help” form that will be used for future school garden projects. Major components of the request form addresses the need for the school to provide information on additional partnerships (more than just the LCMGA support), to tell what infrastructure is available or needed and to tell what funds are needed. This will help insure that money spent on these gardens has on-going support.
- Pami would like for the people who are working the Farmer’s Market to take more information about questions asked, so the contacts can be better logged into the system.
- Information about an upcoming Urban Forestry event on June 5, 2014 was passed around. If someone is interested in this event, they can contact Pami for additional information.
- Announcements:
  - April 19th - Container Planting Day at Wilco in Lebanon
  - May 3rd - BCMGA Plant Sale at the Benton County Fairgrounds.
  - May 3rd - Container Planting Day at Tom’s Garden Center in Albany
  - May 4th - Spring Garden Festival in the Corvallis Central Park
  - May 10th – Class on Basic Vegetable Gardening at the LC Demo Garden

#### **CLOTHING SALES -RANDY PECKHAM**

- Randy reported that the profit from the sales of shirts was \$66 and \$38 for the vests. It was suggested that we not do another shirt/vest sale next year, but maybe the following year. The small incoming MG class size this year contributed to the lack of sales this time.

#### **DEMO GARDEN- DAVE KRIEGER**

- Dave asked Ranee Webb and Randy Peckham to give a report on a recent DG planning meeting that he was unable to attend. Ranee and Randy reported that the first of the free public Saturday classes was set for May 10th from 1:00-3:00 with the topic being “Basic Vegetable Gardening” (taught by Dave Krieger with the support of several of the DG regulars). Peter Lajoie has agreed to present a Saturday class on “Composting” (date/time to be determined). Randy Peckham will solicit for someone to present a Saturday class on “Drip Irrigation” (date/time to be determined).
- The Expo Center is having a “Live Well-Age Well” event on May 17th from 9:00-3:00. They will give the DG a free booth to promote Master Gardening if we give starts away. After discussion we decided that there were enough DG people interested and available to participate in this event. We will promote becoming a Master Gardener and answer questions. Randy will contact the Albany newspaper to give them information about the DG Saturday classes and the MG participation at the “Live Well-Age Well” event.
- Ranee put together the description of the Demo Garden for the “Through the Garden Gate” tour brochure. She also wrote a longer article about the Demo Garden that will be in the next Extension “Update” Newsletter. (The Linn County Extension “Update” Newsletter is changing names to “Growing” and will be a bi-monthly publication).

- Dave reported that the Expo Center will be delivering 10 yards of bark dust (free). As a future option Betty said Central Bark has filbert shells at a cost of \$26/yd. Filbert shells last a long time.

### **THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE- JUNE 14TH – SHARON RICHARDS**

- Sharon reported that there will be a total of 6 gardens on the tour (one garden recently dropped out). The Demo Garden will be one of the gardens on the tour. Cookies will be served at one of the gardens. It was suggested that if there are enough cookies we might also serve cookies at the Demo Garden to encourage people to linger longer. There was a sign-up sheet for working the tour and for making cookies. Contact Nancy Messman if you can work the Garden Tour (Am or Pm Shifts) or if you can make cookies. Cookies are due at the extension office by 2:00 on Friday, June 13th.

### **SPINELESS WONDERS- RICH LITTLE**

- Rich has been teaching classes in many counties including a Yamhill MG class and the Linn Co 4-H entomology group. He has sold bee supplies at these events.
- Rich reported that there was a bit of a miscommunication with Benton County during the “Insights into Gardening” event. Benton County provided Spineless Wonders with a booth for free. As a result BC expected all the profits from the booth. Next year Rich hopes the Native Bee Project will pay for a booth and keep the profits. A total of \$485 worth of bee supplies was sold at the event. Benton County MGA paid Rich \$224 for his out of pocket expenses of the bee supplies. Rane Webb and Susan Morton worked with Rich at the “Insights into Gardening” event. Many new e-mail contacts were collected. These people will now receive information about the Native Bee Project and the “Bee Notes” that Rich prepares for e-mail distribution. There are a total of about 140 people on the “Bee Notes” contact list now.
- Rich will be presenting two classes in Tillamook County’s Spring Gardening conference this month where he hopes to sell more supplies.
- Rich plans to contact some local nurseries who had expressed a past interest in selling bee supplies.
- Native Bee Project will sell a “Bee Service” (if the client’s property qualifies) for \$20. This is all profit. With the Bee Service, those with the large 96 hole blocks will have their bee cocoons harvested in October. The following spring a 96 hole block will be returned with about 100 bee cocoons. Jim Watt of Watt’s Bees will keep the excess cocoons and will provide personnel to do the harvests. Jim also gives us a big discount on the new blocks that we re-sell. Our association with Watt’s Bees has no costs for the LCMGA.
- A total of \$815 in bee supplies has been sold so far this year.
- Rane Webb’s husband, Marc Webb has been making the new style of bee houses. Rich and a friend At Sunshine Industries have made the older style bee houses.
- Rich is working on a “catalog” that will show what products are available for sale. Rich sees “Native Bee Project” growing into a big project.
- Betty Goergen volunteered to help Rich with some of the administrative needs- setting up a database for the distribution of the “Bee Notes”, answering questions, etc. Rane Webb also agreed to help. (In the past, Susan Morton has also offered her help).

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **SCHOOL GARDENS**

- There was a continued discussion about the need for a policy on how we provide funds and manpower to School Garden projects. LCMGA is now involved in many projects. We need to not over-extend our commitments. There is concern that without partnerships, especially for school gardens that there won't be long term support.
- It was suggested that LCMGA help promote and find partnerships for school gardens. Examples given were youth groups, churches and groups that have community service requirements. An example of a good partnership was the Sunrise Elementary School Garden which partnered with SNAP.
- There was discussion about LCMGA working more toward doing educational presentations rather than just supplying labor. The goal is have those who request help provide the primary labor. LCMGA could participate in the labor, but as part of an educational process.
- As part of this discussion, there was a suggestion that next year the Demo Garden have some classes for kids (with parents attending) to encourage kids and their parents to become gardeners (and future master gardeners).
- There was a reminder that ALL proposed projects need to be presented to the LCMGA board for approval. You can get the Project Proposal Form from Betty Goergen or Rane Webb.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ranee Webb, Secretary