

**LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 3, 2012**

Attendees

Marilyn Scheffler, President  
Betty Goergen, 1st Vice President  
Marie Madison, Secretary  
Dan Borg, Treasurer  
Susan Morton, OMGA Representative  
Traudy Shawger, Member at Large  
Larry Steele, Demonstration Garden  
Rich Little, Committee of w Critters  
Bev Hall, Member at Large  
Pami Opfer, Extension Program Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Marilyn Scheffler in the Downing Room of OSU-Linn County Extension.

**Minutes:** March minutes were unanimously accepted as distributed. Susan Morton moved and Betty Goergen seconded the motion.

**Treasurer's Report:** The account balance as of March 31 was \$7863.94. Dan deposited \$26 and paid out \$804.80. OMGA dues were paid.

**Extension Report – Pami Opfer**

- Marti Olsen was given a scholarship for her membership dues.
- New Master Gardeners are working at the clinic desk in the Extension office and are doing well.
- Dan McGrath asked the Board to think about where they believe Extension should be headed in the next few years. A strategic planning process will start in the fall potentially under the guidance of a paid professional. He wants to involve leadership groups, professors and staff; to align teaching with research; and to align with small farms, horticulture, etc. The questions to address are: what should we keep doing, what should we stop doing, and what should we begin doing.
- Membership directories and OMGA cards were sent out. There are a total of 99 paid members. New member names will be included in the regular Thursday e-mail.

**Membership Meetings – Betty Goergen**

Our next membership meeting is Monday, April 9 beginning at 6:30 pm at the Albany Public Library. After a short business meeting, James Cassidy will speak about soils. This session counts toward education for recertification. There will be a June meeting because of the need to approve the By-laws revision. Speaker for that session is unknown at this time.

### **Mini-College – Marilyn Scheffler**

- Linn Chapter has been asked to donate 10 Silent Auction items. A figurine titled "Clean Up Time" of the collection of Nina Del Lavabo, originally valued at \$300, will be donated to the auction with a listed value of \$50. It was in the auction once before but because of the value attached to it, it did not sell. Betty offered to coordinate the collection of auction items.
- Online registration will be available beginning this week. The college is open to the general public. Leadership courses are excellent. The MG in Oahu have request information about the courses, so this year some will be videographed and copies sent to Oahu.
- Flyers and bookmarks were given out for distribution.

### **Hoe Hoe Hoe – Pami Opfer**

Rather than publish a traditional newsletter, Pami will put together a website for sharing kudos, photos, event announcement and recaps. Tom Capel will no longer need to solicit articles nor will his position of editor be needed any more. Pami will contact him to advise him of the change. Marie will send him a thank you note.

### **Plant Sale – Susan Morton**

- There was an article in this month's Update about the plant sale. Flyers are available for distribution, bookmarks have been out for a while.
- There will be no color bowls after all, but 25 hanging baskets were donated. Enough plants have been obtained to fill 12. A planting party is planned for the end of April.
- It is anticipated that 30 volunteers will be needed on Saturday. 12 will be needed on Friday to help set up. 2 cashiers with cash boxes are needed. Plans are to have a plant clinic and to have the Demo Garden open.
- A price gun has been purchased for \$80. It was felt this was a better option than colored sticks.
- Seeds are started in green houses and cold frames.
- The hope is to clear \$3000.

### **Garden Tour- Marie Madison**

- Sharon Richards has lined up 35 volunteers with an additional 5 possibles.
- Lynn Welp has visited the gardens and will write the descriptions making it available to Marie for use in the ticket/brochure the second week in April.
- Marie requested permission to use the computers at the Master Gardener desk to work on the brochure as her computer is inadequate for this purpose. Permission was granted. The mapping was also giving her some problems. Pami said she would help with that.

### **Planting Day at Tom's Garden Center- Dan Borg**

Nancy Freeburn is organizing volunteers for the event being held on May 5. Dan will stand in for her on planting day as she will be out of town.

### **Demonstration Garden – Larry Steele**

The garden is being stalled by weather. 5-6 new class members have signed up to participate. There are some open beds. One is where the gooseberries are. That bed will be emptied out. Native plants needs someone to tend it.

### **Committee of Spineless Wonders – Rich Little**

- Rich provided some reference books to the MG library.
- Insect displays will be expanded in Linn County and added to Benton County.
- Training for current MG members and public outreach is planned. The current focus is native pollinators.
- He is working on a program with Dr. Dreves about the spotted wing drosophila fly which is an upcoming agricultural pest.
- He requested start-up money for collecting and creating the displays. He was told money is available. Rich was requested to put together a tentative budget which he agreed to do.
- Rich requested the formation of the Committee of Spineless Wonders be approved. Marie reminded him that it had already been approved at the March Board meeting.

### **Master Gardener of the Year Nominations – Pami Opfer**

Several nominations have been received. Voting will be by Doodle Poll. Descriptions of each nominee and their contributions to the chapter will be distributed to the membership. Voting will begin on Thursday and will end May 1. This process will also be announced at the May membership meeting. [Note: Candidates listed in the the e-mail sent to members include: Rich Little, Dave Krieger, Betty Goergen and Tom Capel.]

### **Policies and Procedures Update**

Policies and Procedures were reviewed and edited through Committees, Section 2. The remainder of the document will be reviewed and edited at the May Board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Madison  
Secretary