

**LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2012**

Attendees

Marilyn Scheffler, President
Marie Madison, Secretary
Dan Borg, Treasurer
Susan Morton, OMGA Representative
Traudy Shawger, Member at Large
Larry Steele, Demonstration Garden
Tom Capel, Newsletter Editor
Rich Little
Betty Anderson, Flag Pole Rose Garden
Sharon Richards, Garden Tour
Barb Fick, Extension Faculty
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: February minutes were unanimously accepted as distributed. Susan Morton moved and Traudy Shawger seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: The account balance as of February 29 was \$8642.74. Dan deposited \$898 and paid out \$699.58. A check will be written to cover OMGA dues. Dan requested clarification for this process. Marilyn Scheffler offered to provide it at a break in the meeting.

OMGA Report – Susan Morton

- Several grants are available to the chapters
- Master Gardener of the Year nominations are due
- Marion County is hosting Mini-College this year and needs help. Susan suggested that possibly our Linn County chapter can be of assistance. Benton County is in charge of the silent auction under the guidance of Mary Mellard and Paula Lupcho. They are requesting 10 items from Linn County with a suggested value of \$25 each.
- Sheryl Casteen had provided many DVDs on how to start a Planting Seeds of Change garden. They were in high demand.
- She shared with the Association that the number of attendees for the Gardening in the Pacific Northwest Brown Bag series was exceptionally large.
- The Treasurer was re-elected to correct an election error.
- A newsletter editor is needed, but there were few complaints about the absence of the newsletter. It is thought that the newsletter is not needed.

- The date of the third quarter meeting was changed to the first Saturday in August, thus separating it from Mini-College. This gives greater time for leadership training.
- Klamath County Representative stated that they had lost county funding. This was news to the Master Gardener Coordinator, Gail Langellotto. Lane County also lost county funding. They have kept going through a lot of fundraising. A large donation was offered but was contingent upon receiving an endorsement from OMGA. OMGA did not sign the requested document.
- History of the OMGA is in book form. The Linn County copy will be placed in the Extension office. The DVD copy of the history is filed with the MG secretary.

Committee Reports

- **Garden Tour** – Marie Madison & Sharon Richards
 - Committees have been formed, Volunteers are signing up; Bookmarks are nearly ready for proofing by Extension staff; letters have been sent to the garden owners to thank them for agreeing to participate and to outline the process.
 - Sue Morton suggested printing the Garden Tour bookmark on the back side of the Plant Sale bookmark. Marie agreed it would be fine if the printing of back-to-back bookmarks made each one look professional but that it was often difficult to get them aligned correctly.
- **Demonstration Garden** – Larry Steele
 - The first TGIF was Friday, March 3 with 8-10 people showing up. Three were trainees.
 - The Demo Garden will be represented at the Committee Fair
 - The Flag Pole roses are getting too big for the space. The Fairgrounds staff have requested that the bushes blocking the lights shining on the flag poles be pruned back. Pruning will occur during TGIF on Friday, March 9. Two rose bushes were removed.
- **Plant Sale** – Susan Morton
 - The second organizational meeting was held. Seeds for vegetables and annuals were distributed to those who were willing to start them and who had greenhouses. Bookmarks are in circulation. A flyer is being developed for posting.
 - Pricing is a challenge. Several suggestions have been made, everything from colored popsicle sticks to size of pots to labels. Marilyn suggested that Benton County found the easiest was to place colored plant label sticks into each pot because the cashiers only needed to pull out the sticks to know how much to charge the customer. Pricing will be on May 11.
 - Currently there are 600 perennials. There will be a lot of annuals as well as color bowls and hanging pots for Mother's Day giving.

- Fry Road Nursery will be selling fuchsias and geraniums on consignment.
- **Hoe Hoe Hoe – Tom Capel**
 - Tom received no submissions for the January edition of Hoe Hoe Hoe and moved to cease publishing it due to lack of interest. The motion failed to receive a second.
 - Tom pointed out that the Demo Garden newsletter was well done and the weekly e-mail provided timely news making the Hoe Hoe Hoe obsolete.
 - Discussion followed regarding ways to link MG members by sharing photos and accolades. Barb suggested that Pam, Marie, Tom and she meet and bring suggestions to the next Board meeting.
- **Tom's Garden Center Planting Day – Dan Borg**
 - Nancy Freeburn is chairing the committee. She will be out of the area on May 5 when the event happens so Dan will be coordinating the activities on that day.
 - Nancy will have everything ready to go before she leaves.
- **Memorial Middle School Courtyard**
 - Dan is helping Crista Hagan work on the Courtyard.
 - Marilyn provided Dan with the Project Form for her to complete and bring back to the Board.

Committee Fair: The purpose of this is to acquaint the trainees of Linn County MG committees and projects. The Fair will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Corvallis on March 15 beginning at 11:30 am. Parking is a challenge. The First Baptist Church on 9th & Monroe has offered use of their parking lot. Marilyn has had few committees respond.

Liability Insurance

Marilyn has received the renewal notice for liability insurance for the Board covering up to \$1 million. With no objections, Marilyn gave the notice to Dan for payment.

Insect Project: Rich Little is applying for an Extension Educator Grant through OMGA for a native pollinators project. It will involve 1-2 presentations to educate the public about pollinators: what they are, what they do, why they need help and how to provide that help. He will provide instructions for making bumble bee and mason bee houses. He might make some to give to volunteers who are willing to use them then give a report on their experience. Some of the houses will be placed in the Demo Garden.

Rich has approached Benton County MG Assn about creating a joint standing entomology committee with Linn County MG Assn. They are agreeable.

Rich moved and Traudy seconded that a standing committee be established to cover

entomology. The motion was passed unanimously. Rich will complete the required form and return it to the Board.

OMGA Grants and Awards

Marilyn reminded the Board of the OMGA Extension Educator Grant, The Search for Excellence award and The Karl Carlson Memorial Fund availability. Applications for each is due May 15. Rich is applying for the Extension Educators Grant; Pami will put together a request for Karl Carlson Memorial funds to purchase reference books for the Sweet Home and Lebanon Farmers Market clinic tables.

Nominations for State MG of the Year, County MG of the Year and State Behind the Scenes are due on May 15. A notice to all members for nominations will be placed in the weekly e-mail. A decision will be made at the April Board meeting. Susan Morton suggested Dave Krieger.

By-Laws Revision

After a 15 minute break the Board reconvened and went over the suggested revisions to the By-Laws. The resulting draft is attached.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Madison
Secretary