



Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA)

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

6 October 2017

Approved February 2, 2018 (Changes and/or corrections in italics)

Attendees: Seamus Ramirez, President; Sue Nesbitt, President-Elect; Sam Sadtler, Past President; Terry Ruitter, First Vice President; Katherine Johnson, Treasurer; Marcia Sherry, Newsletter Editor; Gail Langellotto, Oregon State University (OSU) Statewide Master Gardener coordinator (afternoon).

Barbara Davidson, Secretary, and Jim Liskey, IT, were absent.

A lunch source was identified and an order initiated.

Sue Nesbitt reported that OSU is holding up the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) at this time. Some Extension agents are also required to have MOAs with OSU

The minutes from the 18 August 2017 Executive Committee meeting were discussed. Sam Sadtler moved to approve them. Marcia Sherry seconded the motion and they were approved unanimously.

Financial Reports/Financial Issues

Katherine Johnson led a discussion of longevity awards. She said a wall of honor will be developed for the website for the future and she has contacted the webmaster. Marcia Sherry has a list of names for the site and is working on a database. Marcia would like to add some graphics to the page. Katherine and Marcia will work together on the website.

A Ray MacNeilan scholarship was added to the OMGA scholarships awarded in 2017. Christopher Holt would like to continue his education and eventually teach. He has a 3.44 grade point average at OSU and a job offer from Disney World in Florida. He was awarded \$800. Katherine will send a card to the MacNeilan family.

Katherine Johnson provided information she received from Gail Langellotto regarding the OSU Fund. As of 5 July 2017, the endowment had \$220,462.50. The statewide Master Gardener Program fund that Gail can draw on to run the program had \$30,574.02. The source of Program fund monies is interest from the endowment fund *and is kept in a separate account from the endowment fund.*

The webmaster contract with OMGA was reviewed. Jim Parks is the webmaster. He keeps the OMGA personal computer up to date with operating system updates. The website resides at the host computer. Word Press is used periodically and regularly. The site is backed up monthly.

An annual audit was undertaken in Columbia County by Wes Bevans and two other auditors. The audit was longer and more detailed than the quarterly audits. The auditors went through all of Katherine Johnson's financial records for OMGA. Katherine was available to answer questions. The Executive Committee held a discussion of the audit and audit committee requirements. It was suggested that outside people might be invited to observe the audit process in the future.

Katherine Johnson went through the financial report. The organization had a net worth of \$95,567.38 at the time of the report. An upcoming fee not reflected in the financial report is \$600 for the webmaster.

Sentence removed.

The likely first vice president, Ann Geyer, and second vice president, Jeanine Johnson, for 2018 are ready to begin work on Mini College. Kathy Block from Lincoln County will help line up speakers. Ann will meet with Marcia Sherry on 12 October to discuss Mini College. Marcia will act as a liaison for putting on the 2018 Mini College. Jan Coleman will chair the silent auction committee and Diane Lockwood and Sherry Hari will help.

The group was reminded that changing the name of Mini College to OMGA Presents Growing Gardeners (G2) has been proposed and accepted by the Board. G2 will provide educational forums for Oregon gardeners.

Gardener's Pen/Laminated Garden Brochure/OMGA Brochure

Gardener's Pen just came out. The next issue will be on container gardening and will come out in January.

Work on the laminated garden brochure will have a two-month delay for Marcia's knee surgery and recovery. The project needs to include research on the feasibility, cost and whether OMGA would like to take it on.

OMGA tri-fold brochures are due for updating in the next year. Marcia will bring the issue to the next Board of Directors meeting and request suggestions for the next version.

Job Description Committee

Seamus would like to get the committee together for a one-day meeting to revamp job descriptions. The committee members are Candace Bartow, Louise Sargent, Marcia Sherry, Seamus Ramirez and Sue Nesbitt. The dates of 28 or 29 November were proposed. A suggested location is Coffee Cottage in Newburg.

2018 Nominations

Sue Nesbitt reported that nominees have been found for all OMGA positions for 2018 except president elect. She continues to talk with possible candidates.

In addition, board meeting locations have been identified for all but the fourth quarter of 2018. Discussions of whether to continue to hold Executive Committee meetings at the OSU Extension office in Linn County need to be held.

Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator – Gail Langellotto

Three studies were discussed.

The first field season of the garden ecology lab was just finished. Garden bees in Portland were sampled in June, July and August. An initial result seems to indicate that gardens with overhead sprinkler systems have significantly lower bee abundance and diversity.

A sampling program screened 21 of 24 Willamette Valley native plants for pollinator diversity and compared against non-native plants and pollinators.

Students sampled soils from gardens in Portland and Corvallis. They found that technical specifications do not work well for gardens *for commercial agricultural*. They also found much more organic matter in those gardens than recommended. They will check to see if nutrients are skewed. They will be questioning whether unmixed organic matter has a deleterious effect on garden fertility and growth. They will also check for effects from airborne heavy metals.

Gail sent some information on the National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture (NICH) (this appears to be a consortium of university folks) and its position that gardening can have many positive effects on life that should be recognized. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is holding listening sessions on the initiative and written comments on the importance of gardening and gardens are due in December. Additional information is available on the NICH website, consumerhort.org.

Gail hopes to have a revised program handbook/manual completed by the end of the year. A coordinator training manual should also be completed. Information can be found at blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoord. She is also working on three online lessons.

In a staffing update, Gail said the MG program currently has something of a mess. The Baker County agent retired, came back and then was cut. The Eastern Oregon Regional Administrator was also cut and there is no eastern Oregon advocate. A coastal coordinator is retiring and a package has been cobbled together that will allow the replacement to be hired as a faculty position. The Lincoln County new hire will likely be responsible for small farms and forestry as well as Master Gardeners. The Josephine County coordinator will retire at the end of December (Gail had understood it would be the end of October) and a replacement will need to be hired for the new program year in January.

Gail discussed the possibility of generating a region-specific gardening program for southern Oregon. Sam Angima is the decision-maker for funding/hiring and he sees a need to fund home horticulture. Master Gardeners are an important group.

Budget

Katherine Johnson provided budget information for the years 2014 to 2018. The estimates for 2018 were developed by the Budget Committee. The Executive Committee suggested revisions to some suggested amounts. Katherine will make changes to the proposed budget and send the revised budget out. The last time OMGA dues were increased was 2007. Katherine will check to confirm.

Complaint Form

Ann Geyer, Lincoln County, put together a simple complaint form. Sam Sadtler reviewed it and suggested adding places for dates.

Inventory

Katherine Johnson asked about disposition of the materials on the list she had sent out by email. Seamus Ramirez will bring the issue to the November Board meeting to decide what to do.

Visiting State Chapters

Several chapters accepted the offer for OMGA Executive Committee members to present OMGA awards at chapter banquets/ceremonies. Seamus Ramirez and Sue Nesbitt will do most of the traveling to Benton/Linn, Columbia, Curry, Multnomah, and Douglas counties. Although Jackson County had invited participation, its banquet was scheduled for the evening of the Executive Committee meeting in Tangent and it was not possible to make the event. Klamath County did not respond to the offer. County visits will start over after the first of the new year.

Executive Committee Retreat

The retreat will be held at Hopkins Forest on 4 – 5 December. The group will meet for dinner (Katherine will bring meat sauce and pasta; Sue will bring a tossed salad; Seamus will bring bread, desserts, snacks, lunches). Coffee and tea will be available at the forest. Group members are welcome to bring wine. Seamus will try to get housing from Master Gardeners.

In addition to general housekeeping, Sue would like to do a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats (SWOT) analysis and use it to evaluate a new project to benefit all Oregon Master Gardeners. It would be used to make changes depending on the weaknesses identified. Tuesday should be used to brainstorm options. Sue would like to have a bigger group there to discuss the possibilities.

Policies and Procedures

Seamus Ramirez and Barbara Davidson will review the existing policies and procedures and decide what needs to be done with them. Some are no longer valid. Seamus and Barbara will make recommendations for them. Revisions are likely within 6 months. The Executive Committee needs to add policies, procedures and bylaws reviews to its activities.

Idaho Master Gardener Potential

Oregon does not have a memorandum of understanding with Idaho for the Master Gardener program.

<u>Executive Committee</u>	<u>Leadership Forum</u>	<u>Board of Directors</u>
February 2nd Linn County Extension Office	March 2nd TBD	March 3rd TBD
May 4th Linn County Extension Office	June 1st Douglas County	June 2nd Douglas County
TBD	July 12th G2	September 15th TBD
October 6th Linn County Extension Office	November 2nd Multnomah County	November 3rd Multnomah County