



3rd Quarter Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (Approved)

September 15, 2018

10 am – 4 pm

Hosted by Benton County Master Gardeners

Benton County Sunset Building

4077 SW Research Way

Corvallis, Oregon 97330

Attendance

Benton: Richard Taylor; Steve Jacobs, Chapter President

Central Gorge: Sandy Montag; Eric Bosler, President-Elect; Shari Bosler

Central Oregon: Jeanine Johnson, 2nd Vice-President

Clackamas: Dick Nelson; Seamus Ramirez, Past President and Database Manager

Clatsop: Linda Holmes

Columbia: Debbie Broberg; Katherine Johnson, Treasurer

Coos: Terry Harris

Douglas: Rosemary Brinkley

Jackson: Barbara Davidson, Historian

Lane: Sharon Faust

Lincoln: Deanna Trail

Marion: Cyndy Shorter

Multnomah: Lorna Schilling; Marilyn Frankel

Polk: George Woodward

Tillamook: LeRoy Satter; Marcille Ansorge, Secretary

Yamhill: Nancy Woodworth; Donn Callaham; Sue Nesbitt, President; Marcia

Sherry, Newsletter Editor

OMGA State Coordinator: Gail Langellotto

Welcome-Steve Jacobs, Benton County Chapter President

The meeting was called to order by Sue Nesbitt, who introduced Steve Jacobs, President of the host chapter, Benton County Master Gardeners Association (BCMGA). Steve said they were honored to host the Leadership Forum and

meeting. The Benton County chapter has 187 members, 29 trainees, and 4 associate members. The chapter has completed 11,000 volunteer hours and has 17 active committees. Projects include three demonstration gardens, Saturday markets, three elementary school projects, a Seed to Supper program; they host a winter garden series at the local library and an annual conference. A recent project is a tool lending library. The main fundraiser is the Plant Sale in May and this year raised \$35,000 from its sales. The chapter appreciates its close relationship with OSU. Its success is due to its volunteers. He thanked Paula Lupcho and Rosalind Hutton, BCMGA members, who were preparing the snacks and lunch for today but noted that many other members had contributed to it. Sue thanked Steve for hosting the meetings for the weekend.

Additions to the Agenda

Sue asked if there were any additions or changes to be made. Seamus Ramirez, Database Manager, asked that an item related to the Amazon Smile program be added. Barbara Davidson asked for an item related to the historian. Deanna Trail moved and Lorna Schilling seconded that the Agenda be accepted with these changes. Motion passed by voice vote.

Announcements

Barbara Davidson, Historian, said that she and the Assistant Historian, Julie Huynh, were wanting to update the history of the organization and asked that any documents related to it since 2010 be sent to her or Julie or brought to the next meeting.

Seamus Ramirez, Database Manager, announced that the Amazon Smile program now works. Anyone ordering through Amazon may click on Amazon Smile and look through the list of non-profits for Oregon Master Gardeners (OMGA) to have ½ cent for every dollar of their purchase be donated to OMGA. If a member has been contributing to another organization, click on change and follow directions. One can also use the EIN 93-0893392 to make the donation.

Gardeners' Pen—next edition and due dates

Marcia Sherry, Gardeners' Pen editor, announced that the next edition will be sent out in a few weeks and asked that all articles be in by next Wednesday, September 19th. The edition after that has a deadline of November 23 for articles

and the theme is gardening technology. She encouraged all chapters to send in articles about their projects along with photos.

Reports

Approval of the OMGA Board of Directors Minutes for June 2, 2018

Marcille Ansoorge, Secretary, noted the correct spelling of the name of Nancy Woodworth of Yamhill County. She asked if there were other changes or corrections to be made. None were offered. Seamus Ramirez moved and Jeanine Johnson seconded that the minutes be accepted with the correction. Motion passed by voice vote.

OMGA Treasurer's Report

Katherine Johnson, Treasurer, reported that the treasurer's report she had sent out was incomplete; the section with the budget report is incomplete and she will be sending it out corrected. She did review the rest of the report. Restricted funds are \$7,431.60, cash reserves total \$23,889.91 and funds not restricted \$75,746.19 for a total of \$107,062.70. Total income for the year is \$55,079.39 and total expenses have been \$42,033.63 for a gain presently of \$13,045.76. Interest on investments is 10.31% to date. Membership as of September 10 is 2,847 paid members and 582 trainees for a total of 3,429 members, compared to 3,501 last year.

Eight Send-a-Friend scholarships were offered and one was returned because it was not used. Waived fees for Growing Gardeners totaled \$1473.90. The raffle of the quilt made by Sue Nesbitt, President, raised \$700.00 for future Send-a-Friend scholarships. Ten Growing Gardener mugs were sold for a total of \$100.00.

Katherine asked that representatives check with their treasurers to see if checks for grants had been cashed. Several have not and she would like to have them all cashed soon.

Growing Gardeners (G2) (formerly Mini-College)

Jeanine Johnson, 2nd Vice President, who had the responsibility of arranging for the speakers, reported that one speaker did not show and although she has tried to contact her, she has not responded. The other speakers did a great job. There

were a few glitches with the tours but these were worked out. She welcomes any feedback those who attended may have.

Marcia Sherry, overall leader of the conference reported that 238 attended; average for past Mini-Colleges has been 225 to 250. She thanked all those who filled out the survey. Overall, 95% of comments were favorable. The survey indicated that the attendees did not like the name of Growing Gardeners and prefer Mini College. A question from the floor asked from where those attending were and Marcia said she did not have that information but could get it and may report it in the issue of Gardeners' Pen. Seamus Ramirez did ask that if the name is changed would the logo be kept and the answer was yes. A comment was made that if the name Mini College is used that Growing Gardeners be kept as part of it in some way. Members agreed that they enjoyed the workshops.

Sue commented that because of problems earlier in the year, Marcia had to take over the leadership of G2 at a late date and had done much of the work in a short time. This was the fourth year Marcia has worked on a conference. Sue presented a thank you poster which included the information that Marcia was given as a thank you from OMGA the Silent Auction item of a night at the coast.

Silent Auction

Sue reported for Jan Coleman, Silent Auction chair, that 21 of 23 chapters made donations or sent in money for the Silent Auction, and 20 were on time; Jan was appreciative of that.

One hundred fifty items were donated and thanks were given to all for those. Jan was thankful for the garden carts for transporting the items to the room. The cashier table worked well. It would be helpful for every chapter donating items to give the value or suggest a minimum bid; this could be used for a buy-it-now price. Jan suggested that no off-site sessions be offered the last afternoon when items are to be picked up since those attending have difficulty returning to pick them up. It was noted that the items make about 65 cents on a dollar. A question was asked what categories of items were most popular. Sue responded that it varies by year and that this year it was hypertufa items.

Master Gardener Educational Conference 2019

Sue Nesbitt commented that because of the work required by the First Vice President as organizer of the conference and the Second Vice President as organizer of speakers, it has been difficult to find people to fill those positions. Sue offered options for future conferences:

1. Divide the state into regions and have one region responsible for a conference.
2. Piggyback with another conference.
3. Have speakers who are nationally known.
4. Offer incentives for those working at the conference.
5. Have the conference every other year. It was noted that the Silent Auction is a source of income for OMGA and these funds would not be available in the off-years.
6. Have a one-day event with well-known speakers.
7. Not have a state event.

Sue said that Marcia Sherry had created a scenario for a one-day event and asked Marcia to outline it.

Marcia began with why continue to hold the conference. The reasons are for continuing education, having recognition for award winners, networking, and funding for OMGA through the Silent Auction. She noted that the funding benefitted chapters through the purchase of PNWs and through grants.

The one-day event would bring the conference up a few notches by having speakers and authors who are regionally and nationally known and not just experts in Oregon. Marcia's scenario would have three sessions throughout the day. It would probably be necessary to pay them. It would include a one-day Silent Auction to raise funds and end the day with a social and awards banquet with a 30-minute keynote speaker. Lunch would be included.

A Board of Directors meeting could be held the day before or after. The venue would need to hold 250 to 300 people but would not require classrooms since there would be only one presentation at a time. There would need to be facilities for lunch and a banquet and sufficient parking.

The responsibility for the event would be led by the 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President who would oversee it but a chapter or several chapters or an event planner would organize it.

A question was raised whether it would be more expensive because of cost of speakers. It was acknowledged that it could be an issue. A comment was made that since there would not be a need for an overnight stay, the costs could be much the same as an overnight stay. It was noted also that the cost would depend on the cost of the venue. Some well-known speakers and authors make presentations for travel costs only. Marcia stated that the first year to succeed should have strong speakers.

There was discussion on attracting members to the conference. It was noted that only 7% of OMGA members attended the 2018 Growing Gardeners. It was suggested that the conference needs to be marketed to garden clubs and anyone interested in gardening.

Seamus Ramirez (Clackamas) asked how relevant a speaker from Chicago would be for gardeners here in Oregon. Marcia responded that it would depend on the topic. In response to a comment on cost of speakers, Marcia said that interested people will pay for well-known speakers.

George Woodward (Polk) said that the idea of a one-day conference had merit, but that he had enjoyed the workshops and would like them included.

Eric Bosler (Central Gorge) noted that of the 250 people at Growing Gardeners, only about 50 used campus housing. He liked the workshop idea and having two days for both workshops and tours.

A comment was made that there shouldn't be speakers all day. Growing Gardeners was not attractive to young people; it did not "pop." It was suggested to have more hands-on type sessions.

Marcia presented information that Janette Woosley, registrar for Growing Gardeners, had gathered regarding venues for a one-day or two-day event at various colleges throughout the state and what the costs would be for these sites.

Sue told the members that she would like their ideas regarding these questions:

1. Should it be a one-day or two-day event?
2. What are possible locations?
3. Should the event be bracketed with a Leadership Forum and Board of Directors meeting?

A question was asked why there was a focus on colleges for a venue. The response was that dorm rooms are available.

Sue divided the members into four groups to address these questions.

After 20 minutes, she called the members back. At this point, it was announced that lunch was ready, and the group broke for a delicious lunch provided by the Benton County Master Gardeners Association.

After lunch, Sue asked for reports from the four groups. Group 1, reported on by Nancy Woodworth (Yamhill), said that they preferred a one-day event in the fall and suggested Roseburg, Bend, or Newport as possible sites. A second day with tour and workshops could also be available.

Group 2, reported by George Woodward (Polk), suggested a one-day event with an additional day for workshops and tours available. He asked about the Oregon Garden as a venue, which is possible since there would not be a need for classrooms. Newport and Bend were listed also as possibilities.

Group 3, reported by Terry Harris (Coos) suggested a one-day event along with a Board of Directors meeting with a location in Newport, Lincoln City or mid-valley.

Group 4, reported by Lorna Schilling (Multnomah) suggested having a 2 day conference in possibly 2 locations, one day for speakers, located near Portland, and one day for workshops and tours in the area of OSU. These would be held at 2 different times of the year.

A comment was made that there should be “beefier” brochures, with ads and info about chapter events. Also it was suggested to get speakers sponsored by an organization.

Leadership Forums

Eric Bosler, President-elect, reviewed the Leadership Forum held the previous day. Sam Angima, Assistant Dean for Extension, spoke on the program and its outreach and funding, which he has been asking to be increased this year. Gail Langellotto, OMGA coordinator, spoke on the Master Gardener program and future plans, and Brooke Edmunds, Extension coordinator, spoke on webinars and the recent National Master Gardeners Coordinator Conference.

The 4th Leadership Forum will be held November 2 in Portland at the Oregon Food Bank. Lorna Schilling and Marilyn Frankel passed out information about Portland. The topic of the Forum will be on SUCCESSES from information on Extension Educator Grants and SUCCESS(ION), relating to recruiting officers for 2019, and on electronic communication.

Grants:

Karl Carlson—Barb Casteel

Search for Excellence—Chris Rusch

Sue Nesbitt encouraged chapters to look at their projects and consider writing them up as Search for Excellence. There has been only one project submitted in each of the last two years and all chapters should consider sending in a project.

Extension Educator –Eric Bosler

Eric reported that there will be a new chair next year and that the budget will be submitted.

Longevity Awards – 20 years, 30 years, 40 years

OMGA is creating a database of those recognized and keeping a master list. Let Marcia Sherry know of any members who should be recognized.

At this point, Sue gave a thank you to Benton County Master Gardeners for the snacks and hot drinks provided.

State Program Coordinator

Gail Langellotto, OMGA State Program Coordinator, reported that registration for the June 16-19, 2019 International Master Gardener Conference will soon be open. Many of the sessions will take place at the many gardens in the Philadelphia area.

Gail said that the Community Horticultural Advisory Panel has been studying Master Gardening training. One area of study was the number of hours of community service required by trainees. In Oregon it is an average of 62 hours. There is consideration being given to lower it to 50 hours. The goal is to make the program more accessible and more diverse in terms of age, gender and ethnic background. The requirements of cost and the number of payback hours required causes the program to be limited to people with free time and relatively affluent.

Gail was grateful for the Extension Educator Grant to continue her research on bees and reported that she has located 2 bees in Oregon gardens that are on the endangered species list.

Gail said she has had to spend much time in staffing changes. Jeff Choate, Lane County Extension Agent, resigned recently and it is critical to have the position staffed as soon as possible and Gail has requested so to OSU Extension.

She has a committee studying best practices for developing plants for Plant Sales, so as to avoid using soil from home gardens. The committee is developing a list of best practices. As of now, chapters need to do the following for Plant Sales:

1. Get a temporary license from the Oregon Department of Agriculture.
2. Have all plants identified and tagged.
3. Actively take steps to sell pest-free plants.

The last is the most difficult because it means that “dig and divide” from home gardens is not acceptable. Gail hopes to have a final document outlining best practices within the next few weeks. She is also developing case studies of two groups who have transitioned to having plants in pest-free soil.

Nominations for Officers and committee Chair People 2019

Eric Bosler, President-Elect, is looking for an individual to be on the nomination committee.

Old Business

Website Update

Seamus Ramirez, Database Manager, reported that the OMGA website is running well. Instead of revamping it, the plan is to have it evolve.

George Woodward (Polk) said that he needed an OSU logo for a brochure Polk County wanted to print but that he had difficulty downloading it. Gail Langellotto said that this has to be done through OSU and there are guidelines for doing so.

OMGA Vision Statement Development

The Vision Statement is in progress.

Updating the OMGA Representatives Handbook

There is a committee for doing this and it is in progress.

New Business

Discussion related to request to waive OMGA dues for Master Gardeners age 80 and older who have been active members for 10 years

The Tillamook County Master Gardener Association (TCMGA) has proposed to honor TCMGA members over 80 who have been members for 10 years or more by waiving dues. Linda Stephenson, TCMGA Representative, asked if OMGA would consider a waiver of their part of the dues for these members. Sue first asked members of the Board how many would be involved in various chapters. Many responded but the question arose as to why do this. The consensus seemed to be not to do it. Eric Bosler moved that chapters that recognize members by waiving dues for various reasons have the OMGA part of dues be paid from their chapter treasuries. Motion was seconded by Katherine Johnson and passed by voice vote.

Possible MOA to Accommodate new Banking Requirements

Sue reported that because of “know your customer” bank regulations, unless an organization was incorporated, it would not be recognized by the bank and could not do business. Sue explained that she had contacted a non-profit lawyer and received a memo of how to deal with the situation but that it was not acceptable to OMGA. The advice that Sue gave is that if any chapter has this situation occur, the chapter should consider incorporating. Yamhill County Master Gardeners had incorporated a few years ago and is willing to advise chapters on how to do this. OMGA will also give guidelines. There would be an agreement between the chapter and OMGA that OMGA would continue to do the tax work required by the chapter and the filing of taxes.

There being no further business, Seamus Ramirez moved and George Woodward seconded that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 2:15 p.m.

Submitted by Marcille Ansorge, OMGA Secretary

<u>Executive Committee</u>	<u>Leadership Forum</u>	<u>Board of Directors</u>
February 2nd Linn County Extension Office	March 2nd Marion County	March 3rd Marion County
May 4th Linn County Extension Office	June 1st Douglas County	June 2nd Douglas County
August 3 Linn County Extension Office	September 14th Benton County	September 15th Benton County
October 4th (date change) Linn County Extension Office	November 2nd Multnomah County	November 3rd Multnomah County