



**OMGA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (Approved)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, August 2, 2019  
Linn County Extension Office  
33630 McFarland Road  
Tangent, OR 97389**

**Attendance**

Eric Bosler, President (Central Gorge)  
Sue Nesbitt, Past President (Yamhill)  
Chris Rusch, President-Elect (Douglas)  
Julie Huynh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President (Lincoln)  
Patrice Sipos, Treasurer (Douglas)  
Marcille Ansorge, Secretary (Tillamook)  
Barbara Davidson, Historian (Jackson)  
Seamus Ramirez, Database Manager (Clackamas)  
Gail Langellotto, OMGA State Coordinator

**Welcome, Agenda Review**

Eric Bosler, President, called the meeting to order shortly after 10:00 am.

**Additions to the Agenda – Approval**

Marcille Ansorge asked that an item related to creating OMGA email addresses for each of the offices be added. The agenda was approved with the addition.

**Approval of the Minutes May 3 2019**

Marcille Ansorge, Secretary, asked for corrections or changes to the minutes. There were none and the minutes were approved.

**Announcements**

There were none.

**Secretary Report**

Marcille said that minutes and quarterly reports from past years need to be removed from the website. Jim Parks, webmaster, was able to post the Quarterly Reports for the Second Quarter, 2019, on the site but was not able to post the approved Second Quarter minutes. Seamus Ramirez, Database Manager, will contact Jim and learn what can be done. He noted that he

does not have complete access to the website. It was suggested that someone on the Board should have such access.

Marcille noted that the 2019 winners of grants were not posted on the site. Marcia Sherry will be making those changes. In relation to winners of grants as well as individual awards, the question was raised as to when these will be awarded. Marcia is making the certificates for these awards and longevity awards. They will be awarded at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting, September 7, unless a chapter wants to have its own awarding of these items, especially for the State Master Gardener of the Year or the State winner of the Behind the Scenes award. Gail Langellotto, State Coordinator, will check with the chapters involved to know their wishes.

Patrice asked about the OMGA endowment. Gail explained that there is an endowment for OMGA held by Oregon State University (OSU), that was started 20 years or so ago by Jan and Ray McNeilan to ensure that that OMGA continue and money has been added to it. Gail has access to the interest generated by these funds and uses them to support the costs of mileage and lodging for Master Gardener work. In addition, she has used the funds to support chapters when they have had loss of funding. Patrice noted that there should be a monthly report. Gail said that she has to ask for the report and has not always done so. Barbara Davidson moved and Patrice seconded that instead of monthly reports, an annual report be made. The motion passed.

### **Financial Reports Year to Date**

Patrice had sent out copies of the financial reports as of July 31, 2019. She noted that there was little change from the previous report.

She reported that she did the tax reports and they were filed but had a concern that OMGA was overcharged for the work they did. Last year the cost was approximately \$1400.00 but this year the cost was \$2115.28, over budget by \$400.00. She compared the cost to previous years, giving specific details on the increases in costs, and all costs had gone up. A twelve percent administrative fee is added to all charges, including the cost of \$10.00 for mailing the reports. There had previously been a 15% discount for non-profits and this year it was 10%. Eric asked for a motion that Patrice seek quotes from other accounting firms. Sue Nesbitt so moved and Barbara Davidson seconded that she do so. Motion passed.

Patrice said that CD 3251 will be maturing soon and would like to move the money into a one-year CD from Advantis Credit Union, which would have a higher interest rate. Patrice moved that this be done and Julie Huynh seconded the motion. Motion passed. Patrice moved that the money in the amount of \$25.01 in the Square Savings Account be moved into the checking account. Julie seconded the motion and it passed.

Barbara said her chapter had asked about investing funds in their treasury and wanted to know if there were guidelines from OMGA. There are none; each chapter may choose how to keep their funds. Eric said that his chapter had looked into investing funds in brokerage accounts or

mutual funds; in order to do so, someone would have to have fiduciary responsibility and because there is no certainty in making such investments, no one wanted the responsibility. The question was raised how much money should a chapter have and Eric said the guideline is the amount of the budget for one or one-and-a-half years. It was noted that the mission of the chapter is education and not fundraising, which should be done only to promote the education mission. Gail noted also that fundraising should not compete too much with commercial organizations in the community.

### **Gardeners Mini-College/Education Mandate**

Sue Nesbitt, Past President, had send out a list of questions to chapters to respond to and several have already done so and others will before August 30. The questions and responses are in [Appendix A](#).

From the information received, she made the following proposal:

1. Have the Mini College held at OSU.
2. Hire Janette Woosley to coordinate the logistics.
3. Set a base rate.
4. Have a cost for topics.
5. Have a chapter competition for some sort of display.
6. Have a board member as a coordinator.

Chris Rusch, President-Elect, said it would be necessary to know the cost. She suggested Lane Community College as a possibility, but Sue said that had been looked at a few years ago and the cost was higher than OSU or Linfield College, where the event has been held in the past few years.

Sue will work with Gail to determine costs for OSU and dates available. They will also look at holding the conference in conjunction with Master Food Producers.

### **Gardeners' Pen Next Deadline NO LATER THAN 9/20/19**

Eric reported for Marcia Sherry, Newsletter Editor, that the topic for this newsletter is "The Scoop on Compost."

He also noted that Marcia would like to resign as Newsletter Editor and is willing to work with a new editor through part of 2020.

### **2019 Leadership Forums**

Chris Rusch, President-Elect, reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Leadership Forum will be held September 6 in Tangent and the topic is related to climate change; speakers will include Jacob Lebel from Roseburg, one of the plaintiffs in the Juliana lawsuit against the U.S. Government related to climate change.

The Leadership Forum for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter will be on grants; members from the Marion County Master Gardener Association will speak on their success in winning the 2019 Search for Excellence Award. Other recipients of grants will also present.

Eric said that he had videotaped the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Leadership Forum on firewise landscaping but that he has had difficulty getting it online but will continue to work to do so.

### **Database/List Serve status**

Seamus Ramirez, Database Manager, said that the payment for the use of gaggle for the list serve is now paid annually instead of monthly. The cost, with a 15% discount for non-profits, is \$68.00 annually.

Eric asked if Seamus could create a list of OMGA emails for officers that would remain with the office instead of having officers use their personal emails. He will check into it.

### **Programs and Committee Reports**

There were none.

### **State Coordinator Report**

Gail Langellotto, State Coordinator, said that staffing continues to be an issue. The highest priority at this time is to create a coordinator position related to small farms and home and community horticulture for Tillamook and Clatsop Counties. The coordinator for Hood River County recently resigned and there will be a temporary hire to cover the program until the future of the program is determined; the County presently has funds for only 18 more months but Gail feels certain that the program will continue. Steven Renquist from Douglas County will be retiring and the County is in place for a new agent.

Gail said that the Home Horticulture meeting for agents and coordinators held in May was productive and appreciated Sue and Eric attending and helping the agents and coordinators understand the Master Gardener Program.

She said her research has been going well and proud of the discoveries made by her and the students she works with. The results of the research are being written up for publication. She said there is a need for more Master Gardener online courses. These courses are available at a cost to complete the Master Gardener certification program. They are also available for \$45.00 each. A course on Sustainable Landscape Design and one on Sustainable Landscape Management are available at no cost. All the courses may be available at no cost in the future.

### **Old Business**

#### **Housekeeping project OMGA Policies and Procedures**

Sue reported that she continues to work on rewriting the Policies and Procedures and intends to have them complete next month.

### **Grants, Sponsorships and Other Fund Raising**

Chris Rusch reported that the winner of the Search for Excellence for 2019 is Marion County Master Gardener Association. The project was Junior Master Gardeners and the chapter was awarded \$500.00. Lane, Lincoln, Linn, and Curry County also submitted applications. The description of the winning project and of the additional submissions is in [Appendix B](#).

Chris suggested that a deadline be made for decisions made for the awards.

### **Networking and Communication—Fire Wise Video**

There was no report or discussion. Eric had reported on the video in the section on the Leadership Forums.

### **Special Chapter Reports**

There were none.

### **Home Horticulture Group Working Group Update**

Eric commented that the meeting in May with agents and coordinators was a positive experience. He and Sue were welcomed and able to participate and he learned a lot. Sue also said it was an excellent meeting with good facilitators. She found the challenges of other counties eye-opening; many of the coordinators have had no previous Extension experience and have much to learn in the position.

### **Recruitment**

Positions open for 2020 are President-Elect, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Chris is working to recruit members for these positions. All officers should encourage members to consider the positions.

### **Treasurer's Workshop**

Patrice has organized a Treasurer's Workshop before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Leadership Forum on September 6<sup>th</sup> and has several people signed up for it. The purpose of the workshop is to become acquainted with the treasurers, to understand the challenges and successes of the chapters, to have all chapters use the same software, and to streamline the reporting system. She would like each chapter treasurer to have an email that goes with the office. She said that the treasurer of Clatsop County was in the Roseburg area and came to her house to get set up. She also will travel to the Bend area on August 26 and meet with 4 people there for training. Another workshop is scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup> before the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Leadership Forum in Tillamook County.

### **OSU—Carnegie Classification**

Gail said there would be no information on this until January, 2020.

## **New Business**

### **Chapter Member Guidelines**

Questions have arisen about membership in Master Gardener chapters. Gail said that there may be confusion because some members are certified and some not. She stated that all members who volunteer for any activity for their chapter need to sign the paperwork, whether they are certified or not.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Leadership/Board Meeting**

No discussion.

### **Silent Auction 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board**

Sue reported that she has sent out information asking each chapter to consider bringing three items valued at \$25.00 each for a silent auction at the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Leadership Forum and Meeting November 1 and 2 in Tillamook. Several chapters have responded, some offering cash donations instead of items, and others have already decided on the items. She will send out another announcement in a few weeks. The chapters are asked to have photos or a description of the items by October 1 so that a catalog may be made of all items and sent to all members.

The meeting ended at 2:25.

Submitted by Marcille Ansorge  
OMGA Secretary

## **Appendix A**

### **Summary of Mini-College Survey Questions**

**What type of educational programs would make Mini-College so compelling that members would not want to miss it.**

1. More hands-on training, hands on demos, hands on laboratory courses (4 responses), These give us more educational tools to assist with questions in our community.
2. Artistic craft projects, workshops to make items you can take home and put in your garden (mini-garden, mason bee houses), hyper-tufa planters, flower arranging.
3. Not so many crafts.
4. Advance training with longer sessions – 2 responses
5. Classes on soil, composting, pruning, plant disease, pest control, invasive plant ID and how to manage them, how to survive with deer, rabbits, moles and gophers.
6. Garden design, landscaping design, terracing, water systems.
7. Hydroponic gardening, indoor and out (there is an offer from a MG to teach this class)
8. Growing food plants indoors all year long
9. Plant propagation: grafting, starting plants from cuttings, air layering. – 3 responses.
10. Starting seeds indoors, up-potting and transplanting, lighting requirements, potting soil and how to make your own.
11. Pruning – especially how to keep fruit trees small by pruning all summer,
12. Growing exotic plants such as figs, passion fruit, Saskatoon berries, etc. Suggestion to contact One Green World and Portland Nursery as possible presenters.
13. Specialty crops such as orchids
14. Edible landscapes
15. Pollinator friendly landscapes
16. Mulching
17. Tours of local sights, gardens, and businesses related to Master Gardening.

18. Tours of field trials
19. Tours nice; but, not compelling.
20. Organize a one-day Garden Market of local vendors: advertise this to the public.
21. Be sure to have a social event or two for networking.
22. The latest in fruit production by OSU staff.
23. Instruction in Hugelkultur.
24. Seed saving.
25. New methodologies and current gardening events that are in the news.
26. Bee poisonings
27. Statewide issues with a comparative approach
28. Climate Change – how can we be aware of and have the tools to combat the weather changes and new invasive bugs and diseases.
29. International imports and their impact on gardening.
30. Good business practices for successful plant sales.

#### Teaching Methods

1. More new and innovative ideas for plant clinic educators to use to entice the community to come to the booth including question signs, insect photos, dirt comparisons
2. Coordination between plant clinics, practicums, community education and garden education – how to capture OSU sanctioned education to disseminate in various ways.
3. Keep these classes for Master Gardeners only and have a class on teaching methods so the MGs can then teach the public in their counties.

**For a slight increase in cost, OMGA could hire an event coordinator who would take over the majority of the organizational arrangements and minutia that take so much of the Coordinators time and energy. Would members be willing to pay a slightly higher fee to attend Mini-College?**

1. Yes, worth the money for their knowledge and expertise o the local area. It is getting harder to find OMGA volunteers who can spend hours getting those details taken of. – 9 yes responses.
2. Yes, but no more than \$20 higher.
3. No, Volunteers should be able to complete the assignments. Not really concerned about having an expert put it together.
4. No, it is already too expensive.

**Where in the state would your chapter suggest holding Mini-College and in what type of facility?**

1. Portland is the only logical choice. Maybe Portland State University would work with us. They may have dorm rooms available and the city is accessible via Max.
2. Avoid places that are not accessible by commercial airlines. Thus, Portland works well for this. Casinos are terrible for almost anything other than gambling and usually inconveniently located to other opportunities.
3. Have regional conferences and encourage all chapters to attend. 2 responses
4. Colleges such as Linfield or OSU – 2 responses specifically for OSU, 4 responses for colleges in general.
5. Community Colleges such as Umpqua Community College, Bend Community College or Lane Community. They thought there would be more space available for hands on classes and that it would be less expensive. 3 responses for community colleges.
6. Casinos such as Seven Feathers or one of the ones located at the coast.
7. Any place that has A/C and is centrally located. Community facilities such as fairgrounds.
8. Anyplace with hands-on areas such as the OSU Experiment Gardens and Stations.
9. Eugene
10. Willamette Valley – it is centrally located.
11. Linfield works – why change – 2 responses
12. Astoria would be fun since the community college isn't at full capacity in the summer and Astoria has a variety of accommodations within walking distance. It is also a beautiful location with a variety of entertainment – depending on timing. However, if it is necessary to rely on the local chapter this is a rather small group.

#### **Other**

1. Make the presentations available via the computer so members can participate remotely.
2. Attend remotely for an additional fee.
3. Call it a conference – not Mini-College or G2
4. Free beer☺
5. Make the classes “regionally relevant”.

6. Expert speakers that speak on a regular basis as professionals
7. Exciting knowledgeable speakers – 2 responses
8. Consider vendors to generate additional revenue.
9. Promote networking and be purposeful in facilitating the networking, perhaps expanding it to include other states – 2 responses. The potluck so MGs can meet new people and learn more about other chapters.
10. Do every other year. 2 responses.
11. The recognition given to innovative ideas within a chapter along with highlighting MGs who have shown initiative and given time to their chapter is a thoughtful way to show others how to be successful.

## **Appendix B**

### **2019 Search for Excellence Award goes to Marion County**

Project: Junior Master Gardeners

Award: \$500

The Marion County Master Gardeners have 1000 participants in the Junior Master Gardener Program. The focus of their program is to assist the underserved, low income and single parent households, the Latinx and those with special needs. They train community members to assist and they fundraise to facilitate the program. Their goal is to provide research-based garden education for underserved youth across Marion County through a partnership between schools, Master gardeners, and 4-H Youth development by utilizing the Junior Master Gardener curriculum.

Other participants:

#### **Lane County**

Project: Plant Clinic Coordinating Committee

This is an innovative program that orientates new members to the Master Gardeners Plant Clinic.

#### **Lincoln County**

Project: Oceanview Adaptive Demonstration Garden

This is a terrific project that bring gardening opportunities to seniors living at Oceanview Assisted Living Facility. It is a heartfelt project that provides opportunities for seniors to continue gardening despite limitations of age, mobility, or other physical issues by providing easy access gardening adaptations.

#### **Curry County**

Project: AC School Garden

This is an exemplary outreach project that introduces preschoolers to gardening, good nutrition, as well as encouraging healthy life skills and citizen science skills as part of a school curriculum.

#### **Linn County**

Project: Beevent Pollinator Conference

This is a wonderfully innovative project that provides information to the general public about the plight of pollinators and provides information regarding improving the habitats for pollinators.



<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>Leadership Forum</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>
<b>Friday, February 1, 2019</b> Linn County Extension Office Tangent, OR	<b>Friday, March 1, 2019</b> Marion County Salem, OR	<b>Saturday, March 2, 2019</b> Marion County Salem, OR Cyndy Shorter, Contact
<b>Friday, May 3, 2019</b> Linn County Extension Office Tangent, OR	<b>Friday, June 7, 2019</b> Jackson County	<b>Saturday, June 8, 2019</b> Jackson County Susan Koenig, Contact
<b>Friday, August 2, 2019</b> Linn County Extension Office Tangent, OR	<b>Friday, September 6, 2019</b> Linn County, Tangent, OR	<b>Saturday, September 7, 2019</b> Linn County Tangent, OR Janice Gregg, Contact
<b>Friday, October 4, 2019</b> Linn County Extension Office Tangent, OR	<b>Friday, November 1, 2019</b> Tillamook County Tillamook, OR	<b>Saturday, November 2, 2019</b> Tillamook County Tillamook, OR Linda Stephenson, Contact