



**OMGA Executive Committee Meeting  
August 7, 2020  
Via Zoom and Telecommunication**

President Chris Rusch welcomed the Executive Committee at 1:30 PM.

Committee members in attendance:

President, Chris Rusch  
Vice President, Julie Huynh  
Past President, Eric Bosler  
Treasurer, Patrice Sipos  
Secretary, Sharon Bordeaux  
Historian, Barbara Davidson  
Data Base/List Serv, Seamus Ramirez

Mini-college committee members in attendance:

Shari Bosler  
Sue Nesbitt

OSU Extension Coordinator, Gail Langellotto

The agenda was reviewed and approved. Patrice Sipos moved and Seamus Ramirez Seconded the approval of the May Executive Committee Minutes as posted online. The members approved unanimously.

## **Reports**

OSU Extension Coordinator Update – Gail Langellotto

Approved Modified Operations for Extension Offices:

- A trial run for a virtual plant sale (Master Gardeners only) has been approved with possibility of a fall public virtual plant sale.
- Two Citizen Scientist projects have been approved: (1) Monitor invasive species and (2) evaluate plants that are part of the butterfly bush research project
- Master Gardeners are working in Extension Office Plant Clinics. Markets, fairs, retail stores and other high-density public venues are still off limits.
- One hybrid training project has been approved – self guided plant identification activities with a follow-up meeting via zoom.
- Master Gardeners are working in demonstration and community gardens across the state following state mandated social distancing and meeting guidelines.

Celebrations/Awards were mailed on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Governor has proclaimed the week of November 2 -, 2020 as Master Gardener week in Oregon. (UPDATE: Moved to week of October 28<sup>th</sup> due to national elections)

- Developing a celebratory/thank you video featuring administrators, faculty and staff
- Annual State of the Master Gardeners address (to be delivered by Gail as a webinar)

- A three-film Gardening Film Festival. Potential films: The Love Bugs (Entomology Focus), Land Grab or Plant this Movie (Urban Ag Focus), and possibly Beautiful Fantastic (garden renovation).
- The week will conclude November 6, 2020 with the OMGA Board Meeting Training: Gail indicated that 25% of the 2020 class is engaging in the program while 50% are not participating. There may not be any new training programs in 2021. Use the core we have to engage new members and make being a MG and fun.
  - Online class sales are up significantly
  - Use the next year to get current members up to speed on using new online resources and classes

#### Financial Reports – Patrice Sipos

Patrice reviewed the financial reports

- All chapters have paid their dues
- 56 new paid members
- \$727 paid in 2020 will be expensed in 2021

#### Database/List Serve – Seamus Ramirez (Nothing to Report)

#### Chapter Quarterly Reports – Sharon Bordeaux

A request will be sent this week reminding the Representatives that the reports are due by August 31<sup>st</sup>.



#### Mini-college Report – Sue Nesbitt

The following Mini-college items were discussed by the Executive Committee (from the Mini-college meeting minutes attached):

- Alumnae Center – no fee if we cancel our contract
- Hilton – no fee is cancellation is COVID related
- Campus housing – there is still a question on density (how many people per dorm)
- Participating on line – Virginia charged \$49 for four days (online). Our current fee is \$49 per day
- Pay a single fee – watch any program you want
- Stipend to host a regional gathering
- The various formats presented for 2021 Mini-college. No decision made.

#### Old Business

Gardener's Pen vacancy – Chris announced that she has not found a new editor for the Gardener's Pen and encouraged everyone to submit names of persons that might be interested.

Recruitment – Recruitment of persons to fill positions remains a problem.

- Send all MG chapters information on the positions available
- Patrice has agreed to be Treasurer for another year. Sharon Bordeaux will be assisting with a portion of the duties.

## New Business

### Questionnaires – Chris/Gail

- Chris has prepared a 6-question questionnaire to send out to the Representatives. The questions cover protocols for plant clinics, chapter meetings, demonstration gardens, payback hours and new classes. The Executive Committee agreed that Chris should send out the questionnaire. Chris will request responses by August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Gail feels...”it so important to build a strong, accessible, and welcoming Master Gardener Program and towards this end, is initiating surveys for Master Gardener volunteer feedback on the program, experiences and offerings. We are developing of a statewide, yearly survey for every active Master Gardener. Within the next week we are issuing a survey for feedback and response on program priorities, and the underlying values of the program. Having clearly communicated program priorities will help decision making for the important work we do, and underlying values will help guide us in doing this work. Within the coming month we’ll be soliciting your feedback on courses for the 2021 training year, what the year may look like, and areas of interest to focus coursework for Master Gardeners...”

Mary McNamee AHE 501 intern (Adult Ed and Higher Ed Leadership) will be working with Gail and the MG coordinators over the fall term to develop:

- A syllabus for a 12-week curriculum, focused on community horticulture and volunteer skills building.
- A template that instructors can use to plan a micro-lesson.
- Build out peripheral learning materials (i.e. quiz, reading list) for at least one lesson.

### Electronic Voting – Chris

In 2020 the state amended the laws to include electronic voting. OMGA’s Policy and Procedures includes electronic voting and all but 2 chapters (incorporated outside OMGA) fall under the OMGA bylaws. It is suggested that Chapters update their own bylaws to include electronic voting; however, they are covered under OMGA and can use electronic voting without updating their bylaws.

### Keeping the OMGA website updated – Chris

Chris is working with Jim to develop continuity on our website. Information may be in more than one place and not always consistent. Chris is looking for feedback from those using the website and finding areas that can be improved.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21.

Sharon J. Bordeaux  
OMGA Secretary

2021 Mini-College Meeting Notes  
August 5, 2020  
(Prepared by Sue Nesbitt)

Present: Gail Langellotto, Shari and Eric Bosler, Barbara Davidson, Marcia Sherry, Julie Huynh and Sue and Gene Nesbitt.

Gail presented information that is available at this time about OSU's potential position on a gathering of 250 or more. It is really too early to have a good idea about what might be possible by July 2021.

Eric asked Gail to speak about the present status of Master Gardener volunteers. Gail said that the Coordinators are reporting that only about 25% of the 2020 trainees are engaged in volunteer activities and only 50% of the veterans are presently active.

The goals of Mini-College were discussed. While the educational sessions are very important so is the social interaction and the networking.

Four alternative formats were discussed:

1). A large gathering at the C2HM Hill Alumni Center. This would use the "normal" conference format of Mini-College. The pros of this format are social interaction and networking along with education. The cons – if a vaccine isn't available by July 2021 this won't be possible. In addition, people may not be comfortable participating in a large gathering.

2). A completely online conference. This could be a series of webinars that Master Gardeners would watch at home. This format would provide Master Gardener education; but there is almost no social interaction. In addition, people without good internet access are excluded.

3). A hybrid format that involves both a gathering at the C2HM Hill Alumni Center and smaller regional gatherings. Master Gardeners at the C2HM Hill Alumni Center would attend the concurrent sessions presented during the day and those at home would watch them. Master Gardeners could then gather regionally in the evening for a "feast of their choice", listen to the keynote speaker possibly followed by a discussion and/or a question and answer session. The cost of both renting the CH2M Hill Alumni Center and having the necessary personnel to stream the concurrent sessions needs to be determined. It could be too expensive.

4). An online conference with regional gatherings. This is similar to the third format; but there would be no gathering at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center. The concurrent sessions would be presented during the day. Master Gardeners would gather regionally to hear the keynote speakers, have a "feast", and participate in discussions of the keynotes and potentially a question and answer session.

The pros to the last format include a decreased cost (no rental of the CH2M Alumni Center or personnel to do the live streaming of the concurrent sessions) and there would be some social interactions and networking.

It may be possible to use a combination of Canvas (course management software) and Zoom for the educational sessions. There could be some charges related to this.

The cons include the exclusion of people without good internet access and/or those who don't like online presentations and the difficulty of finding a site with internet access that is sufficiently large for social distancing if it is still required by July 2021.

To use either the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> formats gatherings of at least 50 people would need to be permitted by the state.

It was decided to wait until the first of December to make the final decision about the format to use with the hope that we'll have more information about the status of Covid-19, large gatherings, etc. Each of these formats will require a significant amount of work in order to hold a successful conference so we cannot postpone the decision past this date.

Eric is continuing to work on learning about the potential resources available at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center for live streaming the concurrent sessions and the keynote speakers. This is a work in progress. He will also be working on a chapter's survey to learn their thoughts and ideas about an online Mini-College.

Shari Bosler has sent two emails to the people who agreed to be speakers for the 2020 Mini-College to let them know our status regarding Mini-College and to determine their interest in giving their presentation online. The response was varied – some people said they would be happy to present online while others were more hesitant. The key note speaker was hesitant, although he may change his mind.

We currently still have both our deposits with the Corvallis Knights to attend their ball game and also with Valley Catering for the banquet. Rich will check with both those groups about their plans for 2021.

Barbara Davidson will contact Grassroots Bookstore to learn if they could create a list of gardening books that people could order online from them. Perhaps, Grassroots Bookstore will have some other ideas about how we might have the bookstore if the conference needs to be online.

Gene Nesbitt presented information from his research about possible online workshops. He found that there are several software programs that could be used, some are free while some are quite expensive. The best practices suggested that the number of workshop participants should be limited – 10 to 20 people was suggested. It was also suggested that they last no longer than 1 hour.

The regional groups suggested by Marcia Sherry and Sue Nesbitt were modified to the following:

1. Clatsop, Tillamook & Columbia
2. Washington, Multnomah & Clackamas
3. Polk, Yamhill & Marion
4. Lin, Benton & Lincoln
5. Coos & Curry
6. Jackson, Josephine & Klamath
7. Douglas & Lane
8. Central Oregon & Umatilla
9. Hood River & Wasco

No one in these counties has been contacted about their willingness to host one of the regional gatherings. Sue and Marcia will work on this.

Sue learned about two different software programs for online auctions. The first, used by the Newberg High School Foundation, is quite expensive. The second, Auctria.com is much less expensive (approximately \$110) and has definite possibilities. It could also be used for the Send-A-Friend Raffle.

In Oregon we already have many excellent webinars available to Master Gardeners for our education. Some time was spent brain storming ways the concurrent sessions could be more interactive, educational and fun. Here are some of the ideas:

1. Create workshop kits that could be sent to the regional groups and used as part of their regional gatherings.
2. Have some competitions – example, identify 5 “new to you” weeds, take pictures of them and send them to an expert. The people with 5 correct IDs would receive a prize (this needs to be determined). It could be done by each region – like the bicycle competition for IMGC 17.
3. Send 5 weeds from one area of the state to another area for identification. The group with the best IDs would receive a prize (again this needs to be determined.)
4. Have some pre-work before a concurrent session and then complete it with a challenge of some type. This would be a definite possibility for the workshops. It will require the cooperation of the presenter for both the pre-assignment and to review the challenges.
5. Have a demonstration with the participants doing it at the same time or immediately afterwards and sending pictures of their results to the presenter.
6. Perhaps the Coordinators would create workshops for each of the regional gatherings and facilitate them.

There are many more possibilities given the creativeness of Oregon Master Gardeners.

### **Action Items**

- **Eric**: Continue working on learning about the costs of doing live stream video at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center. Prepare and send a survey to the Oregon Master Gardeners about their willingness to participate in a Mini-College that is online with regional meetings.
- **Gene**: Continue to look for ways to have online workshops.
- **Shari**: Standing by until more decisions are made about the format, we will use in 2021
- **Julie**: Continue working on creating a PowerPoint (could use other software) of the history of Oregon Master Gardener program. – pictures, etc.
- **Marcia**: Update logo.
- **Sue and Marcia**: Develop a plan for contacting chapters to host the regional meetings and begin contacting them.
- **Sue**: Continue exploring online auction software and get more detailed information about Auctia.com.
- **Janice**: Work on plans for the Send-A-Friend Raffle. Ex. Would each regional location need to get a separate license or could there be a central one used by all the regional sites?
- **Rich**: Check on status of both the Corvallis Knights and Valley Catering for 2021.
- **Barbara**: Contact Grassroots Bookstore to learn about the possibilities of having the book sales online. Can they handle this and what are their suggestions to facilitate this?