



3rd Quarter OMGA Executive Committee Meeting August 6, 2021 Via Zoom

President Chris Rusch called the meeting to order and welcomed the Executive Committee at 2:05.

Committee members in attendance:

President, Chris Rusch
Past Presidents, Sue Nesbitt & Eric Bosler
Secretary, Sharon Bordeaux
Historian, Linda Coakley

Mini-college committee members in attendance:

Eric Bosler
Sue Nesbitt

There were no additions to the agenda.

The minutes from the second quarter Executive Committee were sent to the Executive Committee for review. No additions or changes were made to the minutes.

The agenda and minutes were approved as presented.

OSU Extension Program Coordinator – Gail Langellotto

COVID Policy Changes: COVID policy changes, as the public health situation changes. The best place to stay up to date on OSU COVID policy is this site: <https://covid.oregonstate.edu/>, and this specific link:

<https://covid.oregonstate.edu/latest-updates> . The latest change is related to face coverings, indoors

<https://covid.oregonstate.edu/latest-updates/face-coverings-now-required-osu-indoor-public-settings> . Face coverings are now required in indoor, public settings. From the update: “For purposes of this face covering requirement, “public indoor settings” at OSU include indoor environments in university-owned or controlled property or in which OSU activities are held, and which are open to the public.”.

2022 Master Gardener Trainings: We are planning to hold a training for new Master Gardener volunteers in 2022. The structure is somewhat different than in previous years, to take COVID concerns and lack of available instructors into account. The suggested overall structure is outlined, below.

- Instructional structure: MG training in 2022 should consist of 3 parts
 1. Online MG courses for horticulture lectures. These will be provided by the statewide office, and can be supplemented by county-organized classes or study groups that emphasize regionally relevant horticultural practices.
 2. Volunteer Community Educator Curriculum & ‘Business Side’ of Being an MG (organized by the statewide office)
 3. Hands-on workshops and learning opportunities (organized by counties)
- Cost range: the suggested cost range for the 2022 Master Gardener training course should be \$350 or less.
 - Counties should calculate the funds needed to cover costs of the hands-on workshops, before setting the tuition.
 - Students will also pay an additional cost for the Sustainable Gardening textbook.
 - Counties are encouraged to offer payment plans, scholarships, and/or tiered pricing options, to increase accessibility of the training to low-income individuals and families.
 - If possible, please work with your Master Gardener Association to develop a scholarship plan.
 - Note that monthly payment plans will not work with Ideal Logic registration systems. These need to be handled manually.
 - See tiered pricing suggestions, in the next section.
- Volunteer hour range: 40-50 hours
 - Reasoning: 40 hours is the minimum required by the National Extension MG Program. Keeping hours at or close to the minimum helps alleviate the ‘time’ and ‘cost’ barriers to participation.
- Instructional time range: 40-50 hours
 - Reasoning: see above reasoning for suggested volunteer hour range.

2021 MG Awards Debrief, and 2022 MG Awards: The Master Gardener awards are supposed to be a source of joy and celebration. Inevitably, every year, they cause some hurt or bad feelings. I am looking at different ways to manage the MG awards process, to cut down on hurt and bad feelings. I have worked to make the process more standard, transparent, and clear over the years. But every year, there are counties that are late or don't follow directions. We now do a press release as one way to bring greater attention to the great work of MG award winners, but we don't have control on which papers pick up the stories, or not. Next year, all submissions will be online. There will be notes asking nominators to be sure that they cross checked their submitted nominations with their MG Program Coordinator and their OMGA Chapter Board. Please help spread the word: nominations are due May 15th, every year. MG Associations and Chapters should start discussing their annual MG nominations, as early as January in the new year.

President Chris Rusch suggested explaining the awards at Representative Orientation and clarifying that there are two awards – State and County – and that they must be nominated separately.

Gail's Role on the OMGA Board: I have been the OSU representative to the OMGA for 14 years, and have lately been struggling to understand what my best role can be on the Board and Executive Committee. For many of my 14 years with this group, past leadership did not seem open to me leading projects. My early collaborations on Mini-College seemed to support successful conferences, but they took a lot of staff time, and the OMGA was unwilling to discuss a revenue share approach. Over time, I've stepped back, to let the OMGA executive committee lead as they best saw fit. But I can also see areas where me or my staff could plug in, to better support the work of the OMGA. Sometime in the near future, I'd like to have a specific discussion with the OMGA about what my role is or can be on the Board, and how best to move forward for mutually beneficial collaborations.

OMGA's Role Supporting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): The Statewide MG Program has made DEI a big focus of our work. Efforts include the Culture of Gardening blog, speakers, and film series; Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Celebration events; land acknowledgments and pronoun use at all statewide MG events; modest changes in language to be more inclusive (i.e., 'Let's Talk Plants' instead of 'Ask a Master Gardener'); inclusion of the Community Educator track to annual MG training; the first ever MG DEI Task Force / Learning and Working Cohort. I know that the OMGA has said that a priority for the Board is supporting this work. Particularly for the 2022 MG trainings, and the community educator requirement for new and continuing MGs, there is a bit opportunity for the OMGA to help usher in this change. I would love to have a conversation, sometime in the near future, about what exactly the OMGA would like to do to support DEI within the MG Program.

Treasurer's Report – Chris Rusch

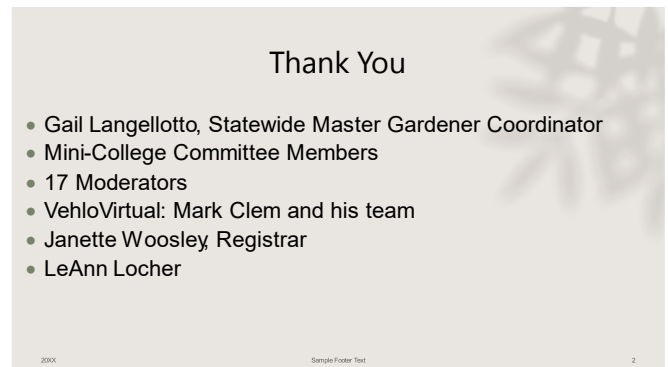
Due to problems with the OMGA computer, financial reports were not available. The computer is in the shop for repairs. Chris is keeping receipts and totals to be inserted into the budget program once the computer is return and expects to have a report at the next meeting on September 10th.

Database/List Serve – Seamus Ramirez

Seamus was not in attendance.



Mini-college Report – Sue Nesbitt and Eric Bosler



Program Statistics

- 2 keynote addresses
- 4 workshops
- 10 classes
- 2 slideshows of gardens and Oregon
- 1 slide show of the county award winners

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Attendance Statistics

- 236 Registrations
- On-Demand Viewing

Topic	Total View
OMGA Mini College 16 July 2021	22
Workshop: Hydroponics, Grow Amazing Vegetables Indoors Year -Round	5
Microbes under your fingernails? An exploration of the garden microbiome and potential transferability to human skin	14
Workshop: OSU Plant ID Program	11
Pests Attacking Field Crops and Gardens in Oregon: Scouting, Identifying and Managing	13
The Oregon Bee Atlas	13
All About Mason Bees	9

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On-Demand Continued

Native Garden Plant Considerations for Pollinators	0
OMGA Mini College 16 July 2021	10
OMGA Mini College Auditorium 17 July 2021	8
Invasive Species in Oregon	13
Organic Vegetable Gardening: Keys for Success	7
Biochar: The promise, pitfalls, and potential of an emerging soil amendment	8
Workshop: Pollinator Garden Design with Native Plants	12
Year-Round Pollinator Plants	12
Agricultural Adaptations for the Urban Environment	18
Workshop: Using iNaturalist for Insect ID	18

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Awards

- State-wide Master Gardeners of the Year
 - Chris Rusch
 - Susan Albright
- State Behind the Scenes Gardener of the Year
 - Sue Rayburn
- Karl Carlson – Central Gorge
- Extension Educator – Central Oregon and Central Gorge
- Search for Excellence – Benton County and Polk County

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Budget

\$49 per person

Total Revenue	\$11,564.00
Expenses	\$10,500.00 (approximately, not all bills submitted yet)
Net Revenue	\$ 1,064.00 (approximately)

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Future

Some Questions to Consider

- When do you want to hold the next Mini -College?
- Format: In -person or Virtual or a Hybrid?
 - In-Person – where?
 - Hybrid – what production company?
- Co-Chair people?
- Committee members ?

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Sue will have a report at the September 10th Board meeting with complete financials. Shari Bosler will present an updated list of speakers available for the next Mini-college.

Historian Report – Linda Coakley / Barbara Davidson

Linda continues to update the historical data by year and is preparing a report for the Executive Committee & Board of Directors.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force – Chris Rusch

The speaker at the recent task force meeting was Jeff Kenney, Ph.D., Director, Institutional Education for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (jeff.kenney@oregonstate.edu). The presentation on racism was very insightful and informative. The task force has been divided into four committees:

1. Who becomes a MG?
2. Who do MG's serve in the community?
3. MG curriculum and content.
4. Events and programming.

The next meeting will cover bi-stander intervention.

New Business:

- Gardener's Pen – Chris Rusch

Welcome to the new Gardener’s Pen editor and Executive Committee member Ann Kinkley. Ann is looking forward to her new position and will bring a new look to the newsletter which will include articles from the chapters, OMGA, short educational articles and announcements.

- **2022 Mini-college**

Sue suggested that the 2022 Mini-college include classes on harvesting and storing produce, plant specific classes, and a class on garden craft.

- **2021 Retreat**

Chris suggested we begin thinking about the 2021 retreat – via zoom or in person (everyone immediately indicated they would prefer an in-person retreat and that it should be open to all who wish to attend).

- **September 10, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting**

Please submit any agenda items to Chris.

Business completed; the meeting was adjourned at 3:35.

Respectfully submitted,
 Sharon J. Bordeaux
 OMGA Secretary

Oregon Master Gardeners Association Goals for 2021

Goal #1

OMGA commits to providing leadership and support for a successful 2021 virtual mini-college.

Goal #2

OMGA commits to partnering with OSU Extension in providing continuing education to our Master Gardeners by elevating our skills training in 2021.

Goal #3

OMGA commits to increasing our visibility and knowledge of services available throughout our broader regional community focusing on better communication, engagement with our chapters and improving our website updates.

Goal #4

OMGA commits to improving OMGA recruitment by filling vacancies on our Executive Board and other important “heads of committees” positions. Most notable, our President Elect position remains vacant. Our Gardener’s Pen Newsletter needs a new editor. If we want to remain relevant and viable as an organization, we need to be able to have a strong executive board to keep up with the needs of our organization.

Goal #5

OMGA renews our commitment to being an organization that supports diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility to all our membership and the community at large.

OMGA Mission

We are committed to sustainable gardening through:

- Partnering with the OSU Master Gardener Program to promote sustainable gardening practices.
- Advocating for funding to deliver the Master Gardener Program across Oregon.
- Fostering quality continuing education of all Master Gardeners

Oregon Master Gardeners Association Meeting Schedule for 2021

Executive Committee	Educational Forum	Board of Directors
Friday, February 5, 2021	TBD	Friday, March 5, 2021
Friday, May 7, 2021	TBD	Friday, June 4, 2021
Friday, August 6, 2021	TBD	Friday, September 10, 2021
Friday, October 8, 2021	TBD	Friday, November 5, 2021