



**3rd Quarter Board of Directors Meeting
September 10, 2021
Zoom and Telecommunications Meeting**

Attendees

-Rusch, Chris	Douglas County	OMGA President
-Bosler, Eric	Central Gorge	OMGA Past President/Mini College Co-Chair
-Sue Nesbitt	Yamhill County	OMGA Past President/Mini College Co-Chair
-Sharon Bordeaux	Douglas County	OMGA Secretary
-Seamus Ramirez	Clackamas County	Data Base (Roster) Manager
-Linda Coakley	Yamhill County	Historian
-Langellotto, Gail		OSU State Program Leader
-Richard Taylor	Benton County	Representative
-Anny VanNatta	Central Gorge	Representative
-Anne Gehrig	Central Gorge	President-elect
-Dart, Janet	Central Oregon	Representative
-Amelia Wilbur	Clackamas County	Alternate Representative
-Nancy Bouse	Clatsop County	Representative
-Janet Willoughby	Clatsop County	President
-Karen Harte	Columbia County	Alternate Representative
-Sherry Karibaum	Curry County	Representative
-Kish Doyle	Douglas County	Representative
-Phyllis McIntosh	Josephine County	Representative
-Mark Schallheim	Josephine County	Josephine Co Chapter President
-Ivy Kohler	Lane County	Alternate Representative
-Michael Christy	Lincoln County	Representative
-Ann Kinkley	Linn County	Representative/Gardener's Pen Editor
-Terry Sawyer	Marion County	Representative
-Bill Leedy	Polk County	Representative
-Betty Lyons	Tillamook County	Representative
-Jake Lyons	Tillamook County	Alternate Representative
-Leslie Ray	Washington County	Representative
-Karen Graham	Washington County	President
-Polly Blum	Yamhill County	Representative

Welcome – Chris Rusch

President Chris Rusch called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm
There were no additions to the agenda

Approval of the June 4th, 2021 Minutes

Janet Dart moved and Sue Nesbitt 2nd to approve the June 4th Board of Directors meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

State Program Coordinator – Gail Langellotto

(Please note that the information referenced on the hyperlinks attached to this report can change rapidly, particularly for COVID guidance from OSU. I am sharing what I know, as of this moment in time. The guidance may very well change, in the near future.)

Updates from OSU Extension

- [Dr. Ivory Lyles](#) will start his tenure as Vice Provost of Outreach and Engagement, and Director of the OSU Extension Service, on September 30th.
- [OSU's vaccination requirement](#) does not apply to volunteers, but to faculty, staff, and students.
- The [COVID-19 Safety Training for OSU Extension offices](#) is being updated. It had been required for volunteers, participating in face-to-face programs and projects. I don't yet know how it will be rolled out or required, in the future. But, as staying safe in the workplace is a high priority, I would hope that this training will be put to good use within the Master Gardener Program, and across all Extension programs.
- OSU has updated their [guidance for in person events](#).
 - OSU-managed, indoor, face-to-face programs and activities can proceed, where registration (day of or pre-registration) occurs.
 - OSU-managed, outdoor, face-to-face programs and activities can proceed, where registration (day of or pre-registration) occurs.
- Where MGs might be participating in events not managed by OSU:
 - employees and volunteers are expected to follow OSU policy and OHA public health recommendations (regarding face coverings, for example), but we can't impose our guidelines on events and activities that are managed by community partners.
 - we can choose not to participate in community partner events, in the interest of public health and safety.

2022 Master Gardener Awards

- Nominations for county and statewide Master Gardener awards are due on May 15th, every year.
- The 2022 nominations forms will be posted online. This will make it easier to track nominations, as they are submitted. The current system of sending them through email makes it difficult to manage, given the amount of email volume that Gail receives.
- **Please make sure that your county Master Gardener groups knows that they should start discussing potential nominees WELL IN ADVANCE of the May 15th deadline. I would suggest putting it on the agenda in January or February of each year, making final decisions in March of each year, and then using April to write up nominations.**
- **Communicate with your Master Gardener coordinator throughout the process. Double check and cross check that everyone is on the same page, when it comes to the name(s) that will be submitted for awards.**

2022 Master Gardener Training

- Counties are currently planning for recruitment of 2022 Master Gardener trainees, and delivery of the 2022 Master Gardener training classes.
- Many/most counties are planning for hybrid (online and in person) training options, that allow greater flexibility and opportunity for participation. The online options are also a safe option, given instructors' and students' (or potential students') concerns about COVID. Your specific county program can share the details of their training series.
- New in 2022: the statewide Master Gardener program office is developing:
 - a module that goes over the statewide policies and expectations, related to volunteerism with OSU and in the Master Gardener Program. This module is intended to serve as an orientation for new Master Gardener students, but will also serve as a good reminder/update for continuing Master Gardener volunteers. The module is required for all new Master Gardener trainees, and recommended / required (we haven't settled on this, yet) every 2-3 years for continuing MG volunteers. This module will include information on:
 - What does it mean to be a MG: Representative of the University; Recognition of advanced training and study; Expectations for superior customer service and support
 - Required Paperwork: Code of Conduct, Conditions of Volunteer Service Form (every year), PD, OSU College of Ag Sciences CAREs document.
 - Our commitments to protecting children.
 - Criminal History Checks (every two years?): Why they are required. What happens during the Criminal History Check Process?
 - Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse: an abridged training from the Office of Youth Safety
 - Volunteer Service Hour Requirements: What counts as volunteer hours? How to record volunteer service hours. Why the volunteer hour reporting is important.

- A module that grows the community education component of the Master Gardener Program. Master Gardeners learn sustainable horticulture from Oregon State University and extend this information to local communities by serving as volunteers community educators. The Volunteer Community Educator Curriculum helps prepare new and continuing volunteers for this role. It will be required for new trainees, as well as for recertification of continuing Master Gardener volunteers. We anticipate offering a menu of options that individuals can participate in to satisfy this requirement, most of which are one hour or less, in length.
 - Master Gardener volunteers who are active on the statewide or on local diversity, equity, and inclusivity committees can apply their work in these groups towards meeting the training or recertification requirement.
 - OSU Extension's DEI training for volunteers (4 modules, about 1 hour of total time, in length: Introduction, Equity, Inclusivity, and Conclusion)
 - Recipes for Collaborative Communities course (from the Elevated Skills Training Series that was offered in 2021, through Thinkific)
 - Broadening Outreach with Community Partnerships (from the Elevated Skills Training Series that was offered in 2021, through Thinkific)
 - [Abra Lee's Culture of Gardening Keynote](#): 'The Work is In Our Hands'
 - Webinar from OID: to be scheduled by and delivered through the statewide office.
 - OSU's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Celebration Keynote or associated events
 - Events organized by the Master Gardener DEI Task Force Events committee

Dates to Remember

- **Ongoing, Second Tuesday of Each Month:** [Level Up, Growing Oregon Gardeners Series](#). Remaining classes for 2021 include: native plants (September), climate change (October), and garden soils (November). The series will return in January of 2022.
- **September 12-17, 2021.** International Master Gardener Conference: September 12-17, 2021. Registration has closed, but perhaps I will see some of you there?
- **September 25, 2021:** [Fall Master Gardener BioBlitz](#): One fall day to document garden biodiversity in Oregon. Join us with your camera on September 25, 2021 to capture the insects, birds, wild plants, and other wild organisms in your garden or a nearby community or public garden space.
- **October 25th:** Extension Master Gardener Photo Contest Ends on October 25th: See our blog for details, and please share with your MG volunteers in newsletters and announcements: <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/2021/07/26/the-master-gardener-volunteer-photo-contest-is-officially-open/>
- **Save the Date: November 10, 2021:** The Extension MG DEI Task Force Events Subcommittee is hosting a screening of the film 'Gather', at 6pm on November 10th. A 30 minute panel discussion will follow, featuring [Dr. David Lewis of OSU](#). More details will be forthcoming. Please share this Save the Date with Your Volunteers.
- **May 15, 2022:** Master Gardener Awards nominations are due.

Announcements

- **Culture of Gardening Blog.** If you and your Master Gardeners have not yet seen the new 'Culture of Gardening' blog, please take a look. We have been receiving a lot of positive feedback from diverse communities, who are happy to broaden their understanding of diverse identities and cultures . . . and how these identities intersect with plants and gardening:
- **Master Gardener Photography Contest:** Please make sure to communicate with your Master Gardeners colleagues about the fun opportunity to participate in our first ever photography contest, currently open for submissions, through October 25th. Now is a great time to capture in photos the bounty of the summer harvest, the beauty of our demonstration gardens, and all of the hard work MGs are putting in in the community.
- **Recruitment Materials: Priorities, Values, Mission, Vision One Pager (double-sided):** As part of LeAnn's work to develop recruitment materials for new Master Gardener trainees, she has created a one pager for our program. It is attached to this report. Please share with your Master Gardener colleagues, as the opportunity or need exists. I think it does a good job of presenting the overview of our program.
- **We will be calling for applications for the 2nd Cohort of the Master Gardener DEI Task Force.** The call for applications will go out in early 2022, with new members joining the cohort in April 2022.

OMGA Treasurer's Report – Chris Rusch

Patrice Sipos has resigned as treasurer due to family illness. Until the election of a new treasurer, Chris has been paying the bills.

Database/List Serve – Seamus Ramirez

Seamus continues to make changes to the data base as information is submitted but feels there have not been enough changes to warrant sending out a new list.

Mini-college Report – Sue Nesbitt and Eric Bosler

Sue presented the 2021 Mini-college final report, thanking Gail, her staff, and everyone else who helped make the 2021 Mini-College a success. The Mini-college had a net profit of \$1,469.29 due in part to the reduced fee charged by Vehlo Virtual, a new company in the virtual conferencing market. A final report of income and expenses will be presented at the next meeting.

A survey of participants indicated that 43% would like the next Mini-college be in-person, 23% a completely virtual event, and 32% a hybrid (in-person & virtual) event.

Zoom announced it is in the process of developing a conference website.


The Power Point presentation is included as part of the minutes.



**2021 OMGA Mini-College
Final Report**

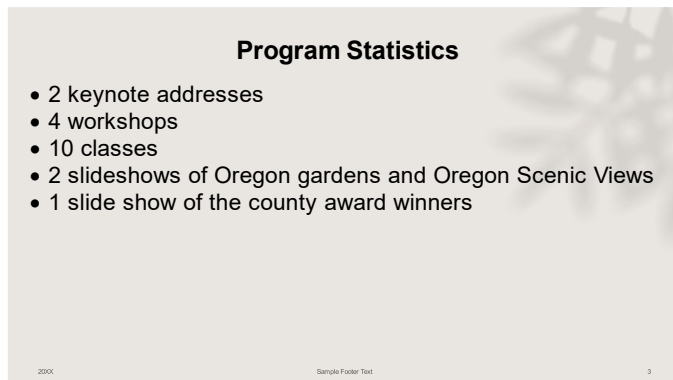
Co-Chairs:
Sue Nesbitt & Eric Bosler

OMGA Board Meeting
September 10, 2021



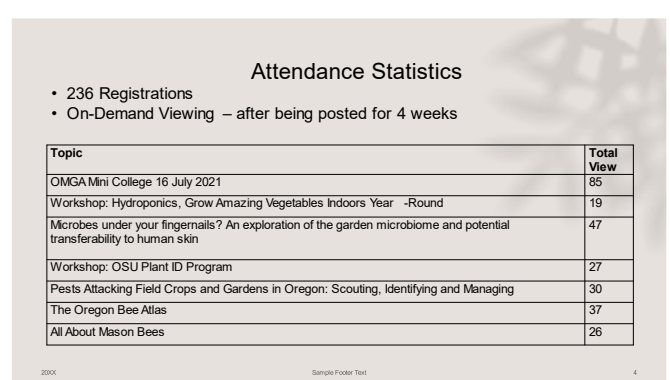
Thank You

- Gail Langellotto, Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator
- Mini-College Committee Members:
Shari Bosler, Gene Nesbitt, Rich Taylor, Janice Gregg, Marcia Sherry, Amy Curtis, Chris Rusch, Barbara Davidson and Janette Woosley
- 17 Moderators
- VehloVirtual: Mark Clem and his team
- Janette Woosley Registrar
- LeAnn Locher



Program Statistics

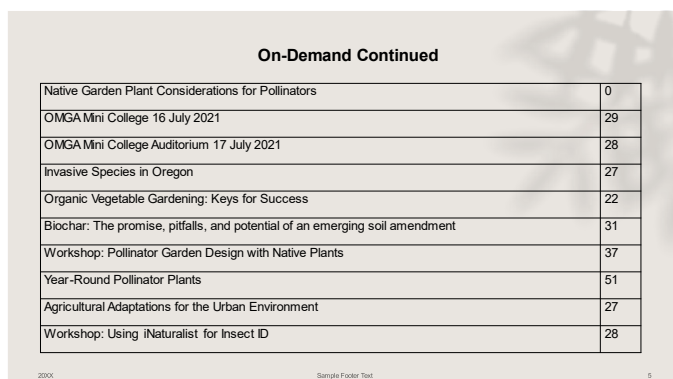
- 2 keynote addresses
- 4 workshops
- 10 classes
- 2 slideshows of Oregon gardens and Oregon Scenic Views
- 1 slide show of the county award winners



Attendance Statistics

- 236 Registrations
- On-Demand Viewing – after being posted for 4 weeks

Topic	Total View
OMGA Mini College 16 July 2021	85
Workshop: Hydroponics, Grow Amazing Vegetables Indoors Year -Round	19
Microbes under your fingernails? An exploration of the garden microbiome and potential transferability to human skin	47
Workshop: OSU Plant ID Program	27
Pests Attacking Field Crops and Gardens in Oregon: Scouting, Identifying and Managing	30
The Oregon Bee Atlas	37
All About Mason Bees	26



On-Demand Continued

Native Garden Plant Considerations for Pollinators	0
OMGA Mini College 16 July 2021	29
OMGA Mini College Auditorium 17 July 2021	28
Invasive Species in Oregon	27
Organic Vegetable Gardening: Keys for Success	22
Biochar: The promise, pitfalls, and potential of an emerging soil amendment	31
Workshop: Pollinator Garden Design with Native Plants	37
Year-Round Pollinator Plants	51
Agricultural Adaptations for the Urban Environment	27
Workshop: Using iNaturalist for Insect ID	28



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

Budget	
\$49 per person	
Total Revenue	\$11,564.00
Expenses	\$10,094.71
Net Revenue	\$ 1,469.29

Evaluations
N=46
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83% were very satisfied or satisfied with this Mini -College. 77% thought the price (\$49 per person) was reasonable. 70% were satisfied with the virtual venue that was selected. 89% would like to have the slide shows repeated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Format for the next Mini -College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43% would like an in -person only event 23% would like a completely virtual event. 32% would like a hybrid (in -person and virtual) event

Evaluations, cont.
<p><u>Question: For you, what was the best part of the 2021 OMGA Virtual Mini - College</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote Speaker, Dr. Robert Michael Pyle Keynote Speaker, Dr. Gayle Langellotto Not having to go somewhere to attend – There were an equal number who regretted that it was not an in-person event. Workshops – especially the homework and the accompanying kits that were sent prior to Mini-College Classes, especially their availability following Mini -College Slide shows Some very kind people thanked the committee for “making Mini -College happen this year”.

<p>Thank You to everyone who helped make the 2021 OMGA Mini -College a success</p>
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Historian – Linda Coakley

Linda continues to update the OMGA data. Information for 2010 – 2012 is missing along with 2014. Linda requested chapter historians to look for items that should be included in the OMGA archives.

Newsletter – Gardener’s Pen – Ann Kinkley

Chris thanked Ann for volunteering to be the Gardener’s Pen editor.

Ann sees the newsletter as another out-reach for Master Gardeners, a way for chapters and the Extension to connect to one another. She sees the newsletter being 4-6 pages with short informational and educational articles submitted by the chapters and the Extension. Discussion followed regarding distribution (electronic encouraged), mailings, costs, and printing.

Diversity Task Force

OMGA’s goal is to renew their commitment to the Diversity Task Force goals. Upcoming virtual seminars:

Multnomah County Master Gardeners:

Exploring Native American and Indigenous mindfulness in public health and medicine “Exploring Native American and Indigenous mindfulness in public health and medicine” will be presented by [Jeffrey Proulx](#), associate director of diversity and inclusion, Mindfulness Center; and assistant professor, Brown School of Public Health and Brown Alpert Medical University, Brown University, in HFC 115 and online. Learn more about upcoming and past seminars on the [college website](#). This event is co-sponsored by the [CPHHS human development and family sciences program](#). Dr. Proulx’s work focuses on the development of mindfulness programs in underserved communities and how these programs may be protective for health in those communities.

Friday, October 22 at 1:00pm to 2:00pm <https://health.oregonstate.edu/seminar>

Washington County Master Gardeners:

Permaculture Projects within Native Communities Henry Soto, Instructor at PCC, The Traditional Native American Farmers' Association

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 7:00 Pm - 8:00 Pm (signup information not yet available)

New Business

4th Quarter Board of Directors Meeting – Chris

Chris asked if we should have a speaker for the 4th Quarter Board of Directors meeting. Discussion followed and the topic will be discussed further at the Executive Committee meeting in October.

2022 Mini-college Conference – Sue Nesbitt

Discussion for the 2022 Mini-college included:

- Volunteering for the Mini-college committee
- Hold at OSU next year (for an in-person conference) - Venue must be secured soon (go through Gail to obtain OSU discounts). Secure options on 2 or 3 weekends.
- Rich will check to see what we need to schedule in advance: save the date commitments and cancellation policies if we need to cancel.

Recruitment/Succession – Chris Rusch

Chris thanked both Linda Coakley (Historian) and Ann Kinkley (Gardener's Pen Editor) for volunteering to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee. Officers and Committee volunteers are still needed to fill vacant positions.

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- 2022 Mini-College committee - Sue Nesbitt has an extensive binder of information for incoming Mini-college committee member volunteers and will be happy to support the new committee.

Master Gardeners interested on becoming a members of the Executive Committee can view all the OMGA Job Descriptions at: omga.org Click on "About" and go to "Documents and Forms." Near the bottom of the list, you will see "OMGA Job Descriptions." Master Gardeners have experience and expertise in many fields. Consider using those skills by becoming a member of the OMGA Executive Committee.

December Retreat – Chris

There was a discussion regarding the December retreat, including virtual versus in person. Karen Harte suggested one topic for the retreat be "How to stay connected during these difficult times."

Level Up Class – November 9, 2021 3 pm- 4pm: HEALTHY SOILS FOR HEALTHY PEOPLE

Research has suggested that healthy soils can benefit human health, via transfer of beneficial microbes from the soil to the skin. What are the characteristics of healthy soils, and do these characteristics align with the soils tended by Oregon gardeners? This talk will provide an overview of what is known as the 'hygiene hypothesis', and how this relates to healthy garden soils. We will present data gathered from the soils of Oregon gardeners, as well as share initial results on a study looking at how garden soils might (or might not) influence the skin microbiome of Oregon gardeners.

About the presenter: [Gail Langellotto, Ph.D.](#) is a Professor of Horticulture and the statewide coordinator of Oregon's Extension Master Gardener program. Together with her lab group, the [Garden Ecology Lab](#), she studies the plants, insects, animals, people, decisions, and management practices that either improve or degrade a garden's ability to promote environmental and human health.

If registration is full, keep in mind the webinars are being recorded and will be made available to view within one week after the live event here on our website. Also, all of the webinars are being broadcast live through [our Facebook page](#).

Good of the Order – Chris

Chris announced that the Douglas County Master Gardeners received a generous bequest of approximately \$80,000 from the estate of Master Gardener Ann Waddington. The chapter plans to place a bench in their Discovery Garden in her memory.

Business completed; the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon J Bordeaux
OMGA Secretary