



## 4th Quarter OMGA Executive Committee Meeting October 8, 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  
Secretary, Sharon Bordeaux  
Historian, Linda Coakley  
Data Base, Seamus Ramirez  
Newsletter – The Gardener’s Pen, Ann Kinkley  
Historian, Linda Coakley

Other attendees:

Norma Benson, Alternate Representative, Central Gorge Master Gardeners Association

The agenda was approved as presented.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, August 6, 2021, Executive Committee Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

### **OSU Extension Program Coordinator – Gail Langellotto**

Statewide Program Leader’s Report to the OMGA Executive Committee, October 8, 2021

Gail Langellotto, [gail.langellotto@oregonstate.edu](mailto:gail.langellotto@oregonstate.edu)

- The Alumni Center currently has holds on the facility, by another organization, for July 15-16, 2022 and for July 22-23, 2022. The Alumni Center is checking with that other organization, to see if they might release one or both of those dates.
- Gail paid the \$324 for the statewide MG award plaques, from her operating budget. Chris sent a reimbursement check, but Gail hasn’t yet received it. Gail will double check mailings for the check.
- There continues to be turnover and flux in the OSU Extension MG Program:
  - Andrea Stith has resigned from her position as Wasco County MG Coordinator.
  - Mary McNamee has resigned from her position as an Educational Program Assistant supporting the MG Program in Josephine County.
  - Neil Bell has retired from his position as MG faculty in Polk and Marion Counties.
  - Brooke Edmunds has moved from MG faculty in Linn and Benton Counties to the take over the position as MG faculty in Polk and Marion Counties.
  - Elizabeth Records has been promoted to MG Program Coordinator in Linn and Benton Counties.
  - Danielle Kneuppel has started her position as MG faculty in Josephine County. Her position also includes a Small Farms component.
  - Amanda Woodlee has started her position as MG Program Coordinator in Umatilla County. Amanda was hired as a full-time educational program assistant.
  - Interviews are in progress for a new MG Program faculty member leading the program in Lincoln County. This position will also include a small farms component.
  - There is an effort to reclassify MG Program faculty who are currently professional faculty . . . but are working at the level of Professor of Practice. This type of reclassification better recognizes and compensates them for their work.

Chris asked Gail to contact the Alumni Center and check if the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of July are available.

### **Financial Report YTD/OMGA Budget 2022 – Chris Rusch**

Chris announced that she will be acting Treasurer until the position is filled.

The OMGA 2022 Budget will be presented under New Business.

### **Database/List Serve – Seamus Ramirez**

Seamus continues to update the data base as needed. A new copy will go out once the chapters have sent in the changes to their rosters.

A question came up about the use of the OMGA “Drop Box.” No everyone was aware of its function. Seamus is going to send out information on the “Drop Box,” its purpose, and instructions for accessing the site.

### **Historian Report – Linda Coakley**

Marcia Sherry supplied 2015 Gardener's Pen information to Linda and Sharon Bordeaux is lending the secretary binders to review for information on missing years.

### **Gardener's Pen – Ann Kinkley**

- The new email address for the Gardener's Pen: [gardenerspen@gmail.com](mailto:gardenerspen@gmail.com).
- Received the logo and trademark from Marcia Sherry and will have Chris and Gail review the information to make sure it is current.
- Ann will send the Gardener's Pen out via [OMGAchapters@gaggle.com](mailto:OMGAchapters@gaggle.com) and Gail will forward to OSU faculty and staff.
- Seamus update the roster with the new Gardener's Pen email address.
- Ann will include an article regarding the recent distribution of the 2021 PNW Disease and Insect manuals.

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force – Chris Rusch**

There are 30 people on the task force. Each person serves for 1 year. The task force is currently looking for volunteers for the upcoming year. Dr. Jeff Kenney has led the discussions on Bias Training for the group with a goal of making individuals more comfortable in talking openly about bias with others in a non-political and non-confrontational manner. Chris is on a side group identifying areas where bias training can be included in the curriculum. The task force will have 4-week Native Cultural Literacy Workshop exploring the histories and ecological knowledge Indigenous cultures in Oregon.

### **New Business**

#### **2022 Dues – Chris**

Chris has received calls asking if OMGA will be waiving chapter dues in 2022. After some discussion, the Executive Committee decided to propose two alternatives at the Board of Directors Meeting in November:

1. Reduce the dues from the chapters to \$5.00 per member and each chapter remit accordingly, or
2. Allow chapter(s) the option of waiting until year-end to remit dues. The amount would be based on the year-end net income: a) they can afford the \$5.00 per member; b) they make a donation in the amount they feel they can afford; or c) the dues are waived for 2022.

#### **2022 OMGA Budget Draft Approval – Chris Rusch**

The 2022 Proposed Budget was reviewed and line items discussed. Chris will send out an updated 2022 Proposed Budget and the Executive Committee will review and approve via email. Updated proposed budget attached to the minutes.

#### **4th Quarter Board of Directors Meeting, Friday, November 5, 2021 – Chris Rusch**

On the agenda for the meeting is whether to continue on Zoom or have in-person meetings.

Please forward other items for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board of Directors meeting Agenda to Chris Rusch

[crusch3837@gmail.com](mailto:crusch3837@gmail.com).

#### **2022 Mini-college – Chris Rusch**

The dates we wanted for the Mini-college are not available. As noted above, Gail is checking on a new date.

The Executive Committee decided the Mini-college should be one of the topics for the OMGA December Retreat to be held via Zoom December 4, 2021.

#### **OMGA.OSU MOA – Chris Rusch**

The Memo of Understanding between OSU and the OMGA is due for renewal. After discussion, it was decided that this be an item on the agenda for the OMGA December Retreat to be held via Zoom December 4, 2021.

#### **OMGA Retreat – Chris Rusch**

- 1) **MOA** – The MOA can roll over but Gail would like to have the document discussed at the retreat. In a previous report to the Board, Gail stated, *"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."*

Topics Gail would like to discuss at the retreat:

- Value of having OSU as a partner
- OMGA collaborating with OSU
- How does OMGA want to work with OSU?

2) **Mini-college** – Collaborate with OSU to present Mini-college and preferably have it on the OSU campus each year.

- Utilize undergraduates to do copying needed for Mini-college
- Use Gail and her staff to line up speakers
- Use Gail and her staff to organize and set up tour

Registration is the one area that is too time consuming for the OSU staff. Gail would also like to discuss profit sharing if the Mini-college is a financial success.

3) **Job Descriptions and Policies**

4) **Set OMGA Goals for 2022**

5) **Review OMGA Mission**

6) **Set OMGA Meeting Schedule for 2022**

Business completed; the meeting was adjourned at 3:26.

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