



OMGA RETREAT VIA ZOOM 12/03/21 2:00 PM

The retreat was called to order by President, Chris Rusch, Friday, December 3, 2021 at 2:01 pm. 31 persons attended the meeting, including Executive Board members Chris Rusch, Sharon J Bordeaux, Sue Nesbitt, Eric Bosler, Seamus Ramirez, Ann Kinkley, and Linda Coakley along with representatives and guests from Benton County, Central Gorge, Central Oregon, Clackamas County, Clatsop County, Columbia County, Douglas County, Lane County, Lincoln County, Linn County, Marion County, Multnomah County, Tillamook County, Washington County, and Yamhill County.

The following will be addressed during the retreat:

- ✓ Review of 2021 Goals
- ✓ Defining 2022 Goals
- ✓ 2022 Training
- ✓ MOA
- ✓ Mini-college

The Oregon Master Gardeners Association Goals for 2021 were reviewed. Following are the OMGA GOALS FOR 2022:

Goal #1

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

Goal #2

OMGA commits to providing the leadership and support for a successful 2022 Mini-College event.

Goal #3

OMGA commits to partnering with OSU Extension in providing on-line continuing education for our Master Gardener membership with advanced horticulture skills training in 2022, including the Growing Gardeners: Level-up series and the Elevated Skills training for current Master Gardener volunteers.

Goal #4

OMGA commits to supporting Chapters during these changing times in areas of recruitment and retention; as well as, OMGA supports the idea that all Master Gardener volunteers need to understand the state-wide "big-picture" for our program. OMGA can provide the opportunity for Chapters to share ideas, projects, and successful programs through quarterly "Sharing Forums" where all are invited to participate and contribute.

Goal #5

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, Vice President and Treasurer positions remain vacant. 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 #6

OMGA commits to reviewing, updating and revising our OMGA Executive Board job descriptions, the OMGA Policies and Procedures, and keep updating our website in 2022.

Gail Langellotto gave an overview of OSU Master Gardener training. In 2022 the training will be a hybrid with lectures offered online and hands on workshops offered during the spring and summer. A 2,000+ community survey showed that plant clinics are the most requested service. Mentors training in this area must make sure the information offered is science based and of the highest quality. Volunteers need to be more flexible when offering training.

Discussion on allowing children accompany trainees in the garden followed. Allowing children could be a positive for the children and increase the number of younger trainees who would not otherwise sign up for the Master Gardener program. Gail noted that having children accompany parents to training may create special problems such as waiver of liability and criminal history checks for those working with children. When children are involved, the chapter needs to contact their coordinator for specifics. The group asked that the online classes offered through Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series and Elevated Skills Training for Current Master Gardener Volunteers be continued in 2022.

The **Memorandum of Agreement between Oregon State University on behalf of its OSU Extension Service (MOA) and the Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA)** is due to be renewed for another three years. The attendees agreed unanimously to renew the MOA for another three years. The documents will be forwarded to Chris Rusch for OMGA signatures.

Chris reported that the date has been set for the 2022 Mini-College – July 29th and 30th. This will be an in-person mini-college. Sue Nesbitt volunteered to chair the Silent Auction. There will be a ZOOM meeting on December 17th for all those interested in working on Mini-college. The time and other information will be forthcoming.

The retreat adjourned at 4:09 PM.

Sharon J Bordeaux
OMGA Secretary

ZOOM CHAT – RETREAT 12/3/2021

14:01:30 From Evelyn Cox to Everyone:
Hi Janet

14:13:58 From Eric to Everyone:
Add Norma Benson, Alt Rep Central Gorge

14:18:08 From Gail Langellotto (She/Her/Hers) to Everyone:
Elevated Skills Training for MG Volunteers: <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/2021/01/20/elevated-skills-training-for-current-master-gardener-volunteers-is-ready-for-you/>

14:18:44 From Gail Langellotto (She/Her/Hers) to Everyone:
Advanced Hort classes (Level Up Series): <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series>

14:27:41 From Ann and Bill Kinkley to Everyone:
Thank you everyone for your comments about the executive board!

14:35:57 From Gail Langellotto (She/Her/Hers) to Everyone:
Here is a brief overview of the DEI task force from 2021: <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/2021/02/05/two-new-and-remote-volunteer-opportunities/>

14:48:20 From Seamus Ramirez to Everyone:
Roster information is sent to Seamus at alwaysok@hotmail.com

14:52:42 From Elaine O'Keefe to Everyone:
Suggest important contact info (President, Mini-College, Roster, etc.) be added to the website.

14:53:57 From Gail to Everyone:
I do think that a focus on supporting the county associations is a good idea.

15:00:11 From Elaine O'Keefe to Everyone:
Agree, the sharing sessions don't necessarily need to be part of our quarterly meetings.

15:24:16 From Gail Langellotto (She/Her/Hers) to Everyone:
In the past, the Benton County MGs would provide child care for folks who came to Seed to Supper.

15:30:01 From Gail Langellotto (She/Her/Hers) to Everyone:
Waivers can be found here: <https://risk.oregonstate.edu/forms>

15:30:26 From Gail Langellotto (She/Her/Hers) to Everyone:
Youth Safety office of compliance: <https://youth.oregonstate.edu/>

15:31:21 From lawyer to Everyone:
what about the Jr. MG program?

15:31:40 From Gail Langellotto (She/Her/Hers) to Everyone:
JR MG is run by 4-H . . . so youth safety is built into all they do.

15:33:02 From Elaine O'Keefe to Everyone:
Suggest the dates be added to the website.

15:42:48 From a pixie to Everyone:
thx everyone, I must heed to other commitments t

16:00:40 From Nancy's iPad to Everyone:
Thanks Gail, Clatsop Co

16:01:07 From Janet Dart to Everyone:
Thank you, Gail, for all that you do! From Central Oregon.

16:01:30 From Richard Taylor to Everyone:
Thanks, Gail!

16:03:13 From lawyer to Everyone:
I think having Gail here is a great benefit. Provides a great sounding board for the organization as a minimum.

16:04:25 From Gail to Everyone:
Thank you, Gail! And, I apologize, I need to go.

16:04:35 From Gail to Everyone:
I'm the new alt rep from Yamhill.

16:06:21 From Leslie Ray to Everyone:
I have to leave. Hope everyone has a joyful holiday season

16:09:23 From Gail Langellotto (She/Her/Hers) to Everyone:
Thanks to all for your comments and feedback. It helps me understand how I fit.

16:11:06 From Susan Nesbitt to Everyone: Well said Chris!!

16:11:34 From Norma Benson to Everyone: Thanks to everyone for a good meeting!

16:12:02 From Nancy's iPad to Everyone: Thx great met

16:12:07 From Evelyn Cox to Everyone: Great Meeting 🍌