



Representative Orientation

Friday, February 10, 2023

Via Zoom, 3:00 pm

OMGA President Chris Rusch welcomed representatives and others to the Representatives 2023 Orientation. Chris shared history of Extension and OMGA. She presented a power point which included an overview of Extension and OMGA, including the vision, purpose, goals, activities, and the duties and responsibilities of representatives. Chris answered questions from attendees.

Attending:

Debbie Lauer	Benton County	Alternate Representative
Eric Bosler	Central Gorge	Representative
Mary Corl	Central Gorge	
Karen Simonet	Central Oregon	Representative
Seamus Ramirez	Clackamas County	Representative
Lorna Schilling	Coos County	Representative
Jeff Richter	Curry County	Representative
Kathy Apple	Jackson County	Representative
Corinne King	Josephine County	Alternate Representative
Stormi Dykes	Lincoln County	Co-secretary
Donna Davis	Lincoln County	Alternate Representative
Rich Becker	Multnomah County	Representative
Helen McCann	Polk County	Representative
Diane Devens	Tillamook County	Representative
John Harland	Tillamook County	Alternate Representative
Ronnie Smith	Wasco County	President Elect
Leslie Ray	Washington County	Vice President, OMGA
Sharon Bordeaux	Douglas County	Secretary, OMGA

The orientation was completed at 4:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon J Bordeaux
OMGA Secretary

Power Point:

OMGA Oregon Master Gardeners 2023 Orientation

Land Acknowledgement

Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, is located within the traditional homelands of the Mary's River or Ampinefu Band of Kalapuya. Following the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855, the Kalapuya people were forcibly removed to reservations in Western Oregon. Today, living decedents of these people are a part of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.

OMGA Primary Purpose

- To enhance and supplement the Oregon State University Home Horticulture.
- To assume responsibility for performing special tasks and engaging in continuous activities related to the program.
- To work with other garden organizations to enhance gardening when appropriate.
- To award grants to local Chapters to enhance their programs.
- To award scholarships for post-secondary education in the fields of horticulture and plant sciences on the basis of scholastic merit and need.

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.

Vision

Enable OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners as the premier source of information on sustainable gardening.

OMGA History

In 1976 the seeds of the OSU Master Gardener Program were tenderly sown and carefully nourished and planted in the rich and diversified Oregon soil by OSU Extension Agents Gray Thompson (Clackamas) and Duane Hatch (Lane). These founding pioneers and other Oregon Extension Agents recognized the importance of dispersing horticultural education when combined with the efforts of trained master gardener volunteers.

Historical Overview of the Extension Service in the United States

The objective and purpose of the extension was established by the United States Congress enacting the Morrill Act in 1862 and the land grant university system. The Smith Lever Act in 1914 established

a partnership between agricultural colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA): To aid in diffusing among people in the United States, useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics, and to encourage the application of same. Nationally the extension's purpose was developed to distribute education and information to the public by designated land grant universities. The creation of the land grant system in the United States was important in bringing agricultural education to the people and its emphasis was focused on research and community outreach. Although the actual extension organization differs in each state, there is a commonality in the function of their cooperation with local, state and federal governments. Each state coordinates the functions of the extension through the land grant university system.

OSU – Oregon's Land Grant University

Major Areas of Emphasis Today the OSU Extension Service works in several major areas:

- 4H, Youth, Family and Community Development
- Agriculture (included is the master gardener program) Forestry and Natural Resources
- Leadership/Community and Economic Development
- Natural Sciences and Marine Sciences (Sea Grant)
- Outreach and Engagement

Local extension offices and staff continue to serve growing diverse communities with fewer resources. Because of the partnership of OMGA and the Oregon MG Program the university, extension service and residents of the state of Oregon benefit from the outstanding work accomplished by master gardener volunteers.

Oregon Master Gardeners Association Goals 2023

Goal #1 OMGA is committed to being an organization that is culturally sensitive and supports diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility towards all our membership and the community at large. OMGA supports the work of the Growing and Belonging Committee through participation and advocacy.

Goal #2 OMGA commits to providing the leadership and support for a successful 2023 educational event.

Goal #3 OMGA commits to partnering with OSU Extension to provide quality horticulture training for new volunteers and relevant continuing education for our veteran Master Gardener membership.

Goal # 4 OMGA commits to supporting Chapters during these changing times in areas of recruitment and retention. 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 reviewing OMGA Bylaws, OMGA Executive Board job descriptions, and the OMGA Policies and Procedures annually.

Goal #6 The Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA) commits to advocating for the OSU Extension Master Gardener™ Program. Through its Advocacy Task Force, the OMGA will seek to

garner support from decision-makers (OSU leadership, County and City Commissioners, and the Oregon Legislature) in funding for the OSU Master Gardener Program.

OMGA Board of Directors

Who is on the OMGA Board of Directors?

- Each Chapter of OMGA elects two Master Gardeners who become the OMGA Representative and Alternate Representative.
- Each OMGA Chapter Representative is a voting member of the OMGA Board of Directors.
- The Executive Board. All Elected Executive Board members are voting members. Appointed Board members serve in an advisory capacity.
- One non-voting member, who is the Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardeners TM Program Leader.

Executive Board

The Executive Committee shall consist of all officers, and appointed positions of OMGA: Historian, Newsletter Editor, Past President, Database Manager, Advocacy Committee, and Growing and Belonging Committee.

The Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener Program Leader shall be an honorary member of this Board but shall not be entitled to vote.

The Executive Board will conduct business that requires action prior to the next Board meeting.

An accounting of any/all actions taken by this Board shall be fully disclosed at the next Board meeting. The Executive Board must comply with the provisions of the bylaws applicable to the full Board for giving notice of its meeting, having a quorum present, or for participating, voting and decision making.

All Executive Board decisions must be recorded in official minutes, which must be submitted to the full Board.

OMGA Executive Board - 2023 Elected

President:	Chris Rusch	Douglas County
President Elect:	Vacant	
Vice President:	Leslie Ray	Washington County
Treasurer:	Janet Magedanz	Benton County
Secretary:	Sharon Bordeaux	Douglas County

Executive Board - Appointed Positions

Historian:	Linda Coakley	Yamhill County
Newsletter Editor:	Ann Kinkley	Benton County
Past President:	Eric Bosler	Central Gorge
Advocacy Committee:	Sherry Sheng	Clackamas County
Growing and Belonging Committee:	Chris Rusch	Douglas County
Data base manager:	Seamus Ramirez	Clackamas County
Web Master:	Jim Parks	

Roles and Responsibilities

- The OMGA Board of Director's role is of stewardship of our mission. We are NOT here to create the technical content but rather to assist with the mechanisms of sharing it to the rest of the OMGA membership and therefore the public.
- The Board of Directors is the body with ultimate decision-making authority for a non-profit corporation. Board members have ultimate authority on the uses of the non-profit's funds; the selection of staff and determination of the strategies which OMGA will use.

Key Activities for OMGA

- Educational Forums focus on project management and leadership skill building.
 - Gardener's Joy of Gardening Conference has a legend of bringing gardeners around the state together. This year's conference is scheduled for July 7 and 8, 2023 at OSU.
- Grants - The deadline for applications is May 15. The applications are available on our website. omga.org
 - Karl Carlson Grant is available to establish new OSU MG chapters, assist new or struggling chapters become established, implementation of new programs and projects.
 - Extension Educator Grant offers support to special needs of the Extension Agent. An OMGA member volunteers to lead this program.
 - Search for Excellence highlights and showcases effective new noteworthy MG programs that have been accomplished and achieved at the county level. Key Activities for OMGA
 - Jan McNeilan Quarterly OMGA Meeting Fund was created to provide some financial assistance to the host Chapter of a Quarterly OMGA Board meeting to defray some costs. The Chapter can choose whether or not to request reimbursement up to the maximum by contacting the OMGA Treasurer.
 - Send-A-Friend Fund benefits a MG who needs financial assistance to pay for the fees to attend Mini-College. All dollars are donated but OMGA manages the fund and process. An OMGA member volunteers to lead this program.
 - Ray McNeilan Scholarship works with the OSU Horticulture Department each year to select a candidate to receive a scholarship. An OSU committee reviews their background and an OMGA committee approves of the award to that recipient(s).
 - Longevity awards honoring Master Gardener volunteers for their years of service.
- Master Gardener of the Year Awards
 - County Master Gardener of the Year
 - County Behind the Scenes Master Gardener of the Year
 - County Growing and Belonging Award
 - State Master Gardener of the Year
 - State Behind the Scenes Master Gardener of the Year
 - State Growing and Belonging Award

Representatives Guidelines and Expectations

- Present a written quarterly report to the OMGA secretary. The reports are due at or just prior to the Board meetings. Your quarterly report gives the members of OMGA a chance to read and hear what is happening in your chapter and around the state of Oregon. Please share your stories of successful events as well as challenges and potential solutions that your chapter has experienced.

- Be willing and available to work on OMGA committees.
- Report to your chapter board and general membership all information from OMGA meetings that is important to the chapter. The exact method of reporting information is dictated by each individual chapter.
- Inform your chapter as soon as possible about events, policy updates that affect your chapter and important items that will be placed on the OMGA website.
- Have fun and meet other county representatives from around the state of Oregon.

Oregon Master Gardeners Association Meeting Schedule for 2023

Executive committee	Board of Directors
Friday, February 3, 2023	Friday, March 3, 2023
Friday, May 5, 2023	Friday, June 2, 2023
Friday, August 4, 2023	Friday, September 8, 2023
Friday, October 6, 2023	Friday, November 3, 2023

Oregon Master Gardeners Association websites:

<https://omga.org/>

<https://omga.org/omgareps-handbook/>

Quarterly Reports Information Letter:



QUARTERLY REPORTS

Quarterly Reports are due the week prior to the Board of Directors meetings the beginning of March, June, September and November.

One copy is sent to the OSU Extension Coordinator, Gail Langellotto

Gail.Langellotto@oregonstate.edu, and a second copy to the current OMGA Secretary.

Preparing these reports is one of the representatives most important responsibilities.

I am including an email response from Gail regarding the use of these reports.

“I see three important uses of the chapter reports.

1. They are important for information sharing between chapters.
2. They serve as an important historical archive of OMGA activities.
3. I mine them for annual report information...particularly when there is staff turnover and there is no one at OSU to submit annual report data (or in some cases, when coordinators drop the ball).”

Who sees the annual report?

“We post it on our website (with about 1000 – 2000 annual views), we post it on social media (reaching 10k people), we give it to all OSU administrators, we share with MGs through coordinators, and we use it with our government relations office to share with elected officials, as needed.”

As a representative, you attend your chapter meetings. You are aware of chapter projects and the progress of those projects. Perhaps your chapter is involved in community projects. Nothing is insignificant. Sharing what is happening in your chapter may be the catalyst for another chapter to try something new or make revolutionary changes.

Your quarterly report is written documentation of the activities in your chapter, and as you can see, shared with thousands of people. Take the time to write a meaningful, comprehensive report, but no more than 2 pages, please.

Good sources of information for your quarterly reports are chapter minutes and chapter newsletters. Take the time to review these documents for information for your reports. And remember, the hours you spend attending chapter and OMGA meetings, as well as hours spent researching and writing your reports should be reported on the Volunteer Time Sheet.

The Quarterly Reports are archived on the Oregon Master Gardener Association website: omga.org under the header “About.”

Gail’s Annual reports are archived at: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/our-impact>