

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 10, 2018, OSU Extension Service Office

Attendees: Bitter, Linda; Bosler, Eric; Bradley, Christie; Citlau, Renee; DeTar, Laurel; Johnson, LJ; Montag, Sandy; Nastasi, Heidi; Sanchez, Susan; Stevens, John; Sturman, Bill; Suits, Rachel; Whiting, Sylvianne; Winfield, Bill

Secretary's Report (Christie): The minutes for the May meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report (John for Nancy): John provided a rough figure for earnings for the plant sale of approximately \$6683, with a deposit of \$6969 to the bank. \$700 of the income was really cash on hand for the sale. There was about \$464 from credit card sales. Earnings were down from last year, but not only were there at least 4 other plant sales that weekend, we nearly sold out of everything. We had ads on the radio, but did not have as much in the Hood River News as we would like to have had. There was a nice article in the White Salmon Enterprise. The treasurer's report was approved.

Extension Report (Rachel): Plant clinics are in what Rachel describes as "awesome chaos". There was even a line queued for the Monday office plant clinic. Rachel added two plant clinics to help get caught up. The plant clinics at Ace Hardware are going well.

Rachel will be sending out the mid-month reminder and if you have something for her to add, she needs to get it right away.

If someone wants information on scholarships for G2 (Mini College), they need to contact Sandy M or Heidi for information.

Extension has been funded for 2018/2019, but not at the full amount and there is still some uncertainty and a deficit of about \$8K. To help with budgeting, Joanne has volunteered to decrease her hours. Gail L. has offered us \$5K out of her discretionary funds toward the budget. Eric, Rachel, and Brian Tuck also recommend that CGMGA kick in to eliminate the remainder of the deficit, \$3150, which would go directly toward Rachel's salary.

Eric noted that when he discussed the budget deficit with OMGA, Gail told him there are 3 counties with budget issues. CGMGA is in a strong financial position right now and we are able to do this. At this time, this would not be an ongoing commitment from OMGA or CGMGA.

Hood River County is conducting listening sessions and working groups to discuss the budget issues. Any CGMGA member who is a Hood River County resident, and is interested in participating, should let Rachel know.

If CGMGA agrees to this payment, it would be a general program expenditure with a line item for program support in the budget. The money would be taken from the reserves. We have revenue from both the foundations where we have made an investment and we normally just put any profit back into the foundations. We also have funds coming in that we don't know the actual amounts for, including the Dorothy Metcalf donations and matching funds from Intel.

This proposal to provide \$3150 was approved. John asked where a check would be written to, and he needs to ask Brian.

OSU Extension has also launched their new website and this is generating a lot of questions. The URLs have changed. Previously the chapter websites were designed on the county websites, but there is now a search-based, centralized hub design with Master Gardening under the Gardening, Lawn, and Landscaping area. Content is still being converted. Our website is now located at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/cgmga>

The PNW handbooks are still in the old locations: pnwhandbooks.org. Rachel will be sending out links.

Some of the resources we need to update with new URLs are the links on the plant clinic computer, the business cards, and the plant sale labels.

OMGA Report (Sandy): Sandy attended the OMGA quarterly and Sylvianne attended the leadership forum. The G2 (formerly Mini College) website is now up. Registrations have been slow. You do not have to be a Master Gardener to attend. There was a suggestion to add the information to our Facebook page and the newspapers. We need to get the Master Gardener of the Year and Behind the Scenes recipients to attend, if possible. We pay for their tuition.

One of the Mini College topics will be climate change and what it means for gardeners. Gail will also be discussing the future of Master Gardening.

Sandy and Linda have been working on the silent auction. Sandy has a basket with garden items in it. There is also a certificate for cross-country ski lessons, an indoor gardening book, wine, a folding garden cart, and a seedling starter kit. Some other suggestions are vacation house weekends. The proceeds from the silent auction goes back to the chapters through grants. There was a motion for us to give Sandy \$100 for more items and this passed.

OMGA wanted to remind us that there are also companies that donate a percentage of their sales to specified charities. Fred Meyer (<https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4>) and Amazon (smile.amazon.com) both have programs you can link to OMGA.

The leadership forum's focus was on demonstration learning gardens. Eric had done a survey with questions about the various demonstration gardens around the state which was discussed. He was particularly interested in how they were doing community outreach, how they get volunteers, and how to get more people involved in projects. Some of the responses were that the volunteers had commitments to the demonstration gardens for their payback hours. Both Douglas and Jackson Counties had mentor programs that were much more involved than ours is and the mentors helped introduce the demonstration gardens. The mentor programs were also very project and skill based, and they were encouraged to "pass along" information through presentations or a lesson plan.

Some of the outreach included visits from schools and workshops. One thought for our program is that maybe we could help fund school field trips to our demonstration gardens.

Eric will be distributing his findings and Sylvianne will put together a synopsis for the newsletter.

Old Business

Plant Sale (LJ): The plant sale was very successful and there was a post mortem/wrap up where they discussed the plant sale and future plans. They are arranging a field trip to Yamhill County to look at their perennial program for ideas. The Yamhill County plant sale has good community feedback and a large variety of plants.

People enjoyed the talk we had and we may want to add more for next year that can be held while people are queuing up.

A lot of information was gained on how to operate the greenhouse. There were a lot of net positives, including selling out of most of the plants and less set-up and tear-down. There seemed to be less interest in native plants this year. The worms were very popular and a good learning experience. Maybe we could have a raffle for worms next year. There were also good presentations on tomatoes and perennials.

Next year we will probably not be able to dig up perennials, which is part of the reason Eric wants to look at the perennial program at Yamhill County. They use a lot of successful propagation methods. What we will do is dependent on what methodologies will be allowed for next year's plant sales.

Some suggestions to consider for next year include companion plantings of plants that may benefit each other, such as attracting pollinators and predators. Rachel noted that we do need to be cautious about how we market this. What we do needs to be supported by research.

The plant sale people were especially grateful to Steve. He was very supportive and generous.

New Business

Greenhouse (Eric): Eric started a punch list and will be organizing work parties to take care of remaining issues. He wants to take advantage of the opportunity to address more educational factors around the greenhouse. We can use it as a learning tool for ourselves and for the general public, such as weather considerations and tobacco virus.

Learning Garden (Sylvianne): They have been having work parties and are putting together a planning meeting. Steve installed the irrigation so the garden is now on Farmer's Irrigation. Sylvianne is looking for someone to lead a tool workshop. She also needs to reach out the Sada about a spring pruning workshop for the Japanese Heritage Garden.

County Fair (Heidi): There will be a planning meeting on June 19 at Heidi's.

Library Waterwise Garden (Sue): There were 3 work parties this month at the library. They are trying to address plants taking over and they also need to add new gravel. They are still planning a waterwise presentation at the library. The straw bale presentation had a low turnout.

Parkdale Memorial Garden (Bill S): There was a small work party and Bill is trying to address having a small number of volunteers. Bill noted one person who might be a good candidate for a garden tour site is Jana Castaneros. Rachel has her contact information, and her phone number is (323) 770-3661.

Garden Tour (Renee): There are 6 or 8 committee members and they have been meeting regularly.

Garden Visit (Bill): There was a garden visit at Bill's in Parkdale and he was disappointed with the turnout.

Education (Rachel): There is a beer and brassicas tomorrow night at Volcanic and Michelle will be talking about permaculture. There was a good crowd last month.

Association Meeting (Heidi): Heidi is considering an association meeting / picnic for the end of July or early August. The Master Gardener of the Year needs to be announced. Bill S offered to host the event at his house. For an

event, Bill suggested a forest walk with plant identification. We need to be careful if we have a pot luck because one Master Gardener event had a foodborne illness (not ours).

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

Meeting minutes taken by Christie Bradley