

Adopted 6/3/19

**Benton County Master Gardener Association  
Board Meeting – May 13, 2019  
OSU Extension Office**

**In Attendance:** Debbie Wray, Diana Allen, Steve Jacobs, Linda Steppan, Marge Alig, Paula Lupcho, Carol Walsh, Rich Taylor, Bob Smythe, Meleah Ashford, Debbie Lauer, Brooke Edmonds and Elizabeth Records. Guest: Sandy Piper

**Location:** Benton County Extension Office

President-Debbie Wray called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

**Welcome and Gardening Moment** All

- Debbie brought a beautiful rose to share
- Elizabeth – at the Seed to Supper gathering, families were digging together, enjoying themselves. Also present was the new representative from the Oregon Food Bank serving our area.
- Steve – came home after a week and couldn't believe how long his grass was!
- Meleah told people at the plant sale not to plant peppers yet. Unfortunately, Meleah did not take her own advice...

**Adoption of April 2019 Minutes**

- ☐ It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the 4/1/19 board meeting.
- ☐ It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the 3/18/19 board meeting.
- ☐ It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the 4/15/19 board meeting.

**Scholarship Committee** Sandy Piper

- Three applications were submitted for the \$1,000 scholarships
  - Strong application from Quincy Pittman, high school senior who has registered for the OSU horticulture program next year.
  - Second application, not as strong – didn't catch a name
  - Third application was weak – do we include a name?
- The Scholarship Committee has suggestions on operational changes on how their committee works. A reference was made to a notebook for Scholarship Committee members, but no one was able to locate one. The group wants to develop a notebook for current and future Scholarship Committee members.

**Ann Brodie – Demo Garden committee**

- Met w/Lyn McKee, Fairground Director
- Let them know we'd be interested in a greenhouse located at the fairgrounds

**Officer Reports**

**Treasurers Financials** Marge Alig

- The \$20,000 CD acquisition is complete with a rate of 2.78%.
- Marge Alig reviewed March Financial Statements and provided tips for reviewing:

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- Checkbook Summary for March
  - Expense Summary for March
  - Monthly Financial Summary through March
- Plant Sale Report Paula Lupcho
  - 2019 gross receipts: \$45,050.80
  - So far there is a little over \$3,500 in bills and we're waiting for a few more expenses to come in
  - Preliminary profit: \$41,501
- Plant Sale Revenue History Paula Lupcho
- Scholarships – Paula encouraged the committee to award two scholarships this year
- Review of Insights into Gardening Financials
  - Profit: \$9418 (highest we've ever gotten)
  - Attendance was really good: 367 (second highest)

**Vice President – Programs** Debbie Lauer

- The speaker for the May membership meeting is Dr. Melanie Link-Perez, the Herbarium Curator and Instructor, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, OSU. Her topic for the evening is **Plant Identification; Tips, Tricks, and Tech.**
- The garden tour is on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The time is TBA.

**Membership** Meleah Ashford

- Master Gardener of the Year Award
  - Nominations:
    - ☐ Rich Taylor
    - ☐ Lisa Borgenson
    - ☐ Deb Kern
  - ☐ There was consensus by the Board to recognize Deb Kern as Master Gardener of the Year
- Behind the Scenes Award
  - Nominations:
    - ☐ Nanako Smith
    - ☐ Fred Prah
  - ☐ There was consensus by the Board to award both Nanako Smith and Fred Prah the Behind the Scenes Award
- Directory discussion
  - Discussion next month on format of the directory
- Mini Class for Seed-to-Supper to be held over two afternoons

**President** Deb Wray

- Scholarship Committee update
- Request from Janet Magadanz for \$50 gift card for greenhouse use

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- give a \$50 gift card to Jerry Winters for our use of the greenhouse. Deb Wray will send a card
- Debbie Wray read a thank you letter from 4-H member, Trinity Serafin for the donation of a flower pot and fertilizer for the 2018 Top Intermediate Container Gardening Exhibit Award.

### **Extension Report**

Brooke Edmunds and Elizabeth Records

- Membership Directory
  - The printed Directory was mailed in Mid-April. Unfortunately, Extension won't be able to provide this type of printed directory in future.
  - Printing costs have increased to unsustainable level (~\$650 for Benton Co.).
  - There are also issues with merging two different databases and maintaining accuracy (MG Program volunteer and BCMGA membership)
  - Extension will continue to post a MG Program Volunteer contact list online and work with Meleah to assist with BCMGA's needs for 2020. Currently the directory and updates are online:  
<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/activebentonlinnmg/> Password: MGDIRECTORY
- Master Gardener Trainee Graduation
  - The graduation will be hosted by Benton County MG this year. Debbie Wray and Debbie Lauer are the Extension contacts for planning the graduation.
  - Check the weekly eNews for a quick survey seeking your input on planning for the 2019 Graduation & Awards Event.
- Extension has been asked by OSU to formally report on all programming involving youth. Brooke may be reaching out to us or a committee that we serve as a liaison with for specific details.
- A two-day statewide Master Gardener Program retreat was held last week. All county program coordinators, state Program coordinator and OMGA reps were in attendance. Big picture items were discussed (vision and mission statements for the Program, annual training formats, improving access to the program, inefficiencies in Program management, inequity between county programs, etc.). Small groups/committees will be moving different ideas forward. One major change that will likely be happening soon is aligning the Oregon MG Program with the national standards for first year trainees. Right now, our volunteer hours statewide are 55 hours, Benton County is 66 hours. National Standard is a minimum of 40 and no more than 50. This will likely affect our ability to fully staff the Plant Clinic and so Brooke is exploring options including a 'specialist track' to encourage returning MGs to stay involved.
- A separate group of volunteers met with Brooke in late April to express their concerns with several aspects of how the MG Program is being run and Extension's relationship with the BCMGA. Brooke will be working with Kathy Clark, Christina Clark and Paula Lupcho to communicate information and progress back to that group. Brooke hopes that the BCMGA Board is also a part of that conversation. Her

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door is open if you want to talk and she is open to other formats for having discussions (set times, office hours, etc.).

The BCMG Board voted to go into executive session at 10:40 am

The BCMG Board ended executive session at 11:25.

**Good of the Association**

All

The next BCMGA Board meeting is June 3, at 9:00 in the Conference Room - Benton County Extension Office.

☐The board voted and approved the sanctioning of a committee Paula, Christina Clark to MEET W/BROOKE AND ELIZABETH TO DISCUSS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The meeting adjourned 12:30 PM

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Diana L. Allen".

Diana Allen, Board Secretary