

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Held via Zoom on Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Next meeting: Wednesday May 12, 2021, Virtual

Attendees: Bailey, Jean; Bosler, Eric; Bosler, Shari; Dameier, Margo; Gehrig, Montag, Sandy; Spezia, Barbara; Anne; VanNatta, Anny; Wickersham, Megan; Willis, Joanne;

Secretary's Report (Christie): The minutes for March were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Joanne): Recent transactions - there were some video equipment charges. Should that be entered under plant sale? It was ordered for that, but will be used for a lot of other things. \$305 was for the banner modifications. The video items should be in the equipment fund.

OMGA (Eric): The OMGA website for mini college is up at mastergardenerminicollege.org and registration is open. Richard Taylor is creating a slide show and would like Master Gardeners to send in pictures of landscaping and gardens for that slide show (project and personal gardens). Sandi will send a link to the Japanese Memorial Garden slideset. Megan will add a blurb to her Monday update.

There are grants available for many things and Sandi suggests we apply for some. One is an educational one for the program coordinators. We might be able to get a grant for the video equipment.

OSU Extension (Megan): A MGConnect was held on the Plant Clinic, and was well-attended. All of the online, take at your own, classes have been launched and are available. The coordinators are starting to discuss what 2022 will look like for training. Doing a hybrid model was discussed to ensure things like having classes in iffy weather, addressing different people's needs, and the like. One suggestion was to continue having the CGMGA education team who did it the last couple of years continue, and Megan indicated we could start that after the recommendations are solidified from OMGA. The state will have recommendations and then the chapters will have flexibility on how to implement it.

Some classes would be a lot easier to do in person. Some people do not like traveling at night, as well - this might be something that encourages some people we lost to come back.

Breakout rooms are a great opportunity to handle questions. Doing breakout rooms might be less effective if there are questions that everyone will want to discuss (topics interesting to all of the students).

A Zoom meeting is interactive and a webinar cannot be, by design. (For example, nobody can speak unless their permissions are elevated). One idea was to have a webinar and follow that with a chapter discussion of the webinar. There are a lot of options we can do.

The other thing with a hybrid model is we already have a plan b for the covid restrictions.

We were going to have Kris Schaedel do a weed seminar - are we still interested? We are, and there was a discussion on whether to include the public. If it is big enough, we should do a webinar. We could do a regular Zoom call and limit it to Hood River and Wasco Master Gardeners and then share out the recording. The idea of including Wasco County was positive. We had planned for some time in June. The presentation would be held from 6-7 and would be followed by an interactive Q&A.

Megan asked Glen Ahrens about a tree class, because we get a lot of tree questions. Wasco and Hood River are going to be dealing with Pine and Oak questions a lot. Megan was targeting May for this. The 19th or 26th is probably the best. It will be the same format - a recorded class.

Plant clinics are off to a good start.

Old Business

Plant Sale (Christie & Sandi): The plant sale is going well. There have been a few issues with inventory and with volunteers. Most of the seeds have been started, and the last seed party is today.

There was a bit of potential issue with frost and we might have damaged or lost some plants. We also have a cold frame. Maybe we could use that as well in the future. Christmas lights in the hoop house might be enough to get the temperature up enough.

We can use paper bags for small orders. We have a lot of cardboard boxes. For pickup, we might ask people to bring a container or cardboard box that we can transfer their plants into. We took inventory this week and we are short on some varieties. Joanne is offering people substitutes. There are still a few that we need more of, and she will be asking if they are okay to give them up or take substitutes.

There is a radio program on April 23, and Eric wants someone from the plant sale to do that program. Sandi will do that.

Seed to Supper (Anny): Seed to Supper is going really well. The students seem very engaged. The breakout rooms have been lively. We capped the registration at 30, and we ended up with 22 and 2 Master Gardeners. 10 have signed up for the Facebook page. The people are of a lot of skill levels.

JEDI (Megan): The team is all over-booked and wanted to step back on JEDI activities for now. Kathy is translating the plant clinic form into Spanish. Megan received an Extension publication in both English and Spanish recently, so little steps are being done.

Garden Visits (Sandi): If we want to start doing garden visits, someone can determine what the details are and Megan will submit a proposal. She needs to know the dimensions and number of visitors. Paul M is willing to have one at his place. He is starting an orchard and will be growing flowers and herbs for the Gorge Farmbasket initiative.

Publicity (Margo): Margo wrote up a publicity report. GorgeCurrent has been going well and she is doing her best to get ongoing events on that platform, which was really designed for single events.

Master Gardener of the Year (Sandi): The nominations are due now. There can be co-recipients. The last 3 MG of the Year recipients, Renee, Christie, Eric, and Sandi, are part of the team, and several members at large. Sandi will be the chair per our policies as she has the most seniority.

Library Project (Beth): Beth wants to stop being the leader of this project. She has been asking someone to take over. Barbara Spezia was one suggestion. There may be other new people who are interested. Norma was another possibility, as was Kelly, Tara, and Leanne. Maybe we need a small article in the newsletter that tells about the history and asks for more involvement. It might help to have it scheduled regularly.

Project Work Party Scheduling (Shari): People are stepping on other project's calendars for scheduling work parties. We will add this to the next Agenda to discuss.

Volunteers at Extension Campus (Sandi): Joanne and Sandi want to get some assistance with some of the activities that are more physical. Historically husbands and others have come to help with special projects. Megan notes that this is an issue for insurance purposes as well as Covid issues. Anyone who comes on the property needs to fill out the liability forms. If they are paid contractors, they are covered through their employers. People who are not in

this category, and are not Master Gardeners, are not covered. There is a difference in the classifications of people being trained versus people coming to assist. In general, we need some means of allowing volunteers who are not Master Gardeners.

We also can talk to the people who hold the policy to see if there is a way to extend that policy to cover casual volunteers. This would have to be approved by OSU. Eric will talk to the State Farm agent and Megan will also pursue this with OSU, if we submit the questions to her.

There is also a difference between working on a Master Garden approved project versus just visiting the space. There is also a difference between paid contractors versus volunteers. We don't need to get approval for paid contractors.

With no further business, the meeting ended at 12:10.

Meeting minutes taken by Christie Bradley