

**DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**  
**Chapter Meeting**  
**January 25, 2024**

Continuing Education: VRS Virtual Reporting System update presented by “RJ” Richard Jacobs from OSU

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:10. There were 44 in attendance, including President Julie Stanbery, Past President Nancy Fuller, Vice-President Andrea Collins, Membership Kay Livermore, and Secretary Bonnie Courter.

**Agenda Approval:** The agenda was approved as posted.

**Minutes Approval:** The minutes were approved as posted.

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

**Past President - Nancy Fuller:** She is amazed how much moss there is everywhere, and can't wait to get rid of it!

**Membership - Kay Livermore:** We now have 190 members and dues are still coming in. If you haven't paid for 2024, see her after the meeting.

#### **OMGA - Patrice Sipos:**

Patrice is on the Joy of Gardening Planning Committee which met January 16. Here are some items discussed:

- For registration, now attendees have the option to pay for only one day if desired - \$60 for one day, \$80 for the full conference.
- For the Silent Auction, each chapter is responsible to deliver about 10 items worth a total of \$350. They also discussed each chapter creating “Spirit Poles” or “Peace Poles” for the auction, something used at the International MG Conference last summer. These are 6’X4”X4” poles, decorated in a garden theme by each chapter, which can be used as garden decor. (A photo of these will be posted in the next Newsletter).
- Garden tours as well as a tentative list of speakers were also discussed.

**Treasurer - Dawnetta Loomis:** Not present - her report:

- If you shop at Fred Meyer (FM) and have a loyalty card, please consider going online and making Douglas County Master Gardeners your charity of choice. If you do not shop at FM, please start shopping at FM and get a loyalty card. For every dollar spent, FM will send a small percentage to us each quarter. Nothing will come directly out of your pocket or purse. We have the plant sales for that. Instructions on how to sign up have been in the last 2 newsletters.
- Monies are already coming in for vendors space rentals at the Plant Sale. It is going to be another great event again this year. I hope to see you all there.
- Any outstanding expense forms, put in her box in the Plant Clinic to be picked up today.

Julie Stanbery: We made use of a winter special at John Deere to get the lawnmower serviced. Unfortunately, the mower had other issues for repair, resulting in a bill of \$1,006.70. We only have \$1,300 in the HLC account. **Patrice Sipos made a motion to pay \$1,006.70 for the**

lawnmower repair as an off-budget expense. Joy Keeling seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approving the motion.

**Vice-President - Andrea Collins:** We had a good training on VRS time reporting this morning by RJ Jacobs by Zoom. She does have some plans for upcoming Continuing Ed, so will let us know either in the Newsletter or by email soon.

**President - Julie Stanbery:**

- She received a nice letter from Julie Lowe of Umpqua Watersheds thanking DCMG for our help and the loan of our tools for the recent MLK Service Day. Kudos to everyone who participated and to Fred Alley for supplying the tools. We also had nice coverage of the event in the News-Review.
- The doors coming up the back stairs, side doors and the two inside auditorium doors will be locked when the auditorium is not in use. To access the room, get a key from the office.

**MG Program Coordinator - Logan Bennett:**

- Logan is officially now our permanent Master Gardeners Coordinator.
- Spring Into Gardening is now live online to sign up for classes. If you want to volunteer, see Chris Rusch or Logan.
- February 15, 10:00-Noon, will be our first monthly Pavilion Series class this year with Bruce Gravens presenting on starting peppers from seed. These classes are free to the public.
- February 4 is our "Celebration 2024" party at Sutherlin Community Center, 1:00-4:00. John PUNCHES will give a virtual tour of one of his projects which counts for CE credit. This will be a potluck with finger foods, and an opportunity to reconnect with fellow MG's.
- For Small Farms, there will be a class on beekeeping February 10, 10:00-1:00. Bring a sack lunch.
- There was a question about what counts for Continuing Education (CE) as far as trainees go? If you are a trainee, you need a total of 60 hours of payback - CE does not count toward those 60 hours, but does count for cumulative and swinger bar hours, and for recertification for next year. If you are doing the work at a workshop (such as pruning), that counts for volunteer hours. If you are only listening to the instructor, that counts toward CE
- VRS hours won't start immediately, but you can start using the program. You will still need to turn in a hard copy as well until we're fully using the system. Logan will have a workshop the end of February again. If you run into issues, document them. We will have admins to enter inputs for you if you can't access the VRS program or have trouble using it - let Kay Livermore know.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Black Apparel - Andrea Collins:** Andrea checked with Prints Charming, and the prices remain the same as last time we had a sale. The deadline to order will be the end of March. Order forms will be emailed out. You can place your payment with the form in the Plant Clinic locked drawer.

**Blue Bags - Dawn Shumack:** So far this month, we have had 12 bags turned in.

### **Community Outreach - Cheryl Caplan:**

- Cheryl is moving soon to Longview, Washington. and needs someone to replace her who is certified for 2024. Contact Dawn or Julie if interested in being co-chair for Community Outreach as well as Publicity.
- Request from Fullerton IV Elementary School for a tour of the Discovery Garden for 3 classes of third graders. Dawn Shumack will coordinate with the teacher.

### **Discovery Garden - Julie Stanbery:**

- Pruning classes: - Friday, February 9, for ornamentals and Monday, February 19, for the rose garden/hydrangeas. Both classes are 1:00-4:00.
- Julie shared the excellent brochure created by Rebecca Taylor on the Butterfly Garden for children. She asked MG's to consider how we want to use them.
- The Discovery Garden is on the League of Women Voters garden tour this year. Do we want to put together a brochure to hand out? Discussion ensued. It was generally felt that that would probably not be worthwhile as the garden has signs with QR codes already. Carolyn Ruzicka asked if the Victory Garden was part of the tour, and it could be, but they will need to have MG's there to guide visitors through it.

### **Facebook - Barbara Horst:** Not present - her report:

#### Facebook Report for the last 28 days:

We have 2,690 followers including 15 new ones.

Our posts have reached 4,569 people and engaged 575 people.

The most popular posts have been:

- Vendors for the plant sale - 2,908
- Spring into Gardening - 2,113
- Fred's photos of the ginkgo tree and the Japanese gong - 2,270

**Greenhouse West - Joy Keeling:** She appreciated all the people who have been working Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is still a lot of work to do. If out at the greenhouses alone and you see lights on or hear strange noises, call Carol Bolt.

### **Greenhouse East - Bruce Gravens:** Not present - his report:

I am so grateful for the hard working crews that have been working every Tuesday to get ready for our major fundraiser, the annual Plant Sale.

Our plants are all weeded, root pruned, and trimmed. Our heat bed to packed with starts for our 2025 Plant Sale. We have set out over 1000 cuttings to support the Umpqua Native Plant Partnership. Thank you all!

Our weeds are begging for a break! So we will take next Tuesday off to make it more of a fair fight. See you in two weeks.

### **Hallmark - Dawn Shumack:**

January cards went to:

- Ann Severson - surgery
- Larry Rich - hospitalization

- Ted Benice - surgery

Email sent to all MG's notifying them of MG Aaron Williams passing January 2.

**Newsletter - Bonnie Courter:** Submissions to the Newsletter are due Saturday, January 27.

**Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch:**

We are still training the new students. Yesterday we had 5 people working there at one time which is too many. We need to limit it to 4 people including the advisor. This month, the clinic is open Mondays and Wednesdays. In February we will add Fridays. There are still a lot of blanks in the schedule for February. We had 30 contacts in January so far. In April we will start 5 days a week.

**Plant Sale - Joy Keeling/Karin Seder:** We will need signups, though we're not online yet. Also we need boxes from Costco and quality garden-related items for the raffle tables. Monthly meetings for committee chairs will be the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00, and will be on Zoom as well. Position replacements are needed for transportation, raffle table, cleanup, and publicity. This year we are bringing back the wearing of hats - no contest involved - and hats don't need to be a garden theme. It's just a way to have fun and identify us as MG's at the sale.

**Publicity - Cheryl Caplan:** She is starting a Plant Sale flyer, and Spring Into Gardening and Trash to Treasure publicity will start going out. She also needs someone to replace her for publicity.

**Soils - Gloria Cettina:** Soil sampling is still on hold due to chemicals on backorder - maybe the end of the month.

**Spring Into Gardening - Chris Rusch:** Registration is now open. This year there will be 4 classes per session offered. Keynote speaker is Logan on garden soil. It will be March 9 at Phoenix School. Bring your own lunch. The grafting class will be limited to 15, but Logan will give a class on that later on as well.

**Swinger Bars - Kay Livermore:**

December 2023 Swinger Bar Report:

60 hours: Rebecca Taylor (2022)

100 hours: Terry Christenson

200 hours: Colleen Baida

300 hours: Linda Witbeck

500 hours: Debby Finley

3000 hours: Sharon Hopkins

13,500 hours: Julie Stanbery

**Victory Garden - Carolyn Ruzicka:** The garden is still "sleeping". We have a co-chair now - Beth Brandon.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Executive Board Meeting, 10:00, February 14, at the Courthouse, Room 310

- Julie: Alicia Christensen has a newsletter called “Canopy View News” that Julie finds very interesting and informative, and worth checking out.
- Jeff Puryear: The Herb Garden needs work - some cleaning up to do. Contact Jeff if interested. He also brought some heirloom seeds to give away.
- Ann Severson has a few black hats and aprons to give away.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Courter, Secretary