

DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
Chapter Meeting
March 28, 2024

As requested by the Executive Board, Bruce Gravens made a presentation to the membership regarding the use of Waddington Funds for an Educational Greenhouse.

First Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:48 for a short discussion in order to appoint a committee to start work on the educational greenhouse. It was decided to put a cap of \$40,000 on financing based on the proposal to fully fund the project from Waddington funds in the Charles Schwab account. **A motion to proceed with building the greenhouse and authorize funds from the Waddington Fund was made by Dawnetta Loomis, and Kay Livermore seconded the motion. A vote was taken, which passed unanimously.**

After a short break, the official chapter meeting was **called to order** at 10:00. There were 47 in attendance, including President Julie Stanbery, Past President Nancy Fuller, Vice-President Andrea Collins, Treasurer Dawnetta Loomis, Membership Kay Livermore, and Secretary Bonnie Courter.

Agenda Approval: Awards Nomination Committee was added to the agenda under Committee Reports.

Minutes Approval: The minutes were approved as posted.

OFFICER REPORTS

Past President - Nancy Fuller: People are again stealing labels and plants from the Rock Garden. 3-4 plants are missing, and a large rock lies broken in the pathway. Discussion ensued about perhaps placing “dummy” trail cameras in strategic places with a conspicuous sign saying, “You’re on camera.” DCMG can pay for the signs and Bruce Gravens said he has some non-working cameras that could be set up.

Membership - Kay Livermore: We currently have 216 members. 2024 OMGA membership cards are available in the Plant Clinic drawer with the time sheets and in the mailbox outside the Westside greenhouse.

OMGA - Patrice Sipos: Not present - no report.

Treasurer - Dawnetta Loomis:

- We received a check for \$700 from BottleDrop.
- Taxes were sent up to OMGA.
- Membership dues will be going to OSU this week.
- She now has a MG who will be shadowing her for the Treasurer position.

Vice-President - Andrea Collins:

Leo Grass will present at the April chapter meeting on irrigation systems.

President - Julie Stanbery:

- Changes in chairpersons - Jeanie Owen and Jan Turley are leaving Easy Access garden after many years. Earnie Amabisca, who will be going back to the Japanese Garden, will be advising the new Easy Access group: Sarah Davis, Andrea Collins, and Jan Polka.
- Dawn Shumack is leaving BottleDrop to be replaced by Andrea Collins.
- Elva Sellens will take over the iris beds as well as doing the dahlia beds.

Maureen Benice thanked the MG's for the Hallmark card from Dawn. Thanks to Dawn for doing a great job at Hallmark.

MG Program Coordinator - Logan Bennett:

- April 9, Tuesday, the next in the Level Up series will be on "Growing Herbs & Spices", from 12:00-1:00. These sessions are always recorded so they can be seen later on. Andrea will send out the link for these sessions which are good for recertification or continuing education credit. Here's the link for 2024 series: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2024>
- The Umpqua Beekeeping Association meets the first Wednesday of each month, 6:00-7:30 at the Annex. The next meeting is April 3.
- April 13, 2:00-4:30 there will be a class on growing lavender at Growing Miracles Lavender Garden. Registration is online at the OSU Extension website where you can see a calendar of all upcoming events. <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/county/douglas/events>
- April 18, 10:00-12:00, "Up-potting Your Plants", Pavilion Series
- April 19, 3:30-5:00, there is a free vermicomposting class at HealTerra at the Glide Disposal Site in Glide.
- April 20, Earth Day, there will be a MFP booth at UCC with room for a MG booth if interested.
- May 11, 9:30-11:00 there is a class on growing iris at Terringer Farm in Glide, followed by a "Bloom Party" with cut flowers for sale, food trucks, and 30 vendors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Awards Nomination Committee - Kay Livermore:**

Kay is the chairman to nominate Master Gardener of the Year and Behind the Scenes MG of the Year. She has 5 on her committee now, but needs 2-4 more to join. Committee members should be able to make a 3 year commitment. She wants to meet next week sometime. If interested, contact Kay.

Black Apparel - Andrea Collins: She has some over-size T-shirts today for sale, and today is the last chance to order apparel before the Plant Sale. Apparel will be ready to pick up at the next chapter meeting.

Blue Bags - Dawn Shumack: There is a balance of \$203.93 in the account. 15 bags turned in so far for March. Andrea Collins is taking over BottleDrop.

Community Outreach - Dawn Shumack:

We need a tri-fold, 3-section display board, heavier than cardboard, for table displays. If you have one we could borrow or could make one, contact Dawn.

Events completed in March:

- Pavilion Series “Starting Tomatoes”
- Basic Gardening at Oakland Public Library

Upcoming Events:

- April 2 - Rainbow Garden Tour at Discovery Garden
- April 13 - “Gardening” at Camas Valley Grange as well as MG info table at Melrose Farmer’s Market
- April 18 - Pavilion Series, “Up-potting”
- April 19 - Fullerton School 3rd Grade DG Tour: We need one more volunteer!
- April 22 - UCC Sustainability Fair - Vermicomposting
- May 20 - Open People Connections, “Container Plants”

Discovery Garden - Julie Stanbery:

- Japanese Garden workday will be Wednesday, April 3, 1:00-4:00. Need a minimum of 10 people to get the work done for the summer Garden Tour. Need to bring mid-size loppers and hand pruners.
- Reminder to everyone not to leave spaces cluttered. Store tools where they belong. Put things back where you found them. Close gates when you leave.
- Ken Hays hauls our garbage - please put garbage in the receptacle. Pick up litter you might see around.
- Irrigation: We will do a blow out Tuesday and turn on Eastside only. Umpqua Basin is turned on now and water tanks are full.
- Geoff Puryear and others have noticed signage is not what it could be. He would like to form a committee to update signage. Contact Geoff to be a part of that.

Facebook - Barbara Horst:

Facebook report for the last 28 days:

We currently have 2,777 followers including 36 new followers.

The most popular posts were:

Growing tomatoes class 1,320

Spring into Gardening 876

Janet Bitter's article on the butterfly bush 380

With the plant sale fast approaching, I have been thinking about Facebook posts for this. In the past Cheryl would send me photos and information to post. I have photos from previous years sales I could use with updated information. I will discuss this with Karin and Joy.

Greenhouse West - Joy Keeling: Planting, transplanting lots of vegetables, tagging at the same time, and we have lots of helpers.

Greenhouse East - Bruce Gravens: Cleaning up, going to 2 days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting next week. Weeding, fertilizing, and most of the labels are in place. Bruce encouraged everyone to take advantage of LevelUp series talks. He’s found them to be very helpful.

Hallmark - Dawn Shumack:

- Jon Thran - get well card for hip injury
- Janet Parkerson - sympathy card for loss of her husband
- Maureen Benice - get well card for shoulder surgery
- Sarah Davis - Thinking of you card - having surgery today, March 28
- Anita Clark - Best wishes on her new job at UCC

Insect Committee - Diana Woodward: Cynthia Wilson (Class of 2023) is now working on the committee. Debby Finley stepped down, but will work at home. Still working on the Coleoptera insects. Next meeting is this Monday, April 1.

Newsletter - Bonnie Courter: Submissions for the Newsletter are due Saturday, March 30.

Nomination Advisory Committee - Gloria Cettina:

We will start taking nominations for President and Treasurer positions in April-May. You can nominate yourself as well. Contact Gloria if you're interested or want to nominate someone. We will present the slate in the June Newsletter and they will be voted on in person at the July chapter meeting, then installed at the August chapter meeting.

Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch: Not present - her report:

I want to thank everyone who worked in March at our Plant Clinic! The Plant Clinic is one of our DCMG programs that reach out to our community to help people solve a wide range of gardening and landscape questions. We had over 60 contacts this month.

Our training for the new class of 2023-24 is mostly completed. We are lucky to have a great team this year with Leo Grass, Gerry Crane, Doralee Hayden, Ken Parry, Diane Smith-Lewsadder, and Chris Rusch. The Plant Clinic will be open Monday through Friday starting in April. There are lots of openings. Stop by and put your name on the calendar!

Plant Sale - Karin Seder:

- Signups are looking good except for transportation and security.
- Still need a "shadow" for the raffle table. Raffle items are to be delivered Friday, May 3, between 8:00 and 2:00. They should be "table ready".
- We also need lots of boxes - we're only halfway there. Best ones are from Costco.
- She has 8 new banners to give out with zip ties to be put up now around the community.
- Need a publicity person, someone who can go on KQEN radio morning show to promote the Plant Expo. Geoff Puryear volunteered to do the interview.
- "MG only" pre-sale is after the April 25 chapter meeting, 1:00-3:00, and again on Sunday, April 28 from 1:00-3:00.
- Need help loading plants on Friday morning.

Soils - Gloria Cettina: We will begin taking soil samples at last for testing. We are working with two different companies, testing only for NPK and pH. We will have to put together a new protocol for testing. Working on pricing. We will link to the OSU website for results. Starting mid-April, we will post on our website and in the Newsletter that we're accepting soil samples again. Patrice & Gloria will initially be doing all the testing until everything is settled. Soil texture will be done by the customer, and we will link to websites to help them with that. We will give ranges for NPK instead of exact amounts which gives a more reliable diagnosis. Testing is only for the

public, not commercial. May be less expensive as the materials are less in cost as well as the testing itself.

Spring Into Gardening - Chris Rusch: Not present - her report:

Our Spring into Gardening was a terrific success. We had over 85 participants. This community education event is an opportunity to bring our OSU Extension program on sustainable gardening to our greater community. It is also an opportunity for MG's to get recertification hours by attending classes. We had a knowledgeable group of speakers lined up. Logan gave an excellent Keynote talk on "Garden Soil: What It Is and How It Works". We offered 12 gardening classes with something for everyone. What a talented group we have! Thank you to everyone who helped with this event.

Swinger Bars - Kay Livermore:

Members who have swinger bar updates for February:

Four 2023 Trainees have completed their payback hours.

60 hours: Cynthia Wilson, Marcie Young

100 hours: Stefani Lavitt, Jan Polka

300 hours: Teresa Grosenbach, Dawn Shumack

500 hours: Becky Carlson

Trash to Treasure - Ann Severson:

Good donations are still coming in, not just from MG's. Leave a note or tell Ann you're coming to her house if leaving donations there, or bring to HLC on Tuesdays. June 1 is the sale, May 31 set up.

Victory Garden - Carolyn Ruzicka: Not present - her report: The Victory Garden is up and running. A great crew came out to spread bark chips in the Victory Garden the first part of the month. Another crew showed up to start the first of the planting a couple weeks later. We planted cabbage, peas, radishes, beets, carrots and lettuce. We are looking forward to a productive year.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dawn Shumack said the compost tea is set up and starting for the greenhouses. Mid-April MG's will be able to sign up for compost tea - first come, first serve.

Julie Burchstead encouraged us to increase our signage for the Discovery Garden.

SHOW AND TELL:

Barbara Anderson: She got 12 Haskap Berry (*Lonicera caerulea*) bushes from Dr. Maxine Thompson, Professor Emeritus at OSU in 2014. Dr. Thompson had a display at the Small Farm Conference and was looking for growers to trial them. They are a type of honeyberry. The cuttings were from Japan. They develop very early and resemble a blueberry bush. The berry is oblong-shaped instead of round. Barbara makes jam with them, and they are a favorite jam at her market. They have a blueberry/raspberry tart taste. If you leave them to ripen longer, they

will be sweeter. There are two kinds: the Russian type (not good for our area) and Japanese type (for Willamette Valley). No pests at all - just keep the birds off.

Ann Severson: She brought some succulents she ordered from Hong Kong - 5 different clusters. They're mostly raised as houseplants, and go for \$35 for one cluster head online.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Executive Meeting - April 10, Annex, 10:00 (9:00 for Board members to discuss Bylaws and Policies)

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:21.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Courter, Secretary