

# Douglas County Master Gardeners Executive Board Minutes

August 14, 2013

## **ATTENDANCE**

Jen Bailey, Rosemary Brinkley, Leo Grass, Betty Ison, Vicki McAlister, Judy Mercer, Steve Renquist, Karolyn Riecks, Roger Sawyer, Elva Sellens, Ruth Stafford, Julie Stanbery, Larry Sutton

## **MINUTES**

The July 2013 Executive Board minutes were approved as submitted.

### **HORTICULTURE AGENT – Steve Renquist**

The Diagnostics group will not meet on August 21<sup>st</sup>, as Steve will be attending the Farwest trade show in Portland.

The OMGA 2013 Search for Excellence award went to the Benton/Linn chapter for their training program to diagnose 50 different plant problems. Information will be available on-line.

An OSU researcher found one Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) in Roseburg.

The initial meeting for the River Forks Park tree assessment will be next Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – Vicki McAlister** had nothing to report.

### **OMGA REPRESENTATIVE – Rosemary Brinkley**

Attendance at Mini-College was disappointing. OMGA had hoped for 350 attendees each day, but only 250 people showed up. This was blamed on poor publicity to/by the chapters. However, our own members were kept well-informed of Mini-College plans, thanks to announcements by our OMGA reps at meetings, via e-mail and in the newsletter.

At Mini-College, our chapter was awarded \$250 from the Karl Carlson Fund, along with a \$500 Extension Educator's grant, for the Discovery Garden signage project. The Silent Auction at Mini-College was successful. Members with 20 years of service were recognized with a new swinger bar. These will be presented at our Awards Banquet in September.

The speakers at Mini-College were excellent (apart from the Awards Banquet keynote speaker). The presentation by Red Pig Garden Tools was especially popular, and we discussed inviting him here.

OMGA wants to hire someone to maintain a database of all Oregon Master Gardeners and their e-mail addresses, to communicate directly with the members. At least seven chapters do not want to participate in this plan. Our consensus was that this effort would be time-consuming and expensive to maintain. The current system of using the state reps to convey information between OMGA and the members is preferable.

The Jackson County Extension office has lost their county funding. OSU is contributing \$10,000 to “keep the doors open” for their Master Gardeners program for the short-term.

Gail Langellotto will not have a new version of the Sustainable Gardening Handbook available in 2014 after all. They are working on national standards for Master Gardeners.

“Get The Real Dirt” kneeling pads from OSU are available for \$6.

OMGA is publishing a new issue of their newsletter in September.

Chapters did not take advantage of Mini-College scholarships and the Send-A-Friend program. We discussed the lack of participation at the OMGA leadership level. **Rosemary Brinkley** said that attendance at OMGA quarterly meetings is poor, as people are traveling around the state so much.

A proposal has been made to hire a paid Executive Director for OMGA. We strongly disagree with this approach, recommending that OMGA instead increase the funding for Gail Langellotto’s position.

OMGA is not publishing adequate financial reports, as required by law. Rosemary will formally ask for a complete financial statement from OMGA.

**TREASURER – Toni Rudolph** was not present.

**Ruth Stafford** reviewed the audit report. She and **Karolyn Riecks** completed the audit, meeting with **Toni Rudolph** and **Vicki McAlister**.

**VICE PRESIDENT – Fred Alley** was not present.

**PAST PRESIDENT – Judy Huntley** was not present.

**PRESIDENT – Larry Sutton**

Larry showed off a thank you card created by the Cobb St. school children who recently visited the Discovery Garden, hosted by **Beth Brown**.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Leo Grass**

The activity level in the Exhibitors Hall at the Douglas County Fair was down from past years. **Pat Dinsmore** and **Bob Brindley** put together a nice display, with many pictures, of native plants and pollinators. Approximately 60 contacts with the public were made.

**Jim Leet** taught a class in winter gardening to the Westside Community Garden.

**Leo** is ready to retire from doing the soil testing, after seven years. He has been unable to find a replacement willing to do the testing on a regular basis. **Steve Renquist** suggested that we might provide pH testing, on a walk-in immediate turn-around basis.

**Leo** is hosting the beer event at the Discovery Garden this evening.

## **PLANT CLINIC – Judy Mercer**

Judy read the three-minute speech she will give at the International Master Gardeners Conference, accepting our International Search for Excellence Award.

## **UMPQUA VALLEY FARMERS MARKET – Karolyn Riecks**

Our presence at UVFM has been cancelled for the rest of the season, as so few members volunteered to staff our booth.

**KRUSE FARMS – Diane Twete** was not present.

## **DISCOVERY GARDEN – Julie Stanbery**

There will be a meeting of the DG garden heads next Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM in the garden. **Steve Renquist** will discuss sustaining gardening practices, followed by a working session on signage. Important decisions will be made at this meeting, and the garden heads are encouraged to bring along all members of their garden crews.

## **AWARDS – Betty Ison**

Our County Master Gardener of the Year was announced at Mini-College, but will be kept a secret until our Awards Banquet in September.

There was an excellent turnout for the Garden Open House this year. **Betty** shared a thank you note from the Rainbow Garden Club, whom she had invited to the tour.

**PUBLICITY – Bonnie Courter** was not present.

**HALLMARK – Linda Thames** was not present.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Rosemary Brinkley**

The new officers will be inaugurated at the August chapter meeting. **Michelle Harding-Olson** will not be able to attend this meeting, so **Fred Alley** will be Acting President until Michelle is inaugurated at the September Executive Board meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS – None**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Jen Bailey** reviewed the latest draft of the new Policies and Procedures manual. She will publish it by the end of this month. After that, individual sections will be updated as needed, and the entire manual will be reviewed by the Executive Board each February.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Bailey