

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2017, OSU Extension Service Office

Attendees: Bitter, Linda; Bosler, Eric; Bosler, Shari; Bradley, Christie; Carlson, Dennis; DeTar, Laurel; Montag, Sandy; Nastasi, Heidi; Rousseau, Sandi; Ryan, Glenda; Slagle, Nancy; Stevens, John; Sturman, Bill; Suits, Rachel; Winfield, Bill

Secretary's Report (Christie): The secretary's report was sent out too late to be approved so we will ask for approval at the May meeting.

Treasurers Report (Nancy): Nancy sent out the financials. She noted that the activity for the last month was low. The OMGA dues were paid. She noted that she had a total of 12 lifetime members and she is verifying that number with Joanne or Rachel. She sent a permit request to the Department of Agriculture for the plant sale. She sent in the Intel non-discriminatory form, required for their volunteer matching hours donation.

A successful audit was conducted.

Extension Report (Rachel): Plant clinics are started and are busy. This weekend had three in-field events. Rachel has been out of the office for a week and a half. All clinics generated a number of questions.

MG Awards (Rachel): Rachel still needs to get nominations and form a committee to review them and make a decision. She will probably send out something with the mid-month reminder. Shari noted there may have been some errors with "previous recipients", but Rachel was not sure what those were and Shari will re-check.

New Business

Greenhouse (Sandi R): There is a committee meeting on Friday at 9am. They are looking at various issues. Eric and Bill W met with the electric and plumbing consultants. It looks like there are no issues with these services at the location with the grade issues. Sandi will check with the county about a permit. A final go decision still needs to be made by Friday because the fruit trees in that area have been sprayed, but they need to know if they should take them out. The other sites are not as feasible for various reasons. They do not have the estimate for how much it will take for the services and the excavation. A retaining wall will be necessary, but it was discussed that the membership could build this. There will be some work parties and it will be a learning experience for anyone who wants to participate.

Eric and Shari have a connection with a polycarbonate (Solex) vendor, who is willing to give us a discount. We would need to use propane for heat. The experiment station already uses propane and it would be reachable to the new greenhouse at this site. Someone asked if there was a solar option for heating. The problem for is storage for night heating which would be expensive as it requires a large array of batteries.

Plant Sale (Laurel): Laurel met with the garden tour group and went over options, including having the plant sale at the Extension office on the day of the garden tour. If we started at 9, we would have everyone at the Extension office first and then they could go off to the plant tour. Jenn Hardy noted that we have had plant sales at the garden tour for years before we started doing them here.

We discussed options for other locations where we could do a plant sale on the garden tour. Jackie Barone's home is on the tour and might be the best site for this. She has a shaded area with plenty of parking (but the pasture would need to be mowed). There could be access for people without tickets to the tour. Laurel met with Jackie on Saturday. Jackie also has plants to contribute for the sale.

Laurel has been working on obtaining the plants that sell the best and is limiting the plants to those. She is talking to people from whom we have gotten plants in the past and anyone else who has some to add. Sandy Montag has some plants. Barbara Miller also has potted up some plants. Anyone with plants to donate should email or call Laurel.

The soil will be delivered Thursday or Friday. Hood River Supply gave us the soil at the wholesale price, \$4.99/bag and they will also be providing free delivery.

Laurel has two potting parties scheduled for the week after next. We will also pot the SWCD leftover plants from their sale on April 21 & 22. They are donating any of the leftovers we want. The party on the 27th will be at Jackie Barones. She will be gone for a month but she has a house sitter. We do not need pots, but Laurel says she will accept gallon ones and maybe the 4" ones, if they are right style. People with pots to donate need to check with Laurel first. There is a former Master Gardener in White Salmon who has gallon pots as well.

Laurel will write up a blurb for the mid-month update. We will probably have the sale from 10-2 and we will not start early. We can set up a lot of the plant sale on Friday. We need to spend that time ensuring we have labels, pricing them, and tidying them up. Kathy will be coming back around the 1st of May so she can work with Laurel.

Nancy will change the address on the permit to Jackie's address, 1730 Orchard Rd.

Seed to Supper (Eric): Seed to Supper is going into the 3rd week. There are five or six attendees, including a couple people that have never gardened. There has been a lot of requests from Master Gardeners about this class. We may offer a modified Seed to Supper class open to Master Gardeners later in the spring. We could do it for a small fee (\$6) to offset the cost of the book. The dynamic of the class is very positive and very casual.

Dennis said the Spanish version was a great success. They had about 12 attendees. It is now over. They lumped two classes into one, so they had 3 rather than 6 classes. Jody created a minute-by-minute rubric that included more open-ended activities.

Garden Tour (Glenda): The Garden Tour will be June 17. There are seven gardens with a theme of "Veggies, Bees, Natives & Trees". There will be a display at the Barone's and at Willow Ponds. The pre-tour is June 11. Glenda would like to see more volunteers sign up.

They did resolve some of the parking issues and may encourage visitors to car pool. They have also identified a place for volunteers to park and carpool. The morning is the real rush. There is more parking than they were originally told there was, but it will still be a challenge. People will have to park on the street and walk up, but there are some nice gardens along the way.

They will include the perennial sale on the poster. They are just starting to work out the publicity. They also want to promote the bike-ability in the publicity. The fruit loop residence committee has done bicycle tour logistics for Blossom weekend and we might be able to learn from that. The sites are five gardens in Willow Ponds, one across from Kathy M's, and one on Orchard Road. There is a meeting coming up on Thursday.

Next Door/Raices (Dennis): Next Door has a relationship with Master Gardeners with the Raices and Klahre House. The Klahre House originally maintained the raised beds. One of the beds is blown out and needs to be repaired. Dennis found lumber and they will fix it tomorrow. They may also fertilize and till at the Klahre House garden.

Raices' population served is targeted to Hispanic people that have difficulty finding opportunities to grow their own food. It's an ongoing project of Next Door and has been for 12 years, with Jody O'Conner as the leader.

At Raices, they did a self-evaluation of all the members about what they are doing with the program. They ranked the activities they do according to what is most important. Some of the highest results included increasing access to

healthy foods and improving member family's health. Likely the health issues they are addressing are chronic issues primarily related to diet.

The biggest garden is on Barker and there are 30 families gardening there, each with about a 1000 square feet of garden space. CGMGA has a 1000 square foot plot and Dennis wants to suggest to them that more Master Gardeners plant there. Most of the Raices clients want to grow things like chiles, tomatoes, corn, and tomatillos and Dennis is encouraging them to diversify a bit, especially into crops that will endure winter more. If Master Gardeners were planting there, they could demonstrate some of these.

They have a garden policy of clean and organic methods. They are trying to keep it family oriented and want to set up a children's garden or play area someday.

Dennis and Maria (an associate member) are the only Master Gardeners involved in the day to day operations. On an ongoing basis, 6-10 Master Gardeners have been involved with Barker Street and 2 or 3 with the dry land project at the Shepherd property. At that site, near the FISH Food Bank, they planted corn & Sudan grass, which was planted to break up the hard pan.

One other aspect that has evolved from the Barker Road garden is that some of the people sell what they grow at the site. One of the grants they have is focused on financial opportunity. Maria found a landowner in Parkdale that has a couple of ¼ acre plots available, but they do not have interested people there yet. The Shepherds want to use their water rights on their orchard, so they are not allowing much irrigation and most will be dry land gardening.

If a Master Gardener wants to participate in the plot at Barker and do a demo of vegetables, Rachel says this could qualify as educational hours.

They have monthly meetings for the cooperative they are creating and there is a required number of educational hours the clients must have. Rachel and Dennis both teach classes.

Community Garden Network (Shari for Kathy McGregor): Kathy sent the following update to Shari, to be included in the minutes:

The first meeting of the Central Gorge Community Garden Network was held on March 2nd. It was attended by thirty enthusiastic community garden leaders representing thirteen gardens in the Gorge! The project is designed to make area community gardens more successful and to encourage communication and cooperation among those dedicated to seeing that local folks have places to grow healthy food.

Four workshops are planned for 2017: Community Garden Basics and Irrigation, Budgets and Fundraising, Volunteer Management, and Garden Panel / Discussion.

A map of the community gardens will soon be on the Central Gorge Master Gardener Program website. The network will also be a food resource for MG's, friends and neighbors interested in community gardening. Watch for the CGCGN Facebook page coming soon!

Kathy McGregor and Becki Montgomery

Kathy was managing the One Community Health Garden and this will be the last year that this garden area will be available. They are trying to place the clients in other community gardens. Horizon Christian School/Shepard of the Valley has space available. Dennis is working with the groundskeeper there to start beds for the students as a starting point. This will not become a Master Gardener project - it is led by Horizon and Shepard of the Valley. We are just supporting them in starting this and finding and training their own leaders and managers. The garden space is on the east side of the lawn close to the fence line of Horizon School. This is another educational outreach for us without us having to do maintenance.

Dennis tested the soil for toxic metals and found that the levels were fine.

OMGA (Sandy M): The International Conference has not cut off registration. The trade show is open to the public during some hours (attendees will not need a ticket during that time. At least 10 or so people from CGMGA have registered. No one requested a scholarship yet. Sandy might put a blurb in the newsletter of people who are attending for possible carpooling.

Leanne offered her bicycle for the display at the conference, but the leaders found it too big for the display. If someone is interested in decorating a bicycle, they are welcome to start something.

FISH Garden (Rachel) Every Wednesday at 3pm, Rachel is holding a lecture/hands on and work party at the FISH garden. She is hoping to create a cultural community experience for the volunteers and the food bank recipients. This has not been presented as an official project yet. Susan Randolph and Rachel are still working on how to create the educational component. In May they will present a proposal.

HR Fair County Committee (Nancy): The fair committee met on April 3 for brainstorming. The theme of the fair is something like "Put your biscuits in the oven and get your buns to the fair". They were going to do the display based on

wind. They purchased grasses in the fall that they will use for decorations. They want to do educational displays including wind-generated propagation, windbreaks, wind resistant plants, and weather vanes from around the world. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 19 at 6pm at Grace Su's China Gorge. They are taking a team approach to the educational aspect this year. They will add the meetings to the newsletter - Nancy will send a short blurb to Rachel.

Mini College (Shari): Shari discussed future mini college plans with the OMGA secretary. They are gathering thoughts about future mini colleges. She also wanted to know our date of graduation, but we have not scheduled it yet. They will have an officer come to present the Master Gardener of the Year and Behind the Scenes awards.

Dorothy Metcalf Foundation (Glenda): Glenda got notice from the Dorothy Metcalf Foundation and we will be receiving another \$22K or so this year. The budget committee had not budgeted this because it was up in the air on whether there were funds available. It was suggested that we name the greenhouse in Dorothy Metcalf's honor and let the foundation know.

Learning Garden (Sandi R): Cindy taught a pruning class and 12 Master Gardeners attended.

The bees died over the winter and there was a mouse nest in the hive. They had a donation to get another hive and we will be purchasing a nucleus for the 2 new hives. We also have a top bar hive that was donated to us.

A Master Beekeepers program is starting in the area and there will be a collaborative effort between CGMGA and that organization. This will not be a CGMGA project. CGMGA is just hosting the hives in our gardens and using it for a learning opportunity. The Master Beekeeper program is a similar program where people are trained and have outreach, so they will manage the hives. Rachel wants more hives so if we lose a queen, we can repopulate a queen-less box with some of the resources we already have.

Two tour busses will be visiting the Learning Garden for the International Garden Committee tours. Sandi met with them. They would like someone from CGMGA to ride the tour bus who is familiar with the Learning Garden. Sandi would like to have knowledgeable volunteers at each garden. Before the tour, we need to get the projects finished. They need more volunteers for compost and chip spreading. A drip irrigation class will be offered for the bioswales. They are spending money on new bioswale plantings, compost, and the bees.

They will also will have "small space gardening" to replace the fountain. The fountain bricks need re-inked and the small space garden will be located where the fountain was.

Compost will be spread next Thursday 9 am. Someone needs to contact the new Klahre House contact, Debra Maddox, to see if the kids will be hauling compost. Dennis would like a layer of compost on the raised beds.

National Association of Invasive Plant Councils - NAIPC (Sandi R): Sandi noted a free seminar on invasives presented by the NAIPC , focusing on reducing the spread of invasive ornamental plants. She will add an announcement to the newsletter. It will be held April 20 at noon.

Parkdale Memorial Garden (Nancy): They had the first work party of the year at the Parkdale Memorial Garden, in conjunction with the Parkdale Garden Club. The daffodils and heather are in bloom and it is a good time to visit.

Project Budgets (Shari): Shari stressed that different projects should consider conserving money due to the loss of the May plant sale this year. She wants project leaders to keep their budgets in mind and not spend if they don't need to.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1150.

Meeting minutes taken by Christie Bradley