

**Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

08 March, 2016

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2016, OSU Extension Service Office

**Attendees:** Bradley, Christie; Castagnoli, Steve; Parrott, Mary; Rousseau, Sandi; Sanchez, Susan; Slagle, Nancy; Stevens, John; Suits, Rachel;

**Secretary's Report** (Christie): All of the changes for the March Executive Committee meeting have been incorporated. The minutes were not accepted as we did not have a quorum of voting members.

**Treasurer's Report:** The money received from the Dorothy Metcalf Foundation was dispersed to the OMGA and Gorge Community Foundation (\$10K into each account). The report reflects these transfers of funds.

A check for \$5 will be written for a nursery license for the plant sale.

The last of the checks for dues might have been received. If so, a check can be written to OMGA.

We also need to add \$499 to the budget for the Learning Garden for the bee supplies. This was approved at an earlier meeting but was not added to that budget.

**Extension Report** (Rachel): The in-office plant clinic times have been adjusted. Rachel changed the Monday morning plant clinics to Monday afternoon to give her more time to prepare. All the in-office clinics will start in April.

We will have a market once a month starting in June at the Mercado del Valle in Odell. The dates we will have plant clinics there have not been set, but there will be a total of three over the summer.

Other plant clinics include the Huck Fest, Spring Fest, and the plant clinic at the plant sale.

The Farmer's Market is being combined with the Saturday Market. Both will be held on Saturday in the lot south of Full Sail. The plant clinics there will start on the 2nd Saturday in May. At the market, you will probably need to take a canopy (it gets really hot and the market will now be in a paved lot). If you do, you will need to take weights to hold down the canopy. Steve suggested we consider getting a new canopy because we have always had a lot of issues with them. One suggestion was to get a large umbrella as that might be easier to manage. There is probably a canopy or umbrella available with the OSU colors and logo.

At the markets we will be highlighting a weed of the month. For each selected weed, we will focus on management strategies. Rachel will add promotional materials to the plant clinic boxes and there will be information available on the CGMGA and Soil and Water Conservation websites.

One of the new Master Gardeners is skilled in GIS and put together a Google Map showing all of the locations of the projects. This is posted on the website and will be in the handbook.

Joanne is changing the sign on the door of the office where the plant clinics are held. When there is not a plant clinic, the sign will direct visitors to check in at the main office. When there is a plant clinic, another sign will be posted letting people know it is open. There was also some discussion about a sign up front on or near the fence at the entrance. Sandi noted that she had been discussing this with Brian and he thought it might be good to beautify the fence a bit, such as planting climbing plants along it. Steve said he has put together a group to design the sign and they will need to coordinate with Sandi to make sure their ideas do not conflict.

The laptop for the plant clinics, and that Rachel is using for classes, is having a lot of issues and will probably need to be replaced soon. We need to consider adding a line item for this in the budget, but we will probably make it through the classes with the current laptop.

**Email from Eric** (Misc): Eric is still working on identifying an OMGA Representative.

The deposit to the Gorge Foundation will probably be applicable for a matching grant program. The match for our deposit could be as much as 1:1 of our total deposit of \$10K.

**Policies** (Sandi): Sandi completed changes to the policy document that combine all of our policies into one document. There are still some questions about lifetime Master Gardeners. We had some discussion on whether we should be considering changing this policy of waiving fees for the lifetime members now that we are getting a high number of them. Some people believe, since we have ample funds at this time, that we may want to table this for now. They saw this policy as a reward for all of the hard work that members have put in for 10 or more years. No decisions were made (especially since we do not have a quorum) but there was a lengthy discussion.

**Email from Shari** (Volunteer Activities): Shari emailed a suggestion that projects consider adding volunteer activities such as work parties on weekends or evenings when people who work full time can participate. She asked if Rachel could bring up this suggestion at the project leader meeting.

**Email from Kathy McGregor** (OCH): Kathy noted that this is the last year for the community garden at One Community Health. They are planning

construction in the areas where the garden was. Kathy and Rachel have been looking into alternatives. The Shepherd of the Valley church (at Horizon school) is very interested in providing space for a community garden. As we work with this, our responsibilities will shift to more of an educator role versus management of the garden.

There is also the potential for a garden at the Wy'East vista apartments.

**Email from Raices** (Maria Eby): Maria sent an email detailing activities at Raices that will be included in the newsletter, Maria started a Google Group for people interested in Raices. Anyone interested should email Maria at [mariapalu@gmail.com](mailto:mariapalu@gmail.com).

Other activities include a youth garden, herb garden dry farming, and adding a pollinator mix of flowers. Maria is looking for someone skilled in growing potatoes to assist with that. They are also setting up organized work parties.

**Parkdale Memorial Garden** (Nancy): The state Garden Club Association has a directive for all chapters to plant a tree in a public place this year. The three local chapters have all chosen to plant their tree at the Parkdale Memorial Garden. The Hood River Evening Club is also donating an old arbor and an orchardist is donating lime. So there some changes coming and work parties will be starting in a couple of weeks. They also are preparing a letter to the insurance company about the damage from the car accident.

**Email from Kathy Lien** (Plant Sale): 23 people attended the first planning meeting for this year - a number of them new members. Wednesday 3/9 will be the first seed planting party in the greenhouse. They are trying different hardy herbs this year. Leanne Hogie will manage the volunteer schedule for the greenhouse and Cindy Collins will be the contact for the greenhouse volunteers. Laurel is scheduling potting parties and arranging donations. She is trying to diversify the varieties of plants this year.

Steve worked with Hood River Supply to coordinate the delivery of the soil.

Kathy has finalized the schedule for pre-sales for volunteers. Anyone who volunteers on Friday, May 6, will be able to shop that day. Saturday the pre-sales will be limited to 7am to 8am. Kathy will be responsible for ensuring that no one can shop after 8 am, because we need to have all of that complete well before the plant sale starts. She let Raices know that we can pass out fliers for their sale if they provide them.

**Seminars** (Rachel): Audrey has been working on scheduling the seminars and Rachel is working on the flier. They are currently finalizing the titles. There will be a seminar the 2nd Wednesday of each month starting in April at Volcanic Bottle Shop from 6-7pm. There will be a 45 minute seminar and then time for questions. Fliers will be posted. There will be blurbs in "*What's Happening*" in

the Hood River News and there will be an announcement during our regular radio time.

**Venue for Graduation** (Susan Sanchez): Sandi took Susan to the Crag Rat Hut to see it. Overall she was very pleased with the location, but she is still a bit worried about the distance from town and the narrow driveway. They are getting ready to do some kitchen renovations and have not scheduled it yet, but they cannot guarantee a November booking right now. Susan asked Rachel if there is any way that graduation can be moved up to mid to late October. Rachel is going to consider this. If it was going to be that early, a few Master Gardeners would have to help her get all of the time sheets in and get the hours all accounted for. This is a requirement to have for graduation to see who has actually completed the hours necessary to be certified.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

Meeting minutes submitted by Christie Bradley