The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Emilia Lacy.

Board members present: Emilia Lacy, Mark Dixon, Rick Booth, Anne Irving, David Moffitt, Michael and Sally Noack, and Pam McElroy. Chairs, Coordinators, and others present: Bill Biernacki, Genie Papas, and Sam Angima, OSU Extension Agent.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Anne Irving, seconded by Sally Noack, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Anne Irving reviewed Treasurer’s Report, and added that she had paid the annual liability insurance premium ($370). We still have an outstanding student deposit liability of $540 for the 2007 class. That potential liability will end in December.

Announcements

Michael Noack said donations are still needed for the Mini-College silent auction. He also reported that the Master Gardener class will be available online September 11, cost $400 per student, and provide a Certificate of Horticulture. In January 2009, the online class will be available again but with 40-70 payback hours of hands-on work required for Master Gardener certification. This option will be open to 50 people (statewide).

Michael also requested clarification of donation from LCMGA to Ray McNeilan fund. Anne Irving said we sent $50 to Send-A-Friend, and $75 to the McNeilan scholarship fund (which is different from the OMGA MG Endowment Fund). There appears to still be some confusion regarding the issue of McNeilan Horticulture Scholarship Fund, OMGA Endowment Fund, OSU Foundation for state-wide MG; Michael will put together a clarifying synopsis of this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Native Plant Demonstration Garden

Genie Papas presented a proposed Native Plant Demo Garden project concept. There is ¾ of an acre at Crestview Park (Waldport) set aside for a native plant display. There are already rough paths and a number of native plants already in place. The US Forest Service will allow us to go to USFS land and get native plants, and they will also provide photos, information, etc. for signage. The paths need to be upgraded, and the city may
donate woodchips. There is a cement walkway in place, and connections for toilets. This project would require a ten-year contract with the city. Many city organizations are willing to donate to this proposed project for acquisition of benches, plants, maintenance, etc. Maintenance would be provided by the Native Plant Society and Waldport High School students. Emilia Lacy asked if there were any other partnerships in the works for this project. Genie reported that the city manager has said many city groups are interested in this. It must go before the City Council for concept approval.

Discussion followed regarding whether MGs should be involved in any but an advisory capacity, commitment of people to actually do the work, possible vandalism, maintenance, etc. Mark Dixon noted that he would like to see the USFS listed, as well as LCMGA, in an advisory role if we do this. Emilia commented that this was a good concept, but we may not have the bodies to participate in anything but an advisory capacity, such as identifying plants. No action was taken on this issue.

Grant Applications

Michael Noack said Liz Olsen is going to be the recipient of the $250 Carlson award again this year. Liz has also done Search for Excellence application, and that award will be announced at Mini-College.

Newsletter/Brochure

Mark Dixon has Publisher software at home, similar to the one in the office. He has produced an LCMGA brochure for Master Gardener Week, and it is available for distribution at Farmers Markets, and other MG activities. Sam Angima said the County can print color copy material at 6 cents per side, which will make it economical to print the brochure.

Farmers Market Report

David Lavrinets provided a written report on the Farmers Market. MGs have not been assigned a permanent location, but the mobile help desk has been very well-received at the market, and some visitors are expressing an interest in MG classes. It would also be useful to acquire more chairs and additional bungee cords for the help desk “kit”. Pam McElroy suggested that we also look at acquisition of some sort of side shelters for the tent.

Genie Papas will be contact person for the Yachats Farmers Market on alternate Sundays when MGs are not at the market in Newport. They will be using same materials for mobile help desk. Discussion followed on materials that go to Farmers Markets, and preparation of a list of everything required. Mark Dixon will communicate with David Lavrinets re materials and coordination with Genie for the Yachats Market. Emilia also suggested that Susan Burton be contacted for information on this.

Library Acquisition
Claudette Schroeder got a new “A to Z” reference book for the office. Michael Noack said he and Diana Pinto will be inventorying the library.

**Master Gardener Storage**

David Moffitt will do an inventory of all materials now stored in the OSU attic storage, and clean up the storage area.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Master Gardener Week**

Michael Noack said he visited the Waldport Community Garden open house and there were many visitors present. He also said that many of the gardeners are riding their bikes to work in the garden.

Sam Angima said we went to the County Commissioners for the Master Gardener Week proclamation. We also requested one acre of land in the county for a Master Gardener garden area. He is working with Wayne Belmont from the county on this issue.

**Class of 2008 Update**

Sheila Swinford is working on propagation of native stream species issues, and is making liquid compost from nettle and comfrey.

**Newport High School Cubby Preschool**

Mark Dixon reported on Cubby project. Escallonia plants and a few beans are now growing there. They are interested in our advice and information, and the high school students will be heavily involved in the project.

**Second Grade Outdoor School**

Mark Dixon said this event was held on May 29th. Fifty second graders participated, and learned some plant identification, etc.

**OSU/Seafest**

Emilia Lacy said she did not have a report on this issue, but Bob Deming is leading it. Sam noted that we have four tables for display, and invasive plant information. He also said Seafest participation will count for apprentices’ office hours requirement.

**Fall Bulb Sale**
Anne Irving said we have changed the sale venue to the Newport Rec Center front rooms. October 4th is our planned sale date. There is no room rental cost for us, but there is a $5 table rental fee. This is scheduled to run concurrently with the Farmers Market that day, and will be in very close proximity to the Farmers Market. Bulbs will be shipped in mid-September, and then the committee will meet to package and price bulbs. There will be promotion in newspapers and other media.

**Waldport Community Garden**

Anne Irving said the Waldport Community Garden people are so grateful for everything that has been provided to them. WCG has many people wanting to join, and so are requesting some funds for new beds for the garden. She proposed that $450 be allocated from the Presbytery grant. Emilia asked if WCG has some agreement with Master Gardeners regarding some fee adjustment for those people who can’t afford fees. Anne said yes, that would probably be in place next year. Emilia added that the new greenhouse in Waldport could be used for propagation, but that would require electricity. Anne noted that the greenhouse is certainly available for propagation work, MG workshops, etc, but the power issue could be difficult; she will pursue this. She also noted that the landlady of the garden property has said that WCG will continue to have this garden space available. Sam indicated that we need to start looking at sustainability of all of these community gardens in the county. Michael Noack commented that he was very impressed with what has been done at the Waldport Community Gardens.

**A motion to allocate $450 from the Presbytery Grant was made by Sally Noack, seconded by David Moffitt, and approved unanimously.**

Sally Noack presented several letterhead options for LCMGA.

**Futures Meeting, ’09 Projects, and LCMGA General Meeting**

Sam Angima addressed the issues that have arisen with Master Gardeners leaving the Fairgrounds. We need to have an identity and a location in Central County. This would provide for more than just students’ demo beds. We could use the community development model with everyone suggesting projects. We need to really examine what changes are needed for next year’s class. A weekday general meeting/potluck could give us time to delve into these topics. A General Meeting and BBQ will be held on Tuesday, August 5th at the Presbyterian Church.

Sam further noted that students in the north part of the county have had the most difficulty in finding projects that will let them meet their hours, and we need to address ways to help them.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon. The next meeting will be held August 19, 2008.