Lincoln County Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
11 January 2010

Board Members Present: Bill Biernacki, Pam McElroy, Jeff Olsen, Cathy Fitzhugh, Anne Schatz, Linda Cook, Charles Dallas, Emilia Lacy. Absent were Janet Anderson, Debie Durkee, and Ruth Deforest.

Others Present: Peggy Biernacki, Rick Andersen, Betty Bahn, Anne Irving, Liz Olsen, Cathi Block, Sally Noack, Sally Reill, Donna Davis, Alice Mitchell, Mary Jane Bonelitz, Nancy Dixon, Mark Dixon, Sam Angima

CALL TO ORDER: Bill Biernacki called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

MINUTES: Minutes approved for the Nov 19, 2009 General Meeting and the Dec 7, 2009 Board Meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Cathy Fitzhugh reviewed the report:
- Cert. of Deposit $3,244.08
- Checking $6,788.87
- Savings $4,952.78
- Total $14,985.73

The Certificate of Deposit will expire on 13 January and Cathy intends to allow automatic rollover for another eight months. No objections.

Cathy presented the Proposed 2010 Budget, which shows total expenses exceeding total income by $2,913. The procedural sequence is for the Board to review and approve the proposed budget, present the Board approved version to the General Membership for review, with a General Membership vote a minimum of 30 days later. The board will email Cathy with questions and vote electronically and the membership will be notified that the budget is available for review.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Pam McElroy presented an overview of the tentative plans for 2010 LCMGA programs and activities. A more refined plan will be presented at a later date. A general membership meeting will be incorporated to facilitate voting on budget. The Oregon Gardens Trip on 2-3 June is finalized and members can call now for reservations. Pam will work with Alice Mitchell and Claudette Schroeder to incorporate all Association activities into the online office scheduling calendar.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Jeff Olsen asked that anyone with pertinent LCMGA documents help him in collecting copies to add to the archive he is assembling. Please use his new email address: jeffryolsen@gmail.com

Incidentally, Bill has a new email account: igobybb@gmail.com.
EXTENSION AGENT: Sam Angima discussed the 2010 MG class, which has 24 students. A change this year is that a professional arborist will conduct a pruning workshop and he’s waiting on the arborist to provide a date.

Sam mentioned that there is a work party at the Newport Demonstration Garden site for veterans and students on 18 February and explained that there is no coordinator for the Lincoln City Demonstration Garden, which could result in postponing the creation if no volunteer can be found.

Sam proposed that LCMGA host an educational program to the public in Newport, Lincoln City and Yachats, similar to what several other counties are doing. This would be a find raiser for us and would consist of Master Gardeners and others presenting a schedule of classes on a variety of gardening and non-gardening topics. Sam felt the fall would be the best time to schedule these to garner the maximum amount of community interest. Discussion followed.

PLANT SALE: Rick Anderson reviewed the plan for this year’s plant sale. The venue will again be the Armory, table set up is 13 May, plant set up is 13 and 14 May and the sale is 15 May. Sally Reill is in charge of vegetables, Betty Bahn is in charge of perennials and Delane Englestat is in charge of the garage sale items. Students will each work one 4 hour shift.

NEWSLETTER: Nancy Dixon discussed the recent launch of the online newsletter, with associated benefits and drawbacks. Reception has been overwhelmingly positive and Nancy will include an article in the next newsletter to provide technical assistance with the new format. Jeff Olsen will draft a letter to all recipients of complementary copies of the newsletter to explain the changes. Individuals without access to the extension office that still require printed copies will be identified, with the suggestion that sending those copies become part of the MG office tasks. Sam will send out a notice to the list serve when the latest copy is available online. The dues form will be modified to reflect the changes with online publishing. Nancy suggested that the new board members write articles based on our own expertise and Pam McElroy will provide an article for the February newsletter. Other content ideas were discussed.

DEMONSTRATION GARDENS: Mark Dixon reported on the recent meeting of the Yachats Demonstration Garden, explaining how they identified areas of immediate attention and have volunteers to lead each area. Mark explained their material and supply needs and asked for donation information. Mark concluded by expressing his thanks to Sam for his support.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Logo discussion tabled until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Plant Sale Guidelines: Sally Reill reported on the results of a committee formed to develop formal guidelines for the execution of the annual MG Plant Sale. The guidelines were unanimously approved by the Board and will go into practice at this year’s sale.
Yamhill Native Plant Sale Purchase:  There is a plan for Betty Bahn to purchase a selection of plants from the Yamhill Native Plant Sale, which will be distributed to students, teaching them cultural techniques and then subsequently bringing them to the plant sale. Some plants might also go to the Demonstration Gardens. Betty presented the list of plants for proposed purchase and modified it after discussion. Emilia Lacy moved that the Board approve a $225 budget for purchase of plants and potting soil. The Board approved. Bill Biernacki will pick up the plants and they will then be distributed to students on 16 February during Susan Coast’s Plant Propagation class.

Fundraisers:  Bill mentioned the need for upcoming fundraisers to support the Demonstration Gardens and asked that researched ideas be presented next month. One time sensitive idea was suggested that involved running a booth at the Newport Seafood and Wine Festival. Discussion revealed that booth space must be requested immediately upon the conclusion of this year’s event.

Monthly Meetings:  Monthly meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month from 9:30 to noon. Holiday conflicts will be resolved as they arise. The pre-meeting working session is discontinued.

Online Tracking Software:  Sam discussed the online tracking software that the Extension office uses and the interesting results. Master Gardener pages are accessed from around the world and the current class material is some of the most popular information on the Extension website. Nancy mentioned that this would make an interesting newsletter article.

County Farmer’s Market Coordinator Title:  Mark Dixon will now be the Market Advisor, in order to reduce confusion because each market has an individual Coordinator.

Foodshare Garden:  Bill asked for clarification on Master Gardener involvement in the Foodshare Garden. Emilia Lacy will be the sole LCMGA point of contact to lead discussions with the Foodshare coordinators.

Publicity Coordinator:  Bill mentioned that it would be helpful to have a publicity coordinator. Discussion ensued with no concrete determination.

ADJOINMENT:  The meeting was adjoined at 11:45.

Anne Schatz, Secretary
Lincoln County Master Gardener Association