

BCMGA Annual Committee Report

Committee: Plant Sale Year: 2023

*Number of Active Members: 140 *Number of Public Contacts: 2400+ “clicks”

*Number of volunteer hours (estimates are fine): 5500+ Probably underestimated

Purpose of Committee:

Grow plants to raise money to support BCMGA projects and activities

Educate the public to make plant purchases compatible with their gardening goals while encouraging sustainable practices

Provide increased public access to purchasing native plants

Introduce public to less common landscape plants and vegetable varieties

Educate MGs in practical skills such as plant ID, propagation techniques, and appropriate use of specific plants in the sustainable garden

Goals for the year:

Raise significant funds for the organization

Increase native plant production

Increase variety of edible plants

Give trainees experience with propagation techniques

Use propagation events and sale participation to build community within the organization

Continue transition to Best Practices propagation

Improve flow of plant production and handling at PHS growing facility

Continue development of plant acquisition consortium with other MG chapters

Events/Activities:

Plant Sale first Saturday in May—preparation, sale, post-sale denouement

74 propagation events: seeding, taking cuttings, digging, dividing, potting, up-potting, grooming, etc. Participation varies from 3 to 20 attendees.

Sourcing commercially grown plant material

How have your goals and events met the educational mission of BCMGA?

Propagation events provide MGs many hours of hands-on education.

The 2400+ “clicks” at the sale document public contact, supporting informed plant choice and knowledge of the plants cultural needs.

Has your committee had opportunities to meet the needs of underserved populations?

The public desire for native plants is apparently underserved since available plants sold out very quickly, despite increased plant production over previous years.

Vegetable starts include those for various cuisines, such as Middle Eastern and Asian vegetables. Those specific to Latinx cuisine included papalo, epazote and unique pepper varieties, as well as all ingredients for salsa. These specific plants were grown for the CGET

*Information needed by Treasurer for annual IRS filing

Siembra la Cena garden at Calvin Community Garden, for a CGET public workshop and for the plant sale itself.

Excess vegetable plant production is distributed to school gardens, food banks, and other community groups.

We made a concerted effort to schedule work sessions that MGs working day jobs could attend. During the spring and summer, we scheduled one evening session and one Saturday session each month. Turnout was uneven—from one to 5 people attending—including both trainees and veteran MGs. By mid-fall, evening sessions were no longer viable as the days shortened.

How might your committee extend events/activities to underserved populations in the future? Plans are being made to increase the variety of edible plant starts to include ancient foods as well as those from more diverse cuisines. Native plant propagation continues to be a priority.

Other information you would like to share that is unique to your committee: