

BCMGA Annual Committee Report

Committee: _____ Desk _____ Year: _____ 2023

*Number of Active Members: _____ 4 _____ *Number of Public Contacts: _____ 849 _____

*Number of volunteer hours (estimates are fine): _____ 85 _____

Purpose of Committee:

To maintain the desk and its facilities (library, computers, microscope, pH meters, and other equipment). This committee provides cohesive and coordinated protocols for MGs who work at the desk and interact with the public

Goals for the year:

To maintain the desk at a high level of efficiency, which is critical to BCMGA's outreach goals through the Plant Clinic Help Desk. To encourage those with technical and/or library skills to join the desk committee.

Events/Activities:

Mentor training was conducted for those MGs who committed themselves to be the core desk training crew. Sign-ups were scheduled via SignUp Genius so that trainees could sign up with one of these core people to learn how to properly work at the desk. Desk mentors assessed the trainees and let them know that they were ready to work the desk without supervision.

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

By keeping the desk operational, it makes it possible for Master Gardeners to accomplish its primary mission of the association, which is to educate the gardening public about growing and caring for plants using scientific, research-based information.

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

The Help Desk answers all inquiries. With the increase in email and phone requests, it is impossible to determine if this need is being met due to the anonymity of the clients.

How might your committee extend events/activities to underserved populations in the future?

N/A

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

This year we added an additional pH meter to help ensure that we have a functional meter at all times. Unfortunately, we may have to replace one of the sensors due to rough mishandling by a trainee. Also, the number of contacts is down this year. This is possibly due to the increased volume of inquiries going to Ask Extension.

*Information needed by Treasurer for annual IRS filing