

Benton County Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting – July 11, 2022
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Attending:

Jana Tindall, Mary Mellard, Deb Kern, Wendi Gale, Alan Taylor, Lynn Trimpe, Paula Lupcho, Deborah Hobbs, Fred Prah, Bob Smythe, Elizabeth Records, Paul Westerberg, Rich Little

The meeting was called to order by President Jana Tindall at 3:19 with quorum.

Gardening Moment:

Wendi's curious crow, Deborah's adorable baby bunny that is helpful and eats bindweed (for now)

Paul Westerberg asks for clarification on volunteer hours, Elizabeth described the statewide criteria for Master Gardening community education and outreach. Alan suggests that education and teaching is the key component in whether the state program recognizes service hours.

Minutes: The minutes for the June Board meeting were unanimously approved as read following a motion by Deborah, seconded by Deb.

Treasurer's Report

Paula Lupcho/Lynn Trimpe

- June Finances
- Roll over current CD in July, Propose new CD for September for \$25,000 (unrestricted)

Paula propose – Alan seconded. Motion carried.

Extension Report

Elizabeth Records

– Housekeeping

- Elizabeth on vacation July 16-31. She shared a contact list that includes Jana, contact Liz for other or plant clinic questions, Brooke also on call
- Coffee chats resume in August – sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a45a9ac29a7f85-coffee1>
- Jumping Worm alert (Rich can help identify & it would be a great topic for a BCMGA meeting in October. He found these all over at Linn County gardens. He'd like to sample the Benton County gardens, even if it's not here yet it will be here soon. Main recommendation = don't move the dirt. He recommends to Linn County demo garden that they have "demo garden shoes" to limit tiny eggs area spread. It will displace native worms & change the top 6" of the soil structure & removes organic matter in those 6", and the worm castings don't absorb water. He wants to make a training available to Benton County MG volunteers to identify jumping worms.)

From Elizabeth: Now is a good time for all volunteers to review how to identify jumping worms and discuss how to prevent their spread. Earn 0.5 hours of continuing education for each of these activities: reviewing this resource and sharing three takeaways when you report to VRS: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/techniques/how-avoid-spreading-invasive-species-plant-sales-or-plant-swaps>

sharing best practices to prevent jumping worms in local MGV and partner projects through a chat with fellow volunteers or project partners.

Mary Mellard suggests we could post a sign at the demo garden about the jumping worm.

Rich has a dissecting microscope he can share w/ the plant problems desk.

- MLK Day of Service 2023 – do we have any projects for 2023?

– Program Impacts

- Extension public opinion survey—gardening questions are 45% of all calls
- Extension expanding outreach to urban areas
- 2021 MGV Program Report:

<https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fextension.oregonstate.edu%2Fmg%2Four-impact&data=05%7C01%7Celizabeth.records%40oregonstate.edu%7C283371392d9e4f424c4008da612e320b%7Cce6d05e13c5e4d6287a84c4a2713c113%7C0%7C0%7C637929148275318740%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DtJ3DVjMLTt7sz%2FctSS91GW3%2Fnm1bbxIXWqEfKf8w0U%3D&reserved=0>

– Resuming In-person Programming

- Event promo checklists or webforms - Elizabeth will create a general checklist for us to utilize when we're asking the Extension to advertise volunteer or outreach events.
- Gear and tech checkout
- Plant clinic adaptations – Elizabeth will follow up with Alan, Deborah, Deb

– Graduation celebration—LCMGA will host in person event. A discussion of having a shared celebration, the room agreed shared is preferred for new volunteers and existing volunteers. Alan says keep Janet Magedenz in the loop.

– Staffing Updates

- Elizabeth resuming program assistant duties mid-August • Program leadership TBD

Jana is looking to re-energize the plant clinic committee, Deb thinks it was absorbed deliberately by Outreach, but it isn't working great. Rich volunteered to chair that newly refreshed committee + Fred.

New Committee—PHS Greenhouse Facility Kathy Clark/Paula Lupcho. Remove from plant sale umbrella. Deal with facilities needs at greenhouse. Kathy's working on a job description. Board will watch for a written proposal & discuss further.

Special Allocations—Policies & Procedures Paula Lupcho. Suggests in-house special allocations for one-time special projects that aren't operational in their budget. Utilize form (in policies and procedures) to be awarded to committees in the next 6 months. Allocation Committee

then discuss the submissions & reward. For next year we should advertise for all members in Benton County. Examples new bed, paint the demo garden shed, signage. Paula motioned, seconded Deb, motion carries.

OMGA Update—Mini College Rich Taylor/Jana Tindall. Janet will chair the registration desk, send a friend desk, they're looking for Benton County volunteers to staff table.

President Report

Jana Tindall

– Meeting w/Dr. Ivory Lyles – Communications Committee Jana Tindall. Vice Provost for extension and outreach programs. We expressed the need for Extension agent position filled (Brooke type, highly qualified in right background, seeking tenure, etc). Dr Lyles said the state does not fund. We pointed out the county passed a ballot measure to fund. Saw the OSU Hort. dept survey & Dr Lyles had not heard about it. Jana contacted her counterparts around the state & heard consistent problems of getting trainees & logging service hours. Many had lost Extension agents & temporary backfill is still there/struggling.

Dr Lyles aiming to fund the following in 2023 – food systems, community stabilities, environmental requisites. MG program fits all 3 very well.

Deb thinks he heard us, but we have to get state legislature to allocate money for this to happen. Sounded positive but no promises made. Alan thinks he was listening & taking notes, observes the legislature underfunds extension programs.

Communications committee met & identified troubles in getting trainees and mentors to connect. Trainees not getting all training hours. Consider meeting with Gail Langellotto & discuss how to get trainees in that will complete the program. Some programs offer training in the Fall instead of the Spring.

Elizabeth heard positive feedback on garden labs. People connect with Extension in many ways (in person, plant clinic, online).

Rich says “hands-on” teaching is the way to go.

Alan – regarding Social interaction, we have an emphasis on Teamwork. Working on committees together builds community.

Paula thinks offering informational themes at the farmers market is a good idea. We have existing materials. Lynn says DaVinci Days is a good venue for a science exhibit. Demo Garden is participating in some DaVinci Days role.

July 12th Outing—Little Prince Nursery Janet Magedanz

Good of the Association

All

Elizabeth shared new blogs:

https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/linnbentonmg/2022/07/11/tools-make-hand-weeding-easy/?fbclid=IwAR3A7rLLeM1blgvb3AfP6dWIOBl6x_a0dKBoODpeyPPWPLsu8Jy64D6PdDY

Lynn – offering another container gardening Siembre de la Cena class in a week.

Lynn – shared upcoming opportunities for concerts/food: Pami Monnette one Friday each month has concerts/food as fundraisers for nonprofits

<https://www.countyline-flowers.com/events>

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm

Submitted Wendi Gale, secretary 8/05/2022