

ATTENDANCE:

Heather Stoven	Tom Canales	Star Thomson
Terry Hart	Carolyn Nyquist	Gene Nesbitt
Donn Callaham	Sue Nesbitt	Gail Stoltz
Linda Mason	Nancy Woodworth	Shelly Toombs
Susanne Beukema	Cynthia Norcross	Mary Ann Nolan
Gin Galt	Pat Fritz	Marlena Bertram
Rita Canales	Kelli Watcherson	Donn Callaham
Linda Coakley	Ray VanBlaricom	

Sue Nesbitt had great difficulty calling the meeting to order by 10:08 am. because everyone was so busy talking to each other about the various YCMGA projects."

KELLI WATCHERSON presented a thorough overview of county financing for the Master Gardener and other extension programs. This included the reasons for a need for an increase in the budget, to help MG's with their advocacy efforts.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 2023: Susanne motioned for approval with additions brought up by Sue, Tom seconded, all approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Financial reports were sent out and received several days ago. Registration fees for SIG have been trickling in, as have MG membership renewals. 50% of members have paid their dues: Carla will again renotify recalcitrant members.

There will be an ad hoc budget committee consisting of Sue, Susanne, Tom, Star, and Nancy. There has been an severe lack of clarity re: which committee is in charge of what finances; this group will make it very clear who is responsible for what.

MARCH HEATHER REPORT: Gail Langelotto's position is being posted and will soon be open. Our MG class had to be stretched to April for the last class (Neil Bell's pruning), but otherwise is going well. An update & further explanation of ECCO will be in the April Grapevine, and there are explanatory videos on the YCMGA website. Intakes may still originate on paper depending on circumstances, but all intakes will be stored in the ECCO program. Information on how to give suggestions to improve ECCO and the new VRS will be coming, and are distinctly needed.

PLANT SALE: Work is now focusing on the layout for the event, the artwork, and tasks that will be done on Thursday to prepare for the sale.

COMMUNITY GARDEN hosted the MG trainees during the most recent class, demonstrating their seeding procedures and providing a rain-soaked tour of the garden.

EDUCATION GARDENS: Roses have been pruned, some spring cleaning performed, and shrub pruning saved for Neil Bell's pruning class. Tom has just finished building a "Little Free Library" to install in the open part of the garden; minor hardscape reconstruction is to come. In spite of all efforts—violent and otherwise—the Italian arum plant is still completely out of control, and probably always will be.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH: The first plant clinic of 2023 was held recently at the Native Plant Sale, another will be at our plant sale plus one for Earth Day (4/22). Planned events this year (other than clinics) will include propagation, grafting, dahlias, tissue culture, and a walking tour of Linfield landscaping. We now have flashy new clinic boxes on wheels, hard-sided, known as "stealth" storage boxes. More MG's are needed to work in the greenhouse with Mac High students; the schedule is rather erratic and will be published in the Grapevine.

MENTORING COMMITTEE work is going very smoothly and mentoring is fully staffed. Gail and Carla planned and presented a very well-organized job fair for trainees.

FARMERS' MARKETS (MCMINNVILLE AND NEWBERG): Carla has reserved the dates for the Newberg Farmers' Market but we do not yet have personnel designated to operate it. Tom pushed for participation in the McMinnville market, emphasizing how easy it is, the fun involved, and the opportunity to get to interact with other MG's. Plus, it counts towards those cherished Clinic Hours!

PERENNIAL PROPAGATION: Purchased berry plants are being potted for the Plant Sale, and plants are being removed from the greenhouse; some will be fostered in individual MG's homes.

GREENHOUSE: Prodigious amounts of help will be needed with seeding the week of March 13th through 17th. Regular greenhouse meetings are scheduled for 9:00 Tuesday mornings.

GARDEN-TO-TABLE: The program is now halfway through classes. Students are double the number of last year, with the same number of mentors, and very successful. There are 25 Spanish-speakers enrolled and 60 English-speaking, with 60% low-income (10% over the goal of 50%). The only difficulty has been operating at 3 different locations.

HOSPITALITY: The food needed now for Spring-into-Gardening is fruits in small snack-type quantities. (There is an abundance of baked goods). This will be in addition to the purchased lunch, but the snacks will need to be supplied in great quantities—enough for the attendees and all the MG's volunteering there.

INSECT COMMITTEE: First meeting of this group will be on May fourth. Special presentations are being planned, and it was pointed out that ECCO has no allowance for invertebrate intakes!

OMGA: An exciting new fundraising idea has been announced by OSU called "Beaver Day of Giving" (to be 4-26-23). With the pugilistic Benny Beaver leading the way, Master Gardeners are asked to make personal donations to the Master Gardener program. This is a "challenge" in that if one person donates \$500 or \$1000, it is hoped that someone else will match it. OSU is allowing donors to give as little as \$50, but the deadline was March 9th. OSU will let us know when it will be open for Oregon Master Gardeners to contribute funds to match the challenge amount. As soon as more information is available it will be passed along to you. Donors may designate specific areas for the donation to be used if they write a note along with the donation. One thing everyone could agree with was that this novel program needs clarification and a new deadline.

There is a new state-only award called "Growing and Belonging" with 3 pages of description. It is for contributing to diversity, inclusion, access, and equity. If you want the details, contact Nancy Woodworth. More relevant is the fact that our Garden-to-Table team won an *International Master Gardener* award. This was given to the program deemed highest value in education, group effort, and duplicability for other chapters. A video will be created, and Sue told Gene that he will be going to Kansas City to accept the award. Photos are requested for making the video.

An ad for our plant sale is coming out in the *Gardeners' Pen* newsletter. There will no longer be a banquet at mini-college, due to cost. There will be a silent auction, though, for which *garden-related items only* (a change in policy) are requested. Also, **no books** will now be accepted. Every chapter is expected to supply at least 10 items with a value of at least \$35 each (a change from the former \$25 value) and if gifts are not supplied OMGA is expecting to be sent \$350 or more in cash, all due by July.

MG membership cards have been shipped and will be distributed to all members. There is a possibility that some businesses would give a discount based on the card, though we were not able to recount any instances in which this actually happened. Also, many more volunteers are needed for Mini-College planning.

SPRING-INTO-GARDENING registration is now closed, though walk-ins will be accepted. However, walk-ins will need to supply their own lunch, and there may not be room in workshops for them. There are some volunteer spots left to fill, "finger fruit" is needed, and the clean-up and decorating volunteer needs have been met. Square has been ordered, the raffle is being organized, and there are about 78 paid participants. The plan is not to make money but to break even, as the primary purpose of SIG is education.

Announcement: Ray VanBlaricom announced that he and Kyle are discontinuing their "To the Root of It" radio show. They have been airing the show every Saturday on 9:00am on local KLYC radio for many years. Both producers are still enthusiastic about the show and hope someone(s) step up to continue it. It used to be a call-in show, but is now 100% scripted, as the radio station is now based in Indiana and has no local presence. KLYC would like to see the program continue, and pays for production. Also, it is an excellent venue for advertising YCMGA activities and events. More detail will be in the April *Grapevine*. (The past broadcasts are available on YouTube online, on the YCMGA website).

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Star Thomson motioned to end the meeting;
Tom Canales seconded the motion;
the meeting ended at 12:18pm.

