

**Yamhill County Master Gardener Association
General and Executive Board Meetings
July 9, 2025, 10 am**

Attendees: Polly Blum, Ken Bunn, Susan Burdell, Rita Canales, Tom Canales, Linda Coakley, Lydia Cook, Terry Hart, Libby Kupp, Beth LaForce, Sue Nesbitt, Mary Ann Nolan, Alex Prentice, Dennis Quenneville, Gail Stolz, Star Thomson, Heather Stoven, Sherri Knothe

- Call to order – Susan Burdell
- Approval of May Minutes/Secretary's Report – Libby Kupp
 - 1st motion: Dennis Quenneville
 - 2nd motion: Alex Prentice
 - Approved
- Treasurer's Report – Star Thomson
 - YCMGA currently has \$76k+ in cash
 - Star has moved \$25k from checking to savings so it can earn interest
 - She is looking into short term CDs for better returns
 - \$9,647 surplus for the year to date (estimated budget contained a \$12k+ deficit) – future expenses for the year are expected to be less than this surplus as largest expenses and revenue occur early in the year
 - Garden to Table is over budget, but also received a larger than expected grant;
 - Star made a motion to approve Garden to Table spending up to the grant amount (\$8,164).
 - Libby seconded.
 - Discussion: The motion was increased to \$9,000 because there is grant money left over from last year. Gail noted that the Siletz grant doesn't need to be spent until February.
 - Approved
 - Alex worked with insurance agent Linda Saucedo at Mac Insurance to review two existing insurance policies – one policy for general liability through Hartford (covers OSU Extension Office facilities where we work) and one for directors and officers liability through USLI
 - Facilities: Wiser/Fairgrounds was added to the policy, which added \$147 to the premium. Alex will confirm that includes the greenhouse and education garden
 - Insurance company is looking into providing a certificate of liability to cover McMinnville Ministries greenhouse at the Community Garden and possibly Miller's Woods (potential holding site for propagation group plants – see Dennis' report below)

- o Committee meeting 7/10 to discuss treasurer assistants positions
- Report from Heather Stoven, Master Gardener Coordinator
 - o Carla reports that some people have still not submitted any hours for the year
 - o Low Growing and Belonging reporting to date – Carla sent out e-mail with potential opportunities (see EOC report below)
- Committee Reports
 - o Education/Outreach – Carolyn Nyquist
 - Joan presenting to the public on Selecting Plants for Pollinators at Mac Community Center 7/12
 - Considering making a similar presentation for YCMGA members in fall
 - Looking into working with McMinnville Parks and Rec more closely
 - For example, add something like Vigorous Veggies program to their activity guide
 - Reaches a larger audience and P&R takes on the marketing and registration responsibilities
 - Growing and Belonging activities:
 - 9/27 program on Latino food culture; gardening; substitutes for foods that don't grow in OR; food preparation/sampling
 - o Title: Celebrando de la Cosecha Latina (Celebration of the Latino Harvest)
 - o Jennifer Scott and Wendy Bennett are organizing the event
 - o Panel of Latino MGs followed by food preparation/tasting
 - o Will have a small fee to cover supplies
 - Grand Ronde field trip 10/7 at 10 am on native harvesting (especially camas)
 - Garden to Table – Beth Laforce, Jennifer Scott
 - Steering committee meeting in August to start planning for 2026
 - Also meeting with past volunteers and those with an interest in volunteering in future – late August/early September
 - Planning a reunion with class participants to discuss how their gardens did; potluck; encouraging participants to bring someone who might be interested in participating in the future
 - Plant Clinics – Susan Burdell
 - Upcoming Clinics

- o Either Thursday 7/31 or Saturday 8/2 Yamhill Co Fair
 - working to coordinate with 4H events
 - o 8/16 Harvest Fair (?),
 - o State Fair 8/24
- Spring into Gardening – Sue
 - Planning for 2026 in begins in September
- McMinnville Farmers' Market – Tom Canales
 - Going well – filled for July; a few slots in August available
- Newberg Farmers' Market – Lydia Cook
 - Going well – full through the end of the season, with the exception of newly added children's activities slots
- Sheridan Farmers' Market
 - Gay is going to contact local MGs about helping as we get closer to August and September dates (2nd Saturdays)
- Fieldtrips/Tours – Tom Canales
 - 7/24 – Leach Botanical Garden
 - 8/28 - Al's Hubbard growing facility
- Sponsor Outreach Committee – Gene Nesbitt & Terry Hart
 - Nothing new to report
- o Plant Sale – Highlights of Plant Sale survey, copies available
 - Gin sent plant sale survey results
 - Limited responses received
 - Color price tags helpful
 - Move pH testing/clinic table to front
 - Parking/traffic – great improvement over last year
 - Holding area – numbering system worked well
 - Need a better way to differentiate vendors from plant sale
 - Need more marketing (?)
 - See attachment summarizing all results
- o Perennial Propagation – Mary Ann Nolan & Linda Sellheim
 - Heat is hard on cuttings/propagation success, but still working every week
- o Greenhouse – Linda Coakley and Sue Nesbitt
 - Sue reported that Tim is making a frame to mount foam core insulation for the back/sides of seeding tables
 - More heat mats have been ordered
- o Dennis
 - Propagation group will not be moving plants to Miller's Wood greenhouse in the near future, but still discussing
- o OMGA Representatives -Cindy Kinnaman and Lydia Cook

- OMGA web site – Missy Bright is the contact person
- Met \$300 goal for basket for Joy of Gardening; Cindy will deliver it to Corvallis
- YCMGA provided 3 Bring a Friend scholarships for Joy of Gardening
- o Library – Ken Bunn
 - Ken will review books for inclusion in the Grapevine
 - Reminder that there is a notebook in the library for suggested book purchases
- o Awards – The Awards Committee has made nominations for County Gardener of the
 - Year, and County Behind the Scenes. No State nominations were made.
 - Awards will be presented at the Ice Cream Social on 7/10
- o Hospitality –
 - Reminder that the Ice Cream Social is 7/10, 4 pm, Mac Community Garden
- o Sunshine Committee –Susie Alin, Sandy Beaver
 - Susan Alin's surgery went well and she is home; Polly is taking a plant to her
 - Nancy is improving – great strides in the last few days – out of ICU; possibly home in 3 weeks
 - Sandy Beaver had cataract surgery – went well
 - Judy Beck signed up to help with Sunshine Committee
- o Education Gardens – Donn Callaham & Rita Canales
 - Wiser pavilion was power washed
 - Tom replaced work bench tops/shelving
 - Concrete barrel planters were painted
 - Rose garden was mulched
 - Roof was fixed by fairgrounds staff!
 - Ed garden volunteers will meet on 7/23 to prepare for the fair
 - Will meet with Gary, Janet Redman (fair board chair) and high school teachers (see below) after the fair to discuss things that need to be done – electrical re-work, power wash the picnic area, we will offer to cost/work share painting
 - We could take care of staining/sealing the picnic area ourselves
 - Lay out proposal for jobs and stages of work
 - Gary wants to replace wooden shelves with metal – high school students would fabricate – probably not happening in the short term

- o Community Garden – Candace
 - Sherri Knothe filled in for Candace
 - 1467 lbs of produce have gone to YCAP so far; harvesting carrots and onions today
 - 7/15 will seed broccoli and cauliflower
 - 4 beds of blue lake beans
 - 1 bed of squash for Latino harvest G&B event
 - Still looking for volunteers – weeding and harvesting
 - Susan suggested asking Carla to send out e-mail with this information to all MGs
 - Grace normally sends out a call to those who are on the Community Garden list
- o Mentoring Committee – Terry Hart & Rosemary Didear
 - Resuming meetings next week in preparation for 2026
- o Insect Committee – Terry Hart & Joan McKibben-Williams
 - Meeting regularly; getting a lot of intakes
- o Website/Social Media – David Gilbey
 - Susan will ask David to send reports for BOD meetings
 - Tom reports that member profile editing process isn't working; Kinzee is working on fixing this problem – should be repaired this week
 - Carla will follow up with an e-mail to MGs
- o Fairground BOD meeting report – Sue Nesbitt, Mary Ann Nolan
 - Most of the last meeting about getting ready for the fair
 - New rental pricing as of 7/1 –
 - Full day at Leslie Lewis Pavilion will cost \$640 (from \$600)
 - Tables going from \$4 to \$7 (they have 100)
 - o Sue pointed out that some of the tables need to be replaced
 - Chair rental going from \$2 to \$2.50
 - No change in pipe and drape cost
- o Other Committees
 - Sue has a thank you note from Caden Christianson – scholarship recipient from Amity
- Unfinished Business
- New Business –
 - o No meeting in August
 - o Committee to nominate 2026 officers will meet in early September
- Motion to adjourn – Star Thomson; Dennis Quenneville 2nd

Next meeting September 10, 10 AM.

2025 PLANT SALE

Survey Results

Pre-Sale Processes

1. Signups.com usage for volunteer signups = 17 responses
 - 1 = needs work; 7 = okay; 9 = great
 - Comments:
 - The ads are bothersome
 - Confusing because all opportunities are not on the same site page
 - Recommendation: Maybe break up the signups for each day of the sale prep and sale (e.g., One signup for Thursday, separate signup for Friday, etc.)
2. Box Collection and Storage – 11 responses
 - 2 = okay; 9 = great
 - Comments:
 - Thanks to Safeway for letting us collect
 - Whoever is in charge of box collection is awesome (ha ha, Tom!)
 - Recommendation: None
3. Publicity for the Sale, including social media, yard signs, etc. = 12 responses
 - 8 = needs work; 2 = okay; 2 = great
 - Comments:
 - Signs on the highway were hard to see
 - I didn't see any signs anywhere
 - Recommendations: Continue with more social media outreach; look into small billboards placed throughout the county; look into large banners, including on 3rd Street; need more signage in commercial areas and around schools; think about adding prices to the social media postings; saw very little on social media and our garden club didn't receive notifications
4. Plant Tags and Bench Cards = 12 responses
 - 3 = needs work; 6 = okay; 3 = great
 - Comments:
 - There may be a way to improve, but it seemed to work well
 - Need more bench cards and photos; need a consistent bench card format
 - The more plant info we can provide, the better
 - Recommendations: Print more generic bench cards for genus and species, but not specific varieties (e.g., *Acer japonica*; *Acer palmatum*, etc.)
5. Plant Pricing and Price Tags= 11 responses
 - 2 = needs work; 5 = okay; 4 = great
 - Comments:
 - Printed price tags are brittle and easily broken
 - Overall, pricing was fine
 - Need more color price tags as the printed white ones are hard to read and highlighting washed off
 - The color price tag charts were very helpful
 - Recommendations: Use color price tags more often than white
6. Table Layout and Signage in Leslie Lewis Pavilion, including number of tables, table locations, table prep, etc. = 14 responses
 - 3 = needs work; 4 = okay; 7 = great
 - Comments:
 - The signage (i.e., Annuals, Perennials, etc.) was helpful

- Hard to find the tables we rented from Botten's
- The cashier area was in the way of the door to the bathroom and the hospitality area
- Cashier line direction was confusing
- Some people just can't (don't) read signs – nothing to be done
- Recommendation: Flag the Botten's tables, if we use them again; Go back to the 2024 cashier layout or find a way to not block flow; move the soil testing to the front of the sale area near the customer service table; get an accurate table count

7. Moving Plants to the Sale Area = 11 responses

- 2 = okay; 9 = great
- Comments:
 - I thought it worked well this year
 - Much better this year!
 - Greenhouse plant movement had no issues
- Recommendation: None

Sale Day Processes

8. Break Area and Food = 16 responses

- 2 = needs work; 4 = okay; 10 = great
- Comments:
 - Gail and crew did a great job!
 - Lovely place to take a break
 - Easy to stay nourished and hydrated; nice variety of snacks and drinks
 - Tables were too close together
- Recommendation: Maybe add some music; more green and fruit salads, cookies and sandwich meat, please (fewer tangerines); keep breads out of direct sunlight; a bit of chocolate is always appreciated

9. Traffic Control and Parking, including signage, training, etc. = 11 responses

- 4 = okay; 7 = great
- Comments:
 - Great improvement over last year thanks to the opened gate
 - Signage was very helpful this year
- Recommendation: Engage with shoppers as they drive in to give them a heads-up of how they will exit; add even more signs at the entrance; may need more handicap signs

10. Cashier and Cashier Assistant, including setup/location, training and processes = 12 responses

- 1 = needs work; 3 = okay; 8 = great
- Comments:
 - We had more than enough cashiers and assistance
 - Training was really helpful
 - Always hard to settle on the right number of cashiers and assistance; there were a lot of people sitting around later in the days
 - I thought the layout was much better this year with one big cashier area inside and one outside
- Recommendation: Add a separate sign for the tallying team so customers know it is done prior to payment; need more training on properly tallying plants (person said they had to correct tallying errors)

11. Clinic Desk and pH Testing, including location = 7 responses

- 2 = needs work; 2 = okay; 3 = great
- Comments:

- Hard to find and not well lit
 - Not visible to the public
 - The feather flag was helpful
 - Recommendation: Move to the front of the sale area near the customer service desk
12. Customer Service Function = 11 responses
- 1 = needs work; 3 = okay; 7 = great
 - Comments:
 - Helpful to have people walking around and directing the shoppers
 - Customers and volunteers all seemed to be having a great time
 - Recommendation: Make sure customer service people aren't moving plants without input from the table captains
13. Holding Area, including location, training, etc. = 10 responses
- 3 = okay; 7 = great
 - Comments:
 - Seemed to work well; nice to be able to drive up and pick up your plants
 - Got backed up at some points; some volunteers seemed to need more training
 - The numbering system seemed to work well
 - Recommendation: Clarify how customers are to drive up and pick up their plants; some seemed confused
14. Vendors, including locations and type = 12 responses
- 1 = needs work; 3 = okay; 8 = great
 - Comments:
 - It wasn't clear that the inside vendors were separate from the main plant sale
 - The vendors outside were great
 - Recommendation: Need more vendors; nice to have vendors selling soil, pots, etc., for one-stop shopping; need better ways to differentiate the indoor vendors from the main sale

Plants Offered at the Sale

15. Annuals – Plant Selection and Growing/Procurement Processes = 11 responses
- 1 = needs work; 4 = okay; 6 = great
 - Comments:
 - The variety of plants is great
 - Not enough table space for what is grown
 - Recommendation: Need to make sure there are plants for purchase on Sunday
16. Vegetables – Plant Selection and Growing/Procurement Processes = 12 responses
- 1 = needs work; 3 = okay; 8 = great
 - Comments:
 - The variety of plants is great
 - Tables were very crowded
 - Recommendation: Need to make sure there are plants for purchase on Sunday
17. Perennials, Shrubs, Natives, etc. – Plant Selection and Growing/Procurement Processes = 10 responses
- 1 = needs work; 3 = okay; 6 = great
 - Comments:
 - Great variety of plants
 - Some of these plants are very small – doesn't seem like the best timeframe for selling some of the shrubs and perennials

- Recommendation: Need more bench cards; would like to see more native plants; we need to sell more herbs

18. Community Garden – Plant Selection = 9 responses

- 1 = needs work; 2 = okay; 6 = great
- Comments:
 - Not enough table space for what is grown
 - Not enough basil
- Recommendation: Education re: our relationship with the Community Garden: One responder didn't understand that we do make money from the sale of Community Garden plants – they felt they should be treated like a vendor and sell their own plants because we don't benefit from the sale (which is not true); grow more basil

Post-Sale Processes

19. Table Breakdown and Cleanup = 10 responses

- 4 = okay; 6 = great
- Comments:
 - Great group of folks helping
- Recommendation: None

20. Distribution of Remaining Plants = 6 responses

- 1 = needs work; 3 = okay; 2 = great
- Comments:
 - Great that Yamhill Edible Plants was able to get plants
 - Wish MacHub had been able to receive more plants
 - The people moving the plants at the end of the sale looked exhausted
- Recommendation: Any way we can donate plants to schools

Other Comments/Recommendations – anything else you would want the next Plant Sale working team to be aware of or address

- The apple crates were great, but we need to improve their signage
- The more we spend on advertising, the more money we will make
- There is a lot of competition with other sales – we need to up our game