

Minutes
BCMGA Board Meeting
February 10, 2025
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Zoom Meeting

Meeting was called to order by Paula Lupcho at 9:00 AM

- Attendees: Brenda Bye, Deb Kern, Jana Tindall, Paula Lupcho, Alan Taylor, Michelle Brown, Shelby Schuppe, Rich Taylor, Janet Magedanz, Jill Lodwig, Lisa Miller, Laura Horsey, Lori Fulton (A quorum was present.)
- Staff: Otilia Schreuder
- Others: Cheryl Stratton

Minutes: Deb K.

- A motion was made by Janet M. and seconded by Jana T. to approve January minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

President's Report: Paula L.

- OSU Paperwork: Paula remarked that Laurie G. provided her a list of names of those who have not signed required OSU documents. Many of the people cited on her list were no longer BCMGA active members. It's unclear what database she is using.
- In response to a question about the status of the OSU Growing and Belonging Initiative, Shelby relayed that Leslie Madsen is committed to continuing the program.

Financial Report: Janet M.

- Janet reviewed the January financial reports. She noted that registration income for Insights Into Gardening was down about \$1K compared to 2024. A detailed report will be provided once all data has been received.

Vice President: Laura H.

- Laura presented the speaker line up for the 2025 membership meetings.
- She has also lined up presenters for the "BCMGA committee highlight" portion of the meetings.
- Summer tours: The Leach Botanical Garden tour in Portland, is tentatively planned for mid-June. Paula asked that the tour date not conflict with Linn County's garden tour on June 20th.
- Laura is considering new ideas for the annual Sept picnic. Inputs are welcome.

Membership Secretary: Michelle B.

- We currently have 177 MG members and 9 MG associate members. This does not include the 2025 trainees.
- The Directory is ready for first review; The plan is to publish in March.
- Michelle is contacting nurseries to confirm discounts for MG.
- Marge A. is currently determining who has qualified for presentation of hour bars.
- It's time to solicit nominations for the yearly awards. Michelle will put out the notice for inclusion in newsletters and various social media.

Committee Reports

- Mt View School Garden & Grace Center: Rich T.
 - Mt View: The committee has been visiting classrooms and providing several activities including planting (and tasting) microgreens, working the microscope, learning about seeds and transplanting holiday cactus plugs. The Spirit Pole that was made for last year's Joy of Gardening will be installed in the school garden in spring.
 - Grace center: The center has three accessible raised beds, a sensory garden and some fruit trees. They are looking for volunteers to plan events and assist in the garden.
- Desk: Alan T.
 - Jill L. has been revising the desk manual. She hopes to encourage compliance with our procedures by incorporating the reasoning behind them.
 - Alan is meeting with Amy Jo Detweiler (ECCO developer) to discuss upgrades to ECCO through a possible OMGA grant.
 - He requested staff provide the number of trainees that will need training outside helpdesk hours.
- Insights Into Gardening (IIG): Jana T.
 - This year's IIG went very smoothly overall with a few registration glitches that Paula was able to rectify. Some rooms were over capacity because of people attending who had signed up for a different class. Of the 245 registered, 29 were no shows.. This year, we increased the value of the raffle prizes which helped with ticket sales. We sold 3,258 raffle tickets, raising just over \$2000. There were 19 exhibitors and 100 volunteers. Jana sent a thanks to all who helped.

- Plant Sale: Lori F.
 - The plant sale will be held on May 3rd. We will need volunteers to help with the day of and also for set up on the 1st and 2nd. We have over 200 perennials and natives. A new category this year is the Top 10 OSU pollinator friendly natives. The edibles committee has already started propagation. They have more volunteers than sign up slots.

Extension Report: Otilia

- Annie O. submitted a written report (attached to these minutes).
- Let Nicole know if you are picking up or dropping off items at the office.
- Otilia will be mailing out volunteer packets, please open it!
- Seed to Supper material is now available. Contact Tina Dodge (OSU SNAP-Ed Program Coordinator)
- OSU “Grow This” program that provides free seeds has returned this year. The programs is open to groups, teachers and individual households. Please share info with the community. Sign up soon, it fills up quickly.
<https://foodhero.org/growthis>
- Otilia thanked IIG for providing the extension table. They were able to promote their “*Garden Future, growing resilience in a changing climate*” program.
- She noted that several people voice frustrations they are having in their gardens due to the changing environment. Janet M. requested that Otilia provide her with details. She may be able to develop a presentation on that topic.

Good of the Association:

- Deb K. said that signups for Plant Problem Scenario (PPS) group leaders will be out this week.

Gardening Moment:

- Janet was happy to be able to work 2 hours in her garden the Friday before IIG.
- Janet met an attendee of IIG who said that she considers IIG the beginning of the gardening season and attends every year.
- Laura H. was surprised to see that, once again, her neighbor’s daffodils are blooming earlier than anyone else’s.
- Jana attended a class on growing berries at Garlands and was inspired to purchased strawberry plants.

The meeting was adjourned 9:56 AM.

Submitted by Deb Kern (Feb 11 2025)

Written report from Annie O'Shea

1. We've got 20 new trainees fully registered for Benton County.
2. New trainees are primarily joining from Philomath and Corvallis, with a few from North Albany, one from Harrisburg and one from Kings Valley.
3. We have several extended trainees as well. Otilia and I are working on firming that up and we should have numbers in the next few weeks.
4. First class for Benton is 2/11/2025 from 6-8 at the Benton County Extension Office. If you have anyone who is interested in attending who has not yet discussed that with Otilia, please reach out to her and she can let you know what capacity we have in a (very!) busy first meeting.
5. Trainee contact information will hopefully be shared by next Friday - we need to ask permission before sharing and we will work on getting permission in the first class.
6. Shelby Schuppe is working to build some activities into the first two meetings, prepare to launch the mentor program later in the spring, and plan some sort of social that trainees and Master Gardeners can attend with my support... More to come on this!

One other item, though not particularly helpful, is that recertification is on my to-do list. I have some time set aside with Nicole to train on this a bit. If folks have questions on this, it would be helpful if they hold them for the time being because I don't have any real answers at this time and won't until I've had a chance to meet with Nicole.