



LINCOLN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION

Members Meeting at OSU Extension

March 27, 2025 at 11:00 am

FINAL

Attendance

Board Members: Laura Strom, Julie Roth-Carter, Cathi Block, Kristi Kind, Ann Geyer, Marlene Shapiro, Sharon Busby, Gary Dorris, Emilia Lacy, Trish Riley, Janice Smith

Board Absentees: Mary Jane Bonelitz, Evie Smith

Other Members: Dave Hall, Anne Irving, Joan Crall, Julie Eagleson, Stormi Dykes, Ramona Goddard, Trisha Anderson, Debbie Poland, Larry King, Cathy Fitzhugh, Jill Johnson, Herb Fredricksen, Sandy Mathis, Steve Vogel, Martha Mills, Shereen Rowland, Ron Woodard II

1. Call to Order

Vice President Laura Strom called the meeting to order at 11:01 am. Vice Presidents Laura Strom and Julie Roth-Carter welcomed the Members to the meeting.

2. Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the August 24, 2024 Members Meeting Minutes was made by Larry King. Joan Crall seconded. The Motion carried.

3. Order of Business

a. Approval of the Budget

Sharon Busby, member of the Budget Committee, presented the budget to the Membership as Mary Jane Bonelitz, Chair of the Budget Committee, was not able to attend. Prior to the meeting, Mary Jane emailed the proposed budget on two separate occasions to the listserv. There were no questions regarding the budget. **Kristi Kind made a motion to approve the budget. Marlene Shapiro seconded. The motion was approved.**

b. Special Awards

The Board voted in 2024 to recognize members with an honorary award. These members have given valuable knowledge and energy to LCMGA, and best exemplify the definition of a Master Gardener. Two remarkable members received the Lifetime Membership Award: Ron Woodard II and Bill Hutmacher. Kristi Kind, reading from Mary Jane's notes, stated that Ron has been involved with the Lincoln City Demonstration Garden since 2014 as an apprentice. He has worked on the pollinator garden, implemented the watering system, acted as a class mentor for every MG class since 2015, and was recently recognized for his contributions in 2023 with the MG Behind the Scenes Award.

The second awardee, Bill Hutmacher, was unable to attend. His accomplishments and contributions were numerous having served as OMGA Rep, as the in-residence expert on Help Desk/Plant Clinic inquiries, and for many years as garden writer representing coastal Oregon for The Oregonian's,

newspaper column, “Ask an Expert”, and for OSU Extension Service on the online help page “Ask an Expert”. He is recipient of the 2012 MG Behind the Scenes Award. In presenting the award, it was noted that Bill is a modest, consummate professional, and is among the most dedicated and reliable members of LCMGA.

Heartfelt congratulations were extended to both MGs.

4. Announcements

- a. Laura reminded members to use the meeting sign-in sheet for attendance records. She said that if members want to send messages to Carita Edson and Carrie Davis there are two cards available. She reported that both MGs are getting better and would like to hear from their friends.

- b. **Proposed Bylaws changes**

The Bylaws Review Committee comprised of Sharon Busby, Diane Primont and Trish Riley have met and completed revision of the bylaws. The proposed revisions were sent to the Board for review. The Board accepted the proposed revisions to the bylaws on March 10, 2025, and sent them to the membership for their vote. Their vote is slated to be taken on April 11, 2025, exactly 30 days after the Board’s review of the revision. On the March 10, 2025, the proposed revised bylaws were emailed to the membership by the Council of Presidents asking for their approval or disapproval by electronic vote on April 11, 2025. Their votes will be sent to Emilia Lacy, LCMGA Secretary for tallying. A reminder to vote will be sent by Kristi Kind, Council of Presidents Member, to members.

- c. **Outreach and Education (O & E) Committee**

Julie Roth-Carter stated that she has utilized the Members Skillset Database to focus on MGs specific interests when sending out event notices on Signup Genius.

Julie Roth-Carter thanked the hard-working Education and Outreach Committee for their outstanding work in planning the conference and all E & O events. The members in attendance were Stormi Dykes, Janice Smith, Trish Riley, Martha Mills, Trish Anderson. Other members are Ross McCann, Natasha Knight, Diana Castro-Rubio. The committee was roundly applauded for their work.

Spring into Sustainable Gardening Conference

Sign-ups have exceeded expectations, as of March 26, there were 128 registrations. Julie spoke briefly about the speakers and the conference format. Tom Green will make opening remarks; Ann Geyer will present an overview of Sustainable Gardening, and Alec Kowalewski will speak on lawn replacement. There will be a give-away drawing of pounds of eco-lawn seed donated by OSU. A showcase of sustainable gardening information represented by nine tables staffed by MGs will make up another portion of the conference.

Free Compost Giveaway Day, April 19

Earth Day on April 19 is celebrated in many ways. In Lincoln County at four commercial disposal services sites, free compost will be given away until it is completely distributed. MGs will staff the giveaway and provide information on composting, gardening, LCMGA classes, services and events. Go to Signup Genius for more information and to volunteer. This is a very popular event and spaces fill quickly.

Habitat for Humanity, 3rd Annual Home and Garden Show

A sustainable garden tabling event will be staffed by MG at the Habitat for Humanity 3rd Annual Home and Garden Show held at the Newport Recreation Center on April 26, 2025 from 10 am – 3 pm. Admission is free.

Farmers' Markets

Staffing of MG plant and gardening information tables will be offered at the markets in Newport, Yachats and Lincoln City. More information will follow. Staffing and scheduling will occur after our Plant Sale in May.

Coastal Beekeepers Association

Tom Green and Trish Riley will present a program on pollinators to the Beekeepers Association. Details to follow.

5. Power Point Education: Native Plants

Ann Geyer has offered to teach MGs interested in Native Plants how to use available instructional material. A Power Point presentation, handouts and other information are available.

6. Roundtables 2025

The theme is Sustainable Gardening and planning is in development. If you are interested in participating, speak to Julie and Martha Mills.

7. Vice Presidents' Planning Event

Laura Strom spoke of the upcoming June 14 guided tour of Polk County's "Inspiration Garden" planned for MGs. She will have Signup Genius available to reserve your space for the tour and a seat on the OSU van. She reminded MGs that it is a bring your own brown bag lunch; the tour is free and there will be light refreshments.

8. OMGA Joy of Gardening

The conference will take place on July 11 -12 at OSU. There will be a broad selection of classes offered; reserve your space early. More information and reservation dates will follow.

9. Nominations for MG of the Year and MG Behind the Scenes

Nomination forms for the awards will be available in April. The awardees are named and celebrated during one of the plant sale prep days in May. If you are interested in working on the nominating committee, contact either Laura, Julie, Sharon Busby or Ron Woodard.

10. Plant Sale Banners, and Plant Sale Information

Laura unveiled the new Plant Sale Banners. They are attractive and practical as there are two sections: the lower section can be removed and replaced if there is a venue change. The upper section has general information.

Laura stated that plant sale set-up days are May 15 and 16. Sale date is May 17, from 9 am to 1 pm. Laura also has 4- inch pots; contact her if they are needed. Plant stakes are available in the Plant Clinic.

11. New Password

Ann Geyer distributed bookmarks with our new Members' website password, which is also posted on the Plant Clinic bulletin board.

12. Membership Book

Sharon Busby announced that she has the 2025 Membership Book and will distribute it after the meeting. Members may pick up their copy from Celia at the Extension front desk.

13. Adjournment

Vice Presidents Laura Strom and Julie Roth-Carter adjourned the meeting at 11:43 am, and invited everyone to enjoy the potluck!

Submitted:
Emilia Lacy
LCMGA Secretary