



LINCOLN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION  
Board Meeting Zoom (non-Hybrid) at OSU Extension Office  
April 14, 2025 at 10 AM

**FINAL**

## **Attendance**

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

Board Absentees: None

Other Members: Stormi Dykes, Jill Johnson, Anne Irving, Larry King, Lindsay Clark, Tom Green, Ron Woodard II, Dawn Henton, Shereen Rowland, Carita Edson, Sandy Mathis, Joan Crall, Steve Vogel, Kathy Burke, Terry DeJongh

## **1. Call to Order**

President Kristi Kind called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

## **2. Announcements**

President Cathi Block announced that there will be a General Membership Meeting on June 11 from 10 – 2 pm. The main agenda item is Mediation Training with break-out groups. A pot luck is planned.

**Growing and Belonging Training:** A reminder from Evie Smith that all recertifying MG volunteers are asked to complete the free OSU Extension course “An Introduction to Inclusive Excellence in Extension” in Ideal-Logic to fulfill their Growing and Belonging (G & B) Continuing Education requirement. (G & B is now a VRS category in Continuing Education). See the email Evie sent on March 24, 2025, “[Lcmastergardeners] 2025 Requirements for Certified & Associate Master Gardeners in Lincoln County” for additional details.

David Moffit, former Master Gardener and donor of plants for the Plant Sale, has passed away. David was an active MG, a generous plant grower, a former park ranger and “an awesome person”.

**Lincoln County Master Gardener of the Year, Master Gardener Behind the Scenes, 2025 Growing and Belonging Awards:** Sharon Busby, Awards Nomination Co-Chair, has announced that nominations are open and will close on April 23. She has emailed nomination forms and instructions to the listserv.

Mary Jane Bonelitz stated that OMGA is accepting awards for OMGA 2025 Master Gardener of the Year, Master Gardener Behind the Scenes, 2025 Growing and Belonging Awards. The last award recognizes an individual or a group’s efforts to bring horticultural education and service to underserved communities.

**Spring in Sustainable Gardening Conference:** Mary Jane expressed gratitude on behalf of the Association to the Education and Outreach Committee for their tremendous work in organizing, preparing, staffing and presenting a very successful conference. She gave kudos to Ann Geyer, keynote speaker, for her incredible overview of sustainable gardening. Ann and the E & O Committee were roundly applauded.

## **3. Approval of Minutes**

Secretary Emilia Lacy made a motion to approve the March 10, 2025 meeting minutes. Gary Dorris seconded. Motion was approved.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report/Financial Discussions

**Attachments:** Bal\_Mar2025; PLBudvsActualMar25; PL\_PrevYrCompMar25.

Treasurer Gary Dorris reported that the CD was rolled over, and the grant monies for the conference have not been received.

#### 5. Vice Presidents Reports

Laura Strom reported that the **March 27 Members Meeting** was very successful. She stated that the presentation of the Lifetime Membership Award to Bill Hutmacher, who was unavailable at the time of the meeting, will be given to him in mid-April.

Laura reminded MGs of the upcoming Saturday, **June 14 guided tour of Polk County Master Gardeners "Inspiration Garden"**. The OSU van has been reserved.

Julie Roth-Carter summarized **"Spring into Sustainability" Conference** topics. Based on comment card responses, the overall reaction was positive and included excellent responses to presentations and table topics. There was a concern about refreshments, followed by discussion on how to resolve the issues. There was discussion on the number of registrants vs the number of actual attendees with solutions offered. Statements by Dr. Kowalewski on alternative uses of herbicides to affect the removal of turf spurred a lengthy discussion of sustainability, individual choice, and the IPM, OSU position. In sum, IPM lists available options on herbicides and pesticides ranging from the least toxic to the most harmful (as the last resort), while giving recommendations on application processes. There was discussion on the use of 43% acetic acid. Joan Crall recommended a solution of 43% acetic acid (vinegar) with water, some Epsom salts and drops of Dawn detergent while wearing a respirator and taking necessary precautions as 43% acetic acid is highly caustic. Julie thanked everyone for their comments. If there are additional notes, please send them to her as E & O are holding a conference debriefing on Friday, April 18. Julie stated that the most popular tables were Pollinators and PNW Natives. She will write a report on the salient issues to the Grant Committee before the end of the year.

**Additional Events:** Julie listed forthcoming events and opportunities. They are Farmers' Markets, radio spots, partnership with two public libraries, and Samaritan's Health and Education conferences. She spoke of training additional MG volunteers, and a need to look at staffing and resources needed to fill requests.

#### 6. Reports

**OMGA:** Trish Riley reported that the **Joy of Gardening Conference** registration is open to everyone; the public is welcome. It will be held on July 11 – 12 at the OSU Campus, Corvallis. There are two days of research-based courses and panels on all sorts of garden related topics. Keynote speakers are Dr. Leslie Madsen, Dr. Brooks Edmunds and LeAnn Locher. **Silent Auction:** assists OMGA in raising funds to support awards and grants. Each chapter is charged to donate ten or more items of value between \$5 - \$35+ to the auction. Give the items to Trish as soon as possible. Templates are available for letters of solicitation. Items do not need to pertain to gardening; here are some popular items from previous auctions: unique handbags/purses, garden art, homemade items, food or drink items and baskets.

Trish reported on OMGA proposed dismissal policy changes to the bylaws.

**Attachments:** JOG 2025 FULL FLYER (2).png; OMGA Silent Auction Letter 338.2025.docx; Proposed OMGA dismissal policy\_fin.pdf.

**Bylaws:** Trish Riley stated that an additional notice of the vote to approve the proposed revision to the bylaws will be sent to the listserv this week by Kristi Kind, as the first notice was not sent. Members will have one week to register their vote, which must be sent to Emilia Lacy, Secretary for tallying. A message was sent on April 14 with an attachment of the proposed bylaws revision and notice that the voting period ends at 12 midnight on April 21, 2025.

**2025 LCMGA Associate Member Survey:** Results were reviewed by Trish Riley. Fifteen surveys were mailed; there were 9 responses. Reasons for attaining Associate status were varied from hours required for volunteer service to conflicting activities to other organizations.

**Attachment:** 2025 LCMG Associat Member Survey Results.

**Acknowledgement:** Trish publicly acknowledged the excellent work of graphic artist, Janelle Tate, who designed the new logo, demo garden signage and templates, and plant sale banner. Trish will send her a thank you note on behalf of LCMGA.

**PROGRAM UPDATES:** Stormi Dykes reported that there are currently 14 **Apprentices** making up the great class of 2025. Their last class is Wednesday night; their final open book exam of 120 questions begins on Thursday, April 17 and ends on May 1. The apprentices can work in groups, have work nights, and structure their exam taking as they wish. Larry King, Daniel Hutchison and the Plant Clinic Gurus held a successful office tour and hands-on training session on Ecco for the apprentices, where they applied their learned skills to actual practice.

**Level-up Webinar series:** Stormi announced that there is a new webinar scheduled for May 13 from 12 – 1 pm entitled “Growing Shade”. This is the second in the series which began in April and will continue through September on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. On May 13, a group viewing will be held at Extension with discussion following on how to implement the webinar information in this county. Total amount of time earned on VRS for viewing and discussion is 90 minutes. She will send a reminder email prior to May 13, and is aware that there may be a time conflict with Plant Sale set-up. There will be another webinar in June.

**Growing and Belonging:** Stormi recapped that Growing and Belonging is now a VRS category in Continuing Education and there is a module called “Introduction to Inclusive Excellence in Extension” in Ideal-Logic as per the email that Evie Smith sent out on March 24, 2025.

**Youth Safety Training and Extension Volunteer Criminal History Check** is a requirement for all Master Gardener volunteers, as was explained in an overview of the certification/recertification requirements in the email sent by Evie Smith to the listserv on March 24, 2025. All volunteers must be checked against the National Sex Offender Registry every two years. If you resided out of state for more than 7 years, you will receive an email from the Sterling Group requiring a second background check. If you have any questions, please reach out to Stormi.

**Annual Paperwork,** OSU forms are **Condition of Volunteer Service Agreement, Master Gardener Volunteer Position Description and Master Gardener Volunteer Code of Conduct** are required of all certified MG volunteer service positions. Please sign the DocuSign papers promptly.

Associate Members are required to sign the **OSU Acknowledgement of Risk and Waiver of Liability** on DocuSign when they receive the email.

**Hours:** Stormi reminded the members that her MG staff hours will be limited to 3 hours a day beginning on May 2. She is not available to MGs after 5 pm or on weekends.

**GRANT COMMITTEE:** Tom Green made a presentation to the Board regarding planning and budgeting. Herb Fredricksen was unavailable. In sum, to further organizational goals and objectives is to approach the grant application process as a strategic activity of the planning and budgeting process. Planning for grants allows for efficient ways to achieve goals and accompanying priorities, i.e. pre-planning with program and project managers, creating a timeline to identify need, acquire approval, search for funding and develop a grant request that falls within the grantees and grantor timelines. Recommendations included writing a draft budget in early fall/winter, ensuring that expenses are covered by revenue or reserves (a specified or dedicated amount of funds), and that expenses may be covered by eternal funding. A draft budget allows for estimates of priorities to initiate the grant process; it allows for matching the funder/grantor and their process to our needs; it allows for more time to discuss the budget and its reiterations; and it gives grants a greater role in a strategic process.

**Attachment:** Grant Committee Presentation to the LCMGA Board 4-14.pptx.

**PLANT CLINIC:** Larry King reported that the plant Clinic has had a very busy April. There has been a record number of questions. He has installed mascots (wind-up toys), filled the treat jar, and is looking forward to a busy Plant Clinic year. He has employed Signup Genius for the clinic slots and marked slots for Gurus. He held an informational Zoom meeting for Gurus and discussed changes in the clinic. Gurus are signed up through the end of June. For Apprentices, he held a Plant Clinic tour and training on Ecco; each Apprentice had approximately 1 ½ hours of computer work on a minimum of one client question. Nineteen Plant Clinic slots have been filled with Apprentices.

**Attachment:** Plant Clinic Report for Mar 2025.pdf

**PUBLICITY:** Larry King stated that there was no committee meeting this month; a meeting in May is planned.

**DEMO GARDENS:** Mary Jane Bonelitz said that there are changes in the air. She has been speaking to the garden leaders; in fact, another meeting is scheduled later today (4/14) in the afternoon. "Changes happen, for some change is hard, but new changes are things to look forward to."

**PLANT SALE UPDATE, NEWPORT C OF C, SOLID WASTE DISTRICT, ETC.:** 1) Laura Strom informed the Board that Plant Sale planning is on schedule. Armory permit fees have been paid. A temporary nursery license and insurance rider have been acquired. Plant Sale flyers have been formatted, are in social media formats, are available on the LCMGA website, and are ready for

distribution. Bamboo stakes and plant label stakes are available in the Plant Clinic, and 4-inch pots are available from Laura. Kristi Kind will make plant labels again this year; get the plant info to her as soon as possible. There is a new floor plan to facilitate the traffic flow. Handicap signage has been designated for 4 spaces. Signup Genius is in use for staffing slots with many slots taken by 2025 apprentices. Terry DeJongh is our lead tallier. Derek Robinson, Apprentice, will be shadowing Sharon Busby in veggies. Ross McCann is section lead on houseplants. **2)** Laura was able by utilizing Stormi's liaison with Chamber and use of OSU Extension's membership, to receive the benefit of one week (May 11 – 17) of free digital advertising on their billboard located outside the chamber building. The ad is shared between 12 members and is on a 5-minute rotation. Laura relayed additional information about the benefit of purchasing Chamber membership in the attachment "Proposal for LCMGA to Join Newport Chamber of Commerce". The issue was passed on to the Publicity Committee for their consideration and recommendations. **3)** Laura said that LCMGA has also been the beneficiary of about 100 compost pails plus a compost booklet donated by the Solid Waste District. The pails will be given out at the Plant Sale. If successful, Laura hopes to pursue a grant to promote similar benefits to the public and LCMGA. **4)** Laura said that the Association has a donation form from Lane Forest Product in Eugene to consider next year for soil. This year we received a one cubic foot bag for \$5.39 as they give a 10% discount after 10 bags. She is planning to look at different soil mixes for next year at a better price point. **5)** Loyalty Day Parade. There is little interest in participating. LCMGA will not be in the parade this year.

**Attachments:** 2025 Plant Sale Flyer.pdf; Plant Sale Update.pdf; Proposal for LCMGA to Join Newport Chamber of Commerce.

## 7. Demo Garden Updates

**Lincoln City:** Kathy Burke submitted the report. March has been a time of slow preparation at the LCDG. The turnips and broccoli have all been harvested, along with some herbs, and donated to the food bank. We have chard that is ready to pick. There are arugula and cabbage starts waiting in the old frame for some slightly better weather. Our daffodils came up and are adding a cheerful tone and some color. We will plant a few more next Fall as the deer are leaving them alone!

The new storage shed had allowed us to move most tools out of the greenhouse. We now have some squash and artichoke plants for the plant sale growing in the greenhouse.

Terry has been working hard at cleaning up some of the beds and he has turned over the clover crop in the galvanized bed in anticipation of our 4 Apprentices. Dave Hall has also been hard at work in the garden.

We are also looking for a garden bench. If anyone has one, we are interested.

**Attachment:** LCDG Board report 4.14.25.docx

### **Waldport:**

Sandy Mathis reported that there are plans for a work party for staining and clearing. The cover crops are doing well, and there are plans to till them into the soil soon.

**South Beach:**

Steve Vogel reported that he will be attending the meeting for Demo Garden Leaders today (4/14).

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Kristi Kind adjourned the meeting at 12 noon.

Submitted by Emilia Lacy, LCMGA Secretary

**Attachments:**

April, 14,<sup>th</sup> 2025 board meeting agenda

April 14 25 LCMGA Bd Mtg Zoom Hybrid FINAL

Bal\_Mar2025; PL BudvsActualMar25; PL\_PrevYrCompMar25

JOG 2025 Full Flyer(2).png; OMGA Silent Auction Letter 3.8.2025.docx

Proposed OMGA dismissal policy\_fin.pdf

[Lcmastergardeners] 2025 Requirements for Certified & Associate Master Gardeners in Lincoln County, Evie Smith, 24 March 2025

Grant Committee Presentation to the LCMGA Board 4-14.pptx

Plant Clinic Report for Mar 2025.pdf

2025 Plant Sale Flyer.pdf; Plant Sale Update.pdf

Proposal for LCMGA to Join Newport Chamber of Commerce

LCDG Board report 4.14.25.docx

2025 LCMGA Associat Member Survey Results