

MGFKC Board Meeting  
May 4, 2005

Board members present: Gary Gratrix, Jane Bedinger, Beanie O'Neill, Robbie Gallagher, Kim Loucks, M.J. Tyler

The meeting was called to order at 1 PM by Pres. Gary Gratrix.

The minutes of the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as amended. The last sentence in the Treasurer's Report should have ended with the words "for the calendar project."

Treasurer's report: Our current balance is \$12,283.23. Because some expenses for the Extension Office may not be as high as projected, we may have sufficient funding for the Calendar Project without the need to call upon angels.

State Foundation Training Conference in September: Beanie noted that this conference scheduled in early September in Pullman will have a limited enrollment so those interested in attending should sign up promptly. Materials will be available at the Extension Office and on the web by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Registration on line will be available.

This year's conference will feature the first annual "Diagnostics Bowl", patterned on the College Bowl. Counties can each enter two teams, with 8 teams from across the state selected to participate. Peg Tillery noted that our county is notable for having the lowest number of submissions to the Extension labs in Pullyalup for diagnosis, which speaks to our proficiency in solving such problems at the county level.

DeLona Kent reported that there will be no "Search for Success" presentation at this year's conference.

We have received the annual call for the state "Master Gardener of the Year." In the past we have not made a nomination. Our reasoning has been that all MGs deserve this title and it is inappropriate to single out one person. As well, the nominee has to agree – some effort was made to make a nomination at this meeting, but the nominee(s) firmly declined.

A fund raiser for the State Foundation is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> aboard the "Argosy" out of Seattle. Cost will be \$60/person with all profits to the State Foundation Educational Development Fund. This notice as well as the fall conference will be listed on our website along with the appropriate links.

Horticulture Coordinator Report: Peg noted that the "Jr. Master Gardener" program announced last month has been put on hold by WSU for the time being. She reviewed the communications counties have with WSU which includes a monthly teleconference. The topic for April was the September training conference. There will be a meeting of the state horticultural staff some time this coming summer. Peg is on the planning committee for this.

A full day Landscaping Workshop, partnering with Stillwaters, is planned for June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Kingston. Cost will be \$30.00. Information will be posted on the web.

A professional has volunteered to teach a 3-4 hour pruning class. This topic as well as landscape design were two areas rookies identified where they would like to have more training.

Peg reported on a goal setting session the Native Plant Specialists held recently, led by Roland Mayland. The training for specialists was 8 weeks long. The second series of these classes is planned for March and April of 2006. Lectures would be held each morning and field work each afternoon.

The Weed Board has successfully hired the new Weed Control Coordinator, Dana Coggon, who started last week.

Speaker Series Report: DeLona Kent reported that after receiving checks from ticket sales, our profit from the series now stands at \$191.96. She recommended that this program be dropped for the coming year. Discussion focused on the success of this series and the fact that we could realize more profit if we held the lectures in “The Egg” here at the government center for which we are not charged rental. A committee is needed. Jane will put out a call for volunteers for this valuable activity. DeLona had several leads for possible speakers and would be willing to advise.

Seminar Report: Gary reported on this for Niene Hartley. There will be a speaker on May 18<sup>th</sup>, which will be Fay Linder speaking on “Gardening for the Birds.”

Calendar Committee Report: Sharon Howard reviewed the progress of work on the calendar. They are on schedule with two more shots before preparations are complete to send the material to the printer and things are going well. Cost per unit figures were given for those sold directly and for those sold through distributors. They have completed the paperwork for sales at the International MG conference in Saskatoon this summer and are waiting for enrollment information to sell at the Oregon MG conference. Since there is so much good publicity building around this project Sharon alerted the Board to the fact that they may recommend a second printing of 5000. At the next board meeting a method for deciding this issue should be worked out.

Field Trip Report: Joyia Rubens reported on the successful trip to the water district and to Guillimot Cove. She is considering a trip to a lilac garden in May, Boone Briar Peony farm in June and to Oyster Point Garden with other side trips on July 15 and to Laura Pittman’s lavender/vegetable garden in August.

Spring Plant Sale: Gary reported for Pam Warner head of the plant sale committee. Set up is scheduled for 7 am on Thurs. May 5. We have had good participation from MGs. Publicity this year includes roadside signs as well as a beautiful poster. There are many plants available from each of our gardens as well as donated items to sell. Next year we will be in the Van Zee building at the fair grounds which is larger and with better lighting and kitchen facilities.

Grants Committee Report: Kim Louks presented the Grants Committee mission statement for approval: “Promoting long term environmental health through sound and sustainable horticultural practices” The text was crafted based upon a workshop she attended at the last State Foundation conference and advice from committee members wise in the ways of applying for grants. After some discussion Jane Bedinger moved and M.J. Tyler seconded that we accept the mission statement as submitted by the committee – with thanks! The motion passed unanimously.

Request from South Kitsap Community Gardens: \_\_\_\_\_ requested that left over plants from our sale be given to them for their sale on May 14<sup>th</sup> as well as the loan of our pricing sticks. It was noted that we have a long-standing policy to retain left over plants. The request for use of our plant stakes was approved by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted, M.J. Tyler, Secretary

