

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Held on Zoom on Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Attendees: Cheryl McKay, Donna DesRochers, Eric Bosler, Jen Harty, Jen Munroe, Joanne Willis, John Stevens, Margo Dameier, Marcy Hasegawa, Mark Zanmiller, Megan Wickersham, Sandi Rousseau, Shari Bosler

Jen M called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Secretary's Minutes (Donna) Joanne updated the report to meet wording requirements from the bank to add Jen M to our bank account as follows: "Motion was approved to add Jennifer Harty as signatory on bank accounts in addition to the current two signatories: Joanne Willis and John Stevens. All three signatories must meet at the bank to complete the process of adding Jen H." The minutes were approved as revised.

Treasurer's Report (Joanne) A check was sent to FISH Food Bank for \$850 consisting of a 50/50 split of donations and CGMGA matching funds. A thank you letter was received from FISH, dated Feb, 2026, for swags and wreaths and appreciation of MG efforts. The treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Park & Rec Bond Measures (Mark) With the upcoming ballot measures for the local pool replacement and operating levy, Mark is reaching out to local organizations. He gave an update on the current conditions of the 1940's pool and explained the operating levy request of 33 cents per thousand for five years to fund community education programs. Information is available at hrvrec.org. There were no objections to Mark bringing information flyers, giving a brief update and answering questions at this evening's association meeting.

Field Trips (Marcy) Three field trips are being planned by Marcy and Lisa Sapanski. Trip 1: Hydrangea Plus in Aurora, Oregon, Sunday, June 14th at 1:30 pm, offering 700+ varieties, a free tour, and a carpool. Trip 2: Upper Valley garden tour with potluck at Lisa's house, walking to Marcy's and possibly Aura Lee's, July 12th. They are considering combining it with the annual meeting. Trip 3: Idiot Grace Winery in Mosier for an organic vegetable farm and grape growing tour, tentatively September 10th at 3 pm, Thursday. Sign-up forms will be created using Google Forms to track attendance and carpool interest. Field trip dates to be announced early in the season to maximize participation.

Quarterly Association Meeting Location options include Jen M's house, Marcy's house or at the Grand Opening of Outdoor Learning Center.

Outdoor Learning Center (Sandi) There has been a major change in the plans. We are switching from a deck area to stamped concrete which is approximately \$5,000 cheaper. A 3 foot section with permeable material next to the oak tree for water access is still planned. The concrete work will be completed soon with plantings to follow later. Paul Casal is working on a sign for the Memorial Tree Project. A \$500 check has been issued to Paul to begin work.

Garden Tour (Megan) The tour is scheduled for September 12th (second Saturday), 9 am to 1 pm. So far, Megan is coordinating solo this year, since Lauren is not available, and is looking for help. The plan is to keep the format used last year. She currently has 3 gardens confirmed and is seeking 8 total with the focus on bikeable/walkable clusters in the Hood River area. The theme this year is sustainable, water-wise, edible gardening and pollinators as well as adding Firewise Landscaping and Wildfire Mitigation content. We plan to partner with the Soil and Water, Gorge Grown, and the HRC library. Past attendance has been 115-180 participants. When looking for gardens, they do not need to be Street of Dreams gardens, but we are seeking to show sustainable examples of yards. Jen M offered her garden and will ask her neighbors if they are interested in joining her. There is a need for volunteers to help with pre-tour garden visits in June and a request will be presented at the class tonight. Margo and the Publicity team will assist with marketing.

Master Gardener Training Classes (Megan) Final class and exam are scheduled for tonight, April 8. A new training format that spread out the classes more this year with fewer back-to-back sessions was used and she is looking for feedback on how it worked for trainees.

Volunteer Appreciation Event (Megan) National Volunteer Week is April 19-25. Locally we will recognize Extension volunteers on April 23. Master Gardeners are the largest volunteer group represented and all are encouraged to attend, even if briefly. There will be a sign up link in the Monday Update email.

OMGA Report (Eric) OSU Dam Proud is an annual one day giving campaign for OSU programs. Master Gardeners have been selected as one of three focus areas. Funds will be used to support program improvements for Seed to Supper expansion, Garden Futures campaign, and online module development. Registration fee for Joy of Gardening (formerly Mini College) has been set at \$50 in honor of its 50th anniversary. Our Chapter offers grants for financial assistance to interested members.

State-level awards (Master Gardener of the Year, Behind the Scenes) now will be managed by OSU Extension, not OMGA. The Chapter-level awards timeline has been moved from May to October. Nominations will occur in September for recognition at the October awards ceremony. These changes allow trainees to be certified before nominations and provide them a full season perspective. All existing chapter award categories will continue the same.

Seed to Supper (Anne) The program, coordinated by Anne Gehrig, Jen Munroe, and Christy, began this week at the FISH Food Bank and is meeting twice weekly through the end of June. A new model that works within the Food Bank structure focusing on drop-in clients is being used this year. The same session is repeated 3 consecutive weeks (clients typically come monthly). Clients attending will be given a ticket to enter in a drawing for gifts at the last session. The 4 sessions are planting, up-potting, transplanting, harvest planning, ending with celebration potluck with clients. There have been limited trainee sign-ups so far on Sign Up Genius and it was suggested to send an announcement to full membership.

Publicity Team (Margo) With lots of people coming forward to volunteer for the Publicity Team, there is now a need for training manuals. Jen M and Sandi will do a radio appearance on April 24 at 8 am.

Outreach Team (Jen H) There is nothing new to add. For any additions or updates to our events calendar please let her know and she will update the website. A request for a fillable test was made and Jen will explore options. It will need to have a place to write the source and page number with answers.

Final Class Announcements Mark will speak about bond issues. Sandi will give an Outdoor Learning Center update and bring flamingos and props for the bond issue. Jen M will introduce board members, invite MG members to attend executive meetings, announce we are looking for a President Elect and emphasize support from past presidents and board. Marcy will present Field Trip plans. Eric will explain the difference between OMGA and CGMGA. Joanne will present Treasurer job duties.

Notes Margo is looking for 20 3-gallon pots and 10 5-gallon pots. It was suggested that Tertia King may have some.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.

Minutes taken by AI and Donna DesRochers.

