

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Held on Zoom on Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Attendees: Buzz Umphlet, Cheryl McKay, Donna DesRochers, Eric Bosler, Jen Harty, Jen Munroe, Joanne Willis, John Stevens, Marcy Hasegawa, Megan Wickersham, Sandi Rousseau, Shari Bosler

Jen M called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

Secretary's Minutes (Donna) The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report (Joanne) A \$30.00 bank charge for having 2 online users was recently added to the last bank statement. Jen was taken off as an online user to eliminate further charges. Joanne will continue to save PDF Excel reports online. The treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Outdoor Learning Center (Sandi) We have been awarded the following grants: \$7000.00 matching grant from Visit Hood River and \$1000.00 grant from OMGA. We did not receive a grant from Gorge Community Fund or Lions Club this year. The Lions Club grant will be carried over to 2027. A thank you was extended to Sandi and Jen for working on the grants this year.

Concrete: The concrete company has admitted fault in mix error for the stamping pour at the Outdoors Learning Center and has agreed to pay for the full tear out and re-pour. John Frazer, Stamp the Earth, is seeking at least two excavator bids and has received only one so far. Sandi will continue to work on getting the project completed this summer.

Signage: Mark Zanmiller completed the Waterwise signage at the Library Garden. He is working on signs for the pollinator garden, native plant garden, herb garden and outdoor learning. Visibility will be a consideration on the new signs.

Memorial Tree: Tree metal work is complete and described as "gorgeous." A decision was made not to powder coat in order to explore multi-color options. Kat Sullivan will be asked to mockup a digital color visualization of the memorial tree design. It was agreed that recently deceased Master Gardener Ann Bronson qualifies for inclusion on the tree.

Library Plant Clinic (John) The first plant clinic with associated mini conversation about that garde at the HR Library had a poor turn out due to intermittent rain and wind plus a busy graduation weekend. Helga did some deadheading and John left early. The next clinic is scheduled for Saturday, July 11. The planting of 9 new plants was postponed due to a forecast of 100 degree plus temperatures.

Raised Beds (Joanne) Marigolds have been planted for an October event. Two trellises have been installed in the larger beds with beans and cucumbers planted. Once the vegetables are in production all are welcome to take some.

Education Outreach (Jen H) Nothing new to add to submitted reports.

Coordinators Report (Megan) Megan attended a 3 day train-the-trainer class in Central Oregon. Last night a Firewise Landscaping class presented by Megan and Charlie Landsman, Community Resilience Coordinator for the Dept of Natural Resources and Coordinator of WA

State Dept of Natural Resources) at the White Salmon Library had 17 attendees. The class will be repeated on Saturday, June 13, at the Extension office with Andy Dwyer, Oregon Fire Marshall, joining Megan. Next month she plans to bring a curriculum and resources to the Education Committee and explore mini-training for Master Gardeners in an annual series.

Propagation Guideline: Brooke Edmonds (OSU, Polk and Marion County) confirmed that cuttings from healthy plants grown in sterile media with proper monitoring is permissible. This validates the propagation practices we used this year and allows for replication going forward. Native plants that were sourced by Cheryl were confirmed to come from certified nurseries. Megan will notify the Propagation Team (Jim, Margo and Anne) of the findings.

Film Selection for July Event: “Common Ground” (sequel to “Kiss the Ground”) was deemed not appropriate for an university affiliated program. She is looking for a replacement film and welcomes suggestions on topics such as pollinators, soil health or regenerative agriculture.

Outreach Team (Margo) Margo was not present but sent in a report.

Seed to Supper (Jen M) The program concluded slightly early as clients had already completed their planting. There was a strong positive response from many clients who are now one step closer to growing their own food. Bilingual handouts (English and Spanish) were created and well received. Several clients brought back seedlings they had started for uppotting. Tomatoes, jalapenos and eggplants donated by the Propagation Team were popular. A debrief is planned as well as discussing starting earlier next year and coordinating with the Plant Sale Team for specific plant varieties.

OMGA Report (Marcy) Marcy attended the last meeting. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with OSU was the most contentious agenda item and was tabled for further guidance. Chapters have been advised not to panic. OMGA has a treasurer position open. The Search for Excellence grant had no applicants so the deadline was extended to June 10. Joy of Gardening in July has 150 signed up and can take up to 200. Cost is \$50 and dorm rooms are available. There was a discussion on how to accurately report homegrown food bank donations to avoid under or double reporting. Remind folks to look at the OMGA website which has lots of resources.

OMGA Membership Cards (Joanne) OMGA sent membership cards and she wanted to know what to do with them. Research showed discounts for stores in the Willamette Valley, Al's Garden and Home, Portland Nursery (10%) and Cornell Farms (up to 25%). It was decided to put the cards in the plant clinic office for members to pick up. Eric and Marcy will follow up with OMGA to obtain a list of businesses offering MG membership card discounts, if one exists. Megan will include information in the Monday update.

Field Trips (Marcy) Sunday, June 14th, Hydrangeas Plus Nursery, Aurora, OR, tour has 11-15 signed up. This will include a cutting demonstration, pruning Q&A and greenhouse tour. Thursday, July 16th, Idiot's Grace Vineyard, Mosier, OR, is the next field trip, showcasing organic grape growing, wine tasting and a walking tour by owner Brian McCormick (McCormick Spice family). So far 11 have signed up with 6-18 expected to show up. In September a propagation of hardwood activity is planned at Marcy's house and neighbor Lisa's property. Megan will send out reminders today and will continue to put in the Monday Updates.

SignUpGenius (Sandi) Members are unable to find signups unless they have a direct link. It was proposed to host all SignUpGenius links on the password protected member page of the CGMGA website. Megan will redirect MailChimp links to CGMGA website to enable click tracking. Jen H will create a dedicated section on the password protected member page for sign up links.

Farmer's Market White Salmon (Eric) The event was well attended with seeds and frisbees the most popular items among children. Megan and Joanne have left over seed packets from Ace Hardware and the plant sale that can be repackaged in packets of 10 seeds and distributed at plant clinics and events.

Swag Jen H will order more stickers and pens swag for the plant clinic and event tubs that are regularly restocked. Megan is also ordering items from OSU and may have to ask CGMGA for more funds to offset costs, if the demand continues. Peat pots have been donated by Walmart in large quantities and are in the basement. Jen H plans to visit Walmart (with Badge) to request end of season donations and will explore BiMart as an additional source. It was suggested that a winter task to get volunteer hours could be putting together planting kits for swag give away.

Email Scam Some members have received a suspicious "exclusive invitation" email appearing to be coming from Stephanie McNight. It is probably from a hacked account and members are advised not to click links.

Notes Jen M will send out a card to Ann Bronson's family on behalf of CGMGA. **Next**

Meeting July 8, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am. Minutes taken by Donna DesRochers and Al.