



State Master Gardener Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 8, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Howlett Hall, Room 139, OSU Campus, Columbus, Ohio



In attendance: Carolyn A., Sarah Baehr, Diane Bambenek, Lynn Bauer, Pam Bennett, Schroeder Dodds, Steve Hudkins, Rose Perry, Tim Rhodus, Tammi Rogers, Fred Rufener, Bill Jones, and Kathy Smith

State Coordinator Update

- ◆ Sub-Region visits: “Getting the Pulse” tour. Pam will be visiting sub-regions in the state (approx. 5 counties each sub-region) and talking to MG volunteers to get a feel for what is needed and what is expected and at the state level also learning what programming counties are doing.
- ◆ Communications: Has been difficult at best and it is continually being worked on.
 - Listserv for County Coordinators: Hand-out was passed around. Efforts are being made to keep it current and updated.
 - mgshare listserv: Cheryl Fischnich has been managing this listserv. Pam asked the group if this is something useful that we, as a group, would like to see continue. It is out-of-date as the MG State web site (<http://mastergardener.osu.edu/>) provides a central location to get pertinent MG information. The group agreed that it shouldn't be continued.
- ◆ Speakers Bureau: Form to sign up to be on the list is on the web site, if you are willing to speak to groups. As a group, we reviewed the form and made suggestions for changes. Carolyn and Pam will work with Tim R. to put a compiled list on the web site. It will need to be updated annually. Not for the public- MG use only.
- ◆ County Coordinator's Workshop: November 15, 2006. Time will probably be 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Cost will be in the \$30 range. More info. coming. Topics may include: Volunteer issues, statistics and recording, state awards, cost recovery, EAB, etc. Pam asked for additional topics and/ or speakers. We would like for a Coordinator's workshop to be more regular, possibly twice a year.
- ◆ Updating Application
 - No longer need driver's license # or social security #
- ◆ Logo Use: Pam stressed the need for the OSU Extension logo to be used in conjunction with the MG logo. We are working toward specific guidelines to using the MG logo, similar to those of OSUE (<http://www.osu.edu/identity/logo.php>).
- ◆ Apparel: Carolyn is working with a new vendor for apparel and “MG paraphernalia”. There was talk of new apparel orders returning a profit for the MG State Fund, ordering through new company would not be mandatory nor would inventory be held by State office. In the future, there will be an on-line catalog showing colors, pictures of items, etc. Goodman's is still providing MG apparel at this time. Order forms available at:
http://mastergardener.osu.edu/coordinators/mg_apparel/index.html
- ◆ Department of Rehabilitation Pilot Program: Correctional facilities in Pickaway and Madison Counties are piloting this program. Inmates will be taught “the basics” in order to help facilitate possible employment with businesses in the green industry. Inmates completing the program will not be Master Gardener volunteers. Cost recovery is involved due to the “private good” of its nature. Fees are still being discussed. This program will use the MG manual initially, but will very probably morph into its own program.
- ◆ Governor's Heritage Garden: First Lady, Hope Taft established the gardens at the Governor's Mansion. Native plants from all 88 Ohio counties are wanted. Plants should be identified, collected and then planted in October.
 - Seeking plants: A “wish-list” of plants has been sent to County Coordinators. Plants will be accepted at the state Conference, contact Pam.

- Ambassador's program: Would like to see a volunteer from each county to be trained to speak on the Heritage Garden. Requirements include: must be a MG in good standing, attend training at the Governor's Mansion, a good public speaker, and a decent knowledge of native plants would be helpful. MG volunteers should contact their County Coordinators or Pam.

Roster Update: An updated roster of the MGCC was distributed (http://mastergardener.osu.edu/coordinators/downloads/roster_2006.pdf). Recruits are still needed in the following positions: West Region- MG Coordinator to replace Barb Mills and MG Volunteer alternate; Southeast Region- MG Volunteer alternate; North Central Region- MG Volunteer alternate. Contact Pam with your recommendations.

- ◆ Future Committee Structure Discussion: The committee discussed the function and make up of the committee. The purpose is to act as a support group for the State Coordinator (Pam), bring ideas back to the counties and be more advisory/policy oriented. We want to keep the group small, but also bring in help from specialists, other coordinator, volunteers, etc, as needed, for projects. The committee should help to facilitate Regional meetings and it was agreed that more MG volunteers were needed on the committee. First and foremost, we need to remember that the MG program should focus on education.

Financial Update

- ◆ Account Status: The committee is now solvent. The Consumer Hort. MG Manual account has \$938.75 and the MG Donation & Operating Fund contains \$2769.41, which will become \$4211.76 with the proceeds from the ONLA book sales. Travel will now be paid by the committee by those wishing to be reimbursed. This will help save counties travel expenses.
- ◆ Kinko's/ FedEx MG Manual Money: Dick Funt may have included cost recovery with the MG manual sales and that may be where the \$938.75 comes from. After several months and a lot of "digging" the bills from Kinko's for printing MG manuals in 2006 will be going out to those counties that have not received their bills. The HCS Dept. paid this bill in error instead of the individual counties being billed. Michelle Hobbes has invoiced those counties this week.
- ◆ Endowment: For info, contact Mary Maloney. \$13,000-\$15,000 has been raised and Pam will continue to work with key people, interested in promoting the Endowment. Discussion ensued on length of time to raise funds and exact dollar amount. The Endowment pledge form will be put on the web site when details are worked out.

State Conference: Robin Stephenson and Rich Sherman have taken the lead on this and all is running fairly smoothly. Diane reported they have been meeting every Tuesday at Piketon Center (6:00 p.m.) to work on details. Carol Cottrill is in charge of getting volunteers to work at the conference and more are needed. Contact Carol with volunteer names.

Awards program: The State award winners have been decided; non-MG judges were used. The winners will be announced Friday night at the Conference. The award criteria will be re-vamped for next year.

Manual Update: All reviewers are to have their revisions complete and turned in by September 30. Revisions can be done on-line (hand out was distributed on how this is to be done). There are still a couple chapters that need reviewers. The hope is to have all revision done by January 1, 2007 for the next training classes.

Cost Recovery discussion: The general consensus is that the term "Cost Recovery" is very negative. We agreed a better, more positive term is "MG State Support". This fund will support the travel, supplies, etc. of the State Coordinator as well as State awards. For county volunteers and coordinators to support a possible "head tax", a case must be made. Volunteers and County Coordinators must be presented with a budget, spelling out what the funds will be used for and what they can expect by supporting the program on a state level.

Master Gardener Priorities: Answers to the question that was posed in Mach 2006, "If we had a State Coordinator, what would your priorities be?" We generally discussed the responses. Contact Pam for a

copy of the hand out. It seems most of the priorities are being worked on, by this committee, now. Pam will be gaining more information as she visits with individual counties.

Miscellaneous:

- ◆ Volunteers are still needed at the FSR- Utzinger Garden
- ◆ Need news stories to promote Master Gardeners through OSU News. Idea for news story? Contact Pam.
- ◆ MG name tags will be re-vamped with OSUE & MG logos. Discussed how to attach pins.

Next Meeting Date

Friday, February 9, 2007 from 11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m., Room 139 Howlett Hall