



State Master Gardener Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 8, 2005, 10:00 a.m.
Howlett Hall, Room 139, OSU Campus, Columbus, Ohio



In attendance: Sarah Baehr, Lynn Bauer, Pam Bennett, Maurus Brown, Jim Chatfield, Troy Cooper, Schroeder Dodds, Steve Hudkins, Barb Mills, Tim Rhodus, Tammi Rogers, Fred Rufener, Kathy Smith, and Robin Stephenson

I. Letter to Coordinators, Roster, Minutes on Web Site

Introductions were made with everyone sharing their name and county/position. Pam asked if everyone had a chance to view the minutes on the web site. This site is where the committee meeting minutes, committee minutes and other pertinent information will be available.

<http://mastergardener.osu.edu/coordinators/>

II. Roster Update

a) Regional contacts: The roster has been updated since the May 11 meeting. The South Region still needs representation. Hal Kneen will be contacted by Robin S. to see if he is willing to serve as a South Region Educator. Tammi has a lead on another MG Volunteer Rep.

b) Regional meetings: Regional contacts (Pam, Steve and Tammi) will be in charge of organizing Regional meetings to keep the counties updated. Regional meetings should be held twice a year to make sure communication is kept current among the counties.

Agenda items III and IV tabled until after lunch.

V. Consumer Horticulture Team Update

Jim C. explained that the Consumer Horticulture Team was developed in the early 1990's, but had gradually dissipated. Since Marianne Riofrio's leaving the State Coordinator's position, questions have come up about the need to re-develop a team to look more broadly at consumer horticulture. It could be useful to develop a team to expand FactSheets, web sites, etc. for consumer horticulture.

The team would serve several goals. One of these would be to support the MG program by having anyone from the State MG Coordinating Committee serve on the CHT. Another is to find ways that OSU can better serve gardening organizations i.e.- garden clubs, societies, etc., in Ohio. Consumer Hort. could provide education to these organizations as cost-recovery. Jim proposed we help profile different horticultural entities to develop a proposal on what OSU can provide educationally.

Jim listed questions that will be sent, in survey form, to horticultural organizations. He asked for suggestions of other groups that need to be addressed. Barb suggested Herb Societies; Lynn volunteered to gather their information. Maurus will work with the Gourd Society; Kathy will work with the Ohio Nut Growers Association. Jim volunteered Ken Cochran to work on Specialty Crops. Steve will gather info on Ikebana/ Bonsai. Other groups mentioned include: Bees, Iris, Rose, Daylily, Hosta and Daffodil, among others. Troy recommended starting with the biggest groups and the rest will cascade in. This will help us to network with other hort. groups, provide education and potentially bring in funds.

VI. Awards

Pam suggests keeping the format of the 2004 forms. They do need to be "tweaked" and updated. They will be due by August 1, 2005. The forms will remain basically the same. Forms can be found on the web site: <http://mastergardener.osu.edu:16080/admin/>

Pam will pull together the 3 committees necessary to judge the categories (MG Volunteer of the Year, MG Coordinator of the Year and MG Project of the Year). Previous year's winners will be asked to serve on the judging committees. There will be three Regional awards for each category and one State winner in each category.

VII. State Conference

The 2005 State MG Conference is set for October 8, 2005 in Lima. Allen County is the host. The speakers have been contacted and they hope to have registration material out by September 1.

a) Conference Rotation: The state conference rotation was discussed. Troy asked if the participation numbers were greater when held in Columbus. Those numbers weren't available at this time. Pam suggested the possibility of having this committee host a state conference.

Discussion focused on whether or not the committee would host, and it was in Franklin county, would we be hindering Franklin County's ability to make money from the conference. Troy pointed out that just because our committee would host the conference, it could be held anywhere in the state. The South Region needs to be addressed as to whether they want to host the 2006 State Conference. Tammi, as region coordinator, will determine this by the fall regional meeting. If not, then it would default to this committee. Regions that host as well as the counties that organize the conference, split the profits. Steve noted that three coordinators received cost recovery dollars for their time spent on the 2004 State Conference.

VIII. Manual Update

Dave S. reported that some chapters had been sent out for revisions a couple years ago, but nothing came of it. *The MG Manual Committee members are: Joe Boggs, Maurus Brown, Jim Chatfield, and Tim Rhodus.*

Tim suggested asking the counties for input on how the manuals are currently used. Schroeder asked if the manuals really need re-written or simply updated. There was a consensus that the manual only needs updated. Barb suggested that additional topic resources (books, Internet sites, etc.) be listed at the end of chapters. Everyone was designated a chapter to review and return to the next meeting with a recommendation on updates required for that chapter. Pam suggested utilizing MG Volunteers with this task, as well.

If we e-mail Tim (rhodus.1@osu.edu) after reviewing the assigned chapter, he will send you the password for the 100-level class version and that may be reviewed as well.

IX. Liability Issues

Pam has been working with Ryan Schmiesing about a "FactSheet" on MG liability issues- more to come.

XI. Mary McClellan/ Michigan State

Unfortunately, schedules didn't allow Mary McClellan to be here via video conference to discuss how the Michigan State MG Program is modeled.

Jim suggested trying to have a teleconference or interview from another state or county in Ohio to see how others operate MG Programs. Tim has 20-minute interviews with Mississippi State and Colorado State and can either make them available to the committee on-line or we can watch them at the next meeting. It was decided to designate the first 20 minutes of the next meeting to watch the Mississippi State interview. We will also have a brief Power Point presentation on Richland County's MG Program. This will be kept to 30 minutes, total, for both presentations. Additional updates from other states, etc. will be determined at each meeting for the next meeting.

X. Competencies

Dave S. has heard from industry personnel that MGs give "bad information" and give organic pest control options only. So, what does being a Master Gardener mean? The topic of "core competencies" was brought up. It was agreed that MGs should know the basics of growing plants.

Tim has a resource of final test questions from Marianne Riofrio. Jim says we trust that county educators/ OSU employees will give good information, but it is difficult to standardize the whole program. The important point is for volunteers to know where to get the correct information and that it is ok for them to say, "I don't know."

Tim suggests dropping "competencies" and assessing teaching styles and lesson plans. Jim suggests a "fact sheet" on "10 or 20 Things Master Gardener Volunteers Should Know." What are our outcome objectives? Pam asked the committee to think about this question and email her five things that each member personally thinks a MG should know. She will compile the list and report the outcome at the next meeting. We will discuss the results and possibly form a sub-committee.

IV. Communication Issues

a.) Communication in general: Pam has updated the committee list-serv, she passed around a list for everyone to verify e-mail addresses. She has also put together a MG Coordinator list-serv. Cheryl Fischnich handles the MG Share list-serv. You must contact her directly (fischnich.1@osu.edu) in order to subscribe.

b.) Database: The database needs to be utilized in order to be effective. Steve mentioned adding another category beside "active" and "inactive" for the people that are "in between." This will be determined after we get through this first round of getting people up and running on the database.

c.) Web Site: Tim informed that the web site started as a record-keeping system and PR for the MG program, then moved toward providing news stories and events. The current site has been updated with Google® maps and some county information needs to be updated. Tim is working to revise the database. The State calendar of events is up, but people need to be trained in order to load data on to the site. Regional contacts will organize training at their Regional meeting. Tim suggests focusing on the calendar and county updates.

A sub-committee of Mary Ellen Beardmore, Joe Boggs, Maurus Brown, and Steve Hudkins will work with Tim Rhodus on the web site.

III. Financial Update

a.) Steve has not yet spoken with Mary Maloney about the MG Endowment. There are two additional funds: the Operational fund and the Development account. There is currently \$2,425.93 in the Operational fund. The Development account has \$13,000-\$15,000. The Endowment has approximately \$7500. The Endowment has to have \$25,000 before the interest can be used. Steve will have more accurate numbers for the next meeting. He will also find out how to access the Development account.

Pam will contact Allen County about getting the money (\$2,000) for start-up costs for the 2005 State Conference.

XIII. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, September 27, 2005 from 11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. at the Richland County OSUE office.