

**Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State  
Board Meeting  
October 21, 2011**

President Christine Bailey called the meeting to order at the TRAC Center in Pasco and welcomed four new board members and guests from Cowlitz and Pend Oreille counties. Roland Malan asked to make additions to the agenda. He noted that he was unclear about the responsibilities of Vice President and thought maybe there needed to be some definitions and discussion. He also thought maybe it is time to revisit the strategic plan's contents and how to go about achieving the goals. Tonie Fitzgerald stated that she would like to make an announcement sometime during the day. ***Betty Ryan moved to approve the agenda with the additions. Carol Rubado seconded and the motion passed unanimously.***

Chris requested that the proposed budget be removed from the consent calendar because it is a separate line item on the agenda. ***Betty Ryan moved to approve the consent calendar with the change. Patricia Bosh seconded and the motion passed unanimously.***

Chris announced that Eileen Davis-Thorne has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and has therefore submitted her letter of resignation from the position of treasurer. Chris Bailey also read from an email submitted from Claudia Matthews of Pacific County, co-chair of the 2011 Advanced Education Conference. There were 318 registered attendants and a grand total of 371 with volunteers counted. Costs have still not been finalized but are expected to be completed by mid-November. The raffle sales raised \$3927.00 and the silent auction brought in an additional \$486, totaling \$4413.00.

### **Scholarship Committee Report**

Roland Malan explained that there was a consensus from the May 11, 2011, meeting that membership wished to pursue changes in our awarding of scholarships to students. Roland and Martha Clatterbaugh submitted a proposal that the Foundation offer one college-level student a scholarship for WSU and another to a high school-level student. Roland also stated that it is his understanding that Martha is able to distribute the necessary papers for this year's scholarships now. Tonie thought by awarding a scholarship to a WSU student the Master Gardeners were making use of a good marketing tool. ***A motion was made to award one scholarship to a WSU student currently enrolled in the Agriculture Department known as the Mary Robson Scholarship. The other scholarship would be awarded to a high school student intending to attend college for the first time in the horticulture field. This would be known as the Van Bobbitt Scholarship. Bill Longnecker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.***

## **2013 Conference Proposal**

Phyllis Hull, Karen Stormu, and Patricia Bosh presented their budget proposal for the advanced-education conference to be held in Cowlitz County. There were two major concerns. One is that the registration fee of \$240 is considerably higher and might impact the attendance. The other is the liability issue around loss because for the past two conferences the hosting counties assumed full responsibility and Cowlitz County is unwilling to do so. Tonie suggested that maybe the State Foundation could come into play by hosting regional training in lieu of the annual conference every 2-3 years. Phyllis created the budget for the 2013 conference and thinks she whittled the numbers down as much as she could at this time without sponsors on board, etc. ***Kathy Brenberger moved to table the Cowlitz County 2013 conference proposal and see about it becoming the location our first regional conference. Betty Ryan seconded. The motion passed with one nay.*** Penny Simonson suggested that a committee be formed including herself, Phyllis, and Chris Bailey that would look into regional conferences and will report at the next meeting.

## **Fundraising Project Update**

Melissa Bean from the WSU Foundation reported that she plans to launch a campaign to raise money for the Master Gardener program. Melissa is a Skamania County native and a WSU graduate. She emphasized that this fundraiser will not be in competition with plant sales or conferences. She will be seeking corporate, foundation and individual donors in the \$25,000 range and over. Based on the survey taken of Master Gardeners she is clear of our needs and wants. A letter was sent on October 15 to four regions telling that the MGFWS, WSU, and WSU Foundation are all on board to kick off this campaign. Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> four focus groups will occur in Chelan, Seattle, Olympia, and Spokane. The goal is to raise \$2 million dollars with a two-year window. She expects that materials will be ready by January 15<sup>th</sup> after receiving feedback from the focus groups.

Benton-Franklin Counties arranged for a delicious lunch catered by the TRAC Center. Chris distributed posters for individuals to take back to their counties and Kristi Kessler gave us a tour of rooms in both Holiday Inn Express and TRAC Center.

## **2011-2012 Proposed Budget**

***Roland Malan moved to adopt the budget as proposed. Betty Ryan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.***

## **MGFWS 2012 Meeting Dates and Locations**

The first meeting will be held in the Seattle area on February 10<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the Seattle Flower and Garden Show. Roland will look into a Bainbridge Island site as a possibility and Carol Rubado will seek out possible Seattle sites. Members will be notified of the determined meeting location later. Spokane will host our June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Tri-Cities Conference will be the location of our meeting during September 13-15. Longview will be the location of our meeting at the end of the year on October 19<sup>th</sup>. All meeting times are 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

A committee was formed to review job descriptions of board members. Patricia and Roland volunteered and will have something prepared for the next meeting.

Tonie announced that the survey to evaluate the 2011 conference has now been emailed. She also announced that she would be hosting a national conference for coordinators and leaders in the fall of 2012. It will probably take place in Spokane and will let us know if she sees a way for us to be involved.

***Patricia moved to adjourn the meeting and Betty seconded. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Brown, acting secretary