



Otsego Master Gardener General Meeting  
Education Center, Cooperstown / Zoom Conferencing

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**MARCH 8, 2023, 10 a.m.**  
**AGENDA**

Facilitator: David Cox  
Notetaker: Mary Ellen Calta

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Attendance
- Approval of February Minutes

**Committee Reports**

- Education & Outreach
  - We Grow: Impressions of 'Understanding New Plant Varieties' (Francine, et al.)
  - Seed Starting review: (Carol, Darleen)
  - E&O Program Planning Update (Francine/David)
  - Spring Garden Day (David)
  - Facebook (Francine)
- Finance-Budgets / Grounds / Grow with CCE:
  - Finance/Budgets: (Mary-Ellen, et al.)
  - Plant Sale / Seed Starting / AAS / Plug Committee / AAS Plugs (Pati/Carol/Kim)
  - Grow w/CCE / Phase 1 (Peter/Pati)
  - Grounds (Peter)
  - VVGT 2022 (Mary Ellen Calta/Peter/David)

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Committee Selections: (E&O+)
- MG / 4H Program Potential: (Teresa Adell, 4H Program Leader)
- MG Volunteer Agreement Renewals
- MGVT Training 2022/2023: Final session, 3/13. Mentors/buddies needed; Welcome/Orientation TBD.
- Other

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – 10:00 a.m., Education Center/Zoom**



Otsego Master Gardener Meeting Minutes  
Education Center, Cooperstown / Zoom Conferencing  
February 8, 2023

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Facilitator: David Cox

Notetaker: Mary Ellen Calta

Attendance: In person and Zoom – David Cox, Mary Ellen Calta, Ellen Alex, Carol Phelps, Pati Grady, Francine Stayter, Darleen Fournier, Betsy Sywetz, Dianne Dirig, Peter Coleman, Kim L'Heureux, Katherine McGuire, Larsen Laramé, Susanna Membrino, Liz Callahan, Mary Ellen Crawford, Susan Jones, Kathy Koch

January Minutes reviewed and approved.

### Committee Reports

- We Grow: Kim has seedlings under lights; Ellen has seedlings in winter sewing containers.
- GROW: Francine – new proposal from Community Garden by Chris Burrington; one will be coming from Francine re: Nader Towers.

New Facebook post today: Please read report from Carol Phelps on Greenspace and use of it. We need to know to use GIS from Otsego County and how it affects us.

- Seed Swap review: Ellen Alex reported 100-150 people; all seeds given out. Flower seeds were gone, a few vegetables seeds remain. Some people took lots of seeds, filling bags and shopping bags. Catherine McGuire shared that Seed Swap Day was a happy day.
- Gardening: Choose Your Own Adventure workshop: Francine reported 29 people registered; for future presentations, need someone to monitor chat; good first try at this workshop.
- Spring Garden Day: David had not heard from OCCA; will get in touch with them. SGD Committee: Susan Jones (Chair), Peter Coleman, Ellen Alex, Darleen Fournier, David Cox.
- Education & Outreach: See report attached. Francine noted the memorial for Joan Riley. Tina McGurrian will work with Francine re: a path of white stones and a plaque on a stone in her memory. MGs will dedicate a new tree at the Education Center with a plaque in her memory.

Dr. Steve Reiners (and graduate students) will present (Zoom) on plant breeding – 'How a Plant Comes to Be', March 1, 6:30 p.m. This will help us better understand the plant breeding process and dispel misinformation.

Photographs by Master Gardeners: Photos of people in public spaces may be used without permission; under 18 requires written permission. People in our group who do not want photos used, please tell us so that photos are not used.

- Facebook: See report for numbers.

Finance-Budgets / Grounds / Grow w/CCE:

- Mary Ellen Crawford noted that budgets were sent to committee chairs.
- Plant Sale: Carol confirmed the sale is Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. See report attached. Let her know if any changes need to be made to the committee; add Peter Coleman. House plants are needed for plant sale. Francine will do a Facebook post on propagating house plants. Poster will be reworked for this year. Seeds will be distributed today for those who come to pick up for seed starting. See seed starting dates in plant sale report, attached.
- Grounds / Grow with CCE: Peter reported that the Signage Committee met several times to work on the signage; will finalize with Liz who will be working with the designer to get the signs completed. QR codes discussed; may not be a good idea.

Plant lists will be sent out once Peter gets them finalized. Beds identified, plant selection, and plant orders are in progress.

Committee recommends stone dust and TrueGrid be used to finish the project within the gardens. For fencing, see attached report. Additional funding is needed to finalize the beds, so that we can plant in April and May. Grounds Committee recommended that \$10,000 be allocated to the GROW w/CCE funds to complete this phase. Motion by Peter Coleman; second by Carol Phelps. Motion approved.

- VVGT: Plants have four beds that will need staking. Do we want uniform staking or do four different types for educational purposes? TBD at a later date; suggestions welcome.

### New Business

- Committee selections needed. Please let Madelyn know asap.
- MG Volunteer Agreements must be signed. They were handed out or will be mailed to those not at the meeting; return to Madelyn asap.
- Mentors / Buddies needed for each Master Gardener Apprentice (6). Please let David know.
- All volunteer hours to be sent to Madelyn electronically only; no staff to process manually.
- Workplan Worksheet: See attached.

**Next meeting March 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m., Education Center and Zoom**

Meeting adjourned 11:50 a.m.

*Submitted by Mary Ellen Calta*



# MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER MONTHLY MEETING ATTENDANCE

2/8/2023

PLEASE SIGN IN – Excused:

Print Name	Sign
Mary Ellen Calta	Mary Ellen Calta
Carol Phelps	Carol H. Phelps
Ellen Alex	Ellen Alex
Dianne Dileo	Dianne Dileo
Peter Coleman	Pete Cole
Kim L'Heureux	Kim L'Heureux
Susan C Jones	Susan C Jones
B Doolen	B Doolen





Otsego Master Gardener Program  
**PROGRAM 2022–2023: WORKPLAN WORKSHEET**  
 Education & Outreach  
 Updated: 3/7/23

Month/Date/Time/Place	Event/Activity/Topic	Facilitator/Presenter(s)/ Participants	Comments/Next Step(s)
<b>JANUARY</b>			
1/7/23: Place/time TBD	<b>Social Event</b> to kick off new year w/Schoharie MGs	David / Liz	No formal business except Volunteer Recognition
1/11/23: 10 a.m. to noon Hybrid at Education Center/Online	<b>Monthly OMG Meeting</b>	David / Madelyn / OMGs TBD	Francine suggested a You Tube video from Doug Tallamy (via email) for OMGs on their own.
1/17/23: 10 a.m. to noon Education Center	<b>Grounds; Plant Selection</b>	Peter, Kim, Susan	
1/19/23: 10 a.m. to noon Hybrid at Education Center/Online	<b>Signage</b>	Peter, et al.	
1/21/23: 10 a.m. to noon (Third Saturday Series) Hybrid at Education Center/Online	<b>GARDENING: Choose Your Adventure. Navigating Seed Catalogs; Plant Selection Hardiness Zones; What to Plant and When.</b>	Francine via Zoom. David, Darleen at Education Center. Other MGs are welcome.	Registration in progress
1/28/23: 9 a.m. to noon Oneonta Farmers' Market at Foothills PA&CC 24 Market St, Oneonta	<b>Annual Seed Swap</b>	Ellen Alex, David, Kim, Susan, Darleen, Dianne D. Others are encouraged to participate.	PR to come; Francine to feature on FB. David to finalize details w/Meg Kennedy.
1/31/23: 10 a.m. Education Center	<b>MG Seed Sowing</b>	Kim, et al.	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
2/6/23: 9:30 a.m. to noon ZOOM Only	<b>E&amp;O Meeting</b>	David, Committee, et al.	
2/7/23: ZOOM Only	<b>Grounds</b>	Peter, et al.	

2/8/23: 10 a.m. to noon Hybrid at Education Center/Online	<b>Monthly OMG Meeting</b>	David / Madelyn / OMGs	
2/8/23: Noon	<b>MG Seed Sowing</b>	Kim, et al.	
2/16/23: 10 a.m. Education Center	<b>MG Seed Sowing</b>	Kim, et al.	
2/18/23 10 a.m. to noon (Third Saturday Series) Education Center: In-person only.	<b>Seed Starting Tips for Gardeners</b>	Carol Phelps / Darleen Fournier	Kim provided a PPT. Handouts, etc., TBD
<b>MARCH</b>			
3/1/23: 10 a.m. to noon Hybrid at Education Center/Online	<b>Plant Sale Meeting</b>	Plant Sale Committee	
3/1/23: 6:30 p.m. Online Only	<b>Plant Breeding – What you always wanted to know, but afraid to ask.</b>	Cornell Agri-Tech; Steve Reiner and two grad students.	For MGs, possibly statewide; open to the public TBD.
3/8/23: 10 a.m. to noon Hybrid at Education Center/Online	<b>Monthly OMG Meeting</b>	David / Madelyn / OMGs	
3/8/23: 12:30 p.m. Education Center	<b>MG Seed Sowing</b>	Kim, et al.	
3/18/23: 10 a.m. to noon (Third Saturday Series) Hybrid at Education Center/Online	<b>Grafting Fruit Trees</b>	Paul Mendelsohn	For Schoharie audience as well.
3/20/23 – 3/24/23	<b>Ag in the Classroom</b> (AITC) Readings in local schools.	Generally, an ag/4-H event.	Readings are supplied by Ag In The Classroom
3/20/23: 10 a.m. Education Center	<b>MG Seed Sowing / Plant Sale</b>	Kim / Carol	
3/22/23: 7-8:00 p.m. Clark Center Meeting Room	<b>Deer Resistant Gardening</b>	David Cox / Devin Merkley / Dr. Paul Curtis, Cornell (Zoom)	Shelby MacLeish, OCCA contact; handling PR
3/25/23: 10 a.m. to noon Middlefield Orchards, Middlefield	<b>Tree &amp; Small Fruit Pruning</b>	Laura McDermott, ENYCHP	No Snow Date!

<b>APRIL</b> 4/4/23: 10 a.m.  4/12/23: 10 a.m. to noon Hybrid at Education Center/Online  4/15/23: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Milford Central School; Two tables in gym; workshops in classrooms.  4/17/23: 10 a.m. Education Center  4/25/23: 10 a.m. Education Center	<b>MG Seed Sowing /Plant Sale</b>	Kim / Carol	Collaborate with OCCA, Anna Rutenbeck. New weekly meeting dates, Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. Workshop topics TBD.
	<b>Monthly OMG Meeting</b>	David / Madelyn / OMGs	
	<b>Spring Garden Day at Earth Fest</b>	Topics and Presenters TBD	
	<b>MG Seed Sowing</b>	Kim, et al.	
	<b>Plant Sale Meeting</b>	Plant Sale Committee	
<b>MAY</b> 5/3/23: 10 a.m.  5/4/23: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Cornell Botanical Gardens  5/10/23: 10 a.m. to noon Hybrid at Education Center/Online  5/20/23: (Times TBD) Education Center	<b>MG Seed Sowing</b>	Kim, et al.	Steve Reiners / students to present. Travel TBD.
	<b>VVGT Field Day and Plant Pick-up</b>	OMGs and SMGs TBD	
	<b>Monthly OMG Meeting</b>	David / Madelyn / OMGs	New date!
	<b>Annual Plant Sale</b>	Plant Sale Committee, et al.	
<b>JUNE</b> 6/8/23: 5 to 8 p.m. Clark Sports Center and live Zoom  6/14/23: 10 a.m. to noon Hybrid at Education Center/Online  6/15/23: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cornell Agri-Tech, Geneva	<b>Grow/Conserve Your Own National Park Dr. Doug Tallamy</b>	Francine, et al.	Open to public; registration required. 60 seat capacity plus online registration. Details TBD.
	<b>Monthly OMG Meeting</b>	David / Madelyn / OMGs	
	<b>Sustainable Landscape Conference</b>	Collaboration with NYSIPM and Sustainable Landscapes	\$50/person, includes lunch and Ecological Garden Guide
<b>JULY</b> 7/12/23: 10 a.m. to noon Hybrid at Education Center/Online	<b>Monthly OMG Meeting</b>	David / Madelyn / OMGs	

<b>AUGUST</b> 8/2 – 6/23: All week Otsego County Fairgrounds  8/9/23: 10 a.m. to noon Hybrid at Extension Center/Online	<b>Otsego County Fair</b>  <b>Monthly OMG Meeting</b> (Possibly no meeting in August, except for Fair.)	OMG Fair Committee	OMG Fair schedule TBD.
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
<b>DECEMBER</b>			

Link to archive/current issues of the CCE Horticulture Update: [CCE Horticulture Update \(campaign-archive.com\)](https://campaign-archive.com)

**Topics for consideration: (from 2020-2021)**

Pest and Plant Diseases in a Changing Climate  
 Bio-Intensive Gardening  
 New Takes on Container Gardens  
 Grow a Cutting Garden at Home  
 Herbs for the windowsill and microgreens  
 Forcing bulbs  
 Weed & pest control in the garden  
 Harvesting & preserving the garden  
 Topics from MGVT Training 2022-23  
 Sustainable Home Garden Practices  
 Soil Health  
 Composting / Mulches  
 Weed ID & Control  
 Pests & Pollinators  
 Lawn Care w/o Pesticides  
 Invasive Species  
 Annuals & Perennials/Ornamentals  
 Large & Small Fruits  
 Organic Gardening  
 Beekeeping  
 Woody Plants  
 Home Landscaping





## **Master Gardener Volunteer E & O Meeting Report March 3, 2023**

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- We Grow – takeaways from the Understanding New Plant Varieties talk
- Seed Starting Workshop debrief – Darleen Fournier
- Upcoming Education workshops
  - Carla Crim - 3/11/23 - Biointensive Gardening
  - Paul Mendelsohn – 3/18/23 - Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop
  - Chris Burrington – 4/1/23 - Soil Blocking – she may have room for three OMGVs
  - Laura McDermott – 3/25/23 – Tree & Small Fruit Pruning
  - Francine – April – TBD for Cooperstown Sr. Center
- We will purchase a new resource book for our library requested by Kim L'Heureux.
  - Propagating Plants – Alan Toogood \$30.26 Amazon
- Facebook – extremely active month
  - Increased our reach      ^6K      ^18.1%
  - Increased our followers      48 new      914 followers      ^13%
  - \$10 Boost for Understanding Plant Varieties
    - Reached 1661 people of that 1106 came from the boost
    - Post viewed 2305 times – people read it multiple times
    - 230 engagements (10% highly successful)      94 Likes
    - 125 registered      68 attended
- Earth Festival April 15, 2023 at Milford CS – Susan Jones and David Cox
  - E&O suggested four workshop topics
- Deer Resistant Gardening
- Gardening for First Timers
- Pollinator Research video
- Oneonta – Grants and Gardens



## **Plant Sale Meeting Minutes March 1, 2023, 1 p.m. – In person and Zoom**

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Attendance in person: Carol Phelps, Mary Ellen Calta, Peter Coleman, Madelyn Sanchez Taylor  
Via Zoom: Pati Grady, Kim L'Heureux, Emma Kirsch, Dianne Dirig

### **Review of 2022 Post Plant Sale Notes**

Quick review of 2022 Post Plant Sale Notes. Highlighting our success of excellent quality and breadth of product. Kim reported we have 16 seed starters this year which means we may have more product, but also room for some crop failure while still ensuring high quality product.

As excellent publicity was also part of our success, we had preliminary discussion. Social Media outreach is critical. Seed Starters should start sending photos to Francine of our efforts to build interest. Pati has contacted 5-Star Subaru via email to gauge their interest in supporting our effort. Peter will follow up with them in person on Thursday. 5-Star will also want photos of Master Gardener efforts in all areas to use in publicity. If you have any, send them to Pati.

### **Discussion of 2023 Plant Sale Planning Calendar**

Those present looked over calendar with a few adjustments.

- Add Emma Kirsch and Kelley O'Rourke to Seed Starters list.
- Update on Seed Starting dates. There will **not** be Seed Starting in conjunction with the Plant Sale Meeting of March 20. A new date **added** is Monday, March 27 at 10:00. Perennial plug pick-up and potting will be Saturday, March 11 from 1:30 to 4:30 and Wednesday, March 15 from 10:00 to 2:00.

### **Supplies Needed for Plant Sale**

- Tables for day of sale: Sources are our 6 six tables, Schoharie County's tables and Cooperstown Presbyterian Church tables. We need to cover church tables and make sure they are returned clean. Tablecloths are in the basement.
- Tables to keep plants on as they are brought to CCE before the sale: We no longer have any plywood or sawhorses to use in alcove. We will ask if anyone has ones we can borrow for the effort. Discussed alternatives of placing them on the unplanted raised beds.
- Tents. We have two, but need a third. Group decided not to purchase an additional one, but ask to borrow one.
- Mary Ellen presented the first labels she has produced for the plants.
- Safety vests for traffic control. Mary Ellen will ask to borrow three from Glimmerglass Opera.
- Hand-out card to give to purchasers of perennials about how to successfully grow them on in Otsego County
- Poster about which of our products are good pollinators.

## **Product**

- Seed starting supplies and seeds have been distributed and people are reporting initial success. Kim reminds seed starters to watch calendar to start seeds on time for a good quality product by May 20. Blooming flowers are an easier sale.
- Perennial plugs are ordered and will be picked up March 11 by Kim. This is a new effort to increase our supply of native perennials and we will monitor the effort to decide if we will continue it in the future.
- We also want to test if houseplants are a desired product. If Master Gardeners have houseplants, they will be encouraged to propagate them now, so we have a quality product to sell.
- Next meeting is March 20, 10:00, Zoom or in-person. Publicity plans will be finalized. As we will also be discussing the layout of the sale, in-person attendance is encouraged.