COOS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION (CCMGA)

General Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2020

Myrtle Point Extension Office

Myrtle Point, OR

I. CALLED TO ORDER by President Bob German at 11:02 a.m.

Veterans attending =

Bob Golden Laurie Wartnik Barbara Fisher Caren Brewster Mary Ann Babb **Grace Horning** Donna Rabin Mary Dixon **Dottie Tucker** John Uno Cathy Barter Mary Jo Audette Lynn Menashian Cheryl Drumheller Judy Jackson Steve Richardson **Bob German** Susan Mlynarczyk

Tina Powers Claudia Turner Donna Leveridge-Campbell Imogene McDonald Joni Kamfonik Michelle Stubblefield

Don Ivy

Trainees attending =Dawn HoelzeLinda LuhrsEdward PowersLynn JacksonMary MorseSusan ZohrehMarrie Caldicro

II. ADDITIONS: None

III. INTRODUCTIONS: None

IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: None

V. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve by: Lynn Menashian

Seconded by: Mary Jo Audette

Motion CARRIED

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT (Claudia Turner)

Prior balance	\$19,632.03
Income	90.77
Interest	.77
Expenses CCMGA soil	365.86
Ending balance (Jan. 31, 2020)	\$19,306.94

VII. COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

• Coquille Harvest Moon Garden | 180 N. Baxter Street, Coquille (Sandra Stafford) Garden Coordinator Harvest Moon Community Garden Mary Dixon read this.

We still have beds available at the garden but we are filling up fast. We have to thank Winter Lakes High School who are lending us a few young guys once a week to move our huge pile of soil into the newly raised beds and add soil to the other beds in the garden that need it.

Orientation is ongoing and we are including a new rule. All our gardeners must volunteer an hour a month to complete various jobs around the garden not including weeding around their own beds.

We have a list of jobs posted in the shed and a sign-in sheet to keep track of hours worked. This will also add to the number of volunteer hours we report to SCCGA.

This Saturday is the Coquille Valley Hospital's Health Fair and Garden Starting Event. Harvest Moon Garden will have a table in the Garden Starting event in the small room where the hospital volunteers will be offering free seeds, free plant starts and a raffle for all kinds of garden goodies. The Health Fair will be held in the large auditorium.

Sandra Stafford Garden Coordinato Thanks! Harvest Moon Community Garden

http://www.coguillecommunitygarden.org

Good Earth Community Garden | at the end of 8th **Ct., Bandon** (Judy Jackson)

Good Earth Community Garden Report March 2020

All garden plots have been rented and we've started a short waiting list. The rain broke and the sun shone on our first garden orientation which was attended by about 35 members. Novice and experienced gardeners alike will be tending plots this year and they all seem excited and energetic. Our second orientation will take place on April 5 th. The Garden Board has started many flats of vegetables in anticipation of upcoming fundraising plant sales and our greenhouse is filling up. Our first sale will take place at the Bandon Farmer's Market on April 3 rd and 4 th and will feature brassicas. Additional plant sales will take place on Earth Day on April 18 th at the Garden, and then again at the Farmer's Market on May 8 th and 9 th . In addition to brassicas, we'll be selling berries, lettuces and tomatoes.

Our class series begins on March 21st. with Propagation 101 and is open to members and the public. Also included in the series will be Beginning Gardening (4/18), Growing for Good Health (5/23), Pollinators in the Garden (6/6), Children in the Garden (7/18), Proper Harvesting (7/25), and lastly a Garden Gab Session (8/8). All classes will be held at Good Earth, rain or hopefully shine. All will start at 10 am except for Beginning Gardening which starts at 1 pm.

Lady Bug Landing | corner of 8th and Anderson Ave., Coos Bay (Renee Blom) Lady Bug Landing 3-12

Lady Bug Landing is full for the season and we have a couple people on a wait list. Some of the gardeners have started prepping their soil with this dry weather and planting under cloches or Reemay. There will be a final orientation this Saturday for the last few people. Renee & Sarah planted new strawberry plants in the demo beds and hope to get some weeding done soon. On Saturday Don Ivy is coming to dig raspberries for the MG plant sale and some folks from Lakeside and Bandon gardens are coming to get raspberries too. Starting the first Saturday in April-through October Renee & Sarah will be at the garden every Saturday from 9-12 to tend and plant the demo beds and answer gardening questions. Any MG looking for hours just needs to show up with their favorite weeding tool and clothes that can get dirty and they will be put to work. It is a good learning experience besides getting your support hours. Happy Gardening

- Plant Clinic (Kathy Creason) Clinic is now open. Calendar is located in plant clinic office to sign up. Online is available and if you want to sign up early contact Sam .CANCELLED
- Plant Sale Committee | 2020 Tomato-Rama (Lynn Menashian):



Included are E-mails and Notes from our Plant Sale Guru: Good morning, buds:

Thank you for your phone calls and emails as we navigate this unprecedented situation. As you know, the CDC has now announced a restriction to no more than 50 in a group through the next eight weeks. There can be no plant sale. I am formally calling it cancelled.

For any of our friends and neighbors who bravely hope there remains the chance of a sale, a couple of thoughts:

Standard Curve: This virus is different from the standard flu. Flatten the curve by using good safety and sanitation. Mitigate and contain this disease: Hand washing, sanitizing, covering your mouth, stay home when sick, self quarantine. Be informed by experts and not hearsay.

The world is in quarantine. Trips, marathons, festivals, shows, all public gatherings, games, are all cancelled and shut down.

Virus cases continue to spiral upward and not just in Europe. The US had 1200 last Thursday. Yesterday there were triple. When it will peak is as of yet unknown. The plant sale is only eight weeks away, on the edge of that CDC requirement. We want to avoid being associated with a public health situation of our own making even if from the best of intentions.

- We are now in a two week self-imposed national (but, yes, voluntary) restriction to stay out of public places when at all possible. Those 65 and older as well as those with underlying health conditions will impose this on themselves for the indefinite future except when necessary to go out. The two weeks are an experiment to see if it will flatten the contagion curve. The virus, however, will not be gone in two weeks.
- The farmers markets may be in jeopardy for May.
- The Coos County public health spokesperson is advising that we will have positive cases here. It's only a matter of time. We are blessed with living in rural isolation but eventually that will not be enough. No confirmed cases as of yet, but does not mean that the virus is not here yet. (Lynn's background is Medical)

Other considerations:

• Selling the plants in various locations is not possible due to the limitations of the temporary nursery license but, again, we should be mindful of adhering to all current COVID-19 guidelines. We can role model for others and should. Selling in person also exposes us and the public to unnecessary contact. The virus will still exist after the two week restriction and until all possible efforts are in play nationally.

What should we do now? As mentioned last week, now is our chance to brainstorm options for dealing with plants already in production. That is the issue...or maybe it isn't. Maybe we tell growers to do what they wish with their plants. Let's do it this way: 1) Please email your thoughts to me no later than tomorrow noon. 2) I will collate all into a single document and send out to everyone. 3) If you wish to do <reply all> that is your choice but PLEASE do not do so to start a discussion thread. The road to ruin is paved with email threads masquerading as discussion.

When our plan goes to Bob, there will be a formal announcement of cancellation along with it. I plan to ask Bob if I may write and co-send that with him and Sam.

Thank you all. You have been a force of nature. The good news is that we are well-placed for 2021. I will continue as chair, no worries.

Yours ,Lynn cell | 559.908.3635 (texts are always welcome)

*PLANT SALE CANCELLED

*The following is subject to changing information minute by minute"

Growing Volunteers: It's grower time. We now have a new position of propagation coordinator, Susan Mlynarczyk, and will have volunteer signup boards up, with on-going grower sign ups. Check with Susan.

Plant delivery: Friday before sale. Sign up for specific delivery time is required as what happened in the past did not work well with too many growers arriving in clumps, jamming up the table managers and plants being damaged in the rush. To elevate this major problem, all growers need to sign up at specific delivery times to insure quality plants and calm table managers.

GROWERS:

The sign-up sheets for all volunteers at the plant sale will be ready to rock and roll at the March CCMGA meeting. Explanations for each role will be provided, as always. Sign up soon - your favorite job could be filled before you know it. Mary Jo Audette and Barbara Fisher will be available at the March meeting with the sign-up board to answer any questions.

Delivery sign up for your times so that we can avoid jamming up the table captains or damaging the plants. So mark your calendars for **Friday, May 15th** (plant delivery day to the sale room), and **Saturday-Sunday, May 16th and 17th** (sale days). Your chance to contribute to this important event is coming up.

Thank you so much, Lynn (and a big thanks to Lynn for coordinating this huge project.)
Lynn Menashian Chair, Tomato-Rama Plant Sale Coos County Master Gardener Association
cell | 559.908.3635 (texts are always welcome)

- **Scholarship Committee** (Jan Farnsworth Thompson) No committee head as yet. Scholarship applications are available now and we will need to review them. Deadline is March 30th, mid April.
- **School Garden Grants** (John Uno) NO applications have not been sent in. Schools giving a cold shoulder to our efforts. Many schools have just given us a cold shoulder stating that they are too busy to participate.
- Coos Bay Farmers Market (_______) No manager as yet. First Wednesday in May. Volunteers per month need to volunteer to manage.
- Bandon Farmers Market (Caren) Nothing new
- Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA) meeting | Representative Report (Terry Harris; Dottie Tucker, alternate) Nothing to report. Next meeting in April.
- **County Fair (Samantha Clayburn)** No updates at this time. Fair booth will be in the OAKS pavilion this year with the Master Food Preservers. Climate controlled and bathrooms close to us. OSU section in the building.
- Recruitment and Retention: Donna Rabin We have been having a difficulty time recruiting. Formed a committee to help attract other potential MG's. Many actively participating to help get more members. Evidenced base so we are doing surveys to help us find out why some members have left, what attracts members, etc. Are they finding what they need when they join our group. Surveys will be sent out in June. End of June and July find out why some left the group. Then do phone calls to find out. End of June, beginning of July. Education at every meeting to enhance our meetings to make them more meaningful and attractive. Rational, Education and social interaction. Any questions, send to Donna Rabin.
- VIII. COMMENTS from Samantha Clayburn, OSU Extension Service, Coos County (Samantha Clayburn)
 In middle of Master gardening training, Fer

Training:

"Fertilize your Mind" Update: April 4th, has been cancelled.

Fluid situation with CCMGA. With the novel coronavirus outbreak, the latest guidance from the state: professors are preparing on line training processes. WE need to cancel our large events such as fertilize your mind. Effective March 14th, buildings will remain open but classes will go on line. All OSU will be encouraged

to work from home. We are a remote office. Plant Clinic might be impacted. Travel is discouraged until all clear at least till April 30th. With maximum social distance.

Tomato Rama is up in the air. E mails will be sent out to everyone as this situation progresses. Any group gathering over 50 people is cancelled as per OSU.

Newsletter Committee. New articles are requested. Received one already. Thanks.

Newsletter: last paper newsletter. The rest will be electronically so should save some money. June will be all electronic.

Blog Address is: blogs.oregonstate.edu/cossmga/ Password is: Tomato-rama2019 Financial report is also on the blog site.

Meet to plan Spring planting.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

John Uno: we need to curtail or fit our methodology for our volunteers to do their hours. If you do not want to put the hours in perhaps this is not the group for you. All groups are struggling with volunteers to do the hours. Reduction in some functions is one way, but once lost, it is sometimes hard to get them back.

Next Months' Meeting:

CCMG Meeting April 7th, 2020 at Coos Country Education building. CANCELLED

Webinars: Hourlong for Continuing Education Credits for MG. Good for trainees for learning. Brook Edmunds, from Benton County come one a month and archived on her youtube channel. 1 hour webinars. Movie night for plant geeks.

REMINDER: The new OSU/CCMGA blog now takes the place of the old web page for calendars and other chapter information.

Open a browser window or use Google and type in:

blogs.oregonstate.edu/coosmga/

If a password is requested to open a tab on the page, type in: Tomato-Rama2019

X. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

EDUCATIONAL TOPIC:

The next meeting is: CANCELLED

Respectfully submitted by: Tina Powers, Secretary March 12th, 2020