

COOS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION (CCMGA)

General Meeting Minutes

January 12th, 2020

ZOOM MEETING

County wide

December Meeting: informal Zoom meeting due to Covid 19 restrictions.

ZOOM MEETING ATTENDANTS:

Grace Horning	Kathy Creason	Tina and Ed Powers
Bob German	Susan Zohreh	Elaine Goodner
MaryJo Audette	Donna Leveridge-Campbell	Susan Mlynarczyk
Lynn Jackson	Kalen Mills	Laurie Wartnik
Caren Brewster	Mary Dixon	Dottie Tucker.

CALLED TO ORDER by Host: Samantha Clayburn. Samantha led the meeting. Master food preservers having some good online videos for recertification. Dehydration, bacon making, etc.

Happy rainy Tuesday.

Announcements: Tina Powers shared information on a series of plant information that is being presented by the Culinary Breeding Network: Week of Garlic, Radicchio and Collards with more to come in the New Year. IN January, there is a series on Brassicas. All of the series are currently for free on YouTube.

Marshfield High's garden club was mentioned in the paper. This is the one we sponsored with our grant.

No further information for working with tribe due to Covid outbreak with some of the tribal folks. Tina Powers will follow up when Jackie Chambers is feeling better.

Minutes approved as read. Claudia Turner and Elaine Goodner seconded it and motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Claudia Turner)

Prior balance	16,788.29
Income (Fertilize your Mind)	0
Interest	.43
Expenses Dues OMGA	
Ending balance (January 31st, 2020)	16,788.72

Financials: Education & Outreach Income: 0

Savings : Savings CD is \$8,417.79

Financials motioned and approved unanimously.

Reach out if you want to chat with Sam and your fellow Master Gardeners. Let us stay connected!

Dues discussion: Claudia's letter looked good. Dues decided at \$15. Per year. Question? Should we return envelopes and where to send dues? Will be included in letter.

COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- **Coquille Harvest Moon Garden | 180 N. Baxter Street, Coquille (Sandra Stafford) Garden Coordinator**

Harvest Moon Community Garden : Mary Dixon

<http://www.coquillecommunitygarden.org>

February Garden Report

We made the front page of the Coquille Valley Sentinel announcing when our applications for a garden bed will be available with a photograph of Mary Dixon watering in the garden. We've printed our applications and flyers to distribute to the community. The Coquille Library will distribute the

application packets through the window where people pick up their books and the applications will be available as usual in the box at the garden gate.

We've been prepping, liming and covering the beds with cardboard. I now prefer cardboard over everything else we've tried. The cardboard discourages weed growth really well and the soil isn't as water-logged and the soil warms up much faster than when we used straw as a covering.

We will be following all the Covid restrictions, let potential gardeners know ahead of orientation what will be required of them and have a feeling those requirements will last all summer. Getting the Covid virus under control is an imperative and asking people to wear a mask, gloves and respect social distancing is a small price to pay.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Sandra Stafford

President and Garden Coordinator

Coquille Harvest Moon Community Garden

"A garden is a friend you can visit any time."...(Just come alone and wear a mask & gloves!!)

January Garden Report

The Coquille Board of Directors are beginning to prepare for the coming season. Since the Extension is closed, we will be dipping into our funds to get our applications and flyers printed.

I'm preparing an article for the Sentinel to alert our local community how they can pick up their applications. Our application availability is diminished but we're trying to come up with more alternatives. Initially, we will encourage people to pick up their application at the garden gate or download it from our website.

As for the garden, we have a lot of work to do to get it ready and few helpers so it's a challenge but hopefully, even with the Covid restrictions, we will get some good weather and some extra help.

Here's to a healthy & safe New Year!

Sandra Stafford

President and Garden Coordinator

Coquille Harvest Moon Community Garden

- **Lady Bug Landing Garden report 2-9-21**

Lady Bug landing is open for the season, as of Saturday 49 of 60 beds have been rented for the season already. Lots of returning gardeners, and many new gardeners, a lot of them right there in the neighborhood.

The fence project has started and there have been work parties the last 4 Saturdays, as the skies parted for us. The entries have been redone, all the fence posts are in and the 2 x 4" cross pieces for support are done. Next weekend weather permitting the actual fencing will go on and Renee will start doing orientations, and the following week we will raise the existing wood fences with the old low wire we removed in December. The orientations will be in small groups every half hour due to Covid-19 and social distancing. Steve Richardson and Lynn's husband Reubin have been helping with the project and have built 2 lovely gates, too.

We also got a pallet of Stutzman's chicken manure that was spread on the garden this Saturday and was split with Lakeside garden.

We are looking forward to another good garden season and hopefully all the gardener's veggies will be safe and sound. 😊

Lady Bug Landing Garden report 1-12-21

Applications are starting to come in January 3, for Lady Bug Landing, we are about ¼ full so far. We will be doing the first part of the new fencing project by replacing the large uprights on the big entry gates. Then in the following weeks, TBA, postholes will be dug and the posts set, then the 6 ft. fencing put on.

When that is done we will raise the wood fences with wire, that we recycled from the old low fence and then will make and install gates. The garden should be ready to close and lock up before there is produce ripening. It will hopefully be a good garden season, Covid-19 rules will still apply, and everyone at the garden needs to be gloved and masked, 6 ft. social distancing respected and only one person at a time in the shed. At some point either the end of January or beginning of February when we are able to obtain chicken manure, that will be put on the beds and the garden season will begin. All gardeners will need an orientation the beginning of February before they can start planting. Demo beds will be planted again, with the food from them being donated to the Coos Food Cupboard. Here is to another year of gardening, hard to believe this will be the 16th year of gardening at Lady Bug Landing. There will be volunteer opportunities starting at the garden April-October.

- **Good Earth Community Garden**

Judy Jackson is stepping back from Good Earth and will be handing the reigns to Leslie Wirt.

February Report:

Applications for the Good Earth Garden in Bandon have been distributed throughout the Bandon community. They are at 4 physical locations: Ace, Hennicks, 101 plants, and Coastal Harvest. They are also available on the SCCGA website. We have raised our plot fee from \$20 to \$25. This is to offset the costs of the plant sale we are not holding this year, and the raising water costs in the city. We have received several applications back already and are looking forward to a new season.

Be well,

Leslie

January Report

The garden beds were cleaned out on December 1st. Our hard working board took a month off, and we are having our first meeting of 2021 this coming Monday, the 11th, via video chat. Our applications will be available February 1st. As always, we would love to enlist more Master Gardener volunteers who wish to be involved with our garden. We are looking forward to the fresh start that a garden always brings come spring.

Additionally from meeting: Donna mentioned_

Sam will be re submitting for permission for our hours when we volunteer for the community gardens.

- ***Plant Clinic (Kathy Creason)***

November 2019 thru October 2020

Nothing to report. Closed till March Pending modified approval.

- ***Plant Sale Committee | 2020 Tomato-Rama: We need a volunteer to head up this committee.***

Meeting cancelled and re-scheduled for January.

The meeting will be rescheduled for late January Zoom. Let Sam know if you are interested in participating on the Plant Sale Committee.

- ***Scholarship Committee None this year.***

- ***School Garden Grants:*** Nice article about Marshfield's program. Would have been nice had we got some credit for it. WE know so that is what is important. Should have been a local kudos to our group.

- ***Coos Bay and Bandon Farmers Market: WE usually start in May so we will see.***

Nothing at this time to report. Indoor is happening, but we don't participate there. Hopefully we can do it next year.

- **Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA) meeting | Representative Report**

Nothing new at this point.

- **County Fair (Samantha Clayburn)** Cancelled till 2021

- **Recruitment and Retention: Donna Rabin**

Nothing to report.

- **Additional Information: From Coquille Valley Seed Community**

Due to the continued presence of Covid-19, Coquille Valley Seed Community is holding a virtual Plant and Seed Swap this March. We will be exchanging seeds, plants, and plant matter at this event. By plant matter, we mean any part of a plant that is known propagation material. This can include stem cuttings, fruit tree scion wood, tubers, miscellaneous roots, and the whole plant itself. If you would like to offer seeds, plants, or plant matter to the seed exchange, please send us a list of the names of those plants or seeds including variety and year, and if plant matter, please indicate the propagation material (ie. cutting, root, scion, etc). Please email that list to one of our board members, Micha Gross at thinkboxer@gmail.com. If you could get this list to us before Monday, February 15th, this would help immensely in the early planning. We are also considering putting in a large order for apple rootstock to have available to order via the online form. Are you interested in purchasing rootstock with us? If so, include this in your email with quantity of rootstock you would like. Public is always welcome. If you did not participate in the January exchange, the process is simple: you will receive a online form via email, fill out the form online by choosing your top ten choices, and receive your order (at least 5 of those 10 choices) via mail or pick up location depending on your choice. This time, we will only offer the mail option for orders that just contain seeds. If your order includes plant matter, you must select a pick-up location. The dates and times of the pick up locations will be in the online form itself.

[Email Your Seed/Plant List](#)

Just as a heads-up, our next public event will be our February Public Meeting with Rogue Farm Corps on Thursday, February 11th at 6pm. Due to Covid-19, it will be held virtually through Zoom. The presentation will cover the RFC Farmer Training Programs in Oregon where aspiring farmers can get real world farm production experience at the Rogue Farm Corp partner host farm sites, find out how you can participate as a Farm Corp student or partner to be a host site. Will also cover RFC's Changing Hands program. Hope to see you there.

COMMENTS from Samantha Clayburn, OSU Extension Service, Coos County (Samantha Clayburn)

"Growing Oregon Gardeners Level up is now on the websites. Register, and get some hours in.

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/events/understanding-seed-characteristics-growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series>

follow the link and register for all of the ones you want to take. Sam will email the link information. More to come. More events. First one today. Lots of great presentations. Please register if you had trouble at first.

Elevated Master gardening program starting in a few weeks and will be e-mailed out to you.

This is just for Master Gardeners to elevate your skills. Both count for your continuing education credits.

Things are still moving at a crawl for future planning. Plant sale is still in discussion. We are looking for a chairperson. WE need to pass the torch. Thanks to Lynn M. for her years of spearheading the plant sale. Make sure to if you get the chance to thank her for her many years of service.

Two Counties are not doing any plant sales this year. Both were virtual and the effort and hassle was not worth it. Had problems with the social distancing. Not as hands free as hoped. People were still potentially at risk. WE have to weigh the safety factor for our group and the public. Sam wants to make sure all of our MGs are safe and protected. Some were sad, as where to get the starts. Nurseries and plant places were inundated with new gardeners.

Where are people going to get starts? Food security. WE do live in a food desert and have limited access to plants. Plant sale direct our focus to food security. WE teach them how to start our own starts with small group workshops or video presentations. Perhaps we can support small workshops for growing. Lets plan on thinking of ways to reach the public on growing. How do we get plants out to our community. How do we set up a small green house, some type of on line event so more can see the how to and the ways to enhance growing in innovative and flexible ways. Jot down ideas as to how we can improve our delivery of information and how we can do a plant sale that promotes food security and ways to go forward. School gardens, community gardens, how to start seeds, how to fertilize, how to prune, advertise to neighborhoods. Evening or weekend at a location to film. Lots of ideas to promote gardening. What is the mechanics to build food security, what links, what ways was brought up by Mary Dixon. Perhaps reaching out to ORCA or SNAP for a collaboration. Tina Powers has contacted some of the tribal members to kick start the Reservation community garden. Will follow up.

Donna mentioned that there can be challenges for new growers. Is there a way for new growers to grow better, easier and ways for rookies. Jennifer Ewing had some videos in the past, but at this time, it would have to be limited to Sam and her. Tina Powers can do some of the video and demo works to show rookies how to grow in a limited manner. How do we get to our neighbors involved with growing viable gardens so this is a possibility. Lets brainstorm to get more of our neighbors to find out interest and support more growers. Lets try for simple things so that more families and neighbors in a small scale can be successful. Grow plants in the ground. Keep it simple, What grows in the ground? What grows well here on the coast? Break these informational videos into small 15 to 30 minute bites. Some other communities are insular and community involvement can be limited. We can use our extension beds to make videos as a suggestion. We could do an amendment bed as an example. Jot down your ideas and we can revisit over the next few meetings. Most likely we will not have a plant sale in the traditional sense. Those that donated their starts last year were able to give to the community. Sam just needs to get approval for filming and traveling. Food security will be funded more easily, so lets think about that. We are here to educate ourselves. Let's include educating in for our own MGs. A class on berries perhaps and other planting training to help our group to be better growers. We have to be able to touch base with people. Perhaps contact the food banks to see if anyone would like to learn how to grow, what would be the types of food that they could grow. The tough part is getting people fired up about this information. Some people just get their food and get out of there. Too much work? Others are interested. If anyone works with the food banks, if they would be interested in researching this let Sam know. There are some hurdles, but there are many opportunities out there. Seeds to Supper is done with Head start and church groups include families with kids. Sam can reach out to see if there is interest. The idea is a way to take our plant sale to improve our community and this is a great way to reach more. Scholarships have been dwindling so this is a way to redirect our focus. School gardens effect many so we should not lose the school garden grants. Perhaps smaller targeted plant sales such as perennials, fall vegetables, etc. Seeds to Supper is similar to Farm to Table. OSU is looking to take over the training. Teaching families to grow your own and then what to do with it. Oregon was the first to start this type of program. Logistics are challenging. Facilitation works better than just coming in and

saying that we will do this for you. Has to be partnerships to make it sustainable. Can't be a one person show. Can it be sustainable?

Share with some articles for the newsletter would help get the message out to the community. Just another way of getting the information out.

Mary Dixon mentioned that school gardens are in need of help, classes on how to prune, fertilize, plant, how to garden? Just a thought.

Sam thinks the gardens are being maintained at this point but outside people are not allowed in at this time. Once we get back to normal, we might be able to get in to help them. Schools do an end of year report and in the past MGs have toured to see their progress and follow up. Are these shared to the group? Yes, in the past these reports were shared with the group. Could we do small starts and take them to schools that have gardens? Perhaps a mini plant sale? We would not have to be there, and this could get plants out to the community? Suggested by Mary Dixon. Perhaps those that like to grow, can grow them and donating them to the community garden? Plant sale committee needs to get together at some time. We will need a list of sorts. Lets get some ideas for the February meeting.

Great brainstorming session today. Thanks to all.

Next Zoom Meeting February 9th at 10 am

Meeting adjourned.

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**

ADJOURNMENT: one hour meeting. Respectfully submitted by:

Tina Powers, Secretary
February 7th, 2021