

COOS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION (CCMGA)

General Meeting Minutes

March 9th , 2021

ZOOM MEETING

County wide

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

ZOOM MEETING ATTENDANTS:

Kathy Creason	Tina and Ed Powers	Bob German
Elaine Goodner	Imogene McDonald	Jan Farnsworth Thompson
Donna Leveridge-Campbell	Susan Mlynarczyk	Lynn Jackson
Laurie Wartnik	Mary Dixon	Dottie Tucker.
Dick and Grace Horning	Bill Wehner	Martha Lane
Jessie Milligan	Lora Wehner	Mary Ann Babb
Tamara Ferre-Hunt	Mike Meuller	Barbara and Joe Fisher
Claudia Turner	Susan Zohreh	Caren Brewster

CALLED TO ORDER by Host: Samantha Clayburn. Samantha led the meeting.

Minutes approved as read. Mary Dixon and Jessie Milligan seconded it and motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Claudia Turner)

Prior balance	\$17,608.12
Income(Members Dues()Fund raisers, grants and donations.)	
Interest	36.
Expenses Dues OMGA	
Ending balance (March 31 , 2021)	17,608.48

Savings : Savings CD is \$8,419.83

Financials motioned and approved unanimously.

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

COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- **Coquille Harvest Moon Garden | 180 N. Baxter Street, Coquille (Sandra Stafford) Garden**
Coordinator <http://www.coquillecommunitygarden.org>

The garden will have to make a decision as to who the coordinator will be. There has been some concerns going forward. Some internal squabbles. Lots of unknowns. There were some internal struggles over the plant sale for the community garden so it fell apart. The lease is up in 2022 so land use will have to be negotiated. Its future is in limbo at this time. Hopefully we still have this garden. The board members will have to step up. The three board members are running it for this season. Claudia will reach out to the members to help keep it going. It is important to keep this going for those that can not afford to garden at home.

The concern has been are we losing many gardeners to just community gardens? In Coquille, people love to garden in their own yards. Less are going to the community garden here.

March Garden Report

The application packets are out but we haven't gotten a lot of applications so far. Perhaps it's because of the wet, cold weather. Perhaps it's also due to the Covid restrictions keeping people at home more. However, as soon as warmer weather appears and people start thinking about gardening, we will see more applications.

Sadly for me, I've decided to step away from the garden. I am proud of my contributions to both the Master Gardener program and Coquille Harvest Moon Community Garden but now, ten years later, I'm ready to spend more time on my own projects.

I'm not sure who will take over but the rest of the board has a lot of gardening experience and I wish them luck...and a warm, dry spring and summer.

Thank you to all those who work so hard and dedicate themselves to helping the community learn about the benefits of organic gardening. A special thanks to my 'mentors', Mary Dixon and Renee Blom. Good Gardening!

Sandra Stafford

Former President and Garden Coordinator

Coquille Harvest Moon Community Garden

- **Lady Bug Landing Garden Report**

- **April Report 4-13-21**

Lady Bug Landing is thriving the garden is full. We have had a few people give up their plots for personal reasons but we have had a short wait list so it has filled right back up again. The soil has finally dried, so people have started preparing their beds and some have been planted. We have one gardener who lives in the neighborhood, who loves flowers and has had a constant rotation of things blooming in his plot, which has made the garden very cheerful, plus he loves to help out and has turned some of the folks plots for them and has been keeping the pathways weeded. Another woman who also lives in the neighborhood has been helping Renee on Saturdays, from 9:30-12:30 with the demo beds, and she will be there on Wednesday morning too when the harvest for the Food Bank starts.. So far the fencing has been working and everyone is getting used to the locked gates. The gates Steve Richardson and Lynn's husband Reubin, get lots of wonderful compliments. So the season is off to a great start and will be seeing more plants starting to come up. Tina Powers is starting some plants to bring the end of the month or early May, we purchased some soil for her and gave her some pots. Cindy who also lives nearby and helps out is there often and has a great worm bin that she shows gardeners how that works.

Happy Gardening to all, Spring Fever is alive and well

- **March Report 3-9-21**

All is well at Lady Bug Landing. 52 of 60 plots have been spoken for and all gardeners have had their orientations. There have been a few calls this week from new people who said they were sending in their applications. Previous gardeners got their orientations on paper and had to read them and let Renee know they had, a lot of the material was the same as previous years, but due to Covid-19 and the new fencing there was new information. The newer gardeners had theirs in person but were in very small groups of 6 or less and we did social distancing, gloves and masks, need to be warn at all times when at the garden. The fencing projects is all finished with maybe a little minor tweaking and the new chains and locks will the added to the gates and a new lock on the shed, all the same combination. Hope this all helps out with gardener's not losing produce this season. The crew that helped with the fence was great, everyone worked together well, and it seemed like every Saturday morning for seven weeks we drove to town in the rain and when we got to the garden the skies parted for a few hours so work could get done, The Lady Bug Landing Charm. ☺ A few gardeners have covered their soil to dry out and a few have started to garden. We all look forward to another good gardening season.

- **Good Earth Community Garden**

Leslie Wirt.

April Report:

Things are starting to grow at the good Earth Garden in Bandon. Some brave gardeners have begun to plant transplants despite the late freezes we are having, while others are choosing to wait for warmer weather. We have already held one small monthly work party with a lot of weed pulling and dirt moving. The swallows flying around and flowers starting to bloom definitely have us chomping to get growing!

Leslie Wirt

March Report:

Bandon Good Earth Garden is gearing up for a new season. Our beds are over half rented. We have a giant pile of wood chips to be spread, and we are working on increasing the height of 2 more plots to accommodate members who need taller garden beds. Other than the behind the scenes logistics of renting out plots, all is quiet in Bandon.

Leslie Wirt

- **Plant Clinic (Kathy Creason)**

November 2019 thru October 2020

Nothing to report. Closed Pending modified approval. Still waiting for OSU to give some modified approval. Waiting for risk level to drop. One or two people, modified, building closed but we can meet them outside.

- **Plant Sale Committee | 2021 Tomato-Rama** No update

- **Scholarship Committee** None this year. Still do not know what schools are doing as yet. No applications.

- **School Garden Grants: Marshfield and Boys and Girls finished their projects.**

Pride and ownership. Great Job Marshfield and Boys and Girls Club. Boys and Girls Club put up a chain link fence. Marshfield did a great job of building the fence but the deer ate the food so they need to build a taller fence. They will restart club when allowed to. They are using lesson plans from the American Heart Society to grow heart smart foods.

Lighthouse asked for extension

Marshfield had a video. This showed the before and after work. Old plants and weeds replaced with great planning and planting layout. Utilized old buried chains into part of the new garden.

Perhaps a plaque? For the kids?. They did nice projects.

We need a meeting for the school grant board for the future projects. For moving forward.

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

Nothing at this time to report. Waiting for the limit of the covid so we can get back out there.

Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA) meeting | Representative Report

Dottie read the report that was sent out to all and on the February minutes. May 15th send a friend to the mini college. All info on the OMGA website. Oregon Growing UP is doing well. Cost will be 49.00 for the Mini college. All sessions two a day. Interactive workshops. Only 20 people.

Level up Series is going well. Room for 1000. Sold out, but not all came so anyone can enroll for it.

So sign up if you are interested. Elevated Series is also going well.

Grow Out Seeds is going well. Over 300 have signed up. There is also a Seed to Supper going on.

- **County Fair (Samantha Clayburn)** Cancelled till 2022? Need a final answer.
- **Recruitment and Retention: Donna Rabin**
Nothing to report.

Greenhouse: Would be nice **BUT.....**Maintenance needs to be addressed. It does not take care of itself. It is hard to staff the plant clinics so who will work the greenhouse? This is a tough situation. We might want it, but there are only so many hours and dollars to maintain one. Only 3 or 4 counties have them out of all the counties.

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

Discussion on community garden and Master gardener membership. History and rationale. Based on concerns of losing members. Why are members leaving the group and going to community gardens? Many master gardeners volunteer at community gardens to get their hours. COVID has been one of the reasons. We won't get new MG's this year due to COVID. Some members are inactive and this could fall into a grace period. Some counties are doing longer grace periods, (3 to 4 hours). To be an active OSU MG, they have to fill the condition of volunteer, and do required hours. They do not need to pay dues. They do not need to be a paid member of the association. Mary Dixon brought up some history as to the connection between the OSU MGs and the community gardens. Renee and her husband wanted to start a community garden in Coos Bay. She brought it to the association and the board to see if it would be possible to get volunteer hours to get hours for education for the community by working a demonstration bed. There is opportunity for indirect hours and direct hours strictly education. This has been going on for several years now. Maintaining the garden and working the MG or demonstration beds as a way for those to get volunteer hours. The community garden is a separate entity. Not OSU. It is up to each community garden. We use hours for volunteering for the hours required by our MG's. Community markets are not involved with OSU. They carry their own insurance. Our insurance covers our activities: Plant sale, farmers market, etc. that the master gardener actively works.

Membership:

Elaine Goodner mentioned that the membership was varied when she took the class. The average age is now 65. What is OSU doing to bring in younger people. Sam-OSU is offering different times and opportunities. Different times, evening classes, etc. The problem is the nationwide volunteer problem. Hard to get volunteers any more. Great ideas out there and they are implementing them and getting feed back.

OSU is very aware. Dottie commented on the age of the volunteers. Volunteers when younger depends upon the seasons in your life. Nothing wrong with an older group, it is something that they wanted to do and gardened when younger. Younger people with families are maxed out on time.

Greenhouse:

Claudia question. If we were donated a greenhouse, could it be placed on the extension land? Response is No, City of Myrtle Point owns the land and it would not be allowed. OSU has a long term lease only. At any point they could cancel it. Building is owned by Umpqua Works and it is leased by OSU. So it's a no go.

OSU and Hours:

OSU has the final say on any of our decisions based on legalities when it comes to volunteer hours such as the hours for growing for the plant sale and travel hours etc. Coordinators are trying to be a little more uniform so each group on equal footing while still acknowledging the differences between counties.

Mary Dixon. Meetings could be done by zoom. Training for MG would be zoomed and we might get more volunteers. I could not do MG until I retired. The big issue was going to class every Thursday, all day long. Is there a way to do classes by ZOOM, on weekends or evenings, etc. lots of possibilities, but we might get more people because of this flexibility. Just some suggestions for getting more MG's. It is a cycle that we do go through often. This year is different due to COVID. Opening it up to more folks due to ZOOM might be an avenue to get more training to more people. There are many, many, classes through the counties with the elevated classes are very successful with good numbers so these too can be used.

Please return the conditions of Volunteer and COVID training in to Samantha. It is required yearly and need updating.

Grow This: it is a partnership with the Snap ed program. It is a cool program to get families and individuals to grow a kit with 4 types of seeds donated by BiMart. This is a fun project to get more people involved. Was able to use the Fertilize your Mind grant money to be used for grow bags and soil to give to the families.

Starts for the Pelican Harbor, Community Gardens and other opportunities would be a means to get volunteer hours in place of the Tomato-Rama. If you want to grow veggie starts, we can give them away. Make sure to give the type of vegetables list to Sam. No specific dates set as yet. Perhaps in a month.

Tomato starts, pepper starts, squash starts, etc. Shoot Sam an e-mail when to expect them and what types. Start small and see how it goes.

Next Meeting will be on April 13th , 2021

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 April 12th, 2021