

COOS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION (CCMGA)

General Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2019

OSU Extension Services

Myrtle Point, OR

I. **CALL TO ORDER** by President Bob German at 12:01pm.

Veterans attending = 24

Dottie Tucker
Imogene McDonald
Lynn Menashian
Dana Holliday
Christine Hall
Nancy Orr
Mark Johnson
Jessie Milligan

Elaine Goodner
Caren Brewster
Susan Mlynarczyk
Grace Horning
Judy Jackson
Gail Peck
Joni Kamfonik
Bob German

Joe Fisher
Barbara Fisher
Kathy Creason
Kristi Kistner
Mary Dixon
Donna Rabin
Steve Richardson
Laurie Anderson

Trainees attending = 10

Suzanne Church
Jan Farnsworth Thompson
Maggie Greenhill
Donna Leveridge Campbell

Dan Morin
Darla Parthemore
Tina Powers
David Schley

Carol Trillia
Claudia Turner

II. **ADDITIONS** to the agenda.

Additional donations to the chapter in the name of Anita Straus have been received totaling \$150.

The OSU-hosted blog for CCMGA is now up and running.

- Access at blogs.oregonstate.edu/coosmga
- More information in a later agenda item session.

III. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Sam introduced 13 Master Gardener trainees who passed the exam – applause and congratulations from veterans.

IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none.

Communication of member celebration or illness is always with consideration of the individual and respect for privacy as desired. Thank you for letting Lynn Menashian, Secretary, know of members who would appreciate a card sent in the mail on behalf of the chapter.

V. **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES**

Motion to approve by: Joni Kamfonik

Seconded by: Dana Holliday

Motion CARRIED

VI. **TREASURER'S REPORT for month of February 2019** (Laurie Anderson)

Prior balance	\$17,245.54
Income	101.65
Expenses	1,816.11
Ending balance 2/28/2019	\$15,531.08

VII. COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

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

The garden is waiting for the cold to stop. Some gardeners have put up cloches to help warm and dry the soil. We have been weeding in the perimeter herb and flower beds. There are 11 plots left out of 60. We have a great group of gardeners and look forward to another garden season.

Starting the first Saturday in April, Sarah Brunnier and Renee Blom will be at the garden every Saturday from 9:00am to 12noon through October. Anyone wanting to get volunteer hours working at the garden just needs to who up with a favorite weeding tool, gloves and the will to help with not only weeding but planting and harvesting too during the season. Questions? Please contact Renee at back40four@gmail.com or by calling (541) 269-7468.

Renee will be teaching a class on tomatoes, Saturday, March 16th from 12noon to 2:00pm at the Coos Bay Library in the Myrtlewood Room. The class is free to the public and will cover how to start tomatoes from seed, varieties, diseases, pruning, extending the season and more.

Think Sun and Happy Gardening!
- **Good Earth Community Garden | at the end of 8th Ct., Bandon** (Judy Jackson)

The garden has now rented 26 of the 39 beds to date and we have hosted one orientation. Our second orientation will be held on Saturday, April 6th at 2:00pm. Our gardening class series begins on Saturday, March 30th, with Master Gardener Leslie Wirt presenting "Basic Gardening."

Our greenhouse is greening with hundreds of vegetables, herb and flower starts which will all be sold at our annual plant sale on May 3rd and 4th at the Bandon Farmers Market.

We invite Master Gardener veterans and trainees to get involved in the garden. It's a great place to learn and earn volunteer hours. Contact us at bandongoodearth@gmail.com
- **Earthworm Acres | 4th and Maple Street, Myrtle Point** (Jessie Milligan)

The garden is in need of a new coordinator as well as volunteers to help it continue. Please contact Jessie if you can help the garden in any way at jessiemilligan1@hotmail.com
- **Harvest Moon Garden | 180 N. Baxter Street, Coquille** (Mary Dixon)

The garden as 20 of our 25 bed occupied now. Two garden orientations have been held and there will be two more. We open for gardening on March 15th, however, the beds are too wet and cold to really start planting. Hay mulch is on all beds so as gardeners begin they will first be removing that and turning over the top layer of their soil.

We still have some repair work and building to do but are not putting that on a definite timeframe yet. There have been health and family issues taking priority and because of that we are not going to hold our annual plant sale in May this year.

We can help in the garden and will begin working every Saturday from 10:00am to 12noon. We welcome veteran and trainee volunteers. New at-large board members are being sought. Please email Mary Dixon if you would like to be involved at: igarlicgirl@gmail.com
- **Plant Clinic** (Kathy Creason)

The clinic opens Thursday, March 21st. Please review the updated Plant Clinic Manual handed out at today's meeting to ensure consistent practices when you volunteer. Note there are extensive references available online when you use the clinic's computer – please learn how to use them on your next visit to the clinic.
- **Plant Sale Committee** (Lynn Menashian)

Growers are being sought; less than six have signed up as of today. Please notify Lynn or Mary Jo Audette as soon as possible of your intent to grow for the sale even if you are not certain of quantities yet.

The **sign-up volunteer board for sale day jobs** is available at today's meeting and will be at the next two meetings as we continue to need more holes filled in the roster.

Two handouts were distributed today: 1) call for growers and, 2) call for grower mentors who are willing to provide a hands-on experience to trainees or to growers who would like to learn more. (continued)

A work group is being assembled by OSU with representatives from each county chapter that holds a plant sale. **Mary Dixon and Terry Harris** will represent CCMGA. Meetings are slated to begin in April to evaluate best practices for plant seedling production for plant sales as well as to discuss practical transitions to new requirements published by OSU's Dr. Gail Langellotto, State Coordinator, Oregon Master Gardener Program. See additional comments about those requirements in the OMGA representative report in these minutes.

****REMINDER****

It continues to be acceptable to bring plants dug from home gardens to the 2019 Tomato-Rama plant sale. Please be sure to use commercially bagged soil when transplanting as well as appropriate pot sterilization technique if using recycled containers. Bags of soil are available in the basement at the OSU Extension Services building in Myrtle Point – please use the sign-out sheet to indicate the number of bags you are taking.

Thank you for your contributions to the 2019 plant sale.

- **School Garden Grants** (Steve Richardson)
We hope to receive more applications soon.
- **Scholarship Committee** (Steve Richardson)
No applications have been received to date.
Discussion: regarding use of monies donated to the chapter in the name of Anita Straus.
 - A motion was made (Laurie Anderson) and seconded (Steve Richardson) to have the Scholarship Committee conduct further discussion regarding creation of a perpetual Anita Straus Scholarship. The proposal should identify a name for the scholarship, a specific amount, a funding source, and be included in the annual budget planning process. It was suggested that we could solicit donations from our members. Alternatively, a portion of the annual budget could be designated for a memorial scholarship on an annual basis. **Motion carried.**
 - A motion was made (Donna Rabin) and seconded (Dana Holliday) to authorize a budget amendment to increase the 2019 college scholarship fund by \$1,000 through combining the donations in Anita's name (\$740) with the unused Mini College scholarship funds (\$260) as a one-time scholarship in Anita's name in 2019. **Motion carried.**
- **Coos Bay Farmers Market** (Elaine Goodner)
Elaine will be reaching out to members by phone and email to ask for volunteers to participate at the booth during this year's market season.
- **Bandon Farmers Market** (Bob German)
Christine Hall reported the **2nd Annual Earth Day** activities will be held on Saturday, April 20th. A table will be hosted at the Bandon Farmers Market startup day with a plant giveaway and experts available to answer plant questions. Earth Day activities will be held at the Bandon City Park and will include speakers from SEA, eco printing on canvas bags for children and adults, face painting and a guided native plant walk in the park by local high school students.
- **Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA) meeting | Representative Report** (Dottie Tucker)
 - OMGA has a new Treasurer, Patrice Sipos from Douglas County.
 - Improved communication with chapters was felt to be the top priority.
 - There will be no Mini College in 2019. The coordinator position remains unfilled. OMGA would like chapters to consider hosting the event in areas other than the most-used locations (McMinnville and the Portland area).
 - In lieu of awards and grants being presented at Mini College, the OMGA Leadership committee will visit chapters to present the awards customarily given out during the Mini College annual banquet.
 - The recently distributed OMGA survey revealed the Portland area members do not identify need for Mini College as they are able to receive education and information year-round in their area. (continued)

- A Leadership Retreat will be held at the Hopkins Forestry Center on December 2nd and 3rd. All chapter board members are invited.
- An educational session was conducted by Hilda Montenegro regarding how to increase cultural diversity in Master Gardener programs.
- May 15th is the due date for applications for the three grants supported by the OMGA: the Karl Karson Grant, the Search for Excellence, and the Extension Educator Grant. The 2018 Karl Karson went to several chapters to upgrade or produce new signage. Last year \$2,900 was awarded in total for seven projects.
- Webinars for education will continue funded for this year.
- Dr. Gail Langellotto report.
 - Thirteen MG program coordinators stepped down this year.
 - The best practices work group launch was discussed – she stated she expects a transition to new requirements by chapters over four to five years.
 - Regarding making the MG program more accessible and inclusive, recent survey data indicates cost and time are the biggest impediments.
- The next meeting will be in June at the Extension office in Medford.

VIII. **COMMENTS from Sam Clayburn, OSU Extension Service, Coos County**

- Early days for 2019 fair planning, however, it is requested that the booth and education displays continue for this fair cycle. Volunteers from CCMGA will be needed.
 - ***Fertilize Your Mind*** (FYM) annual event will be held on Saturday, March 30th, at the Mill Casino from 9:00am to 3:30pm. There are 40 signed up to attend as of today; 75 are needed to cover costs. The event flyer is posted on our Facebook page.
- Discussion:** Can unused scholarship funds be used to pay for some registrations?
- We received \$300 in private donations last year to sponsor attendees who could not otherwise afford to attend FYM. Those funds are still available for use this year.
- North Bend Library is asking for an MG educator to hold a class on any gardening topic for one hour. Several dates are available. See Sam if you are interested in teaching.
 - Master Gardener Program Coordinators will be attending a two-day retreat in Seaside in May. It is funded through a grant. A key topic will be how to retain coordinators and members.

IX. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Laurie Anderson demonstrated how to access and use the new CCMGA blog which replaces the old website. Plant Clinic and Farmers Market calendars are now found on the blog. The blog is accessed by opening a browser window on your computer or tablet and typing in:

blogs.oregonstate.edu/coosmga

If a password is requested to enter a private CCMGA area, please use: Tomato-Rama2019

X. **EDUCATIONAL TOPIC** is deferred to April: review of the ***Plant Clinic Manual*** by Mary Dixon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.

PLEASE NOTE: The next meeting is April 9th at the OSU Extension Building in Myrtle Point beginning at our usual 9:30am time.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lynn Menashian, Secretary
March 14, 2019