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Board members 2019

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President's message

April showers (and April snow) bring May flowers and gardeners are finally emerging from winter slumber into the bright light of Spring.

We all know gardeners are like flowers, blooming in many different shapes, sizes and temperaments. Can you identify them all?



The Clueless. New to everything about gardening, recently inspired by a gardening segment on the morning news and now has the urge to GROW! This person would like to know everything there is to know about gardening in 5 sentences or less. The Clueless Gardener often abandons the idea of gardening after finding out it demands patience, know-how and sweat.

The Transplant. Where *they* come from, things are: better, worse, astonishingly different. They take a lot of other gardener's time comparing plants, growing conditions, gardening styles. Listeners wonder why this gardener ever moved here.

The Landscaper. Despite no formal training, wants a perfectly balanced yard in form, color, and theme. Willing to use whatever pesticides and fertilizers necessary to achieve the perfect garden or yard and has a broad array of gas-powered equipment, mostly used early on Saturday mornings.

The Competitor. This gardener has no interest in growing local or native plants and refuses to accept the local USDA zones, preferring to mail-order citrus trees, coconut palms and tropical ferns. The final garden design will look like an English cottage garden, a Japanese rock garden or a rainforest, requiring every free minute of the owner's life maintaining it.

The Pinterest Star. Aiming for the more perfection than the landscaper, this gardener has just enough talent to make it unique and attention-getting. Plants are always in bloom and never show disease or insect damage since they're replaced at night under cover of darkness to maintain the image of absolute perfection.

The Suburban Farmer: Not a professional farmer, this gardener grows enough crops to feed a family of four for a year despite living alone. The bounty includes a nutritional and culinary balance of many herbs, fruits, and vegetables. There may (or may not) be livestock.

The Collector: This gardener likes to grow one of everything due to limited space. The resulting garden has no design or style, but could serve as a college level plant biology classroom. The owner is always searching for an unusual plant to add.

The Specialist: Focuses on growing one type of plant. There may be a few shrubs to keep the neighbors happy but the real passion here is one favorite plant. The gardener knows the entire history of the plant back to the Stone Age and every named cultivar. Given the chance, you will be told the full identity of every conceivable pest or disease the plant might face. Frequently the object of affection are roses, tomatoes or orchids.

The Ecologist: Knows every theory of organic gardening. Has three kinds of compost and several rain barrels linked together in a solar powered pump system with micro-emitters. Raises ladybugs and lacewing insects and believes the term organic pesticides is an oxymoron. Fertilizes with excrement and urine from various sources. Has named every bird, snake and mammal in their yard.

The Master Gardener. This gardener sees all the other types, and while helping many others figure out how to garden, understands the effort it takes to have a beautiful garden. Yet they are often heard saying: "But I want it all!" They drive themselves and their families wild with their plans (and purchases) but will never change since their blood runs green. (This is me and probably most of you, too.)

Nancy Glick



Spring Gardening Seminar

Thank you to all the great volunteers who helped make our Annual Spring Gardening Seminar a great success.

My awesome committee, Vickie Minor, Jeanine Johnson, Sue Szabo, Phil Paterno, Tim Schindele, Evie Cox, Liz Anderson, Karen Conway, and Liz Douville worked very hard to get this done. It would not happen without them and all the rest of the volunteers who helped out on Saturday.



There were 230 registered attendees who took a total of 906 classes. The overall rating given to the seminar was 4.72 out of 5.

Most of the participants were from Deschutes County with 7 from Jefferson, 6 from Crook and one from Grant County. The majority of attendees were intermediate gardeners who were not new to gardening in this area. There were 52 first time seminar attendees and 36 who were new to gardening in Central Oregon.

The seminar generated \$12,173.50 and the total expenses were \$5,139.98 with a few expenses still to come. The net income to date is \$7,033.52.

Planning for the 31st Annual Spring Gardening Seminar will begin in September.

Thanks again, Rocky

COMGA Calendar

for contact persons go to gocomga.com

May

- 2 Board meeting, OSU Extension Office, Redmond, 1pm
- 2 COBA Home & Garden Show set up, 3-4:30pm
- 2 Plant Sale meeting, 3-4pm
- 3 COBA Home & Garden Show, 10am—5pm
- 4 NW Crossing Community Garden orientation, 9am-12pm
- 4 COBA Home & Garden Show, 10am—5pm
- 5 COBA Home & Garden Show,
- 7 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 7 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:39am, IPM Part I
- 9 Waterwise Education Garden workday, 9am
- 11 Hollinshead class, Seed & Plant Selection for Planning & Planting Success
- 14 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Spider Mites
- 15 Hollinshead class, Garden Structures, 6pm
- 16 Community class, Transplanting Seedlings, OSU Extension Redmond, 10am
- 21 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 21 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Dethatch & Aerate Your Lawn
- 23 Waterwise Education Garden workday, 9am
- 23 Hollinshead Community garden meeting, 10:30am
- 25 Hollinshead class, Weed & Insect Control in the Organic Garden, 10am
- 28 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Plant Sale & Demonstrations
- 29 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 31 Plant Sale planning meeting, 3pm

June

- 1 COMGA Plant Sale, 9-noon
- 4 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 4 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Colchicum—Autumn Crocus
- 6 Board meeting, 5:30pm, Kat Kendall's home
- 8 OMGA board meeting, Jackson County
- 8 Hollinshead class, Organic Weed & Insect Control, 10am, Bend
- 11 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, IPM part 2
- 12 Hollinshead class, Waterwise Series, 5:30-7:30pm
- 13 Waterwise Education Garden workday, 10am
- 18 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 18 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Invasion!
- 19 Hollinshead, Waterwise Series, 5:30-7:30pm
- 25 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Garden Pollinators
- 26 Hollinshead, Waterwise Series, 5:30-7:30pm
- 27 Waterwise Education Garden workday, 10am
- 27 Hollinshead Community Garden meeting, 10:30am

July

- 2 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 2 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am,
- 6 NWXCG class, Kids in the Garden, 9:30am
- 9 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Hot Weather Vegetables
- 11 Waterwise Education Garden workday, 9am
- 11 Board meeting, Liz Anderson's home, 5:00pm, potluck
- 13 Hollinshead class, Kids in the Garden, 10:00am
- 16 OSU Demo Garden work day, 9am
- 16 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, High Desert Garden Tour
- 20 OSU High Desert Garden Tour
- 23 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Pollinators
- 24 Hollinshead class, Select & Maintain Water Wise Shrubs, 10:00am
- 25 Waterwise Education Garden workday, 9am
- 25 Hollinshead Community Garden meeting, 10:30am
- 30 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Powdery Mildew

Getting to Know You!

By Jolene Dodge

This month I am introducing you to JoAnne Abbott. JoAnne grew up on a farm outside of Portland. Her father was a pathologist and her mother was a med tech. On their farm, they raised rabbits for pregnancy testing, sheep for testing antibiotic effectiveness, and guinea pigs to test for TB. They also



grew alfalfa, and hazelnuts which they harvested by hand. They also had a flock of ducks, geese and chickens. JoAnne joined the MG's to learn more about local flora and fauna, and to get to know other like-minded people. JoAnne has been gardening most of her life and enjoys the challenge and experimentation of gardening in the high desert, she said that if you perfect gardening here, it may be time to move. JoAnne has some advice for our intrepid trainees, "**DO NOT** wear yourself out by volunteering too much in the first few years! Take your time and enjoy a *few* volunteer activities, then check out other MG volunteer options. Play the field and experience the whole chapter and find your passion! It is way too easy to burn yourself out." It's good advice, we appreciate your help and your interest in helping the community, also we look forward to getting to know you all.

JoAnne loves to travel, she has been around the world and had a once in a lifetime experience of flying 1st class on Emirates, where decadence is expected. JoAnne also enjoys skiing, hiking, gardening, and enjoying her son's company, when his teenage ways let him talk to his mum.

JoAnne's favorite quotes "If you can't say something nice, don't talk at all, is my advice" "How old would you be, if you didn't know how old you are?" and "Age is a question of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

Next time you see JoAnne, say hi!



Project updates

Hollinshead Community Gardens

by JoAnne Abbott

COMGA has many new members and trainees, so I thought a reminder about the history of Hollinshead Community Garden (HHCG) was appropriate:

From the Bend Bulletin:

HOLLINSHEAD LAND COVETED AS PARK

SITE: Investors are dogging him, but Dean Hollinshead is holding out. He wants his sixteen and one half acres to be used for a park, not divided into lots for tract houses. "I could sell it to developers tomorrow if I wanted to," said Dean Hollinshead. "But I'd rather give it to the park district. I don't want it cut up into little chunks like all the other property around here". "Developers are at his heels" admits Vince Genna, then director of the Bend Parks and Recreation District. "The pressure is on." Hollinshead and Genna have agreed that if the park district acquires the property, such things as the farm house, the barn - which was transported plank by plank from Fort Rock to its current location - antique farming equipment and stands of ponderosa pine would remain untouched. "Philosophically the bottom line is we both want future generations to experience an historical rural setting in an urban area" said Genna in a letter he wrote to Hollinshead in October.

From other sources I researched... such as our first known 'coordinator', Betty Faller's (COMGA) recollection: Betty and her husband David placed the first pvc pipes to delineate the plots for the gardeners...even back then, the plots were not square! Also on "Good Morning Central Oregon", Jackie Siewert-Schade, then member of COMGA, when interviewed said: "the Hollinshead Community Garden has been there since 1988 and was a gift of the Hollinshead family to the City of Bend." In addition, I also interviewed John Sabo, the only remaining *original* HHCG gardener from 1988! He indicated that back then, HHCG started out with only 2 rows deep of 'in ground' gardens. Watering was done by hand, by the gardeners. When you went on vacation, you asked your neighbors to help you out. Definitely a true *community* of gardeners. John went on to say that the garden expanded a few years later with 2 more rows. At that time there was a low fence, solely to keep out "varmints" and there were no locks on the gate. He also indicated that HHCG has been an organic garden since day one! Today, there are 90 plots to rent. The garden is watered automatically and we have a beautiful tall fence to keep the varmints AND deer out. This is thanks to Bend Parks and Rec. And yes, we now have locks on the gates.

For the 2019 growing season, our second annual lottery was held for procuring an open plot. There were more than 75 people vying for *SIX* open plots. On top of that, after opening day, 2 additional plots became available for new gardeners. We made 8 new gardeners very happy this year! Opening day at HHCG was on Saturday April 27. All hands were on deck to get the garden opened up, water flowing and all equipment ready for the 2019 gardening season. Nancy Glick (coordinator extraordinaire) and all the volunteers and garden plot owners were all working together to make this a great growing season!

Come by and visit the garden and check us out. 1235 NE Jones Road in Bend (near Pilot Butte). It's amazing the metamorphosis that takes place in the garden between opening day to mid July/August.

Northwest Crossing Community Garden

Opening Day at the Northwest Crossing Community Garden was well attended with 33 gardeners completing registration for their garden raised beds. A few gardeners got right to work repairing cloches, and preparing soil. Eight volunteers were on hand to lend advice and to show our 29 new gardeners around the garden. Opening Day was preceded by a garden mentor training day, where several garden volunteers learned best methods for cloche repair and for making rodent repelling modifications to the raised bed. A second training day was held May 1, with the intention to have knowledgeable volunteers available to assist gardeners on Garden Orientation Day, May 4. The May 4 program will include a presentation with advice and tips for improving success growing vegetables in Central Oregon by Pat Kolling, Master Gardener. Thanks go to all of the Master Gardener volunteers who have participated in these important activities to help gardeners have a successful launch to the season.



OSU Extension Demo Garden



The scheduled OSU Demo Garden workdays for May are Tues. May 7 and Tues. May 21 from 9 till noon. Bring your favorite tools, water, sunscreen and a sense of humor (there will probably be more jagged chickweed!)

Wednesday May 29 beginning at 9 am will be an extra OSU Demo garden workday to tidy-up before the plant Sale--company is coming!!

Vicky Kemp & Liz Douville



Water-wise Education Garden

The water-wise garden at Hollinshead Park has been pruned, cut back and tidied up for the new season. A great crew of veterans and trainees gathered at the end of April to get the garden into shape. Most of the plants survived the winter, with just a few exceptions. We'll be analyzing why that occurred and be making some decisions about replacement plants. One of the goals of this garden is to develop plant "specialists" who will develop expertise about a particular plant type. They would be available to other Master Gardeners and to the public to problem solve and address issues about that plant type. To further that goal the team has developed a plant profile book that describes characteristics of each plant in the garden. This can be used as reference material for Master Gardeners and as part of an outline for community education classes. We look forward to a great season at the water-wise garden. Work days are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month starting at 9:00 AM.

Submitted by Pat Kolling and Chris Miao



COMGA Plant Sale

June 1, 2019, Saturday

Yes, we are still planning on having a Plant Sale on June 1st lines opening at 9 am! Hopefully sold out by noon when we start taking down all the shade tarps and tables. So if you want to buy some plants come early and get in line or wait until the line is smaller but some varieties may be sold out within an hour or so.

If you are volunteering for the plant sale that day, work with your co-workers to get over to the plants for selection and then back to your volunteer duties.

Don't forget there will be approximately 10 Garden Market vendors out in Parking Lot J.

There are 46 volunteers currently assigned specific tasks for Plant Sale Day!

I need 2 more volunteers to help sorting and pricing the gently used gardening books on Friday, May 31st starting at 9 am in the conference room at the OSU Extension Service building in Redmond. If you can help with this please email me at vjkemp@prinet.net.

Thank you all for volunteering to help with sowing seeds, transplanting and the actual plant sale day to make this fun fundraising event a success!

Vicky Kemp, Plant Sale Project Coordinator

Home & Garden Show

The 2019 COBA Home and Garden Show was a great event for the Central Oregon OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ mobile plant clinic. We had a total of 779 contacts over the weekend, which included 164 people attending the classes and 615 people visiting the plant clinic. While things started slowly on Friday, throughout the weekend 20 veterans/trainees and 6 instructors were extremely busy for the three days of the show. We gave out hundreds of bookmarks and copies of the Central Oregon Climate, Deer Resistant Plants, Vegetable Gardening Calendar and Seed Starting handouts. As always, vegetable gardening information was popular with everyone and people really appreciated the information we provided.

We offered six classes that were well attended: Best Vegetables for Central Oregon (offered Friday and Saturday with Pat Kolling and Tim Schindele), Growing Tomatoes (JoAnne Abbott), Waterwise Gardening (Patsy Kestner), Growing Strawberries (Jan Even) and Planning Your Garden (Sara Nolte). We did a KPOV session to highlight the weekend, and the class schedule was published in the COBA guide.

Overall, we had a very successful weekend and a big thanks goes to our instructors (Pat, JoAnne, Patsy, Jan, Sara, & Tim), the veterans working the plant clinic (Shari M., Mimi T., Kris W., Jennifer G., Jan B., Ruth M., Elizabeth W., Jaycee B., Eileen O., Evelyn J., Angie B., Jeff O., Randy H. & Liz A.) and the trainees who helped with the classes (Angelina W., Ed M., Jill K., Patti S., Nathalie S., & Carroll M.). Without their help, this event could not happen!

Vickie Minor, coordinator

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Want to read something special?

Go to the COMGA website, gocomga.com, and at the bottom of the black box on the left, click on Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon.

Liz Douville publishes on the blog every 2nd and 4th Saturday but never fear, if you miss the Saturday dates, you can go there anytime and see all of the entries on the blog.

You won't want to miss all of the great stories and information. **Get hooked on the blog.**

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

May 2, 2019, Redmond Extension Office

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Glick (President), JoAnne Abbott (VP-Community Education), Kathy Geary (VP-MG Education), Vickie Minor (Secretary), Tim Schindele (Treasurer), Jan Even (Historian), Gary Weber (OMGA State Representative), Rocky Bessette (Communications Liaison), Jolene Dodge (Membership Coordinator), Liz Douville, Judy Shearer (trainee), Liz Anderson, Jill Kendall (trainee), Ruth Mulligan, Patsy Kestner, Carroll Minium (trainee), Vicky Kemp, Nathalie Smith (trainee), Carolyn Tate, Phil Paterno, and Beckie Moran.

The meeting started at 1:00 PM and adjourned at 2:55 PM. The board discussed the following items:

Approval of minutes of previous meeting (Nancy Glick)

Jolene Dodge moved to have the minutes approved, JoAnne Abbott seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

OSU Report (Amy Jo Detweiler/Toni Stephan)

Amy Jo reported that the master gardener classes are finished and the trainees are now doing their plant clinic training. She is still talking with OSU Cascades about a possible plant clinic in Bend but nothing is finalized. She asked about reprinting the vegetable guide now, knowing that some minor changes will be needed when we do an update in another year. After a full discussion about the need for the publication and the number of copies to print, the consensus was that we need to reprint 5000 copies now, to have a supply on hand for our community classes. When the updated version is published, we will deal with any surplus of the older version through our various projects. Amy Jo will place the order Friday (May 3) or Monday (May 6) so hopefully, we will have copies in time for the plant sale June 1.

BOARD REPORTS:

Membership Report (Jolene Dodge)

There are 72 paid members, 6 associates and 37 trainees. Membership is consistent with previous years' membership at this point. Jolene is working with Nancy to draft a letter to send to recertifying veterans, about joining COMGA. Kathy Geary offered to make telephone calls if needed. Amy Jo noted that the COMGA membership numbers seem to be in line with the number of people recertifying each year, but there is some sense that COMGA has been losing some membership. Discussion followed about the need for volunteers for the projects and steps being taken to create a speaker's bureau to help form a teaching pool.

Treasurer's Report (Tim Schindele)

Tim circulated the report prior to the meeting. He explained that we do not pay bank fees but if we exceed the number of deposit items (50), the bank will charge \$0.25 per check to be deposited. Because of the number of checks received from spring seminar and the community gardens opening in April, he held back some of the deposits until today.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, June 6, 5:00 PM. The June meeting will be at Kat Kendall's house. Social time begins at 5:00 PM, the potluck dinner at 5:30 PM, with the meeting to follow. Directions to Kat's house will be included in the agenda for the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

Project Review (Nancy Glick)

Per our policies and procedures, we are required to do an annual review of one of our projects. There was a detailed discussion on the purpose of the reviews and whether they were productive. Last year, Northwest Crossing Community Garden was reviewed. JoAnne Abbott led the review, which resulted in valuable insights, including the need to have better visibility with the community and the need to take constructive action to control the critter problem. Several years ago, we reviewed the bulb sale and the process resulted in the project being discontinued because it was not financially viable. After a full discussion, Vicky Kemp asked that the plant sale project be reviewed. It has been several years since the last review was done and since then, many things have changed, including the plant sale protocols put out by Gail Langellotto last year. Nancy will put a notice out to the membership, asking for volunteers for a review committee.

Call for New Projects (Nancy Glick)

No new projects were proposed.

Open forum (anyone)

Per our procedures, Diana Hardin made a proposal by email, to order 100 more soil thermometers at a cost of \$295. The request was unanimously approved by the board, via email. The motion and subsequent email exchanges are incorporated into the minutes by reference.

Jan Even asked that project coordinators assign someone on their projects to take photos for the annual yearbook. Photos can be emailed to her at Even.Jan@gmail.com. She asked that the photos be sent at the "best" or highest resolution.

PROJECT STATUS REPORTS:

Advanced Training/Quarterly Meeting (Kathy Geary)

Kathy and Gary are still working on the webinar issue and they will have a report next month. There was a webinar on 4/30/2019 but Kathy was unable to moderate it. The next quarterly meeting and training is tentatively scheduled for June 29, 2019, at Kathy's house. Ruth Mulligan and Chris Miao will do the training, focused on the upcoming fire season. Chris will talk about creating "fire free" areas around your home and what "fire free" plants people may want to incorporate in their yards. Ruth will bring information on "Ready, Set, Go," how to prepare for evacuation, and what you need to have at the ready if you must evacuate. Kathy will let everyone know if the topics count as advanced education hours. Jan reported that the "fire free" dump (yard debris) is this weekend and next weekend at the landfills.

Community Education (JoAnne Abbott)

The formal vegetable gardening classes are done and the focus now is on the less formal classes at the gardens. We discussed the venues for the vegetable classes not being large enough for the number of people attending. The issue is the increasing population in the area. We may need to pre-register people in Sisters and Prineville, as we already do in Bend and Redmond. JoAnne noted that all the venues had unexpected levels of attendance.

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LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD continued**Hollinshead Vegetable Garden** (Nancy Glick)

Nancy reported that opening day was successful. Eight beds were available, there were 73 people on the lottery list, so all beds were filled. Nancy talked with Bend Parks and Rec, to ask them to remove the signage about getting a bed, since most of the information is no longer correct or current.

Home and Garden Show (Vickie Minor)

The Home and Garden Show starts Friday, May 3, 2019. We will be staffing a mobile plant clinic for the weekend, and will offer six classes for the public. A full report will be in the Hoedown after the event.

NW Crossing Garden (Gary Weber)

Of the 51 beds in the garden, 29 were available for the lottery. 33 people registered on opening day and all open beds were assigned from the lottery or the wait list. A second registration day is this Saturday (5/4/19) for the people who could not make opening day. There will also be a cloche maintenance session, along with a rodent protection class. Trainees volunteering include Barbara Craig, Becky McKee, Johanna Talus, Diane Cook, Judy Shearer, Cliff Nelson, and Janet Dart.

OSU Demo Garden (Vicky Kemp/Liz Douville)

Vicky reported that she needs volunteers to sow seeds May 8 for the All America Selection in the demo beds. The regular cleanup days are going well and Vicky reminded us of the new requirement that everyone must put in three hours in the demo garden. The irrigation is on, but due to the construction on the addition, some hand-watering is required. Amy Jo reported that a designer is doing a full plan for the garden that will be at the new addition. COMGA will not be responsible for any purchasing of the plants. Amy Jo is considering adding an arboretum on the west side of building but she is focusing first on the front of the building, which is what people will see first.

Plant Sale (Vicky Kemp)

Vicky reported that 45 trays have been started. There were some problems with the first round of planting so she has purchased more seeds, which puts her over budget by approximately \$10. The remaining 13 trays will be planted Monday. Transplanting has started, and the final seeds will be planted approximately 3 1/2 weeks before the sale. Vicky will need volunteers the day before the sale, to help set up. Several people volunteered.

Spring Seminar (Rocky Bessette)

230 people registered and took 906 classes, with the overall rating for the seminar being 4.72 out of 5.0. Attendees learned about the seminar from emails, posters, Facebook, the COMGA and OSU websites, the Bend Bulletin, and the Go Magazine. The speaker ratings ranged from 4.3 – 5.0, depending on the number of evaluations turned in for a class. A key issue was the Wi-Fi quality in the facility, which impacted the vendors. This is something we need to raise with the Expo Center management. To date, total income is \$12,173.50; costs are \$5,139.98; net profit is \$7,033.52. The silent auction is still collecting money so the numbers are not final. Jan Even reported that Gail Langellotto thinks our chapter goes out of its way to make sure the speakers feel welcome and appreciated. We discussed the format of the silent auction, and using a "buy it now" option. While some improvements need to be made, this ended up

being a success. Amy Jo asked for the email list of people attending so they can be added to the blasts Carrie sends out on events through the horticulture emails. Discussion followed on how we need to communicate in the future, especially using social media.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Minor

Secretary



Meet the Trainees

Janet Dart

Janet was inspired to join the Master Gardener program by a friend in California, who took the classes there. Janet retired and moved to Bend in July, when she saw the program here, she signed up. She has done volunteer work most of her life, even while working full time, she believes that the MG program is a great opportunity to help the larger community and to meet people in her new community. Janet used to teach computer



classes to adults and she believes this will be beneficial in helping with community seminars. Having lived in Southern California, she is conscientious of water use. With the help of a landscape designer, she built a water wise garden in California. Her water wise garden didn't have any grass and was always in bloom. Janet successfully managed it for over 10 years. She is eager to share her love of and knowledge about water wise gardening with the community. Janet is enthusiastic about gaining a greater understanding about the life cycle of plants in the high desert. She wants to learn more about what to plant and how to keep it healthy and growing. Janet has been gardening most of her life and she is happy to be learning about how to do it from a more knowledgeable standing.

Know what your plants need before fertilizing

In a perfect world, garden plants would feed themselves. As it is, we've got to help them along sometimes.

Plants take up nutrients from the soil but when those nutrients are missing, it's time for fertilizer.

"Plants pull out nutrients as they grow," said Weston Miller, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service. "Unless they're put back in, the plant suffers."

But knowing which fertilizer to choose, how much to apply and which plants to feed is not always obvious. Knowing the plants' needs makes all the difference.

"You need to know what plants you have and what their requirements are," Miller said. "Doing research up front really pays off."

Most landscape trees and shrubs and many perennials don't need fertilizer at all unless they're showing signs of stress like yellowing foliage.

"Prepare the soil by adding compost or other organic material well ahead of planting, you can have a fabulous landscape that needs very little fertilizer," he said.

Annuals are heavy feeders and should be hit weekly with a fertilizer that dissolves in water, especially if growing in containers.

Vegetables also need plenty of nutrients. At planting time, incorporate fertilizer as indicated on the label. Early in the season also use a water-soluble version to get plants off to a good start. For corn and garlic, feed two to three times with a fertilizer high in nitrogen (the N in the N-P-K on the label). Blood meal is a good choice for organic gardeners, Miller said. The rest of the time, watch for yellowing foliage. If the plant starts to look stressed, add some fertilizer.

Fruit trees and berries, especially blueberries, are heavy feeders and will be more productive if fertilizer is added at the right time. Each type of plant has specific guidelines. You can search the Extension catalog for publications about specific plants like Growing Strawberries in Your Home Garden and Growing Blueberries in Your Home Garden.

How you fertilize lawn depends on a couple of things. If you irrigate and want a green lawn in summer, feed at least twice a year. Use the "holiday" schedule of Memorial Day and Thanksgiving. Always use a spreader to get good coverage and avoid over fertilizing. If you mulch mow and allow the clippings, which are high in nitrogen, to stay on the lawn that is equivalent to one application. If you choose to let your lawn go dormant, one feeding a year can keep the lawn more competitive against weeds.

Some plants like roses and hydrangeas can benefit from more feeding than many other shrubs in the garden. You

can find fertilizers labeled specifically for them, as you can for plants that like an acid (low pH) soil. These include blueberries, gardenias, rhododendrons and citrus.

Plants don't care if they get nutrients from organic or synthetic fertilizers, Miller noted. It's all the same to them. Organic fertilizer ingredients are made from plant, animal or mineral sources. Examples are alfalfa meal, kelp, blood and bone meal, soft rock phosphate and green sand. Inorganic are derived from a chemical manufacturing process.

All fertilizers have a ratio, which is the percentage by weight of N-P-K (nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium). Generally, nitrogen is used by plants to produce green growth, phosphorous for roots and potassium for flower and fruit development. A balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10 is a good choice for vegetables and other high-nutrient plants.

If you're looking for an organic fertilizer check to see if they have OMRI on the label. For vegans and vegetarians, avoid fish, blood and bone meal products. For inorganic products, choose a slow-release fertilizer. If all the nutrients aren't needed by the plant, the fertilizer can percolate down into the ground water or run off into waterways causing pollution.

Lime is a soil amendment to raise the pH, an important consideration for vegetables. For those gardeners living west of the Cascades, applying lime is recommended by a soil test or based on the label of lime products.

Always water in fertilizer after applying and don't forget to read the instructions. Using too much can burn plants.

For additional information on fertilizing, refer to OSU Extension's Fertilizing Your Garden and Growing Your Own.



Newsletter Notes: Deadline for submission of material to the HoeDown is 1st Friday after the board meeting. All articles, notices and other journalistic efforts are welcome and appreciated. All information provided by the "HoeDown" is believed to be accurate but readers must assume all responsibility for their own actions based on this information. Occasionally a product or company may be named in an article but this does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of said product.

Published by : COMGA Send ideas & articles to: **HoeDown** Rocky Bessette, 8200 NW Yucca Ave., Redmond, OR 97756 or rockyb820@gmail.com

How to Plant a Salad Garden in a Container

Fresh garden salad can be available on the patio or deck all season if you plant the fixings in a container. Choose the right varieties, plant at the right time, and follow a regimen of care designed to keep the plants steadily growing. Then harvest the greens of your choice on a several times weekly basis, using a “come and cut again” technique. Incidentally, planted salad bowls make beautiful, unusual gifts!

CHOOSE THE RIGHT CONTAINER: The soil surface area must be larger than the container is deep. Check for adequate drainage holes. Ceramic or pottery containers weigh more when filled, but keep the soil cooler. Plastic containers are lightweight, but require more frequent watering. One trick is to place the planted pot inside a slightly larger pot, creating an insulating air space between the two.

DESIGN YOUR PLANTING ON PAPER: Each variety of plant, whether homegrown seedlings or purchased starts, has growth characteristics that will affect the design of your planter. Know the mature height and spread of the plant. Do not mix shade and sun lovers in a container planting. Variety is the spice of life—choose plants with a variety of leaf shapes, textures, and colors. Do not crowd the plants in the container, but keep in mind that if you are growing salad veggies, you can always harvest the entire plant and replace it with something smaller, taller, leaner, or fatter.

USE PROPER SOIL MIX: Garden soil is often not satisfactory because it is too heavy and may contain disease or undesirable insects. It is possible to concoct your own mix from good compost sphagnum peat moss, perlite or pumice “pebbles”, and builder’s sand or fine loam. However, the easiest thing to do is to buy a good grade of potting mix. You can add soil polymers or water retaining beads to the mix, but do not overdo it!

PLANT CORRECTLY: The key to successful transplanting (whether from your own starts or from nursery supplied six-packs) is to minimize disturbance to the roots of the plants. Fill your container half full of potting mix. Water thoroughly. Carefully pop the entire plant plug out of the six-pack. If necessary, gently loosen the outside rootlets. (Root-bound starts should be left on the store shelf.) Set the plugs in your chosen design in the container. Fill in around each plant with soil mix, firming lightly. You may need to adjust the depth of the holes so that all of the plants end up at the same soil level when the container is filled. Don’t overfill your container with soil—keep it at least two inches down from the lip so that your soil does not wash away. Water the planting thoroughly with a soft spray. It will take a while to saturate the soil especially if you have used a mix containing peat moss. An alternative to spraying is to immerse the entire container in a tub of water up to, but not over, the lip and leave it overnight or until the surface of the soil appears damp. Remove and allow to drain thoroughly before setting it in a saucer on

the patio floor or deck. Keep the planting in filtered sun for the first couple of days to acclimate the plants to their new setting.

FEED, WATER, AND NURTURE AS NEEDED: The most successful “greens” are those that grow full speed to maturity. Lettuce responds to weekly feedings with a balanced liquid fertilizer (Do not use fish emulsion as a foliar spray on greens you intend to eat unless you prefer a fishy taste.) Containers need to be regularly watered, but prevent their becoming soggy. Water until there is liquid in the saucer, let the plant drain, then discard the water in the saucer. In the heat of summer, a lettuce container garden will want to spend much of its time in the shade. Set it in the sun for the early morning hours, and then move it to a cooler spot. Pests should be few—aphids can be controlled with a spray of water or by removing the infested plants; whiteflies may be trapped with a yellow “sticky trap”. Slugs and snails can be foiled with beer traps or a barrier of copper tape around the planter edge. Use of pesticides is discouraged in a food crop setting.

HARVEST THE GREENS AS THEY MATURE: Most lettuce can be picked leaf by leaf, cutting a whole leaf at its base with scissors. Edible flowers can be plucked off, the green parts discarded and the petals used. Harvested leaves should be washed, patted dry, and placed on a plastic bag in the refrigerator.

SOME VARIETIES TO TRY: Lettuce: Slobolt, Red Sails, Salad Bowl, Merville Des 4 Saisons, Buttercrunch, Little Gem, Black Seeded Simpson, Kentucky Limestone, Argula or Rocket (Rocket), Dandelion (cultivated form not the lawn weed). Edible Chrysanthemum—harvest at 4 to 6 inches for piquant greens. Chrysanthemum Coronarium is the kind to look for. Oriental Greens—most are highly decorative and rapid growers. Some great ones for the container are Tatsoi or Tah Tsai, Mizuna and the Bok Choy family. These celery-like, thick, white-stalked greens are wonderful sliced into a salad. Spinach has different cultural requirements from lettuce, liking cooler temperatures and a soil rich in micro life. It is not the easiest plant for container gardening. Edible flowers: nasturtium, viola, violets, and chive blossoms. Herbs: basil, mints, oregano, and parsley.

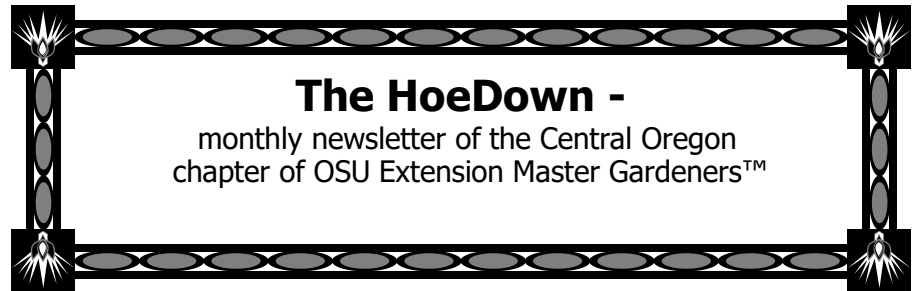
Marjorie Neal is a Jackson County OSU Master Gardener who began gardening during World War II when Americans were encouraged to plant Victory Gardens. Now a retired high school teacher, Marjorie teaches classes in the Master Gardener Program and volunteers at Lithia Park in Ashland and Hanley Farm.



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