



Newsletter of the Central Oregon Chapter of OSU Master Gardeners™





Photo submitted by Toni Stephan

Board members 2022

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Tresident's message





In 2008 I was recruited for the Secretary position on the COMGA board. As my first year was ending, the Treasurer quit and I offered my 30 years' bookkeeping experience. After 5 years, a new Treasurer freed me to become the Historian. As Jan

finished her 3rd year as President & no one stepped up, I replaced her just until Janet had enough experience to replace me in 2023. Thank you, Janet, I'm delighted to pass the gavel on to you.

Lately I've been thinking of all that has happened within COMGA since I joined the board back in 2008:

This HoeDown newsletter became 98% digital

Two Detweiler babies were born!

Amy Jo became a full OSU Professor

Chapter budgets are now planned in September and finances are reviewed annually by a committee

A donation to the Horticulture Program helped purchase a commercial-size greenhouse

A donation to OSU Extension helped furnish a new classroom for training volunteers

Spring Gardening Seminar expanded from just Master Gardeners to the entire Central Oregon community

A Plant Clinic database was designed & installed by Amy Jo for statewide use by Master Gardeners

A Facebook account and a website were set up and managed for community and MG use

NW Crossing built a community garden at Discovery Park for the MGs to manage

The Water-wise Garden was designed & developed at Hollinshead Park with a maintenance database

The Alpenglow Demo Garden was designed and developed cooperatively by Amy Jo and BPRD

Hollinshead Community Garden learned the dangers of and treatment for pesticides in garden soil

And we, together, survived a worldwide pandemic!!

It's been a very full & rewarding 15 years and as I go, I'll remind you to stay safe, do your research and, above all, don't forget to have fun.



<u>COMGA Calendar</u> for contact persons go to gocomga.com

November

1 Gardening Get Good at it, 88.9 FM, 9-9-30am

3 Board meeting, 10:00am

12 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon 26 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

<u>December</u>

1 Holiday Luncheon, Noon, OSU Extension Office, Bldg3

6 Gardening Get Good At It, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am

10 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon 24 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

Thank

You!

From Janet Dart

Thank you all so much for the honor of being named Master Gardener of the Year.

It was way beyond my expectations.

A friend asked, "Does that mean you get your garden featured in Bend Magazine?" Uh, no....

While most of my contribution this year was on the technical end, I strive to become as good at gardening as the rest of you. Thank you again!

BOARD POSITION OPEN: ALTERNATE STATE REP

A 2023 Board position just opened up. Would you like to join this dynamic group of Master Gardeners in keeping our organization running next year?

The Alternate State Representative will be the back-up to Karen Simonet, next year's State Rep. Full description can be found on the Members section of our website (www.gocomga.com), under Policies and Procedures.

If interested, contact Janet Dart at janetdart@gmail.com



PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Lisa Nakadate and Julie Hill

Featured Plant - - Blue Shag Eastern White Pine

Pinus strobus

Height: 2 - 4' Spread: 2 - 4'



Why Should I Plant Blue Shag Eastern White Pine in My Garden?

Fun Facts

- This evergreen tree has short, blue-green needles in bundles of five that are soft to the touch.
- Low maintenance and tolerates deer and rabbits.
- Rapid-growing and long-lived.

Information Sources

Oregon State University Landscape Plants: https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu Missouri Botanical Garden: http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=u960



Alpenglow Demonstration Garden

2022 was a big year for the Alpenglow Demonstration Garden! The area started out as dirt and ended with a beautiful assortment of perennials in four mini gardens: firewise, pollinator, urban, and low maintenance with room for a fifth area that will be planted next year, likely a cultural garden which will rotate annually. We, along with a group of master gardener volunteers, researched plants that we wanted to include, sourced them (difficult due to the pandemic), planted, and laid mulch and decorative rock. We planted during a heat wave and were happy to see most of the plants survive and even thrive!

In the spring we will install plant signs and plant the natives which will be located along the perimeter of the fence. We are looking forward to seeing the plants mature and for the garden to be a chance for volunteers to get to know each other and share information and knowledge as well as be a beautiful place park goers can enjoy. Happy fall to all!

Lisa Nakadate & Janet Dart

Discovery Park Community Garden



Another season came to a close on October 16th as Discovery gardeners put the finishing touches on getting their raised beds prepared for winter. Thinking back, it has been a remarkably good year. First, most of our 2021 gardeners decided to continue in 2022. Lottery applications continued strong, with a total of 9 new people joining the garden. Our Master Gardener volunteers,

Becky McKee, Lisa Kieraldo and Gary Weber continued from 2021. Trainees Ed Rinker, Mary Biehn and Owyhee Weikel-Magden signed up and helped at the garden on a regular basis. Ed distinguished himself by being on-call for irrigation emergencies and for refurbishing our tired fleet of wheel barrows, for which he received a Trowel Award. Nick Maithonis continued collecting data for his graduate research project and Donna Brandon supplied free-for-the-taking gardening books.

Weather, ever a challenge, was punctuated by a 28 degree May 30th killing freeze that did significant damage. On June 2 the Bend area received a very heavy series of downpours which luckily spared the garden from damage. Not so the hailstorm of July 2nd which destroyed cloche covers and damaged plants. That cold weather finally gave way to persistent heat including warmer than average morning lows that helped push growth and development along. In fact, even with the adverse start, this has been the best year for tomatoes at Discovery in at least the last 6 years.

The rodents gave most of us a break this year, and gardeners did a great job overall of getting their cloches sealed up to repel them. There is a trend at the garden to replace film plastic with rigid polycarbonate panels. These are extremely durable and should last many, many years.

The garden is also grateful to Bend Parks and Lee Sherwin for their support in providing multiple wood chip deliveries, and for sending a volunteer group to the garden to clean weeds around the outside perimeter. A big job that made the garden look great.

Thanks to COMGA and OSU Extension for supporting the operation of this garden. It provides those with no other options a place to grow vegetables, and a place where valuable gardening skills can be learned. Thank you.

Gary Weber

Contact discovery@gocomga.com

2022 Annual Community Education Report By Jan Even

Key Takeaways

Zoom is a valuable tool.

One important lesson we have learned from COVID – the pandemic was still hanging over us in the earlier part of the 2022 season – is that people like the convenience of Zoom. The flexibility to be able to "attend" from anywhere and to view a recorded class any time were appreciated by many people. We should continue to use this tool when appropriate as one more way we can reach out to residents who want reliable gardening information.

There's little need for expensive print advertising.

Digital outreach proved every bit as effective as the traditional print advertising we formerly relied on, and FAR more cost-effective. Our 2022 Community Ed spending was about half of what we had pre-COVID, yet classes attracted even more students than we had in prepandemic years. That's partly because Zoom effectively does away with class size limits, but also because we used a combination of free digital posts to event web sites and social media, and paid placements on social media, that put information about our events in front of most adults throughout Central Oregon, not only those who are on our mailing lists or read The Bullletin or Source. The exception is events in Madras or Prineville, where it is worthwhile to advertise in the local print weeklies, the Madras Pioneer and the Central Oregonian.

Hybrid model can work.

We also experimented with a hybrid approach that turned out to be quite effective. We presented a pruning class in the spring comprised of a Zoom presentation one weekday, followed on Saturday by two practical in-person demonstration sessions that were presented simultaneously at the Waterwise Garden in Bend and at the OSU Demonstration Garden in Redmond. Not all subjects lend themselves to this classroom-plus-practicum approach, but many do.

The basics are always in demand.

Even though we have taught multiple vegetable gardening classes every year since I became a Master Gardener in 2009, and probably going back long before that, they continue to be hugely popular. New people come to the region every year and discover the challenges gardeners face in our climate. We will be there to help them.

Sunday is not a great time for classes.At the Home & Garden Show presented in May, class attendance on Sunday was poor. At the Waterwise Field Day in late June, which we presented in conjunction with the city of Bend, the event was scheduled only on Sunday. Classes in the morning were well-attended but attendees cleared out, planned afternoon 10 Minute Universities had no audiences, vendors packed up their booths and the event shut down early because most people had left.

Our seasoned instructors do a great job.

Ratings of 4 (Very Good) or 5 (Excellent) are routine. But more recently certified volunteers have the potential to be stars too. Being an assistant is a good way to learn the ropes.

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THE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON IS BACK!



Please join us on

Thursday, December 1st at 12:00 Noon.

At OSU Extension in the large classroom

Price of Admission: Canned food to be donated to

NeighborImpact

There will be a charge for any non-COMGA guests.

Please join us for the last event of the year.

Fifteen-Minute University included

(approved for continuing education credit).

This will be partially catered... we may ask you to

bring a salad or dessert.

Details to follow.

RSVP to janetdart@gmail.com so we can get a head count.



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, <u>rockyb820@gmail.com</u>

OSU Extension Service Demo Garden

Why shouldn't you tell a secret in the garden? Because the corn has ears!

Are these still the dog days of summer? It's 74* for our first workday in October! There was plenty of vegetables to harvest. We picked cucumbers, tomatoes, watermelon, and beans. These were donated to our local food bank. There were new perennials added to the landscape around building 3. If you get a chance, walk around, and see the new additions. There were 14 volunteers to help deadhead, pull weeds, and general clean up. Thank you to Stewart Taylor, Marilyn Clark, Karen Rugg, Mary Biehn, Rocky Bessette, Toni Stephan, Victoria Butler, Nancy Glick, Kris Knoernschild, Cindy Rinker, Ed Rinker, Liz Anderson, and myself.

What a great turnout for our last workday of the year! We harvest the last of the vegetables: green beans, cucumbers, green peppers, and tomatoes. The vegetables were cleaned out of the garden, with 23 pounds donated to our local Food Bank. (The pumpkins weren't quite ready to be picked yet.) Thank you to our volunteers: Vicky Kemp, Liz Anderson, Margaret Towfig, Vicky Hornbeck, Janet Dart, Bruce Dart, Sara Nolte, Rocky Bessette, Karen Rugg, Nancy Glick, Chris Miao, Deb Goodall, Pat Kolling, Shawna Larson, Toni Stephan, and myself.

Thank you to all the volunteers throughout the year! Vicky Kemp and Karen Simonet







Hollinshead Water-wise Garden

Year-end Summary

2022 was a great year for the Water-wise garden. The garden continues to mature and looked beautiful throughout the season. We were able to offer a number of educational opportunities to the public to increase the awareness of water-wise principles and practices. In addition, the garden plants offered an abundance of learning opportunities and challenges to the team of Master Gardener volunteers who diligently worked in the garden.

Classes/Public Outreach: Pruning webinar paired with a demonstration in the garden, plus a companion class at the Redmond Demonstration Garden; Water-wise webinar as part of the COMGA Spring Seminar; Panel presentation on plant selection, mini-class on Best Practices in a Drought, garden tours and a Q & A booth as part of the City of Bend Waterwise Landscape Field Day; served as a garden site on the OSU Garden Tour; and, conducted a water-wise Q & A booth as part of the Hollinshead Community Garden Open Garden Day.

Garden & Plant Challenges Highlights: We lost the Malus "Royal Raindrops" to a pest that destroyed the roots. It was replaced with a different variety of Malus "Showtime". We took preventive measures this year to prevent some prior problems – we used nematodes on the Abelia and the Lilac in the spring and fall to prevent root weevils. This was successful, as there was minimal root weevil damage. The mites on the Echinacea reappeared and we clipped affected blossoms and sprayed with insecticidal soap early to prevent the spread. A new problem this year has been deer damage. In addition to a lot of browsing, the new Malus and the Serviceberry tree were damaged by antlers of bucks this fall. This was the first time this has occurred. We have placed cages around these trees and hope that the damage is not too severe. Persistent early spraying with water on the Globe Thistle kept the aphids in check and saved the plant from removal from the garden. Finally strong pruning of the Mountain Mahogany to control its vigorous growth gives us hope that we may be able to limit its size and maintain it in the garden.

We are looking forward to one more workday to put down mulch once the ground freezes and will wrap up the year with a tree lighting ceremony around the Bristle Cone pine in December. Our winter projects will focus on getting the plant database onto a website and available to the public in 2023.

Most importantly we need to thank all the Master Gardeners and Trainees who worked at the garden. They were an enthusiastic, hardworking, open to learning, knowledgeable, and fun group. It has been a pleasure to have them as part of the Hollinshead Water-wise Garden team!

Submitted by Pat and Chris

2022 Annual Community Education Report

Class attendance

The structured feedback of evaluations that we have had in place for several years has been useful in deciding what topics to present, identifying MGs who are good instructors, and learning which venues are convenient, comfortable and cost-effective. It is now routine that every class we present wins high marks (ratings of 4 or 5) in evaluations for both the class content and the quality of instructors. So there isn't anything new to learn from diving into those ratings for this year. It's all good.

Topic Format Attendance Notes

Veg garden Q&A free Zoom 145 Across 2 sessions

Pruning free Hybrid 38 in webinar ?demos

Spring Seminar \$5ea Zoom 631 unique participants 299

Home & garden show in person 98 657 visited booth

Water-wise field day in person 98 Reported by City Bend

Put Your Garden to bed in person 12 1-2 classes cancelled

Total class attendance 1022

Future Class Topics

At most classes we ask in the evaluation what additional gardening topics the student is interested in.

Requested at veggie classes -Composting, Setting up drip irrigation, Growing from seed, Flowers & trees for C.O., Fruit trees, Greenhouses, Pruning, Roses & other perennials, Container gardening

Requested from Spring Seminar—Composting, Drip Irrigation, Vegetable Gardening, How to make raised beds, Waterwise plant selection, Fruit trees, Pruning, Plant IDweeds from bad guys, Hanging baskets & container gardening, Firewise landscape

Requested from Home & Garden Show—Composting, Water Conservation & drought resistant plants, Hydroponic, Raised beds, Greenhouses, Fruit trees, Native Plants, Invasive plants, Container gardening, Deer resistant landscape

Many thanks to our instructors and assistants who shared their knowledge in our community this year!



Photo by Liz Anderson

Tamalia coweni

If you have either a green Manzanita (Artostaphylos patula) or Kinnikinnick (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi) you may have noticed some red galls on the leaves (photo below). I have seen it in my yard and at Hollinshead Water-Wise Garden. The plants are similar in appearance except Kinnikinnick is a ground cover and green manzanita is upright up to 10' except rarely do they get that tall. Both are evergreen perennials with simple alternate ovate leaves with acute apices. The flowers can be unisexual or bisexual and occur on the same plant making it monoecious. The small pink bell shaped flowers typical of the Ericaceae (Heath Family) appear in January through June depending on elevation. It is a plant of Northwest U.S. occurring from Colorado west to Washington and south to Arizona. The flowers attract birds and bees as pollinators in its native habitat of open coniferous mountain forests between 2,000 and 9,000 feet. The fruit is a small 1/4" red, brown to black drupe. Either species does well in our shrub/scrub ecosystem with consistent watering when first establishing and then moderately after that.

The cause of the galls is a host specific tiny gray to greenish aphid, *Tamalia coweni*, (see photo below) which feeds by sucking tissues within the galls. The adult female gives birth to live young without mating and does so several generations per season. In fall, a sexual generation of winged males and females disperse, mate, and females lay eggs on bark at the base of the plant. The eggs hatch in late winter or spring and the insects walk up to the leaves where they initiate the galls. The galls do not affect plant health but in one's yard may be aesthetically unpleasing. If they are not desired the base of the plant may be treated with a horticultural oil just as the buds begin to swell in spring.





Photographs
Plant picture by Samantha Shearer
Insect picture from University of California web site
http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/T/I-HO-TCOW-CO.002.html

References:

Meyers, S.C., and T. Jester et. al. 2020. Flora of Oregon.Volume 2. Dicots A-F. Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.

Turner, M., and P. Gustafson. 2006. Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest. Timber Press Field Guide, Portland.Or. Pg 341

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

November 3, 2022

The meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Glick, President; Janet Dart, VP Master Gardener Education; Jan Even, VP Community Education; Tim Schindele, Treasurer; Marilyn Clark, Secretary; Rocky Bessette, Communications Liaison; Jan Barron, OMGA Representative; Cheryl Hinerman, Tammara Waterman, Vicky Kemp, Liz Douville, Karen Simonet, Kirsten Hinton, Pat Kolling, Jolene Dodge, Deb Goodall, Shirley Jaynes, Lisa Cowen, Toni Stephan.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The board discussed the following:

The minutes of the meeting held October 6, 2022 were approved as revised with the deletion of one sentence regarding MG hours for recognition night, upon motion by Jan Even and seconded by Janet Dart.

OSU Report. Amy Jo Detweiler gave the report. Recognition night was held October 27. We had 19 MG's complete certification from the 41 that signed up this year, and 4 or 5 were recognized as having completed from the 2021 class. She thanked COMGA for providing the cake.

For 2023 training, the MG training application is online, as well as the scholarship application. The cost will be \$280, (an increase to cover online fees). There will also be hard copy applications in the Redmond Extension office. We will have two partial scholarships available from OSU. Classes for 2023 will be a hybrid model: meeting in person Tuesdays from 10-1 in the building 3 classroom, while using online supporting modules. She is looking for mentors, so let her know if interested. Eight classes between January 17- March 21st. She encourages us to let people know. She has sent invites to 60 interested parties, and the garden interest list. It's also on the Central Oregon Horticulture Facebook page. Other ads to be determined for Crook and Jefferson County. AJ asked about scholarships. Will COMGA be helping. Tim stated we budgeted \$275 for next year, and can round it up to \$280.

Lisa Cowen is now our Outreach Program Coordinator. Lisa and Amy Jo are still covering the administrative assistant duties until the opening is filled, hopefully by mid-January.

We still need some work at the Redmond demo garden for some clean up and shade cloth removal.

A Master Gardener Advocacy Task Force has been established, and Amy Jo has appointed Pat Kolling to work with the task force to develop advocates for the MG program at the state level and on behalf of Deschutes County. Shirley Jaynes volunteered to help, and they are looking for a representative for Jefferson County. Contact Pat if interested. There will be a training session in December. We will be called ambassadors. Pat will be keeping us posted.

AJ gave a heartfelt thank you to Nancy for her COMGA leadership and her coordination over the last years.

BOARD REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Tim had submitted the October report with highlights, by email and Nancy brought it up on the screen. Expenses for recognition night are not yet included in the report. Nancy had spent \$264 on items, including the cake and 3 years of swing bars and gift cards. The amount exceeds budget. Jan Even moved we approve the \$265 dollars for the Recognition Night expenses. After a second by Janet Dart, the motion was approved. All members were also asked to return your hours bars so they can be cleaned and re-used.

Chapter Election & Holiday Luncheon: Janet Dart reported on the results of the election held last month. The elected Board members are: Janet Dart (President), Tim Schindele (VP of Master Gardener Education), Cheryl Hinerman (VP of Community Education), Marilyn Clark (Treasurer), Tammara Waterman (Secretary), Kris Knoernschild (Historian), Karen Simonet, (OMGA Representative). Evelyn Cox was elected Alternate OMGA Rep., however she had to resign so we will be looking for a replacement. Janet Dart invited Deb Goodall to serve as Membership Coordinator, and Rocky Bessette to serve as Communications Liaison. Both accepted the 2023 appointments to the Board.

The Holiday Luncheon will be December 1st, Thursday, here in training room. There are available funds left over from the annual BBQ, plus some cash from Holiday Luncheon before the pandemic. Janet's goal is to cater it if possible, without having to charge for the meal. Tate & Tate was recommended. Janet would also like to do a canned food drive for Neighbor Impact. Janet will write it up for the HoeDown, and asked for volunteers to help with the event.

Community Education: Jan Even gave a recap of key takeaways from this year's classes and community activities. We made effective use of Zoom. It was really popular with our customers. Many presentations have been recorded. Spring Seminar attendees were grateful to sign up and get the link so they could view the recording at their leisure. We saved money on advertising by putting in the time for social media posts. We were able to target our audience for Facebook and Instagram posts to interested audiences. Zero money wasted on advertising. A hybrid class using a Zoom presentation followed by a practical lab on pruning worked very well. The basic classes are always in demand, e.g., veggie gardening and gardening in Central Oregon. We have new people who always want it. Sunday classes are not well attended. Venues need to be comfortable. Consider time of day. Another issue is even you may be knowledgeable about a subject, you may not be particularly good at teaching. Teaching assistants are a good way to progress up. We always ask what gardening topics people would like to see in the future. Hydroponic gardening was one.

ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS:

Continued on page 8

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD Continued

Policy & Procedures Rewrite. Tim has been working on a rewrite of the Scholarships and Continuing Education procedure, and proposed a scholarship committee to review multiple requests. Discussion followed about Board member education. COMGA will plan to budget for two MG scholarships per year. What better use for the funds? Running out of time, a vote was held over to January.

MGOY. Nancy Glick congratulated Janet Dart on earning the Master Gardener of the Year award. Well deserved!

Hollinshead Plot Plan. Due to technical difficulties with Zoom, this topic was delayed until January. Nancy will forward the plan to Board members and Kirsten can discuss in January.

Directors & Officers Insurance. Nancy researched it and presented notes on some discussion points to the board. We discussed that we fall under the OMGA umbrella, and whether they should carry the insurance for the chapters. Nancy asked Karen and Jan to ask about it tomorrow at the OMGA meeting. Nancy also asked Amy Jo if she had time to talk with Gail if OMGA had ever discussed D&O insurance. Tabled until January.

OPEN FORUM:

Year-end inventory. Karen Simonet reported that she, Nathalie Smith and Julie Hill are the committee. The inventory is underway now. Committee Chairs will be getting an email from one of us so we can complete it by the end of November.

Everyone was asked to give your board title swing bars to the incoming officer. Extra loops are in the Extension office.

Marilyn Clark read the thank you note received from Toni for the recognition night gift card.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.





Congratulations to all trainees who certified this year.

Pictured are those who attended Recognition Night



Congratulations to all Certified Master Gardeners who achieved higher hour levels this year.

Pictured are those who attended Recognition Night.

There will be no newsletter in December Happy Holidays To All

Recognition Night 2022



Lisa Nakadate Busy as a Bee Award



Liz Anderson
In the Shade Award





Janet Dart

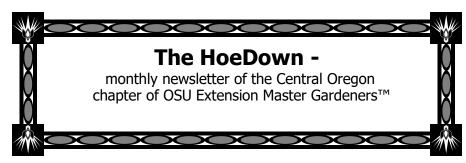
Master Gardener of the Year 2022



Central Oregon Chapter of OSU Extension Master Gardeners^{rm} 3800 SW Airport Way Bldg.#4 Redmond, OR 97756



Crook
Deschutes &
Jefferson Counties



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