

# H O E D O W N

April 2021



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## President's message



One of the joys of being a gardener, especially one who grows plants from seed, is seeing the new sprouts emerge and grow with a little help.

When Spring buds and shoots appear and become full-sized plants that brighten our day, we know the long, bleak Winter is almost history. It's especially cheering as we leave a long Covid winter behind us.

As a Master Gardener, we also know what it's like to share the amazing experience of gardening with young minds – the wonder of a child when they see a seed as a tiny powerhouse of life, ready to leap out of its small jacket and push through the soil to reach the sunlight. The young remind us that we are lucky to be gardeners and able to renew our world and ourselves every year.

My Master Gardener friends say that working in Plant Clinic teaches them something new every time they help a client. We read, we research and we add to our knowledge base for the next time. We're steadily building our skills, doing something we love – learning!

I can confidently say that there is not one Master Gardener who doesn't enjoy learning. So, when the pandemic turned our world upside down a year ago, what else would we do but research and learn?

We first figured out how to Zoom so we could see our friends and, incidentally, have meetings to continue planning outreach to the Central Oregon communities. We then found the great minds at OSU designed online classes so we could earn our Continuing Education credits in subjects we never thought about a year ago. And now we're becoming experts in iNaturalist, Community Collaboration, the OSU Woody Plant Database, ECCO and more. The possibilities for learning are practically unlimited, thanks to the willingness of our Master Gardeners to take chances and try new things.

We've Doodled, we've Zoomed and we've Webinars. We've swiped, clicked and shared our screens. We've learned to take the tiny seed of discovery and grow it into a virtual forest of knowledge. And we've built our home at the base, ready for the future. Bravo one and all!



## ***COMGA Calendar*** ***for contact persons go to [gocomga.com](http://gocomga.com)***

### **April**

- 1 Board meeting, Zoom, 10:00am
- 2 Hollinshead Community Garden Lottery closes
- 3 Discovery Community Garden Lottery Drawing
- 3 Spring Seminar class: Pruning Shrubs 10:00am
- 3 Spring Seminar class: Growing Berries 1:00pm
- 5-11 Discovery Park Community Garden registration
- 6 OSU Demo & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 6 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Dazzling Dahlias
- 10 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon [www.gocomga.com](http://www.gocomga.com)
- 10 Spring Seminar class: Native Plants in Landscape, 10:00am
- 15 Discovery Park CG volunteer meeting, 9:00am
- 17 Discovery Park Community Garden opens, 8:00am
- 17 Spring Seminar class: Irrigation, 10:00am
- 20 OSU Demo & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 20 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Happy Apples
- 22 Hollinshead Community Garden workday
- 22 Discovery Park Community Garden workday, 9:00am
- 24 Spring Seminar class: Lawn Care in Central Oregon, 10:00am
- 24 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon [www.gocomga.com](http://www.gocomga.com)
- 24 Hollinshead Community Garden opens
- 25 Hollinshead Community Garden opens

### **May**

- 4 OSU Demo & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 4 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Waterwise Gardening
- 6 Board meeting, Zoom, 10:00am
- 8 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 18 OSU Demo & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 18 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am Low Water, High Impact Perennials
- 20 Discovery Park CG workday, 9:00 am
- 22 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 27 Hollinshead CG volunteers meeting, 10:00am

### **June**

- 1 OSU Demo & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 1 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am,
- 3 Board meeting, Zoom, 10:00am
- 12 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 15 OSU Demo & AAS Gardening workday, 9:00am
- 15 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am,
- 17 Discovery Park Community Garden workday, 9:00am
- 24 Hollinshead CG volunteer meeting, 10:00am
- 28 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 29 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am





## Getting to Know You!

By Deb Goodall

How does one begin to describe someone like Nancy Glick, who, as is often said when introducing the famous, "needs no introduction"? She's our fearless leader and has been since 2018!



That kind of commitment is only one facet of Nancy's love for COMGA. "I came for the education but stayed for the people," she is fond of saying. After certifying in 2006, Nancy got involved, engagement that wove strong ties to Master Gardening and our organization, both of which came along just as she was starting a whole new life phase.

Born in Queens, N.Y, raised on Long Island, in Pennsylvania and then Chicago, Nancy attended Northern Illinois University. There, through a pen-pal program with Vietnam servicemen, she met her first husband. They married shortly after she traveled to California to meet him in person. After a few years in hot and arid Barstow and Fontana, Oregon's Governor Tom McCall beckoned her to Portland... Well, actually his philosophy and policies enticed her to sell the move to her family, despite friends' warnings she'd feel claustrophobic surrounded by trees.

Once in Oregon, she and her husband started a business selling equipment for public spaces -- national, state and city parks and national forests: picnic tables, basketball backboards, benches, swings -- you name it. They even sold composting bathrooms, complete with fans and solar systems. When Nancy says she knows Bend parks - and Hollinshead in particular - "from the other side," she means it.

A divorce later, Nancy, never one to be deterred, jumped on Match.com circa 1999 when, she says, "there weren't a lot of 50-year-olds on it." Problem was Pete, the eligible programmer bachelor who caught her eye, said he'd never live in Portland and invited Nancy to visit his place outside of Tumalo on the Deschutes River.

"I saw the river from his living room windows and decided, oh, yes, I could live here," she says. What's more, she realized the orientation of the house made it prime for a solar system. And Pete was a catch to boot!

So, another major move ensued. After selling her house and car, quitting her job and marrying Pete, Nancy jumped into a new life in Central Oregon. She took a part-time job with an insurance company, one she left behind without regret seven years later in 2007. Toni was the "enticer" luring her to greener pastures this time, hiring her -- a freshly minted Master Gardener -- as a landscaper with the Eagle Crest crew. "Actually, I was just a weed puller," Nancy says, "but at least I knew which plants to pull!"

While Nancy wasn't a dedicated gardener early on, she certainly raised one. Her daughter Kate was "insane about gardening from the time she was in middle school, reading

gardening books and magazines constantly." One day Nancy came home to discover Kate had chopped down a cherry tree because it was shading her garden! But moving to her new home in Central Oregon charged Nancy's own interest in gardening.

"Once I started the Master Gardener certification program and met Toni, Rocky and Amy Jo, I was hooked," she said. "I was drawn to their passion for it. They were so inspirational." Nancy volunteered for just about everything -- and thoroughly enjoyed it all. As for COMGA, she became secretary in 2008, and when the treasurer quit, took over that position, a role she held for eight years in great measure because of how then-President Chris Miao reconfigured the fiscal management system for greater transparency. Nancy served as Hollinshead Coordinator for two years. And in 2013, when KPOV Community Radio expressed interest in airing short gardening programs, Nancy took a COCC class on disc jockeying (of course she did!) and mastered the radio station's recording program by studying the manual.

As for gardening on riverfront property, she's developed what she terms a "cooperative relationship" with beavers, which over the years have hauled off an apple, three serviceberries, a 10' tall birch and countless aspen trees, often damming up the irrigation pond. Despite the destruction, Nancy admires the intrepid rodents' role in the ecosystem. Always one to see the bright side, Nancy appreciates the beavers' handiwork. After all, she says, "the marshlands support so many other creatures -- and the birding there is terrific."

Speaking of cooperative relationships, Nancy emphasizes her appreciation -- as president and member -- for COMGA's dedicated volunteers whose vibrant variety of talents and skills enrich our own organization's ecosystem.



**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](mailto:rockyb820@gmail.com)

## Discovery Park Community Garden

by Gary Weber

Today, Friday 4/2, is the deadline application deadline. The drawing will be held tomorrow and a few lucky gardeners will be excited to get to their raised bed assignments. The number of applicants this year is similar if just a little lower than in the past two. There are more 2020 gardeners deciding not to return than anticipated and while we hate to see them go, it does allow more people to get their hands dirty. Once the successful applicants are notified, folks who did not win a bed, will be notified as to their position in the drawing which will be used to rank them for the waiting list. There are usually a few more beds that open up after things got rolling. Some good news is that Bend Parks will provide the garden with a bulletin board which will double as signage on the opposite side. Bend Parks will do the installation which we hope to have happen soon. The not so good news is that the hoped-for shade structure will be put off to some future date. In the mean time we'll experiment with using shade umbrellas to provide relief from the summer sun. Bend Parks will also be delivering wood chips, which is something that has been needing a refresh for some time. The garden gates will be unlocked on April 17 and water at least to the hose bibs will probably be available not long after. Many gardeners at DPCG will begin the year by replacing some of the soil in their bed and planting a few cold hardy veggies. It is often tempting for beginners to start frost sensitive vegetables in April, and it is important to keep everyone informed of the risks of planting too early.

## Rotate Your Crops

by Patsy Kestner

The season of seed catalogues is upon us, and it's time to plan a vegetable garden. One thing that might slip to the bottom of mind after this last year is the concept of crop rotation. This is the concept of not planting the same plant family in the same place each year. Beneath the soil, plants often have distinct requirements that can deplete the soil of certain nutrients. Obviously, a plant deprived of it's nutrients won't do well. But, if that same soil is used for a plant with different requirements, it will do better. Of course, all Central Oregon soils can benefit from amendments this time of year.

What is important to consider at vegetable-seed selection time is how insects and plant disease often infest members of the same plant family. This is another compelling reason to use crop rotation in your vegetable garden. As an example, if your peas had flea beetle last year, use a different patch of your garden for peas this year, and plant some squash or carrots where your peas were last year.

Using the garden example above, a four year planting cycle might include the Brassicaceae (broccoli, cabbage), the Apiaceae (carrots, parsley), Legumes (peas, beans), and Cucurbits (squash, melons, pumpkin). Learning about and rotating plant families around through the years might require some garden journaling, but considering the possible increase in the health of your plants and the yield in delicious homegrown vegetables, it's worth it.

## Save the Date

OMGA PRESENTS  
July 16 and 17, 2021

Experience and participate in a dynamic program  
of  
interactive educational classes and workshops

## Mini-College 2021

Connect - Collaborate - Cultivate

Keynote presentations by:

Robert Michael Pyle and Gail Langellotto

Watch for details when our website goes live at:

[mastergardenerminicollege.org](http://mastergardenerminicollege.org)

Registration will open in March 2021

## Straw Bale Gardening

by Kathy Geary

Last Fall after a series of hoedowns and Halloween get-togethers I found that I had accumulated a number of bales of straw. What I was to do with them, I had no idea until the subject of straw bale gardening flashed across my computer screen while researching a subject not remotely related. The idea stuck in my head and I've decided to try my hand at a straw bale garden this Spring.

The advantages of a straw bale garden are numerous:

No digging or soil preparation is required.

Bales can be placed on concrete or asphalt.

Bales are an inexpensive way to create raised beds for gardening.

Bales are about 2 feet tall, which make gardening more accessible for gardeners who have difficulty bending over.

And... at the end of the garden season, the bales can be used as mulch or added to a compost pile.

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Straw bales can be purchased from a variety of places such as a local farm store. You will want a bale that is held together tightly with baling twine encircling the bale in two to three places. Old, unrotted bales work well if the bales are still held tightly together by the twine. **WARNING! WARNING! WARNING! No Hay Bales!** Hay bales contain grass and weed seed that will grow! In a short period of time with water and nutrients your garden **WILL** look like a chia pet!

You can grow a variety vegetables, herbs, and flowers in a straw bale. Vegetables like lettuce and kale, squash and cucumbers, peppers, chard, tomatoes, eggplant, peas, melons, pumpkins, and annual herbs. Corn and pole beans are too tall for a straw bale garden and root vegetables like carrots and beets and turnips do not grow well in straw bales since the root zone is rough and the straw will tangle the roots. Tomatoes and peas will need a trellis or caged support to keep them upright as they mature. Plant what you like to eat is the best advice for a straw bale garden.

Place your bale in a permanent location for the growing season with the twine that binds the bale located on the sides, not the top of the straw bale. Once wet, a straw bale is difficult to move. Your straw bale should be located in an area that receives at least 6 hours of sunlight a day for the best growing viability.

Your straw bale is now ready to be conditioned. The conditioning process takes 10 days, which sounds like a long bit of time; however, by taking time to condition the bale with a nitrogen fertilizer and water your straw bale garden will be a success.

Once the bale is conditioned it is ready to plant. Roughen the surface with a trowel and place a 3 inch layer of a good organic compost or potting soil across the top of the bale. Greens, herbs, and peas can be seeded directly into the top of the bale or transplanted into the compost layer. Plants such as squash, and tomatoes should be planted deeper into the bale. Water your straw bale garden with use of a soaker hose. Watering by hand is an option keeping in mind the importance of uniform watering practices. Regular applications of a light fertilizer will provide sufficient nutrients throughout the season.

Nasturtiums, alyssum, and marigolds can enhance the vision your straw bale garden. Tuck flower seeds into the corner edges of the bale for a cascade of color and to soften the rough look of the bale.

What's left is to enjoy the summer months and the fruits of your straw bale garden labor. Happy Gardening!



## 7 Reasons to be a Gardener

by Pat Kolling

Why do we garden? Why does it bring such satisfaction to get our hands dirty and dig in the dirt? There are probably many reasons that we can all give for why gardening brings us pleasure. These reasons were in an article published by the National Garden Bureau in 2006 by Janis Kieft.

1. Garden for safe, healthy food. Reports of food-borne illnesses and contamination regularly appear in the news media. Growing concerns about pesticides in our food supply have led to an increased interest in organic gardening and availability of organic produce. An easy solution is to grow your own vegetables. Start your own garden and know the food you're eating is fresh and safe with fantastic flavor.

2. Garden for exercise. Tired of the gym routine? Get a good workout without even thinking about it. Gardening activities provide both cardio and aerobic exercise. Studies show that an hour of moderate gardening can burn up to 300 calories for women, almost 400 calories for men. Mowing the grass is like taking a vigorous walk, bending and stretching to plant a garden compares to an exercise class, while hauling plants and soil is similar to weightlifting. And after you're finished, you see immediate results in your garden even as your physical health improves—without being bored.

3. Garden to add beauty. Your home can be made more inviting simply by adding a container of colorful flowers near the front door. Herbs in the kitchen add freshness to the room, as well as flavor to daily meals. Trees and shrubs not only provide color and shade, but shelter for birds and wildlife. Think of the garden as another room to be enjoyed whether you are inside or outside the house.

4. Garden to learn. Gardeners find that the more they learn about plants and gardening, the more they want to know. Problems with insects or spots on leaves provide the opportunity to find out the cause and understand how to keep plants healthy. There are a variety of ways to increase gardening know-how such as community classes, Master Gardener programs, vo-tech courses and formal degree programs at a college or university.

5. Garden to meet people. Gardening is a great way to expand your social circle. Whether it's with someone who lives down the street or halfway around the world on the Internet, gardeners love to talk about plants. Surplus tomatoes, a bouquet of flowers, or an extra plant, are gifts to be shared with friends and neighbors. Meeting other gardeners through garden clubs, plant organizations, and gardening websites is an easy way to share information, ask questions and get involved.

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## LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

April 1, 2021 Via Zoom Online

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Nancy Glick (President), Jan Even (Past-President), Elizabeth Hughes Weide (VP-Community Education), Liz Anderson (VP-MG Education), Vickie Minor (Secretary), Tim Schindele (Treasurer), Mimi Thomas (Historian), Janet Dart (OMGA State Representative), Rocky Bessette (Communications Liaison), Jolene Dodge (Membership Coordinator), Kirsten Hinton, Liz Douville, Carroll Minium, Ruth Mulligan, Chris Miao, Julie Hill, Toni Stephan, Nathalie Smith, Kathy Geary, Vicky Kemp, Karen Simonet and Diana Hardin.

The meeting started at 10:00 AM and adjourned at 12:26 PM . The board discussed the following items:

Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve the minutes made by Mimi Thomas, seconded by Tim Schindele, and approved by the board, without objection.

### OSU Report

Toni Stephan reported that remote plant clinic will start Monday, April 5. Trainees will be going through two rounds of training, ending May 14. After mid-May, shifts will be open to trainees and recertifying MGs. She will send the paperwork to the recertifying MGs closer to the time when shifts open. She plans to have zoom training sessions to help people adjust to the remote plant clinic environment. MGs working plant clinic should complete the "Zoom Basics," "Best Practices for Online Plant Clinic," and "ECCO" advanced education classes. For now, there will be one session per day, running 10AM – 3PM with a one-hour break between 12 – 1:00 PM. This is subject to change as the number of calls coming in are higher than at the same time last year.

### BOARD REPORTS:

#### Treasurer's Report

Tim Schindele sent the report by email, ahead of the meeting. Income in March came from Spring Seminar class registrations (\$1,160.00), Spring Seminar sponsorships (\$350.00), Spring Seminar silent auction (\$20.00), membership dues (\$105.00), row cover sales (\$70.00), CD interest (\$15.54) and a contribution (\$5.00), totaling \$1,725.54. March expenses included \$136.45 for Spring Seminar expenses related to the Zoom seminars and upgrades to the online silent auction through 32auctions; PayPal fees of \$1.72 while testing PayPal and 32auctions; PayPal fees of \$94.46 for the Zoom Spring Seminar classes; and one \$0.41 PayPal fee for the \$5.00 donation made by Janet Dart while testing Zoom class signup with PayPal.

Our checking account balance is again over \$20,000 and we should be able to pay our bills and make our budgeted contributions without having to dip into committed funds or cashing out a CD. Extensive discussion followed on how we will handle expenses that arise this year that were not budgeted because of the uncertainty of the pandemic and not knowing what we would or would not be allowed to do (e.g., community education advertising, plant sale expenses, etc.). Nancy reminded project coordinators that if they need to incur a necessary expense beyond their budget, they are to inform the board.

### Membership Report

As of April 1, 2021, there are 44 paid members, 2 associate members and 28 trainee members. An email was sent to all members, reminding everyone that dues should be paid. Nancy reported that dues may now be paid online at <https://www.gocomga.com/dues-questionnaire>.

### OMGA Rep Report

Janet Dart reported that mini college will be virtual and information was sent to all MGs earlier in the week. OMGA is still looking for moderators. Janet will check with OMGA on the status of the silent auction.

### Community Education

Elizabeth Weide reported on the gardening webinars held March 27 and March 31, which were set up by Janet Dart and Nathalie Smith. Jan Even and Diana Hardin handled advertising through Facebook. 95 people registered for each session, but actual attendees were 35 and 29 respectively. Registered participants were sent links to the newest video on Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon, as well as a link to the Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon handbook. Moderators were Amy Jo and Jan Even on Saturday, and JoAnne Abbott and Vicky Kemp on Wednesday. They were assisted by Janet Dart and Vickie Minor. Discussion followed on whether there would be follow-up with attendees and if more sessions would be done. Nathalie reported that per guidance from Amy Jo, the live Q&A sessions were not recorded and would not be available for later viewing. Elizabeth will follow up with Amy Jo about additional sessions in April.

### ACTION ITEMS:

#### Password Change

Nancy noted that it has been five years since the passwords have been changed. Nancy is planning to use the same base password, with possible variations for sites that require special characters. Members in good standing who have paid their dues, will receive an email with the password. Discussion followed on possible iterations of the password and the need to keep a record of which sites are using which variations. The Tech Committee will be the repository for all the passwords for the accounts we use. Nathalie asked that the committee be given a list of who is allowed access to which sites so the committee knows who is authorized to have the password(s). Nancy is working with Jan and Vickie to develop policies and noted that it would be helpful to have one or more members of the Tech Committee involved in the discussion.

#### Google G-Suite

Jan Even reported that all project coordinators and board members now have an email address at the gocomga.com domain (e.g., secretary@gocomga.com), according to the specific position. In addition, each position has its own Drive/file system, which will allow project coordinators and others to organize folders and documents that can be shared with other members. There will also be a place for presentations to be stored, so people helping with community education events will not have to recreate things. Janet Dart will check on the storage capacity that comes with our subscription so we will know how much we can upload. Amy Jo will approve all presentations before they are uploaded to the site. Extensive discussion followed on what would or would not be stored in G-Suite. Pictures

**LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD** continued

will be stored in Flickr since we have unlimited storage with our subscription. KPOV transcripts are available on the COMGA website. Janet created a default organizational pattern and suggested everyone follow that structure when setting up folders. Discussion followed on how projects will be handled that do not fit neatly into existing project structures (e.g., asset/property inventory) and the topic of who will manage G-Suite will need to be included in the policy and protocol discussions. This discussion migrated to a discussion about tech education for MGs, to help everyone get used to all the technology we now use (e.g., zoom, webinars, etc.) for advanced education and training. Nancy is working with Janet Dart and Lizzy Anderson on developing a program. They hope to have something in place by the late summer.

**Tech Committee**

Janet and Nathalie reported on the volume of meetings and webinars we are now doing and the need for a second Zoom license. There is a need to separate the functions and permissions into two segments: one for all the meetings being scheduled and one for all the webinars being scheduled. Nathalie briefly explained access rights and how easy it could be for someone to accidentally delete something critical, with no way to recover the data. Vickie explained how much work is involved behind the scenes, to get the webinars set up and the problems associated with only one license for all purposes.

Increased use of the technology is also increasing the potential for accidents. Toni shared that the OSU license being used for plant clinic, could be made available for meetings, but it could not be used during plant clinic hours and Toni would need to be consulted to avoid other scheduling conflicts. Discussion also included that the Spring Seminar webinars are going to be recorded, so anyone who paid to attend will receive a link that will allow access to the session after-the-fact. Access to the public who did not pay to attend has not been resolved. After a full discussion, Janet Dart moved to purchase an additional Zoom license for \$75/year and a one-year license for webinars for \$200. The motion was seconded by Rocky and approved absent objection. Janet will make the arrangements and will submit the bill to Tim for reimbursement.

**PROJECT STATUS REPORTS:****Water-wise Garden**

Chris reported that the garden had its first work day on March 25. The primary focus was pruning and cleanup. Amy Jo did a pruning tutorial; cleanup went quickly and the garden is in great shape. Workdays will continue the second and fourth Thursdays of the month until the late fall.

**Spring Seminar**

Rocky thanked her committee for all the hard work put into getting everything ready for the seminar this year. She specifically thanked Nathalie and Janet for the countless hours they spent getting the webinars set up; Vickie for coordinating the speakers, Lizzy and Karen for their work on the online silent auction; Liz for publicity; Phil for sponsors, Julie Hill for graphic art assistance, and Evie and Sue for continued support even though their specific responsibilities were curtailed this year because of the pandemic. Rocky also thanked Pat Kolling, Kathy Ketchum, Marilyn Clark, and Nancy Glick for volunteering to be hosts or co-hosts for the webinars. As of today, 238 registrations have been received. Lizzy Anderson reported that the silent auction officially opened today and she

asked that we forward the online auction link to locals. Nathalie reported that the link to the auction will be included in all the thank you emails sent to participants and Diana will post it to Facebook.

**OSU Demo Garden**

The sign-up sheet was emailed to all MGs on Wednesday; the first work day is Tuesday, April 6. Work groups are limited to 15 people, with work days continuing the first and third Tuesdays of the month. COVID training is required before reporting to work. If it was completed in 2020, it does not have to be repeated but Carrie must have your certificate on file. Karen Simonet will be contacting people who signed up to work but have not done the COVID training. Vickie reported that Amy Jo is still planning to have volunteers help to install the landscaping around the new building – stay tuned for updates on this.

**Home and Garden Show**

Vickie reported that this event has been canceled this year.

**Hollinshead Garden**

Kirsten reported that there were 54 lottery applicants, there are six open plots and possibly two more. She has seven mentors but she needs ten. Guidelines are under discussion with Amy Jo; opening days are April 24 and April 25, in groups, to comply with COVID restrictions.

**Discovery Park Garden**

Gary reported by email that most of the 2020 DPCG gardeners have responded about their intention to return this year. Of the 50 beds, 17 will be available for new gardeners. The application deadline for new gardeners is Friday, April 2. To date, there are 55 applicants, down from approximately 70 in the last two years. The lottery drawing is Saturday, April 3. Gary also reported on meetings with Bend Parks & Rec about improvements to the garden. He met with Lee Sherwin to discuss installing a bulletin board, which is likely to happen in the next week. One side of the board will face the bike path running next to the garden, the other side will face inward and can be used for posting garden information for the gardeners. The outward facing side can display the name of the garden, and minimal information for the public, e.g., where to find information about obtaining a bed. Gary has also proposed using patio umbrellas as temporary shade cover. A permanent installation is not allowed unless it goes through a design process with city engineering, etc. He proposed purchasing two 9' umbrellas at a cost of \$50 each, and two heavy bases, at a cost of \$50 each. The umbrellas would be mounted in the center of each of the two picnic tables. Extensive discussion followed on this proposal, focused on concerns of potential theft, or injury or damage in a wind event. After discussion, Janet moved that Gary be given \$100 to purchase one umbrella and one base, Tim seconded the motion with the proviso that Nancy talk with Gary about the concerns we have. The motion passed with one abstention.

**Open Forum**

Vicky Kemp reported that the plant sale is moving forward. The perennials have arrived from the local nursery and have been transplanted. The water is on and two of the aqua mats have been installed. Everything will be done online, including ordering and

**LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD** continued

payment. Fewer seeds are being started so for now, fewer volunteers are needed. However, there will be numerous opportunities to volunteer the week of and day of the sale. Vicky will need volunteers to move the tomatoes, to move all the plants out of the greenhouse, to pull plants to match receipts, batch plants for customers and to get the plants to people waiting in their cars.

Julie Hill provided an update on the inventory approach this year. The inventory group is Julie, Karen Simonet and Nathalie Smith. With COVID restrictions in place, they cannot do physical inventories this year. All project coordinators will receive an inventory list for their project/location and they will be asked to flag any significant changes. If restrictions ease, a physical inventory will be done at the end of the season.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Vickie Minor, Secretary

**7 Reasons to be a Gardener Continued.**

6. Garden to be creative. Gardening provides an outlet for creative and artistic expression. A garden's design can reflect a personal sense of style such as a romantic cottage garden or a peaceful Japanese garden, as well as provide a showcase for art and sculpture. Like to try something new? With the wide variety of seeds and plants available in garden centers, it's easy to experiment with new plants or change a garden's color scheme every year.

7. Garden for emotional needs and spiritual connections. Gardens play an important part in our well being. A garden might serve as a tranquil retreat or private escape from the demands of everyday life. The beauty of flowers can lift spirits, while pulling weeds can be a great release for stress and excess energy. A harvest of colorful flowers or tasty vegetables provides a sense of achievement and feelings of success.

Discover your own reasons to become a gardener. And forget that excuse about not having enough time. Whatever reason appeals to you, gardening is a satisfying activity that provides a lifetime of benefits.

**Divine Vines for Central Oregon**

by Deb Goodall

I have always found vines to be especially enchanting in a garden. Fortunately, there are several perennial and annual vines that grow well in our challenging Central Oregon climate so don't hesitate to look for opportunities where a vine or two can bring additional charm to your garden.

Frank Lloyd Wright said "A doctor can bury his mistakes, but an architect can only advise his clients to plant vines." Surely covering or camouflaging eyesores or uninteresting architectural features are among the many uses for vines. But so are creating privacy, adding beauty to fences, arbors and trellises and creating shade or vertical height when a tree or tall shrub isn't an option.

So what are some examples of perennial vines that flourish in our short growing season? Silver Lace Vines are a favorite. While they require a sturdy structure to grow on, they are relatively easy to get established, grow fast and are covered with clusters of small white flowers in late summer. They're considered a low-water use plant and while they love sun, they also do well in part shade.

No matter how you pronounce it, Cle mat 'is (or clem' uh tis or cle mate' is) is another popular vine. There are plenty of options to choose from, although some varieties are more drought tolerant and deer resistant than others. Nelly Moser, Jackmanii and Ramona do especially well here. These vines prefer six hours of sun a day; cool, moist but not wet roots; and a support for climbing.

Trumpet vines and Virginia Creeper can be invasive and problematic in mild climates but they are generally well behaved in Central Oregon. Trumpet vines take a few years to get established but once they are, these low-water use plants grow fast, reaching 20-30 feet during their life span. Their bright yellow or orange tubular flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds – but be careful because Trumpet vines can also attract aphids so they aren't ideal over a patio.

Virginia Creeper is a strong, vigorous vine that will cover walls, fences and boulders. Its dark green foliage presents excellent fall colors of red to orange. While its flowers aren't showy, it bears clusters of purple berries that attract birds.

There are several annual vines that do well too. The Thunbergia (thun ber gee ah) or Black-Eyed Susan vine that covers the lattice on east side of my back porch is the essential privacy element of my favorite summer happy place. I plant six small pots in late May and by the end of July, I have a lovely 8-foot wall of green dotted with bright yellow, orange or pinkish flowers that lasts until the first heavy frost. It only gets four or five hours of sun which diminishes the number of flowers but not the density of foliage.

Scarlet Runner Beans are another great annual vining plant that's fun to try. In addition to its quick growth and bright red-orange flowers throughout the summer, it also produces edible beans.

Morning Glories, known for their open flowers in the morning that close in the afternoon, are considered annuals in Central Oregon because most species don't tolerate our cold winters. To keep them flowering and to prevent the spread of unwanted seeds, pinching off spent blooms is time well spent.



### OSU Extension Service Demonstration Garden

First workday is April 6, at 9:00am  
space is limited so you need to sign up  
go to Deschutes County Extension  
website.

Vicky Kemp, Co-Coordinator with Karen  
Simonet and Kaileen Mendall



### PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Picea pungens*  
'Globosa'

Height: 1 - 2.5'  
Spread: 1 - 3'



#### Why Should I Plant Dwarf Globe Blue Spruce in My Garden?

It is an evergreen with strong, pyramid-shaped  
growth and the most drought-tolerant spruce  
for Central Oregon.

This tree adds brightness to dark parts of the  
yard and makes an attractive low hedge  
against an emerald lawn.

Blue needles hold their color well throughout  
the year but are brightest when they first  
emerge in spring.

It attracts birds.

#### Information Sources

Missouri Botanical Garden: [http://  
www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/  
PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=u960](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=u960)

### IT'S KPOV TIME GARDENING: GET GOOD AT IT

Tune in to The Point on KPOV 88.9 FM, Tuesdays  
between 9:00 and 9:30 AM.

Here is our lineup of upcoming  
Gardening: Get Good At It segments.

April 6 Dazzling Dahlias

April 13 Happy Apples



### Spring Gardening Seminar

The Annual Spring Seminar will be a virtual event this  
year. There will be classes offered on each of the  
Saturdays in April.

April 3 Avoiding the Green Meatball: How and when to  
Prune flowering shrubs 10:00 am

April 3 Producing Blueberries and Raspberries in Home  
Gardens, Methods for Success in Raised Beds or  
Pots 10:00 am

April 10 Native Plant Landscaping; Creating a sanctuary  
for birds, pollinators and humans 10:00am

April 17 Practical Irrigation: Using water wisely in the  
high desert 10:00 am

April 24 Lawn Care in Central Oregon 10:00am

**Registration info on [gocomga.com](http://gocomga.com) website**



To get things off to a good start,  
one qualification for life  
membership in the gardening  
fraternity  
is banishment of the word "dirt"



The substance you dig and plant in—the good  
earth—is called "soil".

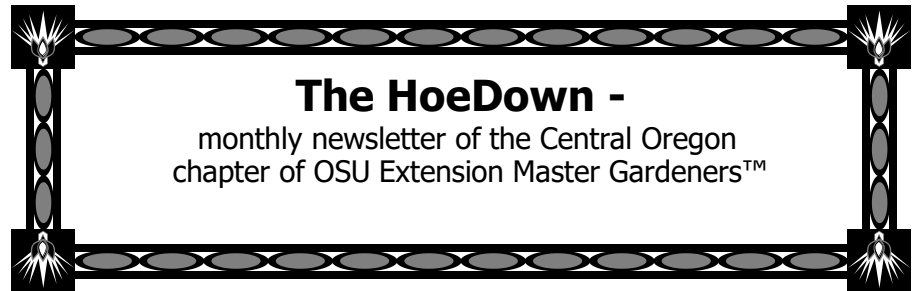
Dirt is what you wash off your face.

*Joan Lee Faust*

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



Crook  
Deschutes &  
Jefferson Counties



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