

March 2020



Narcissus 'Red Ranger'

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Board members 2020

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President's message



MG -- OSU -- OMGA -- COMGA

How *does* this all work?



organization?

As a member of the COMGA Board I've often been asked: how is the Central Oregon Master Gardeners Association related to OSU's Master Gardeners? Can you be one and not the other? Why do the Master Gardeners need a second

I've heard a number of explanations but since I'm a visual learner, I'm going to try to describe the OSU – COMGA relationship through a gardener's eyes.

As we all know, Amy Jo Detweiler, Central Oregon's OSU Horticulture Agent, develops a series of classes every year to train people interested in understanding horticulture in depth. Her motive for educating gardeners is to have a team of volunteers willing to help the general public with their gardening questions and problems. You might think of these volunteers at the end of their training as little seeds, packed with potential and just waiting for the right conditions to grow.



With our training, we newly sown Master Gardeners also need to earn some experience: doing research into garden questions, assisting the public, teaching good horticulture practices and promoting the OSU Extension Service programs. The little seeds will need to be started in good conditions to grow into productive volunteers – but how?



The Central Oregon OSU Horticulture Agent is a busy person, serving the commercial needs of three counties while supervising the Master Gardener Program. It's a big task to nurture those little seeds into sturdy plants. That's where the **Oregon Master Gardener Association** steps in.

Planning work parties, paying bills, arranging event locations, advertising our classes, collecting community garden plot fees, mentoring community garden plot owners, organizing advanced MG training, recruiting instructors and assistants, raising funds to support the Horticulture program, and teaching classes in the community all require a good-sized volunteer organization that will ensure that the freshly educated MG "seed" will have the best environment to produce successful Master Gardeners who can flourish in our communities. You might think of the Central Oregon Master Gardener Association as the soil, the water, and, dare I say, the sun that makes the OSU Master Gardeners so effective.



Every time you see our logo, remember that you, our volunteers, are right there beside the Cascade mountains, rooted in Central Oregon soil, growing healthy, vital and strong.



Thank you for belonging to the

Central Oregon Master Gardener Association!

Nancy Glick

JUNE GARDEN FAIR, 6/6/2020

I'm looking for volunteers for the June Garden Fair for the actual date of 6/6/20. A few of you I have already talked to but I need lots of people to take care of all the tasks to manage the overall Fair, COMGA Plant Sale and the customers. Listed below is a brief summary of tasks to be performed that I still need volunteers for.

7:00-8:30 am

Set up shade tarps, tables, chairs & signs
Bring out plant sale plants from the greenhouse to the tables that will be just outside the Demo Garden

7:30 manage customer line for the plant sale, this would be needed until the line is gone, approx. 11:00.

8:30 head counter at the beginning of the plant sale customer line until the line is gone.

9:00 to approx. 11:00 am

assist customers with selecting plants, possibly carry the plants for them, help getting them thru the cashier lines.

8:30 to 11:00 or 11:30 am

Assist COMGA Treasurer, Tim Schindele, with the cashier lines which will include counting plants, row cover & soil thermometers and recording on a sales slip, before customers get to the actual cashiers

8:45 to 11:00 or 11:30 am

Sit at a table just before the cashier lines and offer row cover and soil thermometers for sale.

7:00 until noon or so assist in traffic control out in the big parking lot as vendors are getting unloaded, setting up & getting their vehicles out of the way for foot traffic.

These positions will get filled on a first come, first serve basis, so don't wait too long to request a position to be filled. I will be away from my email from March 15-22nd but will get to you as soon as possible either before March 15th or after the 22nd to acknowledge your request of what you would like to help with.

Vicky Kemp, June Garden Fair Coordinator
vjekemp@prinetime.net

COMGA Calendar

for contact persons go to gocomga.com

March

- 3 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Companion Plant Combos
- 4 MG training, *Plant ID & *Common Damage to Landscape Plants
- 5 Monthly board meeting, 1pm, OSU Extension Office, Bldg. #3
- 5 Spring Seminar Committee meeting, 11am, OSU Extension Office, Bldg. #4
- 5 Growing Vegetables class, OSU Extension, 5-7pm
- 7 Growing Vegetables class, OSU Ag station, Madras, 10:00am
- 14 Growing Vegetables class, OSU Cascades, 10:00am
- 17 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Summer Bulbs to Plant Now
- 18 MG training, *Pruning & *Pruning lab
- 21 Growing Vegetables class, COCC, Prineville, 10:00am
- 28 Growing Vegetables class, Coffield Community center, Sisters, 10:00am
- 31 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30 am, The Best Irrigation for Your Plants

April

- 2 Monthly board meeting, 1pm, OSU Extension Office, Bldg. #3
- 2 Spring Seminar committee meeting, 11:00am
- 7 OSU Demo Garden workday, OSU Extension Office, 9am
- 7 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Spring Gardening Seminar
- 9 Hollinshead Water-wise garden workday, 9am
- 18 Spring Gardening Seminar, 8:00am—4:30pm
- 21 OSU Demo Garden workday, OSU Extension, 9am
- 21 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30, Home & Garden Show
- 23 Hollinshead Water-wise garden workday, 9am
- 23 Hollinshead Volunteer meeting, 10:00am

May

- 1 Home & Garden Show, 10:30am, Best Veggies for C. O.
 - H & G Show, 12pm, Growing Tomatoes
 - H & G Show, 1:30pm, Backyard Composting
- 2 H & G Show, 10:30am, Best Veggies for C. O.
 - H & G Show, 12pm, Growing Strawberries
 - H & G Show, 1:30pm, Fire Resistant Landscapes
- 3 H & G Show, 10:30am, Best Veggies for C. O.
 - H & G Show, 12 pm, Basic Gardening for C. O.
- 5 OSU Demo Garden workday, OSU Extension, 9am
- 5 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Seed Starting
- 7 Monthly board meeting, OSU Extension Office, Bldg. 3, 1:00pm
- 9 Hollinshead Park, Choosing Short Season Veggies, 9:30am
- 14 Hollinshead Water-wise garden workday, 9am
- 14 OSU Extension Office, Transplanting, 10:00am
- 16 Discovery Park, Rodent Control—Build a Cloche, 9:30am
- 19 OSU Demo Garden workday, OSU Extension, 9am
- 19 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Water-wise Gardening
- 28 Hollinshead Water-wise garden workday, 9am
- 28 Hollinshead Volunteer meeting, 10:00am
- 30 Hollinshead Water-wise garden Learning Tour, 10:00am

Getting to Know You!

By Laurie Floyd

Say Hello to Cathy Williams.

A Master Gardener since 2004.

Cathy got into gardening due to her father-in-law. He was a tremendous gardener. His entire back yard was a garden and he eventually turned his entire front yard into a garden. While he did he showed Cathy things and gave her his secret soil recipes. He was the one who suggested that she join the Master Gardener program.

She got a job at the Bulletin. That's where she met Liz Douville. Liz convinced Cathy to join the program, and while working three part time jobs, she completed the program in 2004.

Cathy has grown many things. She has had some victories and failures, but she does regularly grow sunflowers, spinach, tomatoes and kale. She also planted a pear tree in her yard. She wasn't sure how to prune it. She is lucky enough to have a neighbor that knows how to prune fruit trees. So she asked her neighbor for help. He pruned her tree for fruit and last year she had a bumper crop with more pears than she knew what to do with! She has since taken the tree pruning class and can prune her tree.

Her home is in NE Tumalo. She is a good neighbor, she noticed that her neighbors drip line system had sprung a leak. Her neighbor was on vacation. So Cathy went over to fix it for him, while she was there she got a good look at his system set up. Her next project is a drip line system for her yard. No more hand watering for her.

Cathy loves sunflowers. She likes the Teddy Bear types and the beautifully colored red Moulin Rouge and Red Sun types. Cathy likes California poppies and plants them in barrels. She has crocus everywhere, daffodils, no tulips due to deer munching.

By her front door, she planted a climbing rose. After a few years she got tired of pruning it so she cut and dug all but two branches, then just let it go to grow. Close to the rose is a large blue spruce, one day while walking home Cathy looked up and to her surprise, there were large clusters of red roses poking out from the top of the spruce! The red of the roses against the color of the blue spruce looks amazing it makes her happy and smile.

Interesting things about Cathy. She is a native Oregonian born in Hillsborough. Her husband grew up in Prineville. She has one son who lives on a small farm in Hermiston. He is a Tower Repair Supervisor for AT&T. Cathy has 4 grandchildren, three grandsons ages 9, 6, and 3, and one granddaughter age 2.

Her 18 month old Golden Retriever is named Dixie and a cat, a mostly white with grey and black tabby named Cotton Kitty. Cathy attends the Spring Seminars every year. She has even gotten her sister to drive over from Medford to join her. Cathy collects and saves seeds and enjoys playing Mah-jongg to relax.

One day while watching the deer in her yard she noticed that they liked the petunias. They chose to eat particular colors before others and she wondered why. Her curiosity got her to taste the different colors of petunias to see which one was best. She narrowed it down to the yellow ones!

Project updates

Hollinshead Community Gardens

by Nancy Glick

DO YOU LIVE IN BEND? HAVE YOU ADMIRERED HOLLINSHEAD'S COMMUNITY GARDEN FROM AFAR?



Are you looking for a chance to learn along with other Central Oregon gardeners?

Would you like to be part of a Community Garden

that is older than some of its gardeners?

We need a few certified Master Gardeners who want to share their knowledge while learning more about vegetable gardening in Central Oregon. As managers of the Garden for twenty years, we have found friends in the gardeners as well as fellow adventurers in our challenging environment.

When you volunteer to Mentor at the Community Garden, you will have the support of a dozen other Master Gardeners, a monthly meeting to compare notes and a calendar of fun events in the Garden.

A full description of the Hollinshead Community Garden is on our website: <https://www.gocomga.com/volunteers-needed>

Call or email me if you're interested.

**Nancy Glick,
Hollinshead
Community Garden
Coordinator**

nglick@bendcable.com
541-330-6260



OSU Extension Demo Garden

The first workday for the Redmond OSU Demonstration Garden will be Tues. April 7 beginning at 9 am. We will meet in the Bldg. 4 Conference Room for introductions and a short orientation. Weather permitting we will begin some spring cleanup chores so dress appropriately.



Please bring small hand tools, (trowel, weeder, hand pruners), a bucket for weeds, kneeling pad or any convenience tool you use. Garden gloves, a hat in addition to sun screen, and a water bottle are good items to always bring.



Start eating your Wheaties and exercising those muscles now--gardening season is fast approaching!

Vicky Kemp & Liz Douville

Discovery Park Community Garden

The construction work next to the garden installing the sewer connection is completed. A section of fence had been removed to complete the work but otherwise the garden beds were not disturbed. The fence is in the process of being put back together.

Lottery applications are being monitored by Johanna Talus. She'll log applicants and send them introductory and background information. Interested people apply by sending an email to gocomga@gmail.com.

Signup at the Project Fair was good, with 15 folks indicating an interest to volunteer at the garden. In total there are 20 Trainees and 3 CMG's who have indicated interest. There are 5 returning volunteers. We still need a couple of CMG's to agree to being Mentors.

Planning is underway for Opening Day registration. Janet Dart is leading the effort to make this run as smoothly as possible.

Rodent defense will again be a major activity at the garden this year with a goal of making this easier to accomplish for individual gardeners. We'll run a workshop or two for our volunteers to learn how to build an effective cloche and in the process continue to repair and bring the rest of our garden beds up to a higher standard of functioning.

Lastly, our goal is to make the garden as rewarding and educational for both gardeners and volunteers as possible.

Thank you, Gary Weber, DPCG Project Manager

IT'S KPOV TIME GARDENING: GET GOOD AT IT

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

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

March 3 Companion Plant Combos

March 17 Summer Bulbs to Plant Now

A beautiful early spring bloomer with an interesting derived name _ Grass Widow

by Judy Shearer

Grass widows (see picture below) are one of the earliest blooming wildflowers in Oregon appearing in the Columbia gorge as early as mid February. Elsewhere they are scattered throughout the state in spring/early summer in rocky vernal wet places that later dry. A member of the Iris family (Iridaceae) *Olysnium douglasii* is the only species in the genus in North America where it's native range spans British Columbia to California. Grass widows are perennial bulbiferous plants reaching only about six inches in height. The petals and sepals form a bell shaped flower, bright purple rarely white in color. The leaves are grass like hence the common name. According to Michael Quinion, a british language expert, the common name refers to a mistress or unmarried woman who is left stranded by her lover in the grass after a tryst.



Photograph by Samantha Shearer

References:

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

A Guide to the Wildflowers, Shrubs, and Vines of Oregon. 2014. Oregon Floral Project. Department of Biology and Plant Pathology, Oregon State University. Corvallis, OR.

First General Meeting of COMGA for 2020!

The meeting will be held on **Saturday March 14th** at the home of Liz Anderson in Powell Butte.

Please arrive anytime after 10:00. Coffee, tea and treats will be provided. General Meeting will begin at 10:30, followed by a hands on pruning class led by Toni Stephan and Rocky Bessette. (This will qualify as one hour of Advanced Training). A potluck lunch will follow. Please bring a dish to share and your pruning tools!

To get to Liz Anderson's house:

From Redmond: Take Hwy 126 East toward Prineville. Turn right onto Powell Butte Hwy. Continue 4 ½ miles south. 12500 S. Powell Butte Hwy will be on your left.

From Bend: Take Hwy 20 East. Turn left onto Powell Butte Hwy. Continue for approx.. 11 miles. 12500 S. Powell Butte Hwy will be on your right.

Questions??????? Contact Liz at (541)968-1626 or at ragingangel61@yahoo.com

February Webinar

On February 11, we had 28 Master Gardeners and Trainees turn out for the "Bees in the Garden: Update from the OSU Garden Ecology Lab" webinar, presented by Gail Langelletto.

Toni led a lively class afterwards, focusing on Pollinators in Central Oregon.

We swapped gardening magazines and seed catalogs, ate good food, learned and laughed a lot, and dreamed of Spring!



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

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

February 6, 2020
(transcribed from audio)

Deschutes County Extension Office

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Glick (President), Elizabeth Hughes Weide (VP-Community Education), Vickie Minor (Secretary), Tim Schindele (Treasurer), Mimi Thomas (Historian), Janet Dart (OMGA State Representative), Diana Hardin (Alternate State Representative), Rocky Bessette (Communications Liaison), Jolene Dodge (Membership Coordinator), Karen Finney, Liz Douville, JoAnne Abbott, Kirstin Hinton, Carroll Minium, Vicky Kemp, Phil Paterno, Toni Stephan, Lea Dahlen, Marissa Wright, Ruth Mulligan, and Gina Evans.

The meeting started at 1:00 PM and adjourned at 3:00 PM.

The board discussed the following items:

Approval of minutes of previous meeting (Nancy Glick)
Motion to approve the minutes made by Diana Hardin, seconded by Jolene Dodge, approved by the board.

OSU Report (Amy Jo Detweiler/Toni Stephan) Toni reported that the schedule for plant clinic will be coming out soon. She expects the certified MGs will start April 6 in the afternoons only and April 8 will be in Crook County only. Trainees will go through procedures training, then actual plant clinic training before they schedule other shifts. The MG classes are going well, with one more class left. There are 39 trainees and 3 transfers. The transferring MGs will go through the plant clinic procedures training. Everyone enjoyed the COMGA welcome luncheon and Toni talked about the challenges of having the training on Wednesdays instead of Fridays.

BOARD REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report (Tim Schindele) Based on the financial review, Tim changed the format of the treasurer's report to reflect the PayPal fees. The information will be in the "Note" box near the bottom of the report. Beginning this month, we expect significant PayPal activity because of Spring Seminar registrations. There were \$98.48 in contributions in February: \$52.82 from Renee's Garden, \$25.32 from the Fred Meyer Rewards program, \$15.54 from Amazon Smiles and a \$5 miscellaneous donation. We spent \$117.74 on MG Kitchen supplies, which is over the budgeted amount. The expenses covered unexpected costs of providing coffee service and eating utensils for the new MG training class. We will adjust the budget expense projection next year. Tim also reviewed the purchase of two new coffee urns for the MG classes, which were unplanned expenses this year. The old urn had been stored in the shed, which was infested with rodents. COMGA covers the cost of coffee and tea for the new training class and not knowing the condition of the old urn, two smaller, more practical urns were purchased. The old urn has since been cleaned and sanitized and is available for large events. Because the purchase was outside the scope of the current budget, Diana Hardin moved to use Opportunity Funds to cover the purchase of two coffee urns, for classes and other events. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Weide, and was approved now, for then, by the board.

Membership Report (Jolene Dodge) 92 people noted their intent to recertify and to date, there are 75 paid COMGA members. There was a brief discussion on the "county fairs" option on the dues form and Diana Hardin

offered to manage the mobile plant clinic at the Deschutes County Fair.

Quarterly Meeting (Nancy Glick for Liz Anderson) 28 people attended the February 11 webinar on "Bees in the Garden: Update from the OSU Garden Ecology Lab." The first quarterly meeting will be March 14 at Liz Anderson's home in Powell Butte. Toni and Rocky will teach a pruning class, approved for one hour of advanced training, with a potluck to follow. The "Hanging Basket Planting Party" at Desert Dreams Gardens in Bend will be April 11. Information on signing up will be in the HoeDown. Gary Weber will teach a "Cloche Building" class, approved for one hour of advanced training, on April 28 at Discovery Park Community Garden in Bend. The second quarterly meeting will be June 20 and will include advanced training on "Grow A Little Fruit Tree," location and time to be announced. The July 2 board meeting will be at trainee Lainie Devina's home in Bend. The August 6 board meeting will be at Liz Anderson's house in Powell Butte, and the annual BBQ, elections and third quarterly meeting will be at Kris Knoernschild's home in Tumalo. The general meeting and budget approval will be in October, and the holiday brunch will be December 3.

OMGA Rep Report (Janet Dart) The first quarter OMGA meeting is this weekend but given the situation with the COVID-19 virus, Janet will not be attending. However, she shared the highlights from the Executive Committee meeting. Mini-College is scheduled for July 24-25, 2020 in Corvallis. Early registration fees are \$49/day until July 1, \$59/day after that date. Several tours and events are in the works; stay tuned for more information. Workshops for chapter treasurers will be held at the Educational Forums in September and November. Gail Langelotto sent a report on several areas, including a census she plans to do in 2020, to assess the demographics of the Master Gardener volunteers. She encouraged everyone to participate.

Policy and Procedure Review (Nancy Glick) A committee to review our Policies and Procedures has been formed, with Jan Even as chairperson. Policies being reviewed or added include awards, property/asset inventory and the newly approved tech committee.

ACTION ITEMS:

Summer Meetings (Nancy Glick) The June, July and August meetings are in the evening and Nancy is still looking for someone to host the June meeting. Contact her if you are interested.

Project Review (Nancy Glick) Product sales (row cover and soil thermometers) are being reviewed this year. Eileen Obermiller (chairperson), Carroll Minium, Nancy Crossan and Bruce Dart will do the review. The work is expected to be completed by August, in time for budget requests to be made.

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LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD continued

Chapter Audit/Financial Review (Vickie Minor) Vickie Minor and Gary Weber conducted a review on February 12. The books and entries were in excellent shape and all but one of the 2018 recommendations were implemented. The two issues encountered in 2019 related to the PayPal fees and how they are reported. The treasurer's report has been modified to include the information in the "Notes" box at the bottom of the report. Vickie noted that Tim is doing a great job as treasurer.

Spring Inventories (Vickie Minor) At the January meeting, we agreed to inventory all property at the gardens, the soil thermometers and row cover, before opening day. Vickie will send PDF versions of the inventories to all project coordinators. Since there have been sales already of row cover and thermometers, Vickie will work with Rocky and Diana on reconciling their inventories against the final numbers reported for 2019. JoAnne reported that she and Elizabeth reviewed the TA boxes this week and corrected the inventory sheets for soil thermometers, so the sheets in the TA boxes should be correct. Diana reported that she ordered 100 more thermometers.

Open forum (anyone) Diana offered 2 tickets to the Redmond concert series, set for Sunday, at 6:30 at Ridgeview HS. Lea Dahlen took them.

Rocky asked about COMGA getting a credit card so she can charge row cover instead of personally paying and being reimbursed. Discussion followed. Vickie and Tim will research the types of payment methods the company will accept. Tim noted that if a company will send an invoice, he can pay that directly so the buyer does not have to use personal funds. No decisions were made about getting a credit card.

PROJECT STATUS REPORTS:

Community Education (Elizabeth Weide) The first community vegetable class is tonight in Redmond, in the classroom. Eventbrite is being used to manage the registrations so we know how many people are attending. 80 people are registered and more than 30 are waitlisted. Classes are full in Bend and Redmond but people can still go to Sisters or Prineville. There will be a sealed box at the classes for donations, which will go to OSU. There will be separate envelopes for row cover and soil thermometer sales, which go to COMGA. At the end of each class, the sealed donation box goes directly to Carrie. The envelopes should be completed and given to Tim. TA training will be March 13; Elizabeth, Vickie and JoAnne are the instructors. 12 MGs and 13 trainees are scheduled to attend. Amy Jo asked that the class evaluations be updated so they capture information she needs for the annual reports she submits to OSU. The long form is done and is with Amy Jo for approval. The short form has not been revised yet. Since the evaluations are for community classes, copy costs should be charged to OSU, not COMGA. Elizabeth met last week with Jan Even, Mary Ann Hart, Nancy Glick and Diana Hardin, to sort through publicity responsibilities. She developed a chart that

explains who is responsible for which types of publicity. There was a vibrant discussion on the various social media options and how people are learning about the classes.

Discovery Park Community Garden (Gary Weber) The construction work to install the sewer connection next to the garden, is complete. A section of fence was temporarily removed but otherwise, the garden beds were not disturbed. This year, lottery applications are being monitored by Johanna Talus, who will log applicants and send them introductory and background information. Interested people can apply by sending an email to gocomga@gmail.com. 20 trainees and 3 certified MG's have indicated interest in volunteering. There are also 5 returning volunteers. Gary still needs more certified MGs to be garden mentors. Janet Dart is working on Opening Day registration, and rodent defense will be a major activity again this year. There will be some workshops for volunteers to learn how to build an effective cloche. In the process, work will continue on repairing and bringing the rest of the garden beds up to a higher standard of functioning. Ultimately, the goal is to make the garden as rewarding and educational as possible, for both gardeners and volunteers.

Hollinshead Community Garden (Nancy Glick) 13 trainees signed up at the project fair. There are 90 plots, two-thirds of the gardeners are returning and there are 5 openings right now. Nancy expects the garden plots to be full again this year. Orientation is April 4 in the Brooks room at the downtown library. Nancy needs more mentors, especially MGs who live in Bend. Elizabeth is interested but wants more information what the mentors do. Nancy will get that information to her.

Home and Garden Show (Vickie Minor) There will be eight classes, with vegetable gardening offered each day of the event. Set up will be April 30, the plant clinic will run May 1-3. Only certified MGs will be in the plant clinic, but trainees will be helping with the classes. Tablets will be available for the plant clinic, along with Wi-Fi access so we can get to the internet. The expectation is that if we can answer the questions or solve the problems, we should. Only the most complicated problems should be forwarded to the office for resolution.

June Garden Fair (Vicky Kemp) The postcards are in and are available for the veggie classes, spring seminar and the Home & Garden Show. As of March 4, Vicky has scheduled the seed sowing and transplanting classes, which are full. Tomatoes will arrive a few days ahead of time and will be sold in the pots as delivered. Vicky will send a request soon for volunteers the day of the event. 84 people have offered to help and many are already assigned to tasks. She will need approximately 50 people the day of the event. Discussion followed on the budget, so the board was aware of the differences between the original forecast and current projections for expenses and income. The original budget request was made before the project review committee issued their report. Vicky implemented many of the recommendations this year and as she got more specific costs (e.g., perennials, tomatoes, etc.), she amended the budget. She advised the board that as things stand now, the difference between the original budget and the amended budget is only a few dollars. Once the event is over, she will have final numbers.

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LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD continued

OSU Demo Garden (Vicky Kemp/Liz Douville) April 7 is opening day and the first work day. Volunteers should report at 9:00 AM for an orientation in the conference room in Building 4.

Spring Gardening Seminar (Rocky Bessette) Registration opened Sunday, March 1, and as of today, 37 people have registered. The container class is already full, and has been closed. To register, go to gocomga.com and click on the poster. Nancy and Pete Glick revamped the website sign-up and Kathy Ketchum updated the Access program to make it easier for Rocky to note who has registered/paid so she does not have to retype everything.

Waterwise Garden (Chris Miao/Pat Kolling) No report was made.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Minor, Secretary

Please join us for a
Hanging Basket Planting Party
at *Desert Dream Gardens* on
Saturday, April 11th at 10:30.

Bring your hanging pots. Desert Dream provides specialty soil and Proven Winners plant plugs. You leave your pots with them and they will be loved and cared for until the end of May/beginning of June when nighttime freezes are less likely. Prices start at \$10 for a 12 inch basket, and go up slightly for bigger pots/more plugs. The “party” is limited to 8 people. If enough people respond, we can arrange another class at 12:00.

Please rsvp as soon as possible to Lizzy Anderson at ragingangel61@yahoo.com

You can check out Desert Dream Gardens FB page. They are located on the Bussard Ranch, at 61295 Obernolte Road in Bend



2020 OSU Master Gardener Trainee Class

Time to meet a couple more of our 2020 Central Oregon Master Gardener Trainees:

Julie Hill: She is part of Group 4, mentored by the Diana and Liz duo. Julie grew up on a hazelnut farm in Hillsboro, Oregon. The family had large vegetable gardens every year and numerous fruit trees. As a small child she remembers giving her mom polished Rome Beauty apples from their orchard on her mom's birthday.



Julie graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA and worked for 23 years in her own graphic design and marketing firm called "The Design Ranch". Before retiring in 2017, she worked as the VP of Marketing for a credit union that was a previous client of hers.

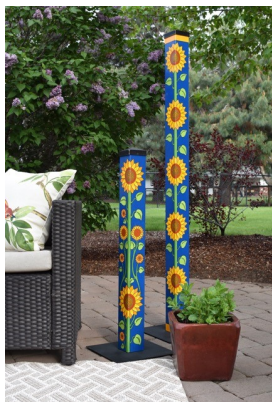
In 2001, Julie moved to Bend from Texas, and stayed until 2011. Her second and final move to Bend was from Portland in 2016.

Julie is married and has 3 adult children, Sam, Jack and Annie, who live in Las Vegas, Minneapolis and Boston. She has 3 brothers who all live in Hillsboro, and they still live on the family land!

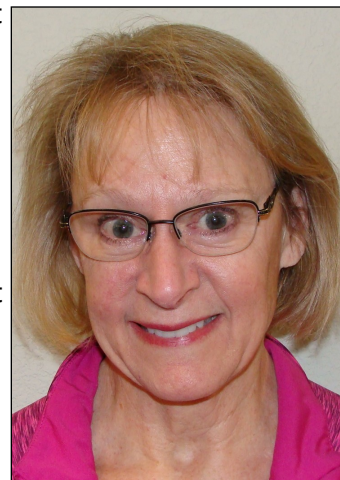
The desire to take the Central Oregon Master Gardener training class comes from her "love of growing things... harvesting vegetables and creating flower bouquets from the garden". She wants to continue doing these things, knowing that Central Oregon gardening is not nearly as easy as in the valley. It also helps that she is now retired, her kids grown, and has some "me time" to garden again!

Even though Julie is retired, she remains passionate about art and has a need to fill her creative side! She recently launched a new business called Garden Shed Girl. She converted a garden shed into an art studio where she paints garden poles and small canvases, and prints the canvas images on tiles. She hopes to begin selling these this summer!

WELCOME TO COMGA JULIE!



Carma Empey: She is part of Group 2, the Vicky Kemp/ Tim Schindele mentor group.



Carma comes from a family with a farming background, and gardening has been a part of her entire life. Even when she was in college and apartments, she at least had numerous houseplants to care for.

She has 2 sisters, and growing up they spent many hours pulling weeds, picking rocks and harvesting their bounty. She says that "the experience of picking rocks has sure been beneficial to my gardening experience in Central Oregon!"

Carma and her then boyfriend, moved from Portland OR to Bend in 2011, for the "usual reasons...300 plus days of sunshine, proximity to the mountains, lakes, trails and general lifestyle the high desert offers". She married that boyfriend in 2013, in kayaks on Sparks Lake. As is typical, being from Portland, they were ready to get out of the rain and gloom the Valley offers, and since all the kids were grown and practically on their own, the time was right.

Planning for their "retirement years" in Central Oregon, Carma continued working as a registered nurse and her husband retired from real estate. He ended up working at Ace Hardware on the south side of Bend. Now, eight years later, this past September, they both finally completely retired!

Carma joined the OSU Master Gardener 2020 trainee class as she had a desire to expand her knowledge on gardening in this "very unfamiliar climate". She has wanted to take the class for years, but with her working schedule, she just couldn't fit it in. She says: "I am so enjoying the process and find my brain kind of exploding with each class and all the new information." She hopes to be able to share the knowledge she has gained and continue to learn, and to not just "play in her own dirt", but paying it forward to other Central Oregon "wanna be gardeners".

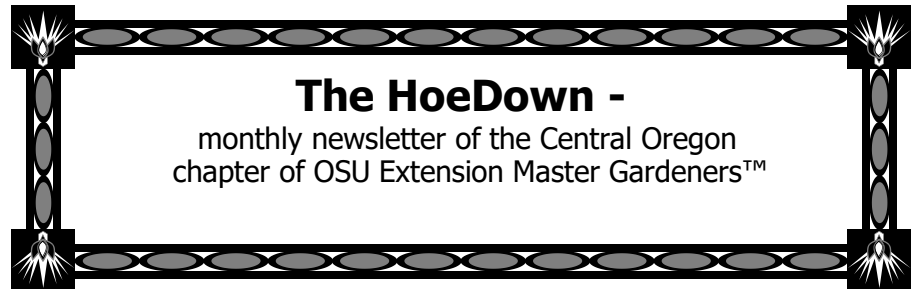
Carma, welcome to the OSU Master Gardener 2020 trainee class!



Central Oregon Chapter of OSU Extension Master Gardeners™
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