

October 2020



Photo submitted by JoAnne Abbott

**H
O
E
D
O
W
N**

Board members 2020

President: Nancy Glick, 541-330-6260, nglick@bendcable.com

Vice Pres: Liz Anderson, 541-968-1626, ragingangel61@yahoo.com
 Elizabeth Hughes-Weide, 916-803-2309, hecbend@aol.com

Secretary: Vickie Minor, 541-213-2329, geovick92@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Tim Schindele, 541-526-1940, TJSFishes@bendbroadband.com

State Rep: Janet Dart, 818-486-1583, janetdart@gmail.com

Alt. State Rep: Diana Hardin, 503-593-1398, dhardin2003@yahoo.com

Historian: Mimi Thomas, 503-320-4178, mormormimit@gmail.com

Membership Coordinator: Jolene Dodge, 541-771-7882, ajdodge@yahoo.com

Communication Liaison: Rocky Bessette, 541 548-0789, rockyb820@gmail.com

Table of Contents

President's Message	2
Officers for 2021	2
Judy's Gems	3
Project Updates	3
Fall Planting Trees/Shrubs	4
Getting to Know You	5
Lowdown from the board	6
Green Tomatoes	8
Caring For Roses	8
Late Harvesting/Wintering	9

President's message



I don't know about you, but I've always preferred my housekeeping be done by someone (anyone) else. Why do tedious chores inside when I can be outside with the birds and the bugs, pulling weeds and shoveling 'amendment' in the garden?

Lucky you! Today I'm going to do a little "housekeeping" – the paper kind - for you.

In August, the talented COMGA Past President, Jan Even, chaired a committee who reviewed and updated the Chapter's Policies and Procedures. It's a long and tedious but very necessary task we do every few years to make sure we're on the right path to fulfill our motto to Teach - Support - Promote.

Here's why I'm telling you all this – the revised P&P are on our website where you can find all the answers to your important questions about the Central Oregon Master Gardeners Association. Go to www.gocomga.com click on the COMGA Members box (the 2020 password is gr8gardens), look for Policies & Procedures on the orange bar and either print them or click on the searchable link. You'll get answers to questions like ---

Q. How do I get paid for the important stuff the Project Coordinator asked me to buy?

A. You'll know how to get your check if you look in the policies under "K. Reimbursements". The form you need is on the Forms page.

Q. I want to volunteer but I don't know who to ask about the projects (and what each project does).

A. You can read a list of the COMGA projects, the Coordinator's contact information and a brief description: <https://www.gocomga.com/volunteers-needed>. Click on the project or the coordinator's name.

Q. I know the Master Gardeners are all about education, but what kind of classes and events will they doing each month?

A. There are two calendars on our website: one on the public pages <https://www.gocomga.com/classes-and-events> (no password needed) and one for just the Master Gardeners: <https://www.gocomga.com/calendar>. In 2021 there will be online classes listed for the public and for Master Gardeners.

Q. I can't find the email Rocky sent with the monthly HoeDown newsletter! How can I get a copy??

A. Two months of the HoeDown are on <https://www.gocomga.com/hoedown> and there are copies from the past two+ years in the archives: <https://www.gocomga.com/archived-hoedown>.

Q. This is a really great organization and I may want to help run it someday. What are the Board members positions and what is expected of the volunteer members?

A. On the Policies & Procedures page <https://www.gocomga.com/policy-page>, click on "C. Board Member Duties" for job descriptions.

I hope you find some of these links interesting enough to do a little "Master Gardening" by researching more deeply – we have lots of great information on the pages (check out the black left side bar) and we always appreciate reader's input (contact the webmaster by clicking on the little mailbox at the bottom of the page).

It's October! Don't forget to enter your volunteer hours on the Extension Service website: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/central/volunteer-resources> - OSU wants your numbers!



Photo by
JoAnne Abbott

2020 Election Results (for the 2021 calendar year)

40 people responded via Survey Monkey. 1 mail in ballot was received. Results are as follows:

President – Nancy Glick

VP MG Ed – Lizzy Anderson

VP Comm Ed – Elizabeth Weide

Secretary – Vickie Minor

Treasurer – Tim Schindele

Historian – Mimi Thomas

OMGA Rep – Janet Dart

OMGA Alt Rep – Evie Cox

Is there a jewel among us?

by Judy Shearer

In the plant world it might be pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*). An erect perennial it has simple stems and leaves covered in woolly hairs giving it a grayish appearance. The alternate leaves are linear to lanceolate with a prominent midvein. A member of the Aster family (Asteraceae) the inflorescences are in heads with male and female flowers usually on separate plants. The flower heads are rayless unlike one would see on an aster but the bracts are white hence the overall white appearance to the flowers. The plant is widespread in the United States and in Oregon is more common from the Cascades west blooming from mid-July to October. The habitat is varied from forest to riparian to disturbed meadows. The flowers last a long time hence the common name and its use as a dried flower (see pictures below of the plant on the top and in a wreath made by my daughter on the below).



Photos by Samantha Shearer

References:

Fagan, D. 2019. Wildflowers of Oregon. Falcon Guides, The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing, Lanham, MD.

Turner, M., and P. Gustafson. 2006. Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest. Timber Press Inc., Portland Oregon.

Oregon Wildflower APP

Hollinshead Community Gardens

by Nancy Glick

Hollinshead Community Garden

Visitors to the Garden have been amazed at how well the plants made up for the late June start to the season. Harvesting of tomatoes and squash is happening almost every day and the gardeners are working hard to keep ahead of the weeds. There was an unplanned visit from a photographer from the Bend Bulletin and, to our surprise, the calendula in a garden plot appeared on the newspaper's front page with the gardener herself.



At the September volunteer meeting, Jim Salber was presented with the Trowel award for his generous, cheerful and reliable work at the Community Garden. A new transfer to Central Oregon, Jim is quickly becoming a familiar face at Hollinshead.

The Garden will be closing on October 11th. This year has been out of the ordinary in many ways and the Opening and Closing

Days are no exception. Instead of the community cleanup we've always done, the plot renters are harvesting their produce and cleaning out their gardens by the physical distancing schedule they've used all season. The day after the renters finish, the Master Gardeners will put the final touches on the Garden and lock the gate for the year.

We are very lucky to have two new Coordinators for 2021's Community Garden: Kirsten Hinton will be in charge with Jim Salber assisting her. With their leadership, 2021 promises to be a really great year!

Saturday September 19th dawned clear and sunny. Truly a breath of fresh air after all of the terrible smoke.

It was a beautiful day for a yard sale at the home of Lizzy Anderson in Powell Butte. Toni and Rocky came to help set up tables. Elizabeth Weide came with cookies and tea.

Approximately 20 masked folks showed up to say hello and browse the tables. By the end of the day we had collected \$375 to donate to COMGA!!!!!!

Thank you to my amazing helpers and to all who came out to Powell Butte!!! A special thank you to Karen Conway who donated numerous items.

Fall Planting of Trees and Shrubs

by Ruth Mulligan

Have you been thinking about a new tree or shrub for your yard? Or, maybe you want to move a shrub. If so, you can plant a tree or shrub now before spring. It's all about the soil and the roots.

Fall planting of trees, and shrubs can encourage healthy root growth over the winter. The milder weather conditions of fall can help prevent transplant shock and water stress. Fall planting also gives the new plant time to establish the necessary root growth required to anchor it in the soil and time to build up nutrient reserves needed for healthy growth next spring.

Sandy soil, often found in Central Oregon, benefits from the addition of amendments. Amendments are additions to the soil that enhance its moisture-holding capacity, nutrient availability, or structure. Organic matter, such as compost that is mixed with the native soil, can increase the moisture-holding capacity of the dirt around the roots of the plant. You can also add amendments into the soil around the planting location. These should be mixed with the native soil and worked in as deeply as possible.

Now it's time to start digging. Dig a hole at least two feet wider than the size of the root system or root ball. A large hole will allow better root growth and is especially important in compacted soils. The planting hole should be the same width at the top and at the bottom. Rough up the sides of the hole and remove any rocks or debris. This is a good time to add amendments to the dirt that you have removed. This dirt will be used to backfill the planting hole.

Remember, if you are digging up and moving a plant from one location to another, try to keep as many of the plant roots as possible.

Now it's time to plant. Proper planting is the most important next step. Container-grown plants from a nursery or garden center often have roots growing around the inside of the container. After removing the container, gently straighten the roots. If they are not straightened they will eventually girdle the plant.

Planting depth is critical. Carefully set the tree or shrub in the hole at the same depth or slightly higher than it was at the nursery or in your yard. Plant it with the root collar at ground level or slightly higher (two inches) to allow for settling.

Fill the hole with soil about half full, lightly tamping it with your foot to remove air pockets. Water the plant slowly to saturate the soil and remove any remaining air pockets, then finish filling the hole with more soil. The final level of the soil should be at grade. If there is extra soil, remove it, rather than mounding it around the plant.

Contrary to popular belief, you don't need to fertilize trees or shrubs when you plant them in the fall. However, in the spring, you can use a slow-release fertilizer product.

Hollinshead Water-wise Garden

The water-wise garden is looking great this year! We have added additional plants in all of the beds, including Desert Sweet, Velvet Lupine and Douglas Aster in the native beds and Poppy Mallow, Crocosmia and Brunnera varieties in other sections of the garden. We are also continuing to work on the plant database for the garden, a comprehensive "library" of each plant in the garden. At each workday, we use an App on our phones to capture what is happening with each plant – is it blooming, are there issues to be addressed, what was completed and what needs to be accomplished at the next workday. It then generates a workday report that is sent to the volunteers prior to working in the garden. It was developed by our "Techie team" consisting of Nathalie Smith, Janet Dart and Kathy Ketchum. We are also working on completing a new permanent bulletin board at the garden for both the Water-wise and the Community Garden thanks to the graphic skills of trainees Julie Hill and Lisa Nakadate. It will be composed of a thin steel permanent background that we can add scheduled educational offerings and other information that we want to provide to the public. More on this as it's completed. Thanks to the COMGA Opportunity Fund for approving funding for the project.

The water-wise garden is open to the public throughout the winter. At this point we have not scheduled a last day in the garden. We will be winterizing the garden over the next few weeks so it looks its best for rest of the year. Come visit!

Submitted by Pat Kolling and Chris Miao



Newly planted trees and shrubs require routine and thorough watering. Make sure the plant is well-watered for one to three weeks after transplanting. Add a layer of mulch around the base of the shrub to retain moisture and keep weeds from becoming established. During winter dry spells, when there is little or no snow on the ground, a deep watering every six to eight weeks will be enough to keep the plants from drying out.

Just remember it's all about the soil and the roots.

Getting to Know You!

By Deb Goodall

Meet Eileen Obermiller: Nurturing Designs

It's no surprise that a girl who grew up in lush southern New Jersey – renowned as America's "Garden State" – would fashion a career from her love of nature. What's unique is the circuitous, three-continent route she took to get from the flatlands of Jersey to the high desert climate of Central Oregon.

Eileen was working in a pancake house when a college-aged patron came in and shared immense enthusiasm for her semester abroad at the University of Copenhagen. Fascinated, Eileen, in record time, overcame all obstacles and found herself in Denmark, thoroughly enjoying her own next semester at the same historic university. Today she's keenly appreciative of how that experience changed her and consequently her life's trajectory.

Back in New Jersey, Eileen, now an intrepid world traveler tired of wintery weather, transferred to the University of Arizona in sunny Tempe. There she earned a Bachelor's of Science in Recreation and Natural Land Use Management. After working for a few years, Eileen, then 27, decided to get serious about what she ultimately wanted to do for a career. Knowing she wanted a profession that incorporated design and would get her outside, she worked with a career consultant to identify best options. Aptitude tests uncovered her strengths in spatial relations and design; interest inventories, her love of nature and the great outdoors. Voila! Landscape architecture emerged as an obvious selection.

She enrolled in the University of Arizona's graduate program in landscape architecture and completed her master's degree with a thesis on energy efficient landscape design. Best of all, she met future husband Craig, who stole her heart before heading to Niger on a two-year Peace Corps assignment. Eileen returned to New Jersey and several estate landscape design projects. Proving that absence really does make the heart grow fonder, she and Craig married shortly after his return to the U.S., and then headed to Africa for two years where Craig worked as a forester in Niamey Niger with Lutheran World Relief.

Craig's new job with the Bureau of Land Management ultimately brought them to Prineville in 1993. After Eileen completed projects for several diverse employers in Central Oregon and the Portland area, she decided to start her own company. In 2007, she launched Dappled Earth – designs to nurture life, aptly named to capture how our landscapes and everything we do have an ever-changing impact.

Eileen has designed memory gardens, parks, streetscapes, residential and commercial properties, garden structures, water features and more. She also offers hourly consulting. Her favorite projects? Brasada Ranch is one. Another is Vandeventer Ranch, where her creativity could complement stunning acreage and views. Topping her favorites list, though, is the waiting garden at the Redmond bus terminal. The project inspired an area donor to fund Eileen's work on another fun project: a soon-to-be completed park in Prineville.

Eileen is quick to add that all project facets that delight or work for a client are rewarding. To make sure designs do,

her clients first complete a comprehensive questionnaire that helps them think about what they want. Then come conversations about the functional roles of the space, as in where should pathways be placed, vehicles parked or equipment stored, rainwater drain and, yes, people gather? Layered over these issues are clear-eyed discussions about budget and maintenance.

"Ultimately, budget and maintenance drive the design," Eileen says. "Neither can be overlooked."

As for maintenance, clients come to understand the realities of equipment-driven maintenance – lawn mowers, blowers, wheelbarrows and more, and maintenance which is knowledge-driven - who is going to tend to the design, devote the hours to planting, weeding, feeding, harvesting, pruning and dividing?

About the same time Eileen launched Dappled Earth, she and Craig built a passive solar design home. While developing her own landscape design to complement it, she decided to enrich her understanding of horticulture and earned her OSU Master Gardener certification in 2008. A COMGA member ever since, Eileen clearly loves the organization and its friendly members. Getting to know them, and learning about their diverse backgrounds, talents and skills while working Plant Clinic is one of her favorite activities. Another is giving presentations – at Spring Seminar, to community groups, you name it.

This talented woman admits some surprise at how much she enjoys public speaking since she once thought of herself as painfully shy. But we agreed when you know and love your subject, sharing it with others is a joy. It seems too that Eileen's Denmark adventure made short shrift of any shyness a long time ago.



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@RockyBessette.com, Rocky Bessette, 8200 NW Yucca Ave., Redmond, OR 97756 or rockyb820@gmail.com

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

September 3, 2020

Via Zoom Online

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Glick (President), Jan Even (Past-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), Beckie Moran, Carroll Minium, Chris Miao, Curt Millington, Liz Douville, Gina Evans, Julie Hill, Karen Simonet, Kirsten Hinton, Linda Gregory, Marilyn Clark, Nathalie Smith, Pat Kolling, and Jennifer Komiskey.

The meeting started at 1:01 PM and adjourned at 2:45 PM. The board discussed the following items:

Approval of minutes of previous meeting (Nancy Glick)

Motion to approve the minutes made by Janet Dart, seconded by Rocky Bessette, and approved by the board with no objections.

BOARD REPORTS:

OMGA Rep Report (Janet Dart)

Janet reported that it looks like all activities will be virtual in 2021, including the OMGA meetings. Mini-college is scheduled for July 15 – 17 and topics discussed included how long people will want to sit in front of a computer, should there be one fee to access all programs to watch when you want and whether if, by July, we would be able to have chapter gatherings, perhaps at the Extension office, to watch a Keynote speaker and other presentations together. There is also a Master Gardener Celebration Week planned for October 26 – 30. The initial plan is to have something each day that week: Monday - The Love Bugs Movie (90 year old entomologists); Tuesday: Land Grab: The Largest Urban Farm in the US (in Detroit); Wednesday: Five Seasons: The Gardens of Pete Oudolf; Thursday: State-of-the-State by Gail; and Friday: Garden Trivia Game. Other news is that there will be no MG trainee class in 2021. Instead, the focus will be on elevating current MG skills. Finally, most of the OMGA Board made book and podcast reviews over the summer, which Janet will distribute to the membership.

Treasurer's Report (Tim Schindele)

Tim sent email ahead of the meeting with the reports for the current budget as well as the 2021 proposed budget. Discussion followed and Rocky clarified that the \$375 income entry was from proceeds of a yard sale held at Liz Anderson's home that included some of the items donated by MGs for the silent auction that would have taken place if the Spring Seminar had been held. We discussed the proposed budget for 2021, noting that it was a "worst case" scenario, anticipating that our activities would still be restricted by the pandemic. After a full discussion, Vickie Minor moved that the budget as proposed for 2021 in Tim's email of 9/30/2020, be approved, Diana Hardin seconded the motion, which was approved by the board with no objections. The budget proposal will be sent to the membership later this month, for approval via Survey Monkey.

Membership Report (Jolene Dodge)

Jolene has talked to Amy Jo about the cost of cards and what is needed to do a written recognition in lieu of recognition night. Cards are available on Amazon and their cost, plus postage, would be approximately \$100 to cover all MGs, regardless of membership in COMGA. Jolene has some money left in her budget to help with the costs. She will talk with Amy Jo and get logistics finalized.

Quarterly Meeting (Liz Anderson)

Nancy reported for Liz that there was one regular USPS mail ballot and 40 Survey Monkey ballots, for a total of 41 people voting. Positions approved in the election were as follows: Nancy Glick (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), and Evie Cox (Alternate State Representative).

ACTION ITEMS:

Policy and Procedure Revisions (Jan Even)

Jan noted that we had previously eliminated the position of parliamentarian and in the last revision, we removed it from various roles and duties. However, we overlooked that we needed to include provisions that if someone needed to act as a parliamentarian, the past-president would do this. Ultimately, the duties of the past-president need to be amended. Discussion followed. Jan suggested that a third duty be added to the past-president's functions, stating that when needed, the past-president advises the president on meeting procedures, following Robert's Rules of Order. Nancy Glick moved to approve the addition of line item three, taken from the former parliamentarian's job description and adding it to the past-president's position. Tim Schindele seconded the motion which was approved without objection.

Project Review (Nancy Glick)

Nancy noted that we are required to do an annual review of a project and this year, product sales (soil thermometers and row cover) were selected. The review was scheduled to begin in March but was tabled because of the pandemic. Eileen Obermiller (chairperson), Carroll Minium, Nancy Crossan, and Bruce Dart are the members of the committee who will do the review. Nancy has reactivated the committee, which will be working over the winter.

2021 Elevated MG Training Survey (Nancy Glick)

Nancy encouraged everyone to take the survey, which can be accessed through October 4, 2020 at: https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GHRZznxFBTSkrX

PROJECT STATUS REPORTS:

Discovery Park Community Garden (Gary Weber)

Gary was absent; Nancy reported that the garden closing date is October 24.

Continue on page 7

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

Nancy reported that the garden has grown beautifully, despite opening 2 months later than normal. Closing day is set for October 11 and since we may not do a function, all gardeners have been asked to clean up their plots and the MGs will come in the day after to put away hoses and lock up the garden. Donations to the food bank have been strong and there is a great group of people maintaining the ice chests. Jim Salber, a transfer MG from Paradise, CA, received a trowel award for his contributions to the garden this year. Kirstin Hinton has agreed to be the HHCG coordinator in 2021 and Jim Salber will be the assistant coordinator.

OSU Report (Amy Jo Detweiler/Toni Stephan)

Amy Jo and Toni were unable to make the meeting so Nancy shared some of the information in Gail's report. Some MGs have lost homes due to the fires. Plant clinics are running in several counties. The 2021 Master Gardener annual training program will be open to all current Master Gardener volunteers and all the trainees from the 2020 training class. The 2021 training will focus on elevating the skills of Master Gardener faculty and staff in four domains: Teaching and Technologies in the Master Gardener Program; Best Practices in Adult, Informal Education; Growing Leadership; Broadening Outreach to Underserved Communities. A survey will be going out to Master Gardener volunteers, to get input on the types of classes that folks would like to see. (See item #8).

OSU Demo Garden (Vicky Kemp/Liz Douville)

Liz reported that one work day was cancelled because of smoke. Other work days are still scheduled and the garden will begin shutting down toward the end of the month.

Waterwise Garden (Chris Miao/Pat Kolling)

Additional plants have been added and some others have been moved around. The garden is in its third full summer and many plants have started reaching maturity. Decisions will need to be made on how big to let certain plants grow. The tech committee has been working on a work day report, which was implemented through an app that was developed for use on a smart phone. Each work day, volunteers add information for each plant in the garden (e.g., plant is blooming, deer ate it, etc.). Entries include tasks done and what needs to be completed. A work day report is generated and sent to the volunteers before the next work day, so people know what needs to be done. Nathalie Smith, Kathy Ketchum and Janet Dart have been the leaders in this effort. There will be a presentation to the board in the future, so everyone can see how the app works. The tech group is also continuing its work to build the overall database on all the plants that are in the garden. A small test group tested the information in the database and now more volunteers are entering data. This will also be presented at some point so the board will see what has been done with the database and how it will be used in the future. This could be something other chapters may want to use. Because of this, we are learning more about the plants in the garden. Pat reported that nematodes were applied in the garden to try and control the root weevil problem. So far, it appears to be working so another application is planned for the spring. When the new plants were selected, they passed on one plant because it was too prone to root weevils.

Discussion followed on the request for Opportunity Funds, to purchase a new type of bulletin board. The Hollinshead Water-wise Garden and Hollinshead Community Garden share a bulletin board at Hollinshead Park, which is used to communicate with the public about events that are occurring in the gardens, as well as display educational materials for each garden. Pictures were supplied of the current board and of the proposal. Julie Hill and Lisa Nagatake (both trainees) have graphic design skills and have been working on revising the bulletin board this summer. Amy Jo has approved the proposed design. The intent is to have the design placed on a thin galvanized steel sheet to be installed on the board, which would allow season-specific information and education information to be added via magnets. The cost of the galvanized steel sheet is \$250 with an additional \$50 for installation. The board would be considered part of the chapter assets and falls within the scope of permanent installations under the Opportunity Fund requirements.

Discussion followed. Our policies and procedures allow for this fund, which is intended to be used for: "Capital Expenses: equipment or permanent installations to be considered chapter assets and acquired with budget approval; One-Time Expenses: legal or financial professionals, additional one-time insurance, donations, etc. to be determined and approved by the Board; or Seed Money for New Projects: first year expenses to start a new project. New Projects must first be approved through the New Project Approval Process with any financial requirements approved through the regular budget process." We reviewed photos of the current and proposed boards. The board is face-forward to the public, educating the public, highlighting plants and teaching something about the plant, which is part of our core mission. Rocky Bessette moved that COMGA pay the \$250 plus \$50 for installation for the bulletin board; seconded by Elizabeth Weide; approved by the board absent objection.

Open Forum

Liz Douville shared that there will be a fall open house at Great Basin Nursery (63635 Deschutes Market Road) on 10/4/2020, 9:00 – 2:00. Andrea Truax, the owner, who took MG training, worked at WinterCreek and now started her own nursery. Perennials, grasses, and trees are available. She also supplied some of the native plants at the Water-wise Garden.

Chris Miao asked about the remote plant clinic and how it is working, and suggested that it would be helpful to have an article in the HoeDown so people will have more info.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Minor, Secretary



Green Tomatoes

by Jeff Orr

You would think with the relentless summer heat in Central Oregon this year that our vegetable crops would be ripening faster than usual, but the opposite is true for some, including tomatoes. Lots of leafy growth unfortunately does not lead to a lot of ripe tomatoes.

Even though I consider myself a proficient tomato gardener of the high desert, there are a couple facts that I only learned this year because of our extended heat. I have always paid attention to overnight low temperatures and protect my plants when the thermometer dips below 38 degrees. But did you know that too much heat can slow plant growth as well?

The ideal temperature range for ripening tomatoes is 70 to 75 degrees. Above this range, the ripening process slows down and may even cease all together. Photosynthesis – the process that makes food for the plant – is greatly reduced at 94 degrees.

Sustained heat can also lead to poor pollination and fertilization, affect the overall fruit quality including inadequate gel development inside along with hard white areas, and overall fruit size may also be smaller. Excessive heat also affects the plant's ability to produce carotene and lycopene, which are the pigments that make our tomatoes turn the much-desired orange, yellow, or red. No wonder tomatoes have been so challenging this season. Too many hot days means green tomatoes galore.

Now, with October upon us, the high desert will likely see its first hard frost. You can ripen mature green tomatoes off the vine. Mature tomatoes are light green in color with a slight bit of the final fruit color on the blossom end. The pulp inside of a mature tomato should be jelly-like, not firm. To ripen, wrap them individually in newspaper and place them in a box or paper bag; not touching one another in a room at 60-70 degrees. Check them every 3 to 4 days for rotten ones. Ripening will occur over a 3 to 4-week period.

There are some ways to use your unripe tomatoes. So, let's step out of the garden and into the kitchen. A green tomato, unlike ripe ones, retains a firm flesh. This makes it a good candidate for cooking and baking. Sandwiches, pies, relish, and salsa are also common dishes for green tomatoes.

The most widely known recipe is for Fried Green Tomatoes, probably because of the book-turned-film of the same name from 1991. For fans of fried green tomatoes, give this simple recipe for green tomato fries a try. It uses green tomatoes, an egg, olive oil, Italian breadcrumbs, and flour.

Start by preheating your oven to 350 degrees. Cut green tomatoes lengthwise into wedges. Setup three bowls for your dipping stations – the first one with 1 cup of flour, the second with a raw egg mixed with a

teaspoon of olive oil, and the third with a cup of breadcrumbs. Dip wedges into the flour, then the egg/oil mix, and finally into breadcrumbs before placing on a baking pan. Bake the fries for 25 minutes or until crispy brown. Consume the fries right out of the oven or with a side of creamy dressing.

This recipe will also work without the egg. Brush olive oil on the tomato wedges before dipping them into the breadcrumbs.

Now, if you will please excuse me, I have some kitchen prep to finish so I can get started on using my green tomatoes!



Caring for Roses

by Mary Ann Hart

Today we'll be talking about basic rose care in Central Oregon. Let's begin with what we should be doing with our roses at this time of year. If the nights have grown cold enough that your rose bush has stopped producing beautiful buds and the canes are tall, it's time to do some trimming. Prune rose bushes waist high or about three feet, cutting straight across the bush. This is to keep the bush from rocking in the ground when the wind blows and breaking. At the same time, cut all the leaves off the bush and remove all the dead leaves on the ground. This will prevent leaves that would otherwise lay on the ground from passing on possible diseases. In other parts of Oregon, you may hear gardeners talking about adding lime to the soil. We don't need to do that in Central Oregon. What you may want to do is to mound bark or mulch around the bush to about 8 or 10 inches high. Or you can purchase plastic rose collars which you wrap around the base of the plant and fill with mulch to protect your plant during the winter freeze.

Winter watering is very important for rose survival in the high desert. When the ground is not frozen and there's no snow cover, water your roses every 4 to 6 weeks which will be two or three times throughout the entire winter. Besides mulching and watering, there's not much to do for your roses over the winter.

Continued on page 9

However, in the spring as the weather begins to warm, say late April or early May, prune the bushes down to one foot or a foot and a half tall. Resist the urge to prune earlier because pruning stimulates growth. If we have a late freeze which happens in Central Oregon and you've pruned too early, the new growth will be damaged by the frost. Begin by removing all dead wood and small branches and stems that are thinner than a pencil width. This will improve airflow. It increases leaf drying and reduces plant humidity which also reduces the likelihood of disease. You should have three to six major stalks remaining. Clip those back uniformly to 12 to 18 inches above the ground.

Depending on the weather, but definitely during bud break, you can add your first fertilizer of the year. Use a general well-balanced fertilizer and apply it around the drip line of your bushes, not on the crown of the bush. Some gardeners add a 1/4 cup of Epsom salts or magnesium sulphate which helps intensify flower color and increases production of new flowering canes. You can fertilize every 4 to 6 weeks during the growing season, but stop fertilizing in late August or early September when the roses begin to go dormant.

Water your rose deeply early in the day, wetting the entire root ball. Allow the soil to just barely dry out between waterings. A general guideline for watering is to water approximately every 5 to 7 days. Of course, that changes as the temperatures rise in the summer and the afternoon winds pick up. In 90 degree temperatures, you may be watering as often as every day. Of course, mulching helps the soil retain water longer. On the other hand, be sure not to overwater and avoid overhead watering. Water remaining on the plants can increase susceptibility to plant disease.

We've only spoken about rose care in general today — not how to select and plant roses nor how to control diseases and aphids (the most common pest on roses). To find out more about those topics, check out the free OSU Extension publications on roses which can be found on our website.

Late Harvesting And Wintering Over

by Chris Miao

Cold nights can bring our vegetable season to an end. But there are some vegetables you can easily leave for late harvest and some crops need special attention over the winter. Here are some tips for carrots, strawberries and asparagus.

LATE HARVESTING

CARROTS: Cool weather increases the sweetness of carrots so for those who crave really tasty carrots, a good strategy is to leave them in the ground into early winter. That works well here as long as you protect the ground from freezing. Putting on several inches of mulch in early

fall should do the trick. A bright color is your key to knowing the carrots still have good flavor and texture, so be sure to check them every now and then to determine if you need to harvest. Be sure to water thoroughly before harvesting – you want the root to have absorbed lots of water.

TURNIPS are another crop that can be left in the ground into the winter. Again, the ground should be covered with a mulch to prevent freezing. It's a good idea to check for root maggots before mulching to be sure your crop isn't too damaged to save.

WINTERING OVER STRAWBERRIES & ASPARAGUS

Two crops that people like to grow here are strawberries and asparagus. Both these crops are perennial so they come back year after year and of course need extra help to get safely through the winter.

STRAWBERRIES must be protected from severe winter temperatures so hopefully you have selected a cold hardy variety. Check our website for varieties that do well here. Strawberry crowns and flower buds may be damaged or killed at temperatures colder than 22 degrees. Flower buds set in the late summer and fall so the upper part of the plant needs protection. The persistent freeze/thaw cycle we have here in winter can lift plants out of the soil and cause severe root damage.

Covering plants with 2 to 3 inches of loose straw, pine needles or wood shavings after the temperatures drop below freezing will help minimize the winter damage. Leave the covering on until the risk of severe cold weather is passed in the spring.

Now caring for your **ASPARAGUS** in winter. People often ask if they should cut down the fern tops. The answer is yes if the plant had insect or disease problems during the season. Cut it down soon after it turns yellow or brown.

There is no need to cut the fern top if the plant was healthy. The purpose of the fern top is to provide food reserves in the crown for next year's crop – the bushier the top the better the yield next season. Over wintered tops help protect the crown from winter damage and should be removed in spring before emergence of new spears.

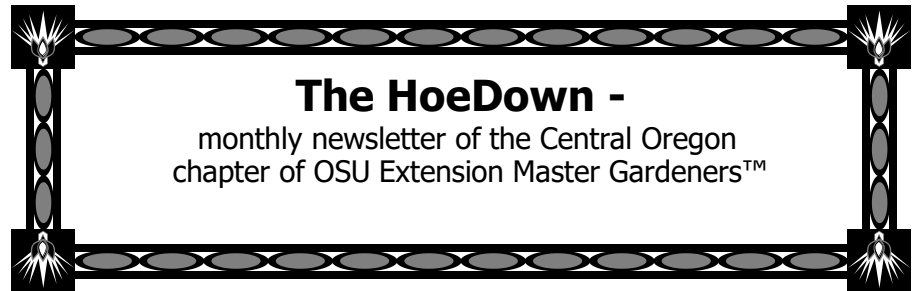
Be sure to clear your asparagus bed of any weeds before winter. Asparagus doesn't like any competition for nutrition or moisture so a weed free bed is a must all year. Removing them in late fall will prevent them from getting too well established. Pull weeds rather than hoeing to avoid damaging the crown and roots.

Mulching asparagus in late fall is a good idea too. Asparagus roots are shallow and in danger of cold damage and frost heave. Several inches of straw, compost or aged manure will protect the roots, hold moisture, reduce weed growth and delay early spring emergence of spears.

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



Crook
Deschutes &
Jefferson Counties



“Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran’s status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.”

