

H O E D O W N

April 2020



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President's message



Agent's Corner



**KEEP
CALM
AND
PLANT
SEEDS**

I've spent a lot of time lately watching animal videos. You know, like the penguins visiting the fish at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago or the Orangutan and the Otters playing together at the Pairi Daiza Zoo in Belgium. Then an old movie comes on and it takes me a second to recognize that the actors in 1974 don't need to stay six feet apart!

What a strange time we're living in.

Then this week, JoAnne sent me a link that made my heart lift. It's The Oregonian newspaper writing about an online class that's become very popular recently: <https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/course/master-gardener-series-vegetable-gardening?hsLang=en&fbclid=IwAR1pDT3FM4ZsmrifvtfJNBBO3HzNmTOFXQplIMfdv49m7B0NoGSGdggp0x4>. It's Master Gardener Series: Vegetable Gardening, part of the Short Course Series on the Oregon State website.

Here's why The Oregonian wrote about it – almost 18,000 people have signed up. No typo there. 18,000 people want to learn how to grow a vegetable garden this summer and are turning to the Master Gardeners for help. I encourage you to read it or one of the others on the page.

It promises to be a challenging summer for our Central Oregon gardeners and for us who volunteer to support them. We'll be frustrated, saddened, overwhelmed with information and bored, forced to stay away from our friends. But keep in mind that nature isn't waiting for us foolish humans to catch up – the world is still revolving without us and, no doubt, doing a fine job on its own.

So when the days warm up, go outside. Notice how many birds have returned from their winter homes and are filling the trees with their song. See how many buds are already on the tree in the yard and how completely the weeds have covered every vacant inch of your garden. Then get out the kneeler and the gloves, get your water bottle filled and start some seeds. The peas will taste especially good this summer!

Stay safe, take care of yourselves and we'll talk again soon.

Nancy Glick



I hope you are all doing okay, staying healthy and getting to do a little gardening at home! Although we are not able to do any face to face programs or projects right now, I will be working to do some remote community ed classes, Facebook posts, etc. and will let you know when those are happening. In response to COVID-19, Gail Langellotto and Signe Danler opened up the Vegetable Gardening course from the online MG Training Course and is offering it for free through the end of April. There are over 17,000 registered and it is pacing at about 1,000 signing up per day!!! If you are interested in taking this course you can register here: <https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/course/master-gardener-series-vegetable-gardening?hsLang=en> Although it will not be specific to Central Oregon, there will still be lots of good information to reap from it. Requirements for trainees and recertifying volunteers will be modified this year and guidelines for these changes are being developed. Please continue to read the emails I am sending out on the current status of future projects and university/state guidelines. Hope you are finding ways to reduce stress...my husband was experiencing some cabin fever so he wanted to mow the lawn and that is exactly what he did!

Take Care, Amy Jo

June Garden Fair

Dear Vendors, Educators, and OSU Master Gardener Volunteers,
Thank you for your patience in us sending out this update.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, our greatest priority is the health and safety of you, our volunteers, staff and all community members. We will continue to comply in the context of the Governor's Executive Order 20-12 (Stay Home. Save Lives.).

Given the unknown status of the quarantine going forward, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the June Garden Fair event. This is disappointing for us as it is one of our most exciting annual events; but we recognize the importance in doing our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Current restrictions prevent volunteers from using the greenhouse and having face-to-face meetings making it too difficult to successfully host, plan and offer the event in 2020.

We appreciate your willingness to participate and hope that you will consider joining us for this event next year instead!

Take Care,

Amy Jo Detweiler, M.S.

Vicky Kemp, June Garden Fair Project Coordinator



Getting to Know You!

By Laurie Floyd

Say Hi to Jan Barron, she's a relatively new Master Gardener. She joined the program in 2018.

Jan and her husband Bill moved to Bend 4 years ago. She always wanted to learn about gardening, so to get a good grasp of it, she joined the Master Gardener program.



Jan lived in Alaska for 20 years before moving to the west side of Bend. She was a successful gardener in Alaska, which to my surprise she said was easier to grow in than here in Central Oregon. Gardening in Alaska wasn't that much of a challenge. Once you amended the soil, you were good to go. They DO have a frost date! Lucky!

Jan mostly grows flowers, she said the constant sun really helped her flowers grow tremendously. Jan didn't have to water very often either due to the rains. The summer high is 70, and the temperature only fluctuated between 57 - 70! In Bend Jan has a bit of a deer problem. She says they are nothing compared to a moose that can step over your fence, chew the bark off your trees and then decimate your yard as they munch their way through.

Jan was a stay at home mom and volunteer, due to Bills job as a Web Designer they traveled and moved a lot. They settled in Alaska to let their sons attend high school and finish college. Jan has two sons. One is a Mechanical Engineer who lives in Ann Arbor, MI. He is 29. Her other son who is 30 works as an Architect in graphic design for Axiom. He also has a side business in drone research. Once her sons were on their own, Jan and Bill retired to Bend.

Jan doesn't have a large space to plant in so she's very choosy about what she does plant. She loves flowers, particularly vining flowers. Since her yard is so small going up was her way to go. She likes to surround herself with beautiful colors, interesting shapes and fragrances. In her front yard Jan grows Peonies, Delphiniums, Day Lilies and a lovely Lilac. Jan's back yard is her summer project. She mainly wants to plant and grow natives So she is becoming educated about natives and growing them. Since Jan and Bill travel frequently she needs a low maintenance yard, one that she can leave for periods of time and not worry about.

Jan loves Plant Clinic! She enjoys the researched based information. She has learned more about what goes on seasonally from the difference in the plants that come in. Particularly between June and July. Jan also likes to go back and review cases that she wasn't able to complete in Plant Clinic to see how the problem was resolved. She likes the, "playing Detective" part of Plant Clinic. Me too. Jan enjoys meeting other Master Gardeners to share interests, ideas and learn from their experience.

Her first love is running. She is a marathon runner and Half Iron Woman competitor. She met her husband Bill, and they started running together, doing marathons. Soon they began biking and soon after, swimming. They started competing in Triathlons and now do Duathlons. Jan has a Vizsla named Pacer. Pacer runs marathons with Jan and Bill, a week before our interview Pacer ran a ten mile marathon with them.

Jan also volunteers for a special women's' group that raises monies for educational scholarships for women in Central Oregon. The organization targets COCC and OSU students in the area. They find women who through circumstances haven't been able to finish their education or want to start one. They grant the scholarships to those who qualify for the program and keep in touch to see that they are successful in getting their education, having a positive impact in those women's' lives who may not have ever had the chance. Bravo Jan!

One of Jan's best gardening memories is of watching her Mom, in the sunshine, in the garden, planting seeds with her two grandsons.



Did something die out here?

During a recent visit to Cascadia State Park, before closures began, my daughter and I encountered a rather unpleasant pungent aroma on our walk. We had just crossed a small rivulet and there in the boggy surroundings was the suspect foul smelling plant, a skunk cabbage, *Lysichiton americanus* (see picture below). A western species, it occurs in moist habitats from California north to Alaska. Conspicuous are the large deep green shiny leaves 1-2 feet long by half as wide. The inflorescence is an eye catching spathe consisting of a spadix of male and female yellowish green flowers surrounded by a large yellow bract. The unpleasant aroma attracts flies and beetles as the primary pollinators. Calcium oxalate crystals in the leaves make it undesirable as a food source although the starchy rhizomes are consumed by bears and elk. After much cooking, native Americans would also consume the plant when food was in short supply. Being thermogenic, skunk cabbage appears in very early spring because it has a remarkable ability to produce heat that allows it to emerge and bloom even when the ground is still frozen.



Photograph: Samantha Shearer

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Meyers et al. 2015. Flora of Oregon. Volume 1: Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, and Monocots. Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.

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OSU Extension Demo Garden

With all that is happening in our life, cancellations, family stress, not seeing each other, sickness of family or friends, possible shortage of TP, if we didn't laugh at least a little every day, we would be crying.



Vicky and Liz invite you to join them in a few giggles. Take a deep breath and then carry on---



Some craziness taken from "A Dictionary for Weedpullers, Slugcrushers & Backyard Botanists", authors Henry Beard & Roy McKie

GARDEN: One of a vast number of free outdoor restaurants operated by charity-minded amateurs in an effort to provide healthful, balanced meals for insects, birds and animals.

GRAPE: Uninteresting larval stage of wine.

PARASITE: Anything in the garden that derives sustenance or energy from its host while providing nothing useful in return. Typical examples of parasitism include rechargeable electric grass clippers, small tractors and melon plants.

PINCHING: Pruning method developed in Italian gardens.

ZZZZZ: 1. Sound produced by dozing gardener. 2. Sound produced by bee trapped in dozing gardener's pant leg.

And then one more, but a profound thought--

"You can't plant negative thought and reap positive energy"

We hope all are well, with hopes of seeing you soon,

Vicky Kemp & Liz Douville



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

Mini-College 2020

Mini-College 2020 "GPS" is still scheduled for July 24 & 25th at OSU.

There is a spirit of optimism in all of us who grow things and those who are working on Mini-College have a lot of that spirit. After a careful review of the commitments and hard work done towards Mini-College, and with the support of our State Director Gail Langelotto, OMGA has decided that we are moving forward with Mini-College 2020. This decision will remain in constant review and May 15th has been determined to be the point at which the final decision will be made. Until then Mini-College is moving ahead at full speed.

This year's Mini-College is shaping up to be an outstanding event. The final details are in place on a truly excellent curriculum of classes, workshops, and tours. Scientists, educators, growers and some very creative people are on tap to offer an array of presentations. The topics are not only timely and informative but share ways to enhance the beauty and productivity in our lives.

Returning this year are the popular extracurricular activities. Friday night is banquet night in the lovely setting of the Adair Clubhouse. The Silent Auction, Send-A-Friend Raffle, and Bookstore are all on tap. Early attendees can join in a social on Thursday night in the Omaha room at Goss stadium for an evening of socializing and baseball. The game is scheduled between the Corvallis Knights and the Yakima Valley Pippens. OMGA is buying the first 100 tickets. And there will be the usual fun and games in the dorm.

With a registration fee of only \$49.00 a day (lunch included) and housing options from the economy of the on-campus dorm (Bloss Hall), to the Hilton Garden Inn, a KOA Campground and a variety of local hotels, Mini-College is, as always, a great value. A delightful way to enhance your education. Come spend time with friends from around the state, meet some new gardeners, and just have a fun weekend. This year it's on the beautiful Oregon State University campus. More details are on the way.

The OMGA website, Chapter newsletters and our OMGA reps will be putting out additional information as we get nearer to the May 15th deadline. Our plan is to open registration as soon as the details are in place and we get a final "all clear" to move forward.

Mini-College 2020 "GPS." Come enhance your abilities to: Grow...Provide...Sustain.

We're looking forward to seeing you in Corvallis.



Please remember to return your Spring Seminar poster distribution envelopes to Rocky or Liz when life returns to normal.

Decoding Garden Advice

Where can we get gardening advice? The good news is, there are lots of resources. The bad news is, there are lots of resources!

Our gardening efforts, like any scientific endeavor, benefit when we're critical consumers and seek to keep learning. Horticulture is a dynamic field and experimental science is continually redefining best practical applications.

But it's tough to question long-practiced guidance gleaned from family members, books, classes, our favorite nurseries and our own experience. And now it's increasingly difficult to resist the lure of the internet where so many handsome web sites suggest expertise.

Given the expense of nursery stock and the time, money and pride we invest in our gardens, it's folly not to seek the most trustworthy, research-based guidance available to help us to separate myth from science.

Thanks to ongoing research by our land grant university extension services to determine best practices in all facets of agriculture, we now know a lot of advice is ineffective or, worse, harmful to plants.

For example, I learned how to plant my first trees and shrubs in 1973. Imagine my dismay, so many years later, when I learned through the Master Gardener certification program that I'd been doing several things wrong. Per the respected books I had consulted, I dug my holes the right width but much too deep. I back filled planting holes with peat moss, manure and rich black dirt and discarded the native soil. I very carefully loosened only the top of the twine and burlap surrounding a root ball and gently removed plants from their containers making sure not to disturb the roots.

I know now that my planting holes shouldn't be any deeper than the depth of the root ball, that in Central Oregon I should back fill the planting hole with 2 parts native soil and one part organic matter, that burlap and twine should be removed entirely and that it's critical to loosen roots of a balled or containered plant to make sure they are healthy and will grow out and down and not inward or around.

So how does one get the best advice? Linda Chalker-Scott, author of *The Informed Gardener*, is a gardening myth buster. She suggests a cautious skepticism to advice provided by internet and even some retail nurseries. She points out that many nurseries – and certainly the big box stores – don't have the time or staff to review and revise printed materials or provide ongoing professional development for seasonal staff.

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LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

BOARD AND PROJECT REPORTS

April 2, 2020

By Email

In March 2020, the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic reached Oregon. On March 12, 2020, the Governor issued an order prohibiting large gatherings, meetings, and events, based on advice from health experts. OSU followed suit and consequently, "social distancing" practices were put into place, which effectively eliminated the ability to meet in person. COMGA is doing its part to help minimize the spread of the virus and is, therefore, using email to report on the Board and Project Coordinators' activities.

Approval of minutes of previous meeting (Nancy Glick)
Carried over to the next in-person meeting.

OSU Report (Amy Jo Detweiler/Toni Stephan)
Amy Jo sent an email to all master gardeners, which is summarized here. She continues to get updated guidelines from OSU Administration on what we can or cannot do in the context of the Governor's Executive Order 20-12 (Stay Home. Save Lives). She stressed that it is important that we follow these guidelines, no exceptions. She will meet with the project coordinators for our two demonstration gardens, two community gardens, plant sale and garden tour, about next steps. These events will be postponed or canceled. The health and safety of our volunteers, staff and community at large are of the utmost importance. Amy Jo acknowledged that it is disappointing and disruptive but we will continue to do our best *when* and *how* we are safely allowed to. As she learns more, she will provide updates on requirements for recertified volunteers and trainees for 2020. Given the disruption of our normal volunteer opportunities, the certification and recertification requirements will likely be modified in 2020. She also advised that per Gail Langellotto, master gardener volunteers are not authorized at this time, to care for greenhouse plants or gardens on behalf of OSU or in their role as a master gardener volunteer. This is explained further at the following link:

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/2020/03/25/care-of-plants-and-gardens-in-the-context-of-eo-20-12-stay-home-save-lives/>

BOARD REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report (Tim Schindele)
The major income for the month and for the year would have been the registration fees, sponsorships and vendor fees paid for the Spring Gardening Seminar. 65 people had registered for classes using PayPal, totaling \$2,854.00. PayPal took its fees (\$82.18), leaving us with \$2,771.82. With the event canceled, PayPal refunded 100% to the people who had paid, but we still had to pay \$19.50 in PayPal fees (\$0.30 per transaction). We currently have a zero PayPal balance. Checks received that were not deposited were either shredded or returned and were not entered in our books. Tim also refunded \$545 in vendor fees. Of the \$1,950 received from sponsors, \$600 was refunded and the remaining \$1,350 was "donated" to COMGA by 9 other sponsors, five of whom are COMGA members. Other expenses during the month included fees paid to the Source Weekly and The Bulletin, to advertise the seminar and the community vegetable classes, all of which were canceled.

Hollinshead Community Garden was charged \$470 to replace tainted soil in two plots. We paid \$1,397.75 for t-shirts and other apparel that Rocky ordered on behalf of master gardeners. The items have been received and it will be some time before we are able to collect the money from those who ordered merchandise. We also paid \$532 in chapter dues to OMGA, which represents \$7 for 76 chapter members. Diana Hardin ordered and received a case of 100 soil thermometers, costing \$295, which has been paid. We will have more expenses this year and while our income sources have dried up for the time being, we have over \$43K in the bank, so we're in good shape financially.

Membership (Jolene Dodge)

As of March 5, 2020, 92 master gardeners have indicated their intent to recertify, there are 76 paid members, 3 associate members and 39 trainees. Jolene updated the dues form to include county fairs as an area of interest. She has sent the list of volunteers to Diana Hardin, who agreed to coordinate this area. The trainee luncheon went well, with good attendance by returning master gardeners. Jolene is working on invitations for next year that will help clarify what the luncheon is and what we want from returning master gardeners. Having a theme helped and asking specific people to bring something helped make it flow better. Angelina Wentzel, Patsy Kestner, Bob Faber/Lynn Adamo, Judy Shearer, Kathy Geary, Kirsten Hinton, Vickie Minor, and JoAnne Abbott volunteered in advance to bring food. Other people contributed on the day of the luncheon (thank you!). The planning team included Mimi Thomas, Kirsten Hinton, Kathy Geary, and Liz Anderson. The bread came from multiple local bakeries. Jolene will reevaluate this next year, depending on the theme and the needs. The slideshow Vickie Minor created was played during the lunch and showed projects the COMGA members worked on. Several conversations started because of people asking about the pictures.

OMGA Rep Report (Janet Dart)

OMGA is still planning for Mini College; however, they will make a final decision on May 15 on whether it will go forward. Janet also has OMGA Membership Cards for any COMGA member who would like one.

PROJECT STATUS REPORTS:

Discovery Park Community Garden (Gary Weber)

The coronavirus restrictions are significantly impacting the community gardens. A communication is being drafted that will be sent to the garden volunteers and returning gardeners, incorporating guidance from the Governor's executive order, OSU, Gail Langellotto and Amy Jo. The garden is officially closed until May 30 and all related events (monthly volunteer meetings, garden education events, etc.) are canceled, subject to change. Master gardener volunteers are not permitted to access the garden and therefore, maintenance activities, garden oversight and assistance to gardeners is unavailable. At this time, it is unclear when Bend Parks and Rec will be able to support the garden to provide water to the hoses and irrigation and provide waste collection.

Registration and Opening Day are being delayed until it

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LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD continued

is clear when and on what basis the garden can begin operating. Lottery applications are still being accepted, but it is likely that the drawing will be delayed from April 16 to a later date, when we can assess how many of last year's gardeners decide to return. With Nancy Glick's help, we are working on an online registration process to eliminate person-to-person contact. This could replace the traditional Opening Day registration process. We are also thinking through alternative procedures, so when we receive permission to operate the garden in a limited way, we can enable gardeners and volunteers to return while maintaining social distancing requirements. Our hope is that even if some level of social distancing is required, the garden might serve as a restorative place to spend time.

Hollinshead Vegetable Garden (Nancy Glick)

The Community Garden Mentors have contacted the 2019 plot renters to find out who will be returning this season. There will be 12 available plots to award when the lottery closes on April 4. The calendar for the garden activities has been altered as OSU, Bend Park and Recreation District, and the State of Oregon write guidelines for managing the pandemic. Until further notice, no master gardeners or plot renters are allowed in the garden. Opening Day is tentatively set for June 13 and online registration will be held in May.

Home & Garden Show (Vickie Minor)

The mobile plant clinic and community classes have been canceled and COBA (Central Oregon Builders Association), the sponsor of the event, has advised everyone that there will be no show this year. It is tentatively set for April 30-May 2, 2021 and we expect (and hope) to participate again.

June Garden Fair (Vicky Kemp)

This is the last week to make decisions on buying and transplanting the featured "Perennial of the Year" and making the final order to the tomato seedling grower. Vicky noted that while there is no official word on whether this event will be canceled, based on the Guidelines issued so far it is likely to be canceled, including the COMGA Plant Sale portion. At this point, we are not authorized to volunteer in the greenhouse so Vicky is waiting to get official notice from Amy Jo.

KPOV – Gardening Get Good At It

The KPOV radio station is closed to everyone so the master gardener radio stars will be getting creative with home recordings and recycling the recordings from the past seven years. Our 4-minute pieces continue to be among the most popular podcasts on the kpo.org website.

Spring Gardening Seminar (Rocky Bessette)

Speakers and vendors were all notified that the seminar was canceled. Emails were sent to all registrants informing them and Tim was notified to refund fees. All online registration fees have been returned and refunds have been sent to sponsors who requested one. Checks received but not deposited were shredded or returned. The seminar will not be rescheduled this year and the \$300 down payment made to the fairgrounds, has been transferred to next year's event, which is set for April 17, 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Vickie Minor, Secretary

Decoding Garden Advice continued

Your best bet is to take advantage of the resources available at the Oregon State University Extension Service offices. The Deschutes County office in Redmond has racks of helpful handouts and staffs a Plant Clinic hotline to research any home gardening question you have.

If you conduct your own internet research, be sure to search for respected research-based enterprises. Look for university or edu domain sites that support Cooperative Extensions or those of well-known horticultural journals and botanical gardens.

Local owner-managed nurseries are generally a good bet too, particularly if you talk to a certified horticulturalist or arborist. And there are excellent gardening books to consult. Just make sure you check the copyright date and look for references to recent research.

By Deb Goodall

Consider Raised Bed Gardening

by Mary Ann Hart

Establishing a successful backyard garden can be a challenge in Central Oregon. Our soil is sandy and porous, which makes it unlikely to hold nutrients or moisture. Our extreme temperature fluctuations and cold, dry conditions cause plant growth to slow. One solution to consider is to plant your garden in a raised bed. Raised bed gardening has many advantages, including: higher yields, better soil, water conservation, an extended growing season and better pest control.

The first step to plan any home garden in Central Oregon is to choose a site that will provide good sunlight and have easily accessible water. You'll also want to know if the soil drains well, is on a slope or level ground and whether or not there are large rocks beneath the surface. Plants growing in the area must be removed; their roots as well as lava rock must be dug out completely.

Stake out the area that you intend for your bed. You'll want to be able to easily access the center portion of your bed which means a bed about 4 feet wide. Consider how wide the pathways between your raised beds will need to be to move equipment such as wheelbarrows. If you'd like to have a larger growing area in one raised bed, you can make a pathway within the bed with stepping stones or pavers.

This is a good time to decide what type of irrigation you'll be using. Setting up inline irrigation systems is easiest at this point because they may require water lines to be placed in the beds before filling with amended soil.

Raised bed kits are available at most garden centers and home improvement stores that you can assemble in your garden. You might already have usable scrap lumber or prefer to purchase it. Whatever you decide to use, if you're growing vegetables or fruit, be sure the material has been not been treated with creosote or other

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

Meet Stewart Taylor: part of Group 3 with Vickie Minor and Steve O'Malley as mentors.

I moved to Bend for the first time in 1988, from Coos Bay OR, for a job transfer. Until then I hadn't really thought about wanting to live in Central Oregon. I grew up in Salem and graduated from South Salem High school. I attended University of Oregon in late 1960's and early 1970's. For most of my working life I worked for Payless Drug Stores and then Rite Aid Drug Stores. For 20 years I worked on their new store and remodel store projects. These projects took me as far west as Hawaii and as east as New York City. The second time I moved to Central Oregon was in 1996 and settled in Crooked River Ranch. I have been interested in gardening since grade school. One of my first jobs was working at a retail nursery in Salem. About 1980 I went through an early version of the Master Gardener in Salem. I have been a ham radio operator on and off since 1962. I love watching auto racing and going to car shows. I sometimes enter my black 2004 ZO6 Corvette in local shows. Its name is **Darth Vader**. A favorite quote is one heard in Nascar racing, "checkers or wreckers", which means going all out for the win. I have two brothers. One is a retired math teacher in Salem, and other is architect in Kelowna BC, Canada.



Meet Lainie Devina: part of Group 4...Mentor's Diana Hardin and Liz Anderson

My name is Lainie Devina. Oy, the *short story* of my life - that's a hard one! I'll give it a try...



Besides a 7 year stint in Dallas, Texas, I lived in Los Angeles, California until 2+ years ago. I was sitting in the pick-up line for my daughter and was looking on social media only to find out that a dear student of mine passed away. I heard her speak to me (I am not a very woo woo person but this was as real as if she was speaking next to me) saying "You have one life to live, how do you want to live it?" I wrote a text to my husband the next moment saying, "We are moving to Oregon." (I had never been), he wrote back saying, "Bend is the only option." (he had never been). A week and a half later we put an offer on a house...

I was a professional dancer until a career ending back injury and began my yoga practice right after, in 1992. Since then I've been teaching the Eight-Fold Path of yoga with a primary focus on philosophy and meditation. When leaving my in-person career in L.A., I opened up an online platform to continue to teach - only now, it's via "Zoom". In addition, I am a hospice volunteer which has given more to me than I ever expected.

I have tried to garden (vegetables and ornamental) all of my adult life with very little success until I fell in love with succulents. No matter what I did or didn't do... they thrived and I collected hundreds of them within the landscape of my previous home. It was a masterpiece!

I want to become a Master Gardener because I learn by doing. This allows me to give back to the community while absorbing knowledge for my future dream landscape. AND, I love being a part of a community of super smart people where I am the lowest on the totem pole of knowledge. I am so out of my element... and I LOVE IT.

We all welcome you Lainie...do I see a future COMGA yoga class happening?



Meet Curt Millington: part of Group 1 – Mentors:
Rocky Bessette and Kirsten Hinton

I'm originally from Baltimore Maryland, where I graduated from a small liberal arts college on Maryland's eastern shore called Washington College. It has the distinction of being the only college that George lent his name to during his lifetime.



I grew up helping Mom in the garden, then in college on the eastern shore I lucked into a cool job as the caretaker of a 1000 acre historic estate outside of my college town. In exchange for a sweet caretaker's apartment, I mowed 15 acres of lawn and took care of expansive historic gardens. Then, after college I lived in Annapolis and then 2 homes back in Baltimore and I built gardens at each of these life stops.

I've had varied careers but worked longest and most recently in the wine biz over 15 years. I sold wine for a distributor, and a small importer, then I managed a shop in Baltimore for a couple of years. My career was derailed by my Mother's diagnosis with small cell lung cancer and I was her full time care giver for nearly 2 years before she passed.

After Mom passed, my wife Lynn (and our amazing dog Betsy) and I decided to move away from Baltimore. My wife is from Des Moines, Iowa and had a career where she could work remotely. The day after Mom's funeral service I headed out on a 13K mile road trip in search of an ideal spot for my wife and me to relocate. We chose Bend! We had no idea it was such a popular idea!

I have always wanted to be a Master Gardener! I attempted to join the MG program in Baltimore a couple of times, but it just didn't work out, for various reasons. I love gardens and gardening/building gardens and I am happy to volunteer and get others into the practice.

I like to do all sorts of outdoor activity especially mountain biking and sailing. I was an assistant coaching lacrosse at Mountain View High before the recent pandemic hit the fan.

My favorite quote:
"Only a fool trips on what's behind them." Ray Lewis

Curt...WELCOME to the
OSU Extension Master
Gardener program and
COMGA!



Consider Raised Bed Gardening continued

chemicals that might leach into your garden. Avoid railroad ties and other pressed or treated wood. Also, keep in mind that the frames should be reinforced to help prevent the weight of the soil from pushing the boards outward. "L" brackets or corner braces can be used at each joint to connect the beams.

Once you've assembled the framing walls, you can begin to fill the bed. Purchase or prepare a soil mix with high organic matter and good water-holding capacity. Good landscaping companies offer separate mixes for different uses. Be sure to find one designated for vegetable gardening. The Deschutes County Knott Landfill composts yard waste to create various soil mixes available to the public. If the framing material is sitting on top of native soil, dig down at least 6 inches to loosen the earth. As you fill the bed, mix the high nutrient soil mix into the native soil. This will allow for deeper plant root growth.

Make a list of the crops to be grown. This will help determine how much space is required. When growing crops that sprawl, such as squash or watermelon, consider putting them in a bed by themselves. This will keep them from covering other crops. The idea of growing crops in single file rows began with the use of a horse and plow and continue with the use of tractors to cultivate crops on a large scale. In a smaller home garden enclosed within a raised bed, vegetables may be planted closer together to avoid wasted space. All of those vegetables will require plenty of organic matter which decomposes and disappears. Continue to add enough nitrogen, phosphate, and potash to feed the plants properly. Apply compost throughout the summer and mulch with a 2-inch layer of leaves in the winter.

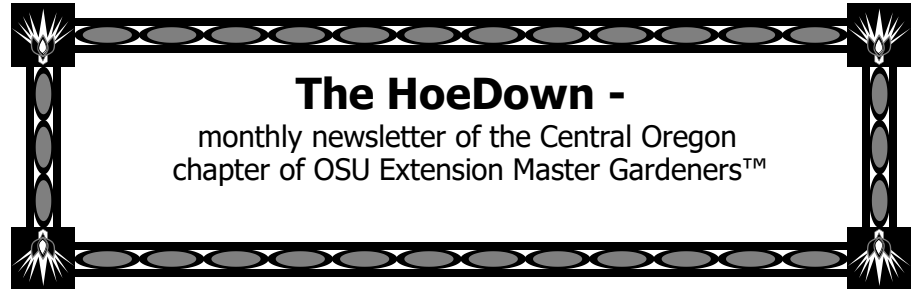


Photo by JoAnne Abbott

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