

March 2021



Papilio zelicaon—Anise Swallowtail

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President's message



Left on my own, my tiny brain re-plays my own version of old songs, movie soundtracks, 1960s hits. This month, I'm humming another Depression era hit:

♪ I'll be seeing you
In all the old familiar places
That this heart of mine embraces
All year through

I'll be seeing you
In every lovely summer's day
In all the irrigation spray
I'll think of you on each Tuesday

♪ I'll see you
In the old tool shed
And while the coffee brews
I'll be on a Zoom view
And I'll be seeing you

(My apologies to Irving Kahal)

Why, you wonder, do I sing this hopeful song now? It's because I'm thinking of all my Master Gardener friends who are taking care, staying safe & waiting out this pandemic storm.

While I hum, I've been looking at our Flickr photos. I've lingered at each project and event, tasted once again the wonderful pot luck dishes and envied, as always, the beautiful veggies grown at the Gardens. Here's where I find the photos:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/osu_comga/albums (login to Flickr: gocomga@gmail.com, password:Gr8gardens!)

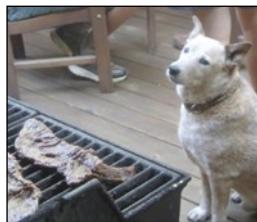
Now I'm challenging **you** to find the...

1-Vole Trap, 2-The Eclipse Watchers, 3-Liz and the Worm, 4-The Good Boy, 5-Ciara hypnotizing a tree, 6-Phil getting netted, 7-snow on Pruning Day, 8-the HH Big Tomato and 9-the Extension Office without plants!

You may have forgotten how young we once looked and how much fun we always have while we're supposed to be working!

Stay safe & I'll be seeing you very soon!

To start you off, Here's #4 - "The Good Boy" at the COMGA BBQ.



Agent's Corner



I am looking forward to some spring weather and to being outside more! In the mean while hope you are all taking advantage of the many wonderful on-line options being offered through the Elevated Skill Training and the Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series. Additionally we have Mini-College and the International Master Gardener Conference to look forward to later

this year. We will be holding plant clinic remotely this spring and I'll be sending out an email to update you all on how you can participate. Starting to plan for some of annual projects with modified operations.

A friendly reminder to turn in your Conditions of Volunteer Service form (signed electronically) if you have already done so.

Thanks Amy Jo



COMGA Calendar *for contact persons go to gocomga.com*

March

- 1 Hollinshead Community Garden lottery opens
- 2 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Choosing Seeds for Your Garden
- 4 Board meeting, Zoom, 10:00am
- 13 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon www.gocomga.com
- 16 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Seed Packets Are Mini Reference Guides
- 27 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon www.gocomga.com
- 30 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Butterfly Gardens

April

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

May

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

Getting to Know You!

By Deb Goodall

Donna Kennedy

Many of us have had experiences, mentors or friends that have nurtured our lifetime love of gardening. Donna can point to several, starting with her grandmother in Napa, California, who was known for her large garden -- and trusted Donna, even as a small child, to water it. That was just the beginning.



Fast forward to adulthood. Donna earned a social sciences degree, heavy on credits in economics, at OSU in Corvallis in 1967, got married, had two children and moved to Salem. There she took advantage of a unique opportunity to work at her in-laws' Kilbers Nursery, known regionally for its begonias and fuchsia baskets. "My black thumb turned green," Donna explains. "I learned all about composting, propagating plants, transplanting seedlings, cross-pollination and how to be merciless with leggy plants."

She and her husband purchased a quarter-acre lot and converted two-thirds of it to gardens; vegetables in the back, ornamentals and lots of natives in front. Her gardens were a great place to learn -- and also, she admits, make some mistakes, such as finding out the hard way that buttercups are "treacherous little rascals." Plant shopping with her girlfriend Sylvia, a quintessential English gardener, added to the fun. The pair would drive hither and yon to nurseries in the spring, egging each other on to spend a fortune on plants that filled up the back of a station wagon. When their gardens weren't calling, they would enroll just for kicks in French classes - "J'adore mon jardin!" - at Chemeketa Community College.

Another boon of the move to Salem was landing a job in the Oregon Department of Transportation's Environmental Services Department. Over the course of her 30-year career there, Donna became a project and ultimately unit manager, enjoying the rewards of working with a wide variety of engineers and scientists engaged in determining the environmental, economic and social impacts of proposed roads and highways throughout the state.

After retiring from ODOT in 2003, Donna moved to Portland, where she accepted a job with CH2M Hill, an employee-owned international engineering firm. Her work once again focused on environmental impacts of transportation projects but now included traveling to sites throughout the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Although Donna had given up her Salem gardens, she continued to challenge her gardening skills on her new apartment's two balconies. She transformed the sunny one into an Italian piazza. The shady one, with an urban forest backdrop, became a peaceful shade garden.

Meanwhile her husband Jim, who had retired as a flood

mitigation specialist with FEMA, was advocating for a move to the mountains, ideally somewhere near a daughter in Bend. Donna loved the forests around the Metolius River, so it's no surprise they bought a lot in Camp Sherman and started building their new home, which they moved into full time when Donna retired in 2011.

Landscaping their new property became a full time job, with Donna engaging different landscapers to install various hardscape components. While she describes her backyard as more thicket than mow-and-blow, she's pleased it does the job of screening her neighbor's property. Her goal there is to plant non-invasive natives that won't escape into the natural common area that abuts it.

The front yard, she says, is still a work in progress. Deer and gophers provide plenty of challenges, but she's learned to address some rodent issues by planting shrubs and herbaceous plants in wire baskets. There have been other country gardening lessons learned. One is how to reconfigure your landscaping so snow berms created by winter plows don't smother your road-front plantings. Another is addressing the nightmare of construction fill dirt loaded with quackgrass seed. Donna describes tedious hours spent working to eradicate patches of the grass whose "very mean, tough-tipped roots that can grow through just about anything." And quackgrass aside, who knew a whimsical casting Oxeye daisy seeds would result in another eradication headache as the happy wildflower began killing off everything in its path?

Aware of Donna's Camp Sherman gardening challenges, longtime Salem girlfriend Sylvia -- who since Donna's departure from Salem just kept taking classes and became an OSU celebrity earning a bachelor's degree in horticulture at age 76! - urged Donna to pursue Master Gardener certification.

The nudge was appreciated, but Donna -- who was surrounded by scientists throughout her career - says she was ready. "I was tired of doing things by the seat of my pants. I wanted to understand the science!"



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

Those DARN DEER !

by Kris Knoernschild

If you're like most serious gardeners in Central Oregon, you want to know: "How do I keep the deer from eating my plants?"

There are many commercial products and home remedies that friends tell you work just great for them, but you may not be so fortunate.

First off – don't feed the deer on purpose! If you offer yummy food to them on your property, they'll keep coming back for more! The effectiveness of lure crops has been variable. The added artificial food source may increase deer densities which is just what you DON'T want!

So what's the best and really only sure way to stop deer from eating your crops or flowers or shrubs or trees? Fencing! If you have just certain plants that are special, you can use individual wire cages or netting to exclude deer. There are a number of options for larger area fencing.

Whichever you choose, it must completely surround the area you want to protect. Don't leave any openings. Vertical fences need to be at least 8' tall. A woven wire fence may be the most durable with the least maintenance, but it's also very expensive to install. Black plastic mesh is effective, but not as durable. Since the mesh is difficult to see, hang strips of cloth or plastic on the mesh so deer won't run into it. Deer usually won't jump if they can't see the other side, so solid fences only need to be 5' high. Deer are not able to jump both high and wide at the same time, so another option is a slanted fence. It should be at least 4' high with the angled part at 45 degrees. Or you can use a double row fence - 2 barriers set up 4' to 5' high and 4' to 5' apart.

Electric fences also can be effective against deer and can be less expensive to install. However they require more maintenance and can short out easily if vegetation grows too high near it. And here's one I just learned about - a "Peanut Butter Fence". Basically you put peanut butter mixed with cooking oil directly on electric fence wires or in aluminum foil sleeves. The deer want to eat the peanut butter they smell and will get a nice zap on their snout when they touch the electric fence. They usually get the message to stay away from that fenced area.

Yes, fences can be expensive or maybe your homeowners' association prohibits them, so you may have to turn to the other methods.

You can choose to plant so-called deer-resistant trees and shrubs and plants that are less susceptible to damage. You can find lists below or ask at your local nurseries. But remember, if the deer get hungry enough, they'll eat just about any plant.

You should harvest your food crops as early as possible – don't keep the temptation there for them!

Then there are the repellents. Some are applied to an area around the plants and the smell discourages the deer, hopefully. But you may have to put up with the smell of putrefied meat, rotten eggs, dried blood or fish emulsion! Some aren't bad – like bags of human hair or bar soap (no, it doesn't have to be Irish Spring).

Other repellants are put directly on the plant. These taste bad to the deer. Commercial products may use chemicals or fungicides or hot pepper sauce. This is where gardeners get pretty creative with their own mixtures, but usually they use eggs, garlic, and hot pepper sauce. So, good luck. Most of these products work for a while, but rain or irrigation wash them away. They have to be re-applied pretty often, especially to any new plant growth.

The bottom line is – if the deer are hungry enough, they will eat your plants no matter how bad it smells or tastes.

One other thing those darn deer will do is ruin your trees by rubbing their antlers on the bark to scrape off the velvet in the autumn. To protect small trees, use a protective trunk wrap. The ones you buy at garden centers usually are made of Vexar® tubes. Or, you can use strips of old inner tube or plastic mesh.



Save the Date

OMGA PRESENTS
July 16 and 17, 2021

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

Mini-College 2021

Connect - Collaborate - Cultivate

Keynote presentations by:

Robert Michael Pyle and Gail Langellotto

Watch for details when our website goes live at:

mastergardenerminicollege.org

Registration will open in March 2021

Yellow Bells

one of the harbingers of spring

By Judy Shearer

When you see yellow bells (*Fritillaria pudica*) you know spring has arrived in Deschutes County. This diminutive member of the lily family or Liliaceae has small pendant yellow flowers hence the name. It is one of the first flowers to appear after the snow melts. The petals are usually a clear yellow aging to orange. When one peers inside the cup, faint brown markings dot the petals. Narrow green linear leaves line the stem. This perennial is widespread in western United States, often in sagebrush country at low to high elevations where it prefers heavy soils. Meriweather Lewis collected it while passing through Idaho in 1806. Today it is much less common as it has been over collected so if you find it enjoy its beauty and let it be.



Credits:

Photo by Samantha Shearer

References:

Meyers S.C., Jaster, T., Mitchell, K. E., and L. K. Hardison (Eds.). 2015. *Flora of Oregon Volume 1: Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, and Monocots*. Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press. Fort Worth, TX.

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

Oregon Wildflower APP

Discovery Park Community Garden

by Gary Weber

Applications for a raised bed awarded through our lottery system are coming in strong. This year promotion for the garden's lottery consists mainly of various website posts, for example on NorthWest Crossing, COMGA, Deschutes County Extension and Bend Parks and Recreation pages as well as a mention by Liz Douville in her gardening article for the Bend Bulletin. Thank you Liz. We've not taken out any paid promotion as the current approach seems to generate quite a bit of interest. Easily enough interest to cover the anticipated number of newly available raised beds. Though a formal request to 2020 gardener's intentions for 2021 has not been made at this writing, based on history and expressed intentions last fall, there will likely be a low number of openings.

Our shade structure and bulletin board project is under review by Bend Parks for approval, and of course any offer of help from them wouldn't be turned away. However, the most likely route for getting this to happen will be through financial support from COMGA and volunteers for construction.

Last year one of our raised beds had to be removed due to a weed infestation. (Never doubt the tenacity of a hardy, rhizomatous perennial to test your mettle!) Anyway, because the garden does not permit the use of pesticides, complete removal of the bed became necessary even after two years of fervent weeding. Last summer was a "fallow" year, in which we made sure no remaining roots were present. Now this season we'll be ready to build a new bed which gives us the opportunity to show-case and test evolutionary design improvements. This might not be a challenge rising to the level of designing a Tesla, but still, there are the usual goals of efficiency, efficacy and cost, which isn't too much different, right?

Keeping in mind all of the COVID related caveats, the plan is to open the garden on April 17. All of sudden that doesn't seem that far off. Till next time....



LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

March 4, 2021 Via Zoom Online

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Glick (President), Jan Even (Past-President), Elizabeth Hughes Weide (VP-Community Education), Liz Anderson (VP-MG Education), Vickie Minor (Secretary), Mimi Thomas (Historian), Janet Dart (OMGA State Representative), Evie Cox (Alternate State Representative), Rocky Bessette (Communications Liaison), Jolene Dodge (Membership Coordinator), Liz Douville, Carroll Minium, Marilyn Clark, Diana Hardin, Kate Applegate, Beckie Moran, Ruth Mulligan, Vicky Kemp, Nancy Crossan, Pat Kolling, Kirsten Hinton, Julie Hill, Chris Miao, Judy Shearer, Karen Simonet, Nathalie Smith and Toni Stephan.

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

Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve the minutes made by Jolene Dodge, seconded by Janet Dart, and approved by the board.

OSU Report

Amy Jo encouraged everyone to take the plant clinic and ECCO advanced education sessions on Envision. We will be using ECCO in Central Oregon and there will be some requirement to work plant clinic remotely. Amy Jo expects that distance learning will continue at some level; she will provide more details in the future. She has met with the project coordinators and will be seeking approval to proceed with work in all the gardens, as well as being able to do the plant sale. She will be ordering the plants for the outside beds around the new annex building, with a work day planned sometime in May or June to do the planting. She will be sending something soon on Project Happy Apples. Discussion followed on challenges faced by MGs who do not have stable or any internet access and how those people can get their continuing education credits. Anyone with these issues should contact Amy Jo directly. Amy Jo also noted that the High Desert Garden Tour is tentatively planned for July 17, which conflicts right now with mini-college. She is looking at options and will give us an update later. Amy Jo also thanked everyone for their hard work and willingness to figure out what to do during the pandemic.

Spring Seminar Silent Auction

Lizzy Anderson reported that this will be online this year. The auction will open April 3 and close April 24. There will be no shipping or delivery options. All items purchased will be scheduled for pickup on Sunday, April 25, details to follow. The link to the auction will be widely distributed so anyone can participate, even if they are not taking any classes. If you have items to donate, take a photo and email it to Lizzy Anderson (ragingangel61@yahoo.com) or Karen Conway (premresume@aol.com).

BOARD REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report

Tim Schindele reported via email on activity in February. Income included fourth quarter rebates/rewards from Fred Meyer (\$23.63) and Amazon Smiles (\$15.43) and the yearly rebate from Renee's Garden (\$22.82). Membership dues from 35 members totaled \$525. No one has taken advantage of our COMGA stimulus to have her/his dues covered because of COVID-19 financial

hardship. Carrie sold three bags of row cover (\$30) and one soil thermometer (\$5) at the Extension Office. The two credit union CDs paid \$14.02. Expenses were \$30 to create an on-line auction account from 32auctions for Spring Seminar. We also paid \$264 for a 2-year subscription for unlimited website service for the COMGA website. We have \$18,747.00 in our checking account and about \$18,170 in our CDs so we're in solid shape financially.

Membership Report

Jolene Dodge reported that as of March 1, 2021, there are 42 paid members, 2 of which are associates. There are 29 trainees and 84 people have returned their forms to recertify this year. At this time last year, we had 75 paid members, so membership is down significantly. Jolene will send another letter and will have something in the HoeDown to encourage membership.

OMGA Rep Report

Janet Dart reported that the quarterly meeting is tomorrow, March 5, 2021. Mini college will be virtual this year, on July 16-17, 2021. Janet will be sending a detailed report to the membership that includes all the speakers and topics information. OMGA is seeking volunteers to moderate the sessions; Nancy Glick offered to help.

Community Education

Elizabeth Weide reported that she has not gotten much feedback on the proposed list of classes. Extensive discussion followed on the next steps, including making the vegetable gardening videos more widely available and not always in a structured virtual class. We agreed this approach could reach more people. We could schedule specific dates for an instructor to respond to Q&A once people have viewed the videos. We also discussed options for printing cards or bookmarks containing the website links. Diana will coordinate with Carrie and Amy Jo on this. Several people asked about print copies of the Water-Wise Gardening and Vegetable Gardening publications. Amy Jo advised that people should coordinate with Carrie to pick up supplies. Elizabeth will work with Nathalie to get the gardening links on the YouTube and OSU sites integrated on our platform.

Historian

Mimi Thomas updated the Flickr account for one year. The cost was \$59.99, an increase of \$9.99. She is also updating and adding to the Flickr photos for 2020 and the 2020 album. 2020 was a different year, and the album will reflect how we were able to overcome and move forward in safe activities. Mimi asked everyone to remember to take photos and mail them to her, in JPG format.

ACTION ITEMS:

2020 Impact Report

Nancy Glick received the Impact Report from Gail Langello detailing MG activities during COVID. Excerpts include Gail's acknowledgement that what began as a normal year changed in an instant. MGs throughout the state took creative steps to continue serving, a fact Gail noted in her report. Key numbers included 39,879 people who took the online vegetable gardening short course while registration fees were waived, with waived fees valued at \$1.7 million.

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD continued

Ask an Expert had 6,203 questions in 2019, but 10,328 in 2020 - a 66% increase. Gail noted that MG volunteers were able to be of direct service to more than 34,000 Oregonians while under COVID-related restrictions. If we add in the number of people who signed up for the online Master Gardener courses (61,655), our public reach in 2020 is substantially higher at 96,079. For the complete report, email Nancy Glick (nglick@bendcable.com) or view it online at gocomga.com/members-page, password gr8gardens.

Elevated Skills and Level Up Series

Nancy Glick provided the link to this in the January 2021 President's Message in the HoeDown (<https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/2020/12/16/>). The classes will remain available for viewing for several months; however, the Q&A boards will close and will not be monitored after this spring.

PROJECT STATUS REPORTS:**Hollinshead Vegetable Garden**

Kirsten Hinton reported that there are 7 mentors so far, but she could use 3 more. She has 4 assistant mentors and 2 MGs have offered to help as needed on other tasks. If anyone is interested in helping, contact Kirsten directly (kirstenhinton5@gmail.com). The garden opening date is tentatively set for April 24/25, depending on COVID protocols. Renters have until the end of March to let Kirsten know if they are returning – she will know after that time how many plots would be available for the lottery.

Home and Garden Show

Vickie Minor reported that there were no updates this month.

KPOV

Nancy Glick reported that the full year is now scheduled. She has also been able to get podcasts back online and even though there were no new ones in 2020, 23 people listened to at least one. This year, 43 people have listened to podcasts just in February. The most popular one is Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon.

Discovery Park Community Garden

Gary Weber reported via email that he has posted the lottery to various websites and is not planning to use paid advertising. He is already receiving lottery applications and is in the process of polling the 2020 gardeners to see who will return. April 2 is the lottery deadline with the drawing April 3. The gates will be unlocked April 17. Gary is also working with BP&R to see about getting a shade structure and bulletin board.

OSU Demo Garden

Vicky Kemp reported that Kaileen Mendall has gone to work full time at WinterCreek Nursery so she will not be a co-coordinator. Vicky is waiting for approval to be able to work in the garden and hopes that we will be able to proceed as we did last year. People will have to sign up in advance and will have to check in upon arrival. April 6 is the tentative first work day. Work days will continue to be the first and third Tuesdays every month through October. A 3-hour volunteer requirement will continue but if anyone is unable to do a shift, they should speak to Amy Jo about alternatives. Some discussion followed about the plant markers and maintaining any new plantings around the building.

Plant Sale

Vicky Kemp has talked with Amy Jo about this and for this year, we will have just a plant sale and not the June Garden Fair. Vicky is waiting for approval to allow people into the greenhouse. Volunteers will be limited to three at a time. This year, the plant sale process will be completely online, including ordering, payment, and inventory monitoring. The sale will be a "drive-up/pick-up process, with pick-up times scheduled online, which will allow for staggered traffic. The system will monitor the inventory and once a plant is sold out, it will automatically update and note that the plant is not available. Vicky will look into adding soil thermometers and row cover to the product screens so people can order those as well as plants. Discussion followed on limiting how many plants one person could purchase; no decisions were made. Vicky noted that there will be no vendors this year and she will send a note to previous vendors to let them know the situation. Pending approval, hands-on planting tasks will start at the end of March, when perennials will need to be transplanted. Once the project is approved, Vicky will need to spend some funds, which were not budgeted last year due to the uncertainty of the pandemic. She will bring items to the board for approval as needed.

Spring Seminar

Rocky reported that the committee has been working extremely hard to launch our first virtual spring seminar. Registration links will be online in the next few days. Five classes are scheduled: two on April 3 and one each on April 10, 17 and 24. Rocky will send emails to all MGs and to everyone who has attended previous spring seminars, to let everyone know registration is open.

Waterwise Garden

Chris and Pat reported on the status of the garden and the database project. Pending approval, they plan to have work days in the same way they did last year. An initial work day is tentatively scheduled for mid-March, to do some pruning. Regular work days will be the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. They will explore doing small in-person classes at the garden, as well as creating videos and webinars. Work has continued on the plant database, which now contains profiles for about 100 plants. Pat showed an example of one of the plant information pages. Julie Hill put together the graphics for each plant profile. Eventually, the database could be a template for other demo gardens, with the long-term goal of having it available for all MGs and the gardening public, as an information resource. Nathalie shared that volunteers are also using a companion app so when they are in the garden, they can record current details on the work done, if there were any issues, and what needs to be done going forward. Discussion followed on presenting this project at Mini-College for the Search for Excellence award.

Open Forum

Rocky reported that the row cover project is being taken over by Curt Millington, with Tim Schindele helping. Curt will be picking up the row cover today. Rocky noted that she saw a few people on the meeting who have not paid their COMGA dues. She reminded them that they will not get the newsletter this month or in the future, unless they pay their dues.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Vickie Minor, Secretary

Hollinshead Water-wise Garden

by Pat Kolling/Chris Miao

We're beginning to monitor plants in the garden for signs of bud swell, some are already looking plump! Late winter pruning and maintenance will be needed before we know it. Probably sometime in March but you never know when the winter cold will give way. We will work with Amy Jo to address pandemic restrictions as we get into the garden again. Regular workdays will be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month beginning in April.

The database of all the plants in the garden is now fully populated with information thanks to the work of many over the winter. We are now entering the fun phase of the data project – creating reports and using them. The design team has drafts of a Plant Profile and Maintenance Report for each plant. Water-Wise volunteers have had the opportunity to review the reports complete with the information on each of the plants in their work area and given their suggestions for changes. Everyone is looking forward to using the reports as they begin to develop workplans for spring workdays. The "techie team" has also developed a new version of the tool volunteers use in the garden to record plant condition and actions taken. That will be fun to try out. An example of a Plant Profile for the Rosy Pussy toes is included on page 9.

Hollinshead Water-Wise Garden (HWG) is featured as one of three projects on the Envision Extension webinar – Supercharge Your Educational Garden on March 4th. Chris and Pat are making a short presentation on the success and innovations of the HWG. They will also participate in a panel discussion at the end of the presentations. You can register here for that class even if you miss the live broadcast on the 4th. <https://envisionextension.thinkific.com/courses/Demo-Gardens>

Hope for more snowpack to provide water for the summer. Don't forget to water plants that may need moisture. And stay safe!

Spring Gardening Seminar

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

- April 3 Avoiding the Green Meatball: How and when to Prune flowering shrubs 10:00 am
- April 3 Producing Blueberries and Raspberries in Home Gardens, Methods for Success in Raised Beds or Pots 10:00 am
- April 10 Native Plant Landscaping; Creating a sanctuary for birds, pollinators and humans 10:00am
- April 17 Practical Irrigation: Using water wisely in the high desert 10:00 am
- April 24 Lawn Care in Central Oregon 10:00am

Registration info on gocomga.com website

PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Julie Hill & Lisa Nakadate

Each month we feature a plant that can be found at the Hollinshead Water-wise Garden.

Featured Plant - Dwarf Mugo Pine

Pinus mugo
'Pumillo'



Height: 3 - 5'
Spread: 6 - 10'

Why Should I Plant Dwarf Mugo Pine in My Garden?

It is a popular dwarf conifer displaying dark green needles on dense branches.

It is often grown for its beautiful foliage.

A very useful, slow growing evergreen for rock gardens, mass plantings, and in mixed groupings with broadleaf plants.

Makes a great container specimen.
Bird friendly and year-round interest.

Information Sources

North Carolina State Extension: <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/pinus-mugo-var-pumilio/>
Monrovia: <https://www.monrovia.com/plant-catalog/plants/1975/dwarf-mugo-pine/>

IT'S KPOV TIME GARDENING: GET GOOD AT IT

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

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

March 2 Choosing Seeds for your Garden

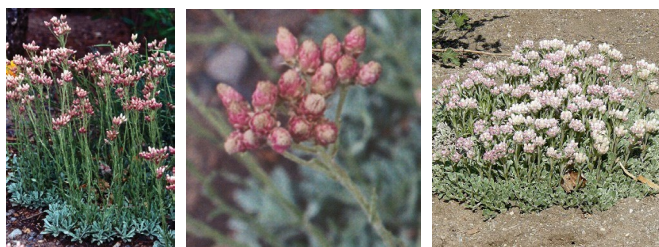
Mini Guides



March



16 Seed Packets are Reference



Plant Profile

Littleleaf Pussytoes

Antennaria microphylla

Plant Profile

Plant Profile

Garden Area	Area 1		
Latin Name	<i>Antennaria microphylla</i>		
Date Planted/Transplanted	5/1/2016	Family	Asteraceae
Common Name 1	Littleleaf Pussytoes	Common Name 2	Rosy Pussytoes
Noteworthy Characteristics	An attractive groundcover with silvery-gray foliage and tiny flowers. Can be used between paving stones and in rock gardens.		
Plant Type	Herbaceous Plant, Perennial	Growth Rate	Slow growing
Mature Height	2-12"	Mature Spread	8-10"
Oregon Native	Yes	Western State Native	Yes
Origins	Western US and Canada		

Flower Characteristics

Color	White	Description	Very small flowers may appear pink at times.
Fragrant	No		
First Bloom Month	May	Last Bloom Month	Jul

Foliage Characteristics

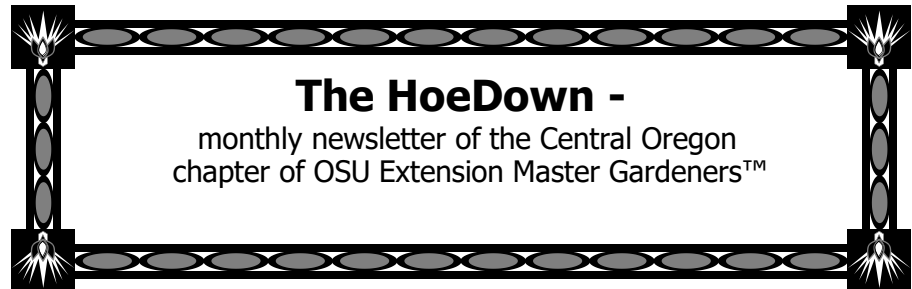
Foliage Color	Gray-White	Foliage Description	Mat forming, silvery-white, hairy spoon-shaped basal leaves with 3-16" flower stalks.
Winter foliage	Deciduous		
Fall Color	No	Fall Color Description	
Winter Interest	No		

This is only a partial example of the profile due to space limitations. If you would like to see the entire profile, contact Pat Kolling at pat.kolling@gmail.com

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