

H O E D O W N

March 2019



Welcome Spring, HA,HA!

Board members 2019

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Table of Contents

President's message	2
Agent's Corner	2
COMGA Calendar	3
Getting to Know You!	3
Project Updates	4
Meet the Trainees	5
Quarterly Meeting	6
OMGA Board Report	6
Spring Gardening Seminar	7
Lowdown from the Board	8

President's message



Spring is (almost) here!

Just thirteen days until the Spring Equinox!

I've been feeling responsible for the snowy & cold Central Oregon weather ever since the Oregon Zoo asked their Hedgehog, **Nancy**, → to predict the beginning of Spring.



Harvey has a rabbit. David has a statue. I've got a Hedgehog. I guess it could be worse – someone could name a disease or a hurricane after me.

No matter what the hedgehogs or groundhogs (or weather forecasters) say, Spring will be here soon and our gardens will be green, growing and full of new life. Before we know it, Vicky Kemp will be in the OSU greenhouse, surrounded by bags of Black Gold, Amy Jo will be directing American Selection seedlings to grow, and Northwest Crossing will once again be a garden of prairie schooners.



To fill the coming weeks while we wait for the white to recede and the green to finally spring up (see what I did there?), we can sign up for classes at the Spring Gardening Seminar (www.gocomga.com/spring-seminar), apply for a bed at the NW Crossing Community Garden (name, address, phone number to gocomga@gmail.com), or the Hollinshead Community Garden (name, address, phone number to comga2014@gmail.com). Or visit the OSU Demonstration Garden in Redmond at the Extension Service Office to see what tasks may need to be done once the

Great Thaw finally arrives.

If your volunteer calendar is empty, it may also be a good time to look for a friendly, fascinating, fulfilling Master Gardener project to sign on to. There will be plenty of opportunities to work at the Redmond Demo Gardens, the Hollinshead Waterwise Gardens, Plant Sale Day, and any of the many classes the Central Oregon Master Gardeners offer in the community. It's as easy as going to our website www.gocomga.com and clicking on the COMGA Members tab (password: gr8gardens). You'll see two tabs on the orange bar that will help you decide where to put your energy and who to contact: Projects and Volunteers Needed.

Not that I'm especially biased, but our Community Gardens are a great place to 'work' – as a Mentor, you can garden, meet other dedicated gardeners, teach a class, work with kids in the gardens, and learn as you help others solve their gardening issues. The added

Agent's Corner



Hi All,

I am anxiously waiting for the snow to stop, ready for spring! We are half way through the training with two classes to make up because of the weather. Veteran MGs should have all of their paperwork turned in by now for recertification. I am once again working on the electronic contact client form website with hopes that it will be ready to go this year.

Thanks to all of the volunteers that helped with the groundbreaking ceremony, it was a very nice event! Hard to believe that next year at this time we should have a second extension office building on site.



Looking forward to the rest of training and the start of all our fun

Hello fellow gardeners,

I would like to thank COMGA for sponsoring the trainee welcome lunch.

I would also like to thank everyone in the membership committee for helping with the trainee lunch. Kathy Geary for mentoring and guiding this whole process. Vicky Minor, Kat Kendall, Karen Finney, and Mimi Thomas offered valued suggestions and support.

Thanks also to the veterans and trainees who brought their delicious contributions and pleasant company. See you all at next years trainee luncheon!

Jolene Dodge
Membership chairman

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

President's message continued

bonus? You can work with Gary Weber (gweber25@gmail.com), the NW Crossing Community Garden Project Coordinator, or me, Nancy Glick (nglick@bendcable.com), the Hollinshead Community Garden Project Coordinator.

We're having a Garden Orientation Meeting at the East Bend Library on March 30th at 11am for everyone interested in working at one of the Gardens. I hope you can make it!

Does this dress make me look fat?

COMGA Calendar

for contact persons go to gocomga.com

March

- 1 MG training, Insects, 9-1
- 1 MG training, Insects, 1-4
- 2 OMGA board meeting, Marion County
- 5 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Plan a Veggie Garden
- 7 Spring Seminar planning meeting, 11am
- 7 Board meeting, OSU Extension Office, Redmond, 1pm
- 7 Plant Sale meeting, 3pm
- 8 MG training, Vegetable Gardening, Adv. Training, 9-4
- 9 OSU Living On A Few Acres Conference
- 12 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Raised Beds
- 19 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Cloches & Season Extenders
- 21 Vegetable Gardening class, Redmond
- 22 MG training, Pesticide Safety, Adv. Training, 9-12
- 22 MG training, Weeds, Adv. Training, 1-4
- 26 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Community Classes
- 30 Vegetable Gardening class, Bend

April

- 2 OSU Demo Garden workday, Extension Office, 9am
- 2 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Gardening on the Cheap
- 3 Community Class: Hands-On Pruning & Maintenance Water Wise Plants, 1-3pm
- 4 Spring Seminar meeting, 11am
- 4 Board meeting, OSU Extension Office, Redmond, 1pm
- 4 Plant Sale meeting, 3pm
- 5 OSU MG training, Pruning, 9-12
- 5 OSU MG training, Common Damage to Landscape Plants, 1-4pm
- 5 Hollinshead Vegetable Garden Lottery closes, 5pm
- 9 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Spring Seminar
- 11 Waterwise Education Garden workday, 9am
- 13 Hollinshead Vegetable Garden Plot Selection, 2pm
- 13 Vegetable Gardening class, Prineville
- 13 Spring Seminar Registration Deadline, 5pm
- 15 NW Crossing Community Garden Lottery ends, 12-1am
- 15 Vegetable Gardening class, Sisters
- 16 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 16 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Perennial Weeds
- 17 NW Crossing Community Garden Bed Assignment & GA meeting, 9am
- 18 Class: Seed Starting, Plant Sale, OSU Extension Office, 10am
- 20 Spring Gardening Seminar, 9am—4pm, Deschutes County Fairgrounds
- 23 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Annual Weeds
- 25 Waterwise Education Garden workday, 9am
- 25 Hollinshead Community Garden workday, 10:30am
- 27 Hollinshead Community Garden opening, 9am
- 27 NW Crossing Community Garden opening, 9am
- 30 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Vertical Vegetable Gardening

May

- 2 Board meeting, OSU Extension Office, Redmond, 1pm
- 2 COBA Home & Garden Show set up, 3-4:30pm
- 2 Plant Sale meeting, 3-4pm
- 3 COBA Home & Garden Show, 10am—5pm
- 4 NW Crossing Community Garden orientation, 9am-12pm
- 4 COBA Home & Garden Show, 10am—5pm
- 7 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 7 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:39am, IPM Part I
- 9 Waterwise Education Garden workday, 9am
- 11 Hollinshead class, Seed & Plant Selection for Planning & Planting Success

- 14 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Spider Mites
- 15 Hollinshead class, Garden Structures, 6pm
- 16 Community class, Transplanting Seedlings, 10am
- 21 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 21 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Dethatch & Aerate Your Lawn
- 23 Waterwise Education Garden workday, 9am
- 23 Hollinshead Community garden meeting, 10:30am
- 25 Hollinshead class, Weed & Insect Control in the Organic Garden, 10am
- 28 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Plant Sale & Demonstrations
- 29 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 31 Plant Sale planning meeting, 3pm

Getting to Know You!

By Jolene Dodge

Carolyn Tate joined the Deschutes County branch of the Master Gardener program last year.

She has lived in 38 cities in 4 countries and settled in Bend in 2017. Carolyn is a Pre-Columbian art historian and has had 2 books published.

Reconsidering Olmec Visual Culture: The Unborn, Women, and Creation is an award-winning book that provides an intriguing glimpse into

Mesoamerica's first creation narrative and the predominance of women and gestational beings in early Mesoamerican culture. The creation narrative is from before there was written language, so it is told in sculpture. Carolyn's earlier book, *Yaxchilan: The Design of a Maya Ceremonial City*, is an exploration and discovery of Yaxchilan, an ancient Maya city. Yaxchilan is on the Usumacinta river on the border of Mexico and Guatemala. There are no roads to access the city, so Carolyn and her team got to travel in dugout canoes. Because there are no modern amenities, they slept in hammocks strung between trees for weeks at a time. She said there are many insects, some of which haven't yet been classified.

Carolyn was the curator of Pre-Columbian art at the Dallas Museum of Art. While at the museum Carolyn got to practice her love of exhibition design and organization. She believes this relates to landscape design which she also enjoys. Carolyn taught at Texas Tech University in Lubbock Texas for 23 years. The climate and elevation in Lubbock are similar to Bend though they get a little more rain. While in Lubbock she had a native plant garden. While a lot of the native plants are similar to those in central Oregon, Carolyn is enjoying learning about the differences.



Project updates

Community Gardens By Nancy Glick/Gary Weber

Planning has begun for our 2019 season and we're gearing up for Opening Day at both Bend Community Gardens, Hollinshead and Northwest Crossing, on Saturday, April 27th! As a Master Gardener, you can help garden renters grow wonderful vegetables and flowers in our organic gardens. We always appreciate volunteers who will help organize the summer events and classes we hold in the Community Gardens, as well as interact with and advise our gardeners.



There will be a two-hour Orientation Meeting at 11am on Saturday March 30th at the East Bend Public Library. We'll provide information about the gardens managed by the OSU Master Gardeners and outline the tasks needed of our volunteers. At the meeting, you'll learn when and where the monthly meetings will be held and what will be expected of you as a Community Garden volunteer.

At Hollinshead, we need a Garden Mentor and a few Garden Assistants (no community garden experience necessary) to join us this year. If you would like more information about our enthusiastic and dedicated team, contact the Project Coordinator, Nancy Glick: nglick@bendcable.com 541-330-6260. I hope to see you on March 30th at the Orientation.

At Northwest Crossing, we also need 2 or 3 additional Garden Mentors and a few more Garden Assistants for our 2019 season. NWX offers the volunteer an opportunity to learn about raised bed gardening in a location that represents the tough challenges facing the gardener in our High Desert environment. Please join us and hone your skills! Gary Weber, gweber25@gmail.com 605-351-2096.



IT'S KPOV TIME GARDENING: GET GOOD AT IT

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

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

March 5 Plan a Veggie Garden

March 12 Raised Beds

March 19 Cloches & Season Extenders

March 26 Community Classes

Plant Sale

Due to the outstanding response all of the positions for seeding and transplanting have been filled.

There are a few positions left for Plant Sale Day & on the day before the sale stockpiling supplies.

Be sure to let me know if you need to cancel an assignment that you are scheduled for so I can request a replacement volunteer.

If you want to be on a backup list for cancellations or additional tasks that come up, let me know and I can send out a replacement/refill request as needed.

Thank you all in advance of your volunteering!

Vicky Kemp, COMGA Plant Sale Coordinator



OSU Extension Demo Garden by Liz Douville

The OSU Redmond Demo Garden volunteers will begin the season on Tuesday April 2 with a Meet & Greet in the Extension Conference room beginning at 9 am. Volunteers meet the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 9 am - noon. The time commitment is according to the volunteer's personal schedule. If you can't come until 10 am, or have to leave at 11:30, that is fine. Volunteers bring their own garden tools-- kneeling pad, gloves, water bottle, sun screen, trowel, hand pruners, bucket if you have one--any hand tool that you use in your own garden. The responsibilities include the general maintenance of existing perennials, trees and shrubs, planting and care of the annual flower and vegetable gardens, plus vegetable harvest and delivery to community agencies in the fall. Volunteering in the garden is a great learning opportunity, especially if we can find an insect for Toni to identify or a weed that is new to the garden. This year we have the added excitement of watching the construction of the new OSU Extension addition. Hope to see you on April 2.



Vicky Kemp & Liz Douville

Water-wise Education Garden

Today it looks like spring will never come! However, the sun is out and we are hopeful that this too will pass. This picture of the Water-wise garden was taken on Tuesday, March 5. The snow does serve as insulation for all of the plants, and as the snow melts, we'll be able to assess any damage that has been done. Spring clean-up will be interesting and will be scheduled as the weather allows. We are looking forward to a good year and no more snow!



It is such earthy work: The rich smell of living soil, the feel of it sifting through the fingers, the strength of it when filled with roots, the promise of it when open for planting.

Monica Moran Brandies

Meet the Trainees

Judy Shearer worked for the Army Corps of Engineers for more than 25 years, where she worked to control invasive plants. In the fight against invasive plants she utilized plant pathogens and restoration biology to repair damage caused by invasive plants. Judy was a Master Gardener in Mississippi many years ago where she shared her knowledge to contribute to the good of her community. She recently moved to Oregon where she hopes to continue sharing her knowledge in botany, plant pathology, and invasive species biology. Judy is enjoying learning how to garden in our special ecoregion. She has been gardening for as long as she can remember, as her parents were avid gardeners. Judy also enjoys bird watching and hiking. Her favorite quote is "Do all you can with what you have in the time you have in the place you are." Nkosi Johnson.



FRED MEYER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM DONATES TO COMGA

COMGA enrolled in the Fred Meyer Community Rewards program during the last quarter of 2018. In just three months, and with only 6 reward cards linked to the program, COMGA earned \$15.94.

COMGA encourages you to link your Fred Meyer reward card to COMGA. It's easy to do and it does not subtract from the quarterly rebate you will receive from Fred Meyer for your grocery purchases.

Follow the link below to learn more and to enroll. Search for Central Oregon Master Gardener Association or ID695.

<https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4>



Enter the lottery to 'win' a Community Garden space! It's not too late!

To be a gardener at Northwest Crossing's Community Garden, email gocomga@gmail.com with your name, address, email and phone number. The lottery drawing will be held on April 15th and you will be notified soon after if you have 'won' a raised bed. The beds are rented for \$30 per year. More information can be found at gocomga.com/gardening-news.

To be a gardener at Hollinshead Community Garden, email comga2014@gmail.com with your name, address, email and phone number. The lottery drawing will be held on April 5th at 5pm and you will be notified soon after if you have 'won' a plot. Plots rent for \$30 and \$40 per year. More information can be found at gocomga.com/gardening-news.

COMGA Quarterly Meeting

February 16, 2019 Kathy Geary's Home – Bend

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Glick (President), Kathy Geary (VP-MG Education), Tim Schindele (Treasurer), Diana Hardin (Alternate State Representative), Rocky Bessette (Communications Liaison), Jolene Dodge (Membership Coordinator) Pat Kolling, Chris Miao, Janet Dart (trainee), Kirsten Hinton (trainee), Ruth Mulligan, Marilyn Clark, Liz Anderson, Jennifer Gold, T.K. O'Connor (trainee), Shirley Jaynes, Evelyn Cox, Jeanine Johnson, Beckie Moran, Evelyn Jenkins, Phil Paterno, Karen Finney, Patricia Moreland, Vicky Kemp and Karen Conway.

The meeting started at 11:10 AM and adjourned at 1:10 PM, with 25 members (including 3 trainees) attending as noted above. Kathy Geary took the notes, in Vickie Minor's absence. Nancy Glick thanked members for coming to the general meeting and introduced the three trainees in attendance. Nancy gave an overview of the 2019 year and introduced Kathy Geary.

Kathy outlined how the OSU Webinar Series functions for Master Gardeners to earn advanced training credits. After a brief Q&A and a ten-minute break, the members watched the previously recorded webinar: "The Weird and Wonderful World of Plant Galls," after which the members engaged in another short Q&A.

Trainee Janet Dart offered to write a "how to" for the membership to follow when signing up for a live webinar or viewing a previously recorded segment. Nancy and Kathy accepted Janet's offer.

Members attending earned 1 hour of volunteer time for the general meeting and 1 hour of advanced training (per the OSU Master Gardener Webinar Series protocol).

Kathy Geary

For seeds that can be started indoors, consult a seed starting chart or seed packet to find out how many weeks before the last predicted spring frost to sow them.

Also, check to find out whether the seeds need special treatment, such as presoaking, scarification (nicking the seed coat), or stratification (chilling).



The Old Farmer's Almanac

First Quarter Report to OMGA Board of Directors

Winter 2019

For Central Oregon Master Gardeners, 2019 got off to a flying start with our first Board meeting on January 3rd. New and continuing Board members are: President, Nancy Glick, Vice Presidents, JoAnne Abbott, and Kathy Geary, Secretary, Vickie Minor, Treasurer, Tim Schindele, State Rep, Gary Weber, Alternate State Rep, Diana Hardin, Historian, Jan Even, Membership Coordinator, Jolene Dodge, and Communication Liaison, Rocky Bessette. Master Gardener training classes began January 11th with botany and composting sections. Our extension office in Redmond is getting some additional space with new construction. A bid was awarded and the tentative start date is February 2019. The new building will connect with the existing building via a breezeway and the plans include classroom space that will accommodate up to 80 people as well as a second certified kitchen.

The 2019 Plant Sale will be June 1, 2019 outside the OSU Extension Service Office in Redmond offering for sale approximately 1,700 transplants consisting mainly of annual vegetables, fruits and a few herbs and flowers. Varieties are specifically selected to be suitable for Central Oregon growing conditions. There will also be approximately 10 vendors selling garden related items or other items, and also a used gardening book sale, Mobile Plant Clinic Booth, Insect ID and Management Booth. Last year we had 525 customers attend our event.

The Spring Gardening Seminar is well on its way. There are 16 classes, 4 sessions with 4 classes in each session. The seminar will be held on April 20, 2019 at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo. Classes are: Young Tree Care, Growing Gorgeous Succulents, Sprinkler Systems, Basics of Greenhouse Management, Turfgrass, Native Bees & Other Pollinators, Culinary Alliums Plus, Gardening Basics, Weeds, Miniature Garden Landscapes, Drying Your Harvest, Vegetable Gardening, Hypertufa Basics, Growing Dahlias, Straw Bale Gardening, Landscape Considerations & Strategies When Purchasing a New Home. Nine of these classes are approved for advanced credit. The registration packet will be online at www.gocomga.com in the first part of March.

The Northwest Crossing Community Garden in Bend opened the application process for its 51 raised garden beds on February 1. Application deadline is April 15 and opening day is scheduled for April 27, the same as the Hollinshead Community Garden. We'll be seeking veteran volunteers and trainee volunteers at our Master Gardener Training Class Project Fair on February 22. We have 4 returning veterans two of whom were trainees last year. A focus for this year's NWX garden will be to advise and assist gardeners to make upgrades to their bed and cloche structures to help prevent invasion of chipmunks and golden mantle ground squirrels. These rodents' large numbers have been a serious pest problem in our 4 year old location, causing widespread damage and discouraging many of the gardeners. Mentors and Trainees will be well versed in cloche construction and will be on hand to help gardeners upgrade their beds. Our chapter also works cooperatively with Bend Park and Recreation Department, who as owners of the garden provide maintenance support and wildlife management expertise. Project leaders from both gardens are working

Continued on page 7

First Quarter report to OMGA Board...continued

together to create well documented and uniform garden operating procedures. These will help bring consistency and continuity from year to year and to future community garden additions.

The new Community Ed Committee will be made up of volunteer COMGA members who have been identified as showing strength and ability to teach classes for various COMGA and OSU Extension educational opportunities. This committee will be charged with the goal to have all our annual community education venues have consistent topics throughout our tri-county area. This will mean coordinating between (but not limited to), KPOV, NWXCG, Hollinshead Community Garden, Hollinshead Waterwise Garden, Redmond Demonstration Garden, Home & Garden Show, the COMGA blog, Chapter social media accounts, and even our Spring Seminar. We hope that with this direction and guidance, COMGA, will have updated and common threads for educational topics at any given time.

The "Speakers Bureau" will fall under the auspices of the Community Ed Committee. It is filled with those veteran COMGA members and trainees, who have shown an interest in presenting classes as an instructor or as a Teachers Assistant (TA). During our Chapter registration process, veteran MG's indicate what programs they are interested in. Those indicating their interest in Community Ed (whether during registration or Project Fair) will be contacted to see if they'd like to join the Speakers Bureau. The details aren't complete, but there will be minimum standards for participation in the Speakers Bureau (possibly by teaching or TA'ing at least once during the growing season). Once the Community Education Committee ok's a topic, the Speakers Bureau will be asked for volunteers to teach and TA the class.

The COMGA website's blog is live again, with postings twice a month by Liz Douville who is a long time Master Gardener and who authors a regular gardening column in the Bend Bulletin daily newspaper.

The KPOV 4-minute weekly gardening segment will have been on-air and on the gocomga.com website (transcripts and audio) for six years in May. Since September 2018, these broadcasts are available as podcasts at - <http://kpv.org/gardening-get-good-at-itpodcast>. 2019

Membership Report. As of February 17, 2019

Paid members 63
Associate members 4
Trainees 37

It is anticipated a few additional MG's will become members before the end of the year. Respectfully submitted by,

Gary Weber
COMGA State Representative



Spring Gardening Seminar

**Saturday,
April 20, 2019**

**Deschutes Co.
Fairgrounds**



**All day package available for \$48,
includes lunch**

Individual classes are \$10 each

Registration open on March 10

Visit gocomga.com for details

**9 of the 16 classes count for
Recertification credit**

Spring Seminar classes

- Hypertufa Basics—Karen McCarthy
- Introduction to Young Tree Care in C. O.—Brett Huet
- Gardening Basics for the High Desert—Vickie Minor
- Turfgrass Care in C. O.—Clint Mattox
- Basics of Greenhouse Management—Amy Jo Detweiler
- Drying Your Harvest—Diane Tolzman
- Straw Bale Gardening—Jennifer Gold
- DIY: Growing Hardy Succulents in Small Containers—Monica Freudenberg and Simone Kujak
- Miniature Garden Landscapes—Debbie Stumbaugh
- Landscape Considerations & Strategies When Purchasing a New Home—Eileen Obermiller
- Vegetable Gardening in C. O.—Pat Kolling
- Weeds, competitors in your landscape & garden—Toni Stephan
- Growing Dahlias in C. O.—Jim Erickson
- Native Bees & Other Pollinators—Gail Langellotto
- Sprinkler System by Design—Gary English
- Culinary Alliums Plus—Pat Patterson

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

March 7, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Glick (President), JoAnne Abbott (VP-Community Education), Kathy Geary (VP-MG Education), Vickie Minor (Secretary), Tim Schindele (Treasurer), Gary Weber (OMGA State Representative), Diana Hardin (Alternate State Representative), Rocky Bessette (Communications Liaison), Jolene Dodge (Membership Coordinator), Richard Ingle (Trainee), Nathalie Smith (Trainee), Liz Anderson, Vicky Kemp, Evie Cox, and Mimi Thomas.

The meeting started at 1:00 PM and adjourned at 2:53 PM. The board discussed the following items:

Approval of minutes of previous meeting (Nancy Glick)

Rocky Bessette moved that the minutes be approved, Kathy Geary seconded and the motion was passed. Vickie read a note from Carrie Sether, thanking COMGA for the gift at recognition night.

OSU Report (Amy Jo Detweiler/Toni Stephan)

Amy Jo and Toni were unable to attend the meeting. Nancy noted that the LOAFA conference is this weekend, March 9. There will be "at the door" registration available.

BOARD REPORTS:

Membership Report (Jolene Dodge)

There are 68 veterans (including four associate members) who have paid dues this year, plus 37 trainees for 105 members. Jolene also has OMGA membership cards and if anyone wants one, contact her. 68 veterans at this point is down from previous years. Tim confirmed that at this same time last year, we had 73 veterans who had paid dues.

Jolene and Kathy Geary reviewed the welcome luncheon for the trainees. People seemed to enjoy themselves but the time for the actual lunch was too short and there are areas where we can improve for next year. We still have more food than we need, given the potluck donations. We also need to work on the schedule so the slide presentations do not cut into the luncheon time and there is more time for "get to know you" exercises. Finally, with the streamlined sign-up process for the projects, the fair did not take as much time as it has taken in previous years. Jolene thanked Kathy and Kat for the help at lunch and Vickie for COMGA slide presentation.

Treasurer's Report (Tim Schindele and Vickie Minor)

Tim sent the financial report to the Board by email. Kathy asked how often requests for reimbursement should be submitted and when. After discussion, Tim would prefer to get reimbursement requests in the same month as the expense was incurred, but at a minimum, project coordinators should make reimbursement requests on a quarterly basis. If a project coordinator has to incur expenses in the current budget year for the next year (e.g., for the plant sale), those expenses should be submitted in the budget year that would cover the purchase. Vickie Kemp noted that she is already doing

this when she buys items at the end of the calendar year for the following year and she submits the reimbursement in January.

Vickie Minor went over the results of the financial review. The review team thought the books and entries were in excellent shape, particularly since the current treasurer is not a bookkeeper. The recommendations are primarily about improving documentation when there are unusual expenses or deposits. This can be accomplished by having the treasurer raise questions at board meetings, which would then be documented in the minutes. The minutes should then be attached to the treasurer's records. One outstanding matter is completing a physical assets inventory (e.g., computers, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc.). We will need to get this done sometime over the summer. It will involve identifying what we own, where it is and if there is an estimated value. Vickie will ask for this to be on the agenda at a future meeting.

Advanced Training (Kathy Geary)

Kathy reported that the next training is a live webinar on grafting tomatoes, scheduled for Friday, March 15 at 11:00 AM at the OSU Extension Office in Redmond. Trainee Janet Dart is writing a "how to" guide on how to access the webinars. Kathy noted that if people want to have their names logged on the website during the webinar, they would have to come early and sign in. However, the only advanced training time is the actual time of the webinar. This is not a quarterly meeting, just an opportunity to get one hour of advanced training. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 15 but at Kathy's request, this is going to be moved to sometime in May.

OMGA Communication (Gary Weber)

Gary confirmed with Seamus Ramirez of OMGA that all OMGA communications are sent to the chapter Presidents, Vice Presidents, State Reps, Alternate State Reps and the horticulture agents. After a brief discussion, Gary will handle the OMGA emails unless Nancy directs otherwise.

ACTION ITEMS:

NW Crossing Community Garden (Gary Weber)

Gary created a "Rodent Protection Protocol" for NWXCG for 2019, to deal with the problem of rodents getting into the garden beds. Gary reinforced his bed last year, it did not look any different from the other cloches, but he was the only gardener who had a successful harvest. His proposal includes training the garden mentors on constructing the necessary cloche upgrades. The mentors would then work with the individual gardeners to reinforce their beds. Discussion followed on the best way to proceed. At the February meeting, COMGA approved up to \$1350 to purchase materials. At this meeting, we agreed that Gary should pre-purchase as many of the materials as possible and have the gardeners purchase what they need directly from us. Currently, Gary has four volunteers to be mentors this season. We discussed the possibility of having master gardener work parties, where mentors from Hollinshead could join the mentors at NWXCG, to assist with getting the cloches upgraded. Discussion will continue on this topic. Fall cleanup was also discussed and we agreed that beds should be cleared down to the frame and all plastic must be removed and stored for the winter. Continued on page 9

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD continued**OSU Webinar Series (Phil Paterno)**

Nancy and Kathy reported on this topic in Phil's absence. Since 2016, the webinars have noticeably improved, with many speakers being graduate students or professors. However, we have learned that there is only enough funding for these through May 2019. The cost for each webinar is \$250 and some of the wealthier chapters may be willing to donate funds to keep the series viable. Diana Hardin has spoken to Eric Bosler (OMGA President) and this topic was tentatively scheduled to be on the Executive Committee meeting agenda. We will discuss this further once we know what OMGA is going to do.

Plant Sale Study Group (Vicky Kemp)

Last fall, Gail Langellotto issued best management guidelines for master gardener plant sales, which restricted sales of plants grown in home gardens. She is now creating a Plant Sale study group. Vicky Kemp has already addressed the issues in the best management guidelines and has volunteered for the study group. She reported that we are in compliance, with the exception of our plant labels, which do not contain complete botanical names. Vicky discussed this with Amy Jo and we will continue our current practice for now. Our chapter raises our plants only in the greenhouse, so we are limited in the number of plants we can sell by the number of plants we can grow in the greenhouse. We discontinued selling homegrown plants after last year so the issues with selling these at plant sales are not a problem for us. Vicky is also working with Kat Kendall on the plant sale, and she may be interested in participating in the study group.

Open Forum

Vickie Minor asked about the supply of the vegetable gardening books. We will need these for the training sessions coming up and the Home and Garden Show so Vickie will ask Carrie about it.

PROJECT STATUS REPORTS:**Community Education (JoAnne Abbott)**

Five classes have been scheduled for growing vegetables: March 21: Redmond, March 23: Madras, March 30: Bend, and April 13: Prineville and Sisters. There will be no vegetable class in Sunriver but we will look at doing something next year that is more appropriate for the area. There are no Spanish language classes scheduled at this time. JoAnne will line up teachers, teaching assistants and verify the supplies. The PowerPoint presentation has been updated by Pat Kolling and the evaluation forms have also been updated for 2019.

JoAnne reported on the Community Education Committee (CEC) and the Speakers Bureau (SB). The intent is to have the CEC act as an umbrella organization, providing input on gardening topics covered during the growing season and when the information will be presented to our gardening community. The plan is to coordinate among all the various communication sources (KPOV, community garden classes, etc.) so all of them are talking about the same or similar topics at the same time. The CEC could also recommend speakers for requests that come through Amy Jo and help monitor the requests to avoid duplicating efforts. The goal is to have consistent information across all venues.

Community and Demo Gardens (Gary Weber and Nancy Glick)

Gary Weber reported that Northwest Crossing Community Garden (NWXCG) and Hollinshead Community Garden (HHG), would use a lottery again this year to assign empty beds. The deadline for applying at HHG is April 5, with the drawing on April 13. The deadline for applying at NWXCG is April 15, with the drawing on April 17. Notices will be sent to the Bulletin, the TV stations, the Source, and any other community calendar source. People who get beds will be notified, as will be the people who end up on a waiting list. To sign up at either garden online, send email to Gary and NWXCG at gocomga@gmail.com, or to Nancy and HHG at gocomga2014@gmail.com. This year, there will be one orientation meeting for the three community gardens, on March 30, 2019 at 11:00 AM at the East Bend Library. There will be a general introduction, followed by separate meetings for each garden. Vicky Kemp will have an orientation for the OSU demo garden during the first workday, scheduled for April 2, 2019.

Plant Sale (Vicky Kemp)

Vicky reported that she has 62 veterans and trainees interested in helping with the plant sale. This is great but she is not sure she will have work for everyone. She has two slots open for trainees to help transplant, as well as a few positions open on plant sale day. Currently, more than 40 people are assigned to various tasks. This year, seed sowing will start April 1. The seeds are sorted and counted, and the tags are ready. Vicky has scheduled 4 days to sow seeds for approximately 1700 plants. She has also scheduled 4 days for transplanting. Before the process starts, we need to get into the greenhouse to replace the overhead watering. We have the supplies; we just need the snow to clear for access. We also have our special permit from the state; signs are made and ready to go.

Spring Seminar (Rocky Bessette)

Rocky reported that the fliers would be given to trainees on Friday 3/8/2019 to pass out in the various communities. The registration form will be online on Saturday, March 9, 2019. Sixteen classes are scheduled, nine of which have been approved for advanced training (denoted by a red heart next to the entry). Two classes have materials fees. If people have things to donate to the silent auction, please get them to Liz Anderson or Karen Conway. Classes are \$10 each or \$48 for the entire day. If people sign up the day of the seminar, classes are \$15 each, with no lunch.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Minor

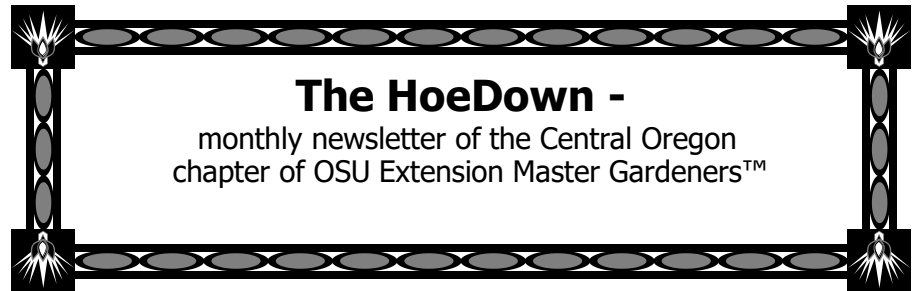
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