

April 2019



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**Board members 2019**

**President:** Nancy Glick, 541-330-6260, nglick@bendcable.com  
**Vice Pres:** JoAnne Abbott, 541-318-8297, jalabbott@hotmail.com  
 Kathy Geary, 541-588-2424, kathy.geary@aol.com  
**Secretary:** Vickie Minor, 541-213-2329, geovick92@yahoo.com  
**Treasurer:** Tim Schindele, 541-526-1940, TJSFishes@bendbroadband.com  
**State Rep:** Gary Weber, 605-351-2096, gweber25@gmail.com

**Alt. State Rep:** Diana Hardin, 503-593-1398, dhardin2003@yahoo.com  
**Historian:** Jan Even, 541-280-5238, even.jan@gmail.com  
**Membership Coordinator:** Jolene Dodge, 541-771-7882, ajdodge@yahoo.com  
**Communication Liaison:** Rocky Bessette, 541 548-0789, rockyb820@gmail.com

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## President's message



"Consider the beautiful swan moving, serenely across the water while the machinery of its powerfully remarkable legs does all the important labor." Confucious' Gardener.

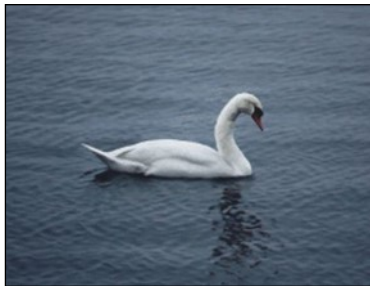
As gardeners, we know what is going on in the garden right now: the bulbs are pushing up their first leaves, the trees are developing the tiny nubs of summer leaves, and the weeds are marshalling their forces to leap to the surface with the first warm, sunny day.

It's the wonderful spectacle of nature, this quiet, almost unseen activity below the soil and inside the branches. We are the beneficiaries of a natural process that cannot be easily halted and goes on almost in spite of human ignorance. We're so lucky to have such a beautiful experience all around us.

Lately I've been thinking that Spring's arrival is much like a beautiful swan moving across on a pond: silently, delicately, appearing unexpectedly but always appreciated. The serenity belies the energetic work the swan has done to arrive within our view.

Volunteers inspire me. Think about it – our Master Gardeners spend unpaid hours of their time learning the best methods to solve problems for complete strangers. They give their free time to talk on the phone to homeowners who need help making their gardens better. They willingly dig in someone else's garden to make it look wonderful so more strangers can learn about the plants. They put tiny seeds in hundreds of cells, tote dozens of watering cans for the seedlings and stand in the sun on a warm June day to sell plants that will grow in many strangers' gardens.

They are the swans of my world – laboring quietly (for the most part) but accomplishing amazing things. The Master Gardeners are making the world a better place by their hard work, one plant at a time.



Thank you and know just how much you're appreciated.

**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](mailto:rockyb820@gmail.com)

## Spring Gardening Seminar

**Saturday,  
April 20, 2019**

**Deschutes Co.  
Fairgrounds**



**Pre-Registration closes  
April 13**

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

**Individual classes are \$10 each**

**Visit [gocomga.com](http://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

## ***COMGA Calendar***

***for contact persons go to [gocomga.com](http://gocomga.com)***

### **April**

- 2 OSU Demo Garden workday, Extension Office, 9am
- 2 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Gardening on the Cheap
- 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
- 12 OSU MG training make up class, Insects, 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
- 5 COBA Home & Garden Show,
- 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

### **June**

- 1 COMGA Plant Sale, 9-noon
- 4 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 4 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Colchicum—Autumn Crocus
- 6 Board meeting, 5:30pm, Kat Kendall's home

- 8 OMGA board meeting, Jackson County
- 8 Hollinshead class, Organic Weed & Insect Control, 10am, Bend
- 11 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, IPM part 2
- 12 Hollinshead class, Waterwise Series, 5:30-7:30pm
- 13 Waterwise Education Garden workday, 10am
- 18 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 18 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Invasion!
- 19 Hollinshead, Waterwise Series, 5:30-7:30pm
- 25 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Garden Pollinators
- 26 Hollinshead, Waterwise Series, 5:30-7:30pm
- 27 Waterwise Education Garden workday, 10am
- 27 Hollinshead Community Garden meeting, 10:30am

## Getting to Know You!

**By Jolene Dodge**



I am ecstatic to introduce you to Sue Szabo. Sue has been married to John for 43 years and they have 2 grown sons. Sue taught kindergarten, retired 8 years ago and Sue

and John moved to Bend. Shortly after moving to Central Oregon, Sue realized that gardening here is a whole new kettle of fish. Sue is working at managing the 15 fruit trees which were on the property Sue and John bought. Sue joined the Master Gardener program to increase her knowledge regarding gardening here and to learn how to manage her newly acquired fruit trees. Sue enjoys working with children and she hopes to help children learn more about growing plants and increase their appreciation for pollinators. Sue's hobbies include gardening, hiking, tutoring children, and music. Sue and John recently started brewing beer. She has been gardening for 20 years, but gardening in the high desert is a new challenge that she has accepted.

Sue's favorite quote is "Do not let the behavior of others destroy your inner peace." Dalai Llama.



# Project updates

## Hollinshead Community Gardens By Nancy Glick

March was a constructive month for the volunteers at Hollinshead. The Lottery opened for hopeful plot renters, putting their name in to 'win' a plot in the Garden. The Mentors contacted the 90 plot renters from 2018 to find out how many vacant plots we would have this summer. Amazingly, there were very few renters from last year who will not be returning this year, so the 60+ lottery applicants will be vying for just 6 open plots. We're grateful that a lottery system was begun since, in the past, optimistic plot renters began lining up at 6am on Opening Day. It would have been difficult to turn away so many determined gardeners!

This year, Opening Day will be Saturday, April 27 when the gardeners, under the guidance of the Master Gardener Mentors and Assistant Mentors, will spend a few hours preparing the common areas for the season and meeting other gardeners in their '9-patch'. We're hopeful for sunshine and warm temperatures but, if history tells us anything, the day may challenge us to keep our fingers warm and our feet out of the cold grass. But we'll be prepared and ready to grow!



## Northwest Crossing Community Garden

The last of the snow drifts are melting away from the garden telling us in no uncertain terms that we'd better be getting ready for Spring. Planning activities for Opening Day on April 27<sup>th</sup> are well underway. As of this writing there are 64 applicants for available garden beds with the lottery drawing scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>. This past Saturday was the annual orientation and training event for potential garden mentors and volunteers. It was well attended. Any veteran and trainee interested in volunteering on Opening Day (April 27) and/or Gardener Orientation Day (May 4) please contact Gary at [Gweber25@gmail.com](mailto:Gweber25@gmail.com).



## ✧ Renee's Garden ✧

Heirloom & Gourmet Vegetable, Flower & Herb Seeds



Set The Table From Your Garden

ONLINE CATALOG

25% of your order will be donated to the Central Oregon Master Gardeners – enter FR663A in the coupon code box at checkout



## OSU Extension Demo Garden

Through the combined efforts of 15 Master Gardeners and trainees, working in the spring drizzle, the first dent was made in the OSU Demo garden clean-up. It only took 2 days after the base of many perennials was cleared for the plants to show significant signs of growth.



The next workday is Tues. April 16. A reminder regarding the tools and equipment in the shed: take note of the space you took the article from and PLEASE return it to the same spot

Many thanks to those who suffered wet knees, wet socks and frizzled hair on Tues.!

See you on the 16th.  
Vicky Kemp & Liz Douville




## Water-wise Education Garden

Spring is coming, and Master Gardener volunteers at HWG will be beginning the first spring clean-up of 2019 on April 11 at 9:00. Cutting back perennials and grasses, pruning, raking and weeding will be completed. We will also be assessing the garden after a cold snowy February and March and identify any issues that need to be addressed to prepare the garden for the season.

We have many plans for continuing to make this demonstration garden a great teaching garden, for both Master Gardeners and for the public. Plant profiles have been completed on each of the plants in the garden, and we will be developing guidelines that will address pruning needs of the various shrubs in the garden. Master Gardeners will volunteer to become "plant experts" in a particular plant type, such as conifers, ornamental shrubs and perennials. They will then assist in identifying plant problems and addressing them early with other members of the HWG team. This will help to build the community education goals for the garden.

Regular workdays for the HWG are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Come join us at the garden!

Pat Kolling and Chris Miao



People who eat from their own garden have great taste.

### 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>

## Meet the Trainees

Patricia Steele



Patricia joined the Master Gardener program to learn to be a better gardener and to meet like-minded people. She has been thinking about taking the course for a long time and has finally joined us. Patricia has lived in Central Oregon since 1974 and has some practical gardening and historical knowledge of the area. She has gardened most of her life, has grown vegetables, flowers, and maintained a yard in C.O. for several years. Patricia is an award-winning baker; she won the best pie award at the Crook County fair last year. Along with gardening and baking, she enjoys riding her 2 horses.

## OMGA 1st Quarter Meeting 2019

Following are excerpts taken from the minutes of the 1st Quarter OMGA Leadership Forum and Board of Directors meetings held March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019 and hosted by the Marion County Master Gardeners at the Marion County Extension office in Salem. Central Oregon State Reps were unable to attend the meeting due to adverse weather.

### OMGA Treasurer's Report – Patrice Sipos, Treasurer

Eric Bosler, President, stated that the IRS has no guidelines on how much a non-profit must hold in reserve. The State of Oregon suggests a minimum of 40% of its operating budget. Presently, the money spent by OMGA in a financial year has been supported by dues and proceeds from the Silent Auction at Mini-College. Since Mini-College will not be held in 2019, the budget is based on funds held in reserve and from dues. Benefits provided by OMGA to the Chapters for example are purchase of the *PNW Pest Management Handbooks* and funding the various grants programs. OMGA also provides all federal tax reporting for Chapters. Patrice will make the IRS 990 form available to Chapters when completed. Members interested in serving on the annual audit committee should notify Eric. The *Treasurer's Handbook* outlines instructions for performing an audit. Chapters should keep a copy on hand for reference.

Continued on page 6



**Marcia Sherry is the Newsletter Editor for the Gardener's Pen.** The next issue will be sent out the first week of April. The topic is "Gardening Solutions", and the deadline for articles was March 23. Marcia wants articles, along with photos, about special projects. These can be emailed to [gardenerspennewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:gardenerspennewsletter@gmail.com).

**OMGA Board of Directors Executive Committee Retreat** was held in December at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest in Clackamas County, near Oregon City.

The plan for the 2019 Mini-College originally considered a different format that would include nationally known keynote speakers and workshops. The concern was that there was no one willing to serve in the position of First Vice President, whose duties were to coordinate the event. Because of this, after much discussion at the retreat, it was decided to postpone the event for 2019. In 2019 OMGA officers plan to visit Chapters to recruit a coordinator who would work with an event planner for the 2020 Mini-College. The position description for the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President has been rewritten to reduce workload. The next retreat is scheduled for December 2 and 3, 2019, at Hopkins Demonstration Forest and all members of OMGA are invited.

**Leadership Forums – Chris Rusch, President-elect** is organizing the Leadership Forums this year.

Yesterday's forum was a presentation by Gilda Montenegro-Fix, speaking about Cultural Agility. She spoke about diversity, inclusion and equity, and how OMGA could become more inclusive as an organization. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Leadership Forum topic is, "Being Fire Wise", and will focus on what Master Gardeners can do to promote fire wise gardening. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Leadership Forum is planned to help Treasurers and will be open to all members who have questions about Chapters and OMGA. The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter topic will be related to grants. Attendance to Leadership Forums can count towards educational hours.

**State Program Coordinator – Gail Langellotto**

The most challenging issue has been staffing, having had 13 turnovers during the last year. Clatsop County for example has had 8 coordinators in 10 years. The agent in Lane County has resigned and a similar position will become available. The Best Practices for Plant Sales document has been received better than expected. Most

Chapters and members understand that soil is how invasive species are spread and therefore are working to use only clean soils in plant sales. Cost and time are the two biggest impediments to attracting additional Master Gardeners to the program. Pay back hours vary from 40 (Clatsop) to 70 (Jackson). To make the program more inclusive, it will need to focus on less time and more fun for the members.

**Extension Educator Grant 2018 Recap – Eric Bosler**

In 2018, \$4,000 was available for the Extension Educator grants and \$2,900 was distributed to 7 Chapters. This is the largest line item in the OMGA budget and directly supports our member Chapters. Extension personnel in cooperation with the Chapter request the grant. The following Chapters have received grants: Columbia for signs for its garden, Curry County for new soil testing equipment for water quality, Gail Langellotto for the Bee

Identification Project, Klamath County for a laptop computer, Lane County for soil testing equipment, Multnomah County to help build a garden pavilion, and Tillamook County for textbooks for students in the Oregon Youth Authority Horticultural Training Program.

**OMGA Committee Chairs**

Jeanine Johnson (Central Oregon) is the Extension Educator Grant Chair for 2019. Barb Casteel, Chair for Karl Carlson grants, said that these are awarded for up to \$250 and are for new projects. Chris Rusch (Douglas) is Chair of the Search for Excellence award program. Application forms for all grants can be found on the OMGA website. **May 15 is the deadline** for all applications. Members of the Executive Committee will visit Chapters to present these awards. Also included will be longevity awards and Chapter award winners.

Gail Langellotto asked that all Chapters have their award winners for Master Gardener of the Year and Behind the Scenes to her by May 15.

<https://omga.org/programs-and-awards/>

**OMGA Chapter Survey 2019**

Response to the survey sent by the President earlier in the year was 23%.

Examples of responses:

Have you participated in a leadership role in your Chapter? Yes 43%, no, 46%.

My Chapter has participated in Search for Excellence. Yes 26%, no 2%, don't know 73%.

My Chapter has participated in the Karl Carlson Fund Award. Yes 12 %, no 3%, don't know 85%.

My Chapter has participated in the Jan McNeilan Quarterly Meeting Grant. Yes 11%, no 1%, don't know 88%.

Does OMGA do a sufficient job of promoting its Awards and Programs? Yes 29%, no 48%.

Responses to a question, "Give us more information about your experience regarding Mini-College".

Have you ever attended a Mini-College? 37% of respondents said yes, 63 % no.

How important is Mini-College to you? Most respondents answered with a 3, on a 1 to 5 scale, 5 being most important.

To the question of how you would like to receive your communication in order of preference, the response was, 1 email, 2 newsletters, 3 websites, 4 meeting announcements, and 5 Facebook.

OSU Extension has produced a series of Educational Webinars. Have you taken one? 50% of respondents answered yes, 50% no.

There is no longer funding for the Educational Webinars production costs and in order to continue making them available, financial support needs to be found. The OMGA Executive Committee voted to grant \$500 to the program.

Gary Weber, OMGA State Representative

## Spring is the time to turn attention to blackberries and raspberries

No matter how muddy the spring, it's time to slip on your boots and gloves and take care of blackberries and raspberries.

Established red raspberries, including Meeker, Cascade Delight and Vintage; black raspberries such as Jewel; and blackberries like Marion, Boysen, Columbia Star, Navaho, and Triple Crown, need some care in early spring in order to stay healthy and productive.

These caneberries should be fertilized starting in early spring when new growth begins, said Bernadine Strik, berry crops professor with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

For raspberries, apply 1 ounce of actual nitrogen (N) per plant. For blackberries, apply 2 ounces. Split the total amount of nitrogen into thirds, applying the first in early April, the second portion in late May, and the last portion in mid- to late June.

To calculate the amount of fertilizer to use, divide the recommended amount of actual nitrogen needed by the percent nitrogen in the product, which is shown as the first number on the front of the bag. For example, in raspberries if you are using a granular fertilizer such as 16-16-16 (16 percent nitrogen), then you would divide 2 by .16 to get 6.25 ounces of fertilizer. So, you'll need to use about 6 ounces of product (2 ounces of fertilizer per application); double this for blackberries.

"It's best to spread the fertilizer evenly around the plant over the surface of the soil in the row," Strik said. "I suggest an area about 2½ to 3 feet wide by 3 feet long for raspberries. For blackberries go 5 feet long."

Keep the area where berries are growing free of weeds by removing them by hand. You can use a layer of sawdust or bark mulch to help reduce germination of weed seeds. Don't apply more than about 2 inches deep.

In all these caneberries, the plants are perennial with long-lived roots and crowns (base of plant), but the canes are biennial. They are called primocanes in their first year of growth. Then after they overwinter, they become floricanes. They flower, fruit and then die.

Foliage on the new primocanes should be a healthy green color. A pale green or yellow color may indicate nitrogen deficiency, Strik said. If the plants seem to lack vigor, apply a little more nitrogen fertilizer.

Pruning caneberries can be confusing because different categories of raspberries and blackberries have separate pruning requirements. Strik lays it out like this:

Erect and semi-erect blackberries (as well as black raspberries), need summer and winter pruning to improve yield and fruit size. Erect blackberries form stiff, upright branches that don't need much trellising. Semi-erect cultivars are vigorous and need sturdy supports. They should be pruned during the growing season so that they form lateral branches. Cut the new primocanes to about 3 feet high in black raspberries and erect blackberries and 5 feet in semi-erect blackberries. Now is the time to prune those lateral branches to 18 to 24 inches long for black raspberries and erect blackberries or up to 4 feet long for semi-erect varieties.

For trailing blackberries, the new primocanes should not be pruned in summer. After harvest, floricanes die and should be cut to the ground and removed from the trellis in late August. The new primocanes should be trellised in August or late winter after severe cold temperatures have passed. Wrap these around a two-wire trellis.

Summer-bearing red or yellow raspberries do not need to be pruned in summer. Take out the dead floricanes after fruiting in late summer. From January through early March, when plants are dormant, remove all the weak, broken and diseased primocanes to crown or soil level. If your plants are grown in a hedgerow, narrow the row to about 6 to 12 inches wide. You can shorten canes to about 5½- to 6-foot tall to make training and picking easier. Tie these canes to the trellis wires.

Everbearing (or primocane-fruiting) red and yellow raspberries will produce fruit at the tips of the new primocanes in late summer through fall and can produce an early summer crop on the base of the floricanes. In winter, to prune for two crops a year, remove all of the primocane tips that fruited last year. The base of these canes will fruit in June or July, when they are floricanes, which should be removed when they die after harvest in July. The late-summer/fall crop will be produced on the new primocanes that grow next season. Keep the hedgerow of primocane-fruiting raspberries to about 12 inches wide during the growing season.

To prune everbearing raspberries to produce in late summer to early fall, cut all canes to ground level in late February or early March when plants are dormant. When the new canes emerge, keep the row width to 12 inches apart.

This spring is a good time to look for new, improved varieties and established favorites in your local nursery or mail-order catalog. Most nurseries will order plants if they don't carry the one you want. Strik recommends:

Trailing blackberries: New thornless Columbia Star and old favorites Marion and Boysen.

Erect, late-season thornless blackberries: Navaho

Semi-erect, last-season blackberries: Triple Crown.

Summer-bearing red raspberries: new Cascade Delight and Chemainus.

Yellow raspberries: new Cascade Gold and older favorite Meeker.

Everbearing (also called primocane-fruiting) raspberries: Vintage is a new red; Anne is the best yellow.

Black raspberries: Jewel

For more information about growing caneberries, check out these Extension publications: Growing Blackberries in Your Home Garden, Growing Raspberries in Your Home Garden, Blackberry Cultivars for Oregon and Raspberry Cultivars for the Pacific Northwest.

Story Source

Bernadine Strik



## LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

April 4, 2019

Redmond – OSU Extension Office

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Nancy Glick (President), Kathy Geary (VP-MG Education), Vickie Minor (Secretary), Tim Schindele (Treasurer), Jan Even (Historian), Gary Weber (OMGA State Representative), Diana Hardin (Alternate State Representative), Rocky Bessette (Communications Liaison), Liz Douville, Nathalie Smith (trainee), Carroll Minium (trainee), Vicky Kemp, Liz Anderson, Toni Stephan and Karen Finney.

The meeting started at 1:00 PM and adjourned at 3:03 PM. The board discussed the following items:

Approval of minutes of previous meeting (Nancy Glick)

Tim Schindele moved to approve the March minutes, Kathy Geary seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

**OSU Report** (Amy Jo Detweiler/Toni Stephan)

Amy Jo sent an email about the final two classes for MG training, which will be at the Graduate Center. Only the pruning class is approved for advanced education.

### BOARD REPORTS:

**Membership Report** (Jolene Dodge)

Nancy reported in Jolene's absence. There are 71 veterans and 37 trainee members. Toni reported there are at least four transfers coming in.

**Treasurer's Report** (Tim Schindele)

Tim sent the report to the board and all project coordinators. There were no questions or comments about the budget.

**Advanced Training** (Kathy Geary)

Kathy reported that the quarterly meeting featured a recorded webinar so people could see how webinars work. On March 15, 2019, there was a live webinar viewing at the Redmond Extension Office on "Demystifying Grafted Tomatoes: The Why & How for Gardeners." 12 people (including 3 trainees) attended from all over the region. For those who could not attend, the webinar is archived, can still be viewed, and is a good option for advanced training hours. The next live webinar is scheduled for April 30, 2019 at 11:00 AM, on "Adapting Dry Farming Techniques to Vegetable Gardens." The second general membership meeting is tentatively set for Saturday, June 29, 2019, at Kathy Geary's house, but Kathy will confirm. The current plan is to do a program on Emergency Preparedness and Fire Safe Landscapes. Kathy will provide a status report at the May meeting.

**OMGA Rep Report** (Gary Weber)

Gary and Diana were unable to attend the quarterly meeting because of the weather. However, they were able to provide a report based on the OMGA minutes. For a full version of the quarterly OMGA Report, see the Hoedown. The key item discussed at this meeting was the status of the webinars, which are a popular advanced

education option for the Master Gardeners. It costs \$250 to produce and air one webinar, and money is running out. Gary reported that OMGA agreed to grant \$500 to help fund the webinar program, but it is not clear if this is just a one-time donation. Diana Hardin made a motion that COMGA contribute \$250 to support the webinar program. After a full discussion, the motion was tabled. Nancy asked Kathy and Gary to work on a proposal that the board can discuss at the May meeting. After that meeting, we will decide on further action.

### ACTION ITEMS:

**Asset Inventory** (Nancy Glick)



After discussion, we agreed to begin the inventory after the plant sale. Because assets are in many locations, it will take several months to complete. Volunteers for the committee are Vickie Minor, Vicky Kemp, Gary Weber (for NWXCG), Rocky Bessette, Kathy Geary, and Tim Schindele. Nancy will get a volunteer from Hollinshead. Nathalie Smith will work with Vickie to develop the inventory form and the process.

**10 Minute University** (Jeanine Johnson)

Nancy reported in Jeanine's absence. Jeanine is working with the OMGA awards and grants committee and provided information on the various awards and grants available.

**OMGA Grants** (Nancy Glick)



The awards are typically showcased during mini-college. Since there will be no mini-college this year, discussion followed on how to proceed with our Search for Excellence nomination, which would be the Waterwise Garden at Hollinshead. We agreed to wait until mini-college has been rescheduled to nominate this project, to allow for the broadest exposure. Nancy asked that if anyone wants to do a nomination for any other award, that she be notified so she knows about it.

**Plant Clinic** (Toni Stephan)

As of April 8, 2019, half-day plant clinic shifts are open for veterans in April and the first 2 days in May. The shifts alternate with the trainee shifts. During April, trainees will go through plant clinic procedures training. In May, they will be trained on working actual plant clinics. Both sessions count as plant clinic hours for the trainees. Toni reported that in the last week, business has really picked up. ECCO is not running yet but she hopes it will be at some point. Toni has also been asked to hold a plant clinic refresher session for veterans. Her schedule is full but she is working out a time to go over the basics. She will also look at doing a session on how to use the microscope. For now, it is "all hands on deck" for the plant clinic.

**Open forum** (anyone)

Diana reported that new soil thermometers arrived and have been disbursed among the vegetable class boxes. Extras are in the shed.

Liz Douville reported that she talked with Amy Jo about the Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon brochure and there are only 460 left in stock. 5000 were printed in 2016, we have distributed an average of 1250 per year, with the main distribution in a 4-month period in the spring and early summer. Continued on page 9



**LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD** continued

The current cost of printing 5000 copies is \$1.31 per copy for a total of \$6571.48. The printer needs approximately three weeks from receipt of the order to get the brochures printed and delivered. Discussion followed on potential internet link changes that would need to be made, the impact on printing and the options. We agreed that Amy Jo would have to make the final decision on changes. For now, based on the classes scheduled and events coming up through June, we need to have a supply of the brochures. Rocky Bessette made a motion that COMGA fund 50% of the cost of printing the Growing Vegetable publication; Jan Even seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Discussion followed on the supply of the Waterwise Gardening book. Vickie will follow up with Amy Jo on this.

Rocky reported that the COMGA computer is old and needs to be replaced. After discussion, Jan Even moved to authorize Rocky or her designee, to purchase a new laptop and software as needed, up to \$1000. Kathy Geary seconded the motion, which was approved. The funds will come from the Opportunity Fund.

**PROJECT STATUS REPORTS:****Community Education** (Kathy Geary/Nancy Glick)

Kathy reported in JoAnne Abbott's absence. We have held three Growing Vegetables classes. 56 people attended in Bend, 18 people attended in Redmond and 1 person attended in Madras. Classes are scheduled in Sisters and Prineville on April 13. After the Madras class, JoAnne discovered that there was no publicity in the area because the Bend Bulletin no longer distributes to Jefferson County. Jan Even has talked with some people and the recommendation is to advertise in the Madras Pioneer from now on. The same problem may exist in Crook County, so this will need to be discussed with the Education Committee. Teaching Assistant training is scheduled for April 9, 2019, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM in the conference room at the Extension Office. Nancy will get this on the COMGA calendar on the website.

**Hollinshead Vegetable Garden** (Nancy Glick)

Orientation was held last week and more volunteers are needed. The lottery closes April 5, 2019, there are 6 vacant beds, with 65 people signed up to get them. Opening day is April 27, the same day as NWXCG.

**Home and Garden Show** (Vickie Minor)

We will have three classes each on Friday and Saturday. Classes include vegetable gardening (presented twice), growing tomatoes, Waterwise gardening, growing strawberries and planning your garden. Liz Anderson is handling the classroom portion; Vickie Minor will be handling the plant clinic scheduling. They will send emails the week of April 8, asking for teaching assistants and plant clinic volunteers.

**NW Crossing Community Garden** (Gary Weber)

Gary reported that there are 64 applications for the 28 available beds. While that is a good sign, it still represents a high turnover in gardeners since there are only 51 beds. Gary would like to do the cloche upgrades

on opening day, April 27. May 4 would be a gardening orientation for the gardeners. He plans to do a "train the trainer" for volunteers – April 24 for the cloche training, May 1 for the gardener orientation training.

**OSU Demo Garden** (Vicky Kemp/Liz Douville)

The first work day was April 2, 2019. Despite the weather, 12 people stayed and worked in the garden until noon.

**Plant Sale** (Vicky Kemp)

April 1, 2019 was the first seed sowing day. 26 trays of tomatoes, hot and sweet peppers, basil, cilantro, and eggplant were started. Vicky is hand watering for now, until the water is turned on in the greenhouse. Jan and Tim volunteered to help with the watering.

**Spring Seminar** (Rocky Bessette)

Rocky reported that the silent auction has 100 items so far and this year, we will experiment with a "buy it now" option for items. We also have cash donations of \$1150. Approximately 150 people have signed up; at this time last year, we had only 120 registered. There are ads running in the Bend Bulletin and the COMGA Facebook page has the publication so it is easy to share it. Rocky will do a slide show that includes all the information on people making donations.

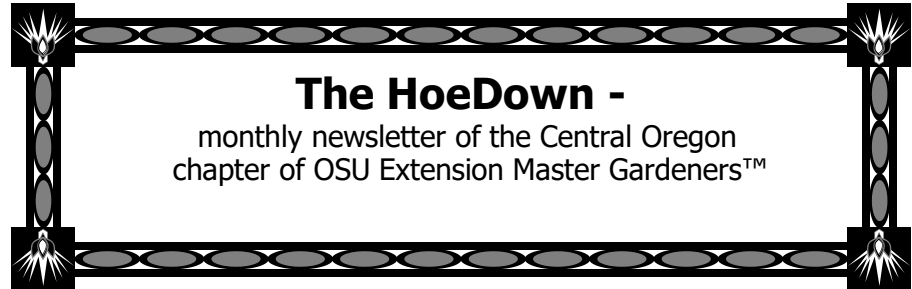


Looking forward to another  
great gardening season

Central Oregon Chapter of OSU Extension Master Gardeners™  
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