



July 2022



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Board members 2022

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

Vice Pres: Janet Dart, 818-486-1583, janetdart@gmail.com

Jan Even, 541-280-5238, even.jan@gmail.com

Secretary: Marilyn Clark, 541-419-4625, piperdoug64@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Tim Schindele, 541-526-1490, TJSFishes@bendbroadband.com

State Rep: Jan Barron, 907-227-9547

Alt. State Rep: Evie Cox, 949-677-0767, eviecox1@icloud.com

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

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

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

Table of Contents

President's Message	2
Calendar	2
Trowel Awards	2
Plant of the Month	3
Pear Slugs	3
Project updates	4
Project updates	5
June Garden Fair	6
Joy of Gardening Conference	6
Lowdown from the board	7
Aphids	8
Judy's Gems	9
A Big Thank You	9

President's message



How's your veggie garden growing? This year I'm paying more attention to what traditionalists call "companion plants" after reading Liz Douville's entertaining blog post on Saturday [https://gocomga.blogspot.com/]. We

all know about the Three Sisters companions: corn, beans and squash, planted together to support and benefit each other. Many cooks know to plant basil with their tomatoes and I find my late summer spinach likes growing in the shade under an angled trellis of acorn squash – as 'they' say: Win/Win!

Every year the July-August growth in my garden makes me think of symbiotic relationships, what is sometimes called the art of living together. I found this interesting article on the National Geographic Society's website about some of these liaisons: <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/symbiosis-art-living-together>. The coral reefs of the world are a beautiful example of disparate things working together. Coincidentally, this is also the time when the Central Oregon Master Gardener Association recruits and elects the certified COMGA members who will be the next year's board. We have many creative, hard-working volunteers in our organization who work cooperatively to provide education to the Central Oregon community and I'm always impressed by the volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents.

Please consider joining the leadership of the COMGA board in 2023 – you may be the most important component that makes our program a success! Thank you.



**DON'T TELL SECRETS
IN THE GARDEN.
THE POTATOES HAVE
EYES, THE CORN
HAS EARS AND THE
BEANSTALK**

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, rockyb820@gmail.com

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

July

5 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
5 Gardening Get Good at it 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am
7 Board meeting, 10:00am
9 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
14 Hollinshead Water-wise workday & meeting, 10:00am
16 OSU Extension Garden Tour
19 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
21 Discovery CG mentor meeting & workday, 6:00pm
23 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
28 Hollinshead Water-wise workday & meeting, 10:00am
29 OMGA Mini-College
30 OMGA Mini-College

August

2 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
2 Gardening Get Good at it 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am
4 Board meeting, 10:00am
11 Hollinshead Water-wise workday & meeting 10:00am
13 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
16 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
18 Discovery CG mentor meeting & workday, 6pm
25 Hollinshead Water-wise workday & meeting, 10:00am
27 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

September

1 Board meeting, 10:00am
6 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
8 Hollinshead Water-wise workday & meeting, 10:00am
10 Blog: gardening in Central Oregon
15 Discovery CG mentor meeting & workday, 6:00pm
20 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
22 Hollinshead Water-wise workday & meeting, 10:00am
24 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

Trowel Awards

The recipients of the Trowel Award for the period of April to June are as follows:

OSU Demo Garden: Stewart Taylor

Discovery Park: Ed Rinker

Home & Garden Show: Angie Boettner

KPOV: Betty Faller

Spring Seminar: Liz Anderson

Water-wise Garden: Julie Hill

Congratulations to a well deserving group of volunteers.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Lisa Nakadate and Julie Hill

Featured Plant - Hummingbird Mint

Agastache species

Height: 24 - 30"
Spread: 15 - 18"
Bloom time: June - August



Why Should I Plant Hummingbird Mint in My Garden?

- Showy, fragrant, long-blooming perennial with spikes of flowers that bloom most of the summer.
- Sun loving plants with aromatic foliage and flowers.
- Encourage pollinators and have excellent resistance to browsing deer and rabbits. • Heat and drought tolerant.

Fun Facts

Produces mint-scented leaves which can be used in tea.

Information Sources

Water-wise Gardening in Central Oregon: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9136>
North Carolina State Extension: <https://www.ces.ncsu.edu>
Monrovia: <https://plants.monrovia.com/search?w=hummingbird+mint>

infestations of leafminers. A third type of damage you may see is leaves being rolled or, so called, tied. This is caused by many types of moth larvae, some have one generation per season and others two generations. Raking and removing fallen leaves can reduce the number of overwintering insects and lower the amount of damage the next year.

Most of the damage done by these larvae is only visual so it's okay to leave things alone as these insects serve as food for predatory and beneficial insects as well as some birds. If the damage gets too unsightly or is adding stress to an already unhealthy tree bring samples to your local Extension Office for ID and a control recommendation.

We have seen a number of cases of herbicide damage brought into plant clinic recently. Herbicide damage is done to a nontarget plant when a product used to control weeds somehow comes into contact with it. Herbicide damage we most often see in plant clinic is from 2,4-D or glyphosate. 2,4-D is a product commonly used on turf to control broadleaf weeds. Damage is often seen as leaf distortion or cupping and twisting of stems and leaf tissue though other symptoms may appear. Glyphosate is designed to kill most plants. If a plant does not receive a lethal dose the plant may show yellow on the new leaves, leaves may be stunted and distorted. They may also be more narrow and have a pale, pink coloration. Often, many buds may be initiated to grow causing a cluster of weirdly shaped leaves.

Pear Slug

by Toni Stephan

July has come and with it you may notice some interesting things happening with some of your landscape tree leaves. Some may look like leaf skeletons, some may be rolled and others may have strange trails or blotches on them. These are clues that you may have some type of insect feeding on your trees.

One of our July pests that eats the top of the leaf causing it to look like a leaf skeleton is the larval form of the pear sawfly called a pear slug. The problem will not be too bad in July but in mid- August to September it could get much worse. The pearslug is a sort of iridescent blackish-green, sluglike larva that feeds especially on cherry, pear, plum, hawthorne, mountain ash and aronia. You can try washing these larvae off with a strong stream of water or just have a squishing party. Dusting with wood ashes will suffocate them.

Another thing you might notice are leaves that have paths going through them or pale spots that enlarge and eventually turn brown. These are evidence of leafminers; small larvae that are feeding between the upper and lower layers of the leaf. There are many natural enemies of leafminers especially parasitoids. If the tree becomes too infested its natural response is to shed leaves and leaf out again. If a tree is healthy it can withstand large

Herbicide damage symptoms vary depending on the plant, the herbicide and the amount of herbicide the plant receives. To protect your desired plants don't spray too close to them. Be sure to set a sprayer so the droplets are large enough not to drift off target and don't spray in windy conditions. Also, some herbicides are temperature sensitive and will move off site if applied at the wrong temperature. The best prevention for this is to read and follow the label instructions on the package.



Leafminer
damage

Pear slug



Herbicide damage



Hollinshead Water-wise Garden

by Pat Kolling

The Water-wise Garden is looking gorgeous. The late leafing shrubs have leafed out and are blooming now. We worried about the Spiraea splendens - subalpine spirea – it looked awful and did require some pruning of dead branches. But look at it now! (See photo). We all learn the same lesson each year – be patient and let the plants do their thing. The native beds are particularly lovely, with Penstemon pinifolius- pineneedle penstemon and Eriophyllum lanatum - Oregon sunshine in full bloom. We replaced the crabapple that died – seemingly by critter damage – with another crabapple – the variety that we chose is ‘ Show Time’.

June 26th was the Water-wise Landscape Field Day. It was held with the City of Bend and other landscaping and irrigation experts. The classes were well-attended in the morning, with many good questions about the drought and how to manage the landscape. We did some mini-classes about watering trees and tours of the garden with information about plant selection and native plants. There were around 100 people that were registered at the door by the City folks, and our MG volunteers had a great day engaging with the public.

The next event on our agenda is the OSU Garden Tour on July 16th. The water-wise garden is one of many on the tour, and it should be in tip top shape!

If you haven't been by the garden, stop by – it's looking great!
Pat & Chris



Hollinshead Community Garden

by JoAnne Abbott

Following the June Garden Fair on June 4, Evie Cox volunteered to take the unsold plants to Hollinshead Community Garden (HHCG) the following Saturday and sell what she could to anyone who might come by. She spirited 5 or so more volunteers who gave up their morning to stand in the downpour to sell the veggies. Thank goodness for the shed, where there was respite from the rain. Also, for those who purchased plants, we gave short tutorials on how to transplant and prune leggy tomatoes. We sold 82 plants for the benefit of the Garden Fair! We considered it successful and have already begun discussions on continuing this “after-sale” next year, with a bit more publicity. Thanks go out to Evie, Alice, Donna, Marilynn, Patsy and JoAnne for spending their wet Saturday for the good of June Garden Fair!

To share that we are truly a “community” garden, a few gardeners have contacted their mentor or Kirsten (our HHCG Coordinator) to advise that they will be absent from the garden for a month or longer for assorted reasons. A call went out to neighboring gardeners to see if they would watch over these plots! Gardeners from around the garden are stepping in to care for these plots. Very heartwarming that we have such an amazing group of gardeners at HHCG.

More care for the garden? At our last HHCG monthly mentor meeting, a few mentors helped pull cherry roots out of the garden that were madly suckering! In my many years at HHCG, I have never seen so many suckers growing up through the bark chips. With muscle, digging and perseverance, it looks like we got the upper hand over the resident cherry tree (for now).

As with many other places, after a 2-year hiatus, we will be bringing back the HHCG “Open Garden” this summer with a tentative date of August 20. Evie Cox and Tamara Waterman are taking the lead on this popular community event. Activities planned thus far include: a self-guided tour of the community garden, mobile plant clinic, insect displays, master food preservers, raised bed building demo, Hollinshead Homestead house with tack room tour, kid's activities, tool sharpening demo, and more! More information will be given in the August HoeDown. Be sure to pencil it on your calendar now to hold the date. There may even be a call for volunteers, so if you don't have all your hours, be sure to check with Tamara and Evie.

Happy Gardening to you all!



Discovery Park Community Garden

by Becky McKee

Summer finally arrived at Discovery Park Community Garden, right on schedule on the calendar day of June 21, the summer solstice. Just the week before we had a few nights with temperature lows in the 30s that likely retarded the growth of our warm weather starts.

But now we are getting lots of greens at the garden and have already seen tomato flowers, radish fruits and lots of green leafy growth and flowers on peas, and even a few young tomatoes setting fruit. I continue to make many mistakes in the garden, the latest of which was to plant seeds then leave on sequential overseas trips, so as not to get to the task of thinning the seedlings. This led to tightly packed arugula, radishes, Bok choy, lettuce, and spinach that have managed to block the automatic sprinkler heads. But the garden plot has gone from zero to salad in exactly thirty days, which is exciting.



Spinach...ready to eat in 30 days from seed. Where did the automatic sprinkler go?

Discovery Park Community Garden has its ongoing projects. We continue to monitor the confounding Golden Mantle ground squirrels, which to my knowledge have only broken into one garden plot to date this season.

We have had a load of bark chips delivered to replenish the bark paths (thank you Bend Parks/Rec!), which will hopefully get spread at this month's volunteer meeting on July 21st.

We also have our resident OSU Cascades grad student Nick continuing his project, requesting participation on harvest yield weights from gardeners.

We try to add at least one new plant to our modest but delightful pollinator garden each year. The newest arrival is a speedwell (Veronica) 'Pink Potion'. My criteria for choosing pollinator plants is to peruse the outdoor tables at nurseries and choose a plant that has bees visiting them at the nursery. It doesn't ensure success, but it's one way to select a new plant!



Veronica 'Pink Potion'

The volunteer job at Discovery Park consists of walking the beds to note any observed problems and let the garden bed owners know. These problems usually relate to a sprinkler issue, a ground squirrel break in, observation of pests (often related to keeping

the cloche cover too tightly closed for an extended period of time, and trying to keep on top of the cheat grass at the borders of the garden. Mountain gusts roll in from the west and blow out row covers occasionally. We keep the garden waste bins from overflowing, and the rubbish bags set out for pick up by Bend Parks and Rec.

We gardeners note and talk about what is doing well, and

we lament the frost injuries and complain about the short growing season. It is not glamorous, it can be mundane, but it also can be pleasing, mindful tasks... you will notice the bees in the garden, or a passing white cabbage moth will lead you to turn over brassica leaves looking for its green caterpillars. Or note an unwanted crinkle in a vegetable leaf that leads you to wonder the cause, question why this tomato plant seemed to shut down when an adjacent one shows healthy growth. And in this way, the volunteer hours stack up over the summer, and time passes. It is, ultimately, rewarding.

OSU Extension Service Demonstration Garden in Redmond

June 7th was a beautiful day to be in the garden. The day started full of sun and a mild 56 degrees. It quickly warmed up to 74! We assembled in the patio area with 7 large containers and a truck load (not quite) of "Thrillers, Fillers and Spillers". We talked about "Container Gardening Basics", Color Wheel information, including how to put colors and textures together, and how to prepare your potting mix for planting. Each team chose their flowers and began creating! Pictures of the event were sent to our Historian, Mimi Thomas. When you are at the OSU Office, you will be greeted by the beautiful containers. Hope you enjoy! Thank you to our volunteers!

Stewart Taylor, Neil Fredrickson, Victoria Butler, Shawna Larson, Rocky Bessette, Cristi Jones, Will Hoover, Wanda Kuklis, Lisa Cowan, Karen Simonet, Amanda Adams, Vicky Kemp

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/techniques/container-gardening-basics>. <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/12281/containerplanting.pdf>

June 21st proved to be a very productive workday for 12 of us volunteers! We jumped right in with weed identification and control (non-chemical) given by Vicky Kemp. We tackled the weeds in the AAS garden, around the greenhouse, and behind building 3. I think we all had the feeling of a well accomplished day! Toni helped out with education on the wildflowers that had popped up in the garden. She has marked those with a tongue blade (or similar marker) as they are not weeds and should not be pulled. The wet Spring has brought many new blooms! Thank goodness for rain! Our volunteers are greatly appreciated!

Vicky Kemp, Shawna Larson, Rocky Bessette, Cheryl Hinerman, Karen Simonet, Tim Schindele, Cindy Rinker, Ed Rinker, Frank Larson, Pam Bercovici, Victoria Butler, Owyhee Weikel-Magden

Karen Simonet and Vicky Kemp

JUNE GARDEN FAIR SUMMARY JULY 4, 2022

The June Garden Fair event on June 4, 2022 included educational booths, mobile plant clinic, C.O. Insect Display, vendors, a plant raffle and COMGA Plant Sale.

The fun begins with purchasing perennials on March 22nd and transplanting them on March 23rd to root up into gallon size pots. Direct seed sowing of annuals in 33 germination trays took place on April 25th, May 2nd and 9th. Transplanting 912 plants took place on May 16th, 20th & 23rd.

Orders and payment for plants started on May 20th and continued on until May 31st with Plant Sale Day plant pick up on June 4, 2022 as part of our June Garden Fair event. There was a total headcount of 304 customers that went thru the drive thru check-in table for plant pick up and approximately 126 head count that were customers buying plants that did not have a pre-order to pick up plants for a total of 430 individuals at our Plant Sale.

This project would not have been possible without the help from Nancy Glick, setting up the online processes, all of the folks that volunteered in the greenhouse and the 34 volunteers that helped on June 4th with the plant sale setting up tables & shade tarps, carrying plants, customer check-in, filling orders, assisting add-on plants and payment for add-on's.

Plants that weren't sold by the end of June 4th (144 plants), were transported to Bend and then offered for sale at Hollinshead Community Garden on June 11th, 82 plants sold that day.

Unsold plants (62) were donated to OSU Ext. Service, SNAP Ed Program Manager, Katie Ahern.

Following is a list of Income and Expenses for the Plant Sale Project:

Income:

Annuals grown from seed in the Greenhouse	\$ 2904
Perennials	\$ 825
Tomato Seedlings	\$ 1451
Vendor Fee	\$ 175
Plant Raffle	\$ 85

Total Income \$ 5440

(This does not include the 26 row cover packages or 24 soil thermometers).

Expenses:

Seedling Mix	\$ 72
Seeds	\$ 106
Potting Soil	\$ 156
Plant Labels	\$ 103
Tomato Seedlings	\$ 756
Perennials	\$ 450
Bleach	\$ 6
Temp. Nursery Permit	\$ 5
OSU Greenhouse Utilities	\$ 400
Advertisements	\$ 132
Photocopying	\$ 0
Total Expenses	\$ 2186

Net Income \$ 3254 for 2022

Thank you to all of you that volunteered for this project! Vicky Kemp, Plant Sale Coordinator

Attention Garden Enthusiasts, Master Gardeners, Landscapers, and Plant Nerds

Have you made your reservations yet for the OMGA Joy of Gardening Conference set for July 29 and 30? Time is running out!

Reduced rates for the Hilton Garden Inn expire July 12!

Dorm registration will close in just a few weeks!

Treat yourself to a 2-day immersion into the joy of gardening at this year's Oregon Master Gardener Association Mini-College. Go deep with plant experts exploring and growing native plants, roses, fig trees, berries, peppers, olive and apple trees, irises, tomatoes, and turf. Learn current science techniques for soil, raised beds, permaculture, dry gardening, seed starting, hydroponics, and...

The Joy of Gardening Conference has something for everybody. The instructors are seasoned speakers, as well as topic experts. Master Gardeners can earn re-certification credits for all classes.

Also featured are tours of the OSU Campus, Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture, Block #15 Brewery, Corvallis Saturday Market, local nurseries, and River Ranch Oregon Olive Oil tasting. Exhibits, book sales, an awards dinner, and a silent auction are all part of the program.

A Thursday night social at Goss Stadium and a Corvallis Knights baseball game is planned. We have reserved the Omaha Room. Have a beer and hot dog, enjoy the game, and catch up with friends.

Our awards dinner on Friday offers a Marimba band, no host bar and Mexican dinner buffet. Come and cheer on your Chapter award nominees!

Lodging is available at the Hilton Gardens Inn, or you can book a room in the OSU dorms. Other motels and area campgrounds are also an option.

Make your reservation today!

Please share our flyer with your Chapter Facebook, Plant Clinic and other outreach venues.

Visit our website at:

<https://omga.org/mini-college-2022>

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LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES July 7, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Glick, President, Jan Even, VP Community Education, Janet Dart, VP Master Gardener Education, Marilyn Clark, Secretary, Rocky Bessette, Communications Liaison, Jolene Dodge, Membership, Jan Barron, OMGA Representative, Evelyn Cox, Alternate OMGA Rep., Kirsten Hinton, Shawna Larson.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The board discussed the following:

The minutes of the meeting held June 2, 2022 were approved, upon motion by Jan Even and seconded by Rocky Bessette.

OSU Report: No report.

BOARD REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Tim Schindele was absent, so submitted his report ahead of the meeting. Nancy Glick displayed the income statement. Highlights from his recap include: We have \$18,907 in income through June YTD, exceeding our budgeted income of \$17,140 for the year. Our expenses YTD June are only \$7,645.55, but he expects an additional \$5,500 in expenses through the remainder of the year. With our June YTD net income of \$11,261, less projected expenses thru December of \$5,500, we will exceed our projected annual income budget and could allocate some funds to support OSU printing expenses toward Vegetable Gardening and Waterwise publications.

Membership Report: Jolene Dodge reported that we received one more member payment yesterday.

Quarterly Meeting: Janet Dart has begun planning the quarterly meeting/annual elections at Hollinshead Park as a potluck instead of a BBQ. The facilities at Hollinshead are well suited to our group. Hoping for late August, a weekday (perhaps Thursday), 3 to 7 p.m. Because Janet will be out of town, she is hoping to enlist Liz Anderson's help. Rocky also volunteered to assist.

This meeting will be our annual election of board members. Janet is chairing the nominating committee and is planning for a vote-by-email to ensure everyone can vote if they cannot come to the meeting.

Community Education: Jan Even reported on the one event held in June – the Waterwise Field Day at Hollinshead Park. Jointly sponsored by the City of Bend, Park & Rec. and OSU Extension. There were three formal classes, including a Waterwise class taught by Amy Jo. All these classes were well attended. However, no attendees came to the two '10 Minute University' classes offered in the afternoon. There were also several vendor booths at the event, and most people disappeared in the afternoon as the vendors

started packing up. Jan was disappointed, given the amount of time invested in planning. The take-away has been that Sunday afternoon is not a good time to hold any classes.

A discussion followed regarding when, and how to communicate press releases and class notices to those who have requested to be included. COMGA has been building an email contact list and has passed on contact information to OSU for their communications. We now have the capability to use Mail Chimp to send out notices. Jan Even reminded everyone to review the policy on press releases on our website. We need to be sure and get Amy Jo's approval for press releases, and remember to advise Julie Hill when an important event is on the horizon.

Historian: Mimi was not in attendance, but continues to request photos be sent to her of events, and to use her personal email: mormormimit@gmail.com.

OMGA Report: Jan Barron reported that the quarterly meeting was about Mini college July 29 – 30. Registration is still open, Friday and Saturday Class fees are only \$80, while the awards dinner is \$32.50. Dorm rooms are \$45.75 per night, and a discount rate of \$137 is available at the Hilton Garden Inn. Evie Cox is working on the silent auction committee and will be taking several items from our chapter, including two baskets for the scholarship awards.

ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS:

2023 Board Recruitment. Janet Dart agreed to chair the Nominating Committee. She plans to send out an email to all COMGA members inviting interest in participating. Every Board position is open every year. Two people have already expressed interest.

Hollinshead Request: Kirsten Hinton presented a comprehensive plan for improving the Hollinshead community garden, including better use of the sunny areas by adding six new raised beds and moving the outdoor education area. Preliminary cost estimate is \$3,000. Discussion ensued, and it was noted that we could use the opportunity to put on a class in building a raised bed. The Board was very receptive of the concept, and suggested Kirsten include the request in the budget plan for next year.

OPEN FORUM:

COMGA supplies storage. We need a central location and cannot use the outside storage shed because of a mouse problem. Some items are at Evie Cox's, some at Janet's. Jan bought more supplies recently, not knowing what we had. Rocky will ask the OSU staff tomorrow (Holly Lyons) if we could utilize a couple of the empty cabinets in the classroom. If that isn't possible, Karen Simonet volunteered that she could store the containers at her home.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Clark

Aphids

by Toni Stephan

In Plant Clinic we get many calls asking how to control aphids, a bane of all gardeners. But aphids are not all bad, actually they are necessary. They are food in at least one life stage of many beneficial insects. Let me tell you the story about aphid mummies as one example.

An adult aphid gives birth to live immature aphids. Along comes a female beneficial wasp, known as a braconid wasp, which lays one single egg inside the aphid nymph. Within a few days the wasp egg hatches and the larva starts to feed on the aphid from the inside. In about 7-10 days the aphid dies, actually ballooning up and hardening into what is known as an aphid mummy. The wasp larva will now pupate changing from larva to adult within the mummified aphid. Once it is mature it will cut a small, circular hole in the side of the mummified aphid and exit to start the cycle over again.

The braconid wasps that attack aphids all belong to a group or genus called *Aphidius*. There are quite a few types of braconid wasps, each attacking different types of aphids. But no worries, humans don't have to worry about being stung as these wasps have no stinger, instead they have what is called an ovipositor which pierces the aphid to deposit the egg inside. If you think about the size of an aphid you might think these wasps are quite small and you would be right. Most are only 2-3mm, about the length of an adult aphid but only one-half the width. You probably wouldn't even notice a braconid wasp flying past you except as a slight movement in front of your eyes. These tiny wasps can do a marvelous job of cleaning out an aphid population if their numbers are allowed to buildup. A female braconid wasp can lay between 50-350 eggs in her short life span of 4-7 days, depending on the variety of wasp.

I remember earlier this summer the two Shasta daisies I have by my back gate. In April or May I noticed the number of aphids on the plants was building up quite heavily. I thought about spraying them to get rid of the aphids but knowing that these aphids would soon attract beneficial insects, I waited. The plants didn't look great up close but from far away they looked fine. So, I waited some more. Each evening I would inspect the plants. Within a couple of weeks, I started seeing hoverfly eggs and then larvae. Then one night, hand lens in hand, I was looking closely at a cluster of aphids and much to my excitement a small, stout-bodied wasp landed in the group of aphids. It looked exactly like the pictures of braconid wasps I had seen many times before and I knew good things were about to happen on my plants. I jumped up with joy and did a little happy dance as I had just seen my first live and up-close braconid wasp. Within days I started seeing aphid mummies. It took a while but eventually all the aphids

were gone and they did not return to the Shasta daisies for the rest of the summer. My plants are still aphid free and I did nothing except let the braconid wasps and other beneficial insects take care of the aphids for me.

The moral of this story is that nature will usually take care of itself if we allow it to happen. When we try to intervene with chemicals, we usually kill off good guys along with the bad guys. Unfortunately, the bad guys come back way faster and in higher quantities than the good insects so we end up spraying again and again. It's quite fascinating how nature works; we just have to have a little patience and tolerance.



Townsendia

by Judy Shearer

When I decided to write about Townsendia (see picture below) for this month's Hoedown, it also occurred to me that there were two species of bird that shared the name Townsend and I wondered if there was a connection. But there is not. The plant is named for David Townsend an amateur botanist that collected in western U.S. The birds, Townsend Warbler and Townsend Solitaire (also see below) were named for John Townsend, an ornithologist and collector in western North America. The plant, *Townsendia florifera*, goes by the common name Showy Townsendia. A member of the aster family (Asteraceae), it is one of 27 members of the genus Townsendia found only in western North America. The basal leaves are ash gray somewhat linear in a rosette that is winter hardy. The stems are leafy, topped with flower heads with white to lavender ray flowers. The disk flowers are small, yellow in color with projecting tufts of hair. The small plant, only 8-10 inches tall, is very common in Deschutes County in shrub steppe communities along with both sulphur flower and round headed buckwheats. All three were blooming in profusion along China Hat Road this spring. Townsend Solitaire is a year long resident in our area and can most often be spotted perched singly on topmost branches of junipers in our shrub steppe community. The Townsend Warbler is a summer resident in some parts of Oregon but in our area can most likely be spotted foraging in any wooded habitat during migration.

Townsendia florifera



Townsend Solitaire



Townsend Warbler



Flower picture by Samantha Shearer

Bird pictures from Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York

References:

Sibley, D. A. 2003. The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America. Alfred P. Knopf, New York.

Turner, M., and P. Gustafson. 2006. Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest. Timber Press Field Guide, Portland, OR.

Oregon Wildflowers app.

A Big Thank You

Hi,

Thank you all for sharing in my retirement through a wonderful party. For those of you who were able to join us at Kris' house, thank you for sharing in the fun. For those who planned, set up, cleaned up, and put the party together thank you from the bottom of my heart for your time and effort! Of course, thanks to Kris who opened up her home to us. What a wonderful gift.

Thank you for making it a fun evening and not making me cry. It was great! Thank you for the poster with kind thoughts and not to forget the check with funds gathered from many. I have already purchased the camera I have been looking at for over a year. Many thanks for that! Thank you too to those of you who were not able to be present but who sent notes and cards and made special trips to see me before my official last day. You are all so kind and generous.

What will I do from here? Well, to quote Arnold Schwarzenegger, "I'll be back". I have been asked to come back, part-time, on contract until the end of the summer to help in plant clinic, garden tour and other projects that I usually head up. So you will still be seeing me in plant clinic. Hopefully I will be able to be of more help and do some additional training for those who would like the assistance.

I thank you all for helping me become a better person through our time working and learning together.

I'll see you around,

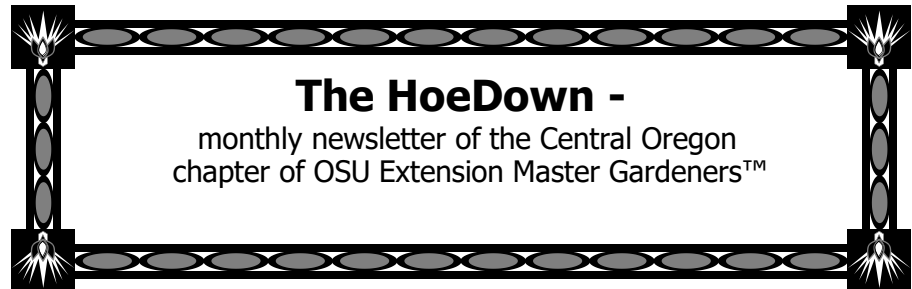
Toni



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



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