

May 2021



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**Board members 2021**

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

**Vice Pres:** Liz Anderson, 541-968-1626, ragingangel61@yahoo.com  
 Elizabeth Hughes-Weide, 916-803-2309, hecbend@aol.com

**Secretary:** Vickie Minor, 541-213-2329, geovick92@yahoo.com

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

**State Rep:** Janet Dart, 818-486-1583, janetdart@gmail.com

**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

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## President's message



Hollywood has the Oscars, Broadway has the Tonys, the Music world has the Grammys. What do the Master Gardeners have to trumpet their very best?

Well, me!

I think the most rewarding role as President is to recognize the hardest working, most positive-thinking, dedicated volunteers: our Project Coordinators and their teams of unsung women and men who quietly (for the most part) spend their limited free time making the gardeners of Central Oregon better educated and better equipped to grow healthy, happy plants. As Gail Langelotto says, we gardeners will save the world but these generous volunteers know their Central Oregon volunteer work is how we get it done.

Rocky Bessette has led an amazing group of Master Gardeners to present our first-ever virtual Spring Gardening Seminar. The successful execution of classes and a silent auction held online was a dream that came true in April and the hard-working team can feel justifiably proud.

The Central Oregon Community Gardens have opened again – another successful start seemingly accomplished with no toil, tears or sweat. But the reality is that Gary Weber and Kirsten Hinton, with a small number of intrepid Master Gardeners, spent several months preparing the virtual groundwork for the plot and bed renters to arrive in April and start the growing season under the best environment a volunteer can create. The hard work is done. Now the shepherding begins as the Garden Mentors advise, direct and share the fun part – growing alongside experienced community gardeners.

The Demonstration Gardens in Redmond and Bend are just about ready for the summer with Pat Kolling and Chris Miao's team at the Water-wise Garden and Vicky Kemp and Karen Simonet's volunteers trimming, planting and pruning to impress any visitor. The volunteers haven't let the weather or a worldwide pandemic keep them from growing the most beautiful gardens in Central Oregon.

Vicky Kemp is carrying her ever-present binder into new territory with a Plant Sale that will be virtual and socially distant. The Garden Fair has been temporarily shelved but Vicky and her team of perennial volunteers have adapted to the pandemic climate. Being the flexible people they are, they're currently tending plants and waiting at the starting blocks to deliver virtual orders to real customers on June 12th.

We make a difference. Every day that we volunteer, we help others make this world a better place. It's both shocking and satisfying to know that we can leave our mark on the future by the simple gesture of teaching and helping other volunteers to teach.

Consider what your mark will be – can you help your

fellow Master Gardeners? Look over the list of projects ([www.gocomga.com/projects](http://www.gocomga.com/projects) - password Pollin8ors) and contact the 2021 Coordinators to see where you may be a Hero, knowing you're one of the lucky volunteers who know they're helping to Save the World.



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

#### **May**

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

#### **June**

- 1 OSU Demo & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 1 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Making Gardening Easier
- 3 Board meeting, Zoom, 10:00am
- 12 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 12 COMGA Plant Sale pick up, 9:00am
- 15 OSU Demo & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 15 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Bug Trivia
- 17 Discovery Park Community Garden workday, 9:00am
- 24 Hollingshead CG volunteer meeting, 10:00am
- 28 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 29 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Small Space Gardens

#### **July**

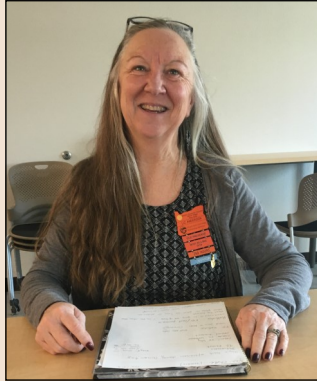
- 1 Board meeting, Zoom, 10am
- 6 OSU & ASS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 6 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Fire-wise Landscaping
- 10 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 15 Discovery Park Community Garden workday, 9:00am
- 16 OMGA Virtual Mini-College
- 17 OMGA Virtual Mini-College
- 20 OSU Demo & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 20 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Clematis
- 22 Hollinshead CG volunteers meeting, 10:00am
- 24 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon



## Getting to Know You!

### Meet Liz Anderson

Liz moved to her soon-to-be husband's eight-acre Powell Butte ranch on April 17, 2015 knowing no one but him. The very next day she attended COMGA's Spring Seminar and sensed she'd hit the potential friendship lottery, or, as our children or grandchildren might say, she suspected she'd found her "peeps." We're not talking fluffy marshmallow candy or even chickens here; we're talking birds-of-a-feather gardening aficionados. She felt at home.



The warm reception she got from COMGA members at the seminar encouraged her to enroll in Master Gardener training in 2016-17. She certified a year later, after a health issue sidelined her for several months. Her treasured Busy Bee Award on her badge attests to how happily involved she is in the association, how, as she shares, it fills her calendar. Besides engaging in plant clinic and demonstration garden care, she assisted Vickie Minor with the Home and Garden Show in 2019; was a trainee mentor in 2019 and 2020; has served as Vice President of Master Gardener Education for the past two years; and has worked with Toni on the Central Oregon Living on a Few Acres Conference and the High Desert Garden Tour. But her favorite gig of all is being a member of the Spring Seminar Committee – remarking, "It's a wonder we get anything done because we all have so much fun!" This year she and Karen Conway took on the novel challenge of coordinating the online auction, raising over \$1000 for the COMGA coffers.

When she first moved to Central Oregon, "Lizzy," a nickname assigned during training because there were so many Elizabeths in the class, started with pots on her deck. Four years later she has a 100' x 30' garden, a greenhouse, three apple and two pear trees, and a pollinator bed that runs the length of her original garden site. If you didn't know better, you'd think her place was a charming plant nursery!

She and her husband Mike, who retired from the U.S. Forest Service after 31 years, ultimately serving as the Timber Management Assistant in the Tongass National Forest on Prince of Wales Island, love their country life. They focus on growing what they eat. Last year they harvested 200 lbs. of potatoes and Liz put up 40 jars of carrots, 60 of green beans and dozens of salsa, spaghetti sauce, apple sauce, peaches, pears and jams. A good cook, Liz's one kitchen rule is the stove doesn't get turned on for canning in the summertime (unless it's 10:00pm during peach season!), so October is very busy. Besides solidly spoiling an old rescue dog, the Anderson's have three chickens and recently acquired three piglets: Ham, Bacon and Sausage.

Clearly Liz loves to enrich, create, bring forth, so to speak. As a teenager, she worked as a baker, her grandfather's trade, winning a blue ribbon for her pumpkin muffins at California's Humboldt County Fair. (Let's remember to ask

for them at the next potluck!)

At the tender age of 18, she found her true calling: midwifery. It was a career she loved for 25 years. She attended a presentation by a highly respected midwife (Ina May Gaskin) and as she listened, she realized what Gaskin was describing was exactly what she wanted to do – what she was meant to do. After a long apprenticeship in Humboldt County, Liz sat for her national exams and then Oregon's in 1992 when she moved from California to Elmira, a small town near Eugene. Her practice grew quickly through word of mouth and because she had strong relationships and a good reputation with area doctors. Her greatest joy? Delivering five of her seven grandchildren.

As a Californian, Liz gardened for years in the Oakland area and then in Humboldt County; add another 20-plus as an Oregonian in the Willamette Valley. Still, she attests to having grown considerably as a gardener since completing her certification, becoming active with COMGA and experimenting on her in Powell Butte property. She underscores that, like many of us similarly humbled, she now knows what she doesn't know and that each growing season will bring several new lessons. She's discovered that the best way to learn to garden is to stand shoulder-to-shoulder – or kneel knee-to-knee! - with an experienced gardener, planting, weeding, pruning and harvesting. While some women might say one cannot have too many shoes, Liz's motto is, "a woman can never have too many plants" or, for that matter, too many gardener friends!

## IT'S KPOV TIME GARDENING: GET GOOD AT IT

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

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

May 4 Waterwise Gardening

May 18 Low Water, High Impact Perennials

**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)



## Discovery Park Community Garden

by Gary Weber

As of this past Saturday, all 50 raised beds at Discovery CG have been rented.

A total of 21 beds were awarded to lottery winners. Five of those 21 were awarded to wait listed people due to late decisions by 2020 gardeners not to return.

Because of covid restrictions in 2020 and 2021, Discovery Garden has not been able to hold its traditional opening day where gardeners and volunteers had the opportunity to meet each other and provide advice to new gardeners about gardening at Discovery and in Central Oregon in general. This year we have tried a new program of conducting gardener orientation tours to ensure that new and beginning gardeners get a good start. These sessions were held at the garden in groups of 3 or less, outside, masked and physically distanced. All 21 new gardeners participated in one of these orientation sessions which usually last from 30 to 45 minutes. Feedback was encouraging.

Becky has purchased and installed the new sun shade umbrella as approved by the Board. Total expenditure was less than \$100.

Bend Parks has begun preparations for installing the new bulletin board.

Brian Thorsness, 2019, has donated rocks that Becky has been working on installing as a border around our pollinator garden. It looks nice and hopefully increases appreciation and therefore, interest.

## Hollinshead Community Garden

by Kirsten Hinton

Hollinshead Community Garden opened on April 24 and April 25 and is following COVID-19 protocols again this season. The gardeners came during their group times to weed their plots and distribute bark chips on the pathways. A few have planted. One gardener planted a tomato that is now dead. Perhaps if you had been her mentor she might have saved the tomato for a later time. We still need four volunteers to mentor four nine-patches. Please allow yourself the opportunity to support gardeners from the area.

## Hollinshead Water-wise Garden

The water-wise garden at Hollinshead is starting to get green! At our two workdays in April we transplanted some plants that needed to be moved, either because they were crowding other plants or a better spot was identified. We completed some of the early spring pruning as well. We are continuing to refine the workday app that our "techie crew" has designed, and are using it on a regular basis. This information from the workday is then moved into the database where it can be stored for future use. We have a good team of regular volunteers and are looking forward to a good 2021. We are also working on what kind of community education we can hold this summer. Of course, it all depends on the COVID numbers in our county decreasing so we can hold outdoor events safely. Stay safe and well!

Pat Kolling and Chris Miao

## Spring Gardening Seminar

Special thanks to Nathalie Smith, Janet Dart and Vickie Minor who spent thousands of hours putting together the webinars for Spring Seminar. Thank you to Liz Anderson and Karen Conway for putting together the Virtual Silent Auction. Thanks to Phil Paterno, Liz Douville, Sue Szabo, Evie Cox, Julie Hill, Pat Kolling, Nancy Glick, Marilyn Clark, and Kathy Ketchum for their part in making this Spring Seminar a success.



Total attendance: 176 Total classes taken 324  
Class count: Pruning—53, Berries—81, Natives—96,  
Irrigation—53, Lawn Care—41

A large number of attendees heard about the seminar on Facebook and Personal Reference. Others at OSU and COMGA websites, and the newspaper.

The sessions were taped and all paid members were given the chance to view the webinars for a 3 week period.

Total Income: \$3,579.02

Total Expenses: 447.08

Total Net Income: \$3131.94

## COMGE PLANT SALE

The COMGA 2021 Plant Sale is ready for pre-orders starting May 10, 2021 and will go through June 5th if there are still plants, soil thermometers and row cover available for sale. Plants and other items for sale will be offered online for selection, payment and scheduling pick-up. Scheduled pick up times will start at 9:00 am on June 12, 2021 and will go through 2:00-3:00 pm if needed. Item pick up will be at the Deschutes Co. Fair and Expo Center, Redmond, near Parking Lot J, at the Roundabout near the Rodeo Entrance.

Customers must remain in their vehicles to pick their sale items and volunteers will deliver sale items to customers.

Visit [gocomga.com](http://gocomga.com) to start your order!

Vicky Kemp, COMGA Plant Sale Coordinator

## OSU Extension Service Demonstration Garden

Welcome to Spring! Thank you to our 9 volunteers who helped at the Demo Garden for our workday on April 20. Ruth Mulligan, Vicky Kemp, myself, Stewart Taylor, Mimi Thomas, Carroll Minium, Jill Kendall, Elizabeth Price and Alice Spencer. It was a beautiful day, sunny and crisp. We trimmed and shaped the perennials, pulled weeds, raked lots of leaves and swept. Amy Jo joined us and gave us an education on pruning fruit trees. We had a hand at pruning the sour cherry tree. We learned the different kinds of pruning, ie: modified central, how and what angle to prune, what type of tools to use, and why we prune. There are educational videos offered online, this one by Jeff Olson came recommended. Training and Pruning Your Home Orchard | OSU Extension Catalog | Oregon State University

Our next workday is scheduled for May 4th, and there's plenty of spaces open to add your name and come join us! Please make sure the COVID training is completed prior to working in the gardens. <https://envisionextension.thinkific.com/courses/staying-safe-in-the-workplace> Staying Safe in the Workplace--Preventing COVID-19 in Extension Offices (thinkific.com)

Vicky Kemp and Karen Simonet



## OSU Extension Demo Garden

Come and join the fun at OSU Demonstration Garden this season! Volunteers are welcome to our workdays! We gather on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. The link to the Excel sign-up sheet is below. To help navigate through the Excel spreadsheet, notice the tabs at the bottom of the page. Click on each date to move through the spreadsheet to sign up.

As our Covid restrictions change, the number of volunteers allowed at each workday will change. Please bear with us as we update as needed.

Thank you, Vicky Kemp and Karen Simonet

April 6th & 20th, May 4th & 18th, June 1st & 15th, July 6th & 20th, Aug. 3rd & 17th, Sept. 7th & 21st, Oct. 5th & 19th

Vicky Kemp & Karen Simonet

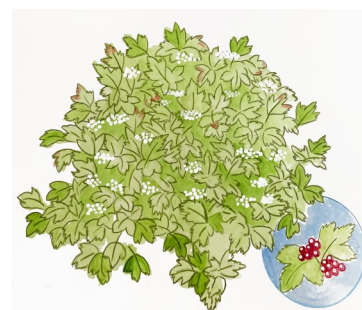


## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### Featured Plant - Compact American Cranberrybush

*Viburnum trilobum*  
'Bailey Compact'

Height: 5 - 6'  
Spread: 5 - 6'  
Flower: White  
Bloom time: May



### Why Should I Plant Compact American Cranberrybush in My Garden?

This hardy shrub has beautiful foliage that offers a slight red edge when new, then turns a deep red in fall.

The berries (drupes) are edible fresh off the shrub. They are sometimes used to make jams and jellies. Fruits tend to shrivel after frost.

No serious insect or disease problems. Low maintenance and attracts butterflies and birds.

### Information Sources

Oregon State University Landscape Plants:  
<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu>  
Missouri Botanical Garden: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c365>

## Mini-College 2021

**July 16 and 17, 2021**

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

**Keynote presentations by:**

**Robert Michael Pyle and Gail Langellotto**

Watch for details when our website goes live at:

[mastergardenerminicollege.org](http://mastergardenerminicollege.org)

**Registration is open now**

## LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

May 6, 2021, Via Zoom Online

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Nancy Glick (President), Jan Even (Past-President), Elizabeth Hughes Weide (VP-Community Education), Liz Anderson (VP-MG Education), Vickie Minor (Secretary), Tim Schindele (Treasurer), Mimi Thomas (Historian), Evie Cox (Alternate State Representative), Rocky Bessette (Communications Liaison), Jolene Dodge (Membership Coordinator), Carroll Minium, Kirsten Hinton, Linda Gregory, Vicky Kemp, Karen Simonet and Amy Jo Detweiler.

The meeting started at 10:03 AM and adjourned at 11:35 AM. The board discussed the following items:

Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve the minutes made by Rocky Bessette, seconded by Jan Even, and approved by the board with no objections.

### OSU Report

Amy Jo reported that plant clinic is moving along and she thanked everyone for their efforts with remote work. She will send an email soon on recertification requirements specific to this year. She is also involved in discussions on the state level on how new master gardener training will evolve and be done in the future. Items of note include the International Master Gardener Conference registration, which is now open, and the Level Up education series, which is available through November. The extension office is closed again because of the pandemic restrictions. Amy Jo will let us know if OSU vaccination policies will be applied to volunteers in the master gardener program. Questions were asked about the vegetable gardening webinars and the garden tour. Amy Jo would like to do one more vegetable webinar sometime in the next four weeks, likely on a weeknight. As for the garden tour, it probably will not happen in-person this year because of the pandemic restrictions, but she has not ruled out a possible virtual tour. Jan Even will send Amy Jo a link to a virtual garden tour that was done in California.

### BOARD REPORTS:

#### Treasurer's Report

Tim reported that we are in good financial shape and noted that some expenses that were budgeted are not being incurred because of pandemic restrictions (e.g., State Representative travel to OMGA meetings). Discovery Park Community Garden brought in \$1,380.00 in plot rentals, minus \$39.66 in PayPal fees. Hollinshead Community Garden brought in \$2,695.00 in plot rentals, minus \$67.87 in PayPal fees. Three people registered for a Hollinshead plot using PayPal but their names don't show up on the list of plot renters kept by Kirsten. Those persons may need to be refunded, totaling \$100.00. Membership renewal dues were \$300 in April, minus \$6.30 in PayPal fees. Row cover sales, mostly at the extension office, generated \$180.00. Spring Seminar revenue for the month of April included \$1265 generated by the silent auction and \$540 generated from the Zoom classes. Expenses for April were 184.88. Other expenses in April included \$418.37 for Facebook ads; \$59.99 to pay for the Historian's Flickr account; \$20 for Hollinshead to use a Digsigner subscription for distributing garden guidelines; \$325 to pay for perennials for the June

Garden Fair Plant Sale; and \$70.38 for Tech Committee expenses related to our Zoom account. The June Plant Sale is expected to generate several thousand dollars in income and if Rocky stages a t-shirt and hat sale, that could generate additional income.

### Membership Report

There are now 61 paid members, 3 associate members plus several trainees and transfers. Having an online payment option has helped increase membership but there is still a gap between the number of people recertifying and the number of people joining COMGA. Jolene is considering sending the letter that was drafted last year, to the master gardeners who have not paid dues this year.

### OMGA Rep Report

Janet was absent and Evie reported on Janet's behalf. OMGA has requested that we either donate items for the Silent Auction or donate \$250. After a full discussion on the challenges of donating items for auction, Jan Even moved that we send a donation of \$250 to OMGA, which was seconded by Jolene Dodge. The motion was passed with no objections. Discussion followed on the OMGA membership cards that are sent to us. Nancy has a new supply but very few people ask for them. Discussion followed on how to get them to members and when. This was not resolved but if any COMGA member would like an OMGA card, contact Nancy.

### Community Education

Elizabeth will send an email when the next veggie class is scheduled. For now, there are no scheduled classes in the gardens because of the pandemic restrictions.

### ACTION ITEMS:

#### Donation Button

Nancy explained this is a PayPal button that would be on the COMGA website. She will consult with OMGA on their position on this and whether there are any legal issues given our non-profit status. She will put this on the agenda for the June meeting.

### PROJECT STATUS REPORTS:

#### Hollinshead Garden

Kirsten reported that the garden officially opened April 24-25. The guidelines were sent electronically this year and while there were a few glitches, overall it went well. Kirsten still needs four (4) mentors to help in the garden. Everyone was asked to help get the word out to people looking for volunteer opportunities. Jan Even was a new mentor last year and she reported that she did not get a lot of veggie questions. Instead, most of the questions were about getting into the garden, equipment that was missing, etc. If anyone is interested in volunteering, contact Kirsten or Nancy.

#### Discovery Park Garden

Gary was absent but sent his report electronically, which is summarized here. As of May 1, 2021, all 50 beds have been rented. 21 beds were awarded to lottery winners. Because of the pandemic restrictions



**LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD** continued

last year and in 2021, the garden was unable to hold its traditional opening day events. Instead, a new program was adopted where gardener orientations were done, in groups of 3 or less, outside, masked and physically distanced. All 21 new gardeners participated in one of these orientation sessions which usually lasted from 30 to 45 minutes. The sun shade umbrella has been purchased and installed, with the total expenditure less than \$100. Bend Parks & Rec has started preparations for installing the new bulletin board. Brian Thorseness has donated rocks that are being installed as a border around the pollinator garden. In 2019, one of the raised beds was removed because of an infestation of hoary cress. The area now appears clear of the weed so a new bed can be built. The cost involved could be more than what Gary has remaining in his budget. He also reported that there is a third-year gardener who was not going to return because the gardener could not pay the registration fee. After a full discussion, the board agreed that Gary should waive the registration fee for the gardener given the number of years the gardener has had a bed and volunteered at the garden. The board also agreed that Gary should gather the cost information for the new bed and include it in his budget proposal for next year.

**OSU Demo Garden**

Karen Simonet reported that work days have continued but with restrictions in place because of the increased pandemic level. Once Amy Jo identifies what will be planted around the new building, an additional work day may be added to the schedule. Karen will send a notice to Rocky to include in the newsletter with the link for the sign-up sheets. The garden is expanding, so more volunteers are needed but the numbers allowed in the garden will depend on the pandemic restrictions.

**Plant Sale**

Vicky reported that the first seed sowing occurred on May 3rd, with more scheduled for May 10th and 17th. Transplanting is tentatively scheduled for May 17th, 18th, 24th and 28th. Once transplanting is done, Vicky will have a better idea of what sales could be. Vicky has diagrammed the sales and staging area so everything will be ready the day of the sale. As cars arrive, the number of people in each car will be counted for the attendance, volunteers will be working on pre-orders and Vicky has a plan for "add on" orders and how those will be paid for before the customer leaves. The sale is still scheduled for June 12th and Vicky will send a detailed flow chart to the volunteers so everyone will know who is assigned to which tasks. Julie Hill has created a poster for the website, with a link that will allow people to pre-order and pay for items. The link will be live May 10th. Anyone purchasing plants, including MGs, should use the link. Discussion followed on the publicity – Jan Even will talk with Liz Douville so efforts are coordinated.

**Spring Seminar**

Rocky acknowledged the help of everyone on her committee: Vickie Minor, Janet Dart, Nathalie Smith, Phil Paterno, Liz Douville, Evie Cox, Sue Szabo, Karen Conway, and Lizzy Anderson. 176 people registered for 324 class spots; overall class attendance was 80% of those registered. The most common sources of information on the seminar were Facebook (24%) and personal references (33%). Final registrations for the five classes were pruning: 53, berries: 81; natives: 96; irrigation: 53;

and lawncare: 41. We had the first virtual silent auction and Lizzy reported that it went better than she and Karen had hoped. By the time the auction was done, almost everything was sold and the smaller items that were left were donated to Brightside. Once expenses were subtracted from income, the auction cleared \$1065.

**Waterwise Garden**

Pat Kolling sent an email report that regular spring maintenance continues at the water-wise garden. Some plant material is being relocated to more conducive locations and pruning is being completed on specific plants. Work continues on revising and using the app that the tech team has developed to record actions completed during the work day (aka the "workday" app). The bulletin board has been updated with a new featured plant and the next workday is Thursday May 13th at 10:00AM.

**Open Forum**

Rocky asked that if anyone has something for the newsletter, please send it to her by Saturday.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Minor, Secretary

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## Just Outside Your Door – Container Gardening

by Betty Faller

For most people, planting a garden means growing flowers. From my perspective, it's about food as well as flowers. I love to have fresh cut flowers in the house, but vegetables are practical. When garden space is tight and grocery prices are climbing, you might consider culinary over ornamental.

If you browse through any garden catalog you will notice innovative pots and planters that have self-watering reservoirs, which makes it even easier to grow fresh vegetables and herbs right outside your door even if you only have a small balcony or patio.

Here are some things to consider: Start by looking for your best site. To do well, most edible crops require at least six to eight hours of direct sun a day, especially tomatoes. With less sun, you might want to consider growing an assortment of salad greens, which do fine with fewer hours of sunlight. If the spot you've selected is short on sun, consider putting your plants on caddies or add casters. That way they can be moved during the day or even later in the season as the angle of the sun changes.

Next, make sure watering will be convenient and easy. Even with self-watering pots or planters, you will need

Continued on page 8

## Greenhouse to Garden

by Betty Faller

This is the last segment in the Greenhouse Series and I know you've taken great care in planning your greenhouse. You've selected and started appropriate seeds that will thrive in our short growing season. You've regulated the greenhouse heat and kept the seeds moist. Greenhouse watering may have been challenging. Remember, the sun and outside venting are important but they can also create a need for more water. Keep notes in your garden journal.

Now that your plants are big you are ready to transplant into your garden. Before you do that, you should know that plants started indoors will not have been exposed to full sun, wind, or the fluctuating temperatures of Central Oregon. If your little plants are not gradually accustomed to the outdoor environment, a process called "hardening off," their leaves may be scorched by sun or wind or they may even wilt and die.

About two weeks before planting outdoors, start hardening off the seedlings by moving them outside for increasingly longer periods each day. Since my plants are in 4 inch pots (18 pots to a tray) I just place each tray outside for a few hours in the shade during the warmth of the afternoon. Choose a spot protected from wind. I place mine on the deck of my greenhouse. Bring them back inside for the night before temperatures start to drop. Keep an eye on the weather and listen to the low temperature prediction. Each day, leave the plants out a little longer, and expose them to a little more direct sunshine. By the end of two weeks, unless freezing temperatures are forecast, the seedlings can stay outside in a sunny area until you are ready to transplant them into the garden.

Another easy way to harden plants off is to place them in a cold-frame which is a temporary mini-greenhouse. Commercially produced cold-frames are available in many designs. Adjust the lid of the coldframe as needed to protect plants from freezing temperatures, often closing it at night. Do vent the lid a bit farther each day to accustom the plants to wind and cold.

It's a good idea to know the relative hardiness of various plants you've started. Onions and brassicas such as broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage, are hardy and can take temperatures in the 40's. After they are well hardened off, light frosts won't hurt them. Warm-season crops such as melons, cucumbers and tomatoes prefer warm nights, at least 60° F. They can't stand below-freezing temperatures, even after hardening off.

Once plants have been hardened off, seedlings can be set out in the garden. Transplant on a cloudy day or late afternoon when the sun has passed its peak. Even hardened off plants may wilt when first exposed to full sun, but they generally recover within a day or so.

When transplanting seedlings grown in peat pots,

containers made of organic matter, trim the pots down to soil level. The collars of these pots, exposed to drying air, will wick water away from the root zone. To encourage roots to spread out into garden soil, carefully cut or tear holes in the bottoms of these pots, because they usually don't break down completely in the soil, and may inhibit root growth.

After transplanting to the garden, use a weak fertilizer solution to get transplants growing again and to help avoid transplant shock.

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### Container Gardening continued

to water frequently during the hottest part of our summer. If you are using a large planter, such as an elevated raised bed, consider using a drip system for more efficient watering. Vegetables require a consistent supply of water to perform their best. Inconsistent moisture causes lots of problems, such as blossom drop, poor root development, leaf curling, insect problems – well, you get the picture.

Most Master Gardeners will tell you that soil is one of the most important parts of a successful garden. The same is true for gardens in pots and planters, but typical garden soil is not your best option. Soil used in containers needs to be well aerated and well drained and still be able to retain enough moisture for plant growth. Container soils are often referred to as soilless and they are often composed of various things such as peat, vermiculite, perlite and sand. Mixes vary by manufacturer and your choice of media will depend on what you want to grow. Always read the packaging.

When vegetables are grown in pots and planters, regular fertilization is crucial. Start with a granular all-purpose fertilizer that gets mixed into the soil when planting and follow up with regular applications of a liquid fertilizer as your plants begin rapid growth. Read the label to better understand its use and application.

To save my back I have selected large faux containers and reduced the cost and the weight by adding plastic milk jugs in the bottom third. I cover them with a piece of landscape fabric and fill the rest of the container with mix. The landscape fabric keeps the soil from infiltrating the filler and allows water to pass through. Instead of milk jugs you can use anything that is inert and takes up space but make certain that it will not break down over the course of the growing season. That would be disastrous. Another back-saving option, if you have the space, is to start with elevated raised beds, where you can make use of square-foot gardening techniques. Because they are larger, you have more room to design an ornamental-edible garden. Many catalogs offer modular beds designed to accommodate frames and covers that protect crops from pests, disease or intense weather fluctuations.

Continued on page 9



## Do You Recognize Yourself Working at the Demo Garden in Redmond.



### Container Gardening continued

Now you've selected the site, the container and the mix but what are you going to grow?

Choose crops you like to eat as well as ones that fit the size of your container. If you decide to plant a tomato, choose a variety that's more suited to compact gardens such as a "patio" type. You can combine a variety of plants in one container if their water and fertilizing needs are similar. Although I start my plants from seed in a small greenhouse, I would suggest you buy transplants to take advantage of Central Oregon's short growing season.

You can have your own fresh vegetables, edible flowers and herbs all season long if you make a list of select seeds or plants by early, mid and late season crops. Some crops that grow quickly from seed and make a wonderful salad or pesto are basil, dill, mixed greens and nasturtiums. Yes, nasturtiums are edible and they spice up a salad.

Some other suggestions for container vegetables are peppers, tomatoes, pole beans, strawberries and don't forget the herbs. There are minimum soil depths for healthy growth but if you use a self-watering planter you can get by with less depth. General measurements are:

4-5 inches: Salad greens, radishes, basil and coriander

6-7 inches: bush beans, Asian greens, peas, mint and thyme

8-9 inches: pole beans, carrots, cucumber, peppers, spinach and parsley

The key is: plants with large deep root systems will be stunted and unhealthy if they don't have adequate space for their roots to develop properly.

Good Companions:

Beans, carrots, squash

Eggplant, beans

Tomatoes, basil, onions

Lettuce, herbs

Spinach, chard, onions

Combinations to Avoid:

Beans with onions and garlic

Carrots with dill or fennel

Tomatoes or squash with potatoes

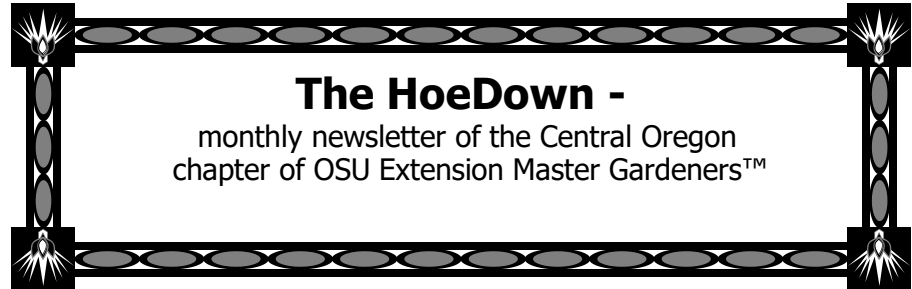
Onions with beans and peas



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