



August 2022



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Board members 2022

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

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President's message



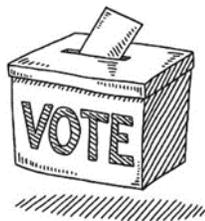
We've learned that Central Oregon gets new gardeners every year. There are a few in my neighborhood. They visit the 20 year old gardens with questions pouring out like water: "What is that plant? Do deer eat it? Do you plant it every year or just once? How much time do you spend maintaining your garden?" They invariably end with – "You must LOVE gardening!"

As a Master Gardener, I'm sure you've had new friends and neighbors admire your labor of love and ask similar questions. And I'm also sure you've enjoyed showing off your hard work and replying to their questions with some newly divided perennials. It's just who we gardeners are!

One new gardener asked about the time spent maintaining my garden. I shared that it's a labor of love and I'm happy when I see how my effort gives me such beautiful results.

Isn't volunteering the same? We work hard to find the right answer to the horticulture questions in Plant Clinic because it results in a better garden for a homeowner. I spend time as a COMGA board member to support the OSU Extension's Master Gardener program so we can make a beautiful, productive, healthy world. I like playing a small part to make a larger impact.

Now it's your turn. When you see the email from Rocky with a link to vote for the COMGA 2023 board, please click the link and mark your ballot. It will help to make our chapter even more successful in the OSU Master Gardener world. Thank you.



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HAPPINESS
HELD IS THE SEED;
HAPPINESS SHARED
IS THE FLOWER.

John Harrigan

Submitted by JoAnne Abbott

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

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
- 20 Hollinshead Open Garden, 9:00am.
- 25 COMGA Potluck picnic, 4:00-7:00pm
- 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

October

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

November

- 1 Gardening Get Good at it, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am
- 3 Board meeting, 10:00am
- 12 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 26 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

December

- 6 Gardening Get Good At It, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am
- 10 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 24 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon



PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Lisa Nakadate and Julie Hill

Featured Plant - Coneflower

Echinacea x hybrida

Height: 2 - 3'

Spread: 1 1/2 - 2'

Flower: Cranberry

Bloom time: July - September



Why Should I Plant Coneflower in My Garden?

- Coneflower is a popular and long-blooming plant for use in the native garden, meadows, pollinator gardens and naturalized areas.
- Coneflowers have a high degree of drought resistance once established, making them a great addition to a water-wise landscape.
- Songbirds, especially American goldfinches, eat the seeds.
- Makes a good cut or dried flower.

Fun Facts

- The flowers are in clusters that form a "head," just like a sunflower or daisy type flower. Each of what appears to be a petal is actually an entire flower.
- Names of cultivars include 'Hot Papaya', 'Mac 'n' Cheese', an 'Raspberry Truffle' among others.
- This was an important plant to the Native Americans to treat many ailments. Early settlers used the medicinal root for almost any kind of sickness. It became the only native prairie plant commonly used by both doctors and folk practitioners as medicine.
- Herbaceous parts may be steeped as a tea.
- Region of origin is Eastern & Central North America

Information Sources

Water-wise Gardening in Central Oregon: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9136>

University of Florida Gardening Solutions: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

North Carolina State Extension: <https://www.ces.ncsu.edu>

Have you ever heard of hardhack?

By Judy Shearer

Neither had I until I started doing research on a beautiful native shrub, *Spirea douglasii*, also sometimes called steeplebush or meadowsweet. It is in full bloom right now along the Benham Falls Trail south of Bend along the Deschutes River. It is a shrub in the Rose Family standing about head high forming large thickets along lakes, rivers and just about any area that is moist enough. The oval to oblong deciduous leaves alternate along the woody stems. The pink clusters of flowers are borne terminally in a panicle inflorescence (see pictures below). Each flower has five pink petals subtended by five green sepals each looking like a small ornamental plum or hawthorn. In full sunlight, the pink filamented stamens numbering from 25-35 seem to create a radiant halo around the inflorescence. The small brown fruits, follicles, occur in bunches that hang on the branches through winter. It is an excellent pollinator plant attracting bees, moths, and butterflies. Birds and mammals utilize the plant for cover and food. Native Americans used the stems for brooms, racks for drying and cooking salmon, and skewers for roasting clams. The seeds were used medicinally to treat diarrhea. Native to Western United States it is found from Alaska south to California and east into Idaho. The most common member of the family is bridal wreath native to east Asia and widely planted around Bend. The native hardhack is available at native plant nurseries and makes a good garden selection. In fact, Washington State recommends it as a replacement for the highly invasive and now banned purple loosestrife. Finally the name hardhack comes from the fact it is so difficult to bushwhack through even with a sharp machete.

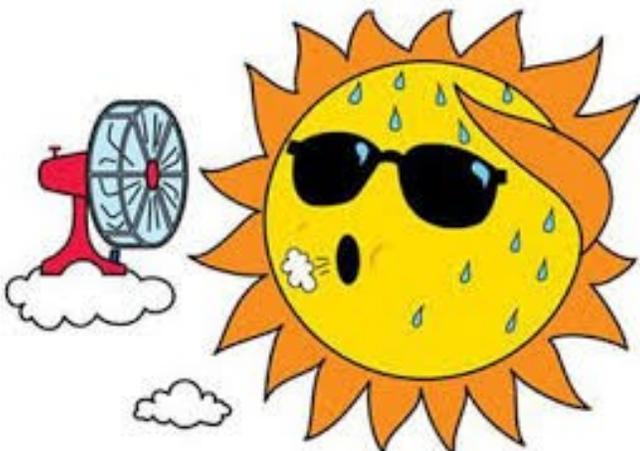


Flower pictures by Samantha Shearer

References:

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

Oregon Wildflowers app.



Hollinshead Water-wise Garden

by Pat Kolling

The Hollinshead Water-wise Garden is in its glory. All of Echinacea are in full bloom, the *Liatris spicata* 'Floristan Violet' spikes seem a mile high, and the *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight' is just beginning to bloom. We have had a great team of volunteers that includes many trainees. They are very interested, engaged and curious, and we have been able to make each workday a learning event.

Our next event at the garden is a joint effort with the Hollinshead Community Garden volunteers on August 20th from 9-1. We'll have information for the public on water-wise plants, caring for the garden during drought and heat and other related topics. We'll be doing garden tours in the water-wise garden as well as "Ask me About" sessions on relevant topics. The community garden is also planning tours. The Homestead House and Tack Shed Museum will be open for tours as well. See the flyer on page 9 for additional information about the event. Join us for a wonderful day on the 20th of August from 9-1. Hope to see you there.

Pat Kolling & Chris Miao



COMGA POTLUCK PICNIC!

Thursday, Aug. 25

4 pm—7pm

Alpenglow Community Park

Come have fun with your fellow

Master Gardeners

No Weeding Required!

Bring a dish to share, a spare chair,
a friend or significant other, and kids.

Come Enjoy!

RSVP to janetdart@gmail.com

Hollinshead Community Garden

by JoAnne Abbott

This has been a challenging growing year for our gardeners at Hollinshead Community Garden (HHCG) due to record rains and cooler weather, overtaken by exorbitantly hot days. The overhead watering has been adjusted for this hot weather, but many of the plants will (or have) 'shut down' until cooler weather prevails. A slow start and a slow mid-season. Let's hope the remaining growing season is more temperate.

Discussions continue regarding moving six of the garden plots which have too much shade and water overspray from the adjacent dog park. We are hoping to move these 6 southeast plots, to new raised beds in 2023. They will be erected in the northwest corner of the garden, neighboring the current "alpha" plots. The southeast spaces vacated will become the new 'common area'. When we have clearance to move forward and build these new raised beds, the construction of the beds will be used as a teaching tool for whomever is interested.

The HHCG "Open Garden" is set for Saturday, August 20. The garden will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Hollinshead Homestead and Tack room will also be open, and our very own Master Gardeners will be presenting classes throughout the day. Thanks to Julie Hill for creating such a beautiful flyer announcing this event!

It appears Bend Park and Recreation District (BPRD) will be helping us get all our hoses up off the ground by 'planting' posts near the hose bibs within the garden. Many times, gardeners and MG's alike have tripped over the hoses as they lay cumbersomely in the middle of paths. Being able to support the hoses on hose racks will clear access for walking and wheelbarrows. Thank you BPRD!

As always, if you haven't taken the time to visit HHCG or the Waterwise Garden, you don't know what you are missing! Maybe you should come to the "Open Garden" and experience how our gardens actually grow!



Instructors Needed!

Putting your Garden to Bed



Fall is just around the corner. I'm looking for instructors for two classes on putting your garden to bed. One class would be held at the Discovery Park Community Garden on Thursday evening, Sept. 15. The other one would be at Hollinshead Community Garden on Saturday morning, Sept. 17.

Both will be informal outdoor classes. The audience for these classes would be the garden plot renters, of course, but also the general public. These will be our last community education events for the season, so please contact Jan Even this week if you are interested in teaching.

E-mail: even.jan@gmail.com

Phone: 541-280-5238

Jan Even, Community Education VP

Are you active on Facebook?

I am looking for someone to join me in answering questions from gardeners on COMGA's Facebook account. Often people ask basic information questions, such as how to get a community garden plot or what day/time is our show on KPOV. Sometimes questions are about specific events; where to buy tickets for the High Desert Garden Tour was a common one recently. Sometimes we get gardening or plant ID questions too.

If you are a Facebook user who is on Facebook at least several times a week, please contact me if you'd like to volunteer to help.

-- Jan Even, Community Ed VP

Email: even.jan@gmail.com

Phone: 541-280-5238

IT'S ELECTION TIME!

Elections for the 2023 Board are coming up. Come join this dynamic group to keep our organization running! Nominations to date:

President – Janet Dart
 VP MG Education - **OPEN**
 VP Community Education – Cher Hinerman
 Secretary – Tammara Waterman
 Treasurer – Marilyn Clark
 Historian – Jenni Whelan
 Membership – Deb Goodall
 Communications - **OPEN**
 OMGA State Rep – Karen Simonet
 Alternate Rep – Evie Cox

If you like planning parties, you are perfect for the VP MG Education spot.

If you're comfortable with computers, the Communications spot is waiting for you.



Photos by

JoAnne Abbott



This bug has recently been seen in Plant Clinic in Deschutes and Crook Counties

Masked Hunter (Colorado State University)

Scientific Names: *Reduvius personatus* (L.)

Order: Hemiptera (True Bugs, Cicadas, Aphids, Scale Insects, Hoppers, etc.)

Family: Reduviidae (Assassin Bugs)

Identification and Descriptive Features: The adult is very dark brown to black, ranging from 10-12 mm in length. Typical of most assassin bugs the head is narrow with a prominent beak projecting below. The fore legs are slightly thickened, an adaptation for grasping prey. The nymphs are gray-brown. However, they are almost always covered with debris.

Distribution in Colorado: Potentially statewide and may be locally common. The masked hunter is a European species that has increased its range largely through transport by humans.

Life History and Habits: The masked hunter is a predator of other insects which they impale and paralyze with piercing-sucking mouthparts. The nymphs hunt by ambush and camouflage themselves with lint, sawdust or other debris that clings to their sticky body. Where such covering material is abundant the insect is completely obscured and may resemble a walking ball of dust. The masked hunter likely has a two year life cycle. Adults may be present during most of the warmer months but are most commonly seen from Late June through early August. Adults are winged, can fly, and may be attracted to lights. Eggs are laid in crevices as small masses and the first stage nymphs subsequently begin to hunt small flies, springtails and other prey they can subdue. Based on information from other areas the overwintering stage during the first year after egg hatch is typically a third instar nymph. Development continues the second year and the subsequent winter of the masked hunter life cycle is spent as a fifth instar nymph, the last immature stage. Molting to the adult form occurs the next spring. The masked hunter may complete its development both indoors or outdoors. Because of its habit of feeding on indoor arthropods it is sometimes called the "bed bug hunter", although it normally feeds on many different kinds of insects. If handled or accidentally pressed against the skin they may produce a painful bite. In some cases swelling and pain may persist for several days.

Note on First Aid for Assassin Bug Bites: Assassin bugs are not aggressive and do not seek out or attack humans but will bite if handled or accidentally pressed against the skin. Assassin bug bites can be quite painful immediately with some pain and swelling persisting for a day or two. In very rare cases medically important complications develop, from secondary infections of the bite or anaphylactic shock. The following statement on first aid for assassin bug bites was borrowed from the Texas A&M blog Bugs in the City by Michael Merchant: "Persons who are bitten should wash and apply antiseptic to the site of the bite. Oral analgesics, such as aspirin or ibuprofen, may be useful to reduce the pain. Treatment by a physician is not usually needed, though Caladryl® or

topical corticosteroids may help reduce swelling or itching at the site of the bite. As with any insect sting or bite, the victim should seek medical attention immediately if there is any sign of anaphylactic reaction, such as generalized swelling, itching, hives or difficulty breathing."



Figure 1. Masked hunter adult.



Figure 2. Mask hunter nymph with lint covering.



Figure 4. Masked hunter eggs. Photograph courtesy Joseph Berger and IPM Images/BugWood.

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

August 4, 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Glick, President; Jan Even, VP Community Education; Tim Schindele, Treasurer; Marilyn Clark, Secretary; Mimi Thomas, Historian; Rocky Bessette, Communications Liaison; Jolene Dodge, Membership Coordinator; Jan Barron, OMGA Representative; Evelyn Cox, Alternate OMGA Rep.; Carroll Minimum, Cheryl Hinerman, Karen Simonet, Jennifer Whelan, Amy Jo Detweiler, and Toni Stephan.

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. The board discussed the following:

The minutes of the meeting held July 7, 2022 were amended 1) to designate \$500 of the Community Education budget for Facebook advertising to promote the High Desert Garden Tour and 2) to correct the class Amy Jo taught on Firewise gardening at Hollinshead event. Upon motion by Rocky Bessette and seconded by Jolene Dodge, the minutes were approved as amended.

OSU Report from Amy Jo Detweiler: The High Desert Garden Tour update was provided. We had 545 participants for the tour this year, which is very good considering we were off the last two years for COVID. We also had a lot of people interested in offering their gardens for next years' tour. Thanks to Toni, Liz and Lisa for pulling off garden tour this year with the help of the volunteers.

Regarding Master Gardener classes for next year, we are hoping to offer more in person classes in addition to online. Amy Jo is beginning plans for recognition night, for the end of September or October. Jan Even worked on the 2019 event photos and will confirm the date and let Amy Jo know. Amy Jo also reminds everyone to enter their hours into volunteer reporting system. Amy Jo thanked COMGA for the Facebook promotion for Garden Tour.

The new Horticulture position title will be an Outreach Program Coordinator, and will not include instructor duties. The application process has closed. There may be a piece to the process where volunteers can sit it. She will verify the process and let us know.

Tim asked Amy Jo if we need any printing this year for Waterwise or Vegetable Gardening booklets. Amy Jo confirmed that we will need to print some Waterwise booklets. Nancy asked if she knew approximate timing, (for budget purposes). Amy Jo will contact the printer and get back. Nancy said we can vote next month if we have an amount. Amy Jo asked to receive the meeting reminders with the zoom link.

Toni Stephan discussed plant clinic. We are having a good volume of questions and need more certified volunteers. Reminder: MG's need 16 hours of plant

clinic to keep up certification. We are seeing a lot of drought stress and damage. We have also seen cases of a new bug to our area: a masked hunter assassin bug. Nancy asked about an article for the Hoedown, and Toni will give a link to Rocky. A reminder about Friday plant clinic hours – The OSU Office is closed Fri. afternoons. Open in the morning only on Fridays thru Sept. 2nd. After 9/2 – To be determined. Toni will still be working through Oct. 1st. Toni also thanked everyone for helping on the garden tour, especially Liz Anderson. The garden descriptions were great, and mostly written by Liz.

BOARD REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Tim Schindele sent out the report on Tuesday. July is slow, not a lot of income - \$60.51. Expenses were low, \$499.91 only for Community Education (Facebook for OSU Garden Tour), and \$100 for rent reservation at Alpenglow Community Park, in place of annual BBQ. Also spent \$87.42 on Toni's retirement party for cakes. Tech committee reimbursed Janet Dart \$349.90 for zoom webinars, etc. for next 12 months. We have a lot of money sitting in our bank accounts, so we can afford to donate to the OSU Horticultural program.

Annual Picnic and Election: Janet is unavailable today, so Nancy provided the update. It will be August 25th, (Thurs.) from 4 – 7 pm at Alpenglow Pak, (in the covered picnic area). Janet will send out another reminder. Twenty-eight people had signed up thru E-vite so far. Some did not get an email invitation. Note: it came from Evite rather than a COMGA email. Nancy will talk with Janet about a follow-up. It is planned as a potluck and COMGA is providing the drinks. Rocky to send out an email and link ahead of time and will promote it in the HoeDown.

Election update. Rocky, Janet, Tim and Nancy were on nominating committee. Janet is conversing with people who expressed an interest. Nancy recruited Cheryl Hinerman for the VP Community Ed., and Jennifer Whelan for Historian. Janet will move up to President, (per our succession plan). Deb Goodall has also agreed to be Membership Coordinator. Karen Simonet has begun discussing OMGA with Janet. We will need candidates for secretary and VP of Master Gardener Education. Rocky is inviting someone to replace her as Communications liaison. We are still recruiting, if you have a name or suggestion. Janet has asked that we hold an online vote to ensure everyone has an opportunity. To be finalized.

Community Education: Jan Even is looking for 1-3 people to teach three classes in September on 'Putting your Garden to Bed' at the community gardens. It was an online class last year. We'd like to hold them in person this year, and cover both landscape and veggie gardens. Would also like to be able to use our Alpenglow new garden opening opportunity to hold a Firewise garden class. Amy Jo would volunteer for that, but we need to check on timing – fall or next spring. Amy Jo related that Miller's landing has requested a speaker, which could be folded into something Jan Even is working on. Amy Jo wants these classes to be available to the public.

Continued on page 8

Hollinshead Community Garden Open Garden Day

Saturday August 20, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Hollinshead Community Garden in Hollinshead Park
1235 NE Jones Road, Bend



Soil Thermometer/Row Cover Sales
Visit vegetable and water-wise gardens
Q&A with Master Gardeners
Insect Display
OSU Extension Master Food Preservers
Homestead House and Tack Shed
Museum Tours



Oregon State University
Extension Service

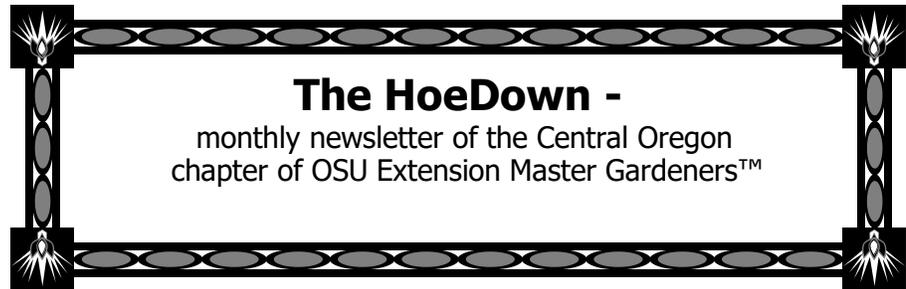


Photos by JoAnne Abbott

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



Crook
Deschutes &
Jefferson Counties



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