

H O E D O W N



August 2018



Board members 2018

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President's message



Why did **you** become a Master Gardener?

For many of us, it was to learn how to grow plants in the challenging Central Oregon environment. Or, as I tell anyone who asks, "I needed to learn how to stop killing plants!"

That was in 2006 when I had been living in Central Oregon for six years after enjoying my Zone 8 garden in Portland. I had never heard of the Master Gardener program until a friend became certified and my expectation was that I'd learn everything I needed to know to have a beautiful garden.



The Waterwise Education Garden at Bend's Hollinshead Park

Wow. Would it have been possible for me to be any more naïve?

After my very shaky training year (with thanks and apologies to Amy Jo and Toni), I lifted up my thick head and saw some really wonderful people around me, listening carefully to the gardeners asking for help in Plant Clinic, doing their bi-weekly calisthenics in the demo gardens and sitting patiently through committee and board meetings so the Chapter could run smoothly and, ultimately, benefit Central Oregon gardeners. I noticed that these fellow volunteers all seemed to be lit from within with the warm glow of making the world we live in a better place – creating the best environment for birds, bees and butterflies, supporting homeowners who wanted to grow their own vegetables, showing novice gardeners that pesticides won't cure all problems.

Since then, the incredible volunteers of the Central Oregon Chapter of the Master Gardener Association have 1) worked with the OSU Extension Horticulture Agent, Amy Jo Detweiler, to develop the Redmond Demonstration Garden (this 2004 photo was taken at the NE corner of the Redmond building, looking toward the parking lot – where the Ninebark now grows), 2) annually planted the All American Selections Garden (Amy Jo applied and we were selected to be one of just 80 gardens in the U.S. with this designation – you can learn more about the AAS at <https://all-americanselections.org/>), 3) established a second Community Garden at Northwest Crossing with an agreement between the land owner, West Bend Property and OSU Extension (and then, a few years later, helped when the entire garden's raised beds had to be moved to a new location), 4) grown the Spring Gardening Seminar from a Master Gardener only event to a community-wide educational experience (thereby increasing attendance from about 50 to over 200 with gardener attendees from every C.O. community), 5) established a very popular Annual Plant Sale that offers seedlings grown by our volunteers in the greenhouse purchased with grants, local government support and our own COMGA contribution, and most recently, 6) originated the joint project at Hollinshead Park: The Waterwise Education Garden, a project which took several years of cooperative work and funding to bring to life. After input from a Landscape Designer, plant selection by OSU's Amy Jo, labor by the Bend Park and Recreation District and funding by the City of Bend and COMGA, the garden opened in 2017.



Aren't we an amazing group of people? We became Master Gardeners for many private reasons but we continue to volunteer for many public ones. As our OSU Master Gardener Coordinator, Gail Langelotto says, "Gardening Will Save the World" – and the Master Gardeners will be there when it does!



COMGA Calendar
for contact persons go to gocomga.com

August

- 1 Deschutes County Fair starts, 10am
- 2 Board meeting, HH Waterwise Garden, 5:30pm, potluck
- 3 OMGA Executive Committee meeting, 10am
- 4 NWX Community Garden, open garden, 9:30am
- 7 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 7 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Grow a Row
- 8 Crook County Fair starts, 5pm
- 14 HH Waterwise Garden workday, 9am
- 14 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Open Garden HH
- 14 HH Community Garden meeting, 10am
- 18 HH Community Garden Open Garden, 9am
- 21 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 21 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, What Plant Tags Tell Us
- 28 HH Community Garden workday, 9am
- 28 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Questions in Plant Clinic

September

- 4 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 4 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Dividing Day Lilies & Irises
- 6 Board meeting, OSU Extension Office, Redmond, 1pm
- 11 Hollinshead Water Wise Garden workday, 9am
- 11 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Season Extenders
- 13 Annual BBQ quarterly meeting, 5pm
- 18 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 18 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Winter Garden Preparation
- 22 Hollinshead class, Winter Preparation, 9:30am
- 25 Hollinshead Community Garden workday, 9am
- 25 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Storing Your Harvest

October

- 2 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 2 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Fall Soil Amendment
- 4 Board meeting, OSU Extension Office, Redmond, 1pm
- 9 Hollinshead Water Wise workday, 9am
- 9 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Rain/Runoff Gardens
- 13 Hollinshead Community Garden closing day, 9am
- 13 NW Crossing Community Garden closing day, 9:30am
- 13 Quarterly meeting, Advanced training, From Landscape Architecture to Conservation Agriculture. Eileen Obermiller, 10:00am
- 16 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 16 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Composting
- 23 Hollinshead Community Garden meeting, 9am
- 23 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Spring Bulbs to Plant Now
- 30 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Fire Safe Yards



Who Am I?

Think you know who this Month's Mystery Master Gardener is?

1. I'm currently growing a lime tree, coffee tree and Pineapple plant.
2. I was born in Bend.
3. I went to Oregon State for Business Administration.
4. I was a Board member and the Treasurer of The Bloom Project for 2 years.
5. I played tennis for Mt. View.
6. I lived in Chicago during the only winter in recorded history to be both in the top 5 coldest and top 5 snowiest.
7. I restored a 1969 Camaro with my dad when I was in high school.
8. I was the personal assistant to Cathy Rigby during the final National Tour of Peter Pan.
9. I've had a commute that included a walk, train-ride and boat taxi.
10. Tomatillos are my favorite thing to grow.

Email Nancy Glick at nglick@bendcable.com
 Based on the timestamp of all emails submitted, whoever submits the correct answer first wins the contest. Prize to be determined.

July's
 Who Am I? was
 Joy Burns



Project updates

OSU Extension Demo Garden

by Liz Douville

What goes up, eventually comes down. We're referring to putting the shade cloth on the greenhouse at the OSU Demo Garden. The question was asked "why?" since there are no plants in the greenhouse. The reason, in part, is to be pro-active in maintaining the efficiency of the computerized temperature control system.

Toni and Rocky engineered the process involving the 8 volunteers present which went well with lots of heave-ho's.

Eventually when cool fall weather becomes the norm, the shade cloth will come down--(hint, hint, 8 volunteers will be needed)

Come join us on Tues August 7 and August 21 beginning at 9 am--you never know what you might learn.

Vicky Kemp & Liz Douville, OSU Demonstration Garden Project Coordinators

Hollinshead Water-wise Garden (HWG)

The water-wise garden at Hollinshead was part of the OSU Extension Garden tour this year and we had many interested garden tour participants in the garden throughout the day. We had master gardener volunteers who have worked in the garden this season as "homeowners" who provided information and answered questions. We developed a plant profile notebook that gave in-depth information about the plants in the garden, and tour participants were able to page through the notebook and get additional information about each plant.

The garden is looking great, with the hydrangea, echinacea and coreopsis in bloom, as well as the native agastache in flower. Thanks to a "volunteer" husband and son, master gardeners and a Hollinshead vegetable gardener, the shed in the garden was repainted and is fresh and clean. Bend Parks and Recreation is installing the permanent signage at the garden today. There is a welcome sign as well as an informational sign about the basics of water-wise gardening and 5 signs about the different types of irrigation used at the garden.

We will be hosting the COMGA Board meeting on August 2nd at the garden – a perfect time to see what we've been able to accomplish in one year. The garden will also be part of the Open Garden at Hollinshead on August 18th from 9-1:00 – if you haven't been at the garden, come see what's happening!

Pat Kolling and Chris Miao

IT'S KPOV TIME GARDENING: GET GOOD AT IT

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

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

August 7 Grow a Row

August 14 Open Garden at Hollinshead

August 21 What Plant Tags Tell Us

August 28 Questions in Plant Clinic



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



Project updates

Busy as a Bee at Hollinshead Community Vegetable Garden

By Nancy Crossan

In less than three months, the plots are beginning to fill up as plants grow. Early green crops of lettuce, kale, and Swiss Chard, along with early broccoli and radishes are being harvested by our gardeners. The days are long and warm. There is a lot of community sharing going on, as crops are being thinned out. Why throw away a good start, when you can give it to another gardener to enjoy?

Weeds, water and bugs have been keeping us all busy this last month. The new water system was set up, and each week we had more and more daily complaints about the water. The plots were too dry or too wet. To make a long story short, after 3 adjustments to the watering times, today Parks and Rec met us at the garden for the 2nd time to look at the spray and adjust. Low and behold the sprinklers were running when we got there at 9:00am

Houston, we DO have a problem.

UPDATE: I am happy to report the following.

Thanks to Parks and Rec team of Lee, Gary and Trip.

Today the clock has been replaced and set to run all programs

The irrigation valves and sprinkler heads have been adjusted.

The Mentors are letting their gardeners know what's happening and I am keeping my fingers crossed.

Jennifer Gold, Kat Kendall and I have been working on a Straw Bale Gardening example next to the Demo Beds. Everyone who passes by asks "What is that for?" After 3 weeks of "conditioning" the bale with water and blood meal, the temperature and decomposition was just right for digging out the top and adding soil for planting. Kat and Jen shared starts from their greenhouse, and had a fun time digging and planting. Lots of laughter and explaining going on that afternoon. How many contacts was that?? After having to water by hand, we are in the process of setting up a drip system this week end.

Our Pollinator Class on June 23rd for kids of all ages was fun and well attended in the garden. "Pollinators, what's all the Buzz" was taught by 'The hover fly', "The bumble bee", "The moth" and The butterfly". They were all in costume and singing jingles. Thanks to Susanna, Cathy, Kris and Laurie for volunteering.

Upcoming Events at the Hollinshead Garden:

July 14th 10:30 AM Insect Management in Organic Gardens

July 21st 9-3:30 OSU Garden tour in HH Waterwise Garden

August 2nd 5:30 PM potluck and COMGA meeting in the HH Waterwise Garden

August 18th from 9:00 till 1:00. Open Garden. Last year we ended up canceling our event due to the Eclipse and

the fires in Central Oregon. We are excited for this year's event and hope you all will get a chance to stop by the garden with your friends and family.

It takes a TEAM to keep this community garden going. Thanks to our Volunteers, Mentors and assistants for listening to their gardeners, teaching/communicating with all of us, sharing information, and setting up and promoting the food donation program. I appreciate the encouragement to slow down and take a deep breath when it gets overwhelming.

NorthWest Crossing Community Garden

By Tina Burnside

NWX Community Garden gardeners have enjoyed a spectacular summer. The north and south winds have been very gentle. Our critters are fewer in numbers since we eliminated the huge open compost bins. We are now using a small self-contained tumbler compost bin.

Gary has an amazing array of veggies that he planted all from seed.



Rodger's tomatoes and veggies are thriving.



New Gardener Nick was so excited when his seeds germinated that he sent photos.

Our gardeners and their families are having fun with watering and waiting for the harvest of our veggies, especially the tomatoes!

Come visit our NWX Garden!

Gary, Caroline, Kat, McKenzie, John, Debbie and Tina



Central Oregon Master Gardener Association board meeting, August 2, 2019

Meeting was called to order by President Nancy Glick at 6:20pm.

A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by JoAnne Abbott and seconded by Jolene Dodge. The motion passed.

10 Minute University—Chris Miao gave a class on the waterwise garden at Hollinshead.

OSU Report: Toni Stephan reported the plant clinic is going well with many questions answered. She said a special thank-you to all the volunteers who helped at the plant clinic and the garden tour. The garden tour is very popular with the public. We sold 740 tickets this year.

Board Reports:

Treasurer report—Tim Schindele submitted the treasurers report with an e-mail informing the board that he and Nancy purchased the \$5,000.00 CD at First Interstate Bank. Terms are 37 months to maturity at 2.4%APR. We had requested and received a \$200 Send A Friend scholarship from OMGA to send our MG of the Year to the Growing Gardeners Conference. I put that under Contributions in the income section. Since we didn't use it, the \$200 was refunded to OMGA and expensed under Membership/OMGA. Two MGs who attended the Growing Gardeners Conference and who had requested tuition and room and board assistance received a combined total of \$544.70.

Total Income for July 2018: \$ 368.43
 Total Expenses for July 2018: \$ 935.39
 Checking Account Balance: \$ 34,649.74
 PayPal Balance: \$ 0.00
 Savings Account Balance: NW Community CU: \$ 25.83
 60 Month CD Matures 1/5/2023: \$ 7,015.86
 24 Month CD Matures 6/19/2020: \$5,447.34
 37 Month CD Matures 8/31/2021: \$5,000.00
 Committed Funds as of 7/31/18
 Checking account Cash Flow: \$ 5,000.00
 Opportunity Fund Balance: \$ 5,000.00
 Reserves: \$ 5,000.00
 Total Assets \$52,138.77

OMGA Report—Vickie Minor reported that she sent the feedback from the Central Oregon Chapter regarding future G2 conferences. She also sent additional questions to Sue Nesbitt. Vickie has not received any answers yet to her questions. We had a continuing discussion on proposed possible changes to the G2 conference.

Nominating Committee—Jan Even reported the committee is now talking to people about the open positions on the board. They will have a slate of candidates to present to the board for voting at the Sept 13th barbecue.

Action Items:

Parliamentarian—We had a discussion on the question of needing a parliamentarian on the board. Jan Even made a motion that we could eliminate this position. JoAnne Abbott seconded the motion. We voted—yes to eliminate the position.

Policies and Procedures update—Nancy Glick led a discussion about how to proceed with changes to policies and procedures when only a few words need to be changed. She will change some wording as needed and then e-mail the board for a vote.

Waterwise Garden—Chris Miao made a funding request for signage costs for the waterwise garden. She gave a hand out with details of costs. Rocky Bessette made a motion to take up to \$1,260 from the opportunity fund to pay for the signs. It was seconded by Vickie Minor.

Open Forum—JoAnne Abbott led a discussion on purchasing a memorial stone and plaque with names of volunteers who have passed and worked in the garden. Rocky Bessette made a motion to take up to \$57 for the stone and up to \$300 for the plaque from the opportunity fund. Seconded by Joy Burns. Voted yes to do that.

Trowel Awards—Rocky Bessette awarded Evie Cox for her work on the Spring Seminar. Liz Douville awarded Jan Even for work at the demonstration garden. Nancy Crossan awarded Jennifer Gold for her work at Hollinshead. Vicky Kemp awarded Shari Marler for her work on the plant sale.

Project Status Reports:

Community Education—JoAnne Abbott gave us an update on education. Waterwise classes were excellent. Insects in Organic gardens was given. Overall attendance is low for classes.

Hollinshead Vegetable Garden—Nancy Crossan reported the garden is growing well now. The new water system is working well. The garden has a new bulletin board and the open garden date is set for August 18th.

NW Crossing Garden—Kat Kendall reported classes are set for the next month, still dealing with ground squirrels, and some empty beds.

OSU Demonstration Garden—No updates---picking squash

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 by the President Nancy Glick.

Thank you

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Jaynes, 2018
COMGA Secretary



How to Make a Rooting Tonic

Rooting tonics, also called rooting hormones or rooting compounds, are products that contain plant growth hormones used to stimulate root growth during plant propagation. Many commercially-sold rooting products contain a synthetic form of indolebutyric acid. If you have access to a willow tree or shrub, you can easily make your own rooting tonic, because indolebutyric acid occurs naturally in all varieties of willow trees.

Steps

1. Collect approximately 2 cups of willow branches or 3 cups of bark.
 - A. Choose small, young branches that are no thicker than a pencil. The highest concentration of hormone exists in the youngest branches.
 - B. You can also use bark from live older willow branches or trunks. If you go this route, you need to use more bark because it contains less hormones.
 - C. Do not gather old dead branches from the ground, as they will contain very little indolebutyric acid, if any.
2. Cut the willow branches into pieces between 3-to-6-inches long. If using bark, cut it into 2-to-4-inch pieces.
3. Put the willow into a pan or bowl that is large enough to hold the clippings plus a gallon of water.
4. Boil 1 gallon of water and pour it over the willow clippings.
5. Allow the willow and hot water to brew for 12-24 hours.
6. Pour the liquid into glass containers with lids that close securely and discard the pieces of willow. You can store the tonic in the refrigerator for up to two months.
7. Use the rooting tonic when propagating new plants.
 - A. Soak the tips of your cuttings in the rooting tonic for several hours before planting them.
 - B. In addition to encouraging the growth of a strong root system, the willow rooting tonic inhibits the development of bacteria, fungus, and viral disease.

Tips

- Honey may also be helpful as a sanitation agent, although it contains no hormonal advantage. Dip the cut end of the plant in the honey and then put it in the soil immediately. Alternately, you can boil 2 cups of water, add 1 tablespoon of honey, and soak the end of the plant for several hours before putting it in the soil.
- Add approximately 1/2-cup willow rooting compound to 1 gallon of water and use the mixture to water the young seedlings during the first few weeks of growth.
- Some people have reported success using aspirin as rooting tonic. To try this method, dissolve an uncoated aspirin in 1-cup of water, then soak the cut end of the plant in the water for several hours before planting. In a 2007 U.S. Department of Agriculture study, a diluted solution of 1.3 teaspoons of hydrogen peroxide in 1 gallon of distilled water was found to control disease in plants and cuttings. Growth and flowering benefits were seen in nasturtiums irrigated with the solution. Use the solution as a dip for cuttings to promote sanitation.

OSU article

Hummingbirds

There are more than 300 different species of hummingbirds and about a dozen in the United States, most in the southwestern US. Southeastern Arizona has the greatest variety. The Rufous hummingbird ranges north to southern Alaska and is the one we are most likely to see here in Western Oregon.



The iridescence of the feathers is caused by crystalline structures within the feathers and causes the rainbow shifting depending on the angle of view.

Hummingbirds can both hover and fly backward. When hovering the wings beat at about 55 times per second and that goes to 75 times per second when flying forward at full speed. Male hummingbirds are very aggressive and perform aerial jousts with other males and spectacular acrobatics for the female. They earned the name of "Little Warrior" among some of the Native American tribes. Hummingbirds really enjoy flying through sprinkler mist on a hot summer day and bathe daily.

The birds have extremely high energy requirements and to survive at night or in cooler weather, they enter a state of torpor to conserve energy. They may appear dead to the casual observer, but should not be handled. Their energy comes mostly from nectar, but they also eat small insects. They have a highly extensible, tubular tongue which reaches into the tubular flowers to suck up nectar. They will also feed on sap running from a plant. They may eat 50-60 times a day. If using a feeder, be sure to wash it thoroughly once a week with hot, soapy water, then rinse thoroughly. Molds and bacteria can harm hummingbirds. Do not use honey and water as it molds more rapidly, may contain botulinum and ferments readily, all of which may lead to the death of the hummingbird. The red food coloring is not needed. A red feeder is more attractive to them. If wasps or bees become a problem, use a bee excluder on the feeder. If ants come after it, use petroleum jelly on the hanging wire to discourage them.

The best way to encourage a healthy hummingbird population is to plant a succession of hummingbird plants in your yard.

OSU article

AN OPEN LETTER TO CENTRAL OREGON MASTER GARDENERS

It is an undisputed fact that our Central Oregon Master Gardeners are a hard working, talented in many areas, friendly and happy group that works together for the common good of fulfilling our goal of public education.

All that being said, we do have one major downfall of which we all have been guilty of at one time or another; the most recent being the last quarterly meeting.

The downfall is engaging in side conversations and not being attentive to the speaker. It is disrespectful to the speaker who has spent their time preparing thoughts and their knowledge to share with us. Giving them our full attention is a common courtesy we seem to have forgotten.

Our monthly board/membership meeting will resume at the Extension office in September. Please be conscious of giving the presenters your full attention. Social time is always scheduled prior to the meeting which is a good time to catch up with friends.

Sincerely,

Liz Douville

Agent's Corner



Hi All,

Hope you are staying cool in this extended heat. I know I am ready for some cooler weather as are most of our plants. The High Desert Garden Tour was a raging success this year with our highest attendance yet at 740 tickets being sold, that is over 200+ more than ever before! Thanks to Toni, Carrie and all of you volunteers that helped with all parts of the tour! A reminder to continue getting your required hours in at the plant clinic, it has been so busy in there! Thank you all for your patience with the new website, it will take us some time to get items loaded and in the right locations. Carrie and I have started to add some items back. For now you can continue to access the old website if need be here until Nov. 1st . and to get us through the growing season. <https://archive.extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/>

Keep cool this summer and thanks for all of your amazing work! Amy Jo

Meet the Trainees

by Jolene Dodge

Mimi Thomas



I met with Mimi Thomas for a delightful interview. Mimi remembers her first introduction to gardening, when she was 10 and spent the summer with her grandparents in Denmark. Her grandparents had a large plot in a beautiful community garden, where she grew strawberries and potatoes. Mimi said she remembers gardening with her grandparents as being a fun and peaceful experience.

Mimi lived in Oregon City with her husband for many years, where they raised their son and daughter; she now has 4 energetic and wonderful grandchildren. Mimi is a retired letter carrier who had a walking delivery route. While walking on her route she felt fortunate to meet Master Gardeners in her community, who inspired her to pursue Master Gardener training. Mimi and her husband recently relocated to Central Oregon and when she saw an opportunity to pursue the Master Gardener training she did. Mimi is eager to learn and volunteer, she is also excited to meet like minded people in her new community.

Mimi likes water-wise gardening, she has a small water-wise garden in her yard, which she is learning to care for appropriately. She said the MG training has helped her a lot. Since completing the classroom part of the training she has helped a few friends and family build their gardens and she is delighted to have the time and training to do so.





The "Grow a Little Fruit Tree" group—photo by Kris Knoernschild



Photo by Kris Knoernschild

Dan Tippy showed everyone his espaliered apple trees and demonstrated how to prune them for best results.

He also showed off his grapes and how he protects them from the deer and frost.

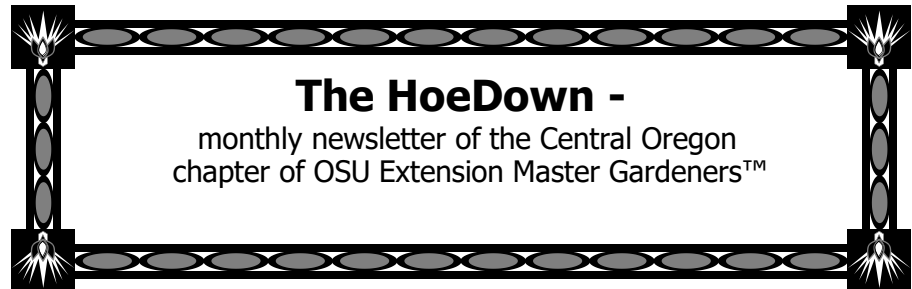
The perk came when he opened up a bottle of wine from his very own grapes.



Central Oregon Chapter of OSU Extension Master Gardeners™
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Crook
Deschutes &
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