

May 2020



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## President's message



When April arrived this year, I felt like a hibernating bear who finally awakes and lumbers out of her cave. Sunshine?! Green buds on everything? Noisy birds arguing about pride of place in the trees!

Bosh!

Every Spring I'm slow to embrace this madness called gardening. I walk with my head down, avoiding the sight of the dead foliage I didn't clean up before the Winter hibernation hit me. I hurry back into my 'cave' where a soft chair swallows me in oblivious comfort.

So, you may wonder, what can get my lazy bones into the yard, to once again nurture all those plants I grew from seed, planted and cared for just last summer? Why, my old friends: Bedstraw, Dandelion, Cheat Grass, and my absolute favorite, rye grass traveling from the lawn into the flower beds. The sight of a pretty little yellow flower in the sea of fresh green grass has always been able to get me dressed, shoed and out the door faster than the last day of a sale at my favorite nursery.

But this Spring has been a new experience for me and I'm finding myself doing things I wouldn't expect of myself. Since Winter ended the whole world, quite literally, has had to think carefully about how to spend the open-ended days. I've read about people learning how to make sourdough, discovering how to make a pretty but practical mask; others are remembering what it's like to dance for no reason and with no partner, and some are realizing that they finally have the time to finish the home remodel they've dreamed about for years.

At my house, the weeds are getting pulled, seeds are getting planted and the irrigation is finally up and operating. But I'm using my 'zen' moments while sitting in the warm spring sunshine to consider what is happening all around me and in spite of me. I've thought of my long-gone relatives and how they, the Greatest Generation, would have managed their lives if they were still alive. Very differently, I suspect.

As a child my daughter loved the book The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett. There's a character in it who says "Where you tend a rose, my lad, a thistle cannot grow." I'm taking that to heart this Spring and cultivating my own garden: my family and my friends.



Just remember: we're the roses the world needs right now. Go forth and nurture!

## Spring wildflowers are starting to put on a show

by Judy Shearer

The sand lilies and prairie stars are blooming and so are the western wallflowers, *Erysimum capitatum*. A member of the mustard family (Brassicaceae) all wallflowers have the typical four petals in the shape of a cross. The linear leaves are alternate. The yellow to orange flowers often fragrant are somewhat spoon shaped. The plant is a biennial forming a rosette the first year and bolting the second. After flowering, pollination and fertilization, it forms a fruit called a silique, a log pod, which is 1-6 inches long, narrow and four sided straight or sometimes slightly curved. Western wallflower also called sandune wallflower has a broad distribution being found in meadows, forests, and the shrub steppe of eastern Oregon. It is easily cultivated and adds early color to a garden.



Photograph by Samantha Shearer

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Fagan, D. 2019. Wildflowers of Oregon. A field Guide to over 400 wildflowers, trees, and shrubs of the Coast, Cascades, and High Desert. Falcon Guides, Helena.

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



## Getting to Know You!

By Laurie Floyd

Let me introduce you to Dan Tippy. Dan has been a Master Gardener since 2011. He has gardened all of his life with his family. Some years more than others. He has always found pleasure playing in the dirt.

Dans favorite thing about the Master Gardener program is all the information he learns about new plants. He often peruses the Demonstration garden looking for interesting new plants that he can put in his gardens. Dan also enjoys all he learns through the research he does for clients in Plant Clinic. It's a constant learning process about planting in the garden.

Dan grew up in Michigan. He worked for the County government in Soil Surveying, he then moved to Montana and worked doing Soil Surveying for the Bureau of Land Management. Even in Montana its easier growing plants than here in Central Oregon. The differences between Central Oregon and Montana are, they have colder winters but a longer growing season. You still need very cold tolerant plants, but no frost beyond May! In Montana you can have sub-zero weather by Halloween through Easter, but by May be planting tomatoes! No deep snow living along the Canadian border. It would snow, but the wind would blow it away the next day.

After Montana he moved to Phoenix, Az, and then to Prineville, OR continuing to work for the Bureau of Land management, playing in the dirt.

Dan and his wife, Tara, moved to Redmond in 1992. Tara is a Teacher and taught school in Redmond. They have been married for 39 years and have two children, a son Patrick, who works for a non-profit organization that develops low income housing, and a daughter Elizabeth, who manages a small credit union and has a 4 1/2-year-old daughter. Both children live in Seattle and share a bi-level home, one family living on each story.

Dan and Tara have done a fair amount of traveling together. They've been to Florence, Italy because their son did a semester of college in Italy. They have also been to Spain, due to his daughter doing a semester of college there. His daughter worked for the Peace Corps, so they have been to Paraguay, Argentina, and then Peru. He climbed Machu Picchu and hiked the Inca trail with his son.

Going on a Photo Safari vacation to Tanzania, they had the total National Geographic experience. In 10 days with a guide they visited Arusha, the Serengeti and Ngorongoro National Park. They saw lions, gazelle, cheetahs, antelope, leopards, and tons of birds. At night they heard lions roaring outside their tent in camp.

Dan has been raising, what I jokingly call, "tortured trees". He has been growing four apple trees in the French Espalier style of growing fruit trees. Espalier means, "Something to rest your shoulders against". It is a horticultural and agricultural practice of controlling woody plant growth by pruning and tying branches to a frame. Its Bonsai on a huge scale! It looks beautiful and is an interesting way to grow and collect your fruit.

His garden also has Rugosa roses, peonies, tulips, daffodils, with other flowers in raised beds. He grows PJM Rhododendrons because they are resistant to Root Weevils and cold weather tolerant. Smaller flowers, but good, beautiful bloomers in lavenders and pinks.

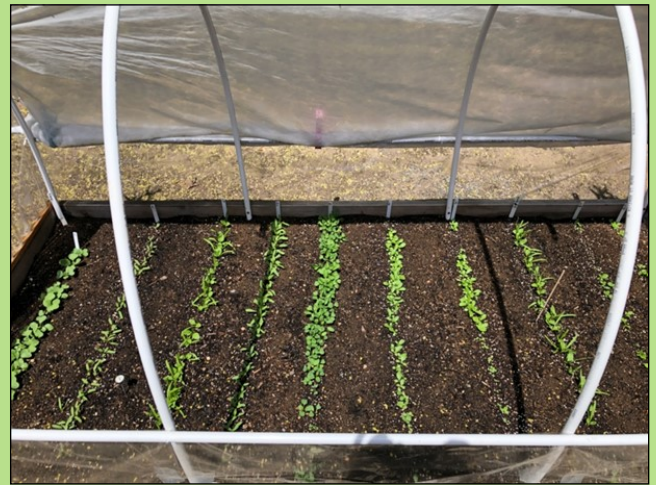
Dans favorite thing in his garden is his grape arbor growing alongside his driveway. The grapes did very well last year. For all his hard work, his plants yielded 3 gallons worth of wine. This year from his grapes he created a delightful dark rosé. Cheers to you Dan!

## Discovery Park Community Garden

by Gary Weber

Plans for reopening the community garden are in place and would include such measures as registering on-line, removing the need for the traditional Opening Day event and the need for an in-person visit to register and receive garden information. However, as of this writing, the garden is to remain closed till further instructions to the contrary are provided by OSU Extension. A May 30 opening as had been proposed, will likely not be achievable. Limited access to the garden using social distancing and careful sanitation actions might be a next step, but there are no plans for that to happen currently. The best we can do at this stage is to keep the returning and new gardeners regularly updated and be ready to go when and if the opportunity is there.

Early planted greens in the backyard.



## What's inside the Black Box?

### What IS the Black Box?



**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:  
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OR 97756 or [rockyb820@gmail.com](mailto:rockyb820@gmail.com)

## "Vegetable Garden Site Selections"

by Chris Miao

It's the time of year when people are anxious to get started on a vegetable garden. One of the most important decisions you will make is where to put your vegetable garden.

**Pick the right spot.** Gardening here in Central Oregon is a challenge. Both gardeners and plants need every advantage they can get in order to be successful. A good site can make all the difference in the world between a garden that thrives vs. one that struggles or even dies.

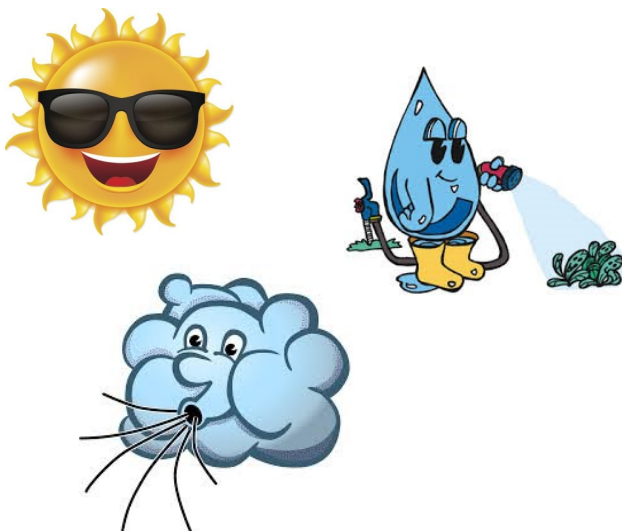
**The first thing to look for.** Probably the most critical thing is the amount of sun the site receives. Vegetable gardens need at least 6 to 8 hours of full sun a day. 12 hours is best. If you don't have full sun you may want to consider planting in containers in a sunny spot

**Water is also very important.** Since water is essential, your site has to have access to a water source. You don't want to have to haul water by hand so at minimum a hose with a spray nozzle is needed. Ideally you will have an automatic watering system that takes care of irrigation when you aren't available. Most vegetable gardeners prefer some sort of drip or soaker system.

**There's variation in climate from one place to another in Central Oregon.** There are lots of small pockets in neighborhoods or even yards where the temperature and conditions vary from one to the next. We call these microclimates. If you have the option, don't plant your vegetable garden in a low spot, like at the base of slope. Cold air and frost settle there and they are slow to warm in the spring. You will have to provide extra plant protection if that is your only choice of location.

**Wind is a consideration.** Wind is very hard on vegetables as it dries out both the soil and the plant. If you must plant in a windy spot, build or grow a windbreak.

**What else is important?** It may seem obvious but be sure to choose a spot near your house so it is convenient to work in the garden when you have a few minutes. Most people have very busy lives and will have to squeeze in regular garden maintenance whenever they can. Besides you want to be able to pop out the kitchen door and quickly pick some wonderful veggies for your dinner.



## "Fruit Tree Pruning to Make Cultivation Easier"

by Jan Even

Most gardeners know that pruning can enhance the health and beauty of a tree. But when it comes to fruit trees, pruning techniques can also make trees easier to care for and fruit easier to harvest.

Ann Ralph, the author of "Grow a Little Fruit Tree," is a California horticulturalist who advocates pruning fruit trees severely to keep them small.

She explains that traditional management methods for home orchards are adapted from commercial orchardists. That's problematic for home gardens for two reasons: Orchard ladders are required to prune, spray, net or harvest large trees and that can be dangerous. Secondly, a healthy large fruit tree produces more fruit at one time than the average family can use. The solution to both problems, she argues, is to prune trees radically to keep them small.

Ann Ralph's rules are simple:

First, select semi-dwarf fruit tree varieties. Why not choose dwarf varieties that naturally reach only 8 to 10 feet tall? Ralph prefers semi-dwarf trees because they can still be kept small, but have stronger roots, a longer life span and produce more fruits – but not nearly as much as a full-sized tree.

Then buy bare-root trees. Whether purchased locally or ordered from a catalog, they will be packaged without soil. After you plant your bare-root tree, cut it off straight across at about knee height. Yes, the tree will be just a stick about 2 feet tall. That's OK.

As it grows, the tree will branch out from that knee-high point. With pruning, it can be kept to your height, so you don't need to work on ladders. Yet it will still be fruitful. A semi-dwarf Fuji apple tree pruned to 6 feet tall will produce about 100 apples a year, Ralph says.

Prune the tree twice a year. In late winter, prune for structure: Eliminate broken, dead or diseased branches, crossing branches, and those growing toward the interior of the tree.

In summer, about the time of the Summer Solstice, prune for height. Cut back vertical branches just above a horizontal branch to force growth laterally. Or eliminate a vertical branch altogether by cutting it off at its point of origin. Cut back horizontal branches as needed to maintain a pleasing shape, but don't remove more than one-third of the tree's growth. Every year, repeat the process.

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This same technique can be used, over a period of several years, to reduce the height of full-size fruit trees (though they may never be as small as a semi-dwarf). Just take care not to remove more than one-third of the branch volume in any given year.

Want to learn more? Ann Ralph's book, "Grow a Little Fruit Tree," is available at the Deschutes County libraries in downtown Bend and in Prineville. If you happen to be in Northern California in the winter, or in June, Ralph teaches hands-on pruning workshops in the Oakland area during those times. Visit [www.growalittlefruittree.com](http://www.growalittlefruittree.com) to see a schedule of workshops, or read her tips about various fruit trees.

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## Plant Clinic Solutions

by Toni Stephan

Why is my Oregon grape all tan and brown on the edges? And some leaves have purple and red in them. And my holly looks the same way. I also have a pine tree that has brown on the needles from the tips going to a fourth or third of the way down the needle. What's going on with my plants? These are similar issues of things we are hearing in plant clinic.

The issue is most likely winter desiccation, an environmental issue we commonly face in Central Oregon. Winter desiccation or dehydration happens when the plant loses water faster than the roots can access it from the ground. Evergreens lose water faster than deciduous trees, those that lose their leaves in the winter, so we see this damage more frequently in them but desiccation can happen to all plants. Warm spells in winter and sunny or windy days speed the loss of water from the foliage. Plant material that gets intense sunlight, faces south or southwest, or that gets radiated heat from another surface will show the symptoms mentioned above sooner and more severely than north facing plant surfaces or than plants protected from winter winds. Dry or frozen soil does not allow the roots to pick up necessary moisture therefore, the leaves or needles start to dry out. The more the plant loses moisture the further down the leaves or needles the damage goes. Most commonly, the leaves or needles hold their green color until a period of warmer weather when the symptoms become visible. The delay in seeing symptoms makes relating it to winter conditions difficult for most people.

What should you do about the damage to your plants? You should prune out the dead material but wait until the plant has leafed out so you don't expose new wood to freezing temperatures as this new wood will be tender and refreeze easily. Removing the dead tissue will help prevent insect and disease infestation.

How can you help prevent winter desiccation from happening again? You need to make sure the plant has been watered well during the summer, through the fall and into the early part of winter before the ground freezes solid. During the heat of summer trees and shrubs

need to be watered deeply at least every other week so that the moisture gets down 18-24" on trees and 12-18" on shrubs. Normally, turf irrigation does not deliver enough water to provide deep soaking for trees and shrubs. A layer of mulch 3-4" deep around trees and shrubs will help keep soil temperature and moisture regulated to slow down water evaporation. Do not put the mulch directly against the trunk of the plants as this lead to other problems. It is advisable to water your landscape plants 2-3 times during the winter during warm spells when the ground thaws enough to soak in some moisture. You can also apply an anti-transpirant to your plants that are most likely to suffer winter desiccation. This is a product designed to slow moisture loss through the leaves of plants, but this is not a guaranteed technique. Be sure to read and follow the label directions.

I did some research about our precipitation for 2013 and the beginning of 2014. Did you know that in the first 8 months of 2013 Bend only got 3.68 inches of precipitation. The next 7 months was a little better with 4.83" but over 60% of that came in February and March of 2014. That was too late to keep the plants from drying out over winter. If people did not water their evergreens well in the summer and fall the plants went into winter already dehydrated and they suffered this winter injury. So protect your plants and your investment and water well this next season.



Find the **Black Box** at [gocomga.com](http://gocomga.com). Scroll down the **Black Box** on the left to Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon. Catch up on the new postings the second and fourth Saturday of the month. Who knows what secrets might be revealed!

## PHOTOS

Mimi Thomas, 2020 COMGA Historian, is requesting MGs to email her pics (in jpeg) form of gardening activities you have been doing at home during this quarantine time.

We would all love to see pics of our MGs and the gardening related activities they might be doing with their families.

Send your photos to Mimi at [mormormimit@gmail.com](mailto:mormormimit@gmail.com)



## LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

May 7, 2020  
Via Zoom Online

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Nancy Glick (President), Jan Even (Past-President), Elizabeth Hughes Weide (VP-Community Education), Vickie Minor (Secretary), Tim Schindele (Treasurer), Mimi Thomas (Historian), Janet Dart (OMGA State Representative), Diana Hardin (Alternate State Representative), Rocky Bessette (Communications Liaison), Gary Weber, Nancy Crossan, Ruth Mulligan, Nathalie Smith and Amy Jo Detweiler.

The meeting was held via Zoom technology, starting at 1:00 PM and adjourning at 2:50 PM. The board discussed the following items:

### Approval of minutes of previous meeting (Nancy Glick)

Motion to approve the minutes made by Diana Hardin, seconded by Mimi Thomas and approved by the board.

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

Amy Jo reported that everything is still in a holding pattern and there are no changes to what we may and may not do. Access to the office and OSU property is restricted, which governs access to the demo gardens and community gardens. Nancy shared a list of tasks that would likely have to be done to disinfect the equipment and areas in the community gardens, on an ongoing basis. The list is extensive and may be asking too much of volunteer MGs. Amy Jo thinks a May 30th opening date may not be realistic under the current restrictions so she would like us to poll the returning and incoming gardeners, to find out the latest date they would be willing to return, after which, they would not garden this year because of the shortened growing season. The critical "take away" from this is how we will need to adapt our approach and strategies for training and education going forward. Right now, we need to wait for guidance from OSU before we can make any firm decisions. Amy Jo also noted that at this point, it is highly unlikely that the garden tour will go forward. It would be difficult to do and maintain the social distancing requirements. She also wants to check in with the homeowners to see who is in/out, as this is about the homeowner's comfort zone.

### BOARD REPORTS:

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

Tim reported that because of advertising for events that were ultimately canceled, we have spent more than we have brought in. He is still paying ads that were run in March where he did not get the invoices until recently. The budget report reflects a \$3350 loss to date but some funds will be recouped when the t-shirt money is collected. Tim also paid a training expense in May that was incurred in January. The only other income will be from the community gardens, if they open. Total assets are \$41,051.39 right now. We have a 24-month CD that will mature in a month. Typically, we roll them over but if the funds are needed, we will have them available. A question was raised on whether we should consider an additional donation to the horticulture program, above the \$2000 we have already budgeted. After an extensive discussion, we agreed to discuss it further at the June

meeting, after we have more information on what might be needed. Tim asked that project coordinators send him an estimate of potential expenses this year, for budgeting purposes.

#### Membership Report (Jolene Dodge)

As of this month, there are 77 paid members, 5 associates and 39 trainees. There are 92 people recertifying so 15 people do not belong to the association.

#### OMGA Rep Report (Janet Dart)

OMGA has canceled Mini-college for this year and has rescheduled it for July 16-17, 2021. Janet will send the quarterly report at the end of the month. The focus will be on what our members are doing to stay busy during the pandemic. Vickie asked that we keep in mind that since Mini-college was canceled last year and this year, there will be a budget impact to provide tuition for Vickie, Kathy and whoever is the Master Gardener of the Year for 2020.

### PROJECT STATUS REPORTS:

#### Community Education (Elizabeth Weide)

Because of the pandemic restrictions, everything that was organized and planned was canceled. However, attendance at the online classes has been very high. Diana posted an article on the Central Oregon MG Facebook site about all the free classes being offered through OSU (from a news article that can be found at <https://www.corvallisadvocate.com/2020/osu-announces-more-free-gardening-classes-during-covid-19/>). The number of people taking online classes has increased dramatically. This is an approach the Education Committee should discuss for the future. Discussion followed on how we need to master the technology, what tools would be needed and how we could incorporate this method into our community learning efforts. Because there are subjects that could be covered this year, specifically in the fall for putting home gardens to bed, this has potential use for us now.

#### Discovery Park Community Garden (Gary Weber)

Gary had a possible schedule for reopening May 30th but based on the information from Amy Jo, the date is in limbo. If the garden opens, Gary plans to use online payments via PayPal, or checks sent through the mail. Operating guidelines in these times would have to be made very clear to all gardeners and volunteers. Nancy noted that if we accept PayPal payments and then must refund the money, PayPal will take a \$0.30 fee anyway. Based on Amy Jo's input during the meeting, everything is on hold until we have more information. If the garden does reopen and a gardener decides not to return this year, we will need to decide if the bed would go to someone on the waiting list.

#### Hollinshead Vegetable Garden (Nancy Glick)

Nancy reported that she is getting positive feedback from the gardeners, thanking us for keeping them in the information loop. She will work with Gary to create a uniform poll that can be sent to the renters, to see who would be interested in returning and at which point, it would be too late to garden this year. Amy Jo supports doing the poll and thinks we should wait to

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**LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD** continued

collect funds until we know more details about restarting. Discussion followed on how we would approach advising gardeners about trying to garden this season. Many may look to us for advice on what they could grow this late in the season. We also noted that getting supplies could be difficult at this point since many people are starting their own home gardens because of the pandemic. Nancy and Gary will give an update next month.

**June Garden Fair** (Vicky Kemp)

Nancy reported in Vicky's absence. Vicky purchased supplies for the sale and will hang on to them for next year. It does not appear that we have lost any money as we were able to cancel the plant orders from the vendor.

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

Amy Jo is weeding the garden, with permission from OSU each time she needs access to the property. No other staff or volunteers are allowed on the property.

**Spring Gardening Seminar** (Rocky Bessette)

Rocky reported that the Comfort Suites refunded our money that was paid as a deposit for a room for one of the speakers. Nothing else has changed from last month's report.

**Waterwise Garden** (Chris Miao/Pat Kolling)

Nathalie reported that the Water-wise work group has been meeting via Zoom, and is continuing their work on the plant records database. It will include all the plants and plant care during the year. From that information, the group will be able to create a webpage or produce a demo on the garden. Once they are satisfied that the information is what they need, they will move forward. No one is doing any weeding at Hollinshead community garden or in the WWG. There has been some nightshade so there are some worries about it getting out of control.

**Other Business**

Amy Jo was asked what steps will be taken to recertify the MGs this year. She confirmed that there will be an adjustment to the recertification requirements, noting that if we were recertified going into 2020, we will be recertified automatically for 2021. The requirements for trainees will be different too. Amy Jo asked us to start thinking about the ways we provide training and programming and how we need to adapt going forward. Many questions would need to be discussed, including how we continue to volunteer if we are restricted from meeting in person. Discussion would need to include what kinds of tools and training we would need to be successful, possibly including training on social media platforms (e.g., Facebook). Nancy, Elizabeth, and Nathalie can begin the process of collecting ideas. Because of the uncertainty of the pandemic, we need to have a plan for the next 12-18 months, that addresses how we can be effective and continue to maintain a presence in the community.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Minor, Secretary

**Hollinshead Water-wise Garden**

Chris and I hope that this finds you all well after a trying time of social distancing and staying in. The warmer weather does get the gardening juices flowing, and everyone is anxious to get back into the garden. Needless to say, we haven't been able to work in the water-wise garden, and it is somewhat the worse for wear. The irrigation has been turned on to the water-wise garden, and the plants are being adequately watered and that should help. There are lots of weeds and pine needles that will need to be dealt with when we can actually get back into the garden.

In the meantime, the "Techie" committee (Kathy Ketchum, Janet Dart and Nathalie Smith) and the Plant profile committee (Mimi Thomas, Judy Shearer, Kirsten Hinton, Chris Miao and Pat Kolling) have been working on the plant profile database for the plants in the garden. We have identified the data elements to collect and are in the process of refining the information before we begin a trial of data collection. We have had 3 virtual Zoom meetings and have another scheduled. We are excited to see this project come to fruition, and when we have a product, we will share it with all of you. Please take care and stay safe, until we meet again.

Submitted by Pat Kolling and Chris Miao





## Time to meet a couple more of our 2020 Central Oregon Master Gardener Trainees:

by JoAnne Abbott

**MEET MADISON MAZUR:** part of Team 3 -- Mentors:  
Vickie Minor & Steve O'Malley

The very "short story" of  
her life:

Madison lived and grew up all throughout northern New Jersey until Madison and her partner graduated from Montclair State University in 2016. It was then that they decided to take a trip across the country with all of their belongings to Portland Oregon. After getting to know the area and exploring a bit more of their surroundings, they decided to move to Bend at the beginning of May last year!



Madison currently works with OSU in the Department of Natural Resources as a Research Technician. They conduct plant surveys and collect data in eastern Oregon that help monitor Sage Grouse habitat.

She's always had a love for the outdoors and a passion for understanding her surroundings on a scientific level. Plants and gardening have been a large part of that.

Growing up, Madison's mom always had a flower garden either wrapping around the house or taking over the backyard. Her dad would take her on hikes with the dog throughout the woods they lived adjacent to. Even though she is one of five children in the family, she says "you would often find me playing outside by myself, collecting leaves and little bugs!"

Madison wanted to become a Master Gardener to give back to the community and to better herself by helping others. "Hands on learning is how I learn best especially with others who share that passion" she says.

In her free time, she goes on hikes to look at plants and bird watch. On rainy days she prefers to stay inside with a good book and play video games.

Welcome Madison! You sound like you will be a perfect candidate for Plant Clinic!



**MEET LISA KIERALDO:** part of Team 3 – Mentors:  
Vickie Minor & Steve O'Malley

Lisa grew up in the San Francisco Bay area. From as far back as she remembers, she had some space in her backyards for a garden.

Lisa and her husband have 3 boys all in their twenties. They have been vacationing in Bend as a family since the boys were born and finally decided to move here two years ago.

Lisa was very lucky to get a plot in the Discovery Park Community Garden (previously called NorthWest Crossing Community Garden) last year. She has been interested in taking the Master Gardener training for years and it finally worked out this year.

Why take the training? Lisa says, "I love to garden, and everything about it is interesting to me"! She was looking for a gardening community, "and gardeners are usually wonderful people". Lisa also says, "gardening here is not for the faint of heart (I used a jackhammer last year to dig holes in our yard to plant some new plants!) so I figured the more I could learn the better".

In Lisa's spare time she loves to read, hike, bike, cook, play Mah Jongg and of course garden!

Lisa...welcome to Central Oregon gardening!

Submitted by JoAnne Abbott





**MEET BRIAN THORSNESS:** part of Team 2 – Mentors: Vicky Kemp & Tim Schindele

I grew up on a small farm in North Dakota with four brothers. Right after graduating high school I enlisted in the Air Force, served 4 years, and then moved to Oregon (probably don't need to ask why not return to ND). I initially worked construction in Corvallis until the recession in the late 70s, at which time I enrolled at OSU on the GI Bill and also got a part time job there. I remained at OSU in various positions, ending as the Executive Director of Campus Operations, when I retired in December 2014 after working at OSU 32 years. My wife and I then bought a home between Redmond and Sisters to be closer to my oldest daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. I also got my contractor's license and began renovating homes with my son. My wife, Jackie, still works at OSU, and we have three children Kelly, Kyle, and Kayla.



We started gardening during our time in Philomath, which was pretty easy to grow just about anything. Upon moving to Central Oregon, I quickly learned the challenges of growing fruits and vegetables due to climate and critter challenges. Over the last two years I built a 7 foot high fence around our large garden, as well as a greenhouse. And, after talking with a friend who is a Master Gardener from Corvallis, I decided to enroll in the program.

My other interests are fishing, crabbing on the coast, and travel (in November we had a large family trip (19 people) to Costa Rica.

Favorite quote would be from John Wooden, "failing to plan, is planning to fail"!

A WARM COMGA welcome to you Brian. Could a crabbing party be in COMGA's future?

Submitted by JoAnne Abbott



**MEET RENEE MAY:** part of Team 4 – Diana Hardin & Liz Anderson

Renee is a 3rd generation, native Oregonian. She grew up in the Willamette Valley, more specifically the Salem/Stayton area. She has lived in Sisters for a little over 18 years. Renee and her husband Craig have 4 children and 2 grandchildren. Their youngest son Sam, is a junior at Sisters High School. Renee says she's "more of a displaced worker than a retiree", as she's been blessed to be a 'stay at home mom' for their 4 children. Besides, "moms never really retire"! Renee claims to be a chronic volunteer.



Renee has been gardening in some aspect her entire life. As a little girl, she'd help her grandparents in their garden. Then, as an adult, when she didn't have space (or time) for a full garden, she said she always had full flower beds and a small container garden on the patio. Renee said that aside from being outside, in the dirt (she knows, "SOIL"), she likes to read, walk insanely long distances, spend time with the family, go camping (within reason) and volunteer. The family is busy with 389 acres of land, 37 cows, 7 horses, 15 chickens, 3 dogs, 3 cats and a pot-belly pig named Hoover!

"Let me introduce you to 'Flint'. She is a 5 year old and one of our 16 breeding cows. We have 6 babies on the ground right now (one of which we are bottle feeding). Every year we pick a theme to pick the calves names from, this year it is, appropriately, viruses! This little guy (on the right) is "Polio".



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