

June 2020



*Iris 'Supreme Sultan'*

**H  
O  
E  
D  
O  
W  
N**

**Board members 2020**

**President:** Nancy Glick, 541-330-6260, [nglick@bendcable.com](mailto:nglick@bendcable.com)  
**Vice Pres:** Liz Anderson, 541-968-1626, [ragingangel61@yahoo.com](mailto:ragingangel61@yahoo.com)  
 Elizabeth Hughes-Weide, 916-803-2309, [hecbend@aol.com](mailto:hecbend@aol.com)  
**Secretary:** Vickie Minor, 541-213-2329, [geovick92@yahoo.com](mailto:geovick92@yahoo.com)  
**Treasurer:** Tim Schindele, 541-526-1940, [TJSFishes@bendbroadband.com](mailto:TJSFishes@bendbroadband.com)  
**State Rep:** Janet Dart, 818-486-1583, [janetdart@gmail.com](mailto:janetdart@gmail.com)

**Alt. State Rep:** Diana Hardin, 503-593-1398, [dhardin2003@yahoo.com](mailto:dhardin2003@yahoo.com)  
**Historian:** Mimi Thomas, 503-320-4178, [mormormimit@gmail.com](mailto:mormormimit@gmail.com)  
**Membership Coordinator:** Jolene Dodge, 541-771-7882, [ajdodge@yahoo.com](mailto:ajdodge@yahoo.com)  
**Communication Liaison:** Rocky Bessette, 541 548-0789, [rockyb820@gmail.com](mailto:rockyb820@gmail.com)

**Table of Contents**

<b>President's Message</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Getting To Know You</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Discovery Park C. G.</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Project Updates</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Garden Pests</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Peaches</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Tomato Issues</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Lowdown from the Board</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Lawn Care</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Apple Dreams</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Meet the Trainees</b>	<b>9</b>

## President's message



Take a break from your garden and enjoy a little humor (you may recognize some of these):

You Know You're a Serious Gardener If...

No matter what hardiness zone you live in, you try to grow plants from the next warmest zone.

You realize you're encouraging your garden plants - out loud.

You know far too much about manure and you share that information with strangers at dinner parties.

You never have dinner before sunset during the summer.

Your garden book collection rivals Barnes & Noble's.

You know Sevin is not a number.

You know NPK is not a government agency.

You look at a child's sandbox and immediately see a raised bed.

You know exactly how many bags of fertilizer your car can hold.

In a national park you have to resist the urge to pull the weeds.

On vacation thousands of miles from home, you shop at every garden center before thinking about how you'll get the plants home.

You weed the pots in the big box store while shopping.

You drive four hours to visit a nursery that doesn't have what you were looking for, but spend a hundred dollars anyway.

You see a suffering plant at a big box store and have to save it by bringing it home to your "plant hospital".

You leave the house with clean hands, but by the time you reach the car, your nails are grimy.

You lose the storyline of a BBC show because you're identifying the plants in the background.

You divide perennials to make more knowing your garden is full already.

You happily give away plants since it means you now have room to plant more.

You love sharing extra plants but won't allow anyone to touch your compost pile.

You delight in the harvest of your first tomato. The \$25 and 20 hours of work to produce it are irrelevant.

You save all 144 tomato seedlings that germinated even though you only need 6.



You hesitate when your spouse says there's not enough room in the house for both her/him and the houseplants.

You have to kill a certain plant at least three times in three different places before it occurs to you that maybe you should quit trying.

Your idea of winter fun is sticking your hand in the compost pile to feel if it's hot.

(My personal favorite on this list) Your last name is Moore and you named your son Lon.

If you read these and immediately looked for another gardener to share them with, you know you belong with the Master Gardeners - Welcome!

Nancy Glick

*All our projects have been cancelled; it put us in a slump.*

*The money that we generate went right into the dump.*

*This pandemic has us quarantined; it really hit us hard.*

*Instead of volunteering, we're working in our yards.*

*The plants are really happy; they've never had such care.*

*All this extra work has made us pull out our hair.*

*Our hands are stiff from weeding and our backs are getting sore.*

*We really need to get away and volunteer some more.*

*The yard is looking great now but we need to make amends.*

*We surely need to get out because we really miss our friends.*

Rocky B.

## Getting to Know You!

By Laurie Floyd

Say Hi to Marilyn Clark who has been in the Master Gardener program since 2016.

From the beginning of our interview I quickly discovered that Marilyn is crazy for flowers, and grows tons of them. She also knows most of them by their names in Latin and rattled them off to me so easily that I would swear her second language is Latin.

On her seven acres in Culver, Marilyn started growing mostly perennials that are climate hardy and deer resistant. She noticed that she was getting some pollinators like, honey bees, several types of different native bees and butterflies, so she decided to grow a large pollinator garden. The list of flowers that she grows is extensive, yet she claims to be a low maintenance gardener. As I talked and listened to Marilyn, I found that to be a bit of an understatement.

As I said, Marilyn has a love of flowers, she grows several different colors of Foxglove and last year she even found a perennial Foxglove that she hopes proves to be a winner in the garden this year. She grows Hyssop, all different colors, Maltese Cross, assorted colors of Campanella, Rose Campion, and several different colors of native Penstemon. Marilyn is always looking for a new different plant to add to her gardens. When she went on one of the Home Garden Tours, she saw some Catchfly growing in one of the display gardens; she wanted it, she found it, and is now growing a large patch of it on her property. She loves the weird sticky stems they have that trap insects on them. Marilyn enjoys finding and planting native plants in her gardens; she found a white and a pink Obedient plant, an American Prairie Native, which she has found to bloom late into the year and are very hard to kill. Marilyn has the hots for Red Hot Pokers and has an ever-growing assortment of hot poker colors. She is patient enough to grow them from seed and is working on collecting the entire rainbow of colors that they come in for a Hot Poker garden.

Marilyn doesn't have a plan for the layout of her gardens, when she sees something colorful and different, she finds a place for it, and plants it. Like her fourteen Hibiscus, she really likes them so she adds more and more different ones when she can. As I'm sure you've gathered, Marilyn has an assortment of different gardens on her acreage, a Moon garden, full of a variety of plants that produce white flowers, a Fragrance garden with delicious smelling bushes like Mock Orange and Fragrant Abelia. a Conifer garden and a Cactus garden, to name a few.

The Black Beauty Elderberry is Marilyn's favorite bush because it is 100% edible. They are in her words, "The Bomb". She also has the Black Lace Elderberry because its leaves and texture provide a different element in her garden.

Marilyn and her husband of 44 years, are transplants from Portland, when she and her husband were ready to retire, they came to Central Oregon to look for property. They had traveled around the Northwest camping and boating in Arizona, Wyoming, and Colorado, but chose Oregon, specifically Central Oregon to retire in. They wanted to live near Lake Billy Chinook, so they explored the surrounding area and found 7 beautiful acres on a high

bluff in Culver with a panoramic 10 mountain view of the Cascades. Along with all the flowers Marilyn does grow some vegetables like Delicata squash, kale, all sorts of sweet and hot peppers, and tomatoes, to name just a few. There are also several cherry, apple, pear and plum trees that she has growing on the property. Alongside Marilyn's 100-foot driveway she planted a serpentine line of Russian Sage, and on the other side of the driveway she planted the rainbow of Hibiscus. She says when the Russian sage blooms the bees are numerous and crazy for it.

Marilyn loves the Master Gardener program because it keeps her busy and active. She finds it interesting and enjoys the challenges that come with researching problems and the questions that come into Plant Clinic. We both agree that we miss doing our Master Gardener thing. All of the smiling faces, the camaraderie, common goals and interests, the new projects, sweating in the greenhouse, and the laughter at our meetings.

We both are looking forward to when we will be able to go back to normal business and seeing everyone again.



## A Special Thank You

**Kath and I would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to everyone for the thoughtful cards, prayers and get well wishes we have received. Kath had a colon re-section surgery on May 1st. This was the first day of surgeries following the shut down of non-essential surgical procedures due to the pandemic. Kath has been healing and feeling a little better each day. Her appetite is improving and she is able to take short walks outside. We have follow-up visits with the doctors in the coming weeks and expect the final surgery to be scheduled in mid to late June. So far - so good.**

**Many thanks and regards to all,**

**Phil Paterno**



**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)

## 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 a 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. We have begun to enter specific plants into the plant profile database now and testing how it works. We have had weekly virtual Zoom meetings throughout April and May, and are getting to be pretty good at using the technology. 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

## Discovery Park Community Garden

by Gary Weber

Not a lot to say at this time regarding the status of the Discovery Park Community Garden. Closed access to the garden is in a holding pattern. It is encouraging to see that the Governor is slowly allowing some counties in the state to enter Phase 2 of reopening. At this writing, Deschutes County appears to be granted this status in the near future and we hope that this has some impact on plans to reopen the garden. Any reopening of the garden will of course require appropriate precautions to protect everyone's health. For now we remain hopeful, and patient.

## Central Oregon Garden Pests

by Mary Ann Hart

Walking through Hollinshead Community Garden last summer with two other Master Gardeners, we noticed evidence of garden pests that are typical to Central Oregon at this time of year. As Master Gardeners we practice Integrated Pest Management which attempts to grow crops successfully using techniques that have the least harmful effect on the environment. Because Hollinshead is an organic garden we avoid the use of pesticides altogether.

The first problem we noticed were scalloped edges on pea leaves. This can be evidence of pea leaf weevils — small grayish-brown striped bugs. Adult weevils chew these notches on the edges of the leaves. They lay their eggs in

the soil near the pea plants so that after hatching, the larvae enter the roots of the plant to feed on the pea nodules. Once the peas grow past the six-leaf stage, the weevils stop causing damage above ground. Solutions include: the use of row cover to protect seedlings and keep the weevil population from expanding; adding organic fertilizer high in nitrogen to encourage quick growth and limit serious damage; and tilling the soil as little as possible to encourage carabid beetles who eat pea leaf weevil eggs. Providing a trellis for peas will keep them above the weevils while using mulch will moderate the soil temperature and moisture content. Since weevils over-winter where peas have grown previously, select a different site to grow peas next year to stop the cycle of damage.

On our walk through the garden we also saw evidence of cabbage worms and cabbage loopers who had chewed holes in the leaves of cabbage, brussels sprouts, broccoli and cauliflower. Use of floating row cover from the time of planting to harvesting will protect plants from this damage.

Another problem we noticed were rounded irregular holes in the leaves of several different plants that looked as if they'd been damaged by fine buckshot. Young plants and seedlings seemed to be particularly susceptible to flea beetles — tiny bugs that could be seen jumping away as we walked through the garden. This happens especially when plants are stressed. The solution is to provide good nutrition and adequate moisture and the use of row cover on young seedlings. Be sure to remove row cover before the flowering stage so that pollinating insects can access the plants. Thick mulch may help reduce the number of flea beetles by interfering with the development of eggs that are laid in the soil and larvae that feed on roots. Keep up your weeding to deprive larvae of nearby food sources. Removing debris in the fall will remove any over-wintering beetles.

Many species of flea beetle attack only one type of plant or a close relative. So, you can plant a "trap crop" that will attract flea beetles and draw them away from your plants. The flea beetles will be more likely to eat the "trap crop" while your plants mature with little damage.

Leaf miner infestation can also be reduced or prevented by planting trap crops near the plants to be protected. Lambsquarter, columbine and velvetleaf will distract leaf miners. Evidence of leaf miners can be seen as unsightly squiggly patterns in leaves caused by larva of moths, butterflies and flies that tunnel through as they eat the leaf tissue.



Pea leaf weevil

## Peaches

by Diana Hardin

The hardest part about growing peaches is getting fruit to set before the blossoms freeze. To solve the problem of the blossoms freezing I decorated my Pix Zee Miniature Peach with the old fashioned C3 Christmas lights which, I purchased on Amazon.



At bud break, on the nights below freezing, I turned on the lights and covered it with row cover.

I worried about pollination as there were so few bees out this early. I removed the row cover as soon as the temps warmed above freezing and waited patiently. It does not take a lot of bees to do the job.



As you can see the results were amazing. To date I have removed over 100 baby peaches and have many more to go. I do not want the weight of the fruit to be more than the tree can bear and I want each peach I save to develop to its full potential.



tomato plant. Although blossom end rot means that the plant does not have enough calcium within the developing fruit, it does not mean that there is a lack of calcium in the soil. Fluctuations in soil moisture, heavy applications of nitrogen fertilizer, and injury to roots can all predispose tomato plants to blossom end rot. It can be minimized by maintaining a uniform supply of moisture through regular watering and soil mulches, applying fertilizer according to the results of a soil test, and avoiding root injury by not cultivating within one foot of the base of the plant.

Growth cracks result from extremely rapid fruit growth. This may be brought on by periods of abundant rain and high temperatures, or can occur when water is suddenly available to the plant through rain or irrigation after a period of drought. Cracks may radiate from the stem end of the fruit or may encircle the fruit. Cracks are often invaded by secondary fungi and bacteria that further rot the fruit.

Maintaining even moisture by watering regularly and mulching the soil around the tomato plant can help reduce growth cracks. Varieties differ in susceptibility to cracking, and variety descriptions may be helpful in choosing a plant less likely to crack.

Leaf roll is a disorder of tomatoes that is most commonly associated with hot dry weather, but can occur in response to other stresses like fast growth, high production, and pruning. Leaf margins roll upward in an almost tube-like fashion. Affected leaves are firm and leathery to the touch. This disorder is believed to be a strategy to conserve moisture. Lower leaves are commonly affected first. Once leaves roll, they will not unroll even if weather conditions become cool and wet. In severe conditions the entire plant may exhibit leaf roll. Leaf roll does not noticeably reduce plant growth or yield.

Sunscald occurs on tomato fruit that have been exposed to too much sun. This is common in plants that are suffering leaf loss from a disease or insect feeding, but can also occur on plants that are over pruned or on fruit that are otherwise exposed to the sun.

Sunscald results in a pale yellow to white spot on the side of the fruit facing the sun. This area may become a flattened, grayish-white spot. The surface may dry out to a paper-like texture. Sunscald spots are frequently invaded by decay-causing fungi and bacteria that further rot the fruit.

The best way to avoid sunscald is to maintain a healthy tomato plant through management of insect and disease pests that defoliate tomatoes.




---

## Abiotic Tomato Issues

by Pat Kolling

Summer is here! You've planted your tomatoes and visions of ripe, red tomatoes dance in your head! But... what's that crack in that gorgeous tomato? What's that dark area at the blossom end of the fruit? What's with the rolling leaves? Today we are going to talk about some abiotic disorders - disorders not caused by a living pathogen, but rather the result of cultural practices or environmental conditions- and how to prevent them

One of the most common abiotic disorders is blossom end rot. Affected fruit have a tan to black flattened spot at the blossom end of the fruit. Blossom end rot can appear on fruit in any stage of development, but it is most common when fruit are one-third to one-half grown. The first fruit produced by the plant are often most severely affected. Fruit that develop later in the season on the same plant can be unaffected.

Blossom-end rot is caused by a calcium deficiency in the

## LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

June 4, 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), Janet Dart (OMGA State Representative), Diana Hardin (Alternate State Representative), Rocky Bessette (Communications Liaison), Jolene Dodge (Membership Coordinator), Chris Miao, Pat Kolling, Kate Applegate, Kris Knoernschild, Evie Cox, Nathalie Smith, JoAnne Abbott, Gina Evans, Kathy Geary, Ruth Mulligan, Toni Stephan, Carroll Minium, and Nancy Crossan.

The meeting was held via Zoom technology, starting at 1:00 PM and adjourning at 3:03 PM. The board discussed the following items:

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

Motion to approve the minutes made by Janet Dart, seconded by Diana Hardin and approved by the board.

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

Toni reported that they have been using a virtual plant clinic, which is going well but there are still a few kinks. The garden tour has been canceled this year and rescheduled for 2021. ECCO is being tested now by some of the other county agents. We are still in a holding pattern until at least June 13 and when new guidance is released on what activities are authorized, we will be notified.

### BOARD REPORTS:

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

The treasurer's report is covered in detail under the Horticulture Support item below.

**Membership Report** (Jolene Dodge)

We have 77 members: 4 are associates and 73 are recertifying master gardeners. We also have 39 trainees who are members this year. Jolene needs sympathy and get-well cards to send to members so if anyone has any they wish to donate, please contact her.

**OMGA Rep Report** (Janet Dart)

LeAnn Locher, a marketing and communications strategist, has been named Master Gardener outreach program coordinator for the OSU Extension Service, working with Gail Langellotto. Janet submitted her quarterly report and since there have been no activities, she focused on what people were doing during the lockdown. She shared some of the things other counties were doing, including having meetings and training via Zoom. Janet does not think there will be in-person OMGA meetings in the near future.

### ACTION ITEMS:

**Horticulture Support and Budget Report** (Tim Schindele)

**Budget report:** Tim reported that income in May included funds from Amazon Smiles (\$8.15), Fred Meyer Rewards

(\$28.82), COMGA dues (\$15), row cover sales (\$110), t-shirts/apparel sales (\$293), and interest from the two credit union CDs (\$15.30). Expenses included another payment to The Source Weekly (\$336) for ads that ran in early March for classes and Spring Seminar before those were cancelled. We also made our usual \$75 donation to KPOV. Tim ordered 250 COMGA checks (\$87), which should last through 2022. Other expense amounts (Chapter Meetings \$3.00, HoeDown \$7.20 and Spring Seminar \$29.70) were for photocopies as billed by the Extension Office for Jan-March 2020. We have a little over \$23K in the checking account and almost \$41K in total assets. We cannot assume that any of our events will generate the level of income we projected this year before the pandemic occurred. Given the situation, project coordinators should be advised to reduce their 2021 budgets by some percentage over what had been projected this year.

**Horticulture support:** Tim prepared a spreadsheet to help in the discussion carried over from last month, on whether COMGA could or should make an additional donation to the horticulture program, above the \$2000 budgeted. Because the pandemic situation is still uncertain and most of our events have been canceled, our expenses and income are in flux. One expense we know of this year is the cost of hiring someone to help maintain the demo garden, since the MGs are not allowed to be on the property and Amy Jo is restricted in what she is permitted to do. A full discussion followed, including whether we should cash out one of the CDs that is maturing this month. Even though the rate of interest paid on the CDs is very low, Tim sees these as our true "rainy day funds." If the situation caused by COVID-19 remains or worsens and our ability to fund-raise is limited, we would still have the CDs to fall back on to cover necessary expenses for future years. If we roll over our maturing 24-month CD later this month, it will still pay 1% interest. Vickie made an initial motion to roll over the CD into another CD; Rocky seconded the motion. Discussion followed, after which, Vickie revised her motion and moved that the CD currently maturing be rolled over to another CD, with the length to be determined by the treasurer based on his research on what would provide the best return for us. Janet Dart seconded the motion, which was approved. We also agreed that we need to ask Amy Jo if there is a funding need over and above the \$2000 we have already budgeted but not yet disbursed and if so, where would the money do the most good. We will revisit this topic at the July meeting.

**High Desert Garden Tour Videos** (Amy Jo Detweiler)

Nancy reviewed Amy Jo's May 28, 2020 email in which she confirmed that the tour was canceled this year and is rescheduled for July 2021 in Bend. In lieu of the tour this year, Amy Jo and Toni are looking for videos to share with our garden tour attendees, that highlight favorite plants, tools, beneficial bugs, pollinators, etc. See Amy Jo's email for a detailed list of video requirements and guidelines. Toni reported that she and Rocky did a video, 30 seconds is extremely short, so people should just hit the highlights. Send videos to Amy Jo by July 6.

BBQ and Elections (Nancy Glick)

Because of the pandemic, we are unable to have in-person quarterly meetings right now. This includes the

**LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD** continued

annual BBQ which also serves as the meeting during which elections are held. Kathy Geary volunteered to help with the elections and to help Liz Anderson with the BBQ. Kris Knoernschild offered to host the BBQ, if we are allowed to meet in person. Vickie, Tim, Janet and Elizabeth are willing to continue their positions for another year. Diana declined, Nancy would like to move out of the President position and into the past president role. The pandemic is giving us a good reason investigate holding quarterly meetings and elections in a virtual environment. Some people may not be comfortable attending the BBQ but they can now vote electronically because of the change in bylaws last year. Some chapters are doing virtual meetings to keep the membership involved.

**Open Forum**

Mimi Thomas (historian) is compiling our annual scrapbook, which usually includes our master gardener events. Since everything has been canceled this year, she is asking for pictures in JPEG format, of things people have been doing during the pandemic so the scrapbook could reflect how we spent our time during the lockdown. If you have photos, please send them to Mimi.

Ruth suggested that we do some "self-teaching" and provide content for Rocky to include in the HoeDown. Judy Shearer is already doing a monthly plant article and Toni also has a 10-minute university type presentation on small carpenter bees that could be used for a quarterly meeting.

**PROJECT STATUS REPORTS:****Community Education** (Elizabeth Weide)

Elizabeth had a Zoom meeting with Nancy Glick and Nathalie Smith on Tuesday, June 1, 2020, to discuss using Zoom, preparing videos and conducting Community Education classes online this summer. The full report is included with the paper copy of the minutes. Several options were discussed including accessing materials that have been created by other counties or formal gardening associations, preparing PowerPoint presentations and developing short videos. Vickie reminded everyone that we need to be sensitive to copyright requirements if we "borrow" something we find online. Nancy noted that all the KPOV recordings are research based and the transcripts include sources and references, which could be used to create videos. (NOTE: following the meeting, Amy Jo asked that the topic be tabled until the end of June, when more information may be available about what the volunteers will be able to do.)

**Community/Demo Gardens** – topics combined: Discovery Park Community Garden (Gary Weber); Hollinshead Vegetable Garden (Nancy Glick); OSU Demo Garden

Nancy reported that there is no news on what we will be able to do this season in any of the gardens. Discussion followed on how and when we would proceed and if there is a date that would be considered too late in the season to plant. The normal deadline of June 15 would have to be flexible this year, depending on what decisions are made at the OSU level. Everyone agreed that even if we could open the gardens by mid to late June, the MGs have preparation work that would have to be done before the community gardeners could be allowed access to work in their plots/beds.

**Water-wise Garden** (Chris Miao/Pat Kolling)

Pat Kolling has been to the garden several times to look at things from a distance. The garden has been irrigated but the native beds were overrun with weeds and several plants inside the garden were suffering from lack of maintenance. Pat and Chris have talked with Amy Jo about hiring someone to do maintenance, and Sarah Nolte was recommended. She is a former master gardener who has her own landscaping business, she charges \$35/hour and would be available June 9 to work. Bend Parks and Rec sent a maintenance crew this week and weeded the native section of the garden that was completely overrun so it is now in great shape. Inside the fence, there is still work to be done. After discussion, we agreed that since we do not know when we will be permitted on the property, Pat and Chris should do whatever is needed within their budget to get the required work done. A board vote is not required as this is part of the garden budget. Invoices should be sent to Tim for prompt payment.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vickie Minor, Secretary

**Lawn Care**

by Chris Miao

You've aerated, dethatched and fertilized your lawn in spring. The lawn is greened up and growing. Now you take on the task, or pleasure, of regular maintenance of your lawn throughout the summer. Two key things to keep up with are watering and mowing.

Proper watering – not too much and not too little – is key to a healthy beautiful lawn. Our weather in Central Oregon varies quite a bit during summer so it takes monitoring the temperature and wind, then adjusting how much you water. People often set the automatic sprinkler system once in the spring and leave it on that schedule all summer. That's usually not the best plan. We recommend monitoring and testing soil moisture at the root level especially as the temperature changes.

You want the water to soak down to the root level so check to be sure it is wet at least 6 inches down. Thorough and infrequent watering, rather than light, frequent watering, allows the water to go deep. A quick way to check soil moisture is to insert a 6-inch screwdriver into the lawn. If it penetrates the soil easily, hold off watering and check again the next day. Two other signs that your lawn needs water are footprints or mower tracks that remain at least 30 minutes, or the grass blades turn more blue-gray in color.

Lawns use about ¼ inch per day in spring and early summer so put on 1 to 1.5 inches per week. As the temperature gets hotter increase the amount of water to about 2.5 or 3 inches per week.

The best time to water here in our arid climate is between 10 PM and 6 AM. This time corresponds with the natural dew time and reduces the likelihood of disease development. Plus, nights are cooler and often less windy reducing the amount of evaporation that occurs.

Continued on page 8

## Lawn Care continued

Proper mowing is also important for a lush, good looking lawns. There is a little more to it than just mowing every week.

Kentucky Blue grass mixed with some perennial rye grass is the most common grass here in Central Oregon. This grass does well when the mower height is set at 1½ to 2½ inches. You want to cut no more than 1/3 of the leaf blade off at any one time. So, to get the proper grass height you will mow when the leaf blades are 2¼ to 3¾ inches long. If your lawn gets too tall, don't suddenly cut it down to the 2½" level. Gradually lower the mowing height over more frequent cuttings, following the 1/3 rule.

Vary the direction you cut each time you mow. Grass grows in the direction it is mowed so varied direction will keep the lawn looking straight and not like a washboard. Avoid mowing when the lawn is wet. Wet clippings stick to the mower blades, clogging the mower.

Now for the question of whether to leave the clippings on the lawn or not. If you mow at the right frequency, cut at the proper height and remove no more than 1/3 of the leaf blade at each mowing, it is fine to leave the clippings on the lawn. They will decompose quickly and return nutrients to the soil. Leaving too long or wet clippings will result in undesirable thatch build up. Leaving the clipping on the lawn is now called grasscycling – a new term for us all to learn!

---

## Apple Dreams – Disease & Insects

by Nancy Glick

I'm dedicating this year to growing an apple or two in my yard. I'll first start by selecting and planting the best varieties for Central Oregon and how to train my trees for the best crop.

Next I'm going to learn how to manage disease and insects. I'm going to combine a number of techniques. In addition to using pesticides, there are cultural and biological practices that can help me.

When I chose my trees, I considered the Central Oregon climate and soil. Some varieties are more resistant to disease than others, and even the best variety will have a poor fruit set and higher disease rate if the spring is too wet.

I'll need to water and fertilize properly. Over-watering can lead to root rot, while over-fertilizing can increase disease and insect problems. A soil test is a good first step.

Proper pruning to open tree canopy will also improve air circulation and reduce the opportunity for some diseases.

Insects and disease hate good sanitation. If I remove and burn diseased branches and leaves, remove and destroy old fruit from the tree and the ground, I'll be removing the protected home that insects love.

I'm studying OSU publications to know which pests are likely to attack my trees, and when they might appear. If I check my trees regularly, I can use Pheromones and sticky traps to alert me to infestations.

The OSU publication "Managing Disease & Insects", tells me that Codling Moth is in most of Oregon, so I'm going to plan a spray schedule for it. To avoid excess chemical residues, I'll check the pesticide labels for the necessary time between spraying and harvest. Those labels have so much information on them; they'll be a huge part of my successful apple harvest.

Good pest management means good coverage - thoroughly wetting the leaves, twigs, and branches.

Both organic and synthetic formulations of pesticides are available. Since many are variations with the same active ingredient, I'm going to look for pesticides that can be used on a wide range of fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals, so I can limit the number of pesticides I'll need to purchase and store.

As a Master Gardener, I know to mix the pesticide at the recommended rate on the label, mixing only the volume needed to do the job. If I pay attention to the instructions, I won't be putting excess pesticide into the environment. After I finish I'll clean the sprayer immediately and dispose of the rinse water properly. My wonderful granddaughter shouldn't be endangered by my sloppy housekeeping!

I plan to apply pesticides at the right time and under the right weather conditions and temperatures below 85°. Applying pesticides when it's windy could cause drift of the chemicals off the target area. If I'm careful with my choice of pesticide and, especially, the time I spray, I won't harm the beneficial insects that I need for pollination. Two summers ago a Willamette Valley spraying killed thousands of honeybees because they did it when the blooms were open and attracting the bees! By reading my pesticide labels I intend to avoid ever making that mistake.

So I've chosen the best apple trees for Central Oregon, started pruning for a good crop and designed a maintenance schedule for the healthiest harvest. Now, with a little sunshine and some busy honeybees, we should be eating some homegrown apples soon.





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

by JoAnne Abbott

### **MEET JACY GASPER:** Part of team 4 –

Mentors: Diana Hardin & Liz Anderson

Jacy was born and raised in small town Nebraska, where agriculture was central, but she wasn't really involved with any of that. She comes from a huge family who actually still live in the same area. Jacy ventured off on her own with a huge urge to discover the world and the many different ways of living. She also wanted to explore all the beautiful places on this earth. She has worked all kinds of seasonal jobs that have allowed her to live and travel all over the country. Some include: canoe guiding, building glamping tents near national parks, working out at sea as a protected species observer, State Park ranger, hemp farm, property caretaker plus many more. Bend is the first place that she's actually "stuck around for a while".



Why become a Master Gardener (MG)? "I have always been interested in plants, nature, and self-sufficiency. I am a practical person and like to know how to do everything on my own. I love learning, and farming/gardening meets those needs. Especially the need of my hands in the dirt. At first I was interested in becoming a MG simply to start learning how to grow, but later realized that this knowledge would be used to help others!" Jacy has spent much of her life volunteering, and feels fulfilled every time she gets that chance.

In her off time she tries to get her hands in as many things as possible. Like most people in Central Oregon, she does several outdoor sports to stay active, be challenged, and find purpose in nature. She bakes, and experiments with healthy foods and natural products. Jacy tries to build community and strong relationships. Most recently Jacy has been spending many hours raising a puppy. "I love taking trips to adventure, and working on my personal growth. My underlying theme is to find my purpose and place".



### **MEET Gina Evans:** Part of team 1 – Mentors: Rocky Bessette & Kirsten Hinton

Gina moved to Powell Butte (Bend) area in May of 2018.

Gina was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, and grew up in various places....Salt Lake City, Utah, Great Falls, Montana and Richland, Washington, where she graduated from High School. She went on to get her BS in Dental Hygiene from the University of Washington (UW) in 1991.



She worked in private practice dental hygiene 1976-2016 in Seattle for 38 years! She also was a part-time Clinical instructor at UW Dental School from 1992-1998

She retired in June 2016.

Gina has an older brother, an oral surgeon at UW Dental School, a younger brother who works for Boeing in Everett, WA, and her father, 98 years young, living in Snohomish WA. Gina's "boyfriend/significant other" is a retired firefighter from Portland, OR.

Gina started "real" gardening in 1995 after she purchased her house in West Seattle. "Mostly landscape gardening, flowering shrubs, bulbs, roses, ferns, hostas..." She remembers starting with houseplants in 1972 while she was in college. She still has an asparagus fern from that time in her house today!

Gina first heard of the Master Gardener (MG) program from a patient in Seattle. Once she moved to Powell Butte and finally retired, she had the time to look at the program more seriously.

Gina says, "gardening in Central Oregon was totally foreign to what I was used to, coming from Seattle. I needed some serious gardening education. Being new to the area, I thought the MG program would help me get involved in the community and make new friends".

She finds gardening to be very relaxing. She has learned a lot about gardening by trial and error, but thinks the MG program would/will teach her even more!

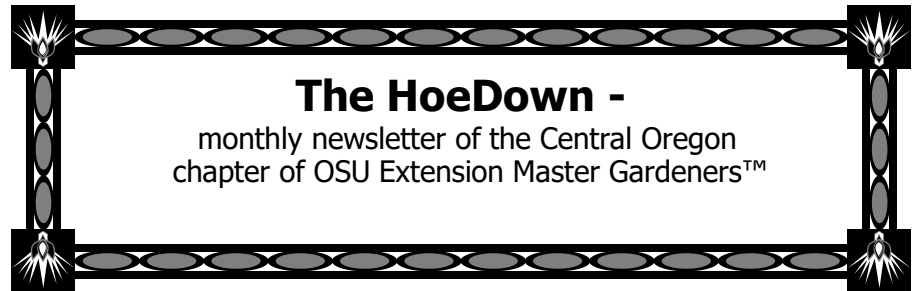
In her spare time...she gardens, of course! She and her boyfriend are landscaping around their relatively new house and 2 acres they bought in 2018 in Powell Butte. She does stained glass and pine needle basketry. They also love to travel internationally and, of course, hike, camp and snowshoe.

Sounds like Central Oregon is the place for Gina!

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



Crook  
Deschutes &  
Jefferson Counties



“Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran’s status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.”

