

Photo submitted by Nancy Crossan

## **Board members 2018**

President: Nancy Glick, 541-330-6260, Alt. State Rep: Jeanine Johnson, 541 nglick@bendcable.com Vice Pres: Tina Burnside, 541-318-0426, tinaburnside@bendcable.com/ JoAnne Abbott, 541-318-8297, jalabbott@hotmail.com Secretary: Shirley Jaynes, 541-410-1736, ksi1986@outlook.com Treasurer: Tim Schindele, 541-526-1940, TJSFishes@bendbroadband.com State Rep: Vickie Minor, 541-213-2329, geovick92@yahoo.com

-419-7734, jkjohnson@bendcable.com Historian: Jan Even, 541-280-5238, even.jan@gmail.com Membership Coordinator: Joy Burns, 541-550-6688, 2joy.burns@gmail.com Parliamentarian: Jolene Dodge, 541-771-7882, ajdodge@yahoo.com **Communication Liaison:** Rocky Bessette, 541 548-0789, rockyb820@gmail.com

## **Table of Contents**

President's message	2
Meet the Trainees	2
COMGA Calendar	3
Who Am I?	3
Project Updates	4
Coffee Grounds/Composting	5
Grow a Little Fruit Tree	5
OMGA Report and Update	6
<b>General Care for Hydrangeas</b>	7
Photos by JoAnne Abbott	8
Be On The Lookout!	9

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.

## President's message

I have had dogs and cats all my life. I <u>love</u> having family pets who give me far more than I can ever measure: warmth on a cold night, companionship when feeling blue, unlimited affection (well, not the cat as much as the dog). And when I scoop their poo in the yard or the litter box, I am aware of the irony: I pay for their food, I haul it from store to car to kitchen, I twice daily fill their bowls – and then I pick up the "end" product of my purchase (pun intended).

BUT I don't remember inviting any wild animals to my yard to eat my plants, threaten my pets and leave mountains of pelleted poo on the grass!



The deer are like those family members you only rarely invite for a visit and for a very limited time (only on February 29, from 1pm to 4). But they not only arrive on <u>their</u> schedule, they visit when you're still at work, kick back, remove their shoes and raid the refrigerator. They eat the casserole you made last night (intending to pop it in the

oven when you got home tired and hungry). They find the stash of beer in the garage refrigerator and leave the bottles in the flower beds for you to find weeks later.

But, like the relatives who will probably remain on my Christmas card list, the neighborhood deer have, by sheer persistence and unfailing self-confidence, won over my heart.

We take photos of them under the trees in winter, sheltering from the snow, or resting comfortably in the raised beds after eating the flowers that (until recently) grew there. And we warn each other to use the back door when they're grazing in the front yard.

If the deer were the only wild pests, our tolerance would be understandable. But we continue to plant trees despite losing five (5!!) to the beavers. Our barricades are good for several years and then we forget that the beautifully ugly river creatures are connoisseurs of fine trees and are just waiting until the serviceberry, birch, apple and aspen trees are well established and large enough to make a sturdy dam. By the fifth year, the fencing has gaps from annual irrigation adjustments and the posts are leaning in the soft soil. Then, one morning, standing on the porch with a hot cup of coffee, my brain slowly registers the slight change in the landscape: the 15' tall birch tree is gone! Here today...*very* gone tomorrow.

It's so bad, here on Beaver Lane, that when anyone loses a tree to the beaver, we check to see if it's been dragged off to the river already or if we should lend a hand to move it (after all, it's no



longer a tree, it's now dinner for the Beaver family). One year we even got out the chain saw and cut the fallen tree into 3' pieces to make it easier for them to transport.

What can you do? My non-gardening husband has many solutions, most of them supplied by the Home Depot (gravel, cement, indoor/outdoor carpet...) but we both know we're not the owners of this property. We're just the caretakers, making sure the refrigerator is stocked, the bedding is soft and lights are turned down at sunset.

And isn't that just as it should be?

## **Meet the Trainees**

by Jolene Dodge

## **Elizabeth Hughes Weide**

Originally from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Elizabeth has lived all over the United States. For retirement, Elizabeth and her husband, George, selected Central Oregon because of the beauty, climate, geology, and people. Elizabeth is a geologist and environmental consultant, and in her career, she focused on environmental conservation and protection. Elizabeth's son, Will, is a civil engineer in San Francisco and her daughter, Kat, is an environmental consultant in Sacramento.

While living in Sacramento over 25 years, Elizabeth grew tomatoes, flowers and herbs. Since relocating to Bend in 2015, she has been trying to garden in this challenging climate. Elizabeth joined the Master Gardener program to learn how to garden in Central Oregon, and she hopes to share her scientific knowledge while working with friendly and helpful gardeners in this area.

Elizabeth and George enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, adventure traveling, biking, and bird watching. Elizabeth also trains her Aussies with the Mt Bachelor Kennel Club and Bend Agility Action Dogs and participates in local club events. She also loves bird watching and has a variety of feeders and bird baths in her garden area.



Elizabeth and George on her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in Santa Cruz last November

## <u>COMGA Calendar</u> for contact persons go to gocomga.com

### July

- 3 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 3 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Heirloom Gardens
- 7 NW Crossing class, Growing Garlic, 11am
- 7 General meeting, Grow a Little Fruit Tree
- 10 Hollinshead Water Wise Garden workday, 9am
- 10 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Insect Management in the Organic Garden
- 10 Board meeting, 5:30pm, Jan Even's home, potluck 12 OMGA Growing Gardeners Conference, Linfield College
- 13 OMGA Growing Gardeners Conference, Linfield College
- 14 OMGA Growing Gardeners Conference, Linfield College
- 14 Insect Management in Organic Gardens, Hollinshead Park, 10:30am
- 17 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am 17 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, OSU High Desert Garden Tour
- 21 OSU 25th Annual High Desert Garden Tour, 9-3:30
- 24 Hollinshead Community Garden workday & meeting, 9am
- 24 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Gardening on the Cheap 31 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Questions in Plant Clinic

### <u>August</u>

- 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, TBD
- 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, (Labor Day)
- 6 Board meeting, OSU Extension Office, 1pm
- 11 Hollinshead Water Wise Garden workday, 9am
- 11 KPOV, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Season Extenders
- 13 Annual BBO guarterly 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, TBD



I lived in Scotland for 6 months

I am growing a hardy fuchsia shrub in my back yard. And it is 8 years old.

I have travelled to Australia and New Zealand

I have lived in Washington State, Missouri, New Jersey, California, New Mexico, Northern Virginia

I love aguariums and have a fresh water community tank

I swam with wild dolphins

I have gone snorkeling over the Great Barrier Reef

I enjoy zip-lining

I taught in the K -4th grades for 12 years

My earliest planting experience was around 10 years old when I grew African Violets in my bedroom.

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

Email Joy Burns at 2joy.burns@gmail.com Based on the timestamp of all emails submitted, whoever submits the correct answer first wins the contest. Prize to be determined.



June's Who Am I? was Jeff Orr



# **Project updates**

## OSU Extension Demo Garden by Liz Douville

Thank you to all trainees and veterans who have volunteered for double duty in planting the OSU Demo Garden beds. Toni and Vicky initiated a planting procedure that was extremely efficient and resulted in an "instant garden". Now we weed it, watch it grow and take notes as to growth habits, and insect damage (Toni will hope for new specimens for her collection) while the rest of us will hope for minor bunny damage.

Mark your calendar, the next workday is July 17.

Vicky Kemp & Liz Douville, OSU Demonstration Garden Project Coordinators





## 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.

July 3 Heirloom Gardens aka Monticello Gardens

July 10 Insect Management in Organic Gardens

July 17 OSU High Desert Garden Tour

July 24 Gardening on the Cheap

July 31 Questions in Plant Clinic This Month



Do you know these insects?

Rationalizing is the Only way to deal with Clover and dandelions. They flower prettily, They bring certain Nutrients to the soil, And most importantly, They are very easy to grow. What more could you want? Texas Bix Bender

## **Coffee Grounds and Composting**

Coffee grounds are a great addition to the garden and compost pile. Help to recycle this great organic resource and reduce the amount of organics going to the landfill!

Some information about coffee grounds:

• Coffee grounds are about 2% nitrogen by volume.

• Grounds are not acidic; the acid in coffee is watersoluble so the acid is mostly in the coffee.

- Coffee grounds are close to pH neutral (between 6.5 6.8 pH).
- Coffee grounds improve soil tilth or structure.

• Coffee grounds are an excellent nitrogen source for composting. They have a C/N ratio of 20/1. In informal trials with OSU/Lane County Extension Service, Compost Specialists sustained temperatures of 140 O-160 OF have been recorded for up to two weeks (when coffee grounds were 25% of the material in the compost pile by volume). Anecdotal evidence suggests coffee grounds repel slugs and snails in the garden.

How do I use coffee grounds?

• Spread the coffee grounds directly on the soil. Cultivate into the soil. If left to dry out they can repel water in much the same way as peat moss that becomes dry.

• Spread on the soil and cover with leaves or compost or bark mulch.

• Incorporate directly into the soil, mixing in well, or lightly cultivating into the soil.

• Add to the compost pile by layering the ingredients using 1/3 leaves, 1/3 fresh grass clippings and 1/3 coffee grounds.

• Add coffee grounds as part of a static compost pile, being sure to always add an equivalent amount of a carbon source such as shredded paper or dry leaves. Mix together well.

• Coffee grounds are **not** a nitrogen fertilizer. In a germination test at the GrassRoots Garden in Eugene, OR, coffee grounds were mixed with potting soil at a ratio of 25% by volume. Lettuce seeds showed poor rates of germination and stunted growth compared to lettuce seeds planted in potting mix without coffee grounds.

• If incorporating coffee grounds directly into the soil, add a nitrogen fertilizer at the same time. Coffee grounds encourage the growth of microorganisms in the soil, which use nitrogen for their growth and reproduction. While the grounds are being broken down by the microorganisms the additional nitrogen in the fertilizer will provide a source of nutrients for your plants.

• Paper coffee filters may be added to the compost pile as a carbon source. Shred or tear to speed decomposition.

Coffee grounds do not "go bad. For future use store in 32 gallon trash container near compost bin or pile.

OSU/Lane County Extension Service Compost Specialists

## **Grow a Little Road Trip!**

If you've ever watched a Gen X road trip movie (think: Chevy Chase in an RV), you may have wondered what a Central Oregon road trip might be like. Substitute SUVs and Master Gardeners for the Griswold family and you can imagine what last Saturday's COMGA Grow a Little Fruit Tree Road Trip/Progressive Class was like.

Our twenty adventurous Master Gardeners (and two curious husbands) first met in Powell Butte to learn from Vicky Kemp what it's like to remove 1,000 young peaches only to find the small peach tree <u>still</u> produced more fruit than the branches could hold (they broke!). We imagined the time she spent, stem by stem, removing the small fruit as a meticulous orchardist should, only to watch the tree bend to the ground with the remaining peaches. The tasty snacks Vicky offered were a pleasant backdrop to a brief Chapter project update that made our Quarterly Meeting official.

Our little caravan moved on to North Redmond where Dan Tippy has spent the past ten+ years developing his own winery (his label is Rockchuck Red) on his city lot. His beautiful vines were impressive with hundreds of small grapes ripening in the sun. Nearby, three apple trees are espaliered on his garage wall, creating a work of art that will also supply the Tippy kitchen with three kinds of fruit. After Dan explained the intricacies of pruning and thinning the apple trees and maintaining the grape vines, we were treated to samples of his flavorful Marquette wine.

Our last stop was a big one: the Rockton Ranch orchard. In addition to an incredible garden of large Haskap honeyberry bushes (*Lonicera caerulea*) Toni and Rocky showed us how they're applying the principles of the book, "Grow a Little Fruit Tree" by Ann Ralph and taught in pruning classes by now retired OSU professor Ross Penhallegon. Toni got our attention by demonstrating the pruning technique that keeps a full-sized apple tree growing happily at a six-foot height. Under a creative sun shade of juniper trees and row cover, we learned when, where and how to help our fruit trees produce the largest and healthiest apples. Then we were treated to yummy barbeque shish-ka-bobs and ice cream with haskap sauce while we compared our gardening notes.

Four hours of sun, snacks, wine, good friends and advanced training credit equals a great new way to enjoy a COMGA Quarterly Meeting. Let's do this again next year

Since the board meeting isn't until July 10, and I am leaving for the G2 conference, the July board minutes will be sent by email to everyone when I get back.

## Notes from OMGA Board Meeting, June 2, 2018, on 2019 G2 conference planning

Sue Nesbitt opened this topic for discussion. Some time ago, there was a survey on the annual conference, raising several questions, including whether it should continue to be held (note: feedback from the survey was to continue to have G2 annually, and not skip any years), where it should be held, what time of year and how it should be planned. The topic was raised at the Executive Committee meeting in May. Sue thinks OMGA needs to look at the organization and change things up.

The 1<sup>st</sup> VP is supposed to handle logistics, the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP handles getting the speakers. This year, the 1<sup>st</sup> VP dropped out and Marcia Sherry (newsletter editor), is doing the 1<sup>st</sup> VP planning job. Jeanine Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, is still handling getting all the speakers.

Sue's thoughts were:

(1) we could continue as we have been and struggle to get someone to volunteer;

(2) we could hire a conference planning service to handle the event professionally, or

(3) we could divide the state and group the chapters (there are 22 chapters) by physical location (e.g., 2 small, 2 large). Each region would be assigned to a conference year and would be responsible for all phases of planning and putting on the conference. The idea is that each county would take an assignment and the 1<sup>st</sup> VP would only be an advisor. The conference would rotate among the regions.

Sue asked that the topic be raised with the local chapters for feedback. A decision needs to be made by September for the next location in 2019.

Qs from the floor (noted by chapter location):

**Lincoln** - had heard that G2 had to prove itself financially healthy or it may not continue. If it is not healthy, should it continue? Also thinks it would be useful to bring in outside vendors - along with using paid advertising. Sue noted that the conference is not supposed to be a money maker; the intent was to provide educational opportunities for MGs.

**Douglas** - G2 is not just for MGs but is also open to the public. Perhaps the focus needs to change to more of a public event, coordinated by MGs, but heavier focus on community gardeners. There are scholarship funds to help people attend G2 but if chapters are not getting MG applicants, they should approach 4H or FFA groups and offer the funds.

**Yamhill** – title "Growing Gardeners" sounds like it is for kids. "Mini-college" is too academic but G2 maybe not broad enough and not enough of a description that gardening is for everyone. Too many conferences seem exclusive and not inclusive for the public.

**Jackson** - with regional concept, event would have to be held in that region. Given that, people would have to know what options there are for locations for lodging, classroom space, and quality of event - are those things available in all areas? And speakers need to know the audience, they cannot assume everyone is an MG and speakers need to address remarks appropriately. This may come down to how the classes are labeled (advanced education, or not).

**Benton** - moving conferences is difficult, and moving coordinators is harder. It is a burden to people who have been doing it all the time but they are good at it. People who do not have the experience will struggle and not all locations have the population or infrastructure to support this event.

**Central Gorge** - if have 1st VP there as advisor, there is an experienced resource available (VM note: there is no 1<sup>st</sup> VP right now; what guarantee is there that one would exist in the future? NOTE: even with that, there are serious drawbacks smaller or more remote regions will experience – lack of volunteers, availability, ease of travel.... and attrition - people who worked on the project may leave, retire, die, move – so there are no guarantees that experienced resources would be available).

**Linn** – state rep has worked with an organization where an annual event moved around the state and it worked well. (NOTE: there was no description of what kinds of resources or funding were available to accomplish this).

## OMGA Update - G2 Conference

Vickie Minor, COMGA State Representative

G2 (Growing Gardeners), formerly known as "minicollege," is coming up quickly (July 12-14, 2018) at Linfield College in McMinnville. The schedule is full of topics of interest to all gardeners including climate impact, growing grapes, pruning flowering shrubs and more. Our own Jeanine Johnson is the person primarily responsible for getting such a diverse slate of speakers she was a one-woman task force! Complete details about the class sessions and speakers can be found at: https://omga.org/g2-class-descriptions-andschedule/. For those master gardeners who are attending, registration opens Thursday, July 12 at noon. There is also a volunteer appreciation social at 5:30, which should be fun. The conference begins on Friday morning, with a keynote by Philip Mote on "What Does Climate Change Mean for Gardeners?". The annual banquet is on Friday evening and on Saturday, Gail Langellotto is the keynote speaker on "Vision of " Master Gardeners in Oregon." There will also be a silent auction, which opens for bidding on Friday morning at 11:30 AM. A big "shout out" goes to the donors from our chapter: Sue Szabo, Ruth Mulligan, Pepper Colley, Victoria Butler, Jennifer Gold, Nancy Crossan, Evie Cox, Donna Brandon, Toni Stephan, Nancy Glick, and this writer. Because of their generosity, our chapter will be well represented in the silent auction.

### Location, Planting and Transplanting

Hydrangeas like mostly shady spots but some varieties can take more sun. The more sun your hydrangea gets, the more frequent watering that may be necessary to maintain the blooms and leaves. It's wait to plant in the spring after spring frosts but before the hottest summer months have set in. The active growth period for hydrangeas is March through September. You may transplant established hydrangeas but it's best to move the large specimens in the spring or the fall.

#### Soil

Soil should be well draining and rich with organic matter, bark and peat moss. Try to avoid animal manure as they tend to be too high in nitrogen. Well-aged manure is acceptable. Test your drainage before planting as it may require some amendments to improve drainage. If your soil is holding too much water, add sand or bark. If your soil is draining too quickly, add garden mulch or peat moss.

#### Water

Hydrangeas do like lots of water but it is possible to over water, especially will poor draining soil (see above). Hydrangeas don't like to have their roots sitting in water. Signs of too much water are brown leaf edges and leaf drop. Signs of not enough water are droopy leaves that perk up within a half hour of watering. Drip irrigation is usually successful.

Common Pests and Disease

Slugs and snails like certain hydrangeas and can be stopped dead in their tracks with slug & snail bait. Powdery mildew and black spot occur in shady locations when the hydrangea gets poor air circulation. Keep overgrown plants a good distance away from the base on the plants and discard any leaves with traces of mildew or fungus. Rust spots occur with too much direct sunlight after overhead watering. It's best to water in early morning or late afternoon at the base of the plant.

#### Fertilizer

We recommend a balanced time-released fertilizer be used a few times a year – spring and early fall. It is not always necessary to fertilize as most hydrangeas bloom better if a little starved. When hydrangeas form buds and begin to bloom, yellowing leaves in the center of the plant is a sign that they need some fast acting fertilizer. If you're wanting blue and purple blooms, be sure that you use a fertilizer that is low in phosphate. Phosphate limits the plants ability to absorb the aluminum.

#### Color

hydrangeas (except white ones) are at least a little bit pH sensitive. In acidic soil conditions (less than 6 on the pH scale) with available aluminum, you will tend to have blue and purple blooms. It's the aluminum in the soil that will change the pigments in the blooms to blue and purple. The soil conditions need to be acidic for the plant to absorb the aluminum. To increase the acidity, amend your soil with aluminum sulfate (established plants only), coffee grounds, rusty nails and coins, or conifer needles. In neutral soils (6 to 7.5), hydrangeas tend to have red and pink blooms. To increase the alkalinity in soil, add garden lime or super phosphate.

#### **Blooms – dried**

Hydrangeas don't dry well when freshly flowering. It's best to wait about six to eight weeks after blooming until the head has a papery. Cut in the morning and be sure to remove all leaves from the stem. You may hang the cut bloom upside down or in a vase with just a few inches of water. Keep the blooms out of the sun in a well circulated area. Once dried, the hydrangea can be sprayed with floral spray paint for deeper colors.

#### Blooms – cut

Hydrangeas don't cut well when freshly flowering either. Wait at least a few weeks after the bloom is completely open. Remember, the older the bloom, the longer it will last. According to experts, the trick is getting that oxygen bubble out of the stem. Leaves take moisture away from the stem so remove all leaves from the stem. If possible, cut just little stems. You may soak the entire cut in cold water, use florist alum gel to seal the end of the stem (and drain the oxygen bubble) or put the stem in boiling water.

#### Pruning

When to prune is mostly a matter of convenience. We have pruned both in the fall and early spring and had good results either way. It does seem that the later and the more harshly you prune that fewer flower blooms can be expected the next season. This is because most hydrangeas bloom on "old" wood. With young plants, be sure to prune enough growth to form them into a good "shape" and no more. The Paniculata and Arborescens varieties bloom on new wood so you may cut them for size in the spring or fall.

You may prune in the fall after blooming or in the spring after the hard frosts are over. Remember, the later you prune and the more drastically you prune, the fewer blooms you'll have. Prune to the first leaf node of this year's growth.

Cut 1/2'' to 1" above a budding node at a 45 degree angle. These buds will be the new leaves and blooms of your hydrangea. If you live in an area that is prone to spring frost, protect these buds with bed sheets or frost cloth (a light felt) on nights that frost is expected. Established hydrangeas tend to have branches that die back every year. These are completely woody branches inside the hydrangea. Cut up to a dozen of these branches down to the ground to spur new growth at the base.

Kristin VanHoose Hydrangeas Plus

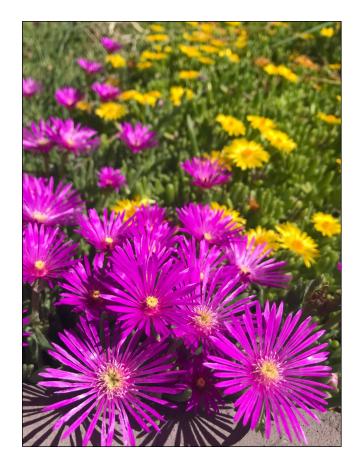


Photos submitted by JoAnne Abbott









### Be on the look out! By Toni Stephan

There is a new scoundrel coming to Plant Clinic. It is called an Ebony bug, *Corimelaena spp.* The bug is about an eighth of an inch long and at first glance looks like a beetle. But turn the varmint over and, with a hand lens you, will see it has a sucking-piercing mouth type, clearly then not a beetle. The thing that makes this true bug look like a beetle is that the scutellum is enlarged clear down to the end of the abdomen. This enlarged scutellum looks like fused wings of a ground beetle. Upon closer investigation under the microscope and a bit of dissection you find that there are two pair of wings under the scutellum. The first pair are half hard/half membranous and the second are all membranous, the wings of a true bug.

We received samples of this bug on snapdragon plants from both Prineville and Madras in the same week. Both samples had many of these bugs on them. Just this weekend, I was looking at some of my plants and saw the ebony bug on penstemon, catmint and veronica, possibly echinacea but it may have just been resting on this plant. It was in high quantities on the catmint. In an article written in 2014 the following was written: "The bug was very common on plants which were at seed harvest. Not much is known about the insect, but it is probably capable of causing significant damage if infestations are large and early enough. It is a generalist, with feeding recorded on mullein, tobacco and mints. Feeding on flower buds, newly opened flowers, and foliage will appear as a wilting and general necrosis of tissue." http://www.wci.colostate.edu/shtml/ PenstemonPests.shtml. Bob Hammon, who made this statement, did some studies on native seed production in Colorado and found the ebony bug to be a significant pest in seed production of penstemon.

The plants that were brought into Plant Clinic and the catmint at my home all seemed to have early flower death. The flowers turned brown/tan and just seemed to have the life sucked out of them without really withering. Though they may not be a significant problem to most, our clients will consider them significant, not only for the damage they cause to the flowers but just because of the sheer numbers. It was alarming when I saw them on the snapdragons.

The PNW Insect Management Handbook does not address the Ebony bug specifically but it does address true bugs that feed on flowers and seeds. <u>https://</u> pnwhandbooks.org/sites/pnwhandbooks/files/insect/ horticultural-landscape-ornamental/content/pdf/pdfs/ landscape-chem-control.pdf. While scouting may tell you when the bugs arrive it doesn't help get rid of them. And, though they may not be considered a major pest their sheer numbers are disturbing so people are going to want to know how to get rid of them. I suppose you could cut out the flowers of the afflicted plants and bag up the cuttings so that the bugs cannot escape then dispose of the bags. Other than this technique, chemical recommendations include fenvalerate, pyrithrins and pyrithroids. My research indicates that fenvalerate has been replaced by esfenvalerate in the U.S. <u>http://</u> <u>pmep.cce.cornell.edu/profiles/extoxnet/dienochlor-</u> <u>glyphosate/esfenvalerate-ext.html</u>. When I googled Esfenvalerate several trade names came up. When recommending a chemical for the Ebony bug as well as any other time be sure to tell the client to read and follow the label instructions.

This was a new bug to me. Some of you are likely to see it come into Plant Clinic. Don't be fooled by its appearance. Look at it under the microscope. What type of mouth does it have? Look at the wings. It is very cool to see for yourself this interesting little bug.

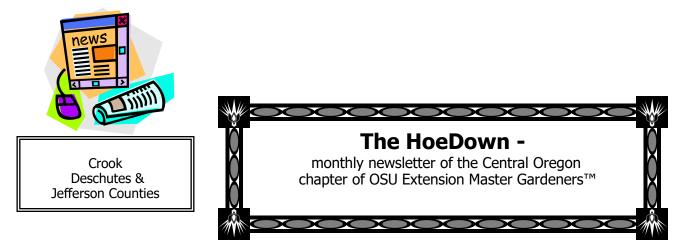


https://bugguide.net/node/view/832235



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: <u>HoeDown</u> Rocky Bessette, 8200 NW Yucca Ave., Redmond, OR 97756 or <u>rockyb820@gmail.com</u> Central Oregon Chapter of OSU Extension Master Gardeners<sup>۲۳</sup> 3893 SW Airport Way Redmond, OR 97756



"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."



