

April 2022



**H
O
E
D
O
W
N**

Board members 2021

President: Nancy Glick, 541-330-6260, nglick@bendcable.com

Vice Pres: Janet Dart, 818-486-1583, janetdart@gmail.com
 Jan Even, 541-280-5238, even.jan@gmail.com

Secretary: Marilyn Clark, 541-419-4625, piperdoug64@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Tim Schindele, 541-526-1490, TJSFishes@bendbroadband.com

State Rep: Jan Barron, 907-227-9547

Alt. State Rep: Evie Cox, 949-677-0767, eviecox1@icloud.com

Historian: Mimi Thomas, 503-320-4178, mormormimit@gmail.com

Membership Coordinator: 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
Calendar	2
Plant of the Month	3
Project Updates	3
Community Education Report	4
Project Updates	5
Advanced Training	5
Judy's Gems	6
Lowdown from the board	7
Garden Meditation	9

President's message



New Gardener, Experienced Gardener, Professional Gardener, Never Gardener. I've been all of the first three and my husband is proud to claim the last title.

As a Master Gardener, I've followed a similar path: new Master Gardener, veteran Master Gardener, COMGA board member. I remember the training classes in the Middle Sister room in February with the excitement almost visible in the air. A month into the classes, I was curious about the Central Oregon Master Gardener Association, so I went to my first Thursday board meeting and I was hooked.

A year later, another volunteer asked if I'd join the board as the Secretary. And what a fun, exciting year that was – I met dozens of Master Gardeners, learned how the Association was guided by the Horticulture Agent and how the Chapter programs delivered the motto: Teach, Support and Promote.

My volunteer 'career' moved on but the Chapter has had a number of really good Secretaries since my tenure, most recently, Marilyn Clark. Since Treasurer Tim Schindele is taking a well-deserved rest after years, Marilyn has agreed to move into the position next year, leaving the Secretary position open.

Are you asking yourself: What does it mean to be the COMGA Secretary? Is it possible I could do the job? What would be expected of me?

As Secretary, I found that I needed to sharpen my listening skills and decide to type or to hand write what I heard. I learned that the board helped to clarify what I recorded. And I found many new friends who cared as much as I did to make the organization a success.

If you'd like to know more about becoming our 2023 COMGA Secretary, read the job description on our website <https://www.gocomga.com/policies> and contact me or Marilyn with your questions. (Page one of this HoeDown has our contact information.)

Your skills and talents may be what's needed on the COMGA board! I hope to see you there.



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

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

April

- 1 Discovery Park Community Garden Lottery closes
- 2 Spring Gardening Seminar webinars 10am & 1pm
- 4 Discovery Community Garden Lottery winners
- 5 Gardening Get Good At It, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am
- 7 Board meeting 10:00am
- 9 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 9 Spring Gardening Seminar webinar 10am
- 11 OSU Demo Garden workday 9:00am
- 12 HH Waterwise Mentor meeting & workday, 9:00am
- 14 Discovery Community Garden mentor meeting 6:00pm
- 16 Discovery Community Garden opening 9:00am
- 16 Spring Gardening Seminar webinars 10am & 1pm
- 19 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
- 20 Hollinshead plot registration due
- 21 Hollinshead volunteer meeting
- 21 Discovery CG mentor meeting, 6:00pm
- 23 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 23 Hollinshead Community garden opens, 9:00am
- 23 Spring Gardening Seminar webinars, 10am & 1pm
- 24 Hollinshead Community garden opens, 9:00am
- 26 HH Waterwise mentor meeting & workday, 9:00am

May

- 3 OSU Demo garden workday, 9am
- 3 Gardening Get Good At It, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am
- 5 Board meeting 10:00am
- 6 COBA Home & Garden Show
- 7 COBA Home & Garden Show
- 8 COBA Home & Garden Show
- 12 HH Water-wise meeting & workday 9am
- 14 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 17 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 19 Discovery CG mentor meeting & workday 6pm
- 26 HH Water-wise workday & meeting
- 28 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 31 HH Water-wise workday & meeting

June

- 2 Board meeting 10:00am
- 4 Garden fair & Plant Sale 9am—Noon
- 7 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 7 Gardening Get Good at it 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am
- 9 Hollinshead Water-wise workday & meeting, 10:00am
- 11 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 16 Discovery CG mentor meeting & workday, 6:00pm
- 21 OSU Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
- 23 Hollinshead Water-wise workday & meeting
- 25 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon



PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Lisa Nakadate and Julie Hill

Featured Plant - - Little Devil™ Ninebark

Physocarpus opulifolius
'Donna May'

Height: 6 - 8'
Spread: 6 - 8'
Flower: Pink
Bloom Time: June - August



Why Should I Plant Little Devil™ Ninebark in My Garden?

- This is a showy shrub with maroon-burgundy foliage and light pink clusters of flowers.
- Features distinct, peeling bark.
- Easy to grow and is very tolerant of poor soil conditions.
- It requires little pruning and stays compact with no suckers or spreading. No known diseases or pests.
- Deer resistant and attracts birds.
- Can be used in rain gardens or stormwater management

Information Sources

Oregon State University: <https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/physocarpus-opulifolius>
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=PHOPO
Missouri Botanical Garden: <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?>



The Home and Garden Show will be happening this year!

I am looking for 2 Teaching Assistants. This person will help with class sign in, pass out handouts and generally support the Presenter.

Times are:

Friday May 6th from 1:00-2:15 and

Saturday May 7th from 1:00-2:15

If you can help out with either of these, please contact Liz Anderson at ragingangel61@yahoo.com

Thank you!

Liz Anderson

Spring Gardening Seminar 2022

Central Oregon Native Bees and the Plants they Frequent
- Toni Stephan - 4/16 @ 10 AM

Composting - Rocky Bessette/Toni Stephan - 4/16 @ 1 PM

Firewise Gardening - Amy Jo Detweiler - 4/23 @ 10 AM

Greenhouse Design for All-Season Growing - Eileen Obermiller - 4/23 @ 1PM

The classes have been getting great reviews so far.

To register go to the COMGA website: gocomga.com and click on the seminar flyer.

See you at one or all of the webinars.

Rocky

FOREST FIELD TRIPS

TO DIG PLANTS

Thursday 4/21 and Saturday 4/30

Don't miss our field trips to the Deschutes National Forest. Ranger Jeremy Fields will meet us at the Sisters Ranger Station at 10:00 a.m. He will discuss what plants we can dig up and will take us down a Forest Service Road to the best place to find plants. PERMITS (FREE) REQUIRED. For more information, contact Janet Dart (janetdart@gmail.com). Sign up for one or both days at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rBGy5T_6JPzK76jYFuU1rKzaB5wRdPTk/edit?usp=sharing&oid=107935032099445607292&rtpof=true&sd=true

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR UPCOMING MASTER GARDENER EVENTS:

April: Tour of Bend Park & Rec's newest park: Alpenglow, the site of our new demo garden. Hopefully we can have a potluck picnic.

June: Demo of pruning fruit trees at property in Powell Butte.

August: Annual barbecue. (Let's start this up again!)

December: Holiday brunch.

Chapter Inventory

Inventory assets have been completed for our Community Gardens. We will be requesting information from those who have equipment items in your possession. As we did last year, please look for an email requesting confirmation and update of such items. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again, and getting back out to our beautiful gardens.

Thank you, Karen Simonet, Julie Hill and Nathalie Smith

Continuing Education Report

by Jan Even

The Community Ed season is well under way now and we are off to a strong start.

We had several events in March:

A hybrid "Late Winter Pruning in the Garden" class featured instruction on Zoom on March 23, followed by two in-person practical sessions on Saturday March 26, in which MGs demonstrated proper pruning techniques at the Hollishead



Waterwise Garden and at the Redmond Demo Garden, simultaneously. Many thanks to Pat Kolling, Chris Maio and Jennifer Gold for teaching the pruning class on Zoom, and to

Janet Dart for hosting it. Pat & Chris (Hollishead) and Toni Stephan and Rocky Bessette (Redmond) demonstrated the proper techniques to 20 students in the follow-up in-person segment. Thanks to Patsy Kestner and Julie Hill for getting some photos and video at the Hollishead demo, and to Karen Simonet for getting pics at the Redmond demo.

This hybrid approach was an experiment and it seemed to have worked out very well. We also published the Zoom video to our YouTube channel and 27 people already have viewed it there.

Also on March 26, we had the first of two live Zoom Q&A sessions re vegetable gardening. The registrants were sent links to the one-hour video class that Amy Jo prepared last year (which is on COMGA's YouTube channel as well as Amy Jo's, where it is accessible by anyone). Both sessions were well-attended, with at least 86 people on Saturday and 63 on Monday evening. Panelists on Saturday were Vicky Kemp and Pat Kolling and on Monday evening they were Toni Stephan and Jan Even. Thanks to Janet Dart and Vickie Minor, who managed the Zoom duties for both sessions.

And in April:

Our efforts to bring classes to the public really took off April 2, with two sessions of Spring Seminar on Zoom. Saturday morning Vickie Minor taught basic gardening for Central Oregon, and Saturday afternoon Pat Kolling and Chris Maio taught Waterwise Gardening, with Nathalie Smith serving as the host. Both classes were extremely well attended, with 75 in the basic gardening class and 47 in the waterwise class. If you want to attend Spring Seminar, there are classes April 9, 16, and 23. Register at <https://www.gocomga.com/2022-spring-seminar>.

One thing we learned is that people valued not only the opportunity to attend the class, but the opportunity to "attend" later via on-demand video. I've fielded many inquiries from people who were interested in the topic of a class but had schedule conflicts and wanted to know if it would be recorded and they could view it later. They were happy to learn the answer is YES!

I think this is a valuable insight as we approach the rest of the season. It is easy for us to record a Zoom class for viewing later. It is not so easy to do for an in-person class, but I think it will behoove us to experiment with doing so. We are seeing how digital technologies can leverage the impact of our educational activities, and I will continue to seek out ways to capitalize on that.

In a similar vein, we have found that using online channels to promote our events works well to get our message in front of a lot of people for relatively little expense. In the past we have spent about \$2,500/year on print advertising for Spring Seminar alone. This year our entire advertising budget for everything is about that, but I don't think it will be a handicap. While we did spend some advertising money with the Bulletin, it was for enhanced event listings on their web site and mobile app, and a service upgrade that included sending an email blast about Spring Seminar to 10,000 Bulletin subscribers.

This year we are relying primarily on Facebook to promote our events, both through free posts – on our own Facebook page, and on the Central Oregon Gardeners Facebook group (7,000+ members) – and paid placements. We have spent about half our annual budget so far and will be spending most of the rest of it in April and May, promoting Spring Seminar, H&G show classes, and June Garden Fair education, with a small amount reserved to promote in-person events we expect to have later in the summer.

Coming up the first weekend in May we will have in-person classes on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the COBA Home & Garden show. Vickie Minor is the chairperson of that event, and Liz Anderson is the coordinator for the classes that will be presented. Those include:

Fri May 6, 10:30 a.m.: Best Vegetables for Central Oregon, Vicky Kemp

Fri May 6, 1 p.m.: Tips for Successful Gardening in Central Oregon, Vickie Minor

Sat May 7, 10:30 a.m.: Vegetable Gardening for Central Oregon, Jan Even

Sat May 7, 1 p.m.: Tips for Successful Gardening in Central Oregon, Vickie Minor

Sun May 8, 10:30 a.m.: Down & Dirty: Gardening Fun with Kids, Angie Boettner.

This year we will again have an education component to the June Garden Fair, with 10-Minute-University brief classes/demos, information booths, and plant clinic. More about that in Vicky Kemp's update on that project.



Hollinshead Water-wise Garden

by Pat Kolling & Chris Miao

A hearty cheer for and welcome to the Trainees who will be joining the Water-wise Garden team! We are overjoyed to have a crew of new volunteers (and soon to be friends) working with us as we tackle this year's new challenges. We conducted a Zoom orientation for new volunteers and a refresher for returning Master Gardeners on April 5 to meet all the new faces, go over how the garden works, and the developing data base system. Our first official workday will be on April 14 starting at 10AM when we'll all start off the season. If any other Trainees want to join us, that would be a good time to see if the Water-wise Garden would be a good fit for you. We'll be tackling the remainder of the spring pruning in the garden.

The pruning webinar and demonstration classes held the last week of March were well attended and well received. We were pleased that Toni and Rocky were able to also provide a pruning demonstration at the Redmond Demonstration Garden. Much more convenient for the folks in north Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson.



OSU Extension Service Demonstration Garden in Redmond

The OSU Extension Demonstration Garden needs volunteers! Come join the camaraderie that happens every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from April to October. Bring your own tools, bucket, hat, water, etc. We no longer need to sign up ahead of time, just come and join the fun!

Vicky Kemp & Karen Simonet,
Project Coordinators



ADVANCED TRAINING:

All Spring Seminar classes are approved for Master Gardener Advanced Training. Register on our gocomga.com website. Only \$5.00 per session.

You can also get your Advanced Training Credits online at OSU Extension's Level Up Webinar Classes on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 12 noon. Go to <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2022>. Classes are recorded, so it's not necessary to attend live.

Upcoming classes are:

April 12th: Plant Grow Harvest Repeat: Succession Planting

Soil Thermometers Project

April 2022

Thank you to Diana Hardin for spending the time to teach me about this project. I'd like to introduce myself, I am Karen Simonet, and will be your Project Coordinator for the Soil Thermometers (ST) going forward.

Our asset inventory total for the thermometers is 132 units. We presently have ST kept in the OSU Demo Garden Shed (locked) and the Plant Clinic Office (not locked). Each location has 2 boxes or bins with a specified amount in each.

The changes to this program will be as follows:

OSU Garden Shed: There are 2 thermometers in each TA bin (presently 20 units in each bin) to be used as information/instruction during the MG classes. Anyone wanting a ST from these classes will be directed to the OSU Extension Office Front Desk, where they can be purchased, and receipt given. The "Refill Box" will be stocked and available and remain in the shed.

Plant Clinic Office: Both the "box" and "bin" will no longer be in the office. Historically, these have not been easy to account for. A supply bin will be kept at the Front Office.

I have communicated with each of our Coordinators at our community gardens and upcoming events and will continue to assist in supplying them with ST. If there is anyone I have missed, or wishes to have ST at your event, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Karen Simonet
661-713-5694
emsnurse1923@gmail.com

Lithophragma glabrum

by Judy Shearer

Some of the harbingers of spring in central Oregon have appeared. On a trip to Palisades Cove State Park in late March we found yellow bells and prairie stars. The yellow bells were still in bud but the prairie stars were in full bloom (see pictures below). *Lithophragma glabrum* goes by several common names including bulbous woodland star, bulbiferous prairie star, smooth prairie star or even smooth rockstar (I personally like the last one although I am not a fan of common names). A native perennial in the saxifrage family (Saxifragaceae), it grows in many types of habitats throughout the Pacific Northwest from British Columbia south to California and eastward to the Rocky Mountains. It is a diminutive delicate plant 4-8 inches tall that could be easily overlooked as it blends so well into the surrounding vegetation. The flowers borne on reddish purple stems are white to pale pink with 4-5 petals that are deeply divided while those on the stem are similar but much reduced in size. It does produce seeds but main reproduction is through bulblets that can be found in the leaf axils on the upper stem. The bulblets fall to the ground, root and produce new plants. The plant is thus said to be viviparous i.e. it asexually produces plants genetically identical to itself as it sprouts on itself.



Photographs by Samantha Shearer

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., and A. Cronquist. Flora of the Pacific Northwest. 2nd Ed. 2018. University of Washington Press Seattle. WA pp 110-111.

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



Advanced Training

All Spring Seminar classes are approved for Master Gardener Advanced Training. Only 4 classes left! Register on our gocomga.com website. Only \$5.00 per session.

You can also get your Advanced Training Credits online at OSU Extension's Level Up Webinar Classes

on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 12 noon. Go to

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2022>

Classes are recorded, so it's not necessary to attend live.

Upcoming classes are:

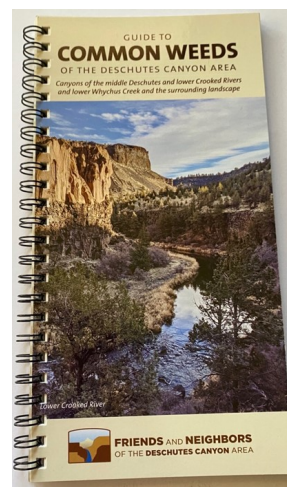
April 12th: Plant, Grow, Harvest, Repeat: Succession Planting <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2022#Succession>

May 10th: Growing Great Roses <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2022#Roses>

New Resource for Weed ID

A new resource for identifying weeds common in our area has just been published. "Guide to Common Weeds of the Deschutes Canyon Area," published by Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area (fansofdeschutes.org), is available for \$15.00 at Herringbone Books, 422 SW 6th St. in downtown Redmond. You can also order by phone and pay by credit card; call (541) 526-1491.

This booklet is 4.5 inches wide, designed to fit in a pocket or fanny pack if you are out in your garden or hiking in the area. Seventy-five different common weeds are covered, organized by taxonomic family so that similar plants are grouped together.



The description of each weed includes its common name(s), scientific name, and description of when it typically appears, when it blooms if it has flowers, how to control it, and what weed class it belongs to. For each weed there are photos of its different life stages. There's also a directory of weed control resources.

(Full disclosure: My husband was the designer of this book, but he does not share in any revenue it generates.)

-- Jan Even

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2022

In Person and via Zoom Online

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Glick (President), Janet Dart (VP MG Education), Jan Even (VP Community Education), Marilyn Clark (Secretary), Tim Schindele (Treasurer), Mimi Thomas (Historian), Jan Barron (OMGA State Rep.), Evie Cox (Alternate State Rep.), Mimi Thomas (Historian), Rocky Bessette (Communications Liaison), Jolene Dodge (Membership Coordinator), JoAnne Abbott, Katherine Applegate, Chris Miao, Karen Simonet, Ruth Mulligan, Judy Shearer, Karen Simonet, Kirsten Hinton, Mimi Thomas, Evie Cox, Pamela Bercovici, Amy Jo Detweiler and Toni Stephan and Amy Jo Detweiler.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The board discussed the following:

Approval of Minutes from March 3, 2022 meeting.

Upon motion by Rocky Bessette and seconded by Tim Schindele, the minutes were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.

OSU Report. Toni updated the group on Plant Clinic. Trainees are receiving training in Plant Clinic between April 11 thru 27th. Certified MG's can sign up after but need to complete the Plant Clinic training module in ECCO, which is available on Canvas. If you completed the course online last year, you should already have an account. Be sure you sign up and receive an account for ECCO. Once you refresh your training, Toni will be offering ECCO practice workshops starting April 21st, in the Extension office training room. Attendance is limited to twelve, so she will offer these workshops in May and June. Beginning April 28, certified MG's can begin signing up for Plant Clinic. The plan is to match one trainee with one certified MG on each shift. You can sign up through Sling for the ECCO workshops and Plant Clinic. Note that we only have two laptops for the workshops, so bring your own computer if you have one. There are a few changes since Thinkific you will need to know about.

Toni will likely delay opening the Crook County Plant clinic until Kim returns in May. They moved the plant clinic to a new office and there are matters to finalize.

Amy Jo discussed MG training. The last class was April 5th, but she is working to schedule outdoor labs to follow up on class training since she was out on medical leave. Trainees have two weeks to complete the electronic take home exam. She is still working from home and trying to get caught up. She hopes to get back to committee chairs within a week. If questions, email her.

Amy Jo checked on the available inventory of Vegetable

gardening guides, and Waterwise guides as we are getting low. (We have 3,600 copies left of the Veggie guides and 225 Waterwise guides left.) We need to check on printing lead time and funding availability to get some Waterwise ordered. She will have Veggie guides delivered to the Home & Garden show booth.

BOARD REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report as presented by Tim Schindele: Copies previously sent to board members and project coordinators. Nancy shared the report on screen for all attendees. YTD income is \$3,560 with \$2,277 in expenses. We also have over \$2700 in the PayPal account for Spring Seminar and community gardens (\$1300 in Hollinshead) which has not yet transferred to checking. The expense was \$864 for community classes advertising, mostly for Facebook. We will have spent the majority in April and May. Tim explained that PayPal fees are roughly 4% of the amount we bring in, but it varies based on the credit card rewards fees and can reach up to 7%. The minimum per transaction fee is \$.49.

Membership Report from Jolene Dodge: We have 55 paid COMGA members as of now. In response to a question, Nancy related that if you are Certified, but not a COMGA member you receive the OSU announcements from Lisa or Amy Jo. To receive COMGA notices, such as the HoeDown or member activities, you need to join COMGA. Tim asked about Lifetime and Honorary members. Nancy explained that Amy Jo, and Lisa are honorary members, and our Lifetime Achievement winner was Liz Douville. We need to check into this and see if we have a lifetime member policy and whether Lifetime achievement winners are granted free dues. Nancy will research and bring it to the next Board meeting.

Quarterly Meeting and Master Gardener education – Janet Dart:

As soon as Alpenglow opens in a couple of weeks, she hopes to hold the official Quarterly meeting there. No date set yet.

Regarding training, you should have received the email about an 'outing' for a trip to the forest to dig and gather native plants with Ranger Jeremy. He is available to guide us on a trip on Thursday, April 21 and Saturday, April 30th. This provides two opportunities. Each gatherer needs a permit. (They are free.) From her inquiry email, she has received 20 responses from people who are interested. If someone wants to go, but cannot make it on one of those days, Janet and Marilyn could go later.

She is also working on arranging a zoom talk with a grower in Colorado from Plant Select, which specializes in inter-mountain varieties. Since many of our high desert plants have similar needs, she thought it would be interesting to hear him speak about their drought tolerant and hardy plants. She heard him talk at a Hardy Plant group a couple of years ago. Amy Jo asked his name, as she used to work there years ago. Continued on page 8

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD Continued

OMGA Rep. Report – Jan Barron: Quarterly meeting was held April 7th. Gail told us that OSU funding fell short this year. She suggested we lobby our representatives. Will be harder to replace staff if they leave. Mini- college new name is 'The Joy of Gardening Conference'. It will be July 29-30. Most of the speakers confirmed, with topics including garden soils, landscaping choices, permaculture, raised bed gardening, iris, roses, the Oregon Bee project, sustainability, plant health, houseplants, and 'Do as I say, not as I did'. They will be coordinating tours: the Oak Creek Center, Saturday Market, campus tour and a nursery tour of three nurseries in the area. They will have a book sale, send a friend raffle. Action items for our chapter: They recommend donating ten items (small) for the silent auction for a total of \$250. Do we want a chapter table? (No, we do not sell anything that isn't pre-ordered; e.g. shirts & hats.)

Regarding grants: Are we interested in putting in for award grants, due April 15th. Answer: Nancy said those which apply are submitted for Amy Jo's approval. Do we need membership cards? Answer: They mail them automatically and Jolene has them. It was discussed that a benefit of carrying a membership card is that valley nurseries offer a discount, but no local nurseries offer such a discount. Mimi and Jan Even volunteered to contact local nurseries to see if they wish to give discounts for members. Jolene will bring some blank membership cards to the plant clinic office on Friday so members can pick one up. She will leave them in the President's in tray. Gail will be sending out a link for plant sales guidance.

Community Education from Jan Even: We have had several events in March. Had a hybrid pruning class on zoom, followed with practicum sessions March 26th at the Hollinshead waterwise garden and Redmond demo garden. Had about 22 people come for the in-person portion, with more in video class. Regarding the Veggie gardening classes, we had the first of our two live Q&A follow-up sessions. They were very well attended, with 86 people (Sat.) and 63 (Monday). Expected classes to be about an hour, but they ran over. Got good rating reviews.

Now shifting into high gear with spring seminar. Two classes last Saturday, were popular, with 75 attendees for basic gardening and 47 in the waterwise class. She suggested that we should keep that in mind for when we can resume in person classes. Zoom classes allow us to reach a very large group of people including people who aren't in our immediate area but are interested in our classes. People are enjoying the live online classes, but many want to have the on-demand video capability to view class later. A question came up from someone who missed signing up for a session: Can people still sign up afterward to get the video recording? Janet Dart explained that Zoom drops it after the date, but she can send a link to the video if they sign up by email and send a check to COMGA c/o OSU Ext. office,

or go to the donate button to pay on website. Another question is: Can we make recordings available longer? Amy Jo suggested we could look into using a YouTube channel. Possibly set up videos to watch, much like buying plants for the plant sale, pay online and receive the link. Could provide a regular source of income. Will have to work out fees and refer to tech committee. Jan stated we have been using some online social media channels to get the word out about our classes; Facebook and Bend Bulletin to enhance our event listing, the website and mobile app., and an email blast to subscribers. She has noticed that regardless of the email source for sending out info., we often receive comments and queries on Facebook, so we need to monitor it regularly.

For the Home & Garden show we will have five classes May 6 - 8: Two on Fri., two on Sat., and one on Sun. Liz Anderson is coordinating for the classes.

The June Garden Fair will also have some education this year, with info. booths and plant clinic in addition to our online plant sale.

We have also reactivated our YouTube channel, and Janet has been loading our zoom spring seminar classes from last year and our March pruning video. We need to strategize on how to utilize our YouTube channel. We may want to start recording other events to edit into a video. If you go to YouTube and type in GOCOMGA, you can view them. Chris Miao asked if we need any approvals to get these videos released. Amy Jo agreed, and suggested we get a group together and hash out all the details because of the large potential viewership. Jan stated that YouTube is second most viewed source next to Google. Nancy suggested Amy Jo, Jan, and the education committee meet to figure it out, given their expertise in our educational standards.

The June Garden Fair will also have some education this year, with info. booths and plant clinic in addition to our online plant sale.

We have also reactivated our YouTube channel, and Janet has been loading our zoom spring seminar classes from last year and our March pruning video. We need to strategize on how to utilize our YouTube channel. We may want to start recording other events to edit into a video. If you go to YouTube and type in go_comga, you can view them. Chris Miao asked if we need any approvals to get these videos released. Amy Jo agreed, and suggested we get a group together and hash out all the details because of the large potential viewership. Jan stated that YouTube is second most viewed source next to Google. Nancy suggested Amy Jo, Jan, and the education committee meet to figure it out, given their expertise in our educational standards.

Continued on page 9

Jan mentioned our quick survey for zoom attendees. The response rate is high. She reviewed our old forms as a comparison and thinks the old forms are cumbersome and proposed we streamline and revise our forms to capture the most valuable & relevant information. Janet mentioned we are receiving requests from seminar attendees asking to be added to our mailing lists.

Historian Report from Mimi Thomas. Reminding committee chairs to assign photographers. Needs a photo contact for the Home & Garden show, mini college, and High Desert Garden Tour if she is unable to attend. She is starting the 2022 FLICKR folder today.

ACTION ITEMS:

Social Media Accounts – Jan Even: Meeting running late so pending to next month.

Soil Thermometers – Karen Simonet has taken on this project. Changes in how we access them, storage moved from plant clinic to OSU office. She sent out a document to project coordinators. Shared a document on how people can check out thermometers for project coordinators to sign out. Customers can purchase them at the Extension office. Tim asked about classes - People should be able to buy there. E.g., Community gardens or other venues. TA's just need to let Karen know if they need thermometers for any offsite classes. Usually need a supply for garden opening days, row cover for sure.

Row Cover – Tim reported that he heard from Curt that the price of row cover fabric has gone up significantly. Because it is a petroleum product, it has gone up about 75%... Will hear more soon. Need to issue a PO very soon. Curt has about 49 pieces left. Old sell pricing has been \$10 for 20 ft. length, which was stated at the Saturday gardening seminar. Karen talked to Curt, new price predicted at \$291 for a roll, vs. old cost of \$167, without shipping. He may return to old supplier, McConkey vs Megastore, whoever is less.

Chapter Inventory – Nathalie, Julie Smith, and Karen S. have started the annual inventory. They completed the counts at all the gardens, but have to contact the 'keepers' of the other assets. They hope to finish next week.

Certified Project Coordinator – Nancy Glick. Shelved because we are late.

PROJECT STATUS REPORTS – Reports are submitted directly to the HoeDown. Unless a project coordinator has an issue, or needs funding or board approval on a topic, we will not discuss at meetings.

Open Forum: New Topics not on Agenda:

Jan advised everyone of a new resource book. FANS published a new weeds book. It is very specific to our local area. Toni may want to buy one for the plant clinic. \$15 price. Small enough to fit in your pocket. Available from FANS and Herringbone bookstore in Redmond. 'Guide to Common Weeds of the Deschutes Canyon Area'.

Chris Miao asked for clarification about the project reports they are to be submitted, per Nancy, to the HoeDown instead of at the board meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Marilyn Clark

Garden Meditation

by Rev. Max Coots
submitted by JoAnne Abbott

Let us give thanks for a bounty of people:

For children who are our second planting, and though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are.

For generous friends, with hearts as big as Hubbard squash and smiles as bright as their blossoms;

For feisty friends, as tart as apples;

For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us that we've had them;

For crotchety friends, sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;

For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn, and the others, as plain as potatoes and so good for you;

For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussels sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes;

And serious friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you through the winter;

For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time, and young friends coming on as fast as radishes;

For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts and witherings;

And finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, but who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter.

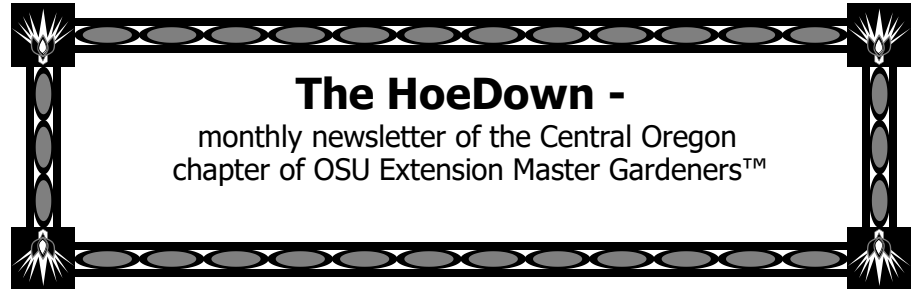
For all these we give thanks.



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.”



Oregon State University
Extension Service

