

September 2023



Photo submitted by JoAnne Abbott

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Board members 2023

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President's message



When the weather dipped into the 70s in late August, a meteorologist on one of our news stations said: We consider summer the hottest months and winter the coldest months. So now it is fall. Fall is not a calendar date here in Central Oregon, but at least the air is clear. It's time to cover your tomatoes at night and start watching for overnight frost. The gardeners in our two community gardens will be harvesting soon and I've already witnessed plants getting ready for winter. Some of the maples have already turned red. We Master Gardeners are helping prepare the community for fall: On September 9th we are holding a class on saving and storing seeds, and on September 16th we have a class on putting your garden to bed. Over the winter you will have an opportunity for volunteer hours as we need some plant research done to complete our upcoming demo garden's plant database. You may wonder how this all gets organized. The best way to find out is to attend the monthly Board meetings. If you want a say on how COMGA is run, consider joining the Board. Three positions are open that are excellent opportunities to dip your feet in the water: Historian, Communications, and Alternate OMGA Rep. I hope you will join us. Meanwhile, take a deep breath and enjoy the cool, clear fall air.

Janet Dart

Is it too early to think about bulbs?

By Betty Fallor

Although the gardening season will soon be ending, there is still one planting activity to be done: planting fall bulbs for Spring flowers. In Central Oregon, we start planting bulbs in mid-September or October because Spring-flowering bulbs need time to develop a solid root system before winter sets in. For best results, wait until soil temperatures are below 60 degrees before planting bulbs.

Although I am trying to convert many areas into native plants, I find that Spring flowering bulbs can provide a good investment for money spent by supplying years of seasonal color in the landscape. They offer a tremendous range of flower colors, shapes, sizes and plant heights. Select and prepare the area, plant the bulbs at the proper depth and the bulb will take care of the rest. Remember to inspect your purchased bulbs carefully. They should be solid and not mushy. Avoid lightweight, soft pithy bulbs or ones that don't have any covering. The cheapest flower bulbs are usually not the best.

PLANTING SUGGESTIONS: Select a site that will provide at least five to six hours of direct sunlight a day.

I used to plan an elaborate design but bulbs are much more attractive if planted in mass plantings or drifts.

The bulbs prefer loose, well-draining rich soil. Instead of adding bone meal as the fertilizer (phosphorus and calcium), current research suggests that you're better off giving your bulbs a complete meal by top-dressing with

COMGA Calendar for contact persons go to gocomga.com

September

5 Redmond Demo Garden workday, 9am
6 Alpenglow Demo Garden workday, 9am
7 Board meeting, OSU Extension, bldg. #3, 10:00am
9 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
19 Redmond Demo Garden workday, 9am
20 Alpenglow Demo Garden workday, 9am
21 Hollinshead CG volunteer meeting, 10:00am
21 Discovery CG volunteer workday, 6:00pm
23 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

October

3 Redmond Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
4 Alpenglow Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
7 Hollinshead Community garden closes
8 Hollinshead Community garden closes
14 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
15 Hollinshead Community Garden closes
15 Discovery Park Community garden closes, 600pm
17 Redmond Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
18 Alpenglow Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
19 Hollinshead CG volunteer meeting, 10:00am
19 Discovery Park CG volunteer workday, 5:00pm
28 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

November

2 Board meeting, OSU Extension, bldg. #3, 10:00am
11 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
16 Hollinshead C G Volunteer meeting, 10:00am
16 Discovery Park C G Volunteer meeting, 6:00pm
25 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

compost after you set them in the ground. If you don't have garden space, consider planting large containers for your deck or patio. Just remember, well-draining soil is even more critical in containers and you may want to mix in some commercial potting soil.

RULE OF THUMB: The general rule of thumb for successfully planting Spring bulbs is to plant them at a depth two to three times the height of the bulb. This means that most large bulbs like tulips or daffodils should be planted about eight inches deep and eight inches apart. Smaller bulbs like crocus should be planted three to four inches deep and three to four inches apart. Planting depth is always measured from the bottom of the bulb. Watering the bulbs following planting will help to settle the soil in the planting bed plus provide needed moisture for the bulbs to start rooting. The bulb bed should be covered with two to three inches of mulch which helps minimize temperature fluctuation and maintains an optimal moisture level in the planting bed. The small, early blooming bulbs should only be lightly mulched to avoid interfering with their emergence and bloom.

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Discovery Park Community Garden – DPCG

Discovery Garden is very much in season wind-down mode. Overall we've had a very good summer. Veggies have done well, especially tomatoes that escaped those late frosts. There have been no mid-season frosts which is unusual. All beds have been active. Rodents have been almost nonexistent this summer. Some bed clean-up activity has begun.



Last month Abigail Gustke of the High Desert Food and Farm Alliance contacted our garden about starting a food donation program. She has placed a produce donation station in our garden and will manage pickups. All produce will be donated

to NeighborImpact Food Bank. We hope this will catch-on with our Discovery gardeners.

Discovery garden has been in need of a proper storage shed to replace the tiny plastic cabinet it has been using for years. Extension, via Amy Jo, has offered the use of the "old" Demo Garden/4-H shed, which is in great condition. Getting the shed put in place will involve preparing a spot in the garden at its new home and since Discovery is a Bend Parks property, it will also need a new coat of paint sporting the official Bend Parks color of "Cabin Brown". Once painted the last step will be a ride down the highway from the Deschutes County Fair Grounds to its new home at the community garden. We're excited to finally have a weather-tight and secure garden shed.



A garden shed **painting session** will be held on **Thursday Sept. 14 from 9 am till noon at the Fair Grounds** near the Demo Garden. If you want to get involved and are interested in helping out, please contact Gary at discovery@gocomga.com



Trifolium macrocephalum

by Judy Shearer

When you think of clover, the first thing that might come to mind is a weedy plant that is a nuisance in lawns. But, quite the contrary, if you have ever experienced seeing giant or large-head clover. It is a downright spectacular plant (see photo below). *Trifolium macrocephalum* is a rhizomatous perennial legume with hairy herbage. The 5-9 palmately arranged leaflets are oval in shape, green with white splotches. The round to egg-shaped flower head expands with age to become 3-4" across. It has the largest inflorescence of any species in the genus. The individual flowers are pea-like, pink to pale purple in color and often bicolored. The giant-head clover grows in rocky soils in the shrub steppe at mid to high elevations. It is native throughout the great basin region of western United States from Washington to northern California and east to Nevada and Idaho. The photo was taken in the Ochocos east of Prineville although it does occur in Deschutes county as well as throughout Oregon east of the Cascades. The specific epithet macrocephalum is Latin meaning "large head".



Photographer Samantha Shearer

Meyers, S.C., T. Jaster, K.E. Mitchell, T. Harvey & L.K. Hardison, eds. 2020. Flora of Oregon. Volume 2: Dicots A-F, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.

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

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, rockyb820@gmail.com

OSU Demo Garden

Thank you everyone that helped out in the OSU Extension Service Demo Garden on Sept. 5th. We had a total of 18 folks working on catching up on weeding, deadheading and the most exciting activity I thought was the harvesting of 165 #'s of peaches, a bucket full of plums and a bag of cucumbers! The produce was donated to NeighborImpact food bank main warehouse in Redmond.

We still have 3 regular scheduled work days coming up on Sept. 19th & Oct. 3rd & 17th, so please join us if you can.

Vicky Kemp & Karen Simonet, Demo Garden Coordinators

Alpenglow Demonstration Garden

The summer is passing much too quickly! I think we are all hoping for clear skies and no more smoke! Before long we will be putting the garden to bed for the winter. Until then, we're enjoying the blooms and beauty! Our last maintenance day was cancelled due to smoke but we hope to be out there on Wednesday, September 6 at 9 a.m. The garden is actually looking quite good and filling in nicely. We recently worked with Bend Parks and Recreation to get additional water to the Royal Raindrops crabapple tree and the irrigation controller which we are having trouble with. The bulletin board should be installed shortly and we're looking forward to providing information there on the garden, plant of the month, and upcoming events. We have a great group of volunteers who have worked hard to make the garden a success and we so appreciate everyone's help. If you haven't visited Alpenglow yet, now is the time to do it!

Lisa Nakadate & Janet Dart

Bulbs, continued

MAINTENANCE TIPS: When flowers fade, cut the flower off to prevent seed formation which takes stored food away from the bulb. The remaining foliage should not be removed until it turns yellow and dies back naturally. If the foliage is removed too early, the plant loses its ability to 'recharge' itself, resulting in a smaller, weaker bulb that will gradually decline and die out.

Treat winter hardy Spring flowering bulbs as perennials that are left in the ground year after year. When flowers eventually become smaller or fewer in numbers, you can dig them up and divide them and replant later. I don't divide and save the bulbs any more - it's just too much trouble.

COMMON PROBLEMS: Bulbs generally have few insect or disease problems. Some reasons for poor flowering the first year could be the following:

IT'S ELECTION TIME!

Elections for the 2024 Board are coming up.

COMGA needs you! Come join this dynamic group

to keep our organization running. Nominations to date:

President – Janet Dart
 VP MG Education - OPEN
 VP Community Education – Cher Hinerman
 Secretary – Tammara Waterman
 Treasurer – Marilyn Clark
 Historian – OPEN
 OMGA State Rep – Karen Simonet
 Alternate Rep – OPEN
 Appointed Positions:
 Membership – Deb Goodall
 Communications - OPEN

Do you like planning events? The VP MG Education spot is for you.

Do you like taking pictures? The Historian position is for you.

Alternate Rep is a great way to assist Karen and find out more about OMGA.

How are you at sending emails and newsletters? The Communications spot is for you.

The bulbs were planted too shallow, too late in the season or were not hardy for Central Oregon.

The bulbs were disturbed by animals such as neighborly gray squirrels and Alvin the chipmunk.

The bulbs rotted. Bulb rots are usually caused by using fertilizers excessively high in nitrogen or fresh manure, wet soil conditions or by poor quality, bruised or cut bulbs.

If bulbs flowered the first year but not the second, it is quite possible the area is too shady or the foliage may have been removed before it had yellowed and withered naturally.

Do not fertilize Spring flowering bulbs after they have started flowering, this tends to encourage the development of bulb rot and may shorten the life of the flowers.

So, get ready to plant those bulbs now and enjoy your efforts in the Spring.

The photo is from my trip to Keukenhof Gardens in Holland. Spectacular bulb displays!



Green Tomatoes

by Jeff Orr

You would think with the relentless Summer heat in Central Oregon this year that our vegetable crops would be ripening faster than usual, but the opposite is true for some, including tomatoes. Lots of leafy growth unfortunately does not lead to a lot of ripe tomatoes. Even though I consider myself a proficient tomato gardener of the High Desert, there are a couple facts that I only learned this year because of our extended heat. I have always paid attention to overnight low temperatures and protect my plants when the thermometer dips below 38 degrees. But did you know that too much heat can slow plant growth as well? The ideal temperature range for ripening tomatoes is 70 to 75 degrees. Above this range, the ripening process slows down and may even cease all together. Photosynthesis – the process that makes food for the plant – is greatly reduced at 94 degrees. Sustained heat can also lead to poor pollination and fertilization, affect the overall fruit quality including inadequate gel development inside along with hard white areas, and overall fruit size may also be smaller. Excessive heat also affects the plant's ability to produce carotene and lycopene, which are the pigments that make our tomatoes turn the much-desired orange, yellow, or red. No wonder tomatoes have been so challenging this season. Too many hot days means green tomatoes galore.

Now, with October near, the High Desert will likely see its first hard frost. You can ripen mature green tomatoes off the vine. Mature tomatoes are light green in color with a slight bit of the final fruit color on the blossom end. The pulp inside of a mature tomato should be jelly-like, not firm. To ripen, wrap them individually in newspaper and place them in a box or paper bag; not touching one another in a room at 60-70 degrees. Check them every 3 to 4 days for rotten ones. Ripening will occur over a 3 to 4-week period.

So, let's step out of the garden and into the kitchen. A green tomato, unlike ripe ones, retains a firm flesh. This makes it a good candidate for cooking and baking. Sandwiches, pies, relish, and salsa are also common dishes for green tomatoes.

The most widely known recipe is for Fried Green Tomatoes, probably because of the book-turned-film of the same name from 1991. For fans of fried green tomatoes, give this simple recipe for green tomato fries a try. It uses green tomatoes, an egg, olive oil, Italian breadcrumbs, and flour.

Start by preheating your oven to 350 degrees. Cut green tomatoes lengthwise into wedges. Setup three bowls for your dipping stations – the first one with 1 cup of flour, the second with a raw egg mixed with a teaspoon of olive oil, and the third with a cup of breadcrumbs. Dip wedges into the flour, then the egg/oil mix, and finally into breadcrumbs before placing on a baking pan. Bake the fries for 25 minutes or until crispy brown. Consume the fries right out of the oven or with a side of creamy dressing.

This recipe will also work without the egg. Brush olive oil on the tomato wedges before dipping them into the breadcrumbs.

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

September 7, 2023

The meeting was held at the OSU Extension Classroom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheryl Hinerman, VP Community Education; Tim Schindele, VP MG Education; Marilyn Clark, Treasurer; Rocky Bessette, Communications Liaison, Deb Goodall, Membership Coordinator, Nancy Glick, Past President, Amy Jo Detweiler, Lisa Cowen, Vicky Kemp, Toni Stephan, Shawna Larson, Ann Padgett, Laurie Eimans

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Cheryl Hinerman (in Janet Dart's absence). It was noted we did have a quorum. The board discussed the following:

1. The minutes of the meeting held August 3, 2023 were approved with one correction (duplicate member present (Toni Stephan) upon motion by Marilyn Clark and second by Rocky Bessette).
2. **OSU Report** from Amy Jo Detweiler: Because of this summer's heat and thick smoke, she is considering reducing the number of hours required for MG volunteers. The current trainee requirement for Deschutes/Crook/Jefferson had been set at 48 hours. The national minimum standard is 40 hours. Most other areas are between 50 and 60. Amy Jo reminded everyone to log their hours.

Statewide, MG Statewide Coordinator search committee closes this week, applications received are very low. We'll see what happens there. Other program coordinators such as AJ are still meeting monthly to coordinate. The PAC12 implosion will impact OSU funding, but we don't know how it will impact us yet.

Master Gardener training for next year will be moved to Wednesday from Tuesday. This will enable a prep day because of Monday holidays. She is also looking at changing to a 4-hour model, with both in person and online components and asked for our input. (Mentors from this year suggested a 45 –60 minute lunch which allows time to meet and discuss matters with trainees.)

Amy Jo stated that we have been gathering a lot of interest statements (over 100) for MG volunteer training for 2024. Applications will be in October. She may have to cut it off because we cannot handle that many in our training room.

High Desert Garden Tour for 2024: We're going to view 5 – 6 garden possibilities for the Crook County tour next week. The last time we had a tour in Powell Butte/Prineville was in 2012. We could also consider a Redmond and Prineville Garden tour for two Saturdays. Then go back to Bend 2025. Rachael is going to take on more of a management role for the Tour next year.

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LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD Continued

Buying tickets online worked very well. OSU isn't going to charge an admin fee, so we got it all, no 3% fee.

Recognition night has not yet been scheduled, but it's usually a weeknight, the week of October 23 rd . She's hoping for OSU Cascades although they are checking on many venue possibilities. We usually have 60 – 80 people. If you have a suggestion, let us know.

The Fire-Resistant brochure may be ready to print this month. It is 54 pages. It will be considered a regional PNW Firewise reference.

COMGA had already discussed providing financial assistance to print the Fire-wise guide, so Nancy Glick made a motion that we support the printing of the Firewise brochure by providing \$5,000 to the OSU Deschutes Horticulture program. Rocky seconded, and the motion passed. Amy Jo thanked the board for this donation and mentioned that because it's not printed yet, COMGA will be listed as a sponsor.

Vicky reminded trainees that attending a quarterly meeting or board meeting also counts as volunteer hours. We have two meetings coming up if trainees are having a hard time meeting the requirement.

BOARD REPORTS:

3. **President's Report:** Janet Dart asked for Board nominations for OMGA Alternate State Rep. and Historian.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Marilyn Clark advised the group that we had \$26.77 in income for August and \$1518.77 in expenses. The major items included \$800 for July Facebook ads for the High Desert Garden Tour and \$135 for Hollinshead Community Garden hoses. YTD net income is \$11.053.

QuickBooks: Marilyn related the problems we have with our old software version of QuickBooks, which is no longer compatible with current computer programs. We can buy an online annual software subscription through TechSoup for \$75.

Marilyn made a motion to purchase the new subscription for \$75 plus fees. The motion was seconded by Rocky Bessette and was passed unanimously.

5. **Credit Card Proposal:** Marilyn and Janet Dart have discussed circumstances under which we would recommend a COMGA corporate credit card. We will be drafting a procedure for Nancy to review, and then presenting a formal plan to the board, expected for the October meeting. The basic plan is to have one card held by a Board member and can then be placed on file for recurring purchases or used for large purchases.

MG Advanced Training: Tim Schindele is looking to reschedule the summer BBQ picnic. He's looking for another date and location. Stay tuned.

The Water-wise landscaping conversion field trip to Lisa Nakadate and Lisa Kieraldo homes rescheduled for

Sept. 18. If air quality is 150 or above, we will postpone.

He has also scheduled a tour of the US Forest Service seed extractory facility set Oct 24th 12:30 in afternoon, expect about a 90-minute tour. The tour limit is 12 people, so members will need to reserve a spot by contacting Tim. An email blast will go out with details.

The next Level Up series is being presented by our own Pat Kolling. The topic is: The healthy gardener – preventing injuries and staying fit. It will be 9/12/23 at 12:00 noon.

7. **Community Education:** Cher Hinerman. The Hollinshead Open House had to be cancelled because of smoke. Not planning a reschedule until next year.

The City of Bend has scheduled an event at the Alpenglow Park. It's called a State of the City Community Gathering, and will be tomorrow night from 4 – 7pm. COMGA will have a few volunteers and will put up a banner and table. The hardy plant society is coming the following Friday.

The Seed Saving class is this Saturday 9/9 here at Redmond. The following weekend is Jan's class on Putting your garden to bed. Both are on our website.

8. **Historian:** Kris Knoernschild. Asked everyone to take pictures and send them to her.

9. **OMGA Rep.:** Karen Simonet. The next OMGA meeting is tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. zoom, COMGA members are invited to log in.

10. **Communications Liaison:** Rocky Bessette. If there is anything for the HoeDown newsletter, please send to her by Friday.

11. **Past President:** Nancy Glick. She is working on writing or rewriting four policies/procedures: Inventory, VP job description, MGOY timeline, (in order to complete by Recognition night), and CC policy. If anyone wants to help with the policies, let her know.
Web update – everyone has been on vacation. Will be Winter before the committee can meet.

ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS:

12. **Discovery Park:** See the full report in the HoeDown. The Board is currently seeking a volunteer Coordinator to replace Gary for next year. Please let Janet know if interested. And the new old shed from the OSU grounds will be painted. If interested, a work party will be 9/26 beginning at 9:00 am. Just come.

We discussed Gary Weber's request to honor/thank the gardener who upgraded the Pollinator bed. We agreed I could suggest he buy a gift card to a local restaurant or plant store for her, a nice thank you card, and a voucher for a free plot next year.

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LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD Continued

13. **Alpenglow Demo Garden:** It's progressing nicely. The bulletin board should be installed shortly to highlight upcoming events and information on the garden.

14. **Waterwise Garden:** Chris/Pat. Plants are great. They are looking to provide a creative use of rock and mulch for the native garden. They bought some new plants to fill in and transplant in September.

15. **High Desert Garden Tour:** See OSU report above.

16. **Hollinshead Community Garden:** Kirsten stated that the new raised beds are planned to be built this fall.

17. **OSU Demo Garden:** Vicky Kemp. We had a good turnout for workday this week and harvested 165 lbs. of peaches, plus plums and cucumbers which were donated to the food bank.

OPEN FORUM:

Toni has some seed if you want them, Some from the Bee Atlas, Rocky Mtn. Bee plant, Giant Blazing Star, and Firecracker Penstemon. See her after the meeting.

The veggie contest had eight people enter and ribbons will be presented after the meeting following a discussion of entering veggies for judging by Vicky following the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Clark
Acting Secretary in Tammara Waterman's absence



Vegetable/fruit contest:
First place vegetables:
Jeff Johnson
First place herbs: Jeff Johnson
First place fruits:
Rocky Bessette

Second place vegetables:
Jeff Johnson
Second place herbs:
Shawna Larson
Second Place fruits:
Tim Schindele



Third place vegetables:
Laurie Eimans
Third place herbs:
Shawna Larson
Third place fruits:
Tim Schindele

Is My Plant Sick?

by Betty Faller



Over the past few weeks, I've wondered about the effects of smoke on my plants. I know that fire can have beneficial effects on plants when acting as an environmental cue for seed germination and dispersal. However, I wanted to know exactly what chemicals are in the smoke and what can I do, if anything, that might make a difference in plant health.

Research shows that smoke has more than 100 different compounds, including toxic levels of nitrous oxide, sulfur dioxide and ozone. Short-term exposure to smoke (as little as 20 minutes) has been reported to reduce photosynthesis by as much as 50%. Basic Master Gardener classes taught us that reduced chlorophyll will slow plant growth and may reduce fruit production. Long exposure to smoke may even affect the taste. More about 'taste' later.

Logically, the surface of the plant leaf is more affected than the underside of the leaf. This is where the stomatal pores come into play and once again I had to do a little review. Does this sound like a plant clinic question? The stomatal pores, on the top of the plant leaf, may become plugged which not only slows the rate of CO2 intake but it may prevent the plant from retaining water. Your plant may show signs of water stress, and like humans, have trouble breathing in all the wildfire smoke.

I did read an article that suggested if we were in a zone that had falling ash, it might be considered a fertilizer since ash contains calcium, magnesium, and potassium. I think I prefer to selectively choose the type and timing when fertilizing my garden. Solution to this situation is to dilute the effect of any ash by gently hose down the leaves and the fruits on your plants.

Now, let's answer the question of taste. A good resource is an article by Brooke Edmunds, community horticulturist and Master Gardener, on the OSU website. An important step is to estimate your air quality by going to AirNow.gov. If it's safe to tend to your garden, harvest anything that is ready.

Now here's the question about safely eating your garden produce after a wildfire. "The smoke and ash won't be able to necessarily penetrate deep into the fruit or vegetable and so rinsing well should remove any residues. Rinse the produce off outside (with a hose or watering can) and then give a second or third rinse in the sink indoors. Peeling (for example removing apple or tomato skins) and removing the outer leaves of leafy greens will also reduce your risk. Wear a face covering if needed and wash your hands after handling the produce."

After taking the suggested steps, you will have to decide about the taste and of course, when in doubt, throw it out or into the compost pile.

The University of California has a research-based publication on produce safety and wildfires that you might find useful. This publication also talks about soil testing and other things to think about before planting next year's garden.

Fall is coming

IT'S TIME TO NOMINATE A NEW MASTER GARDENER OF THE YEAR!

From Nathalie Smith and Jane Dart

Nominations are now being accepted for our next **MASTER GARDENER OF THE YEAR!**

Every year (except for 2020 because of the pandemic) we have chosen an exceptional COMGA volunteer to be the "Master Gardener of the Year." This is an important award that honors someone who goes above and beyond the requirements for certification. A complete list of previous recipients is on the COMGA website, under the "Membership" tab. **This year, the deadline to submit a nomination is MONDAY, September 18, 2023, by noon.**

You – our volunteers - are involved in many COMGA projects and you have continued to help the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program maintain its traditions of *teaching, supporting, and promoting our program*. Your contributions come in many forms – some in person, some through remote work. **You are the ones who know best who might be deserving of this special recognition. Now is the time for you to consider your fellow volunteers, to see who should be nominated for the 2023 Master Gardener of the Year**, based on the qualifications described on the "Master Gardener of the Year Criteria" form. A copy of the form is included in this edition of the HoeDown. It is also available in electronic form on the COMGA forms page, or through the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2azmcxk>.

Once you have completed and submitted the nomination form (instructions on how to do that are on the form), Amy Jo will review all the submissions and forward them to the COMGA Awards Committee. The Awards Committee is comprised of active Master Gardeners who have previously received this award. That group will choose a finalist and forward the name to Amy Jo.

We encourage you to use the electronic form link, <https://tinyurl.com/y2azmcxk>. Click on the link to open the document, and click START at the top. Fill in the blue highlighted spaces and when finished, click the DONE button at the top and it will automatically go to Amy Jo. A paper form is still an option (print the form from the newsletter) but the **nomination must arrive at the extension office by 12:00 PM (noon) MONDAY, September 18.**

Amy Jo is working on this year's Recognition Night, where the recipient of this award will be announced. Stay tuned for more information on the date and location of that event. Thank you for helping us recognize the best of the best of our volunteers! Find the form at the end of the Hoedown.

What is It?

By Betty Faller

Question: What is 1/3 to 2/5 inch long, very quiet and likes to eat and party with lots of friends?

Answer: The pantry moths in my garage!!

I started noticing tiny flying, moth-like critters in the garage near the large plastic bins of birdseed and cracked corn. Next, I noticed some web-like areas clustered around the seeds in a smaller, less secure bin of sunflower seeds. Worst of all, I saw in inside the house in the laundry room.



Being a curious person by nature, a Master Gardener by choice and a rather tidy person, I started using a plant clinic approach to identify the invader, discover its lifecycle and then manage the problem. Based on observation in and around the traps and the previously mentioned spider-like webbing in the seeds and research, I identified the intruder as 'Plodia interpunctella' or Indianmeal moth.

Here are some of the specifics from an article on the UC Agriculture and Nature website:

Identify the source of the infestation. Store-product pests are usually brought home in an infested package of food or seed. The insects are quite small so you may not notice the problem until the moth starts flying around.

Remove and clean up the infestation. This was fairly easy since most of the issue was contained in the garage. The time-consuming part was going through the entire pantry contents and thoroughly cleaning all the shelves and discarding anything that was not in an airtight container.

Make certain you don't purchase any dented or damaged products.

Don't mix old and new products.

I used pheromone traps (readily available) in the garage and in in the pantry after the source of the infestation had been removed and thoroughly cleaned. In the case of the Indianmeal moth, the pheromone trap attracts the adult male moths into



the trap where they get stuck on the sticky sides. Even though the trap does not attract the female moths, the hope is that the males are trapped prior to mating and so there are less eggs produced. I have been checking the traps weekly and there are still some adult moths but I haven't noticed any telltale signs of the larvae in the birdseed.

I hope this helps anyone that may have noticed tiny flying moths in and around their house. They party in numbers so don't send out an invitation.

Master Gardener™ of the Year Criteria

The recipient of the award for Master Gardener of the Year works tirelessly on behalf of the Oregon State University Master Gardener program. Their exceptional efforts and ideas support the philosophy and educational goals of the local extension office.

This award requires a Master Gardener to exhibit an outstanding willingness to help coordinate numerous projects, and attend both Board and Quarterly Meetings. Maintaining a high number of volunteer hours validates exceptional participation, many of these without being asked. Continuing education through recertification is a priority for this special Master Gardener and he or she is knowledgeable on a variety of topics.

Important personal traits include a friendly personality, understanding nature and the ability to work well with others. Outstanding organizational skills and the unique ability to encourage others to teach in the community are part of the recipient’s nature.

This is a distinct award that should be fully enjoyed and celebrated by one individual. The decision-making criteria should be based upon the fact that our main mission is to educate our “neighbors” and assist them in their landscaping and gardening problems. Therefore, in the case of a tie, and all things being equal between candidates, the final decision rests upon what the person has done to positively impact the public instead of efforts within the COMGA organization. In order to acknowledge an outstanding Master Gardener for continually serving the program, it is possible for someone to hold this distinction multiple times, but not two years consecutively.

Please return this form by September 18, 2023 to: OSU Extension Office, Amy Jo Detweiler, 3800 S.W. Airport Way Bldg #4, Redmond, OR 97756 or email amyjo.detweiler@oregonstate.edu

My nomination for Master Gardener of the Year is:

In accordance with the mission of Central Oregon Master Gardener Association, please identify what the candidate has contributed:

1. To Teach sustainable gardening practices which have their foundation in research-based information. (such as, which classes or talks were given by the nominee?)

2. To Support the OSU Extension Service horticulture program in Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties. (such as, what projects or other volunteer commitments contributed to the CO Horticulture program?)

3. To Promote the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener program in Central Oregon. (such as, what contributions has the nominee done that have lead to better recognition of the CO & Statewide MG programs?)

_____ Submitted by (optional)