

H O E D O W N

July 2023



Rocky Mountain Bee plant with Morrison bumble bee

Board members 2023

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President's message



Beware of noxious weeds. Some of them are pretty. A couple of years ago I grew Foxglove from seed. It was a beautiful plant, gifting me with spines of purple bells all summer long. It didn't get quite enough water where it was, so last year before dashing off to North Carolina for the summer, I transplanted it into a flower bed in the middle of my lawn. (I know, Toni says not to put a flower bed in the middle of your lawn because you'll forever be pulling up grass. But sacrifices must be made and I'm getting rid of my lawn one flower bed at a time.) Anyway, I've been watching the plant grow since the snow melted. It seemed a little taller than I remembered. It must be happy in its new flower bed! Today it bloomed. Yellow balls on the tops of three-foot spikes. Definitely not Foxglove. PlantNet App to the rescue: Bighead Knapweed! I haven't seen it in my neighborhood, but it blew in from somewhere. Spotted Knapweed is a noxious plant of Central Oregon. This is close enough. Out it goes. But where is my Foxglove?

Janet Dart



Here it is!!



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

July

- 5 Redmond Demo garden workday, 9:00am
- 6 Board meeting, potluck, 5:00pm
- 7 OMGA Mini-College Day
- 8 OMGA Mini-College Day
- 8 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 15 OSU High Desert Garden Tour
- 18 Redmond Demo garden workday, 9:00am
- 19 Alpenglow Demo garden workday, 10:00am
- 20 Hollinshead CG volunteer meeting, 10:00am
- 20 Discovery Park CG Volunteer workday, 6:00pm
- 22 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

August

- 1 Redmond Demo garden workday, 9:00am
- 2 Alpenglow Demo Garden workday, 10:00am
- 3 Board meeting, potluck, 5:00pm
- 12 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 15 Redmond Demo garden workday, 9:00am
- 16 Alpenglow Demo Garden workday, 10:00am
- 17 Hollinshead CG volunteer meeting, 10:00am
- 17 Discovery Park CG volunteer workday, 6:00pm
- 26 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

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



HOLLINSHEAD WATER-WISE GARDEN

The Field Day with the City of Bend was a success. There were around 200 people who attended the classes and the other activities that were available. We did tours in the water-wise garden and there was a great deal of interest in low water use plants. We have already set a date for the event for next year. It will be the second Saturday in June - so it won't conflict with the plant sale - and will be at the Hollinshead Barn and the Water-wise Garden.

We have formed a small committee of volunteers from the water-wise and community garden and are in the midst of planning an Open Garden event. This will include both the Community garden and the Water-wise Garden and will be held on August 19 from 9-12. Both gardens are working together to plan this event and we plan to have different activities and information booths at the event. More information to come.

Thanks for doing this update for the Board.

Pat and Chris

Advocacy Taskforce Results are in!!

Thanks to everyone who wrote letters to Oregon Legislators! Your letters made a difference!

State Legislators Passed OSU Budget for 2023-2025 Biennium

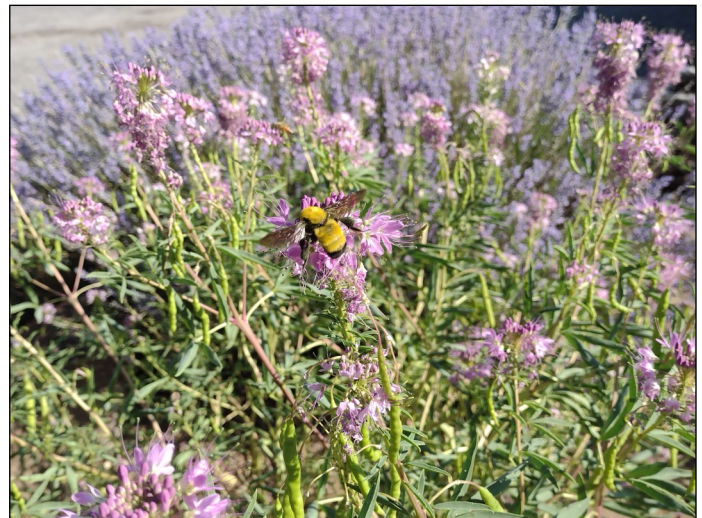
The Oregon Legislature appropriated \$180,611,441 for Oregon State University's Statewide Public Services. This funding will support Extension, Agricultural Experiment Stations, and Forest Research Lab for the 2023-2025 biennium beginning July 1, 2023.

OSU leaders expressed relief after the level of appropriation increased significantly from a draft budget. According to Dr. Ivory Lyles, head of the OSU Extension Services, the bill, as amended, will provide for full continued service level funding and additional funding dedicated to Extension to support and expand organic agriculture sectors. Lyles added, "Strong and consistent advocacy has helped make this outcome possible," as he thanked the members of the OMGA Advocacy Task Force and Master Gardeners who contacted their legislators on behalf of OSU funding.

In recognition of the need for filling multiple vacancies in Master Gardener Program positions, "Filling at least 4 community horticulture/Master Gardener coordinator positions." Is among Lyles' top priorities. Dr. Sam Angima, Associate Dean - Extension, OSU College of Agricultural Sciences, has been tasked to lead the search effort. He said, in a June 28th memo, "We got enough funding to fill current vacancies in Tillamook, Clatsop, Linn, Benton, and Douglas counties Master Gardener coordinator positions. Getting four vacant Master Gardener positions filled is a thrill and I will start right away as soon as I am authorized to start the search in July I am very



Here is *Bombus nevadensis* on the Rocky Mountain Bee Plant the morning after our board meeting. Many people enjoyed this plant and so do the bees. In the mornings I see many bees on it while in the afternoon I see more flower wasps, flower flies and butterflies.



Here is a different bumblebee, *B. morrisoni* on Rocky Mountain Bee Plant. Notice she does not have the black spot in the middle of her thorax as does *B. nevadensis*. *B. morrisoni* is on the IUCN Red list for threatened species. (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

pleased about the future of the Master Gardener program in Oregon."

What a turnaround from last July when I first heard about all these vacancies at the 2022 Mini-College (Joy of Gardening Conference) and resolved to form the OMGA Advocacy Task Force. We have come a long way! Thank you for your active participation in legislative advocacy. Together, we have achieved much! I look forward to great things in our continued service to home gardeners across Oregon.

OSU Demo Garden

Hi Everyone,

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at the Redmond Demo Garden in June. We had a great turnout of volunteers and were able to get SO much done! We pulled a lot of weeds, planted flowers and vegetables in the AAS beds. Amy Jo instructed on the thinning of fruit trees for a better harvest. We also lightly pruned the cherry tree. Great conversation and camaraderie! Come by and see what's growing!

Sincerely, Vicky Kemp and Karen Simonet

Soil Thermometer update

The bins have been restocked, which include the OSU office bin and the Refill box. Plenty still available for sale.

Thank you, Karen Simonet

Discovery Park Community Garden



Well, the summer weather pattern has finally arrived! Plant growth has really taken off, but we had to have one more set back before that could happen which arrived in the form of frost on the shingles on the mornings of June 20 and 21, accompanied by 3 or 4 days of really chilly weather. Reports of damaged tomatoes and squash were quickly remedied with new transplants. Harvest of lettuce and spinach is drawing to a close, and snap peas aren't far behind. Here's an excerpt from a note sent by a Discovery gardener: "The harvest so far have been several bunches of the best tasting rainbow Swiss chard and white, pink and red radishes. The last few radishes have had minor root maggot trails on the sides, but not so bad as to lose any produce. The three



varieties of carrots are overwhelming the Nickel filet green beans, which have surprised me how poorly they are germinating. I'm planting more [of them] in open space along the north-side of the bed this weekend. The kohlrabi is taking off as well as are the golden and red

Alpenglow Demonstration Garden

We are happy to report that the Alpenglow Demonstration Garden is now completely planted! Many volunteers planted about 60 native plants on June 7 - lots of penstemon, blanketflower, columbine, kinnikinnick, and other plants, still quite small but they will be sure to grow and become more established in the coming months and years. We also planted a Latin cultural garden which features tomatoes, tomatillos, corn, squash, cilantro, peppers, marigolds, dahlias, bougainvillea and more. These plants are culturally significant to Latin American countries and this will be a seasonal garden with the focus changing each year. Once the bulletin board is installed we will be able to provide more education on why these plants were selected. In addition, at the last work day we put caging around the trees to prevent deer damage and evened out the tree wells in order for the tree bubblers to be more effective.

Jenni Whelan was awarded the trowel award for attending nearly all the maintenance days, helping water tender plants last summer when it was incredibly hot, offering to document the garden planting with photos, and her willingness to assist on the bulletin board once it gets installed. We appreciate all the Master Gardeners and trainees who have volunteered their time in the garden so far this season! Alpenglow is a truly beautiful place and we hope you have a chance to visit soon!

Lisa Nakadate & Janet Dart

beets."

With the cool spring our garlic crop is a little delayed which gave our resident expert, Jerry Marcyk a chance to share his garlic growing expertise at a community education event held at the garden this past Saturday (July 1). Thanks to Cher Heineman for pulling that together.

It is going to be fun to watch our crop progress along with the hot and sunny days of summer!

Contact discovery@goacomga.com



Bog Orchid by Judy Shearer

There are 28 species of orchids that occur in Oregon, the most common being the Bog orchid, *Platanthera dilatata*. So if you are willing to get your feet a little wet, you can see it up close and personal as it is common in moist places right here in Deschutes County. In fact, it is found throughout northern North America from New England west to Oregon. A member of the Family Orchidaceae, the bog orchid blooms June through August depending on elevation. The showy white flowers are clustered at the top of the stem and number from 20-100 (see pictures below). The flowers are more or less spreading, white with the dorsal sepal forming a hood over the flower with the lateral sepals spreading and reflexed. The petals are ovate with smooth edges. The leaves are linear to lanceolate and become reduced in size toward the top of the stem. Look for it in wet marshes, bogs, fens, riverbanks, and even roadside ditches. It is pollinated by butterflies, mainly skippers, and moths, specifically the owlet moth. An alternative name for the bog orchid is scentbottle for the smell of the flowers which is intensely spicy or clove like. Folklore has it that Native Americans used the flowers in washing themselves.



Photographs by Samantha Shearer

References

Meyers, S.C., T. Jaster, K.E. Mitchell & L.K. Hardison. 2015. Flora of Oregon, Volume 1: Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, and Monocots. Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.

North American Orchid Conservation Center, Edgewater, MD.

<https://goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org/species/platanthera/dilatata/>

Oregon Wildflower APP

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

July 6, 2023

The meeting was held in person at the home of Rocky & Toni

MEMBERS PRESENT: Janet Dart, President; Cheryl Hinerman, VP Community Education; Marilyn Clark, Treasurer; Tammara Waterman, Secretary; Nancy Glick, Past President; Vicky Kemp, Berta Keller, Laura Nicholson, Judy Shearer, Diana Hardin, Bonnie O'Hern, Shawna Larson, Curt Millington, Wanda Kuklis, Sally Hubel, Lea Dahlen, Rocky Bessette, Communication Liaison, Toni Stephan.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. The board discussed the following:

OSU Report:

No report from OSU this month.

BOARD REPORTS:

Presidents Report: Janet D. reported that the following individuals received the Trowel Awards:

Alpenglow – Jenni Whelan

Garden Fair – Tim Schindele

Community Ed – Shawna Larson

Home & Garden Show – Stewart Taylor

Redmond Demo Garden – To be announced

Event dates that people would like to have posted on the COMGA social media sites need to be submitted to the webmaster.

A special thank you to Rocky and Toni for hosting this month's meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Marilyn C. reported on June income and expenses.

Income:

June Garden Fair income \$1622.60 includes Raffle sales of \$178.

Row Cover sales (most of which was from June Garden Fair) \$406

Soil Thermometer sales (also most was from June Garden Fair) \$25

CD interest \$102.53

Total income: \$2171.13

Expenses:

June Garden Fair Facebook ads - \$605.75

June Garden Fair plant expenses (Plainview) - \$819, other supplies - \$196.

Row cover plus twine and tags - \$812.92

T-shirts and hats - \$898.50 (NOTE: revenues not yet recorded!)

Total expenses: \$3850.50

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LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD Continued

Net Loss for June - \$1,409.37, but YTD Income remains strong at \$12,101.40.

In addition, she reported that COMGA owes OSU \$400 for greenhouse utilities and water.

COMGA will also be receiving income from Rocky for the sale of merchandise

MG Advanced Training: Tim S. reported on advanced training opportunities via an email. Listed below are some options to consider. Also listed are upcoming COMGA activities that you can put on your calendar. Dates are subject to change. This will be updated monthly.

1. OSU Extension has the 2021 and 2022 Level Up Series presentations available to view at your convenience: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2023> These are approved for advanced training, and most are about an hour in length. Click the buttons on the left-hand side of the page and you'll be able to see the list of presentations for 2021 and 2022. You can register for 2023 classes and take part as they occur or go in later to view them. The next class is July 11 entitled Getting Wild: Using Native Plants to Restore Biodiversity.

2. Tour of Master Gardener Lisa Nakadate's conversion of her home's traditional lawn to a partial waterwise landscape in August. More information to follow.

3. COMGA Summer Picnic at Kris Knoernschild's home on Thursday, August 24. More information to follow.

4. Tour of US Forest Service Seed Extractory facility in Bend in September. Date and time to be determined.

5. COMGA quarterly general membership meeting with a live and virtual Garden Vegetable contest September 19 after Demo Garden workday. More information to follow.

Community Education: Cher H. reported the following:

Community Ed helped support the June 3rd Garden Fair with handouts for Hardening-Off, Transplanting, and a primer on Showy Milkweed, this year's highlighted plant. Teams helped set up tables, canopies, and check orders.

Sunday June 4th was the Hollinshead Water Wise Field Day with the City of Bend. The Community Education table saw 149 contacts and gave away pertinent handouts on Water Wise Landscapes, Growing Veggies, and Fire Wise strategies. We had extra handouts on Deer Resistant plants, Central Oregon Climate, Pollinators, Native Plants, and Growing Tomatoes. We are grateful to Rachel for setting up QR codes on copies of the most popular publication covers. We had those in stands. People could download the booklets that we ran out of, and some people preferred to capture the electronic version instead

of the paper copies. At our busiest time, we had five Master Gardeners working with different clients all at the same time. We brought along Plant Clinic intake forms in case we needed to follow up with clients on their questions. We had one client we captured.

The Education Committee- the Project Leaders for Community Ed, Spring Seminar, and Home and Garden Show- met June 22 to review our Jan- June Evaluation Data: Attendance, Venue Reviews, Teacher Reviews, Marketing Strategies, and Classes Requested by Attendees. We plan to have the whole Seed Sowing and Growing Veggies schedule for 2024 in the tri-county area reserved and posted online before the Thanksgiving Holidays. Clients will know in advance when the class nearest to them will be offered and be able to choose appropriately. We will also offer the Zoom version of the Growing Veggies class twice- once in mid-February and once at the end of March. We will allow a 25% overbooking on in-person classes to compensate for No Shows. The Spring Seminar Team will meet in September to plan their April Zoom schedule and the Home & Garden Show will select their classes shortly thereafter.

This summer we will support the Demo Garden Open Houses with Education Outreach Tables. July 1, we will help host a Growing Garlic class at Discovery Park Community Garden. Our plan is to develop a Seed Saving Skills Demo class we would like to get approved to run in September. That new class will be the 'bookend' to our Seed Sowing and Transplanting class that we run in February. The Growing Vegetables classes are the bulk of our late winter and early spring offerings.

We will offer the Put Your Garden to Bed class in September via Zoom this year to have a better outreach and to eliminate the worry of bad weather in the Demo Gardens.

Marilyn C. asked about contacting the City of Redmond about doing a waterwise gardening and dripline class.

OMGA Representative Report: Janet D. reported for Kris Knoernschild that 17 gift baskets were taken to Joy of Gardening with the retail value of \$1,000. We were requested to send \$250 of value, so OMGA is very grateful for the contribution. A thank you to all who donated, especially to Betty Faller who gave something and put hours in helping create the baskets.

Communications Report: Rocky requested items for the HoeDown by Friday, Saturday at the very latest.

ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS:

June Garden Fair: Vicky Kemp reported on the June Garden Fair.

The June Garden Fair event on June 3, 2023 included educational booths, mobile plant clinic, C.O. Insect Display, vendors, a plant raffle and COMGA Plant Sale.

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LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD Continued

The fun began with purchasing perennials on March 29th and transplanting them on May 1st to root up into gallon size pots. Direct seed sowing of annuals in 36 germination trays took place on April 24th, May 1st and 8th. Transplanting 1002 plants took place on May 15th, 18th, 19th & 22nd.

Orders and payment for plants started on May 20th and continued on until May 30th with Plant Sale Day plant pick up on June 3, 2023 as part of our June Garden Fair event. There was a total headcount of 136 customers that went through the drive-thru check-in table for plant pick up. Approximately 50 customers bought plants that did not have a pre-order to pick up plants. Approximately another 50 individuals were out in the parking lot only, checking out educational booths, vendors & plant raffle. Total participants/contacts for the June Garden Fair is approx. 236.

This project would not have been possible without the help from Nancy Glick, setting up the online processes, all of the folks that volunteered in the greenhouse and the 53 volunteers that helped on June 3rd with the plant sale setting up tables & shade tarps, carrying plants, customer check-in, filling orders, assisting add-on plants, payment for add-on's, educational booths, supervising vendors and organizing & executing the plant raffle. In addition, a special thank you to Lizzy Anderson for all the work she did before and after this event that contributed to a smooth event.

Plants that weren't sold by the end of June 3rd (121 plants), were transported on June 4th to Prineville and most were sold at Meadow Lakes Golf Course outside the pro-shop.

Following is a list of Income and Expenses for the June Garden Fair Project:

Total Income \$6883.

Total Expenses \$2539.

Net Income \$4344

Vicky offered a thank you to all that volunteered for this project!

High Desert Garden Tour

Toni S. reported that all ticket sales for the garden tour will be done online through the OSU website. Tickets will be \$15 this year and are available for purchase now. Volunteers will be contacted next week with job assignments and will be instructed where they can pick up their free tickets to the garden show. As of yesterday, there are only 9 volunteer spots left to be filled.

Water-wise garden

The Field Day with the City of Bend was a success. There were around 200 people who attended the classes and the other activities that were available. We did tours in

the water-wise garden and there was a great deal of interest in low water use plants. We have already set a date for the event for next year. It will be the second Saturday in June - so it won't conflict with the plant sale - and will be at the Hollinshead Barn and the Water-wise Garden.

We have formed a small committee of volunteers from the water-wise and community garden and are in the midst of planning an Open Garden event. This will include both the Community Garden and the Water-wise Garden and will be held on August 19 from 9-12. Both gardens are working together to plan this event and we plan to have different activities and information booths at the event. More information to come.

Redmond Demo Garden

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at the Redmond Demo Garden in June. We had a great turnout of volunteers and were able to get SO much done! We pulled a lot of weeds, planted flowers and vegetables in the AAS beds. Amy Jo instructed on the thinning of fruit trees for a better harvest. We also lightly pruned the cherry tree. Great conversation and camaraderie! Come by and see what's growing!

Home & Garden Show

We had 141 people take our classes and another 807 people visit us at the booth. One person brought in a weed (ID'd as a variety of mustard) and another one brought in some bugs (ID'd as fungus gnats). We had a pollinator display this year for the first time - very popular and we will repeat it. One major success was the use of QR codes on some handouts - lots of people using their smart phones for those and we will use that technology on more of the most popular info sheets. Overall, it was a great weekend, the volunteers were wonderful and this morning, I received confirmation that we have our booth secured again for next year, gratis. Have a good meeting and please give my best to everyone.

Alpenglow Garden

Everything has been planted and many plants are all blooming. Come by and check them out!

Discovery Park

A request was made by Gary at Discovery Park to authorize \$749 in order to purchase a shed for that garden.

After discussion regarding the size of the shed that should be purchased, a motion was made by Rocky B. and seconded by Nancy G. to authorize the \$749 for the shed. The board voted to approve the funds for the shed. In addition, Gary will be notified that if he would like to resubmit the request for a larger dollar amount in order to purchase a larger shed, the board would be open to hearing the request. Continued on page 8

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD continued**Open Forum:**

Curt Millington discussed some changes that he believes should be implemented regarding the sale of row cover and other merchandise offered by COMGA.

We need a way to track inventory

Using a cashless system for payment

Increasing the cost of row cover sold through COMGA

Suggested selling clips to attach row cover to pvc pipe

A committee was created to assist Curt in exploring

options for managing row cover inventory and sales.

Committee to be Tammara W., Lea Dahlen, Shawna

Larson, Marilyn C. and Curt M. as witness.

Marilyn C. and Janet D. are looking into cashless options for COMGA that will allow for flexible pay points.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Tammara Waterman

QUARTERLY MEETING



I have NEVER won any prize: a state or national lottery, those carnival ring toss games, or parlor games like Trivial Pursuit. Even pennyante poker leaves me in the dark. I figure I have no luck (or skill?) at games where most people shine.

Then, June 29th, I went to the

Master Gardener Quarterly Meeting, organized by COMGA Vice President Tim Schindele. We ate a wild variety of wonderful potluck desserts, had some cool conversations with lots of warm friends, and listened to a quick update on the COMGA summer activities.

Then we played **Vegetable Trivia.**

Tell me: How would you have answered some of the questions? (There will be no hints but snarky side talk is allowed):

Which is not a vegetable? A. Carrot, B. Arugula, C. Cucumber, D. Collards.

That was a fun question, I wonder how I got it wrong!?

OK, let's try another one.

Letters V, F, FF or TSWV on tomato plant labels refer to _____?

A. Bioengineering, B. Pesticides

Modes of Action, C. Disease Resistance, D.

Diseases the tomato gets

Hmmmm, okay, that was a tough one, I'm guessing I'm not the only one who wasn't sure of that answer... One more:

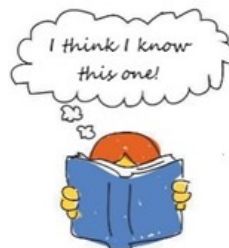
Which is least suitable for transplanting? A. Carrot, B. Peas, C. Squash, D. Winter Squash

Finally, this one I KNOW! Eggplant, right?



All joking aside, this really fun trivia game, Vegetable Victories: Successful Food Gardening was one of the monthly online trivia games OSU offered Master Gardeners last winter, written by Nicole Sanchez, Associate Professor of Practice, Horticulture, Klamath Basin Research & Extension Center in Klamath Falls.

Despite a few tough questions, we all had some good scores with 39/50 being first place and 36/50 in a close second. Bravo, Master Gardener veggie experts!



VP Tim has promised to organize another quarterly meeting with a different trivia topic in the coming months if there is interest. As far as I'm concerned, having this much fun while earning an hour of advanced training is just what I

enjoy doing with my friends. How about you? Want to join us next time?

Email Tim with your right away: tjsfishes@bendbroadband.com.

Thanks, Tim, for such a fun meeting!



Are you a constructive-type person? Do you enjoy creating? Or are you a natural editor, correcting your own work until it's perfect?

You may want to be on the gocomga.com web team who create documents and pages for our Master Gardeners and the Central Oregon garden community.

A meeting will be held in July to introduce the team to the inner workings of the website. If you're interested in joining the team, contact Nancy Glick, the current webmaster: webmaster@gocomga.com for the date and time of the meeting. Hope to see you then!





Items donated for Joy of Gardening Conference Silent Auction by our Central Oregon volunteers. Way to go!!



A few familiar faces at the Joy of Gardening Conference



A fun time was had at the July board meeting. Good food, good people and a good meeting.



Using your best detective skills, can you figure out what this is?



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.
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