

H O E D O W N



Hollinshead Water-wise group Photo by Kris Knoernschild

Board members 2023

President: Janet Dart, 818-486-1583, janetdart@gmail.com
Vice Pres: Cher Hinerman, 503-750-7168, cahinerman@icloud.com
Vice Pres: Tim Schindele, 541-526-1490, TJSFishes@bendbroadband.com
Secretary: Tammara Waterman, 541-280-5913, waterman2712@gmail.com
Treasurer: Marilyn Clark, 541-419-4625, piperdoug64@yahoo.com
State Rep: Karen Simonet, 661-713-5694, emsnurse1923@gmail.com

Alt. State Rep:
Historian: Kris Knoernschild, 541-410-2795, oaktree2448@gmail.com
Membership Coordinator: Deb Goodall, 816-885-5466, debgoodall48@gmail.com
Communication Liaison: Rocky Bessette, 541-420-8817, rockyb820@gmail.com

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President's message



Happy Spring... or is it? From Google's English dictionary (provided by Oxford Languages), Spring is the season after winter and before summer, in which vegetation begins to appear. Haven't seen much vegetation yet this year, but the calendar tells me we are between winter and summer. So, Spring. More from Google: The verb "spring" means (1) to move or jump suddenly or rapidly upward or forward, or (2) originate or arise from. Google's example is "madness and creativity could spring from the same source." I just might fit into that example.

We Master Gardeners have sprung into Spring. By the end of this month, all of our projects will be underway: community ed classes, Master Gardener continuing education, Spring Seminar, demo gardens, community gardens, Plant Clinic, Home & Garden Show, Garden Fair, and OMGA's Joy of Gardening (formerly called Mini College). Behind the scenes Marilyn Clark keeps our finances in order, Deb Goodall is simplifying membership renewal, Kris Knoernschild is documenting the year through photos, Karen Simonet is our lifeline to OMGA, Nancy Glick is busy re-writing policies and procedures as we streamline our operations, Tammara Waterman keeps our minutes, and Rocky keeps us all in communication.

I want to give a shout out to Master Gardener Stewart Taylor (class of 2022) who sprang to action for Vicky Kemp's seed sowing classes. Stewart brought his own sound equipment to every class, including large speakers on tripods and three mics - lapel, hand, headset. He also set up two cameras so the large audience could see both Vicky's presentation and close-ups of her actual seed sowing. Way to go Stewart! Thank you to everyone who has sprung into action. Janet Dart

JUNE GARDEN FAIR

Thank you all for so many of you that have volunteered to help on the June Garden Fair Project working in the greenhouse and/or the actual JUNE GARDEN FAIR event on 6/3/23! Currently I have 46 folks lined up for 6/3/23!!! With so many energetic MG Trainees this year I was able to get a lot more volunteers to help on the actual event day!

What I need to pin down for 6/3/23 is more TABLES, mainly for plants to separate by customer pick up times and for plant add-on shopping. So if you are signed up for the June Garden Fair event on 6/3/23, please let me know if you can bring a table and approximate size.

Please let me know if you can pick up and return the 4 tables that are stored in the Hollinshead Community Garden Shed if that's ok with the project coordinators there.

Vicky Kemp, June Garden Fair Coordinator

vjkemp90@gmail.com

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

April

1 Spring Seminar webinar, 10:00am
1 Spring Seminar webinar, 1:00pm
1 Discovery Park Lottery closes
4 Redmond Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
8 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
8 Spring Seminar class, 10:00am
8 Spring Seminar class, 1:00pm
12 Discovery Park Volunteer workday, 6:00pm
15 Discovery Park Community Garden opens
15 Spring Seminar class, 10:00am
15 Spring Seminar class, 1:00pm
16 Hollinshead Garden Opens
18 Redmond Demo garden workday, 9:00am
22 Discovery Park Volunteer workday, 6:00pm
22 Spring Seminar class, 10:00am
22 Spring Seminar class, 1:00pm
29 Growing Vegetables class, 10:00am

May

2 OSU Extension Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
13 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
16 OSU Extension Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
18 Discovery Park CG Volunteer workday, 6:00pm
27 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

June

3 June Garden Fair & Plant Sale, 9:00am-2:00pm
6 Redmond demo garden workday, 9:00am
10 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
15 Discovery Park CG volunteer workday, 6:00pm
20 Redmond Demo garden workday, 9:00am
24 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
24 Discovery Park CG open garden, 8:00am-10:00am

Photos! Photos! And More Photos!

COMGA has an account on Flickr where we store and share photos of Master Gardener activities. The photos can be viewed by anyone if you go to the website page

http://www.flickr.com/photos/osu_comga/

(Note – There is an underscore between osu and comga.)

Once you get to our photo collection, you can view it as a Photostream which shows the most recently posted pictures first. Or you can go to our Albums collection and see photos grouped according to activities.

For those of you who take photos of Master Gardener activities, we welcome you to contribute to our collection. Please contact Kris Knoernschild oaktree2448@gmail.com or historian@gocomga.com

Please look at the fun photos already posted. More will be added regularly, as long as we know someone out there is watching!

Discovery Park Community Garden

by Gary Weber

The DPCG lottery officially closed for new applications on Friday April 1. Names were drawn Sunday and winners notified. As usual, there were a large number of applicants but also a high return rate by last year's gardeners. There continues to be a strong interest in community garden plots in Bend.

Registration and payment will be held on-line as was done the last two years with the option to pay by mail. Registration will run from Monday April 3 through Wednesday April 12.



A volunteer work session to get the garden ready for opening day will be scheduled for the week of April 10th. The garden will open and be available to gardeners beginning Saturday April 15th though there are no organized activities planned for that day as once was in the past before bed allocation, registration and payment activities moved to the internet and done online.

In the weeks following opening, we will provide a 30 minute orientation, at the garden, for every gardener new to Discovery. We also invite interested MG Trainees to participate in these orientation sessions.

To reduce the chances for massive disappointments, we ask every gardener to heed the following advice prior to planting.

Wait till after approximately the 1st week of June to set out transplants that are frost sensitive, and for sure not before your rodent proof cloche cover is installed!

We volunteers at Discovery are looking forward to an excellent growing season!

Contact discovery@gocomga.com

How to Apply Fertilizer When Needed

by Betty Fallor

I was recently reading an article by Carol Savonen on the basic strategies for applying fertilizer and discovered that I wasn't certain I understood all three techniques. Test your knowledge of all three methods.

Broadcast is fairly straight forward: scatter fertilizer uniformly over the surface. But did you know that if the application isn't mentioned on the plant or seed packaging, Broadcasting is implied?

Side dress means to scatter the fertilizer close to the growing plant without touching the leaves. This could cause burning on the leaves. The Side dress method using a blended fertilizer containing nitrogen, phosphate and potash should be lightly scratched into the soil around the plant. Watering is essential to help the plant absorb the nutrients.

Master Gardener Advanced Training Opportunities – April 2023

By Tim Schindele

If you're looking for available opportunities to get in your 10 hours minimum of advanced training/continuing education to remain certified, listed below are some options to consider. The list will be updated monthly.

It's not too late to register for Spring Seminar classes, which began on April 1. Go to the COMGA website, scroll to the bottom of the Home page and find the class registration link. You will have to pay \$5.00 per class. Be aware that you can also sign up for any class that has already been held and view recordings of the classes by emailing seminar@gocomga.com and making a request. Those also cost \$5. You can record continuing education hours for the length of each class you take.

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 April 11 is titled "Global Gardening: Asian Vegetables for Pacific Northwest Gardens."

All on-line modules designated for the new MG training class are available for you to view for credit. With the last class for new MG Trainees on March 21, all modules will have been released for viewing. Modules are: Soils, Botany Basics, Pesticide Safety, Integrated Pest Management, Lawn Care, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Native Plants, Using ECCO, and Plant Identification. You can now access these by going into the new VicNet volgistics timekeeping system and click the HOME button near the top of the page and/or look for the link for the MG Training Modules. If you don't know how to get in, contact Rachel at the Extension office for help. Continuing education hours vary based on the length of the module.

Term that was new to me was Band. The example used in Carol Savonen's article used the following example: "a seed envelope might say broccoli is a moderate feeder so Band ¼ cup of a complete organic fertilizer per foot of row." John Hart, a soil scientist with OSU's Extension Service and source for the article answered the question. "The term Band means place the fertilizer in a trench about three inches deep. Sow seeds an inch-and-a-half to two inches above and to the side of the fertilizer. The roots quickly absorb the nutrients and grow rapidly."

Hope this helps define the various techniques used to make our garden plants prosper. There is also an article available with more information available at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/ec/ec1503/>.

Silent Auction Donations Requested

I hope you get to attend this year's Oregon Master Gardener Assoc.'s Joy of Gardening Conference on July 7-8 in Corvallis. Our COMGA Chapter contributes items for the Silent Auction that is the primary fund raiser that helps OMGA give awards and grants. And, it is just a lot of fun. Attendees look forward to browsing the tables, carefully watching bid sheets, and hoping to get that last bid in before the auction closes.

OMGA would like our chapter to provide 10 or more items with a retail value of approximately \$25-\$35 each (\$250 total donation). Some of our Board members have offered items, but we would be grateful for more donations from you.

Item Suggestions: Anything for the garden, Wine, Yard art, New or fairly new Books, or Gift Baskets we make up with smaller items.

I will be gathering and packaging our donations and delivering them to the event (also called Mini-College). So, if you can help, contact me soon at oaktree2448@gmail.com and I can give you more details. I need items by June 15th at the latest. Thanks! Kris K



Alpenglow Demonstration Garden

We are excited for our second season at Alpenglow Demonstration Garden, Bend's newest community park! We met with Amy Jo in the garden recently and it looks as though the majority of plants survived the winter and are looking good! This year will feature installing plant signs and planting the native area as well as maintaining the plants planted last season. We are in the process of finalizing the native plant list and will start sourcing them in the coming months. We will plan a work day in June to get them in the ground. We will hold two meet and greet gatherings - the first on April 5 and the second on April 19, both at 1 p.m. This will give us a chance to get to know one another, tour the garden, and select an area you would like to work in. We'll be holding work days on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 9 or 10 a.m., depending on the temperature. We have a healthy list of volunteers and are excited to see you in the garden!



Janet Dart & Lisa Nakadate

Hollinshead Community Garden

The lottery for Hollinshead Community Garden ended on March 31. The first six lottery winners have been identified for the available vacant plots and we look forward to having them in the garden.

On Opening Day, Sunday, April 16, Master Gardener mentors and trainees will be on hand to welcome this season's gardeners. Seven trainees came to the garden orientation. Yahoo! Still, five certified master gardeners are needed as mentors--no vegetable gardening experience required. Please consider volunteering at Hollinshead Community Garden.

Historically the plots in the southeast corner of the garden have been difficult to garden due to excess water and heavy shade from the large Ponderosas. These plots will move to the northwest corner. Unfortunately that area has very compacted soil which requires the building of raised beds.

The raised bed project will provide a community education opportunity and if approved by Amy Jo may be taken for continuing education credit. The build and the presentation will be recorded.

Kirsten Hinton

Redmond Demo Garden

Well Phil Punxsutawney the Groundhog was right! Our first workday at the Demo Garden had to be canceled due to unreasonable winter weather. The workday will tentatively be rescheduled. Details to follow. We look forward to seeing you on our next scheduled workday, Tuesday, April 18 from 9a-12oon. Bring your own tools, bucket, kneeling pad, water, and probably warm clothes! See you soon!

Vicky Kemp and Karen Simonet



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

Morchella

by Judy Shearer

As a trained mycologist, I just can't resist deviating from my usual wildflower articles and instead write about a fungal species for a change. The timing is perfect as the black morels are starting to appear in the Willamette Valley. They start to appear in April at low elevations and into July and August at higher elevations. For purposes of this article, I am going to refer to the black morel as a single species, *Morchella elata*, although in reality it is a complex of species. It is recognized by dark, ridged, pitted usually cone-shaped caps with the margins fused to the stipe (stem) (see photo below). The stipe is whitish to cream-buff usually enlarged at the base and somewhat grainy in texture. As with all species in the genus *Morchella*, the stipe is hollow. The black morel may occur singly, scattered, or clustered (see photo below). It is often associated with burns so can be found in campgrounds near fire pits, but also along logging roads, and other disturbed areas. They may occur in huge numbers a year to two after a forest fire especially in areas where some vegetation is left that allows some shade. Black morels are reportedly edible and choice but should never be eaten raw. But beware as some allergic reactions have been reported. I can attest to that as I know for sure I am allergic to a related species, *Morchella esculenta*. One look alike is *Verpa bohemica* (see photo below) but it has a rounded cap that is wrinkled not pitted and is attached only at the stipe apex.



Morchella elata
photos by
Samantha Shearer

Verpa bohemica
photo courtesy of
Burke Herbarium,
University of
Washington

References

Trudell, S., and J. Ammirati. 2009. Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest. Timber Press Field Guide, Portland, OR.

California Fungi https://www.mykoweb.com/CAF/species/Morchella_elata.html

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

April 6, 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom and in-person.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Janet Dart, President; Tim Schindele, VP Master Gardener Education; Cheryl Hinerman, VP Community Education; Marilyn Clark, Treasurer; Tammara Waterman, Secretary; Karen Simonet, OMGA Representative; Kris Knoernschild, Historian; Deborah Goodall, Membership; Nancy Glick, Past President; Lisa Cowen, Jan Even, Chris Miao, Amy Jo Detweiler, Liz Anderson, Betty Faller, Vicky Kemp, Josh Anderson, Berta Keller, Laura Nicholson

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

The minutes of the meeting held March 2, 2023, were approved, upon motion by Kris K. and a second by Cher H. the motion was passed by the board.

OSU Report: Amy Jo reported that the local MG training is finished. The pruning workshop was canceled due to weather and will be rescheduled.

Damn Proud day is highlighting the MG program this year. The committee is looking for stories from MG volunteers.

Amy Jo is still following up with project coordinators regarding this year's activities.

A survey was sent to MG trainees for feedback on the training. The three-hour format with partial training online was challenging. Considering changes and taking feedback for ideas going forward.

ECCO has a monthly maintenance fee with a minimum of \$29 and additional work billed by the hour. OSU Extension is considering options to ask other counties to contribute to the maintenance of ECCO. The Lane county MG program contributed \$1,000 to help cover the cost of improvements.

A motion was made by Marilyn C. to contribute \$1000 to OSU extension Deschutes for ECCO maintenance that will be added to the already existing Horticultural Program donation. After a second by Cher H. this motion was passed by the board.

BOARD REPORTS:

Presidents Report: Janet D. reported that the summer board meetings will be held at peoples houses. Locations are as follows - June at Kris Knoernschild's house, July at Liz Anderson's house, and August at Jan Even's house. Meetings will be at 5p with more details to follow.

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LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD Continued

OMGA statewide awards applications are due May 15. As of now, no nominations have been put forward. A discussion was had regarding using local Master Gardener of the Year recipients that we will use as our statewide award nominees. The board will decide on the nominees by email. Karen S. will look into the status of the longevity award.

OMGA no longer uses the Conflict-of-Interest waiver and the board agreed that we will follow suit.

Treasurer's Report: Marilyn C. reported the bank signature cards were updated March 6.

Corporate credit cards can be provided for volunteers that have regular expenses. Marilyn recommended one person per committee hold a card and the bill will be paid by COMGA. The board supports COMGA providing a corporate credit card and Marilyn C., Janet D. and Tim S. will put a plan together.

The 12 Month CD at First Interstate matured 3/1/23 and was renewed for 13 months at 3.50%. The amount at maturity was \$5,390.74, and we added \$609.26 to bring the new CD value up to \$6,000.

Row cover sales and Soil thermometer sales are phenomenal due to the spring gardening classes, returning to pre-pandemic levels. Hence, the purchases of both under expenses. March included 4 rolls of row cover at \$1412 and 110 soil thermometers at \$324.

Spring Seminar Zoom classes opened in March and \$3,595 was recorded by March 31, YTD is \$4,235. April PayPal revenues haven't been transferred but are strong.

COMGA paid \$497 to OMGA for our share of membership dues. Seven dollars per fee we collected for active certified and associate members were remitted to OMGA.

There is a slight variance of \$45 in the PayPal balance Marilyn is researching.

Membership Report: Deb G. reported we currently have 71 members. Up from 63 last year. Everyone has paid their dues.

A proposal for the Skills Assessment was reviewed. Going forward, Rachel will enter the individual skills on the personal profiles in VicNet with responsibility to update on the individual. Project managers can search VicNet when looking for a particular skill set.

MG Advanced Training: Tim S. reported on advanced training opportunities. An email was sent reporting on advanced training opportunities and will be included in the HoeDown.

The May class for building a raised bed is postponed and will be rescheduled

The COMGA annual picnic will be Thursday, August 24th. Tim S. proposed using Kris K's house as the location and she agreed to this. More details to follow.

Tim S. will plan and organize a vegetable growing contest.

Community Education: Cher H. reported we have only two Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon classes left to run. One at OSU Bend on 4/29/23 and an online class using Amy Jo's recorded 1 hour video lecture. Jan Even and Pat Kolling have agreed to host two live discussion groups: one on a weekday evening and one on a Saturday. The dates and times are being determined and scheduled through Janet Dart.

KEY LEARNING FROM OUR 2023 FIRST QUARTER CLASSES:

1. The facilities through OSU (Redmond or Bend) or COCC (Madras and Prineville) are better rooms and are free- much better than paying almost \$200 to rent Sisters High School Commons where the room was too large for the available seating, too cold (at the end of Spring Break), and with a wall of windows, too bright for good viewing of the Slide Show.

2. We had at least 9 and up to 25 No Shows per class. It is likely we can 'overbook' our classes by 15 patrons and have fewer (or no) empty seats. There is room in most classes to add a row of overflow chairs if need be. EventBrite keeps track of our Wait Lists by name and email, so we can advertise the next available classes to interested parties.

The Seed Sowing and Transplanting classes were very popular with up close camera projections of Vicky Kemp demonstrating the skills to plant and transplant (twice) for successful garden starts. We sold many sets of row covers and soil thermometers as people learned the value of those tools. Patrons appreciated having the option to buy the items. Our ads should make it clear that sales are cash or check only. Volunteer Stewart Taylor offered his equipment and services to improve the audio and add the camera projection to the classes. His sound system worked better than the wired in sound systems. The camera was critical to the success of the Seed Sowing and Transplanting Classes.

It was good to see that many of the requested next topics on the Evaluations were offered in the Spring Seminar Series. We will do a debrief after Spring Seminar as well to plan next year.

We revamped the evaluations and tested using the QR code process to quickly roll up the data. The handwritten evaluations were still very popular in the smaller towns. The Evaluation Roll Up process was refined and tested by the TA's.

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LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD Continued

Amy Jo offered to add us to her OSU QR evaluation account. Jan had looked at Survey Monkey, which cost \$1000 per year. She found Question Pro through Tech Soup for \$99 per year. Next March we can see what it costs to join Amy Jo's account before renewing.

We have Kris Knoernschild as a new instructor and Liz Brackmann as a willing instructor ready to deliver the Growing Vegetables class.

TA's Shawna Larson and Liz Brackmann revamped the TA boxes and beta tested the Evaluation updates and Data Roll up processes. Many of the TA work processes eroded during the COVID years when we could not run live classes. All systems are "Go" for live classes now.

NEXT STEPS FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION:

1. Support the Education Outreach Days and Demonstrations at the Demo Gardens, Plant Sale, and Garden Tours.
2. Update the "Orange Notebooks" that are used in the Plant Clinic and given to local nurseries. They contain OSU reference publications.
3. Work with Amy Jo to identify key instruction videos that might be professionally done by OSU teams such as Rocky and Toni's Composting Demo, Building Raised Beds, Building and repairing Cloches, and Pruning.

Kris K. gave Cher kudos on the job she has done this year.

Historian Report: Kris K. did 49 trainee photos and Rocky sent those out to everyone. She requested group photos be taken for events and that project coordinators notify her of any events.

OMGA Representative Report:

Karen S. reported there was a quarterly OMGA meeting March 3.

For those who are interested, OMGA website has the Gardeners Pen with goings on. OMGA has been working on improvements to their site.

Dues will be raised next year to \$10 per person. It has been 17 years since there was an increase in dues.

The Joy of Gardening Mini-college is July 7-8. They are requesting that each chapter provide a basket for the silent auction rather than a monetary donation. Kris K. and Betty F. will coordinate donations and put the basket together. Kris K. will write something for the HoeDown requesting donations.

Communications Report: Rocky was absent, but Janet D. reports that Rocky needs items for the HoeDown by Friday, Saturday at the very latest.

ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS:**Financial Review**

Marilyn C. reported two members were recruited for the annual financial review. Patty DeGaetano, Bonnie O'Hern and Marilyn C. met Tuesday and Wednesday this week to complete the review. They are working on the writeup and will provide that soon.

Garden Tour

Amy Jo reported the ticket purchases will be online. The price will be increased from \$10 a ticket to \$15. Deschutes Public Library plans to purchase 20 tickets to give away. The Garden Tour will be July 15.

Scholarship Policies and Procedures

Nancy G. reported on changes to Policies and Procedures. Changes were for clarity and organization.

The Mini-college application was updated. This application needs to be submitted 30 days prior to the event.

A motion was made by Marilyn C. and seconded by Nancy G. to approve changes to Policies and Procedures as submitted and to approve the Mini-college application form as documented and submitted. After a vote by the board the motion was passed.

Advocacy Group Update: Chris M. reported this was a very successful campaign. Thirty COMGA members wrote 98 letters that were sent to representatives. According to the Bend Bulletin, 2.5% will be cut from the OSU continuing education programs budget. It is yet to be determined where these cuts will be made.

Waterwise Garden Update: Pat K. reported there was a good response from volunteers, and they had orientation last Thursday. First workday to be on April 13.

Open Forum: Janet D. asked if we should start to ask project coordinators to come to the board meetings. She will send an email to coordinators for feedback.

Lisa reported Plant Clinic hours will not be required for trainees to get certified. They are looking for people who are genuinely interested in Plant Clinic. Plant Clinic hours will not be required for certified COMGA members either. Plant Clinic will be in Crook County on Wednesday afternoons with the start date to be determined.

Amy Jo reported that the Statewide MG Coordinator position is open and they are looking for applicants.

Amy Jo asked when the new COMGA website will be launched. She will get with Nancy G. to talk about a few issues she has found. It will be several months before the new site is ready to launch.

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD continued

Josh Alexander discussed project ideas based on community betterment. Areas to explore include:
 School gardens
 Apartment gardens
 Business partnerships for gardens or landscaping
 Warm Springs
 Latino Association
 Amy Jo asked Josh to visit with her regarding these projects. We have some resources in place and have limited volunteers that need to be coordinated.

Janet D. relayed that Kirsten H. is still looking for mentors for the HHCG.

To Be discussed in May:
E&O Insurance

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.
 Tammara Waterman

OMGA Representative Report

The Joy of Gardening Conference, aka Mini-College will have their Silent Auction again this year. OMGA is asking each chapter to donate a "basket" of goodies for the auction. Thank you to Kris Knoernschild for volunteering to collect these items and deliver the "basket" to the Conference in Corvallis. There will also be awards to recognize those Master Gardeners with 20, 30, and 40 years of service. Thank you to Toni Stephen and Rocky Bessette who have already received this award.

Find out what's new at the OMGA website! <https://omga.org>. The website has been updated with policies and procedures, job descriptions, and details about awards, grants and scholarships. It's that time of year to nominate our fellow Master Gardeners for the "Behind the Scenes Award Winner." Please submit your letter of recommendation to Janet Dart by May 1st.

Thanks so much, Karen Simonet

Community Education Report

Our first quarter schedule of 2023 classes is complete! We developed and ran three of the new Seed Sowing and Transplanting classes that demonstrate the actual skills and five of the popular Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon classes. We served over 325 Central Oregonians who attended these classes in Crook, Jefferson, and Deschutes Counties. A big THANK YOU to our Instructors Vicky Kemp, Toni Stephan, Tim Schindele, Jan Even, and Kris Knoernschild and to our Teaching Assistants Shawna Larson, Liz Brackmann, Lizzy Anderson, Rocky Bessette, Phil Paterno, Lisa Cowan, Amy Jo Detweiler, and Jenni Whelan. Good teamwork all around. A special thanks to Jan Even for managing the media Marketing, setting up Evenbright to handle registrations, and finding an inexpensive QR code system to offer fast Evaluation data roll up. We still provide paper evaluation forms for patrons who prefer those. Another big THANK YOU to Stewart Taylor who provided sound system support and provided a camera to project Vicky Kemp's seed sowing skills onto the classroom screens. He bought a second camera so next year we can show both the instructor and the handiwork of the skills at the same time. The camera and sound system made a huge difference in the success of the classes. The Spring Garden Seminar team is on a roll again this year with 8 Zoom seminars in April. Garden openings are right around the corner! It's Spring!!

Cher Hinerman
 VP of Community Education

Ordering Made Easier

by Betty Faller

Here is a conversion table to use when ordering material for your landscape:

To convert inches to feet, divide the inches by 12
 To get cubic feet to cubic yards, divide cubic feet by 27
 To get the volume, take the length x width x depth

Example: The space you want to cover is 7 ft long, 5 ft wide and you want it 6 inches deep

$7 \times 5 \times .6 = 17.5$ cubic feet of material needed

Convert to cubic yards, 17.5 divided by 27 = 0.65 or less than a yard of material

If you have a way to retrieve the material yourself and avoid the delivery fee you save money.



Hollinshead CG group photo by Kris Knoernschild

PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Lisa Nakadate and Julie Hill

Featured Plant - Allegheny Serviceberry *Amelanchier laevis* 'Cumulus'



Height: 15 - 25 feet
Spread: 10 - 15 feet
Flower: White
Bloom time: Mid to late spring

Why Should I Plant Allegheny Serviceberry in My Garden?

These graceful, airy trees provide year-round ornamental interest in the landscape with white spring flowers, yellow to red fall foliage, smooth gray bark, and edible purple fruit.

It can be planted in sun or part shade and has no serious insect or disease problems. It is tolerant of a somewhat wide range of soils, but prefers moist, well-drained loams.

The tiny edible fruit are popular with birds, including American goldfinch, tufted titmice, brown thrashers, blue jays, Carolina chickadees, northern cardinals and American robins, and small animals.

Fun Facts

The fruits were used by Native Americans and early settlers, and even today some species are cultivated as fruit trees, particularly in areas where other types of fruit trees do not do well.

The berries can be used in jellies, cobblers, pies, muffins, coffee cakes or as dessert toppings.

Information Sources

Oregon State University: <https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/amelanchier-laevis>

University of Minnesota Extension: <https://extension.umn.edu/trees-and-shrubs/serviceberry>

University of Wisconsin - Madison: <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/serviceberry-amelanchier-spp/>

Garden Journal Revelations

By Betty Faller

About the same time every year, I give my greenhouse a thorough cleaning, check my seedling mix and set up my trays for starting seeds. Our continued cold temperatures and intermittent snow flurries provided a little more time this year to purge years of collected gardening articles. This was my eureka moment because I found my first garden journals. By the way, if you don't already keep a journal of your garden activities (often referred to as 'Successes' and 'Not So Much'), you are missing out on a wonderful opportunity.

In 1998, sitting on the porch of my new greenhouse, I wrote about the first delivery of 'rock free' soil being delivered for my new vegetable garden area. If you've been gardening in Central Oregon, you know the term 'rock free' is a misnomer. That was my first gardening lesson.

As I scan the years of journaling, other morsels of garden insights include: A weed is just a plant whose virtues have not been discovered. I guess Ralph Waldo Emerson never had to deal with Knapweed. I also went on the offensive against hungry, marauding deer using a neighbor's suggested remedy of sprinkling 2-parts Bloodmeal and 1-part Milorganite throughout my garden. It smelled so bad that I didn't even want to get close to the garden. By the way, a couple of weeks and deer were back munching. Time and knowledge helped me to locate adequate deer fencing for the large vegetable garden and I've learned to share the rest of the area during migration.

Reading through my journal is a testament to how I've evolved as a gardener over the past 25 years. I still push the envelope on trying some vegetable varieties that require a longer growing season but I only plant what I know will be consumed or canned. I compost right into my garden and I no longer till which saves time and helps the environment. I also rotate my garden crops and leave some fallow each growing season.

For me, the old journal was filled with laughter, tears, frustration and knowledge. I still journal each year even though the handwriting isn't as neat or lengthy but the love of gardening never diminishes.



Left, seed starting class crew

Right, Vegetable gardening class in Madras crew

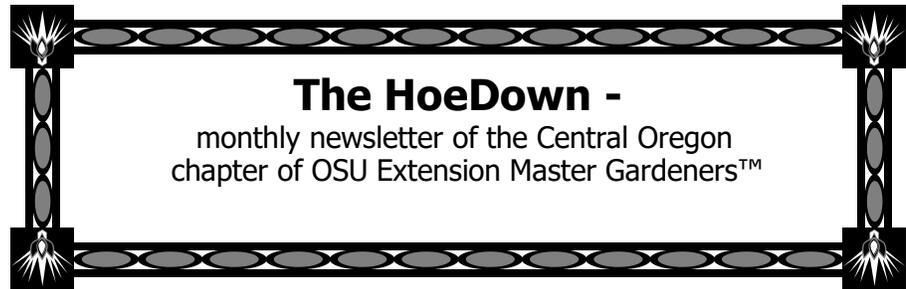
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Central Oregon Chapter of OSU Extension Master Gardeners™
3800 SW Airport Way Bldg.#4
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