



February 2024



Happy Valentine's Day

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**Board members 2024**

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## President's message



First, a big welcome to the 2024 training class. I'm sure your heads are spinning with all the information coming your way. My only advice: It's an open-book test at the end, so don't worry.

Next, welcome to the eighteen 2023 graduates who joined COMGA as dues-paying members. I'm happy to have you aboard and look forward to getting to know all of you. Your enthusiasm is infectious.

Winter? I can't believe I was gardening in January. I took advantage of a warm day and pruned my Douglas Fir. I didn't think it needed pruning, but the previous owner planted it too close to the sidewalk. Most people in my neighborhood don't care; we simply walk around the overgrown trees. I hate to lose the beauty of a tree's natural shape merely to make way for people to pass by. But, several months ago, a new neighbor moved in. Before Christmas and shortly after I cut some lower branches off a Scotch pine that lives next to my Douglas Fir, New Neighbor stopped me. "Thank you for cutting the pine. I was going to ask you to cut it because I run into it when I'm jogging." He's a very slow jogger; I can't imagine him accidentally running into it. Then again, he might be from California. As an ex-Californian, I know how litigious Californians are. I had plans to cut the lower branches of my Douglas Fir, but then we had snow followed by an ice storm. So, on that warm, sunny day last week, I pruned (not cut) my Douglas Fir - just enough to let New Neighbor slowly jog by without filing a lawsuit.

Remember: February is your last chance until November to prune your pine trees.

Janet Dart

### DO YOU LIKE TO TAKE PICTURES?

Contact our Historian, Berta, at [keller@hevanet.com](mailto:keller@hevanet.com) if you can help take pictures at our events and activities.

If you haven't sent in your dues to COMGA for 2024, this will be your last newsletter.  
See page 9

### LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO (besides chocolate)?

Discovery Park needs you. We need a coordinator. We have volunteers who do all the work; we just need one person to coordinate. We will help you!  
Contact [janetdart@gmail.com](mailto:janetdart@gmail.com) if you can lend a hand.

## ***COMGA Calendar*** ***for contact persons go to [gocomga.com](http://gocomga.com)***

### February

- 1 COMGA Board meeting, 10:00am
- 3 Seed Sowing & Transplanting (Prineville) 10:00am
- 7 OSU Master Gardener training, 9:30am
- 10 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 10 Growing Vegetables in C. O., (Redmond) 10:00am
- 17 Seed Sowing & Transplanting (Bend) 10:00am
- 21 OSU Master Gardener training, 9:30am
- 24 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 24 Growing Vegetables in C. O. (Madras) 10:00am
- 24 Growing Vegetables in Sisters, 10:00am
- 28 OSU Master Gardener training, 9:30am

### March

- 1 Discovery Park Community Garden lottery opens
- 1 Hollinshead Community Garden lottery opens
- 2 Growing Vegetables in C. O. (Bend) 10:00am
- 6 OSU Master Gardener training, 9:30am
- 7 COMGA Board meeting, 10:00am
- 9 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 9 Growing Vegetables in C. O. (Prineville)
- 16 Growing Vegetables in C. O. (Redmond)
- 20 OSU Master Gardener training, 9:30
- 21 Hollinshead C. G. volunteer meeting, 10:00am
- 21 Discovery Park C. G. volunteer workday, 6:00pm
- 23 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 23 Growing Vegetables in C. O. (Bend) 10:00am
- 26 Zoom Q&A Session: Growing Vegetables, 7:00pm
- 30 Zoom Q&A Session: Growing Vegetables, 9:00am
- 31 Hollinshead C. G. lottery closes 12:00pm

### April

- 1 Discovery Park Community Garden registration
- 2 Redmond Demo Garden work day, 9:00am
- 4 COMGA board meeting, 10:00am
- 6 Spring Seminar classes, 10:00am and 1:00pm
- 10 Alpenglow Demo Garden workday, 10:00am
- 11 Discovery Park CG volunteer workday
- 13 Spring Seminar classes, 10:00am and 1:00pm
- 13 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 13 Discovery Park C G opens, 8:00am
- 14 Hollinshead Community Garden opens
- 16 Redmond Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
- 18 Hollinshead C G volunteer meeting, 10:00am
- 18 Discovery Park C G volunteer workday, 6:00pm
- 20 Spring Seminar classes, 10:00am and 1:00pm
- 24 Alpenglow Demo garden workday, 10:00am
- 27 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 27 Spring Seminar classes, 10:00am and 1:00pm

## PICTURES! PHOTOS!

Please take pictures at all your events. Historian Berta Keller can't get to every event, so we ask you to snap a photo or two and send them to Berta: [keller@hevanet.com](mailto:keller@hevanet.com). Let's overwhelm her with photos!

## Discovery Park Community Garden

### About the Garden:

Discovery Park Community Garden (DPCG) (formerly known as NorthWest Crossing Community Garden) is located on Discovery Park Drive near the dog park on the north side of Discovery Park in Bend. The Garden is located on property owned by Bend Park & Recreation District, and is managed by OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers.

The cost of a raised bed for the season is \$35.

Each 4' x 10' raised bed is equipped with micro sprayers for irrigation. The automatic watering system is centrally adjusted during the season to compensate for weather and the watering needs of garden plants.

OSU Master Gardener Volunteers are available to be a gardening resource and to assist gardeners.

Gardening classes are held throughout the growing season. See the COMGA or OSU/Deschutes County Extension website for **information and the schedule for 2024.** \*

### About Getting a Garden Plot at Discovery Park Community Garden:

Renting an available garden bed at DPCG will be done by lottery. All wishing to participate in the lottery must register by email to: [discovery@gocomga.com](mailto:discovery@gocomga.com). Please provide your full name, phone number and email address, and type "DPCG" in the subject line of the email. Returning gardeners in good standing will keep the plots they rented the previous year.

### LOTTERY opens March 1st and closes March 30th

\*The lottery drawing will be held on March 31st and winners will be notified via email.

Lottery winners will receive their raised bed assignment with the completion of registration.

Remaining lottery applicants will be placed on a waiting list and notified by email of their status on the list.

DPCG Registration Process for 2024 and Gardening Opening on April 13th \*

Registration will be available on-line approximately 1 week before the garden opens.

Gardeners will register and pay the rental fee of \$35.

Payment may be made on-line (link to be provided during registration) or by mailed check.

### DPCG CLOSING DAY: Sunday, OCTOBER 13, 2024\*

This will be the last day to work in the garden before it is closed for the season

\* Garden operations protocols for 2024 have not been finalized as of this writing (Jan. 16). It is possible the above listed calendar dates may be modified. Please check back at <http://www.gocomga.com/gardening-news> for the most up to date information about community garden operations.

Contact: [discovery@gocomga.com](mailto:discovery@gocomga.com)

## *Pinus heldreichii*

### BOSNIAN PINE

by Toni Stephan

Jan and I were discussing ornamental pine trees that might not be as vulnerable to Sequoia Pitch Moth as Scotch Pine. While Austrian Pine may not be as susceptible, its branches seem to break easily. I have a Bosnian Pine, now about 13 years in the ground, that so far, has no pitch moth damage.

This seems to be a really nice tree for our area, though mine did form a double leader, of which one will be eliminated. Here is some information Jan found about this tree. It is from **Great Plant Picks: Unbeatable Plants for the Maritime Northwest Garden.**

### Outstanding Qualities

The Bosnian pine is a great slow-growing pine for the landscape. It will maintain a strong central trunk creating a stately tight pyramidal form that can add an aristocratic air to the garden. The stiff upright bundles of needles are a deep dark green that have a lustrous and rich tone. As the pine matures its form will become a little more open showing an attractive layered branching habit. It is very tough and versatile evergreen tolerating difficult poor soil locations and sunny hot spots. Bosnian pine is great for formal settings and would be an appropriate choice for smaller gardens. It has no major insect or disease problems.

### Colors & Combos

Great Plant Combinations:

Great Color Contrasts: gold, burgundy, variegated

Great Color Partners: silver, dark green, blue

### Culture Notes

Bosnian pine grows best in full sun. It prefers well-drained or sandy soil, although it will tolerate clay if the drainage is adequate. Once established it is completely drought tolerant. The roots are tolerant of restricted zones making it great for patio planters and large containers. Little pruning is needed to maintain its tidy habit, only remove dead, broken or poorly formed limbs. New growth can be broken in half or pinched out to create a denser more compact tree.

© Richie Steffen / Great Plant Picks

### Quick Facts

Plant Type: conifer

Foliage Type: evergreen

Plant Height (10-year): 20 ft. 0 in. (6.10 meters)

Plant Width/Spread (10-year): 10 ft. 0 in. (3.05 meters)

Plant Height-Mature: 70 ft. 0 in. (21.34 meters)

Plant Width-Mature: 40 ft. 0 in. (12.19 meters)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6 to 8

Flower Color: none

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun

Water Requirements: drought tolerant when established

Wildlife Associations: birds

## Community Education report

We held a Teaching Assistant (TA) Training and Workshop Jan 5th to prepare boxes of handouts for each of the Saturday classes to be held January 13-March 23. We will deliver classes on "Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon" and "Seed Sowing and Transplanting." Teachers and TA's restocked their supply boxes, cut and packaged row cover, and learned how access all the materials to do classroom set ups. We fully staffed each class with a Teacher, two TA's, and our sound/video tech. It is delightful to see so many newly certified Master Gardeners as teachers and TA's!

Unfortunately snow and ice storms forced the cancellation of the fully booked Redmond Seed Sowing and Transplanting class on Jan 13th. The registered students were sent the information to book one of two other Seed Sowing classes in either Bend or Prineville. Those classes were not yet full. The Sisters Growing Vegetable class with 97 registrants was postponed to Feb 24th. We will be double booked that day, but have the staff to cover both the Madras and the Sisters classes. The January thaw and sunshine allowed us to run the Growing Vegetables class in Redmond on Jan 27 with 42 attendees of the 75 registered. As always, if the weather is bad or too nice, we get "No Shows" at our free classes! Evaluations rated the class a 4.83 overall average out of 5.0. We sold 12 soil thermometers and 11 row cover packages. Thanks to Toni Stephan, Phil Paterno, Rocky Bessette, and Stewart Taylor for staffing the class and for a job well done.

Webmaster Nancy Glick has developed a web tool for us to input and compile the Class Evaluations Final Report data and a new web tool to report Class Attendance data and the sales of row cover and soil thermometers. We are beta testing those two web reports. Online reports will allow the Community Ed team and Amy Jo to access data real time and see roll up summaries throughout the season as needed.

Cheryl Hinerman  
VP of Community Education



**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](mailto:rockyb820@gmail.com)

## Buckwheat

by Judy Schearer

The desert Buckwehats along with the grasses and sagebrush constitute the dominants of the sagebrush steppe of Eastern Oregon. All are adapted to withstand drought conditions that define summer in the high desert. Most are long lived perennials with branched woody stems and grayish hairy basal leaves. The flowers are small and group into oval to rounded clusters atop the flowering stalk. Each flower has three small sepals and three petals with nine stamens. The floral color varies among and within species and may be white, yellow, pink, or reddish. The flowers persist for many days and darken in age to a yellow red color. Most species flower from spring into late summer. The inflorescence remains on the plant and offers winter interest. The desert buckwehats are in the family Polygonaceae and thus have an ocrea or a sheath at the leaf base where it joins the stem. Found in our area are parsley-leaved desert buckwheat (*Eriogonum heracleoides*), round-headed desert buckwheat (*Eriogonum sphaerocephalum*), oval-leaf desert buckwheat (***Eriogonum ovalifolium***), umbrella desert parsley (*Eriogonum umbellatum*), northern desert buckwheat (*Eriogonum compositum*), strict desert buckwheat (*Eriogonum strictum*) and snow desert buckwheat (*Eriogonum niveum*). Collectively they provide an important nectar source for bees.. The seeds provide food for birds and rodents. Sitting atop the flower cluster of one of the buckwehats pictured below appears to be the police car moth which feeds only in daylight among wildflower beds.



Photographs by Samantha Shearer

References:

Mays, B. 2021. The Butterflies of Central Oregon. Earthworm Publishing, Eagle River, WI.  
Taylor, R.J. 1992. Sagebrush Country. Mountain Press, Missoula, MT.  
Turner, M., and P. Gustafson. 2006. Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest. Timber Press Field Guides, Portland, OR.  
Oregon Wildflower App.

## LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

February 1, 2024

The meeting was held at the OSU Annex Classroom and Zoom

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Janet Dart, President; Tim Schindele, VP MG Education; Cheryl Hinerman, VP Community Education, Marilyn Clark, Treasurer; Rocky Bessette, Communications Liaison; Deb Goodall, Membership Coordinator; Toni Stephan, OMGA Alt Rep, Berta Keller, Historian, Liz Douville, Vickie Minor, Bonnie O'Hern, Pat Kolling, Laurie Eimans, Ruth Mulligan, Vickie Kemp, Sally Hubel, Liz Anderson, Patty DeGaetano, Kathy Stangl, Judy Shearer, Jan Even, Betty Faller

The meeting was called to order at 10:17 a.m. by Janet Dart.

The minutes of the meeting held January 4, 2024, were approved upon motion by Marilyn C. and a second by Deb G.

**OSU Report:** No report this month.

### BOARD REPORTS:

**President's Report:** Janet D. reported that we have a grant from Microsoft that provides us with 5 licenses.

All passwords for the COMGA site will be updated on March 1. Please have your dues paid by then to maintain access to the member portion of the site.

Thanks to a grant from Microsoft, as a nonprofit, we have 5 licenses that can be shared with members that need Microsoft products to conduct COMGA projects.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marilyn Clark reported on COMGA finances for a full report, contact Marilyn.

There is a committee that is currently working on a credit card policy. Tammara W. will be the administrator, Marilyn will receive the bills and pay them and Janet will review card payments. There will be a \$3,000 limit.

A motion was made to adopt the credit card policy as submitted by Marilyn C. After a second by Berta K., the motion passed by a vote of the board.

Marilyn would like to take a class through COCC that will give her some advanced training in QuickBooks. The class is \$149 and this was not part of her budget. After a motion was made by Toni S. and a seconded by Rocky the motion was passed by a vote of the board.

Marilyn also spent \$75 to buy 1099 forms.

Volunteers are needed for a financial review committee. Bonnie O. and Patty DeGaetano volunteered to serve on the committee.

**MG Advanced Training:** Tim S. shared the report on continuing education opportunities. A complete list of continuing education opportunities will be provided in the HoeDown.

**Community Education:** Cher Hinerman reported a teacher training course was held. First two classes canceled because of weather. Sisters class will be

Held the same day as the Madras class. A full report will be printed in the HoeDown.

Adds for classes will be placed by Jan this week.

Web reports from Nancy will be used to record feedback on classes.

**Historian:** Berta K. reported that a folder for 2024 has been opened in Flickr. You can add pictures or send them to her to be added. She is also willing to provide training for anyone that does not know how to use Flickr. If there is anyone that would like to work with her as Historian, please let her know.

**OMGA Rep.:** Toni S. reported that The Gardeners' Pen requested some photos and an article be written by the OMGA Rep in Central Oregon. Toni provided pictures and a short article in Karen's absence.

**Communications Liaison:** Rocky B. asked that if you have any emails that you would like to have sent to the general membership, please send them to her with the subject line populated with what you would like to have it say when it is sent out. She is also gladly accepting any informational/educational content for the HoeDown.

**Membership:** Deb G. reported

There is some confusion amongst the membership as to what the term 'associate' actually means and involves. Deb is having discussions with associates to clarify what being an associate involves.

She and Nancy G. are working together to track membership. Thank you to Nancy for her hard work on this project.

Deb is emailing the project coordinators with details on the project fair. Berta will be working with project coordinators to update their portion of the PowerPoint presentation. This year's project fair will include a lunch rather than breakfast. Project fair will be Wednesday, February 21.

### ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS:

**Plant Sale:** Tim S. reported that they will be able to provide the tomato starts in a larger size. A quarter of each variety of tomatoes will be provided in the gallon size.

**Web Design:** Janet D. reported for Nancy G. that the website improvements are still in process. Lots of great improvements including being able to have all forms and elections on the site.

**Inventory:** Janet D. reported that the new soil thermometers have arrived.

**Row cover:** Janet D. Reported that Bonnie O. and Patty D. have stepped up to take care of the row cover inventory and sales. Row cover clips have been added as an option for purchase. They are working on a new form to help track the row cover inventory.

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**LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD** Continued

**Spring Seminar:** Coming along well. All speaker forms have been received. Registration will be online in March and will be \$5 per class.

**Discovery Garden:** Janet D. Reported that the garden is still looking for a garden coordinator.

**Waterwise:** Pat K. Reported that they are communicating with volunteers to see who will be returning this year. They are also looking into which classes they would like to offer this year.

**Demo Garden:** Vicky K. Reported they are working on signage. Orchard trees will be planted behind building 3. A class will be offered around the planting of the trees.

**OPEN FORUM:**

No business brought for open forum

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammara Waterman

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## Design a Vegetable Container Garden

by Chris Miao

It's not too early to start planning for the gardening season. The first thing many think of is the usual vegetable bed, but why not try something a little different this year. How about a vegetable garden in containers? This is ideal for those who don't have space or conditions for an in-ground bed or can be a fabulous addition to a traditional vegetable plot. Here's how to get started designing a vegetable container garden.

Your first step is to check out the place where you want to put your containers. Do you have enough sun? How much wind will hit the site? Is there water close by? How big a space do you have available? What opportunities or limitations does your space have and is all OK with the building owner if you are renting?

Now dream about what you'd love to grow. Make a list of those vegetables you like to eat. And add a few new or fun things you would like to try. Maybe a theme garden, like Asian greens or vegetables and herbs for Thai cooking. Seed catalogs are a great source of ideas for both old and new vegetables or varieties.

It's time to compare your wish list with the reality of your growing conditions – can you give the plants what they need? Researching the growing conditions needed by each plant on your list is a great way to spend a cold rainy day. Pay particular attention to the amount of sun

## COMGA Membership Enrollment

It's time to renew your membership in COMGA and log your skills and interests. Our goal is to have 80 or more paid members by March 1, 2024.

**Membership Renewal (Two options)**

**Online:** Go to the COMGA website ([gocomga.com](http://gocomga.com)), click on the COMGA MEMBERS box under the orange tabs line, enter our current password (Pollin8ors); click on the Online 2024 Membership Renewal link. Fill out the form and then pay your dues – all on line.

**By US Mail:** Download the 2024 Annual Membership Renewal Form found on the last pages of this issue of the HoeDown. Fill out the form and mail it with your check for \$15 to Membership Coordinator Deb Goodall. Her address is on the form. **See page 9**

**NOTE:** Associate Members (those opting not to recertify but who want to continue to participate as a COMGA member) **MUST** fill out the 2024 Statement of Understanding for Associate Members. This document is included in the Online 2023 Membership Renewal link and in the last pages of this issue of HoeDown. **See page 10**

**Log Your Skills and Interests**

If you haven't already done so, please log into the OSU Extension's VicNet system and update your Profile to indicate your skills and interests. COMGA project coordinators search this database for volunteer talent!

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needed, the number of days required to reach harvest time, plus the size and color of the plant. Adjust your list if for example there won't be enough sun or the plant will take up too much space. Eliminate these and choose something else that will produce better results.

There's no reason why your vegetable containers can't be a visual show stopper so this next step is where your creative side shines. Consider color, texture, shape, and groupings to refine your selections. The dominant color is chosen for you – that's green. You'll want to choose and combine from the multitude of green shades and variegations of leaves. Foliage also provides fascinating textures and shapes such as the red, frilly edges of some lettuces or the smooth rounded leaves of spinach.

Then consider the accents provided by the vegetables and edible flowers. Most of the splashiest and long lasting accents will be in the red, orange and yellow ranges, called hot colors. Think of plants such as tomatoes, peppers, nasturtiums, and pansies. Eggplant, purple snap beans, and chive flowers are in the cool color group of purple, blue and pink.

Continued on page 8

## Master Gardener Advanced Training Opportunities and Upcoming COMGA Activities – February 2024

Tim Schindele - VP Master Gardener Education

Listed below are some upcoming training options to consider to meet the requirement for continuing education hours to remain certified. Also listed are upcoming COMGA activities that you can put on your calendar. Dates are subject to change. This will be updated monthly.

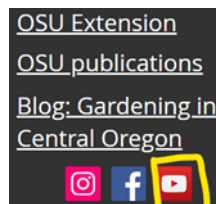
1. OSU Extension has the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Level Up Series presentations available to view at your convenience: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2023>. These are approved for advanced training and most are about an hour in length. Click the buttons on the lefthand side of the page and you'll be able to see the list of presentations for 2021 and 2022. **You cannot claim the hours twice if you already recorded them in your timekeeping in a previous year.** There are going to be Level Up classes in 2024 but nothing is posted yet. Amy Jo said she is scheduled to teach one, possibly in April.

2. The Master Gardener Trivia Tournament is on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM once per month through February on Zoom. Each event is a stand-alone session worth one hour of continuing education credit. The last one is on February 21. The topic is: *Right place, right plant: Oregon natives in the landscape*. Register at: [Master Gardener Trivia – Right place, right plant: Oregon natives in the landscape | OSU Extension Service \(oregonstate.edu\)](#)

3. 10-Minute University online webinars offered by Clackamas County MG Association started in January. Five or six per month at noon mostly on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The January classes were approved for continuing education hours and are available to view now. Go to: <https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/10-minute-university/> [Stay tuned for whether any of the February offerings will be eligible for continuing education time.](#)

4. If you missed some of the COMGA Spring Seminar Webinars, or want to watch any of them again, our 2023 Spring Seminar Webinars are now posted on COMGA's YouTube channel. The Webinars are approved for continuing education credit but **you cannot claim the hours twice if you already recorded them in your 2023 timekeeping.**

How to watch:



On the COMGA Website [www.gocomga.com](http://www.gocomga.com) click on the YouTube icon

OR: Go to this URL on your Web browser: <https://www.youtube.com/user/gocomga>

5. COMGA Quarterly Meeting on Thursday, April 4, 2024 in conjunction with the Board Meeting at 10:00 am. Meet in person at the Extension office classroom or join us on Zoom. Details to join via Zoom will be sent prior to the meeting. There is no continuing education time for attending the April quarterly meeting.

## Have you ever heard of Plant Select?

Plant Select® is a nonprofit collaboration of Colorado State University, Denver Botanic Gardens and professional horticulturists. Their mission is to seek out and distribute the very best plants for landscapes and gardens from the intermountain region to the high plains and beyond.

They offer tough, resilient plants that thrive in challenging climates. Their waterwise plants can create stunning and successful gardens, while having a positive environmental impact, by using fewer resources.

Exploring their website [plantselect.org](http://plantselect.org) you will discover:

A complete list of over 175 available plants, including bloom times and how much water each individual plant needs to thrive.

Locations where to you can purchase their plants (locally and on line)

Design tips, including a photo gallery and free waterwise landscape design plans.

Western Best Practices for Planting Waterwise Landscapes in the Intermountain West

An extensive educational video series

Planning tools and information for working with HOA's on Waterwise and Firewise Projects

If this has piqued your interest, watch for the upcoming Spring Seminar Webinar with Karen McCarthy, who will delve into the exciting world of Plant Select!



## Central Oregon Gardening in Winter

by Betty Faller

People often ask me, "what do Central Oregon gardeners do in the winter" and my go to answer is usually "nothing." As you know, that's not quite true for a gardener. After the holidays I start planning and organizing what I want to grow in the spring rather than actual gardening.

Hopefully you keep a garden journal to help you review start up projects such as which seeds to order for the upcoming spring. A good publication to review is Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon for specific information on vegetables that are commonly successful in our climate. Don't forget to add the 14 days to the package maturity date to adjust for our unique climate. To save myself unhappiness later I also look for the words frost tolerant in the seed description. A hint: I made a list of seeds I would need to order at the end of last season so it's just a matter of selecting new varieties and placing my order.

Also included in my journal is a notation about changes to my garden layout and necessary tools or supplies I will need to purchase. Since the snow has finally melted, I can measure and consider how much compost I will need to enrich my garden soil.

Here is a review of my conversion table for ordering compost for a specific area:

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

If your space is 7 ft long, 5 ft wide and you want it 6 inches (.5) deep:

$7 \times 5 \times .5 = 17.5$  cubic feet of material needed, then convert to cubic yards (cubic yards are the standard of measurement), so  $17.5$  divided by  $27 = 0.65$  or less than a yard of material.

I often review plant magazines for new ideas but first I ask myself if I really need another plant. Gardeners are notorious for purchasing the newest plant sensation before considering where it will be planted and water availability. Who can blame us? Plant research and careful evaluation of my garden design always help with this process.

An often-overlooked winter project is to gather my gardening tools and make certain they are clean, sharpened, and lubricated. Here is a link to a great site on how to maintain your garden tools:

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/maintaining-lawn-and-garden-tools/>

I'm fortunate to have a greenhouse where I can get an early start on my vegetables and flowers, but that will have to wait until later. However, there is always something to keep me busy.

Besides, like all good things, it is the (gardening) journey that fulfills a gardener's needs in winter in Central Oregon.

## Vegetable Garden containers continued.

After you've settled on your plants, don't forget that the containers you use will be an important part of the visual impact. You'll get best results using containers of the same type or color rather than a mix of whatever pots you may have on hand. Placing your containers in grouping at various heights will give you a strong focal point in addition to making efficient use of your space.

The final step in designing your container vegetable garden is actually placing the plants in your containers. You want to balance the size, shape and growing habits of the plants themselves to take advantage of each plant's best features. An easy way to do this is follow the "thriller, filler and spiller" formula. Striking upright or tall plants at the back or center of the pot, smaller upright plants surrounding it and something that cascades over the sides planted at the edges.

Now you are ready to watch your garden grow and look forward to a bountiful harvest.





## 2024 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM



Please print and fill out this form, enclose your check payable to COMGA and mail to:  
**COMGA Membership, c/o Deb Goodall, 19455 Sugar Mill Loop, Bend, OR 97702**

### Dues are \$15.00 for all COMGA members

Your dues help fund our many projects as well as eleven issues of the *HoeDown* and the *OMGA Newsletter*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Original year you were certified \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be notified of upcoming events by e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ phone call \_\_\_\_\_

(The *HoeDown* will be sent by e-mail only.)

I am joining as an Associate Member only \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Members **must** also complete the "Statement of Understanding for Associate Members"

### Please check the events you would most enjoy helping with (COVID mandates dependent):

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Tour                     | <input type="checkbox"/> OSU Extension Demo Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Home & Garden Show          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hollinshead Community Garden    | <input type="checkbox"/> Alpenglow Demo Garden     | <input type="checkbox"/> HoeDown Articles            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hollinshead Water-wise Garden   | <input type="checkbox"/> June Garden Fair          | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Education Classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discovery Park Community Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Seminar            | <input type="checkbox"/> County Fairs                |

**To help us plan pertinent, timely educational events, what topics would you like to learn more about?**

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## CENTRAL OREGON MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION (COMGA)

2024 STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS **ONLY**

***(This form must be submitted each year that you are an Associate.)***

The intent of Associate Membership is to offer individuals the opportunity to continue involvement with the Central Oregon Master Gardener Association program when, for whatever reason, they are not able to fully participate and re-certify in the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener program.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS MAY NOT WEAR THEIR MASTER GARDENER BADGE, GIVE OUT GARDENING INFORMATION OR ANSWER CLIENT QUESTIONS.**

Associates are encouraged to be active members of COMGA, attend General Meetings, picnics, the Christmas luncheon and other social events. They will also receive email notices about activities and may volunteer their time to projects. They pay dues to COMGA and receive copies of the HoeDown and OMGA newsletters.

There is no minimum volunteer hour requirement for Associate Members.

Associate Members are encouraged to recertify. To recertify as an active Master Gardener, they should contact the OSU Extension Service Horticulture Agent.

**COMGA ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING:**

I \_\_\_\_\_, wish to be an Associate Member of COMGA.

I have read the limitations and terms of Associate Membership and agree to adhere to the guidelines as outlined above.

I understand that although I am not a Recertified Master Gardener, I am a welcomed member of COMGA and am encouraged to participate in approved ways.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Return to Membership Coordinator:** COMGA Membership c/o Deb Goodall, 19455 Sugar Mill Loop, Bend, OR 97702; ***Debgoodall48@gmail.com***