# Welcome 2017 Master Gardener Class



February 2017

# Garden Beet Newsletter of the Jackson County Master Gardener M Association



by **Jane Moyer** *Master Gardener 2005* 

**January 18 was rainy and cold, a real Oregon gray day.** Nonetheless, Heidi arrived before 8:00 for the first day of the Master Gardener class and by 8:30 the line was out the front door for a class that started at 9:00. Students quickly jumped in to help set up tables and chairs while the coffee perked.

Pictures were taken. Working agreements were introduced. Even without a working microphone, self-introductions were made along with each person's favorite plant....and there were almost no duplicates.

And then the fun began. Plant families were introduced with *Liliaceae* being first. Lilies were distributed to each table because it is so easy to find the different parts of a flower with them. Members of this family have parts in three i.e. 3 sepals, 3 petals and 6 stamens. Each table received a shoebox, information on another family and the mission to decorate the box to illustrate their plant family and instruction to fill with examples or pictures of anything that would help illustrate it. The room became a buzzing beehive as boxes were transformed.

Noon brought signups for the eight Practicum sessions. Students self-identified as being a beginning gardener or an experienced gardener with 43 choosing one of the five fundamental sessions while three sessions were available for the 22 advanced students. The four online students have also been offered the opportunity to join the Practicum.

A delicious lunch of soups, wraps and brownies was devoured before the afternoon began with Sustainable Landscape Design taught by Master Gardener Sherri Morgan. Students produced a landscape plan for their own home. Tired but happy students headed home with homework assignments, new carpools formed and visions of beautiful gardens filling their heads.

And so we say to the 2017 Master Gardener class "Welcome to the Jackson County Master Gardener Program! Welcome to the Jackson County Master Gardener Association!" Aura, Sally, Howell, Heidi, Marie, Lisa, Zack, Janice and Janet, we're glad you're here! Christine, Sheryl, Cynthia, Sandy, Greg, Emily, Tim, and Denna, you've joined a great organization! You have a great experience ahead of you Erica, Rebecca, Terri, Matthew, Rod, Anna, Barbara, Sally, and Jo! Tenise, Bill, Margaret, Aryn, Diane, Joshua, Becky, Rod, Juliette, Kenyon, and Elizabeth, you will learn so much in the next few months, you'll feel like your head will explode but it will be so fun! If you have any questions Cathy, Bruce, Pete, Karen, Laura, Catherine, Brooke, John, Keri, Erik, Louie, and Rhonda, just ask anyone with an orange badge. We're here to help you! And Bill, Jenny, Kathy, Pamela, Jeannie, Larry, Suzanne, and Kathleen, we hope you'll have so much fun, learn so much, and realize there's always more so you'll want to keep coming back for more!



Sydney

Love Abounds this Month



OSU Program Advisor

11





by Kate Hassen
President

Master Gardener 2013

During this quiet, but short, time between the seasons I now have the freedom to settle myself into a deeply comfortable chair with a cup of coffee and begin planning for next summer's garden. Although I always plant Benary's Giant zinnias and Fantastic tomatoes, every year I make it a goal to add something new to the garden. Last year I added a completely new dahlia garden! I selected 16 varieties and planted them right outside our bedroom window. In September, the colors were spectacular!

As January fades into February my new garden goals for 2017 are beginning to take shape and I will be ready by March to spring into action. Personally, as your new President, I am embarking on the coming year with enthusiasm -- and with good reason since JCMGA has already sprang into action:

- The Master Gardener Class of 2017 began on January 18th.
- The new greenhouse is nearly finished and ready for business.
- · The Spring Garden Fair planning is underway and looking forward to another successful year.
- The Demonstration Gardens are sporting new M.A.S.H. type directional signs.

The JCMGA Board held a retreat on January 13<sup>th</sup>. We celebrated our successes and recognized where we could improve. In this process, we established five new goals for the coming year. We will be focusing our energies towards these goals.

But, we also need to hear from the JCMGA membership about their expectations for the coming year. Please take some time in the next few weeks to think about your dreams for this organization. How do you see yourself within this organization? Where would you enjoy volunteering your time? How could you help accomplish one of the Board goals? Do you have a burning new idea to share? Then be sure you let me, or any Board members know what you are thinking. You can drop an email <a href="mailto:roseknitter1@gmail.com">roseknitter1@gmail.com</a> or catch me at the Extension on most Wednesdays.

Growing and changing are always part of being a gardener. The best way to shape and direct change is to participate in the process of making goals.

Consider the following words of an unknown author:

"An idea is just a dream until you write it down. And then it is a goal" Let's dream a little ...I can't wait to hear your dreams!





# Jackson County Master Gardener Association

Board of Directors Meeting January 6, 2017



#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Hassen spoke about the ten basic responsibilities expected of our Board. She stressed the need to work together with ethical integrity, especially as we oversee and protect our assets. President Hassen also emphasized our interactions as Master Gardeners should be professional, friendly and informed.

#### THANK YOU

A public thank you was given to Luigi Bogni, Lara Foote, Scott Goode, Linda Greenstone, Pam Mooers and Carol Rugg who recently retired from their Board positions. It was noted that Carol and her husband, Dave have both filled many different roles as volunteers over a period of several years.

#### WELCOME HOME

New Board members were greeted with happy anticipation for a great year ahead. New members include Sue Bowden, Regina Boykins, Cindy Tilley Case, Sandy Hammond, Sue Koenig and Gayle Stets.

#### WEBSITE UPDATE

Cindy Williams researched our current website and what it would take to get it updated. She said our current CMS platform is not "user friendly" and we are not able to make the changes to our own website as we want. We must request the changes and pay to have them done. She

options, event registration, voting ability and an image gallery. The Board is interested in the potential this change could bring.

#### **GARDEN GUIDES**

We are nearing the time to reprint our JCMGA Garden Guide books. After discussing several out-dated items in one of our Guides, a committee was formed to update our upcoming book release. It was also decided to reduce our wholesale price on our books to create more

interest from our retail locations.

#### CLASS OF 2017

Rhianna is eagerly anticipating the first day of class for the 2017 Master Gardeners. She reported 64 students are signed up for class at the Extension with another 5 students taking on-line instruction. That's a grand total of 69 students! Rhianna asked all Master Gardeners to come for that first day and welcome the new students to our family of volunteers.

#### HANDBOOK UPDATE

John Kobal informed the Board that the Handbook Committee found several unneeded items in the Board's Handbook as well as items that need to be updated. The committee's goal is to make the Handbook as concise and informative as possible.

NEXT MEETING: February 3, 2017

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Tilley Case Recording Secretary Master Gardener 2015

Photos by Cindy Tilly Case

found a better alternative in the #1 rated Word Press. It would be easier to navigate and would match our current vision of what our website should be. A few of the changes our new website could provide would be on-line payment





#### WINTER MUSINGS

by **Peggy Corum** Master Gardener 1989

The white stuff is pretty much gone... today, that is. When the 10" of snow was decorating my premises, it gave me a perfect excuse to just watch out the window and make wildlife notes. Amazing to me that "my" 40, (yep, forty. Four, zero) wild turkeys didn't fly wherever they

wanted to go. One turkey plowed through, snow clear up to her breast, with the rest following, single file. Obviously their legs must be close to 10" long! They eventually gathered under the protection of small Madrone trees where the snow wasn't as deep. They also must have thought the grass was greener elsewhere, because they crossed and re-crossed the road numerous times. It made some very interesting little paths circling here and there all over my front yard. Glad I got to watch all of this. Otherwise I'd be wondering what sort of critter had spent so much time snowshoeing.

Later, 5 doe gathered under a large Madrone, busily grazing. I wondered what they were finding that was edible: a dried leaf here and there in the gravel? No, they were scarfing up all the Madrone berries that had fallen to the ground, like big ole vacuum cleaners. The next day the branches of that tree provided a bird sanctuary, big birds, little birds all harvesting the fruit. I'm very happy with that, as it lessens the number of seedlings I'll be pulling up later.

Years ago our then-Beet-editor Jackie Reavis used to end her winter articles with this advise, "remember to feed the birds." Yes, Mam! Good advise! Now go light the wood in the fireplace and compile a list of plants you want propagated, because spring will soon be here and Peggy's Propagation will have plants galore.





#### Refund!

JCMGA can earn money every time you shop at Grange! How cool is that?

Whenever you shop at any of the Grange Co-Op locations, tell the clerk you are a Jackson County Master Gardener and they will credit our account with the amount of your purchase. At the end of the year, JCMGA will receive a percentage of all our accumulated credits back in the form of cash! This is like free money since we all buy plants, tools, and garden supplies!

# **SOMA** Fundraiser

The Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates is a small grassroots collection of people whose efforts are focused on increasing the population of the monarch butterfly. To help these efforts a fundraising event was held at the Jackson County Research and Extension facility on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Master Gardeners and the Master Food Preservers partnered with SOMA to host an evening of networking, reporting past efforts and discussing future plans. Several other local organizations were invited including the Pollinator Project of the Rogue Valley and the Siskiyou Field Institute.

The evening started on an apprehensive note with the icy remains of recent storms and the threat of more bad weather making a successful event questionable. Over 50% of the people who RSVP'd attended but the featured musical duo, Kelly's Lot was a victim of the winter weather to the south of us. Lead singer, Kelly Zirbes, Skyped with the group and shared why she was willing to attend the event. She performed an a cappella number that was enjoyed by all.



The Master Food Preservers prepared the main course of delicious veggie lasagna, accompanied with potluck dishes provided by the attendees.

by Glenn Risley

Master Gardener 2010





# Recipe

Spiced Boysenberry Applesauce

2 ½ lbs organic apples, washed peeled, cored and cut in large chunks (a mixture of types such as Fuji, Pippin, Jonagold, Jonathan, will give much more dimension of flavors and textures)

1 ½ cups fresh (or frozen) boysenberries, rinsed and drained (may be put through strainer for seedless sauce)

6 (4 if Medjool) dates, pitted and chopped fine
1 good quality cinnamon stick about 4" long
1 tablespoon grated washed and peeled fresh ginger root
Grated zest of one Meyer lemon

Put apples, dates, cinnamon stick, and ginger root, in a large heavy pot. Add about 2/3 cup of water then bring to a boil and let simmer on low stirring occasionally until apples are soft, about 15 minutes. Add whole boysenberries (or strained berries) and continue cooking and occasionally stirring another 10 minutes until soft. Remove from heat.

Remove cinnamon stick then stir in lemon zest and nutmeg. Sauce may be used hot or cold over sorbets, ice cream, yogurt, atop cereal, pancakes/waffles, cake, as a topping for cooked poultry or eaten just by its tasty self.

# Love abounds this month with cupid cutting loose his well-aimed bow. "A Very Februberry"

by **Sydney Jordan Brown** *Master Gardener 2000* 

"Just another blackberry," you say? No, this noble fruit is as different as a Jack Russell is from a Dachshund. Although the fruit of this experimental berry strain of Rudolph Boysen died on the vine, these straggly plants were nurtured and developed in 1932 by Walter Knott the founder of Knott's berry products who named them, Boysenberry of course, after his family friend.

Boysenberries, a cross between black logan and red raspberries, are elongated-large merlothued fruits with the tartness of raspberries and richness of wild blackberries. With few seeds and exponentially more unique flavor then blackberries, these sweet, plump and very juicy berries are absolutely addictive. They also make the best pies, jams and frozen fruits. As if being delicious isn't enough, they're high in vitamin C, fiber and anthocyanins contributing to their deep-dark color and antioxidant benefits.

Hardy to zone 4, thornless boysenberries are easily grown, very productive and remarkably drought tolerant. Purchase canes now, preorder early from catalogs or locally if one can find them, as they're neither abundant nor often authentic.

Full sun (in our area filtered in late afternoon) light and well-drained soil are essential for prosperous boysenberries. Given the trailing nature, they'll need trellis support. Secure 7' iron fence posts 12" deep in the ground leaving 6' between posts and ffix heavy wire horizontally to the posts at heights of 2', 4' and 5'-6' high.

Plant dormant canes or plants about 1' deep and 3' apart in soil amended with generous amounts of rotted compost. Spread roots then backfill with soil/compost mix level with ground and same depth as previously planted. Water plants thoroughly with kelp or root stimulant mix. The first year may yield some fruit but more thereafter given berries are born upon previous year's floricanes.

Provide generous amounts of compost and mulch to plant bases so drip watering (overhead invites diseases) will stimulate deeper root growth. After blooming in spring, fruits start ripening in late June or early July. Bird netting is a must if you want any fruit for your labors. You'll have fruit for about 3-4 weeks.





# Things to do in the Garden for February

by **Julie Engleson** Master Gardener 2012

Winter is still flexing its muscles: my garden is a muddy mess! The last snowstorm we got broke several limbs off of shrubs and trees, which was a great reminder to me that this is still dormancy season and pruning on all woody perennials, shrubs and trees can still be done now, through the end of the month. I have just started looking through my seeds from last year to see what I can still use this year, making lists of those seeds and plants I'd like to buy later. It's way too soon to be even thinking about turning the soil so I'm planning on adding amendments to the top, allowing the rain to do it's magic. Tools sharpened, handles oiled, supplies restocked...almost done. What's next?

To be honest, the most exciting thing for me would be to start the set-up for a new growing season in a new greenhouse...CONGRATULATIONS PRACTICUM LEADERS!!! What an exciting year this will be, having the new greenhouse up and running. And, while I'm at it, congratulations to all of our new students in the class of 2017. May this year be a great year of learning and fun for you all.

On a much smaller scale, I will be putting seeds in containers in a cold frame soon. It is always a marvel to me what will sprout and grow this time of year, despite the cold and lack of sunshine. Under the right circumstances, plants will grow and thrive. As a "mad home-scientist" I like to push the envelope on that just a little bit. As long as you have a nice place in your yard that is south facing, you can try this, too. A building to put your cold frame against is nice because of the additional radiant heat off the surface of the building. This will contribute to the heat inside the frame. Materials used to make the frame can range from repurposed building materials like palettes, scrap lumber, foundation blocks, old windows, and I've even used straw bales as walls for the frame...and it worked great! I've found that lining the frame with black plastic will also provide additional heat. I prefer to keep my starts in pots, rather than putting soil directly on top of the plastic and planting, but that's just me. Try this centuries-old technique, and you be amazed at what you can plant early!

One other tip I'd like to mention for February, plant carrot seed at the end of the month in a nice warm spot and at the end of May or early June you will have full-size carrots. I tried this last year and not only did the wet weather work in my favor (with regards to the germination part, keeping them nice and wet) but I enjoyed the baby carrots in April when I thinned them out (several times!) I also started okra in my cold frame. It's a favorite of mine but requires a lot more heat than our typical growing season here in the Rogue Valley. (Try pickling okra; it's my new favorite pickled veggie!) I did plant tomatoes, peppers and eggplant in the cold frame also and these all transplanted great when I was ready in June and July. So, if you're thinking cold frame is good for just lettuces this time of year, try something new.

As for your garden plot, February is the month to start planting radishes, onions sets, spinaches, lettuces, strawberry starts and asparagus roots. P is for planting peas on Presidents' Day! Don't forget to inoculate them this year, due to wet soil conditions. There are many herbs that can tolerate transplanting now, too. Running roots like those in the mint family, tarragon, oregano, thyme and rosemary. Chives, sage and lovage can all be planted now, too, per the *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley*. If you had over-wintering veggies, clean them up: they've really taken a beating, but as soon as you snip off the tired-looking leaves, new ones will appear.

As an added bonus for both the bees and me, I'm planning on planting a new large bed of perennial and annual flowers in the middle of my garden. It's in the planning stages now. Aren't you so excited? It's baby plant season soon! Happy Gardening! ©



Not all gardeners have the luck to live in a temperate climate. Instead of battling frost, install a cold frame to protect your plants like a mini greenhouse. Its natural warmth lets you foster seedlings in early spring and keep veggies going through fall and even into winter.

A cold frame is useful at other times of year as well. In spring, it provides an ideal environment for hardening off annual flower and vegetable seedlings started indoors. Seeds of many plants can be sown directly in the frame and grown there until its time to transplant them to the garden. In summer, you can replace the cover with shade cloth or lath, creating a nursery for cuttings.



Even though the purpose of a cold frame is to trap heat, on sunny days, even in winter, a cold frame can get so hot that it burns the plants.

Check your cold frame once a day on sunny days, opening or venting the top slightly to allow hot air to escape. You can even provide some shade by putting a piece of shade cloth over the glass.

#### February 2017





Master Gardeners are creative, dedicated and will share what ever they have if it helps the cause. A week ago, I was invited to have lunch with Luigi Bogni and his truly amazing wife Kathleen O'Reilly, both Master Gardeners. He emailed the menu to build the anticipation of the exceptional fare they were to present for my enjoyment. I was served Truffle and Fontina Ravioli with a Saffron sauce, Bell pepper Roulades with Braised Witloof Endive, and Chantilly Mont Blanc with Marrons Glace's for dessert. Of course, if you know me, dessert first is my

motto. It was an amazing experience. Luigi and Kathleen are shining examples of our Rogue Valley neighbors.

Now, to the 2017 Master Gardener class. We have several positions available on the communication committee. If you have a desire to be creative email me jcmgaor@gmail.com

#### Writers for The Garden Beet

First assignment, write a paragraph about someone interesting at your table by February 15, take their picture and send to the above email address

#### Facebook

Post interesting articles about gardening, new products, soil, tools, member achievements and events around the Rogue Valley

#### Website

Update articles, events, the calendar, and post new photos. Our new website will be completed in February, be a part of the team

#### Marketing/Publicity

Create ads for Facebook, the website, Spring Fair and Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens Symposium, Public Service Announcements, certificates of achievement, and mailers for Master Gardener Members

#### **Technology**

Teach new members how to use the website and Facebook

#### **Information Board**

Update this board monthly with new photos and articles

Editor...
Cindy Williams
Master Gardener 2014



### **Vendors Needed**



JCMGA is looking for Vendors for our 38th annual Spring Garden Fair May 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, the largest horticultural event in Southern Oregon. More than 6,000 people attended our 2016 Fair! The Spring Garden Fair has a reputation for showcasing vendors with a wide variety of healthy plants, quality products, personal services, education, and informational opportunities. Return your Vendor Application before February 10 to receive priority booth assignments! Available vendor space is limited and we expect to have every booth filled, including in the outside Courtyard. We encourage you to complete and return your application packet right away!

To contact the Vendor Coordinators with questions or more information - springgardenfairvendors@gmail.com FOR THE VENDOR APPLICATION VISIT http://www.jacksoncountymga.org/images/2017 3 in one Vendor Application.pdf



### For your Amusement; Written or sent in by Master Gardeners



It's time to start thinking about the deer. They are such graceful creatures and as Master Gardeners we take care of the animals and the environment. What delicious edibles are you going to plant in your lovingly tended gardens? The big three to consider are hostas, daylilies, and roses. This is like Halibut or King Salmon to us. You might think that the thorns on a rose bush might deter Bambi and her mother however, not so. Truthfully, their pain is nothing compared to the emotional scars inflicted on our psyche as we watch hundreds of colorful petals disappear. Don't be deterred by the loss. Other deer favorites to think about planting are rhododendrons, azaleas and tulips. Bona petite!

### Dear Amanda:

When I was a young girl I had a pet chimpanzee named Daphne. We were inseparable and did absolutely everything together. She was my very best friend and the joy of my life.

Ever since her passing, over 40 years ago, I have been searching for a meaningful way to commemorate her, and at long last I think I've found it – a Daphne topiary! Or better yet, a grand promenade lined with a whole gallery of chimpanzee topiaries!

The grounds at my home are fairly expansive, and I believe I have space for 12 or 16 life-size depictions of Daphne. One could show her in her favorite tutu. Another in her ski togs (couldn't keep her off the slopes!). Another in her apron and toque ... get the idea?

So here's my question, Amanda: Can you recommend a special variety of boxwood that lends itself particularly well to chimpanzee topiaries?

- Belinda R.

\*\*\*

**Belinda:** 

Absolutely not.



#### **Natural Wonders**



















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For the **S**pring Garden Fair May 6-7, JCMGA needs one empty decorated boot, tin can OR bucket painted for our SGF Booth. If each one of our members donates a creative, completed planter we will have over 400 items to set 4" plastic potted plants in. Please put on your thinking caps, get with your friends and help us achieve our goal, to have the most successful

jcmgaor@gmail.com

questions

SGF ever. If you have





### What do our Master Gardeners Teach?

# Well Earth Well Me! (A children's presentation) Kenda Swartz

Kenda will read her book *Well Earth Well Me!* to a group of children using a positive approach through singsong rhymes and colorful images. The reading and interactive techniques highlight the importance of caring for the earth, oneself, and others with the intention to build awareness and to empower children. Depending on the time allotted, her programs include a variety of activity options: Kenda can discuss the Monarch Life Cycle and its importance in our lives, work on an art project about gardening, or help the children write garden Haikus.





# DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTING Sandy Hammond

This is not the Pacific Northwest. Heard that before? The Rogue Valley has its own climate. So how and what should you plant for successful landscapes? Sandy will address soil drainage conditions, watering requirements and other factors necessary to establish draught-tolerant plants. Essential is the determination of soil moisture retention. Sandy will discuss the importance of a moisture meter, and the benefits of mulching. Her presentation does not require audio-visual equipment, but a display table is helpful. Sandy will bring examples of draught-tolerant plants, and distribute an extensive list of appropriate plants for your future reference.

# Fun With Succulents Jan Laine

What's the difference between a cactus and a succulent? This is just one of many interesting facts you'll discover in this succulent presentation. You'll learn about common and dissimilar characteristics, planting requirements, preferred soil type, fertilizers, propagation techniques, and sunlight requirements. Discussion will include both indoor and outdoor plants, and what to look out for in the way of pests (large and small).





# You are Now Part of an International Network of Life-long Learners, Avid Gardeners, and Plant Nerds



by Rhianna Simes OSU Program Advisor Master Gardener 2007

If you are a veteran Master Gardener, please **feel free to join us in class on Wednesdays!** The training runs from January 18<sup>th</sup> through April 19<sup>th</sup>. Drop in and check out the activities. I encourage you to sit at a table with the students to share your knowledge, as we want everyone interacting and learning from each other! We will have a great time.

Have you heard about the two new classes that will be optional additions to the 2017 training? On Wednesday April 26th we will host the **Annual Color Celebration** class where we will combine botany, horticulture and landscaping in one interactive class! Learn how to create a home landscape with year round color using both annuals and perennials. Please bring examples of some of your favorite plants to class!

May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the **Annual Edible Celebration** class where we will combine botany, horticulture and culinary delights! Learn, eat, love and have a delicious experience. I know there are a number of great cooks in our community, so bring something to eat, something to share and something to sample!!

Both classes are open to all Master Gardeners and you will gain a greater understanding of the annuals, perennials and vegetables we will sell at the **Jackson County Master Gardener Associations Spring Garden Fair May 6**<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you all, for your time and support – we have such a special community!

I am glad you are with us and look forward to a very rewarding year together.

Jackson County Master Gardener Associations Spring Garden Fair May 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

## **BEET BOX**

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Anyone wishing to write for the Garden Beet must have the Maximum 800 word article and 600x800 photos submitted by the  $15^{th}$  of the month.

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All information provided by the Garden Beet is believed to be accurate. A product named in an article does not constitute an endorsement of said product by JCMGA

## **UP COMING EVENTS**

Tuesday, January 31 **Clay Support Group** 3:00-5:00 pm If you have clay soils, come complain and learn with others who are challenged by clay soil. Leave this class knowing what to do!

Saturday, February 11Protecting Pollinators: Benefits for Ecosystems & Food Security in Oregon

9:00am-4:00pm

This forum combines science and policy for protecting pollinators to ensure their survival

Tuesday, February 21 How to Create your own Food Forest 3:00-5:00pm

Siskiyou Permaculture

A food forest is a technique that mimics a woodland ecosystem by substituting edible trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals.

JACKSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATIONS
SPRING GARDEN FAIR
MAY 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

http://www.jacksoncountymga.org/departments/community-education-classes

