

THE MASTER GARDENER CLASS BEGINS

January 18th



RHIANNA SIMES



PIXCEE



KATE HASSEN

Garden Beet

Newsletter of the Jackson County Master Gardener™ Association



TWO YEARS OF HARD WORK

And no one got hurt. That is a remarkable feat since all the construction was done by a group of good men from diverse backgrounds that came together for this project. Ron Doshier, began as volunteer project manager, then Victor Chieco stepped up to complete the Greenhouse. Jody Willis, has been chair of the Greenhouse Committee since the beginning.

Did you know that every single day the volunteers worked, food angels fed these men in the rain, sleet and snow. Sandy Hammond, Pat Tillman, Sherri Morgan, Lynn Kunstman and Helyn Thomas cooked, cleaned, and kept our Master Gardener volunteers nourished during the weeks of back breaking labor. Thank you to all.

Victor Chieco
Eric Weisberg
Joe Alvord
Dennis Jackson
Doug Kirby
Worked to make
the dream of a
Greenhouse a
reality!

Can '60s-style idealism help guide us through the coming changes? You bet. Just ask JCMGA President Kate Hassen.

by **Marcus Smith**
Master Gardener 2012

January 1st, Kate Hassen steps into her role as President of the Jackson County Master Gardener Association for 2017. As she puts it: "When you feel you really belong to a group, you need to step up, take your turn, and help provide some leadership. That's what I believe. So here I am."

Kate is quick to admit that she's never headed up a group as large and diverse as ours. But through her valuable experience, varied career and unique personal path, she's had plenty of first-hand opportunities to see the amazing differences that good leadership can make.

Kate's a big believer in the basic goodness of humanity. And despite the current wave of national cynicism and disillusionment, she is adamant that good people will thrive when they're able to work together for common goals.

Kate believes her greatest strengths are listening to (and hearing) what people have to say ... and then helping build bridges to connect them. "A leader needs to support the wants and needs of the entire group," Kate says. "So Job One for me will be trying to identify which goals seem broadly self-evident and truly worthwhile."

"I hope everyone will feel free to share their thoughts and hopes and dreams with me. I'm sure we'll agree on most of them. Then it's just a matter of good people coming together to work for the common good."

Kate's idealism comes naturally. She was raised on her family's farm in the Scott Valley, southwest of Yreka, where life was meant to be lived together, usually outdoors. After school, Kate lived briefly in a rural commune, but was disappointed by its lack of goals and leadership – a lesson she's benefitted from ever since.

In 1975 Kate and her first husband began 17 years of life off the grid on a remote stretch of the Umpqua River. The nearest town, Tiller, was 26 miles away. No electricity. No phone. Just plenty of ice-cold, spring-fed water and a trusty woodstove. "But self-sufficiency has some barbs on it," Kate explains. "In addition to toughness, people also need some helpful support and fresh ideas."

Eventually the marriage dissolved and Kate went back to school and earned a BA in English and a post graduate degree in Education. She then taught at Jackson Elementary where she met her husband, Steve, and worked for 19 years before retiring in 2011.

Kate has prepared for her new role by trying to figure out how JCMGA actually works, who we really are, and what we do.

(continued page 3 "can '60s style")

OUR NEW PRESIDENT



Profile:

-Favorite book genres: Mystery, Biography

-Music most listened to: Indie Rock

-Favorite candy bar: Payday

-Most memorable pet: Orphy, an orphaned black kitten I found in the barn wall and raised

-Beatles or Stones? Definitely Beatles

-Coffee or tea? Depends on the time of day

-Favorite hobby other than gardening: Knitting socks and baking bread

-Most important thing learned as a child: When you fall off the horse, get up and get back on

-Dream vacation: A summer in Europe visiting gardens

-Plant passions: Clematis, geraniums and penstemons



(Can '60s style from page 2)

After her certification in 2013, Kate served as Membership Secretary for two years, followed by another year as President-Elect. She's worked in Peggy's Propagation Garden, as a mentor in the greenhouse practicum, and served on more ad hoc committees than she can shake a stick at.

And because she's put in all the necessary prep time and work, she feels she's entitled to begin 2017 with a few challenging questions of her own:

- How do we attract more youth?
- How do we make better use of technology?
- What should be our focus during the months between our two big money-making events?

Kate is eager to help the membership decide on these and many other common goals ... and then to harness what she sees as "the common good of humanity" to achieve them. Anyone wishing to contact Kate can do so by emailing her at roseknitter1@gmail.com.

Welcome, Kate!

GRANGE CO-OP

Your Trusted Cooperative Since 1934

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!

If you have a personal account with Grange, you cannot receive the credit for both your account and the Master Gardener account; you will need to make a choice. With that one caveat aside, this is one of the simplest and easiest fundraisers ever at a time we are running deeply in the red!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2017 Spring Garden Fair committee will meet Thursday, January 19 at 10:00 AM in the Research Building Library. All Association members are invited and, in fact, encouraged to attend to learn the inner workings of the Fair and to get involved in the largest Master Gardener event of the year. Please join us!

As many of you know the office is being updated and organized. This is a plea to all of you about leaving random items in Rhianna's Simes office. She has minimal space. If you need to leave an object, leave it with Sheila Lee, marked with the name of the person the item is for. Thank You.



**ERIC FOLLOWS
ROBERTS RULES**



CLASS OF 2016

A FAREWELL TO THE BEST PRESIDENT OF 2016

by **Kate Hassen**
President
Master Gardener 2013

Eric Weisberg, 2016 JCMGA President, is a warm, funny guy that genuinely cares about this organization and the people in it. He has spent the past year giving his best to move JCMGA forward. With his optimistic attitude and his genial sense of humor, Eric has tackled every project with gusto and was the first to volunteer for the hardest work.

Eric believes that the work of the Association is done through our numerous committees. This year, he has stressed the need for each committee to determine their own leaders and establish their own goals. His view of governance allows for a broader participation of the membership and fosters new ideas.

Eric has facilitated our first moves into a digital world by insisting on the use of new technologies. We will soon have an online calendar listing all Association meetings! We have also purchased the needed equipment and software to allow purchases by credit card. Moving the Association into the 21st century has been a priority for Eric.

It has been a pleasure to work with Eric this year. He has made every effort to include me in his work as President and I am grateful for the year of learning opportunities he gave me. I have learned that Eric loves food, doesn't like shoes and believes that people should be kind to each other. Fortunately, he will remain on the Board for another year as Past President.

Thank you Eric, for your time, your energy and your faith in our future.



**ERIC WORKED
TIRELESSLY ON THE
GREENHOUSE**

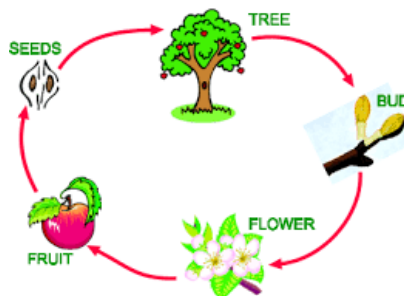


Things to do In the Garden for January

by **Julie Engleson**
Master Gardener 2012

Here we are at the Top of 2017...a new beginning! Are you planning to make New Years' Resolutions? How about ones for the garden? Think about it; worry less, weed more... plant unusual varieties of fruit and veggies! Teach yourself something new, pass the information learned onto someone else (isn't this the foundation of what being a Master Gardener is all about?) Allow yourself to have more fun... Many of you know the personal health struggle I've been through this past 16 months, and while I'm not going to get into that here, what I would like to state is how powerful the garden has been for me as far as healing is concerned. My garden has been my oasis! It is the "country" I can escape to just feet from my front door. Mental clarity is achieved there while listening to the wind-chimes and the birds sing. I can leave my worries behind when I enter this peaceful place, thinking only about the cycles of creation and evolution, of the miracles and magic that occur, of soil balances and harmonious fragrances...feel

the sprinkles of rain, or rays of sun, or gentle breeze against my skin. How lucky are we as gardeners to have this multi-dimensional opportunity? My Garden New Years' Resolution is this: share this personal pearl of beauty, healing and peace with someone new this year, and I encourage you all to do something similar. Gardening is hardly boring, and if you love it, it is *never* a task! On top of the physical bonuses of gardening (exercise, fresh air, being outside, being around beneficial microbes, etc.) we get to reap all the benefits of



our labors with fresh produce, flowers, herbs and a customized landscape. We get to invite others into our individualized space, allowing them the benefit of seeing a different side of our personality. And let's never discount the depth of joy in our hearts it gives us being disengaged with the world just for a moment while getting dirty and being 'grounded!' So, while looking at those gardening catalogues and considering your order for the new year think about planting something new and different! Make a new friend and share your passion of gardening with

them. Volunteer in a different capacity this year to allow for your own new growth...and share your happiness of gardening with someone else. May peace and prosperity be yours in this New Year; and happy gardening everyone!!



Kari Gies, Victor Chieco, Rhianna Simes and Linda Greenstone
Installed our very own Directional Totem the week before Christmas.

PET PROOF

Pleasures and Perils of Pets in the Garden

Plot Suggestions

Rug remnants and old doormats placed in flower beds are perfect spots for fur-bound-floppers seeking refuge for afternoon napping.

Vicks Vapor Rub smeared on plastic sprinkler parts, watering can spouts and hose nozzles, discourages their devouring.

Lessen the Hazards

Substitute poisonous chemicals with non toxic to animals and the environment.

Thoroughly dig in all amendments (blood and bone meals, fish concentrates, Sprinkle ground with some ground mint, rosemary, citrus, garlic chives, or spray with white vinegar to disguise the smell.

Cocoa Mulch (or coconut mulch) containing theobromine found in chocolate can be extremely lethal to dogs and cats. Its chocolatey fragrance attracts both.

Be wary of poisonous plants like Datura, foxglove and larkspur.



by **Sydney Jordan Brown**
Master Gardener 2000

This article is dedicated to my Jack Russell, Pixcee, who's been in my heart, garden as well these articles for nearly 16 years and now resides gleefully in doggie garden heaven. She's greatly missed.

After the biting cold of winter gives way, we're eventually blessed with warmth and reawakening life. No longer captives of our household, we bolt outside inhaling deeply that fresh spring air. Sinking to our knees, we cannot resist plunging our hands in the soil as our furry companions indulge in such excavations.

This carefree foot and paw probing is just the beginning of a competitive, laughable and loving relationship between gardeners and pets. There's nothing equal to the loving bond where together they dig, cultivate, and bury.

Those who've never allowed paw print upon their perfectly manicured plots don't know what they're missing. They've truly forsaken the animal element in the fundamental gardening foundation, that of plant, man and animal.

As buds burst into beautiful blooms, gardeners with four-legged partners find fulfillment with this natural, and often humorous companionship. They acquire flexibility in accepting unexpected subtractions and modifications to garden.

(continued on page 7)



Treats

Pixcee Sticks

1-2 large deep orange sweet potatoes, washed, peeled, cut in 1/4" slices then again cut lengthwise in 1/4" sticks

Steam sweet potato sticks until just barely tender. Remove from steam then place in dehydrator at 145° for about 7-11 hours until leathery. Package in zip-type bags with a bow. Dogs love these chewy sticks.

Pixcee Chixcee

Slices of cooked, fat removed, lean chicken. Cut chicken (with the grain for chewier) in 3/16th thick slices then in 1" wide strips. Dehydrate at 145° for about 4 hours until thoroughly dry.

Feline Flips

Fresh dried catnip or catmint and small socks. Stitch a 12" length of strong twine to end of sock. Make knot at end for tail. Push catnip in to sock till packed and sew end shut. Sew on felt ears and make thread eyes.

(continued from Pet Proof)

Despite digging annoyances and disasters, proper planning promotes the most pleasant relationship between you, your pet and plants. We may be fixated with frilly rows of flowers, pets prefer perfectly planted rawhide chips, rolling in manure piles or clawing trunks of favorite trees. Animals may not view things with the same aesthetics as we do. Adding structural boundaries helps curve their curiosity for venturing where you prefer them not. Adequate fences, gates and raised beds not only provide pleasant backdrops for bushes, vertical surfaces for growing vines, and accessibility for harvesting crops, but enhance the lands layout. Besides manmade structures, planting tougher varieties of shrubs and bushes offers alternative vegetative barriers.

Since nothing is fool-proof, anything beyond barriers is fair game. Pet accompanied gardeners come to accept occasional landscape deviations. Even though gardeners expect replanting, replacing rearranged or missing plants, they'll never be without their pet companions.

Poop-patrol before the party, and replacing the prized potted plants is far less inconvenience than withstanding unpredictable weather or a multitude of munching insects. Our plant zone is where gloves and trowels mysteriously disappear, the lawn is littered with tooth pocked plastic pots, and a driftwood log provides the perfect late afternoon perch.

Whether canine or feline, pets provide that final element both enhancing and completing the garden's partnership with the soil. The silhouette of the gardener's straw hat and their partner's furry ears against that last ray of sunshine seems the perfect garden composition.



Oregon State University Extension Service

Master Gardener

2017 Community Education Classes



A Master Gardener is an inspired learner....

....who enjoys educational experiences that lead them down the path of knowledge and wonder. A Master Gardener is someone who is community minded, who wants to give and share and will put time into creating something wonderful to further our collective goals. A Master Gardener is a person who loves plants, delights in their gardens, lusts after catalogs, and understands that a landscape is never 'complete'. A Master Gardener is a volunteer who will go to incredible ends to teach another inspired person or child about the incredibly vast universe of plants and horticulture. A Master Gardener is a friend who knows that we are more potent than the sum of our parts! by Rhianna Simes <http://bit.ly/JacksonMG2017>

1

VIEW CLASSES

All classes are listed on our website or Facebook page

2

CHOOSE CLASSES

If you have questions call Rhianna at 541-776-7371

3

PAY ONLINE

Classes are only \$10 and are eligible for MG recertification



Rhianna Simes
OSU Program
Advisor



Rhonda Nowak
May 13th Gives a
Guided tour
"Flowers of War and
Peace."



Marsha Waite
Master Gardener of
the year Teaches
February 28th
"Mason Bees - Build
it and they will
come"



work in the children's garden

Come join us - enjoy the wonderful children. You can't help but smile.

by **Roberta Heinz**
Master Gardener 2012

Tucked back at the edge of the gardens next to the Kitchen Garden, you will find the Children's Garden. This garden is a bit different from all of the other gardens. Master Gardeners volunteer in this magic garden full of lively, wonderful children ranging in ages from 5 to 13. You may never see us in our garden unless you happen to be on the campus on any Thursday morning from mid-June through the end of August.

Our garden buzzes with mini-farmers dressed up in sun hats, gloves, boots and any variety of "work" clothes. There they go! Watering cans, hoes, rakes, small shovels in hand to "Grow Something". Come thinning time, it is quite the process to make sure that plants are thinned and the weeds are pulled.

The children are growing seeds and starts...and they learn how to pull weeds and maintain their garden rows. The Master Gardener volunteers like to say they are growing gardeners. For some of our children, until they enter our program, they have never had the chance to grow anything. Imagine the children when they see the seeds and starts they planted turn into tomatoes, radishes, squash, beans, zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers, gourds, turnips and beets, lettuces and herbs.

Then the next magic begins when they pick their veggies and herbs. Too many of the children have never tasted the veggies that they are planting. We use their veggies during snack time and during the last class, the Harvest Party

where the youngsters and their families join together to make individual pizzas and rehash their summer experiences. They also proudly take produce home during the classes and take their parents on a harvesting tour on Harvest Party day.

The entire Children's Garden program depends on the Master Gardener volunteers. Each group of six children has a leader and a helper. We also need Floater volunteers who would prefer to work "behind the scenes". The Floater volunteers help to prepare the snacks, set-up the tables for the lessons and crafts, assist with the crafts and occasionally teach a lesson if they wish to do so.

We have room for ten groups of youngsters each summer. Five of the groups come every other week. We are looking for volunteers who are comfortable around children as children are more fun than you can imagine. The nice thing about our volunteer program is that you do not have to commit to every Thursday for the 12 weeks of the entire program but may only want to come every other week. All hours count toward your annual hours worked.

For the 2017 classes, we already have 54 children ready to join in the fun. That means we need 18 volunteers for the children's classes and 10 volunteers. That sounds like a lot of volunteers but if one person comes every week, that person counts for 2. We all have garden names. I am Patches and we have Grasshopper, Ivy, Ginko, Sunshine and Cedar as just a few of the names. Children come for classes from 9:30 to Noon. Please join us.

THANK YOU

We are excited to meet the 2017 Master Gardener Class and are happy to have you join the family. Many of you have just arrived from another area and we welcome you. If you have lived here for years and this is your first opportunity to participate in the largest Master Gardener organization in the state of Oregon, bravo. We are proud of our membership and hope you will find an area to volunteer that not only is rewarding to you personally but also teaches what you need to take home to your own gardens. If you have questions don't hesitate to ask. With so much going on information can be missed. There are so many areas to volunteer that it can be overwhelming trying to decide your best fit. All of us will help you any way we can.

Now I come to an important part for the Garden Beet. As Editor, I am always looking for writers. If you have always wanted to write yet haven't yet, try it. Send me what you have and I'll help. If you're an experienced writer, I want you. We write about gardening, new tips,



new products and we write about each other's accomplishments. The more we share the more our community benefits. Write cindy@clwnet.com and we can discuss ideas. You may have an idea already, as new students are an exciting part of our organization. You are our future teachers.

Cindy Williams
Master Gardener 2014

Partial List of Areas to Volunteer:

- * Gardens
- * Plant Clinic
- * Composting
- * Garden Beet, Website, Facebook
- * Classes
- * Spring Garden Fair
- * Winter Dream/Summer Gardens
- * Membership
- * Archives
- * TV Garden Spots
- * Community Education Classes

our volunteers are the best



Jackson County Master Gardener Association

Board of Directors Meeting –
December 2, 2016

NEW BUSINESS

We have 5 tickets to the National MGA Conference. Contact Eric Weisberg or Barbara Davidson if you are interested in going. If we receive more than 5 applications we will have a drawing to see who gets the free tickets. These will be offered only to JCMGA members so be sure to renew your membership.

Grange Co-op rebate – Many of us get a rebate for our purchases at the Grange Co-op but we also get one for JCMGA. All we have to do when we make a purchase is say we are Jackson County Master Gardeners and the purchases will go toward our rebate. Individuals don't get any credit unless they spend \$500 or more and even then it is minimal. As a group the rebate will be much more substantial.

New Carpeting - You may have noticed that our building was closed in December. The offices were moved to the auditorium while new carpet was installed.

New Board Members - There will be an orientation and pot luck for new Board Members on January 13. Please bring your directories which contain our Articles of Association and Bylaws.

SOMA – Glenn Risley suggested that we participate in an event with SOMA (Southern Oregon Monarch's Advocates) on January 7. It was agreed that we should participate and it is currently being advertised at <http://somonarchs.org/>. The event will be a house concert featuring Kelly's Lot which you can view at <http://www.kellyslot.com/>. Contact Glenn Risley if you would like to help with this event. SOMA is a fairly new grass roots organization.

REPORTS

Apprentice Coordinator – Linda Greenstone has met with

the new Apprentice Coordinator, Susan Koenig. She should be up to speed after several meetings in January although Linda will still be around when needed. She said she will miss seeing everyone in that capacity and said the job was fun for her.

Bench Committee – All the benches have been delivered and placed in the gardens thanks to Kari Gies and her husband Steve. Thank you, Steve. Mash poles and arrows have arrived and should be finished soon if they are not finished by the time this prints. The Welcome sign is in the works with Cindy Williams and Rhianna working on an OSU plaque which will hang over the board as well as the overall design of the sign. Linda Greenstone would like to



express her thank to all those who helped with the project.

Community Outreach – Meryl Bishop spoke to the Rogue River Garden Club using the topic of "Queen of Vines" in November. Speakers Bureau already has a number of presentation requests for 2017. November in the Food Security Garden was spent cultivating emergent weeds into the soil and preparing for a cover crop. The team removed all of the tomato plants and hauled them to the compost piles. Several meetings have been set for Seed to Supper with continuing host agencies: ACCESS, Family Nutrition Centers, and La Clinica. The Ashland Emergency Food Bank and the Phoenix Food Pantry have indicated an interest in hosting classes in 2017. The Oregon Food Bank is scheduled to provide instructor training on January 12. School Grant checks

for the 2016-2017 school year are being distributed to schools as approved by the Board at the November Board Meeting. We thank the Board for the additional allocation of \$500.

OSU Coordinator - We are recruiting Plant Clinic mentors from the 2016 class – 16 students were invited. 40 people have registered for the 2017 Master Gardener training and orientations are still underway. The 2017 class will have about 8-10 online students. We are assisting Roosevelt Elementary in setting up their school garden.

Practicum – The greenhouse is showing progress with French drains around the exterior with electrical and plumbing installed underground. The ground has been leveled and the floor has been laid. Ron Doshier had to resign so Victor Chieco and Doug Kirby will be working together as project managers. Virginia Brown and Jane Moyer continue to work with Rhianna Simes on the Practicum program contents.

Spring Garden Fair -

The SGF Co-chairs met with the Vendor Coordinators, Marcie Kaminker and Kathy Detweiler in November. Letters have been sent to the 2016 vendors inviting them back. Free booths to non-profits will be limited to 20 and snack booths will be limited to 4. There will be food trucks including a coffee truck outside. A tool sharpening booth is being considered as a fundraiser. The next SGF Committee meeting is scheduled for January 19. The list of major SGF positions was updated.

NEXT MEETING: January 6, 2017

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Mooers
Recording Secretary
Master Gardener 2014



**JACKSON COUNTY
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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 15th 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

2017 Classes

Tuesday, January 31 **Clay Support Group**
Saturday, February 11 **Protecting Pollinators: Benefits for Ecosystems & Food Security in Oregon**
Tuesday, February 21 **How to Create your own Food Forest**
Tuesday, February 28 **Mason Bees- Build it and they will come**
Thursday, March 9 **Companion Planting**
Saturday, March 18 **Seasonal Maintenance: Spring Clean**
Saturday, March 25 * **Spring Cultivation Techniques**
Saturday, April 1 **Organic Orchard Care**

<http://www.jacksoncountymga.org>