

The Greenhouse as Metaphor

by Kate Hassen, President, Master Gardener 2013



▲
Delphinium elatum

In the dead of winter, I would love to hibernate. At least that is what I tell myself. Reading and knitting, baking bread, sorting through the junk drawer and feeding the fire being my favorite activities in January. Quiet times with no schedule and no expectations. This is what I want to believe about myself.

A trip to the greenhouse can be an extension of my hibernation. It is warm and quiet and peaceful in the greenhouse. The plants grow at their own pace and sleep through the winter if they choose. I, too, enjoy the quiet, peaceful place to drink my second cup of coffee in the morning or a glass of wine in the evening. Just being with my plants is a soothing sensation, slowing my breathing and easing the tension in my muscles.

However, sometimes as I enter the greenhouse all those quiet thoughts go out the sliding glass door and my dreams of new projects for the spring flow in. Will I try delphiniums this year? Maybe they will make it this time. How about growing spinach in covered boxes to outwit the leaf miners? Can I grow succulents from seeds or leaf cuttings? It is those times, when I am not quiet, or reflective or sedate, that the real purpose of the greenhouse reveals itself.

A greenhouse nurtures the future.

It allows plants that would not survive through the winter in nature to live another year. It lets me take cuttings and grow them through the cold months. And it lets me start seeds earlier in the spring. All of this is about the future not the past. It is about resting and rejuvenating and planning for the spring...for the future.

And here is the place, where my private musings and the future of JCMGA merge. For greenhouses are literal and they are metaphorical. We, both myself and JCMGA, have real greenhouses that we use to grow plants for the future. In a matter of weeks our greenhouses will be filled with beautiful new seedlings that will be carefully nurtured until the Spring Garden Fair.

But beyond the literal meaning of greenhouse, JCMGA is itself a metaphorical greenhouse for gardeners. Our association educates and nurtures all gardeners in the art and science of gar-

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Julie's Garden Journal

by Julie Engleson, Master Gardener 2012

February is here and already there is plenty to do. I have just taken a look at my seed stock, and it is a sad mess. Despite my best efforts to store what was held over from the past three seasons (and yes, plastic, glass, and de-humidifying products were used) all leftovers need to be tossed. Fuzzy seeds are damaged seeds!

Next I took a look at my tools. I realized that last fall while my intentions were good, my follow-through was bad. I have some handles that need to be scrubbed and oiled, others that need sharpening and wire-wool cleaning. I also now need to replace at least two hoses. I had left them out in the extreme cold weather last month, and I'm sure they are cracked (do bear in mind these hoses have been in constant use for at least 12 years...maybe this was an unconscious motive?) In any event, I have my work cut out for me!

Cabbage, parsley, peas and lettuces seem like a healthy place to start. Yes, I have a greenhouse now, but haven't yet moved anything into my space, so these seeds will be planted in the gar-

den plot. My next move is to sterilize everything that will be going into the new greenhouse. My compost pile will need another turn and some additional manure so that it will be ready to use in the coming months. I did manage to get corrugated cardboard put down last fall on the spot where my tomatoes and beans grow, so that will be easier to reconfigure when the time comes.

Other than planting cold-weather crops, mobilizing tools and amendments, smooching your sweetheart on the Valentine's Day, and Presidents Day Pea Planting, consider doing a rain-or-snow dance! This part of the U.S. has yet to have a real winter, which may impact our water supplies during the coming dry months.

Best wishes to you all in your garden planning this year. Remember to try something new, or plant a row of something to share with neighbors or the MG food bank donations. The best thing you can possibly do is share the bounty that comes your way. Happy Gardening! ♦

Greenhouse...

by Kate Hassen, continued from front

dening. Children come each summer as seedlings to begin a love of gardening. Veteran Master Gardeners return for classes throughout the year. We are a veritable hothouse of life-long learning.

The Master Gardener Class of 2018 began on January 24th. A new group of excited students looking to the future arrived at the doors to the auditorium at 9:00 on that morning. I was there to welcome them as were other Master Gardeners. The period of resting and rejuvenating over, together we will begin to plan and plant anew. ♦

*Who loves a garden
loves a greenhouse, too.*

—William Cowper



It's time to Order your Onion Sets!

Walla Walla, Sweet Red River, Sweet White Ring Master, Copra Yellow Storage

Sampler: Walla Walla, Red and White

\$3 a bunch (50–70 starts)

Susan Bowden is taking orders! There is a sign-up sheet on the counter in front of Sheila's desk at the Extension.

Call or text Susan at 541-291-7678



Family Calls

From Rhianna Simes, Master Gardener 2007

Dear Master Gardener Friends—

I am writing to let you know that I have given my resignation as Jackson County Master Gardener program coordinator effective January 10, 2018. This has been a difficult decision, but I need to focus on my family at this time. I am thankful for my 10 years with the OSU Extension Service, and deeply value the relationships I have grown over the last decade.

I have tried several times to write what the Master Gardener community means to me, and honestly, I am at a loss for words. You are part of my family—my chosen family! I can feel a little piece of my heart tearing as I leave my position here. However, I have fallen deeply in love with my children and cannot see beyond that love. I am not moving away, just stepping back so that I can enjoy time with my babies. I now

understand that time really does go by fast while they are young...

So, I want you to know that I still want to work and play together, and I would love to teach for the program in the future! I still want to connect with ya'll!

The plan moving forward is that Jane Moyer will be the Master Gardener program contact starting 1/11/18, and she will also lead the 2018 Master Gardener training. You can contact Jane at janemoyer@connpoint.net

I have really appreciated our time together. If you want to stay in touch with me, my personal email is rhianna-simes@verdantphoenix.com

Thank you for your support and understanding! ❖

A Fond Farewell and a Welcoming

On January 10th, our friend Rhianna Simes officially resigned as OSU Master Gardener Coordinator to spend more time with her growing family. Although, she has been working for OSU since 2008, she has had held the MG Coordinator position since November of 2014. Her dedication to the Association was greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed. Jackson County Master Gardening Association sends her a resounding thank you for her service.

Jane Moyer has stepped forward to be the interim coordinator until May. OSU has already begun the process of selecting another MG Coordinator, so we will have someone to fill the position by May. JCMGA owes Jane a huge vote of thanks and a promise to be as helpful as we can until the new coordinator arrives.



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!

Remember

All Master Gardeners can attend Wednesday classes to receive educational and volunteer hours for required 2018 volunteer time.



Planning the Garden

by **Molly Courtney**, Master Gardener 2017



▲
Daylily, *Hemerocallis*

Spring is nearly here and it is about time to start planning your gardens. Planning the garden can be so much more than picking out seeds, and thinking about what colors to see throughout the season or what foods you want to be eating 3-6 months from now. The process involves making decisions on how we want to personally change the environment around us and how we can work in harmony with nature. Taking the time every year to visualize the space in its ever-changing complexity can be a wonderful exercise in mindfulness. As gardeners we are blessed to have endless opportunities to interact with all aspects of life this planet has to offer us. We have the ability to act as not only stewards to nature but also as artists of nature, working with all elements available to us to provide a space with beauty and life.

Nature's longer cultivations are seen in the slow growing stones that develop over millions of years, we utilize them to border our gardens and walk ways, choosing the largest of these gifts as central design points in our outdoor spaces. We take the time to plant and maintain trees that will outlive us and bring shade for the next generation to enjoy. In choosing to interact with nature with patience knowing that the apple tree we choose to plant will be delicious (we just need to wait six years to try it), we are rewarded with the fruits of our labor for decades. At the same time we choose to work with delicate and vibrant annual flowers, that we plant for only one reason, which is to make the world a more beautiful place.

Gardening is about
engaging and
strengthening your
relationship with
the various living
organisms of this
earth...

Through the course of the upcoming seasons the fruits of your gardening will bring food not only to you and your loved ones, also to the various wildlife, the birds, the deer, the gophers who will leave gifts of fertilizer and freshly disturbed soil ready for planting. Your gardens will be habitats for the smallest of ladybugs and spiders helping to control the populations of other insects

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that can cause harm to your vegetables. By planting colorful flowers you will be building relationships with bees that will in turn pollinate the rest of your garden, providing you with fruits and seeds. The soils you build will establish a healthy environment for microbes and fungi that will establish symbiotic relationships that nourish your plants.

By taking the time to learn about each of the living things we work with and looking at our interactions with them we can enhance their health and vitality for the portion of their existence we interact with them, making sure they have the correct nutrients, sunlight, and water. In exchange for your stewardship and attention the environment can gift you with an abundance of food, medicine, and beauty.

Gardening is about engaging and strengthening your relationship with the various living organisms of this earth regardless of their physical size or what type of time scale they exist on, you have the ability to impact all of them in a unique and wonderful way. I encourage you to take the time while planning your garden to think on all of the ways you will be blessed to interact with the various aspects of this world throughout this year's gardening journey. Explore your creativity, strengthen that relationship you have with nature and get ready to plan this year's garden adventure. ♦



SAVE THE DATE

Jackson County
Master Gardener™
Association

spring garden fair 2018



Jackson County EXPO
1 Peninger Road
Central Point OR 97502

Saturday May 5th 9 - 5pm
Sunday May 6th 10 - 4pm
Over 100 Exhibitors

Free Parking
General Admission: \$3
Ages 12 and under: free

<http://www.jacksoncountymga.org>
541-776-7371



digital artist: luigi bogni, master gardener



Gardening Gourmet — A Wee Key for Your Love

by Syd Brown, Master Gardener 2000



▲
Male Hardy Kiwi in bloom

*We search the world
To where two oceans part
Seeking out that special gift
To warm our true love's
Waiting heart*

What better way to exalt the heart of your true love and your garden with a Valentine's Day surprise. Of course there must be chocolate but long after the last piece has disappeared, a pair (or more) of *Actinidia arguta* vines ensconced with bows will still be cherished for years to come.

While those romantically inclined may find offering a gift named *Actinidia*

arguta to their sweetheart strange, think again. Once dubbed Yang tao and Chinese gooseberry, then Melonette in the 1950's, then finally Kiwi (after their namesake, Kiwi, the official bird in New Zealand and remarkably similar in appearance as the fruit), these delectable grape-sized berries have come to be known as grape, arctic cocktail and dessert Kiwi. Now those are certainly gift-worthy fruit names.

Native to northern China, Siberia, Korea and possibly Japan, *Actinidia arguta*, is loaded with healthy nutrients such as antioxidants, an excellent source of Vitamin C, (over 100% daily requirements well beyond a banana or orange), fiber, calcium and Vitamin A to mention a few. Of course, such facts might not necessarily be what one's gardening love might desire to find written in their Valentine card. However, informing them that this cold-tolerant miniature baby kiwi made their debut in 1992 on Hurst's Berry Farm right here in Sheridan, Oregon should elicit a benevolent smile.

Although their grape-sized fruits may be petite compared to their hairy cousins, their intensely-sweet flavor packs a powerful punch. With edible-furless-skin these little beauties, from emerald green to appropriately red, not only don't melt in your hand but are sublime snacks one can simply pop in their mouth. Hardy kiwi vines will also last some 50 years beyond that last piece of heart-shaped chocolate, producing multitudes of fruits seasons to come.

Ah but the love match doesn't end quite here. Since most Kiwi vines, including the hardy grape type, are

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dioecious (as with most living things they need a pollinating partner to produce offspring fruits) what a more appropriate time to make a match. One male can sustain a small harem of six females.

With vigorous/heavy vines eventually reaching to around 10-12 feet, they need to be trained on sturdy structures. (If you're creative, you might even shape them in to a heart if desired.) Prune in winter to retain shapes removing dead, weak, vertical and vegetative stems (those with further spaced buds that produce only leaves as opposed to those with close-coupled fruit-bearing spurs). Cut remaining back to length of fruit-bearing shorter canes.

These more delicate vines also offer lovely elongated serrated-edged leaves accompanied with half-inch white or cream lightly-fragrant blossoms unfurling in singlet or triplet crowns between May and June. With little bothering these lovely plants, you should be gifted with fruits (harvest in autumn partly ripe, slipping off when touched) in three to five years.

Planted in a well-drained mainly sunny spot (some varieties need more afternoon shade), well irrigated and given high-nitrogen fertilizer during the growing season, the hardy kiwi should gift you delightful fruits for snacking, pairing with sweet or savory dishes, and benefit bees for many years to come.

Allergy warning: If you're allergic to latex, pineapple or papaya you could also be allergic to Kiwi's protein-dissolving enzyme, actinidin. You may want to investigate before investing in vines whose fruits you may not be able to tolerate. ❖

Hearts of Kiwi Tarts

Pastry

Preheat oven to 400°

½ cup each white whole wheat flour (or gluten free alt.) and almond flour

3 tablespoons coconut sugar

¼ teaspoon salt

½ cup unsalted sweet cream butter

3-4 tablespoons ice cold half and half (can use soy or other non-dairy alternative)

Mix flours, sugar and salt in food processor. Cut cold butter in chunks then add to flour mix and pulse just until blended like very coarse cornmeal. Add 3 tablespoons cream then pulse about 20 seconds until ball forms. Add another tablespoon cream if necessary for dough to form.

Roll out dough to about ¼" thick and cut to fit 6 small individual tartelette pans. Fit in pan and crimp edge then prick bottoms with fork. Bake in preheated oven for about 15-20 minutes until golden. Remove and cool in pans.

Filling

1 pkg unflavored gelatin

½ pint whipping cream

4 oz cream cheese

Zest and juice from one organic lime

3 tablespoons organic sugar

2 5oz containers low fat lime Greek yogurt

In microwave bowl, mix gelatin with ½ the whipping cream then heat in microwave until no granules remain. Stir in remaining cream and chill until it just starts to gel. Mix cream cheese with sugar until softened. Slowly stir in cream and lime zest. Whip until stiff peaks form. Add in lime juice and yogurt whipping until incorporated. Spoon mixture into cooled tartelette pans and refrigerate.

Topping

About 1-1½ cups kiwi berries (can be mixed red and green or just one kind),
Washed and dried on toweling

Apple jelly, preferably organic or homemade

1 tablespoon finely minced fresh mint

Slice kiwis in half crosswise and place in medium sized bowl. Heat apple jelly with mint until melted. Pour over kiwi berries and very gently stir until coated. Carefully spoon berries on top of tartelettes. Chill about one hour before serving topped with a sprig of fresh mint.

Board of Directors Meeting January 5, 2018

by Keri Couvrette, Master Gardener 2017

Some JCMGA meetings are more festive than others, and while January's meeting was simple after our fabulous and delicious December meeting, it was poignant and productive. We are starting the new year off with some sad good-byes, but also with some very exciting hellos!

Announcements

President Hassen presented Rhianna with a thank-you gift. Rhianna has submitted her resignation as Master Gardener Coordinator. Jane Moyer will be the interim Master Gardener Coordinator until May 2018.

President's Report

President Hassen informed the board that Sandy Hammond will serve as co-chair of Marketing and Publicity with Cindy Williams.

Rhonda Bagwill submitted her resignation as assistant treasurer. Gayle Stets was appointed to fill the position; the board gave Gayle a round of applause.

Board Retreat

The board is gathering together for a retreat on January 19th, 2018. A variety of topics were put forward for discussion including fundraising, recruitment, retention, working together, and improving communication.

Grants Committee

Susan Koenig reported that one grant for the Whole Kids Foundation has been submitted. Roberta Heinz is currently working on a grant for the Chaney Family Foundation. The new Grant Committee was formed, it consists of: Susan Koenig, Roberta Heinz, Bill Gabriel, Kristina Lafever, and Cindy Tilley Case.

Next Meeting

February 2, 2018

Calendar

| Date | Title | Time | Instructor |
|---------------|---|-------------|--|
| Thur, Feb 1 | Pollinator Habitat | 2–4pm | Andony Melathopoulos OSU Asst. Professor Pollinator Health |
| | A Small, Thoughtful, Committed Pollinator Habitat (in your garden) Can Change the World. Pollinator populations are under stress from all sides. The good news is that these damaging effects can be reversed through the retention or restoration of small bits of natural habitat. This class will dive deep into how to create pollinator habitat. | | |
| Thur, Feb 1 | What is the Oregon Bee Project? | 6–8pm | Andony Melathopoulos OSU Asst. Professor Pollinator Health |
| | Oregon has 500 species of bees. Learn who these bees are and some of the weird and wonderful features of their lives along with an overview of a state-wide strategy to keep Oregon bee-friendly. | | |
| Tues, Feb 27 | The Scientific Garden | 6:30–8:30pm | Maureen Battistella |
| | Scientific Garden has its founding in the medieval medical and culinary garden, but since then has come to represent a wide variety of gardens that may be illusional or real. This presentation reviews the origins of the scientific garden and traces its evolution to modern times. Of special note will be the hardscape and plantings of the garden that fronts the US Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon. | | |
| Sat, Mar 17 | Edible and Useful Native Plants | 1–3pm | Erin Krenzer, Master Gardener |
| | Native plants are easier to grow and better for the local environment than many cultivated varieties. In this class, students will learn about all of the edible or useful native plants that they could incorporate onto their landscape. | | |
| Thur, April 5 | Family Seed Starting | 4–6pm | Roberta Heinz and the JCMGA Children's Garden staff |
| | Kids and parents will team up to learn to plant seeds successfully. Every family will go home with sown seeds to raise inside until the weather is right for transplanting them into the garden. | | |

Pre-register online <http://bit.ly/JacksonMG2017>
or call 541-776-7371



Could You Save for Us?

by Roberta Heinz, Master Gardener 2012



▲
Happy gardeners revel in last season's bountiful harvest.

The Children's Garden is, once again, asking you for some help. Could you please save soup-sized cans for us. We need the kinds that do NOT open with a pull tab. Last year you helped us accumulate nearly 200 cans for the Children's Garden booth at the SGF. We used all of them and ran out early on Sunday. We had more than 270 children visit our booth. We paint the cans, put drain holes in the bottom of them and use them for the children to plant a Marigold. The children decorate their "planters" so we need to make sure there are no sharp edges to cut their fingers — that's why no pull top cans.

We are also asking you to save the containers that rotisserie chickens come in (like those from Costco). We are going to use the containers in one of the les-

sons on planting and they make great mini-greenhouses for their seeds.

There will be a box behind the counter in front of Sheila. The box will be emptied every week. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated.

On another note, we are expecting a full enrollment of children this year. That means 72 children will be participating in the program. In order to fully serve these children, we need volunteers. The classes begin the week after school is out in June and go through the last week in August. The hours are Thursdays from 8:30 until about noon. We are looking for volunteers who would like to take a group of 6 children to help them become gardeners. We have volunteers who come every week but we are also looking for volunteers willing to come every other week and take a group of children. It is fun to work with the children and we have a great program planned. The time you spend with the children goes towards your volunteer hours. If you are interested, call Roberta Heinz at 541-857-0357 and she will answer all of your questions about the Children's Garden program. ❖



10 Best Selling Perennials at Spring Garden Fair

JCMGA Practicum preparation for Spring Fair is just starting and we need your help. We have identified our 10 Best Selling Perennials. If you have any of these in your garden please consider dividing them and donating the divisions to the Practicum starting January 24th.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Peonies | 6. Monarda (Bee Balm) |
| 2. Rhubarb | 7. Penstemon |
| 3. Hosta | 8. Echinacea |
| 4. Hellebore | 9. Heuchera |
| 5. Dicentra (Bleeding Heart) | 10. Herbs (chives, thyme, oregano) |

We are also looking for 1-3 foot rooted trees and shrubs.

But wait... think creatively about what else might be in your garden that could be divided and donated. How about ground covers or succulents? Berries or horseradish? Ferns or grasses? You never know what might be this year's bestseller!

Spring Garden Fair donations should preferably be delivered in the month of February to ensure big beautiful plants by spring. However, plants will be accepted until April 1st. Please bring all donations any Wednesday (9–11am) in a non-returnable container and place them by the mailbox in front of the big greenhouse. Inside the mailbox are donation forms. Please fill out the form and place it in a plastic bag (also in the mailbox). Remember to place the bag with your donation.

Questions? Please email Kate Hassen at roseknitter1@gmail.com

Thanks in advance to all those who are donating!





The Master Gardener Class of 2018

by Jane Moyer, Master Gardener 2005

After seeing each new class join the Jackson County Master Gardener Program for the last 13 years (since I was a student), I have come to realize that each has its own characteristics and personality! The Class of 2018 is no exception.

After meeting these students in small group orientation sessions and on the first day of class, I can testify that, they are a group that loves to have fun, they are enthusiastic, and they are one of the youngest groups I can remember. (Maybe it's just that I'm seeing each class with older eyes, but these students seem refreshingly lacking in the gray-hair department.)

With registration extended until the second class, the total number of students is 50 but still in flux at the writing of this article. Three on-line students are included as well as three JCMGA members who have decided to retake the course. We also have one student who took the class in another state and wants to retake it in her new home locale.

Twelve come from both Medford and Ashland, with ten hailing from Central Point, six from Jacksonville, three from Rogue River, two each from Eagle Point and Talent, while one comes from Grants Pass, Trail, Shady Cove, and Gold Hill. Thirty-six are female and 14 male.

Of special note this year are two students who demonstrate a little of the effect that the Master Gardeners program makes on the local community. One of the students graduated from OSU with help from a JCMGA scholarship. Another is taking the class after winning a gift certificate for the registration fee in the raffle booth at the Spring Garden Fair last year. (This guy is super lucky, he also won the greenhouse that was raffled off the year before!)

Welcome to all of you! We hope this is one of the best experiences of your life!



Peggy's Propagation

by Peggy Corum, Master Gardener 1989

Let's see: where are we? Spring, or winter? Walk in the sun, or strap on the skis? Depends upon which window you look out of! One day at a time! Even the plants and trees are confused. In the garden we see little green noses trying to peek out of stem nodes. And here come the daffodils. Hopes are high they won't resent whatever weather we get tomorrow, next week, next month! Today I counted a half dozen toms gathering up their hen friends to scurry through my yard. I do think Spring Fever is sneaking in. Hooray!

Next, the visions of Spring Fair urge full steam ahead. Latest check on the Kaffir Lime cuttings says "ok." Still green. No droopy drawers or crispy critters. We'll still take any kind thoughts you'd like to send their way. It takes a village. We will also take any suggestions that come this way about what you would like propagated. We're open and any little "switches" you want to bring by the Extension will be considered, welcomed and appreciated. We are open Wednesday, 10am to noon, in the propagation area. Thank you! ♦

Free 2018 Webinars for Master Gardeners

Dr. Brooke Edmunds (Extension Master Gardener Faculty in Oregon) is once again hosting free, advanced training webinars for Master Gardeners. While the presenters and focus tends towards Oregon, the topics would be of broad interest to MGs, in general.

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/ediblegardens/2018/01/02/spring-2018-webinars-master-gardeners/>

Spring 2018 Advanced Training Webinars for Master Gardeners

2/12, 10am [Hybridization and Tetraploids and Chromosomes, Oh My! Understanding Plant Breeding for Disease Resistance](#)

Dr. Ryan Contreras

3/12, 11am [Identifying & Managing the Bronze Birch Borer](#)

Nicole Sanchez

4/16, 11am [Powdery mildew: Biology & Management in the Garden](#)

Dr. Jay Pscheidt

Beet Box

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Check Your Spring Garden Fair Calendar!

Spring Garden Fair Meetings
All at 10am in the auditorium

- February 22
- March 22
- April 5
- April 12
- April 19
- April 26
- May 1



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JACKSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

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