

June 2018



Greetings from Fairbanks, Alaska

by **Kate Hassen**, President, Master Gardener 2013



As I begin writing this morning I am gazing out over the Tanana Valley through a forest of aspen and paper birch trees just sprouting their kitten-ear foliage. Although I have traveled here to spend time with my son and his family for about 20 years I have never arrived in May before. I have seen these trees against a winter snow scape and in the full leaf of summer but never have I seen the first blush of spring in a tapestry of green across the valley.

I did not expect to find a gardening community in Fairbanks. With winter temperatures regularly falling into the minus 40's and below I didn't see how anyone could have a garden in such inhospitable conditions. I was wrong! Over the years I have seen how the ingenuity of gardeners can overcome what might seem impossible and produce gardens in the short season of the midnight sun.

My son and his family have produced full-sized winter squash in a 4-foot-deep raised bed with two feet of fresh goat manure in the bottom which provides the needed extra heat. And my dad has grown potatoes within stacks of truck tires. Zucchini grows so well that they have trouble giving it away in Fairbanks, too. And wonderful baskets of flowers are seen on the poles and porches of this city.

Although growing tomatoes, as a rule, is limited mainly to pots and must be the short season varieties developed specifically for Alaska, people are able to get a few red beauties before the shorter days and cooler temperatures of August end the growing season.

A wonderful exception to the rule is the greenhouse I visited at Chena Hot Springs one cold January several years ago. The family traveled the 50 miles from Fairbanks in the twilight of a

January day on icy roads that the rest of us in the lower forty-eight would shudder to drive upon. The hot springs have been developed into an indoor heated swimming pool, an outdoor hot tub and a natural pool. I tried them all. And just like Goldilocks, the swimming pool was too cold, and the natural pool was too hot. But the hot tub was just right!

After soaking, we dressed and went to the restaurant for lunch. (And here is where the greenhouses come in.) The hot springs not only supply the hot water for soaking, they have been harnessed to also supply heat and electricity to run the greenhouses that supply many of the vegetables we were eating.

We took a tour of the facilities after lunch. There were several sleeping lodges, a power plant, an ice bar and two large greenhouses. It was a neck snapping to see the contrast between the ice bar, complete with stools, where lodgers were drinking hot toddies in the shelter of a huge igloo to the two large greenhouses complete with tomatoes right next door!

We were only allowed to enter the airlock of the greenhouses and peek through to the growing floor, but it was enough for me to see that here in the middle of a frozen taiga forest in the middle of January, people were growing tomatoes using the hot springs for heat and electricity.

Looking into the future, I see no reason to doubt that on some distant day a gardener will grow tomatoes on Mars.❖

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow. —Audrey Hepburn



A Few Last Words Again

by Jane Moyer, Master Gardener 2005

It is said "Life is what happens while you are making other plans." So true, so true as I have once again discovered. I thought our new MG Coordinator would be arriving before the June Garden Beet came out and I would be happily conquering the weeds in my yard.

It seems, however, the OSU wheels turn more slowly than my wheels. As of the writing of this column, a contract hasn't yet been signed and no announcement can be made until that happens. That's OK with me! I'm still enjoying keeping the MG Coordinator chair warm!

The Master Gardener year runs November—October, which seems to be a good parallel for how gardens operate. Just as our gardens have seasons, so, too, does the Master Gardener Program.

In Season One (winter) plants are busy doing the underground work, developing strong root structures. Veteran Master Gardeners do the same by developing their knowledge base by attending the Winter Dreams Summer Gardens Symposium, reading gardening books, and planning for their next garden improvements. Meanwhile, in the program, the new Master Gardener class begins and students are also developing their gardening knowledge.

Season Two (spring) finds our plants putting out new growth in stems, branches, leaves, buds, and flowers, just as the new baby Master Gardeners are starting to blossom forth with their developing skills in preparation for the Spring Garden Fair and the plant sales.

Most plants are in their fullest glory in Season Three (summer). Likewise, the students are displaying what they have learned in both the Demonstration Gardens and their own gardens.

Finally, Season Four (fall) rolls around. It's harvest time! We celebrate the bounty of our hard work at the MG Picnic. The students reap their well-earned badges at the annual Graduation and Awards Banquet. And the cycle begins anew with planning for the coming year and the next class of students.

As I repeat these seasons over and over, and especially when I'm alone in my garden, I can get very philosophical comparing human life to the life of plants. Although not an exact correlation to life in the garden, here are some guiding thoughts that keep me on an even keel. (Thanks to Virginia Brown for giving me this!)

KEYS TO LIFE

Breathe deeply.

Avoid excess.

Love yourself.

Speak with good purpose.

Complete your agreements.

Reduce waste in your body and your life.

Tell the truth quickly.

Forgive yourself again and again and again.

Calendar

Tuesday, June 19, 6–8pm Weed Management

Maude Powell,
Small Farms Program

The first step to conquering weeds is learning to identify them. A management plan can then be formulated using an integrated weed program.

Thursday, July 12, 5:30–7:30pm Cool Season Vegetables

Christina Bixel, Master Gardener

This class will address the best varieties and optimum planting times for fall and overwintering vegetables along with simple ways to create a year-round harvest.

Thursday, Aug. 23, 6–8pm Preparing Your Soil for Winter

Scott Goode, Master Gardener

Learn how to use techniques like cover crops, mulches, and tarping to turn winter and early spring into productive periods in your garden calendar. Using nitrogen fixing winter crops and soil biology to work for you, will save you time and money come planting time next spring.

Thursday, Sept. 13, 6–8pm Yoga for Gardeners

Adrienne Eisenberg, Yoga Therapist

Sustainable gardening applies to how you treat your body just as it does to the methods you rely on for healthy soil and plants. This class will focus on giving gardeners the tools they need for strengthening and lengthening the muscles needed to maintain healthy alignment which will support you in your gardening and in your life. Bring a yoga mat if you have one. (Some will be available at the class.)

Pre-register online
JacksonMGWorkshops
or call 541-776-7371

Winter Dreams Summer Gardens

20th annual Gardening Symposium
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

RCC/SOU Higher Education Center
101 S Bartlett Street, Medford, OR

REGISTRATION FEE \$45
includes lunch and free parking

Over 30 classes cover topics such as...

- soil composition and health,
- building and maintaining raised beds,
- attracting pollinators,
- using native plants in your landscape,
- and much, much more!

For information about classes and schedules,
online registration and payment, visit:
www.jacksoncountymga.org

Student discounts and scholarships available





A Wonderful Weekend

by **Molly Courtney**, Master Gardener 2017



I hope every one of you has had a chance to relax, put your feet up, and enjoy your own garden for a bit. You deserve it. The 39th annual Spring Garden Fair took place on the weekend of May 5th and 6th, and it could not have been done without the hard work and help of all of the Jackson County Master Gardeners.

This year we were blessed with warm sunny weather to accompany what many in the Rogue Valley considered to be a wonderful start to their summer gardening season. This event is the largest fundraising event of the year for our association and the one that allows us to interact with the greater community in the biggest way. It is estimated that between 6,000 and 7,000 people from all over Southern Oregon came to the Jackson County Expo in search of

new plants and garden inspirations. As always the building was packed, inside and out, with over a hundred local vendors and farms, and more varieties of tomatoes than anyone could name. What the attendees also found was an amazing group of people from their community who love to get their hands dirty and share their love of plants and gardening with everyone around them in any way they can.

The weekend featured several educational opportunities for the public. Knowledgeable presenters gave demonstration classes on several subjects ranging from pollinator gardens to deer proof gardens and table grapes to succulents. The plant clinic was there to answer anyone's questions throughout the weekend. Well water nitrate testing and information was also avail-

able. The Master Gardener program was well represented by its volunteers as an educational resource for the garden needs and questions of the people of Jackson County.

After sponsoring an event as an organization for 39 years it becomes a well-oiled machine where it all comes together in a way that makes it appear effortless to anyone in attendance. However, we all know that an incredible amount of work it took to make this year's event so stellar. Some of you planted the seeds and cared for the plants, some donated books or perennials, and many of you donated your time. It would be nearly impossible to list all of the things that were done to bring this event together, but the reason it all comes together so well is due to the level of care and commitment within all of the members the Jackson County Master Gardener Association.

A special thank you goes to the Spring Garden Fair committee co-chairs, Kate, Jane, Linda, and Sandy. They did a fantastic job organizing this years event and appreciation goes to every Master Gardener that volunteered their time and energy into making the weekend a success not only as a fundraising opportunity but also as a way to engage with the greater gardening community. ♦





Julie's Garden Journal

by Julie Engleson, Master Gardener 2012

Happy happy summer, everyone! This is The Season we wait for so patiently. The weather has been so lovely. I prefer a slow-Spring, where the lilacs get to fully bloom and their perfume envelopes the garden. As we have had two late, fairly wet Springs in a row, I have noticed some older plants with deeper roots putting on more growth and developing fuller blossoms (think Quince, Bridal Wreath and Spiraea). I even had a few gladioluses start popping up in an area where they hadn't grow in over 20 years; water was the only factor that made a difference!

So, if you haven't already planted your cucumbers, melons, potatoes and corn, now's the time. Pumpkins, peppers and tomatoes can go in as well. In the event we get a hard rain following a thunderstorm have those covers handy. They will help keep the plants from blossom dropping or damage due to rain. If you're a fan of eggplant, it can also safely be transplanted into the garden this month. Successive planting is something I'm already doing with green onions and lettuces. Some brassia plants are already starting to bolt: namely kale and Chinese cabbage. I haven't decided yet whether or not to let them go to seed or pull them up and plant more

starts for August. A few years ago, I allowed my broccoli to go to seed, and I had a spontaneous, surprise broccoli crop later in the fall that I did not plant.

For all the amazing science we now have at our fingertips, making it so easy to grow just about anything, I still marvel at old wisdom. The awareness of changing seasons, making observations in nature and using them as cues to time planting. Nature has a unique way of nudging us in the right direction if we are paying attention. I watch for sunflowers popping up from birds' scattering them and know when its time to plant them! It is these bits of wisdom, the observations, we gardeners gather. We also have the grand backyard experiment each year we call The Garden and if you're taking notes, the trial-and-error method has become a learning curve by which we measure our successes. I even count my failures as successes, as I have gained awareness and knowledge.

Remember, allow nature to show you something new. Observe wildlife in your garden. Plant plenty of flowers this summer for our friends the honeybees...and don't forget to have a good time while playing in the soil! Happy gardening everyone! ♦



Nature has a unique way of nudging us in the right direction if we are paying attention.



Edible Brilliant Bloomers

by Syd Brown, Master Gardener 2000



▲
Tropaeolum majus

Nasturtiums top the world of edible flowers with not only their peppery punch for the taste buds but also with their brilliant blooms. They're easily sown to sprout from boxes, containers, raised beds or climb upon trellises or fences.

Nasturtium, which literally means "nose twister" in Latin for its flavorful flowers, buds and young leaves, will surely knock your socks off with their peppery pungency. Rich in vitamins A, C, and D, buds and immature seed pods may be used as substitutes for real capers when pickled.

Descending from two main species native to Peru (brought to Europe by Spanish conquistadors late 15th to

early 16th century), plants were used medicinally and as a vegetable by the 17th century Incas. *Tropaeolum majus*, a trailer, was first on the scene followed later by *Tropaeolum minus* (developed by a Dutch botanist), a bushier variety. They showed up by 1759 in the US planted by Thomas Jefferson in his vegetable garden. During the 19th century variegated foliage and spurless blossoms that bloomed above the leaves made an appearance.

These brilliant bloomers thrive more from neglect rather than riches. Go light with nitrogen-rich compost and skip supplemental feedings. They actually prefer sandier-well-drained somewhat damp soils in areas with partial afternoon shade.

Although a bit late, sowing nasturtium seed is still possible. After selecting bed, plot or patio pot, sow seeds about ½" deep spacing about 4"–6" apart in pots and 8"–10" apart in open spaces. Cover with light sandy-loam mix then water thoroughly. In about 5–7 days the first sprouts will appear. Keep bed well moistened and free of weeds. Hose off any aphid infestations. Nasturtiums actually repel these offenders off other plants.

Soon you'll have with huge array of vibrant colors. Flowers can range from pastel yellow, pink and cream to those of neon orange, red, yellow and deep scarlet to double camellia-like apricot splashed with raspberry streaks. Even the leaves add heightening accents with rich emerald, bluish greens, and striated with white variegation.

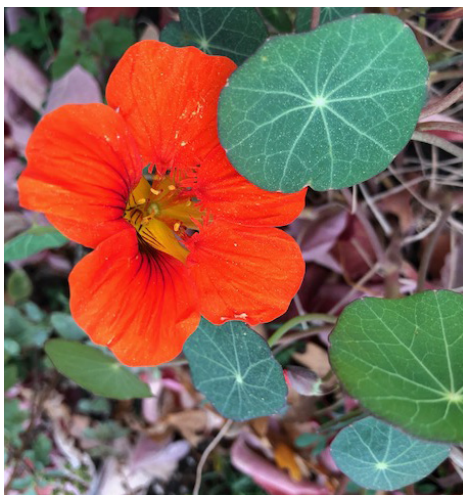
Whether tethered to a trellis or peeking from pots, soon you'll be enjoying

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not only these long-lasting cut flowers but find their flowers, young leaves and buds a vibrant as well pungent accent for your favorite summer time recipe.

Flowers can range from pastel yellow, pink and cream to those of neon orange, red, yellow and deep scarlet to double camellia-like apricot splashed with raspberry streaks.



Nasturtium Salad

Vinaigrette

- 3 tablespoons unrefined avocado oil
- 3 tablespoons raw honey
- 1 clove of garlic, peeled and pressed
- 1/8 teaspoon of sea salt
- 1/4 cup rice wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons frozen mango-orange-pineapple juice concentrate, undiluted
- 1 organic lime zested and juiced
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh tarragon leaves

Place all ingredients in a small jar with tight fitting lid and shake until well blended about 2 hours before preparing salad.

Salad

- 1 cup small nasturtium leaves, washed
- 2 dozen nasturtium flowers more or less, rinsed and trimmed from stems (a mixture of colors is more exciting)
- 4-6 cups mixed leaf lettuces, rinsed and drained
- 4 organic clementines or two organic oranges, rinsed, peeled and sectioned
- 2 organic chilled medium roasted or steamed gold beets, peeled and sliced vertically in half then in thin wedges
- 1" piece of fresh ginger root, peeled, cut crosswise very thinly then in narrow julienne strips
- 1 cup fresh organic red or gold raspberries, rinsed
- 1/2 cup shelled pistachio nuts

In a large serving bowl place, nasturtium leaves, arugula, clementine or orange sections, and beets and ginger root. Pour over some of vinaigrette and gently toss until all is coated adding more vinaigrette if needed. Place salad on four salad plates. Top with raspberries, pistachio nuts and nasturtium flowers then serve. Serves 4



Hello from the Road

by **Cindy Williams**, Master Gardener 2014

Can you believe it's already June? Plants are in full bloom and the wonder of tomatoes ripening on the vine is happening right before our eyes. There is a saying; if you want to be happy for a year plant a garden but if you want to be happy for life plant a tree. We gardeners are easy to please as we take what comes along and embrace it and don't expect everything to be perfect.

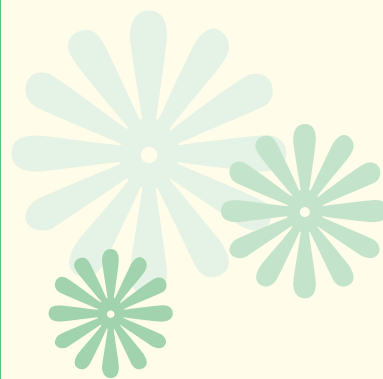
Having been on the RV road since October, it's clear that I find this country amazing. I am in Virginia, it's pouring rain and the green landscape is lush. Yesterday we visited the Natural Bridge in Natural Bridge, Virginia. It has been privately owned until 2016 and is now a state park. Along the trail is a *Thuja occidentalis* or white cedar which even though it died in 1980 the petrified looking tree was estimated to be 1600 years old. The entire area is worth seeing.

I wasn't sure what to expect however farmers markets are the same as in Medford with friendly growers that are proud of their crops. The tomatoes, cucumbers, or potatoes aren't perfect or all the same grocery store uniform size but the taste is beyond expectation and much appreciated. We have experienced local fresh Amish butter, dark unfiltered honey and have eaten micro greens with a heavenly nutty taste. These greens seem to be "sprouting" up in all the local farmers markets.

I hope you all had a great Spring Garden Fair and appreciate all the volunteer hours you worked. Coming up are the Children's Garden classes lead by Roberta Heinz. Remember, if you teach a child to garden they will never go hungry. If you would like to volunteer contact Roberta. Just working with her is a treat! ♦



Above: Due to the rain, the creek has risen five feet and has closed most of the walkways. We were lucky to visit before the closings. Below: This White Cedar died in 1980 however due to its age it will be left in the park.



Show your support when you shop at the Grange Co-op!

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!

GRANGE CO-OP
FARM • HOME • GARDEN • PET



In the Garden

by **Maxine Cass**, Master Gardener 2015

Did you plant tomatoes by Mother's Day, around May 15th? Thousands of "In the Garden" viewers took Ronnie Budge's timing recommendation and used the tomato trench planting method after seeing her on-air demo. Jane Moyer planted hanging baskets last month, and Teresa Reavis showed how to divide ever-prolific succulents using one of her all-time favorite "guys," an aloe vera plant.

Robin McKenzie talked about living mulches and Maxine Cass showed a variety of native plants with tips on layering them for visual effect. Rhianna Simes showed current KDRV-TV "In the Garden" host, Anne Campolongo, the reality of pesky insects. First up was the lure of beer in a dish to take care of snails and slugs, along with two live slugs scarfing on well-chewed collards to show the pesky critters' damage. Rhianna's series on pesky insects continued with another garden "eeuww," earwigs.

Rhonda Nowak began a Shakespeare's flowers series with a gardeners' favorite, mints. This month, Rhonda returns with more Shakespeare flowers (have you seen the "Love's Labour's Lost" Tudor era Shakespeare Knot Garden that Rhonda designed, installed and debuted at Hanley Garden in May?).

It's herb season with Maxine covering culinary uses and Robin showing ornamental herbs.

Heucheras (coral bells) for the shade garden, more on succulents, and Jane Moyer planting another garden stalwart, carrots, will air in June.

2 Ways to Watch!

"In the Garden" is live on Wednesday and Friday on KDRV's NewsWatch Midday hour (between 11 am and noon; "In the Garden" usually airs close to 11:20 am). Both segments are rebroadcast on KDRV-TV on the following Saturday and Sunday during the 8-9 am hour. If you missed your fellow Master Gardeners, most segments go up on the KDRV website (www.kdrv.com). Look for the Features tab at the top; then choose In the Garden from the drop-down menu) within a few days of the broadcast.

As always, your Master Gardener speakers like feedback and hope you're watching.

If you have a plant or plant family, technique, or plant/garden subject you'd like to see a speaker cover on-air, please let "In the Garden" co-chairs Linda Holder and Maxine Cass know. Your friends and neighbors' ideas are welcome, too. ❖



Teresa Reavis In the Garden:
Planting Cactus



Robin McKenzie In the Garden:
Milkweed



Rhianna Simes In the Garden:
Pesky Insects Snails Slugs



Maxine Cass In the Garden:
Fire Resistant Plants



Board of Directors Meeting, May11, 2018

by Keri Couvrette, Master Gardener 2017

Announcements

The Plant Family boxes the Master Gardener class of 2018 made are on display in the SOREC auditorium now.

The Children's garden received a grant for \$2,200 from the Chaney Family Foundation.

Monday May 14, 2018 9:00-12:00 there will be a group effort to clean up the compost area. Then it will be clearly marked and no more compost from home will be accepted. We can then start fresh with the new season. This will help us to see what is needed for our gardens as far as compost needs.

A tarp was donated by Sandy Hammond to be a shade cloth for the greenhouse in the Children's Garden.

Jane Moyer reported the new Master Gardener Coordinator is still in process. By mid-June we should have the new Coordinator, Jane will continue until then.

Agenda

Additions to the agenda: Scholarships for mini-college and ideas for the Retreat.

MOTION: Sherri Morgan moved to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Bill Gabriel.
Motion approved.

Minutes

No amendments made, No President's Report, Treasurer's Report, Annette Carter reported the SGF attendance was down again this year.

Unfinished Business

Garden modification forms.

MOTION: Michael Riding moved that the Board endorses in retrospect the removal and replanting of the Peach Orchard. The motion was seconded by Kathy Apple.
Motion approved.

MOTION: Sherri Morgan moved the Board accept the proposal to modify the fence between the SOREC property and the Weyerhauser property. The motion was seconded by Michael Riding. *Motion approved.*

New Business Apprentice: This will be discussed at the next meeting.

New Business

Spring Garden Fair Quick Report: We held to our goal of spending less than \$20,000 this year. We trained several new people for SGF positions including four new area managers. Heidi Martins and Rod Bumgardner did an exceptionally fine job of site managing the fair. The final report will be given after the wrap up celebration on May 24th. The Board will be devoting time to further discussion about the fair at the Board Retreat on June 13th.

Silent Auction Mini-College: At the OMGA Mini-College they have a huge Silent Auction, the money raised is used to fund next year's Mini-College. Each chapter is asked to give ten items approximately \$25 each. She suggested we donate \$250 rather than try to put a basket together.

MOTION: Barbara Davidson moved that JCMGA contribute \$250 for OMGA Silent Auction for Mini-College 2018 (now G2). The motion was seconded by Kathy Apple.
Motion approved.

Additional Agenda Items

Go Fund Me for Jackie Freeman: The JCMGA wanted to contribute money towards this fund. The question was asked if 501C3 can do that legally. A straw vote to contribute \$250 was held with a majority vote yes. Everyone is encouraged to individually contribute.

MOTION: Sherri Morgan moved that the JCMGA donate \$250 to the Go Fund Me campaign for Jackie Freeman pursuant to Barbara Davidson's investigation into the legality of the donation. The motion was seconded by Michael Riding. *Motion approved.*

Kate Hassen will take care of making sure a card is sent.

Scholarships for Mini-College.

MOTION: Jane Moyer moved the Board use the \$300 allocated in the JCMGA budget for scholarships for the OMGA Conference to send the new MG Coordinator. The motion was seconded by Sherri Morgan. One abstention. *Motion denied.*

Square: The chip reader is not very secure and JCMGA would be responsible for identity theft. President Hassen set up a committee with Joe Terrell, Annette Carter, and Jane Moyer to consider better options. The committee will report when they have more information.

continued next page...

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.

The webinars are approximately 40 minutes long followed by a moderated Q&A session. Each webinar is approved for one hour of continuing education credits for Master Gardeners. Just be sure to note which webinar you watched when reporting your hours. For more information go to <http://blogs.oregon-state.edu/ediblegardens/2018/04/24/2018-webinars-master-gardeners-updated/>

Upcoming Seminars

June 28, 11am

[Practical Food Safety](#) in the Garden presented by Sara Runkel

July 26, 11am

[Meet the New Neighbors: Emerging Pest Issues in Oregon](#) presented by Robin Rosetta

August 30, 11am

[The Latest Research on Bees in the Garden](#): Results from the OSU Garden Ecology Lab presented by Dr. Gail Langellotto

Thank Yous

To all the Spring Garden Fair Volunteers that helped make Spring Garden Fair a success. Also, Thank You to Susan Koenig for getting the Children's Garden a \$2200 grant!

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JCMGA is planning an excursion to the Douglas County Extension Gardens with the date yet to be determined.

OMGA: Barbara Davidson has handouts for the OMGA, formerly known as Mini-College, Master Gardener Growing Gardeners Conference-G2A and volunteer appreciation social.

President Hassen reminded about the Board Retreat June 13, 2018 at 9:00am in the SOREC Auditorium. Lunch will be a potluck. Bring your own table service. Board Retreat: Ideas for Board Retreat: President Hassen asked for ideas to be discussed for the Board Retreat. The list consisted of Spring Garden Fair, Working Groups, Financial Plan, Student numbers, 5-year plan, Review Goals, and Dropbox-Regina.

Meeting Adjourned

11:00am PST

Next Meeting

Thursday June 7, 2018 at 9:30am in the OSU SOREC Auditorium.

Submitted by Keri Couvrette, Recording Secretary,
Master Gardener 2017



Beet Box

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Graphic Design Pete Livers and Karen Finnegan

Photography Karen Finnegan, Cindy Williams, Sandy Hammond, Maxine Cass

The Garden Beet is published monthly by the OSU Jackson County Master Gardener Association, Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, Oregon 97502. Phone: 541-776-7371

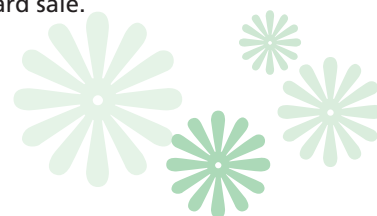
Publishing Information: All articles and photos are due by the 15th of the preceding month. Articles should not exceed 600 words. One-time articles should be emailed to the editor for review. If a photo needs to be taken, please contact Kenda Swartz. Photos submitted cannot be less than 600x800 pixels.

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▲ Sophia Oldenkamp and her friend Dillon trying out the two seater bicycle at the yard sale.



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