

December 2018

Linda Holder

Kate, Thank you for your warm, inclusive, forward-thinking leadership through not one, but two years of growth and sustained success for the master gardeners. I tremendously appreciate what you have done for the organization and, during that process, I appreciate having gained a new friend. You have made lasting improvements to JCMGA which will live on into a rich legacy for you.

Sandy Hammond

You are an inspiration to every Master Gardener and always step up the plate when needed with an eagerness to perform your best. Thank You Kate for being such a hands-on President with grace and passion.

Pam Hillers

Dear Kate, you make Community a reality for Master Gardeners. Thank you for being an awesome mentor for me.

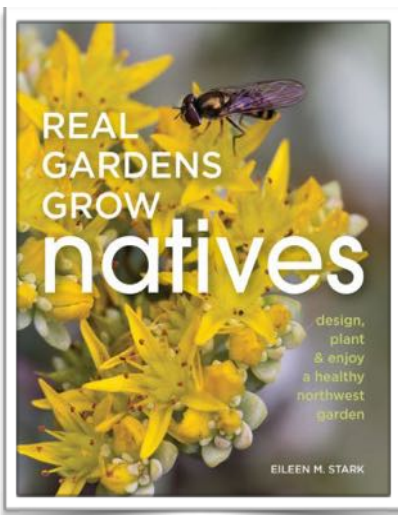


The Gift that keeps on Giving; President Hassen

This is the last month of Kate's two year Presidency. Many have described her as Versatile, Optimistic, Lovable, Understanding, Nice, Talented, Energetic, Enthusiastic and Resilient. She has shown us that volunteers are people who don't want to be thanked for helping others but want to thank others for giving them the opportunity to help. Kate is always willing to be there for us whenever we needed her.

Kate taught us, by example, to be civil and speak to others with respect. We saw that she never asked anyone to work and not pitch in herself. We also learned to plan and think about future goals of the Association. The greatest gift Kate gave us was to be our friend. Thank you, President Kate, for leading us in a positive direction.
Cindy Williams 2014





Garden Book Review

by Sherry Morgan 2008

Real Gardens Grow Natives,
by Eileen Stark
Skipstone Press. 2014

Attendees at the recent Winter Dreams•Summer Gardens symposium had the opportunity to hear Eileen Stark's presentation, titled "Native By Design—Gardening to Increase Biodiversity." She has a deep appreciation for our ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest. In her book, Real Gardens Grow Natives, Eileen lays out her case for why we, as gardeners should be thinking how native plants have co-evolved with insects, birds, amphibians and mammals as part of the web of life here. Eileen is a landscape designer, consultant, speaker and blogger, home-based in Portland.



The Gardening Gourmet - A Fiery Roasting

by Sydney Jordan Brown
2000

Alongside that of appreciating our forests of frost-tipped fir trees in December, it would seem there's nothing more endearingly traditional than that of the roasted chestnut. With their polished-mahogany husk, they're surely one of God's great designs.

Not only do chestnuts contain twice the starch as potatoes, they're low in fat, high in fiber, vitamin C and contain the daily allotment of selenium in a single nut! Hence the legend Greek armies survived on chestnut stores while retreating from Asia Minor (401-399 BC). Remarkably the Japanese cultivated chestnuts before they grew rice.

A little history...*Castanea sativa*, was introduced to Europe via Greece with the majority of trees now in America coming from European or Chinese stock. However, our native *Castanea dentata*, The American chestnut, was here long before those brought by immigrants.

Did you know fast-growing-hardwood American chestnuts were the dominant species

growing in the eastern US (from Maine to Georgia) until the early 20th century? Often reaching 100' tall with girths over 10' diameter they spread wide their canopies in open areas and grew columnar rich-green foliage inside forests. Besides edible nuts, chestnuts' rot-resistant-lumber was and is highly valued

So you may wonder, why don't we see them today? In 1904 chestnut blight, (spread by the planting of virus infested Asian stock in NY) rapidly spread amidst the vast chestnut population. By 1940 nearly all our Native American chestnuts had been killed. However, the Pacific Northwest has been free of this blight since the 1930's so one can still find isolated American chestnuts in various western Oregon locations. It's been noted that likely the largest tree in the country touting an 8' girth, grows near Portland.

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A Fiery Roasting

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Just to ease your wondering, as a protection safeguard, Oregon prohibits import of chestnut trees from east of the Rocky Mountains to avoid fungus infections like those in the past.

Still want to plant a chestnut in your yard? You'll definitely need generous space (100' between trees) for this fast-growing long-living to 1000 years tree, and twice that for nuts since two are needed for fruiting that may take 40 years to happen. If you Roasted chestnuts



Open fire or oven roasted

Score a large X on flatter side of nut. Roast in oven on baking sheet at 350° oven for 25-35 minutes. For a chestnut roaster: Score nuts the same and shake over coals/fire for about 15

minutes until shell peels back along the X. When cool enough to handle, peel off outer shells, as well inner ones if they cling, and enjoy.

Roasted Chestnut Cookies

About 4 dozen cookies

1 pound chestnuts, roasted
1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
1 cups powdered sugar
2 teaspoons real vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon good quality ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon fresh grated nutmeg
1/8 teaspoon sea salt
2 cups unbleached flour, white whole wheat flour or gluten free type

Peel chestnuts then pulverize in food processor until finely ground. Pulse in butter until combined. Add 1/2 cup powdered sugar, vanilla, spices, salt and flour then pulse until dough forms, about 30 seconds. Divide dough in half, wrap in plastic chilling for an hour (can be kept two days in fridge or longer frozen).

Preheat oven to 350°. Shape one half of dough at a time in to 2 teaspoon sized balls. Place on parchment or silicone lined baking sheets with 1/2" between cookies. Bake 10-14 minutes



until light golden on bottoms. Cool 5 minutes then transfer to wire racks. When cool, shake in bag of remaining powdered sugar mixed with 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon.

No horsing about!

Although sweet chestnuts are similar in looks to (the commonly found on the ground) horse chestnuts, the latter are very toxic. If you're not sure you've retrieved a sweet chestnut to consume, you're best buying them from a reliable source. Husks of sweet chestnuts are sharply spiny like porcupines and nuts are bilaterally flattened with a pointed tip. Horse chestnuts husks have only a few warts or bumps with nuts flattened on one side.



Greenhouse when Kate became President

Farewell Not Goodbye

by Kate Hassen 2013

As I write on this lovely fall afternoon, the leaves have nearly all fallen, and the garden is put to bed. The chimney sweeps scoured the pipes and the woodpile is dry. I can hardly wait for the first fire in the fireplace. Steve and I will enjoy a glass of brandy and look back over the year with joy.

This past month I have, once again, experienced the love and caring of so many people in JCMGA. As many of you know I recently had a total knee replacement. Many of you brought meals, cleaned house, took me to appointments, and sent cards and emails. Or simply dropped by to visit. I am overwhelmed by your generosity of spirit. Steve and I are genuinely grateful for all the help you have given us.

Two years ago, in December I did an interview with Marcus Smith about my upcoming term as president of JCMGA.

Looking back at that article there is one line that jumped

back at me:

"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."

I haven't often looked back at things I said years ago. Today it is refreshing to see that I feel the same as I did then. My two years as President of this wonderful Association has just reinforced my core belief that good people can and do work together for common causes. We are the proof of it.

We have reorganized our Board so that every single committee is reporting to a working group that is represented on the Board. This allows for better management of resources and a coordinated approach to organizational goals.

This year the Board set 5-year goals for the Association. Goals that are ongoing and forward looking to help JCMGA increase its membership, remain financially sound, use technology more effectively, provide educational

information to the public and resources to our members.

All of us have worked together to produce two successful Spring Garden Fairs, two Winter Dreams and two classes of new Master Gardeners. We have attended two graduations and two summer picnics. And none of these would be possible without good people working together for a common goal.



I am not naïve, nor I am a Pollyanna. It is not always easy for people to agree on all points. But we have in the past two years, managed to agree to disagree and still get the job done.

I am proud of my work as President of this organization and plan to be active for many years to come. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Now for the fire in the fireplace and that glass of brandy with Steve!

"Do your little bit of good where you are; its those little bits of good that overwhelm the world."

Desmond Tutu



How did we get so lucky to have Kate for our fearless leader for two years! She is the calm behind our storms. I heard her say once that she may have looked calm on the surface, but her storm was under the surface. She has the unique ability to listen and sum-up the issues in a few sentences after we have been chewing on it for 30 minutes. On top of all, Kate is a super human being. Thank you, Kate.

Roberta Heinz

Your willingness to step up when needed is such a blessing to us. You have done just a wonderful job, keeping all us cats herded in the right direction. We appreciate your organization and warm sense of humor! Now you can relax and rest on your laurels!

Love, Sherri Morgan

I've so enjoyed working with you on the Board the past 2 years, you are an inspiration!

Kari Gies

Thank you, Kate for all your help, kindness, patience and understanding while working with me as the Recording

Secretary this year. It has been a great experience as a result!

Kari Couvrette

***D**ear Kate - you have contributed so much to the JCMGA organization as president these past two years. I am amazed by your leadership and vision. Thank you for your service.*

Kristina Lefever

We have so much to thank Kate for. She has been a great president! She spent her president-elect year becoming familiar with JCMGA committees by frequently attending meetings.

This has enabled her, as president, to lead a successful effort to organize committees into working groups, which, in turn, has led to related committees working together. It also makes it much easier to explain all the options to volunteers.

Under Kate's leadership, board meetings have become smooth running, organized, and harmonious. Because Robert's Rules of Order are followed, we have learned to discuss, to compromise, and to sometimes disagree without being disagreeable. In conjunction with SOREC, guidelines have been developed for making changes to the gardens. By having semi-annual board retreats, we have developed annual goals to direct our efforts and, at the July 2018 retreat, we took the leap into the development of five-year goals.

Towards the end of Kate's first year of presidency, the president-elect had to resign due to family illness, so Kate graciously agreed to serve for a second term. At the same time, she co-chaired Spring Garden Fair and, this year, she is also co-chair of the Winter Dreams Summer Gardens Symposium.

These are just some of the highlights of Kate's presidency, though. Most important to me is the fact that, as we worked on different projects, Kate and I have become friends.

Jane Moyer

"I think Kate Hassen is the hardest working nonprofit president I have ever met. I am grateful for all she has done for JCMGA."

Kathy Apple

Thank you, Kate. You are a true free spirit, and we don't mind saying, the "best" for heading the JCMGA as President for the last 2 years.

**Love and peace,
Gayle and Frank Stets**

**Thank You
Kate**

Updates to Plant Sales; Best Management Practices

by Erika Szonntag

Dear Gardeners,


This month, we have some important updates on Plant Sale Best Management Practices for plant sales throughout Oregon. The new procedures were developed by OSU Extension Faculty, OSU Master Gardener Volunteers, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

Master Gardeners are already doing an amazing job of propagating quality plants for sales. These new procedures have been developed as an added measure to curtail the spread of invasive species throughout Oregon via plant sales and swaps. These new procedures are intended to protect Oregon's natural resources from unwanted pests and to help Master Gardener plant sales remain a reliable, credible, and sustainable source of plants for Oregonians.

The guidelines listed below apply to temporary plant sales throughout Oregon. The two main



changes include a new protocol for ensuring plants are disease free and tagging plants after identifying them against state and local noxious weed lists.

 Plants sold at plants sales (such as the Spring Garden Fair), can no longer be donated from a home garden or any other garden (such as the demonstration gardens at SOREC). Plants need to be propagated from commercially grown starts, seeds, purchased bulbs, or cuttings from healthy plants grown in a commercial mix. The idea is that native/garden soils can be vectors for soil and plant pathogens, seeds of invasive species, and other harmful materials. Rinsing roots of plants is not an acceptable way to clean a plant because many pathogens are microscopic and cannot be guaranteed to be removed by washing. Therefore, commercially grown starts, seeds, bulbs, or cuttings need to be propagated in a commercial planting medium.

Winter Dreams• Summer Gardens Fun



'The Literary Gardener'

A Reality Check: Symptoms of a Plant Collector

Garden Book Review

by Rhonda Nowak 2011



"We should all be able to say no to that offer of a hundredth hosta or cranesbill and concentrate, not on hoarding plants, but on making our gardens beautiful." – Tony Lord, author of Best Borders, 1995

If Tony Lord's remark makes you a little bit mad, then you may have a tendency toward plant collecting. Or, like me, you may

be in full-blown pursuit of plant collecting and feel indignant that someone should use such a distasteful word as "hoarding" to describe a passion for plants. Besides, who could possibly have too many hostas or geraniums?

If you're not sure whether you are a plant collector or not, then here is a list of 14 symptoms (check all that apply):

1. Your garden can best be described as eclectic (or chaotic, depending on who is describing it).
2. You care more about individual plants than the garden as a whole (see 1).
3. You tell fascinating stories about the plants in your garden, and ignore the glazed look in visitors' eyes.
4. Your decision to add a plant to your garden is based on whether the plant is interesting, not if it will actually grow well in your garden.
5. You optimistically assume a plant's will to survive will overcome such trivial matters as the right soil and the right amount of sunlight and water (see 4).
6. You wholeheartedly subscribe to the notion that when it comes to gardening there are no mistakes, only lessons learned (see 4 and 5.) After all, what is gardening if not an ongoing experiment with plants?
6. You have several plants still in containers that haven't made it into the ground yet.
7. You like to spend time studying plants, and leave tedious tasks like deadheading and weeding to nature.
9. You have a library of books with names like "Sassy Succulents" and "Squash for All Seasons" (see 8).

Continued on page 14

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Best Management Practices

 Plants of course need to be properly identified and tagged prior to sale. The ODA and Soil and Water Conservation District keep lists of state and local noxious weed lists to use for cross-checking in plant identification. At minimum, plant tags need to include the scientific name, common name(s), and cultivar(s) if known.

Here is the link to the final document for those interested in more details:

http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/files/2018/11/Plant-Sale-BMPs-V6-10_31_2018-FINAL.pdf.

Included is a link to ODA's Quarantines and Control Area Orders for specific information on which pests and diseases are of interest and in which counties. Additionally, the Plant Sale Committees of Douglas and Yamhill counties have been successful in adopting these new procedures; a case study of their adoption of procedures is included in this document. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at Erika.szonntag@oregonstate.edu or 541-776-7371.

Thanks everyone for all that you do, and Merry Christmas!

Land Steward: Think Local, Take Action, Improve Your Land

by Maxine Cass
Master Gardener 2015, Land
Steward 2012



Once upon a time, not long ago and not far away, I became a Land Steward.

The year was 2011 and my husband and I were transitioning from a lifetime of urban living to very rural Sams Valley, 20 acres with an oak woodland *and* a mixed conifer forest, roaming wildlife, a dry spot nevertheless growing more vigorous and varied noxious weeds than we dreamed existed.

Wells and septic systems, oh my! Forty years of trash adorning and embedded in the landscape—a scary eyesore. A forest on one side dwarfed by 14-foot Scotch broom; we had never heard of *that* weed, and couldn't see the trees. A large patch of prickly yellow starthistle in the



oak woodland surging skyward above several feet of its dead grey ancestors, argh. And, we hadn't yet spotted the rampaging blackberry plague.

Enter the 30-hour OSU Land Steward program, pioneered in Jackson County, which graduated its first intrepid resource improvers and protectors in 2009. The program goal was/is to help and guide landowners to identify resources on their properties, decide on priorities and come up with a written (Land) Stewardship Management Plan. All those property details, soils, water, trees, plants, critters, fire prevention plans and more would come together as a reference and action plan.

To date, 333 Land Stewards—including whole families and many couples—have gone through the program in the Rogue Valley, bettering more than 9,000 acres. There are farmers, winemakers, cattle ranchers, orchardists, foresters and newcomers like us. Properties ranged from .1 acre to up to 500 acres. For two-thirds of us, Land Stewards was the gateway program to becoming a Master Gardener, Master

Woodland Manager, and Master Food Preserver.

Only a fraction of the 11 weeks from September through November is spent in the classroom. The rest of the time is spent in the field, visiting properties and sites that illustrate that week's topic, covered in online readings and topic management guidelines reviewed before field visits.



With weekly experts, we saw dry pasture and irrigated pasture rotation; soils and agriculture; thinned forests and wildfire management, stream ecology and handling water for the home and garden, and water catchment and storage.

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grasses with another steward. While thinning our forest last year, Land Stewards came out for a walkabout to see methods we used. Whenever we've had a question, there's been a trained expert and often a Land Steward who was interested and took the time to help.

The return just keeps on giving. Land Steward mentor or technical assistance visits, 20 to 25 per year, are tailored to each student

skills to have native shrubs ready to plant this fall-winter. The forestry program helped us talk to our forester in his language. For us, and our property, Land Stewards showed how to make our urban to rural transition possible and successful.

February through April 2019 Jackson County will offer a Land Steward short course designed for those with less time.

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There are ways, we discovered, to help wildlife habitat, while controlling unwanted animals and their damage. And, there were many ways to tackle our own worst bugaboo, noxious weeds.

We have hosted part of the wildlife and weed management weeks' site visits three times, showing off what we wanted to do and what we have been able to do. Lifelong friends were made from those visits. I've done that! I've been able to watch one steward, a transferred urbanite like me, tackle weed removal, raising chickens, mulching an orchard, electrifying animal fences, and making her land more beautiful each year.

When we had a septic emergency, a fellow steward with expertise walked the problem area and helped by phone when the repair crew arrived. We swap ideas and results on seeding native

steward's property and problems.

We're proof, too, that agency contacts work, even years later. A main program sponsor, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) was along providing expertise two years ago on the riparian/streamside class day, when I asked if he could take a look at our seasonal stream, possibly, we thought, one of our worst areas. Soon after, a walkabout identified thinning and weed removal (no surprise) as our greatest needs and resulted in a plan written and sponsored by JSWCD and additionally supported by ODF (Oregon Department of Forestry). With that expert assistance, we've accomplished massive weed removal and disposal while having an expert forester thin the forest. The multi-year plan, tailored to our Land Management Plan goals, includes our native shrub in-planting and native wildflower and grass seeding. I've used Master Gardener propagation



For program information, contact:

Rachel A. Werling
Land Steward Coordinator &
Natural Resources
Rachel.Werling@oregonstate.edu

Jackson County Master Gardener Association

Board of Directors Meeting

TREASURERS REPORT

1. There will be a profit on bulb sales.
2. Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens expenses are still being submitted. Totals will be submitted at the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election Results: The deadline for ballots to be returned was November 6, 2018. The votes were tallied on November 7, 2018 by Michael Riding, Pam Hillers, and Keri Couvrette.

President:

Susan Koenig

President Elect:

Ronnie Budge

Archives:

Pam Hillers

Members-At-Large:

*Kathy Apple, Eileen Beall,
Rod Bumgardner, Rebecca
Jurta, Gina Velando*

Recording Secretary

Jane Moyer

Membership Secretary:

Patrice Kaska

Treasurer:

Annette Carter

OMGA Representative:

Barbara Davidson

2. The Meeting with Rich Roseberg scheduled for Thursday, November 15th will be discussed at the December board meeting.

3. Changes to the By-laws
 - Changes to Articles of Association, By-laws, and Policies and Motions in addition to those presented at the October meeting.

•In the Articles of Association #8, "except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered" will be deleted

In the By-laws Article I (Board of Directors), the Assistant Treasurer and the Assistant Membership Secretary will be deleted.

MOTION: Barbara Davidson moved and Sherri Morgan seconded that, in the By-laws Article I (Board of Directors) Section 14, "The student representative will be elected in February." will be added. The motion passed unanimously.

- Policies and Motions #2 (Principles and Practices of Conduct) will be changed to conform to that of OSU. Infractions will be

handled by the OSU Jackson Co. Master Gardener Coordination. Offenses against the Jackson County Master Gardener Association will be referred to an outside arbitrator.

•Policies and Motions #5 (Petty Cash) will be deleted with all following items having the necessary numerical change.

•The title of the coordinator will be changed throughout to "the OSU Jackson County Master Gardener Coordinator."

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John Kobal teaching at
Winter Dreams•Summer Gardens



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REPORTS:

- Barbara Davidson presented report from the OMGA meeting. It will be added to Dropbox.

- Barbara Davidson presented the document "Best Management Practices for Master Gardener Plant Sales to Avoid the Spread of Pests" concerning acceptance of donated plants (attached). Under the guidelines presented, the Practicum will no longer be able to accept donations of perennials for dividing.

- Barbara Davidson presented a list of schools that have been chosen for a School Grant. It will be added to Dropbox.

- Long-range goals reports—Gardens report by Kari Gies: have had summer planning meetings, have sent out a survey, will have an Open House on December 10; new garden brochures have been developed, printed, and will be translated into Spanish.

- Community Outreach report by Jim Buck: have met and have contacted OLLI.

- Business Plan report by Jane Moyer: submitted an application for an SOU MBA intern; met with Jane Picknell,



Coordinator of MBA interns, who asked for an application to only cover a financial plan (still to be submitted).

- Technology report by Jane Moyer: a Technology Working Group has been formed and is determining functions to be served.

- The Member Services Working Group has yet to meet.

OTHER:

- The 2019 membership renewal forms will be mailed soon. They will be accompanied by two copies of the new Code of Conduct (one to be signed and returned, one for the member to keep) and the Acknowledgement of Risk form (also to be signed and returned).

- Pam Hillers recognized Chris Hjerrild for his contributions to JCMGA. Chris was also

recognized by the GEM's at their October meeting.

- Erika Szonntag will submit a written request for a \$50 contribution to United Way for storing the Medford Growers Market Plant Clinic equipment and supplies May—September.

- Linda Holder developed a spreadsheet showing the interests and skills of the 2018 students. It will be stored in the front of the binder holding their registration forms in the Master Gardener office.

NEXT MEETING:

9:30 Friday December 14, 2018

New Board Member Orientation: 9 am – 11:30 am
Friday, December 7, 2018

Submitted by Jane Moyer, substituting for Keri Couvrette, Recording Secretary



Merry Christmas 11

'Twas the Night Before Christmas'

by Marianne Binetti

'Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the yard, not a gift was given, not even a card.

The tools were all hung, in the carport with care, with hopes that St. Nicholas soon would repair,

The shovel with blade all rusty and cracked, the pitchfork still shiny, but handle it lacked.

When out on my lawn, (it's brown and abused) I could see poor old Santa, looking confused.

No list had been left for Santa to see, no gardening gifts were under the tree.

But wait there's still time, it's not Christmas yet, and gardening gifts are the quickest to get.

You can forget the silk tie, the fluffy new sweater, give something to make the garden grow better.

If she wants a gift shiny, then don't be a fool, it's not a dumb diamond, but a sparkling new tool.

If fragrance is listed you can forget French perfume, it's a pile of manure that'll make gardeners swoon.

Give night crawlers, not nightgowns, the type of



hose that gives water. (Anything for the kitchen is not worth the bother.)

Give a great gift that digs in the dirt, it's better than any designer-brand shirt.

Now look quick at Santa, this guy's not so dumb, under his glove, he hides a green thumb.

His knees are so dirty, his back how it aches, his boots stomp on slugs, (he gives them no breaks).

The guy only works winter, you can surely see why, The rest of the year it's a gardening high.

Elves plant in the spring, pull weeds merrily all summer, in fall they all harvest, but winter's a bummer.

And so, Christmas gives Santa a part-time employment, 'Till spring when the blooms are his real-life enjoyment.

So, ask the big guy for garden gifts this year, Seeds, plants and tools, Santa holds them all dear.

You see malls may be crowded, vendors hawking their ware, but visit a nursery, stress-free shopping is there.

Now Santa's flown off, to the nursery he goes, and his voice fills the night with loud Hoe! Hoe! Hoes!

Calendar

**Tuesday, December 11
6-8pm**

**A Different Way to Look at
Landscape Design**

Sherri Morgan, Master Gardener,
Landscape Designer

Ideas about garden design are changing. Based on the book *Planting in a Post-Wild World, Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes* by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West, this class will discuss new design concepts that promote fewer weeds, less watering, and an arrangement patterned after the way nature does it.



Julie's Garden

by Julie Engleson 2012

It's December! Where did the year go? I am not ready for the holiday season, OR the end of this year...but like it or not, here we are.

So, two dialogues are going on in my head right now: 1) Get everything ready, as planting season is two months away! and 2) I am not going to do anything in my garden until it starts to rain! Perhaps it's the stubborn streak in me – but I think the latter thought is winning! Maybe it's my silent plea to the Universe to send rain NOW, I'm not sure. The lack of enthusiasm is certainly related to the dry soil, dry air, and dying trees in my yard. There is nothing more depressing than watching your landscaping slowly turn brown.

My thoughts are to be still this month, and allow Nature to come around. I have enjoyed

looking at the stars early each morning (cold and clear out, so perfect for star-gazing!) I'm also walking the fence-line of our land, observing various changes with the wild critters that live with us. Many birds benefited from all the grapes left on the vines, and I am still seeing some bees looking for the last few flowers that have not faded in the frosts we've had. The gophers have been busily ground-busting (despite the concrete-like soil) and the crazy things they dig up is hilarious. China chips from fancy dinner plates from the 1920's, and old wrist-watch, an occasional metal object now totally rusted beyond identification. It's fascinating.

I witnessed a giant raccoon scrambling across my driveway late one night and wondered what I had startled him away from. Two weeks ago, I woke up to a hoot owl sitting in our pine tree out the bedroom window – hooty-hoo-hooing away. In the thirty years I've lived here, I have never had that experience! While I missed some sleep, it was a special serenade and I will never forget it.

Perhaps what I am saying here is this: it is not often we are made to be still, but look (and hear!) all those things we are missing out on – by being busy. Embrace the magic of the short days of winter. Celebrate Solstice by being outside gazing up at the stars. Observe our wild friends doing their jobs. When the month is over, I will again be ready to conquer the garden. In the meantime, I am gratefully taking a short break. I hope you all have a very special Holiday season, and whatever you do, Happy Gardening and Merry Christmas.





Symptoms of a Plant Collector

10. You enjoy taking artsy, close-up pictures of the plants in your garden and sending them to relatives as Christmas cards.

11. You take lots of notes about the plants in your garden, even if you can never find the notes later.

12. Your radar for plant sales spans a tri-county area.

13. Your friends offer you ailing plants so they don't have to throw them away; you always accept.

14. You accept your friends' plants because, really, who could possibly have too many hostas or geraniums? (See 1 through 13).

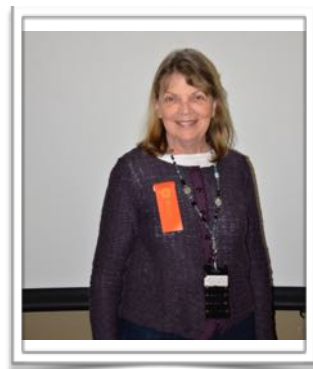
According to Roger Turner, author of "Design in the Plant Collector's Garden: From Chaos to Beauty" (2005), there are several remedies for the confirmed plant collector's garden. One piece of advice is for gardeners to display a modicum of restraint by limiting the collection of plants to a particular color scheme,

such as white and different shades of purple or pink.

A plant collector's garden can also look more harmonious by creating separate areas or "rooms" in the landscape where similar styles of plants are organized. Sprinkling a few of the same plant in different parts of the garden will also help to unify the overall visual effect.

Many plant collection gardens lack a focal point, which can be addressed by adding larger green shrubbery as a backdrop and interspersing similar shrubs within the garden. Rocks, water features, plant containers and yard art can also serve as focal points, but beware. Plant collectors also tend to be yard art collectors, and a whimsical appearance can quickly degenerate into the look of a yard sale.

On the other hand, one person's garden havoc is another person's heaven. No matter what Tony Lord says, a healthy garden, enjoyed by its gardener, is a beautiful garden even if it is eclectic, okay chaotic.



Winter Dreams*Summer
Gardens Attendees
Jim, Kristina, and Jodi

Oregon State University Extension Service

Master Gardener

2019 Community Education Classes

Location: OSU Extension Auditorium, 569 Hanley Rd in Central Point, OR 97502

Pre-register and pay online <http://bit.ly/JacksonMGWorkshops>

Classes are \$10 if pre-registered & pre-paid at least 24 hours in advance.

Classes are \$15 at the door (unless otherwise noted)

Additional \$5 discount for Master Gardeners & other Extension volunteers. All classes are eligible for MG recertification education hours

Refunds only available 48 hours before class

Saturday, January 19
10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Polyculture: Companion Planting for Healthier Garden
Learn about the benefits of polyculture – how plants can help each other, how to attract pollinators, and other techniques for a more productive garden.

Regina Boykins
Master Gardener

Tuesday, January 29
5:30 – 7:00 pm

***Grapevine Pruning**
Learn the basics of grapevine pruning for home or small-scale grape production in the Rogue Valley.

Dr. Alexander Levin
Oregon Wine Research Institute

Monday, February 18
6:00 – 8:00 pm

Plants for School Gardens
How to select attractive, functional, and educational plants for school gardens.

Christie Mackison
Shooting Star Nursery

Tuesday, February 26
6:00 – 8:00 pm

Urban and Container Gardening
Build your garden up! Learn different techniques for trellising, creative ways to use containers, and vertical gardening.

Master Gardeners
Eric Suing and Toby Habeck

Saturday, March 2
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Fruit Tree Pruning
Bring loppers and gloves to this fun, hands-on pruning class for several species of popular fruit trees.

Terry Helfrich
Bear Creek Orchards

Monday, March 11
6:00 – 8:00 pm

Firewise Landscaping
Protecting your home from wildfire begins with prevention. Learn how to incorporate attractive, fire-resistant plants and landscaping techniques into your property.

Kara Baylog
OSU, My Southern Oregon Woodlands

Monday, April 1
6:00 – 8:00 pm

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

Maud Powell
OSU Small Farms Program



Beet Box

Editor.....Cindy Williams ..cindy@clwrv.com

Photography....Kenda Swartz, Glenn Risley, Maxine Cass

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569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR 97502