Spring Garden Fair revisited
All the dirt (soil?) on the Spring Garden Fair by the numbers

5,549 paying customers attended Spring Garden Fair.
Survey takers asked 2,459 people how they first learned about this year’s fair:
• Always come: 830
• Friend or relative: 419
• Street banner: 278
• Facebook: 227
• Sign: 159
• Newspaper ad or article: 156
• Poster or rack card: 86
• Television ad: 79
• Website/Internet: 75
• Radio ad: 66
• Electronic sign: 55
• Other: 29
Cash sales for tickets and income from JCMGA booths totaled over $26,000 (Credit card sales are still to be determined).

Spring Gardenpalooza!

Hard work pays off
Hundreds of people browsed the aisles at the Spring Garden Fair this year, buying plants started in the Practicum, below. At left, Maddy Schmidt got into the spirit with a butterfly painted on her face.

Continued on Page 5
Work and play mixed

Many volunteers worked in the Practicum booth at the fair, above, while at right, a volunteer had her face painted. Below left, fair attendees are told about butterfly habitats and how to make a pollinator-friendly yard. Below right, deviled eggs are seasoned for the break room.

Photography by Glenn Risley
A good time for future and current gardeners

Master Gardeners kept the young ones busy learning how to plant, while parents (and others) got their questions answered at the Plant Clinic. Brooke Firestone, below, had her face painted during the show.
This banana and butterfly art was on sale at one of the vendors’ booths.

**All the soil on the Spring Garden Fair**

*Continued from Page 1*

Fair expenses came in $2,300 under budget.

A standard-sized booth is 10’ x 10’. Many vendors rent multiple booths.

96% of the booths were rented (219 out of 228).

Booth rental fees totaled $26,000.

Twelve JCMGA vendors occupied 41 booths:

- Book Garden
- Bulb Booth
- Children’s Garden
- Compost Booth
- Demonstrations
- Education Displays
- Information Booth
- Plant Clinic
- Practicum Booth
- Propagation Booth
- Raffle Booth
- Water Testing

SOREC organizations (4-H, Food Preservers, Land Stewards, etc.) used six booths.

Nine booths were made available as rest areas.

Twenty-one vendors were new to the fair this year.

92% of the vendors rated the show as well organized.

90% of the vendors thought volunteers were friendly.

91% of the vendors thought volunteers were helpful.

One vendor went so far as to hug and kiss a co-chair in gratitude for the fair.

Two hundred twelve JCMGA members volunteered to help at the fair (Couldn’t do it without you!).

Volunteers were organized into 27 committees.

Many volunteers filled multiple positions! (Thank you!)

The Expo has been reserved for the 2020 Spring Garden Fair on May 2 and May 3.

**Greenhouse 2 enters summer hibernation**

After producing hundreds of plants for the Spring Garden Fair (left), Greenhouse 2 is going to be locked for the summer in an effort to cook any pests that might be lingering.
Mailchimp magic and packaging bulbs

by Roberta Heinz
Master Gardener 2012

It was a rainy Saturday morning and it was about 9 a.m. I looked out and there was a string of cars all heading up Tami Lane and they were all headed to our barn. The cars all found a place to park, the doors opened and “Game On”.

In the barn were 13 totes with notes on the outside and tags and bulbs on the inside. Two people were at the cart filling paper bags from a small bale of wood chippings. Others took their totes, found a spot, picked up their paper bags and off they went – counting out bulbs and putting them into the bags. Three others took the tags out of the bags and stapled them in place. The barn was full of happy chatter and 17 busy people.

I just stood back and couldn’t stop smiling. This was a job that would have taken far fewer people about three hours and when I requested help, that was what was expected … 5 or 6 people and 3 hours to get the job done. Well, that job took less than an hour from start to finish.

When the cry went out for volunteers to gather together to help pack the bulbs for the Master Garden Bulb booth at the SGF, never in our wildest dreams did it occur to us that there would be 17 people with their hands up, volunteering to help “git ‘er done”.

We need to count our blessings that we are part of such a great group of like-minded people. The skills of our members would boggle your mind but they all have one wonderful thing in common … we are members of Jackson County Master Gardeners and we garden and work together. Hurray for us!

Thank you to all of you.
Children’s Garden Clean-up Day

*by Roberta Heinz*  
*Master Gardener 2012*

We did it again! The Children’s Garden is up and running — anxiously awaiting the children for their 2019 summer experience.

How did this happen? A lot of hard work. Danea DeJong has charge of the Children’s Garden area this year. She and her husband Ron have spent many hours quietly preparing the garden. They have finished the cement block raised bed, weeded, planted, prepared and improved the garden with more new and wonderful things. One big improvement is the area behind the garden shed. There will now be a raised deck and an area where items stored there will not be subject to the elements as much as they are now.

But on Saturday, April 27 we had 9 people respond to the Mail Chimp request for help for the final touches to the garden. Two large loads of bark chips needed to be spread throughout the garden’s path areas, the teaching area under the cherry tree and the area at the south end of the Children’s Garden. Some final touches needed to be added to the beds, irrigation systems needed to be put in place and areas around the perimeter of the garden needed to have the vegetation whacked down.

Here come the volunteers. Linda Birch, Danea and Ron DeJong, Henry Hertig and Jeanne Laird tackled the bark. Barb Steele and Roberta Heinz worked on the weeding. Jan Carlson whacked the weeds along the west fence and tweaked the new irrigation system that he installed last fall. Jack Groff was the man who tackled the job of taking down all the weeds along the east side of the garden, the path to the greenhouse and the area along the north end of the garden. When the dust settled, the garden was ready.

Come check us out. We were able to do all the new improvements because of the Robert and Frances Chaney Family Foundation grant. They are now complete. The garden is all up to date and ready to grow vegetables, flowers and best of all — future gardeners.
Three community gardens received grants from Master Gardeners this year.

They are:

**Blue Heron Park Community Garden**: $600 to purchase irrigation parts and soil amendments;

**Eagle Point Community Garden**: $400 to purchase irrigation parts and decomposed granite

**ACCESS Food Share Gardens**: $1000 to expand the Medford Food Share Garden from one half acre to an acre, creating a centralized hub for educational workshops open to the community.

ACCESS Produce Challenge

ACCESS is the Community Action Agency of Jackson County. ACCESS partnerships with various community members and groups to help provide a variety of services to those in need in Jackson County.

Plant-a-Row is a way for local gardeners to grow a few extra rows of healthy produce in their home gardens and donate it to ACCESS food pantries in Jackson County.

We are encouraging Master Gardeners to donate garden fresh goods for this great project! We will begin collecting produce on WEDNESDAY JUNE 5. Produce will be collected and weighed in at our 10:30AM break every Wednesday throughout the growing season. Please bring donations to the Arboretum.

Last year Master Gardener’s donated over 800 pounds to this cause! Nice work!

2019 ACCESS Produce Challenge questions to Gina Velando

Tour of Italio Gardens & Nursery

Join fellow Master Gardeners on Saturday morning June 15 from 9-11a.m. for a guided tour of Italio Gardens & Nursery led by owner Baldassare Mineo!

"Former home of Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery, this beautiful 2-acre botanical garden is full of lovely flowers in every season and a large selection of rare trees, shrubs, and perennials.”

The property includes a large koi pond and rock gardens featuring over 100 tons of granite boulders.

Italio Gardens & Nursery
2825 Cummings Lane
Medford OR 97501
RSVP to Gina Velando
In recent weeks, I have become reacquainted with a certain class of ornamental: The Garden Thug. The Garden Thug is beautiful, which is why we plant it, but it is intent on world domination and in the right conditions will overtake the garden if we turn our backs for a nanosecond.

My current interaction with this class includes: gaura (Gaura lindheimeri), yellow archangel (Lamiastrum galeobdolon), and western mugwort (Artemisia ludoviciana). Others acquaintances are ornamental comfrey (Symphytum spp.) and snow-in-summer (Cerastium spp). Give any of these the rich life and they will own your garden. However, I’m convinced that all of these are useful beauties deserving a place in the right circumstances.

For example, yellow archangel covers the shaded slope between my home and my neighbor. It is absolutely lovely when its variegated foliage leafs out in the spring along with luminescent yellow blossoms. When I noticed it, last spring, I expected to find it in my garden by this year. That didn’t happen, perhaps because the slope receives no supplemental water.

Western mugwort, similarly, is better behaved when it’s not irrigated. I had 4 clumps of the ‘Valerie Finnis’ cultivar in my former garden. Of them, the only one that traveled was next to an irrigated patch of lawn, which it would have happily taken over. I have less experience with lovely, self-sowing, taprooted gaura, but I am gardening with it this year and will have a chance to assess its response to little or no irrigation. And attentive deadheading.

Where Garden Thugs excel and shine is in tough places where an aggressive plant is needed to overcome challenging conditions. My backyard has two English walnuts on a dry slope that produces a fine annual crop of ratty looking weeds. I’d much rather look at yellow archangel and comfrey. A couple of Garden Thugs may be just the ticket.

**Garden thugs or heros?**

**New Dirt**

**MONETTE HOFFMEISTER**

**MASTER GARDENER**

**STUDENT 2019**

Enjoy six marvelous gardens in Medford and in Jacksonville. Sustainable, drought tolerant, pollinator friendly ideas abound! Gardens may be toured in any order, please, no pets.

Tickets are available at:

- All Grange Co-Op Retail Stores
- Blue Door Garden Store in Jacksonville
- Penny and Lulu Studio Florist and Events in South Medford
- Any of our garden locations on the day of the tour only

This tour is tax deductible, brought to you by the collaboration of American Association of University Women, Medford Branch and the Medford University Women Charitable Fund (EIN#: 47-3323286) in order to provide scholarships to women and girls in Jackson County.
In Spring a Master Gardener’s fancy turns to thoughts of garden humor. Oh no! Let me explain. My mother was an inveterate punster and joke teller, to the chorus of groans from our family. (We also had belching contests at the table, but that’s a story for another time.) In honor of my mother, and all your mothers, too, I am going to tell some garden jokes. Like mother, like daughter, but bear with me, peas.

In Practicum this year, we divided house plants for the lesson on digging and dividing plants, because we can no longer divide plants from the demonstration gardens to sell at Spring Garden Fair. One of the plants we divided was my mother’s peace lily, which I have named “Alice” in her honor. Mom has not been with us for about 15 years, but I keep her memory alive by dividing Alice every few years and giving away all but one of the divisions. This year Alice’s “children” went to Spring Garden Fair. When I sold one of the peace lilies to a customer, Alice was on my mind, as was one of her jokes: “Why do melons have fancy weddings? Because they cantaloupe!”

I could hear her saying to me, as I leaned over to smell our Mr. Lincoln rose, “Your nose is the in the scenter of your mug.” Thanks, Mom.

I live in the Fern Valley Estates near the Payne Cliffs east of Phoenix. We are fortunate to have a water district with 5 good wells for domestic water and Talent Irrigation District water piped to our properties. However, the pipes are old and like most years, this year we had a major leak in the irrigation line. Alice came to mind as I saw the guys fixing the line, half in the hole and half out. Alice, who was the handy one in our family, could sometimes be seen with her head under the kitchen sink and her feet sticking out while she fixed our creaky plumbing. She would have liked this one: “What vegetable do you need a plumber for?” A leek. (groan!)

My mother loved salad. Any kind of salad, every kind of salad. I always think of her when anything about salad comes up. Here’s one Alice might tell: “Why did the tomato turn red? Because it saw the salad dressing.” One of my raised beds, which I call “the salad bowl” is devoted to all those goodies I want for salads – radishes, lettuce, a cucumber vine, kale, green onions, sugar pod peas, with some carrots nearby. As I was planting this bed, I thought of another garden ditty, which Alice would like: “Does Bok bring you Choy? Then lettuce all smiles.” And here’s another one: ”What is small, red and whispers?” A hoarse radish. (Oh, please!)

When I was a child, we belonged to the Quaker Meeting in Adelphi, Maryland. The Meetinghouse grounds were extensive, and members of the congregation, including my mother, took turns mowing the lawns. Alice drove...
Dear Gardeners,

I will begin by saying job well done to all those who participated in the Spring Garden Fair! This was my first opportunity to attend the fair, and I was so impressed to see so many local businesses and entities join together from across the valley. It was also amazing to see all of the plants raised in Practicum, the product of months’ long hard work, at the center of it all. Nice job to those involved, and looking forward to next year.

This month, we have one community education class coming up in June with Master Gardener Marjorie Neal. Marjorie will walk us through how to keep our summer vegetable beds healthy and yielding vibrant produce. Join us on Saturday, June 8 from 9 am – 11:30 am for “You’ve Planted Your Veggies, What’s Next?”

And now, let’s get to some favorite wildflower sightings this month: Two members of the lily family native to the region, Calochortus tolmiei and Dichelostemma congestum, have been popping up around southern Oregon for the last couple of weeks. C. tolmiei, also known as Tolmie’s start tulip, is a perennial herb native to the west coast of the United States, from Washington into California. The distinctive flower cluster is a solitary bloom or a cluster of bell-shaped flowers with very hairy petals ranging in color from white to pale pink or purple. D. congestum, also known as clustered lily, or ookow, has been a treat to watch bloom. Each stem supports between six and 15 beautiful purple flowers and resembles a miniature bouquet.

An unusual but not uncommon flower to see has been Kopsiopsis strobilacea, or California groundcone, also native to California and southern Oregon. This fascinating plant, which resembles a pine cone especially after desiccation, is a member of the Orobancheae, or broomrape family. They are non-photosynthetic and are actually parasitic, relying on their hosts for all nutrients. K. strobilacea parasitizes the roots of madrone trees (Arbutus spp.) and manzanita shrubs (Arctostaphylos spp.). Instead of using roots, the plant employs its root-like haustorium to penetrate the roots of its host to withdraw water and other nutrients. I have seen these growing in several different places, including up through the compacted soils of trails and in recently burned locations, as seen in this photo taken in the Ashland Watershed after a recent prescribed burn. Southern Oregon always impresses with its unique and varied flora!

– Erika

OSU Program Advisor
ERIKA SZONNTAG
The Mistress of Citrus

It’s faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive and able to leap tall buildings at a single bound! Well, maybe not quite all that but our herbal hero definitely has the strength to stun your taste buds with its super-strong citrus scent.

Who is this lemony-long-leaved native of Chile and Peru who Lois Lane likely never had the pleasure of encountering its explosive essential oils upon her palate. Under its many guises (aka lemon beebrush, lippie, cedronella, verbena limon, princesa and limou just to note a few) Verbenaceae, was seemingly sighted in the early 1700’s. Later when spotted in its leafy-green cape, it was discovered to be none other than our herbal hero, the elusive lemon verbena.

Secreted with the Spaniards in the late 1700’s, lemon verbena sailed to infiltrate European shores where its powerful oils enhanced humankind as it infused their perfumeries, teas, baked goods, preserves, sauces, replaced oregano in poultry dishes, naturally repelled insects then motivated writers to create poetry and prose to describe its entrancing/enhancing essence.

Even if you forget our hero's identity you'll surely recognize it by its long spear-shaped leathery leaves that when gently pressed between your planting digits will emit its heady citrus scent. Both leaves and flowers offer its aroma for penetrating all your favorite recipes whether culinary or medicinal. Fresh-tender leaf-tip-shoots may be minced for baked goods, meat rubs, drinks, sprinkled atop fruit salads or rice before cooking. Use the mature leathery leaves for infusing in vinegars, in custards, (not being acidic it won't curdle your cream) or zesty teas especially when paired with mint. Its powers penetrate even when dried to dazzle all when it's dispensed in sugar to use in recipes or sprinkled atop your fruit salads and favorite baked goods.

Capable of reaching heights nearing 24” or more (not quite to the top of those high-rise buildings), plants will provide plentiful leaves. With every tip clipped, three more branches will form, offering even more leaves. Later in summer these branches bring forth petite flowers perfuming all with a more delicate lemony scent.

Although once inhabiting only its South American soils, our hero now inhabits grounds throughout the world for all to enjoy as long as it’s given winter shelter (in 8” or larger pots) with 18 hours of...
Recipe: Lemon verbena blueberry muffins

Makes 12 large or 24 mini muffins
Preheat oven to 400°F

Fit muffin cups with foil baking liners and spray with pan release

2 1/2 cups white whole wheat flour or gluten free substitute
2/3 cup coconut sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup fresh or frozen (unthawed) organic blueberries
1/3 cup minced fresh young lemon verbena leaves
1/2 cup chopped toasted nuts (optional) of your choice
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1/2 cup applesauce
1 cup buttermilk
1/2 cup lemon Greek yogurt
Coarse sparkling sugar for topping or finely chopped nuts

Mix together the flour, sugar, salt, baking powder, and baking soda.
Stir in blueberries, lemon verbena leaves and nuts if using. Mix together olive oil, applesauce, buttermilk and yogurt then pour over dry ingredients. Blend only until just mixed. Spoon in to foil lined muffin cups. Sprinkle tops with sparkling sugar or nuts. Bake for about 18-20 minutes until puffed and lightly browned. Remove muffins from pans and let cool. Serve warm or freeze for later.

Herbal hero will stun your taste buds

Continued from Page 12

Sufficient growing light to stave off slumbering (often if it goes dormant it dies) in zones below 9. A once a week thorough showering should keep it cleansed from undesirable inhabitants as well weekly watering without fertilizer.

Here lemon verbena can be planted outside (preferring full sun and rich well-drained soil) if provided an appropriate insulated protection (an upended planter lined with insulation and leaves placed atop plants cut down to about 2" high). Once it's beyond that last threatening frost, removing winter wraps will encourage reawakening those first shoots to sprout their strong scented leaves to rescue you from your own seasonal slumbering.

So seek out this super-lemon-scented hero whose powerful punch will penetrate all your senses and surrounds with leaves and bounds!

In praise of mothers (and their jokes)

Continued from Page 12

Around all summer in our big, yellow Dodge station wagon (we called it “Yellow Bird.”) with our manual push mower in the back, just in case she had a spare hour or two to run over to the Meetinghouse and mow the lawn. I thought of Alice when my neighbor recently asked to borrow my lawn mower: “My neighbor asked me if he could borrow my lawnmower. I told him he could, if he did not take it out of my yard.” Maybe I should say that out loud next time.

If you are still with me, keep in mind what Langston Hughes said: “Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse and cool the earth, the air and you.”

Congratulations to the Master Gardener students who finished class and passed their exam. As you become apprentices in the demonstration gardens this summer, remember: New gardeners learn by trowel and error.

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who worked at Spring Garden Fair! No joke!
Look for the Davidia involucrata in full bloom

With all the beautiful flowers popping out with blossoms of every hue & color, it’s not surprising that we walk along with heads down, admiring the scope of it all. And then there’s shrubs at eye level which get their share of attention. But hey, folks, I do hope during the 1st of May you remembered to look up as you turned in the Extension driveway & took in the beauty of the Davidia involucrata in full bloom. You don’t often see a blooming Davidia & after reading about it, I can understand why: According to reports, this tree usually does not bloom until after it has been planted in the ground for 10 (YES, TEN) years!

It has some very descriptive & interesting “nick names”:

DOVE TREE because a slight breeze sets the blossoms moving as though a flock of doves are perching on the branches, preparing to take flight;

HANDKERCHIEF TREE, because I’m sure someone has decorated it with white handkerchiefs fluttering in the breeze; and

GHOST TREE, just because, you can imagine. I have to think of Casper the friendly one, as this isn’t my favorite moniker for such a lovely sight.

Whatever you call it, we just have to feel very fortunate that someone planted it SO many years ago in the Extension grounds arboretum, that we can enjoy it every year.

If you missed it this year, next May, look up to the right as you’re driving in or pause a bit on your way out.

Worth it, yes? YES!

Peggy’s Propagation
BY PEGGY CORUM
MASTER GARDENER 1989

Mackison, Shooting Star Nursery
See how to incorporate attractive deer resistant plants into your home landscape, plus additional techniques to keep deer from feeding in the gardens.

PLANTING IN A POST-WILD WORLD
Sherrill Morgan, Master Gardener & Landscape Designer
This class focuses on recreating natural plant communities, supporting native flora and fauna, enriching the microbial life in the soil, all with an eye to basic design practices.
Announcements:

1. Patrice Kaska: Membership renewals received does not mean that members have also sent their signed liability forms. Please be sure that any member volunteering has a signed form. Patrice can check the membership database or there is a file folder of all forms submitted by year in the office.

2. Barbara Davidson: Barbara reminded the Board that the OMGA Board will be meeting in Medford on June 7 & 8 and will offer a special Treasurer’s training session at this meeting.

3. Ronnie Budge: Ronnie announced that the AAUW Annual Garden Tour will be June 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are $20 per person.

4. Jim Buck: Jim announced that the Community Garden Tour will be held June 1 and is free to the public.

5. Kari Gies: Kari announced that the annual Lavender Festival will be June 21-23. There will also be a garden work party on May 30.

6. Susan Koenig: Reminded the Board that the next Board retreat will be held June 26. Board members are asked to bring a dish for a potluck lunch.

Additions to the Agenda:


President’s Report:

1. President Koenig reported that the Executive Committee met to approve a minor change in the PayPal account regarding refunds.

Treasurer’s Report: President Koenig on behalf of Treasurer Carter presented the Treasurer’s Report

New Business

Life Membership for Michael Riding

Policy for Acceptance of Memorial Gifts: The Jackson County Master Gardener Association accepts monetary memorial gifts without question. All tangible (non-monetary) memorial gifts must be approved by the JCMGA Board prior to JCMGA taking possession of any such gifts.

Compost Budget: Ronnie Budget presented the report of the Budget Committee regarding the proposed budget for the new compost garden

Agenda for the June Board Retreat: The retreat will be held June 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Reports

Speakers Bureau: – Jim Buck presented information regarding current expansion of the speaker’s bureau.

SOREC Entrance Driveway: Rich Roseberg, Director of SOREC, presented his efforts to address the unsafe conditions regarding the second driveway entrance to the property.

Next Meeting – June 14, 2019

Roberts Rules of Order Cheat Sheet

We are a decision-making body. Although we do have reports listed on the agenda, most reports are filed on Dropbox to conserve time. To keep the focus on decision making, we need to understand the following procedure:

To speak in the meeting, you must be recognized by the Chair (and/or be on the agenda.

To discuss something, you must make a motion about it. (Usually best to write the motion out or prepare something ahead of time.

To make a motion, say “I move to___________” The motion needs a second. Say, “I second the motion.”

Debate should be on the subject and not personal.

Or someone says, “I move the previous question.” If this happens, we vote on calling the question. We need 2/3 vote to stop the debate.

The chair will repeat the motion and a vote will be taken.
Just one more thing ...

Sandy Hammond and her husband Dennis made pottery man out of reclaimed pots. Their entire yard in Gold Hill is made up of art and fun treasures made from reclaimed materials.