

*"We learn, practice and teach  
the art and science of gardening  
in the Rogue Valley."*



## JCMGA accomplishments in 2019

As 2019 draws to a close, we should reflect on some of JCMGA's many accomplishments during the year and look forward to what comes next in 2020. It has been my great pleasure to steer the ship this year and I am excited about the many opportunities we will have next year with Ronnie Budge at the helm.

### **New organizational structure**

We began this year with a new organizational structure for the administration of JCMGA business. The board had defined nine Working Groups (WG), each headed by a chair or co-chairs selected by the members of the WG. What's new this year is that all the WGs became permanent and fully operational.

We also did a little fine tuning of our structure. Recently, the Technology WG was folded into the Communications WG because we determined that the two groups needed to work closely together given our increasing dependence on technology for communicating with members. The Finance and Fundraising WG recently became the Fundraising WG when we made the development of our Business Plan an executive function under the purview of the whole board.

Most WGs meet together



### **President**

Susan Koenig  
Master Gardener 2015

regularly, and those that did not start out that way are now doing so because it has become clear that one of the great strengths of our groups is that many hands make light work and many heads produce lots of ideas. Each WG had responsibility for coming up with ideas for what needed to be done in its area. Having a permanent, committed group to define and handle these activities ensures that progress is made.

As president, I also found that having WGs assisted the board in conducting business efficiently. When an issue arose that required more time and discussion than the board could devote during a meeting, I referred the matter to one of the working groups. The working group then took the matter under advisement and

returned at a later meeting with a motion that had been more thoroughly thought out. This process helped us to make better and more consistent decisions as well as to streamline our board deliberations.

### **Five-year plans**

In 2018, the Board set a goal to develop a Five Year Business Plan for JCMGA. During 2019, the working groups, which were tasked with devising these plans, reported back to the board. A business plan is simply the compilation of all those separate plans, plus the organizational structure that we already have in place and a financial plan for how to raise the money. We recognize that any future plan is subject to available resources, new conditions and circumstances that arise, and roadblocks that we may not be able to overcome. Therefore, we will need a yearly process to update our plan. Next year, Ronnie has indicated that she will form a new Business Plan Committee to tackle this task.

### **Changes to Practicum**

Many of you know that we were informed last fall that the Oregon Department of Agriculture was prohibiting Master Gardeners from selling plants dug from

*Continued on Page 2*

# Members receive awards for JCMGA service

*Continued from Page 1*

garden soil. Because donated plants comprised an estimated 40% percent of our practicum booth plants at Spring Garden Fair, we needed to replace donations with plants propagated from cuttings or seeds. Practicum mentors and students went to work producing thousands of plants from seed, and many native plants, houseplants and other perennials from seeds and cuttings. As a result, we had a very successful SGF plant sale and because we had so many thriving cuttings that we were holding over during the summer, the idea of the “pop up” sale was born. We held two spontaneous plant sales this summer at the Extension under a pop up tent, generating almost \$2,000 in additional revenue. The success of our perennial and native plants also gave rise to a new “native and perennials” nursery which is taking shape where the healing in beds were located.

## **Energy conservation and solar energy**

In 2019, two JCMGA committees worked on energy conservation ideas. With the help of Energy Trust of Oregon, the board’s Solar Committee and the newly formed Practicum Conservation Committee both found that replacing the overhead fluorescent lights in the practicum classroom and the prop house with LED lights would save about 50 percent of the electricity requirement for those two areas. The Practicum Committee has also begun work on other conservation measures in the greenhouses and the practicum classroom. The cost of replacing those fixtures has been included in the 2020 budget.

Starting in January of 2019, JCMGA became responsible for paying most of the cost of electricity supplied to the greenhouses, prop house and classroom. The Solar Committee undertook to examine JCMGA’s current energy usage, to project future costs and to determine if installing a solar energy system on the Extension grounds would be feasible and cost-effective. The committee received three preliminary proposals from local solar companies for two systems: one for just MG usage and the other to cover all or most of the electrical needs for the entire SOREC campus. The committee is reviewing these plans with SOREC now and will continue next year to develop a financial plan to acquire one of the systems. Solar isn’t cheap. Grant writers are needed!

## **Garden Buds**

The Member Services Working Group has been developing a

mentor program they call “Garden Buds” to “help new students bloom.” This program will debut with the 2020 MG class in January. We aim to provide a friendly face for each new student to make them feel welcome and to help them find their niche in JCMGA.

## **Many other accomplishments**

Although I could go on to report many more accomplishments – major and minor – I’m running out of space and I think I am probably wearing out my welcome from our new BEET editor who has many interesting articles to fit into this issue. If I didn’t mention the accomplishment most dear to your heart, please forgive me. I am constantly amazed at how creative and hardworking our members are and how much they accomplish. Happy holidays to all and thank you for a wonderful year!

## **Membership renewals due**

Now that we’ve begun the new Master Gardener year, membership renewals for 2020 have been mailed. In fact, you may have already returned yours by now.

When you do return your renewal, it is very important that you include all three completed forms with your check or cash: 1) the JCMGA contact information/interest/expertise form, 2) the OSU Waiver of Liability form, and 3) the OSU Code of Conduct form. You have also been sent a second Code of Conduct form to retain for your own information.

In 2020, dues remains at \$20 until January 31st. Beginning on Feb. 1, 2020, dues will increase to \$25. If you renew before the end of January, you will save a bit of money and be sure to have your contact information included in the 2020 Chapter Directory.

The Member Services Working Group is planning even more activities for Master Gardeners this gardening year: more group tours, the introduction of the Garden Buds program and single topic interest groups. We hope you will join us!

# Susan Koenig's term is up, but she's not headed for the exit

By **Ronnie Budge**  
Master Gardener 2011

As Susan Koenig's term as JCMGA president draws to a close, it's time to acknowledge and thank her for her many contributions to our Association. She has shepherded the organization through a most productive year.

While Susan was still vice-president, the Board of Directors decided that better coordination was needed among all the worthwhile activities being undertaken by our JCMGA volunteers. So related activities were joined together into "Working Groups." For example, publication of *Garden Beet* along with our website and Facebook page and public service announcements and Mailchimps, which all aim to inform our members and the general public, were joined into a "Communications Working Group." These various "Working Groups" were each charged with the task of developing five-year goals.

Once she became president of JCMGA, Susan made sure that this important effort moved steadily forward. She planned a Board of Directors retreat where each Working Group reported on its progress and got feedback from the entire Board. We're now seeing concrete results: new fundraising initiatives like 50/50 raffles, bottle deposit collections, and bulb sales; more member events like field trips to local gardens; partnerships with other organizations such as the public library to provide new audiences for our speakers'

bureau; and enhancements to the demonstration gardens like beautiful new signage.

Not one simply to leave it to others to carry out the work of our organization, Susan has been personally involved. For several



years she's been a mentor for new students in the Practicum, and she didn't allow her commitments as president to interfere with that. She flipped hamburgers at our summer picnic. She recruited hosts for the workshops at our Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens symposium. She's helped prepare budgets and rewrite bylaws. But, she unfailingly credits others for our success. If you heard her distribute awards at our summer

picnic and graduation banquet you saw this for yourself.

We can't neglect mentioning two of Susan's "pet projects": energy conservation, and the compost garden.

She's been working with Practicum mentors and others to help ensure that our energy use is as low as possible, e.g. by using LED lights in the classroom and prop house. She's especially interested in researching whether solar energy is feasible at the Extension.

And she recruited a group of experienced Master Gardeners and student apprentices to develop a new compost demonstration garden. Her recent article about this project in the October *Gardener's Pen Newsletter* may inspire other Oregon Master Gardener associations to do something similar. (Susan knows the value of good compost. Her home garden, where she has spent several years building up the soil, produces bountiful crops. She brought her excess produce to our Wednesday morning demonstration garden work sessions to be donated to local food banks.)

Susan has no intention of sitting back and relaxing next year when she becomes Immediate Past President. She'll continue to work in our demonstration gardens and the Practicum, pursue energy conservation measures, and take on a new and important long-range planning role for the Board of Directors. (More about that in a future article.) But we'll miss the hot coffee and homemade apple cake she's brought to every Board meeting to encourage early arrival!



# Holiday Gala a great success



The Fundraising Working Group held the 1st Annual Holiday Gala on Friday, Nov. 22, in the new greenhouse. The brainchild of the Bulb Committee has been a year in the planning. The greenhouse was packed with wares to sell. Amaryllis turned out to be the best seller, as were the native plants propagated by the Practicum. Annette Carter and Sandy Hammond single-handedly created over thirty gorgeous wreathes and swags. Several were sold before the sale began. Thanks to these creative and hardworking folks the 1st Annual Holiday Gala should be considered a success: Annette Carter, Sandy Hammond, Roberta Heinz, Patrice Kaska, Jane Moyer, Lynn Kunstman, Marie Katz, Marcia Harris and Kate Hassen. Thanks to all!



*Photos by Linda Birch*



# Thanks to all the WDSG volunteers

**By Kathy Apple**

*Manter Gardener 2017*

Thank you WDSG volunteers!!!  
The Winter Dreams Summer

Gardens annual education symposium on Nov. 2 was a great success with so many positive comments from attendees. Co-Chairs of the event, Rebecca Jurta and Kathy Apple know

the positive outcome was achieved by the many Master Gardener volunteers who helped out so diligently. We are grateful for all of the dedicated help from the following:

Jeff Feyerharm	Jim Buck	Erika Szonntag	Joanne Dane
Keltie Nelson	Joe Alvord	Marcie Katz	Sue Koury
Gina Velando	Cielo De Romero	Candace Steely	Trisha Hart-McArthur
Marcia Harris	Juliette Van Wheeghel	Dennis Jackson	Sandy Hansen
Patrice Kaska	Heidi Martins	June Carter	Carol Bogedain
Sandy Hammond	Clare Gilmore	John Kobal	And all 35 Class Hosts!!!!
Susan Koenig	Roberta Heinz	Jan Carlson	
Cheryl Forster	Kate Hassen	Kathleen Detweiler	
Doug Kirby	Jane Moyer	Sharon May	

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## 2020 Board of Directors

Welcome to the 2020 JCMGA Board of Directors!

This is shaping up to be a busy year for the board.

One of the challenges is to find alternatives to curtail the costs of our ever-increasing electric bill. The

board is working with the Extension management to see if installing solar is an option.

We'll be keeping you posted through the year.

In addition, the JCMGA Organizational Chart has been

updated to reflect some recent changes. The Finance & Fundraising Group has been renamed Fundraising Group and Technology is now included in the Communications Working Group.

### Elected Officials

**President:** Ronnie Budge

**President Elect:** Lynn Kunstman

**Immediate Past President:** Susan Koenig

**Recording Secretary:** Jane Moyer

**Membership Secretary:** Patrice Kaska

**Treasurer:** Annette Carter

**Assistant Treasurer:** Roberta Heinz

**OMGA Representative:** Barbara Davidson

**Archivist:** Pam Hillers

**Member at Large:** Kathy Apple

**Member at Large:** Sandy Hansen

**Member at Large:** Jack Ivers

**Member at Large:** Rebecca Jurta

**Member at Large:** Janine Salvatti

### Working Group chairs

**Communications:** Kate Hassen

**Community Outreach WG co-chairs:** Jim Buck, Bill Gabriel

**Fundraising WG:** Sandy Hammond

**Gardens WG:** Janine Salvatti

**Member Services WG:** Keltie Nelson

**Program Support WG:** Erika Szonntag

**Spring Garden Fair WG co-chairs:** Sandy Hammond, Sandy Hansen, Kate Hassen, Jane Moyer.

**Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens WG:** Vacant

# Greenhouse #1 renovations underway

By John Kobal

Master Gardener 2015  
Greenhouse Monitoring and  
Pest Mitigation Team leader

The Practicum Mentors are busy with multiple projects getting ready for the Master Gardener Class of 2020. Mentors have divided up Practicum readiness responsibilities into several teams, one of which is the Greenhouse Monitoring and Mitigation Team. Their original assignments were: 1) to develop and implement a plan to monitor the Practicum greenhouses for pests and diseases; and 2) to develop and implement a plan to combat pests and diseases which were identified. After getting started, the Curriculum Team added another task: to create a new Greenhouse Management lesson for the Practicum. A fourth task was added by the Greenhouse Team when it became obvious that they needed to develop a Greenhouse Sanitation and Cleanliness Plan.

After a detailed review of past greenhouse pest issues, the Greenhouse Team concluded that several critical facility issues needed to be addressed. These mostly dealt with eliminating a welcoming greenhouse environment for pests and restricting their access. The largest effort by far will be to replace the floor in Greenhouse #1. The new floor should eliminate the continuing weeds that harbor insect pests throughout the year (even in winter). Measures have been added to severely restrict plant roots entering from the outside perimeter, and deal with a rodent problem. (There was a nest under the water heater!)

Other issues that have been rectified include:

- Providing access to a previously unknown electrical box buried in the floor.
- Installing a foundation/footing



*Photos by Kate Hassen*

Steve Hassen and Bill Elliott work on the south doors of Greenhouse #1, above, while Doug Kirby paints a new section of the north wall at left.



and spread throughout Greenhouse #1 and a new greenhouse/landscape cloth covering will be going in (similar to Greenhouse #2). The benches will be returned to the greenhouse and placed into a slightly different configuration for ease of access.

A big 'thanks' goes out to all the volunteers who have helped renovate Greenhouse #1. Specific mention needs to be made for Steve Hassen, Doug Kirby and Bill Elliott. These three men have tirelessly worked many hours to accomplish this renovation. Steve Hassen has led the effort.

We are also addressing issues related to Greenhouse #2 and the Propagation House. If we have the success we're hoping for, we should experience far fewer insect pest and disease issues in the greenhouses leading up to the Spring Garden Fair. Additionally, the new Practicum lesson on Greenhouse Management will undoubtedly benefit our new students.

for the two sinks.

- Exposing a water faucet that was buried in the floor. It's now secured to the north wall.
- Total replacement of the south end doors.
- Replaced a moldy portion of the north wall. It's getting fresh paint too.

Lots of activity and changes are happening inside Greenhouse #1. But the biggest visual difference will be the floor. All the pea gravel was removed to the new Native Plants area just west of Greenhouse #2. Decomposed granite was delivered



# What a great gardening season we've had!

*Dear Gardeners,*

While we've only had hints of winter weather, the fallen leaves and shorter days are signifying the end of our gardening season; but, what a great gardening season we've had!

Some exciting news: the new vineyard is doing really well! We had a handful of volunteers come out to plant the first five rows in September – four permanent rows, and the first row of the four-row rotational block. With Gordon Jones' help, we also planted a fall cover crop mix in an effort to demonstrate alternative methods to weed management and soil fertility management.

The classes designed to address small-scale and home viticulture in the Rogue Valley were successful for their first year as well. These included Pruning, Pest & Disease Management, Canopy Management, and Nutrition & Irrigation Management. These four classes and had a total of 97 attendees.

As the vineyard becomes better established over the next growing seasons, we hope to hold more of the classes outside and use the vineyard as a teaching tool, which was one of



## OSU Program Advisor

Erika Szonntag

our main goals with this project.

Finally, I want to say job well done to everyone who was involved with Winter Dreams Summer Gardens! There were some amazing speakers with really interesting topics, and the event went off without a hitch.

Also to those who have done an incredible job remodeling greenhouse

How to plant a vineyard, from bottom left: Master Gardener Marty Rosen demonstrates how to plant a grapevine; Alec Levin broadcasts cover crop seed mix; new grapevines start getting comfortable.

#1, I am continually impressed by what the Jackson County Master Gardeners accomplish, both at the Extension and out in the community.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your service!

— Erika



# Not Jost-a-Berry

'Tis the season when all through  
the garden patch,

Not a creature is stirring

Not even a nuthatch... But  
it could be a new berry on  
the block is slumbering  
beneath the thatch.

Still searching for that  
special gardener's gift? How  
about seeking out a  
jostaberry? This cultivar isn't  
just, or "jost" a berry beneath  
the thatch, but an incredible  
gift from both black currants  
and gooseberries.

Why a jostaberry? Like  
many, if you're not familiar  
with this incredible hybrid  
you'd wonder what makes it  
so special. *Ribes*  
*nidigrolaria*, the jostaberry  
(pronounced yust-a-berry, from the  
German word for gooseberry,  
Johanisbeere and black currant  
Stachelbeere) is a complex cross  
between the black currant, North  
American coastal black gooseberry  
and European  
gooseberry.

Desiring different  
and better than black  
currants or  
gooseberries, the first  
variety of jostaberry  
came about from  
experiments  
conducted in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early  
19<sup>th</sup> centuries following the  
gooseberry craze sweeping through  
America and England. (Unbelievably  
there were even gooseberry  
appreciation clubs in both countries!).

After Dutch and English  
gooseberries arrived with the first  
American colonists, late 1800s  
experimental crossings continued  
until their interruption by the two  
world wars. However, despite these  
interruptions, the Germans persisted  
with various strains. This fortuitously

## Gardening Gourmet

by Sydney Jordan Brown  
Master Gardener 2000



gave rise to the first jostaberry  
becoming publicly available in 1977.  
What a phenomenal gift it was and  
still is.

Although not so new in availability,  
its arrival in American gardens is far

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**The jostaberry is a complex cross between the  
black currant, North American coastal black  
gooseberry and European gooseberry.**

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more recent. Perhaps it's that we're  
still more put off by the thorns of  
gooseberries, the tartness of  
blackcurrants and their disease  
susceptibility. But, little we may  
know that jostaberries carry none of  
these undesirable characteristics.

Still wondering what's so  
wonderful about jostaberries? Given  
its great background, it's simply an  
incredibly fruitful package gifting us  
with the grandest benefits from all its  
parenting plants. Not only does the  
jostaberry lack those nasty gooseberry  
thorns, but also its berries are also

larger, more prolifically produced and  
much sweeter than the plants of their  
parentage.

Tasting of sweet-ripe  
gooseberries, a bit of black  
currant and grape, jostaberries  
are also rich in vitamin C and  
antioxidants. Suspended from  
stems, they grow in small  
green clusters slowly  
deepening red and maturing to  
a glossy violet-black (except  
red varieties that turn crimson)  
when fully ripe.

Jostaberries are long-lived, so  
be generous when selecting  
and preparing their permanent  
bed. Jostaberry prefers well-  
drained, slightly-acidic soil  
containing lots of organic  
compost and a location with  
afternoon shade. Planting is  
best in autumn or early spring when  
cultivars are dormant.

With few problems, all that's  
regularly required is late winter-early  
spring fertilizing with good organic  
compost and pruning out  
dead, broken or weak  
branches and older wood  
to encourage even bigger  
berries next season.

Jostaberries are so  
delicious you'll want to  
indulge in them fresh  
when they ripen in  
summer, but you may want  
to save some. They also make  
wonderful gifts of jams, relishes,  
chutneys, pies, cordials and wine.  
Although lasting only a few days  
refrigerated, they freeze incredibly  
well so you can enjoy more than "just  
a berry" even in December as they  
grace your holiday table with their  
sprightly sweet tartness.

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**Justaberry custard tart  
recipe, Page 9**

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# Meet Jack Ivers

By Kate Hassen  
Master Gardener 2013

As of September 2019, Jack Ivers is the new editor of the Garden Beet newsletter.

Jack is a new member of the Jackson County Master Gardeners, having taken the class just this year. I met Jack at one of the early Master Gardener class days in February. He wanted to volunteer to work on the Garden Beet newsletter! Being quick on the uptake, I promptly connected him with Cindy Williams, then the editor. She and Jack hit it off and soon he was handling the layout for the Beet.

The real surprise came when Jack quietly revealed that he retired after holding a variety of editing positions

at the San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle. His expertise is legendary as the Examiner's front page piece about his retirement states, "The Examiner's quiet colossus leaves..." And now all that "quiet colossus" is generously shared with JCMGA.

Jack is originally from Utah and has been involved in journalism from his earliest days. From Salt Lake's Judge Memorial High School through San Jose State University, and out into the working world, Jack worked his



way to the top of the newspaper world. He worked on several large Bay Area papers, including the old San Francisco Examiner where he worked under William Hearst. Following that, he worked at the Chronicle until he retired.

And to top it off he is a computer whiz.

Sometimes, when you least expect it, the right person walks through the door at the right time. Thank goodness

Jack Ivers walked through our door, just as we needed him. Welcome aboard, Jack. I salute you.

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## Recipe: *Jostaberry custard tart*

For the crust:

8 tablespoons butter

¼ cup coconut sugar

¼ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon almond extract

1 1/3 cup white whole wheat (or gluten free) flour

¼ cup almond flour

1 egg, beaten

Beat butter with sugar, salt, extracts and egg until fluffy. Add flour, almond flour mixing just until all clings together. Press in bottom and up sides of 9" tart pan with removable bottom. Prick all over with fork and freeze 15 minutes. Bake at 350° for about 15 minutes then remove and set aside.

Filling:

1 cup jostaberries (fresh or frozen)

black or red

1/2 cup coconut sugar

1/4 cup sweet dessert wine (sauternes)

1 ½ cup cream

5 eggs, lightly beaten with a fork

¼ cup organic sugar

1 teaspoon pure almond extract

zest from one organic lemon

sea salt

¼ cup organic sugar

whipped cream

Mix jostaberries with coconut sugar and wine then simmer on medium heat for about 15 minutes. Remove from heat. Mix together cream, eggs, sugar, almond extract, lemon zest and pinch of sea salt.

Use slotted spoon to place berries in bottom of browned crust. Pour over

custard mixture. Bake at 325° for about 30-40 minutes until custard jiggles when pan is slightly shaken or knife comes clean when inserted in middle. Remove and let cool. Sprinkle surface with last ¼ cup of sugar and torch or broil until browned and caramelized. Serve with whipped cream and a drizzle of remaining berry juice. Serves about 8.

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### Sources

#### One Green World

[www.onegreenworld.com](http://www.onegreenworld.com)

They have black, Jostine black, and red jostaberry plants

#### Raintree Nursery

[www.raintreenursery.com](http://www.raintreenursery.com)

They have black as well Orus 8 jostaberry.

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# The plant push is on!



## Peggy's Propagation

by Peggy Corum  
Master Gardener 1989

There is a beautiful dark purple Butterfly Bush growing in my area that has been there for the past 30 years & has not invaded anything. Well behaved. However, although visitors know nothing about this particular bush, they go ballistic when they see it & immediately think it should be destroyed because of all the publicity regarding its invasiveness. (No, I haven't propagated my Butterfly Bush for general sale, but only to someone who specifically asks for a copy.) After traveling by train from France

to The Netherlands, I can appreciate the above panic attacks. The common, wild, old-fashioned, lavender-colored Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*) grows EVERYwhere in abundance along those tracks and they are ugly, ugly, ugly. Must be hard to manage/control, hard to get rid of, spreading from underground stolons as well as by seed. It looked as though the land had been given over to them years ago. I will hope it doesn't look as dismal when in bloom. There are bad guys in most families (plant and animal), but don't label the whole family as bad because of one bad apple or one bad egg. There is an invasive plant to be aware of (Purple Loosestrife) that spreads like crazy along ditches.

However, I've seen plants which share the family name (*Lythrum*), but it does not spread its loveliness all along the landscape, and it's for sale at a specialty nursery. No, I didn't



buy one. I'm not sure where the original came from, but there is an Arum we've been fighting in our landscape that continues to be farmed by ground squirrels. Unfortunately, they are keeping ahead of us. We keep finding bulbs of all sizes in the darnedest places, including at the very bottom of pots.

I can vouch for how bad Ivy is. It can climb to the top of tall tall pine trees and/or come through your back door if you leave it open. The stalks can get so old, big and burly you can cut it up for fire wood ...but there is the cutest little dwarf that I really love... a Needlepoint Ivy, *Hedera helix* "Pixie" by name.

The message here is: EDUCATION. Try not to go ape at the label; try to know what you are dealing with; Don't pass along plants willy nilly; deadhead spent flowers if in doubt; and know your sources. It's sorta like trying to separate news flashes from the media: be slow to react, get educated from all sides, then judge for yourself.

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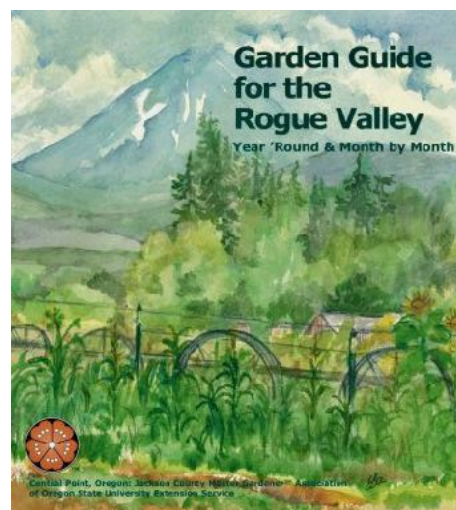
## December Garden Guide

It's that time of year when we think about freezes and rain and cold weather projects.

If you went to *Winter Dream/Summer Gardens*, you'll have projects lined up.

Here's a short list of things to do in December:

- Check stored crops
- Protect irrigation
- Check drainage
- Harvest Brussels sprouts
- Tie & prune berries
- Set out garlic & shallots
- Prepare cold frames



For details, see page 125 of *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley*



# Ways we can all support JCMGA

By Jane Moyer

Master Gardener 2005

The JCMGA Fundraising Group is developing a wide variety of ways to raise funds for the many educational projects of the association. Some have been with us for a long time, some are relatively new. The newest way to

support the association is a non-profit program called CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services). Do you have a car, truck, boat, trailer, RV, motorcycle, camper, off-road vehicle, plane, heavy equipment, farm machinery or any other motorized vehicle that you'd like to get rid of? It doesn't even have to be running. The only requirements are a title, an engine, wheels, and accessibility by a tow truck. CARS will arrange for the pickup, provide donor information for tax purposes, and sell it for maximum profits that will come to JCMGA. Arrangements can be made by calling 855-500-7433 or by going to the CARS website to complete a donation form. For more information, go to the CARS home page and click on either "How It Works" or "FAQ" at the top of the page for more information.



Do you shop on Amazon? Here's a great way to support the Jackson County Master Gardeners: instead of going to the Amazon website, go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)! Login the way you normally login to Amazon or Amazon Prime. Right under the box where you'd search for items to buy, click on the "Supporting:" button. Go down

to "Pick your own charitable organization." Type in "Jackson County Master Gardeners." This will bring up a list of Master Gardener programs. Be sure to select the one in Central Point! That's it! Now every time you make a purchase at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase to the Jackson County Master Gardener Association.

Lest we forget, though, it's good to review some of our older fundraisers. Of course, **Spring Garden Fair**, **Winter Dreams Summer Gardens**, and **plant sales** are the biggies. Who could possibly forget those? New this year, though, are periodic **Pop-up Plant Sales**. Watch your email for those.



**Grange Co-op** dividends are available to members who spend over \$500 per year. Although the dividend is usually not much per individual account, we, as an association, can benefit if we each ask to have our purchases credited to the Jackson County Master Gardener Association. (It is important to say "credited" and the complete name since the Grange is also in neighboring counties.)

**The annual yard sale** is held the Saturday after Spring Garden Fair. (May 9, 2020 is the next one.) Start now to identify items to donate. And plan to attend! There are always some great bargains!

**Bottle and Can Collections** are a fairly new fundraiser. Special blue collection bags, with stickers identifying them as being a JCMGA fundraiser, are available in the Master Gardener office. Fill them with your

redeemable cans and bottles and either drop them off at the Redemption Center at the end of Stowe Way (off Rossannley) or bring them to the Extension on the fourth Wednesday of any month after the first of the year.

The first annual **Holiday Gala** was held Friday, Nov. 22. Amaryllis, paperwhites, fall bulbs, wreaths and swags, potpourri, neck warmers, houseplants, native plants, and succulent arrangements were sold. Cider and cookies were served, friendships were renewed, and most items were sold out. What fun! Look for it again next November.

And, of course, monetary donations are always gladly accepted. When you send in your membership dues, consider adding a little extra to support the many programs the Jackson County Master Gardeners provide in the Rogue Valley. If we all do a little, no one has to do a lot!



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 out 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 we can do.

# Leaves of Gold

Until I found Master Gardeners, I thought that Leaves of Gold was a poem by Walt Whitman. Now I know that leaves are true gold, garden gold.

We were able to salvage two trees of mature size when we moved into our home three years ago. We have planted a number of trees since then, but they are young with small canopies. We could see that our leaf composting efforts wouldn't yield much.... What's the saying? Something about, "if there's a will"?

Then, like a lightning bolt (aka coffee), came the realization that there are leaves falling EVERYWHERE around us. My trusty hubby signed onto this notion with fervor. We'd bag them and hide the unsightly bags behind our house for the next year or two until they composted. Wait! A year or two? This was not very satisfying because our need to feed our borders is now. We discussed our options: traditional composting, mulch mower, vacuum shredder, or leaf shredder. We decided to purchase a leaf shredder. It was the best and easiest solution for



by Janine Salvatti  
Master Gardener 2019

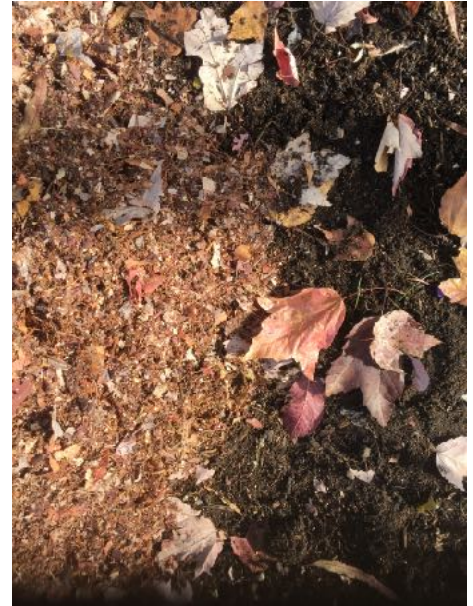
our needs and we could use the leaves immediately as mulch.

One morning I awoke to find my hubby already out. At 7 a.m. this was unusual! He must be out for a walk? Nope. A bit later I looked out at the front yard and saw our truck pulling up with bags of leaves bursting out of the bed. Seventeen to be exact. His plan was to scout the neighborhood and raid the bags of gold from our unsuspecting neighbors!

The leaf shredder was a game changer for us. Easy, fast mulch anywhere there is an electrical outlet and the resulting mulch was quite impressive, ready to spread. Our neighbors are offering us their bags of leaves and a nice side benefit is being able to talk about the benefits of mulching / composting regardless of method.

We will be scouring the streets for a few more bags since mountains of leaves are reduced by a ratio of roughly 10:1, so it will take many more bags to provide a layer of 2 inches over all the beds. Once spread, we will sprinkle blood meal (approximately 1C to 25 sq. ft.) on top to help the leaf mulch decompose and provide nitrogen to the process. Leaves are free and they are safe since they are unlikely to be treated with harmful chemicals.

I was sick of gardening (that's pretty harsh, but



true) by September. I'd had enough. Finito, done! Now, I am excited to feed my soil and already building up a head of steam for the spring!

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## Blue BottleDrop bag raises funds for projects

*Good morning Fellow Gardeners,*

Thanks to your efforts the "BottleDrop" has already brought in well over \$200. We are going to continue the drive for the coming year. You can pick up blue bags with the JCMGA bar code from Kate Hassen. Or pick up the blue bag from the shoe box in Erika's office.

Due to the holidays, we will not be collecting blue bags at the Extension in December. The blue bags will still be available. And you can still drop them off yourself at the Bottle Drop at 1179 Stowe Ave. in Medford.

The next collection day at the Extension is Jan. 29.

Thank you to all who have participated! The board hopes you will continue to participate in our "BottleDrop" to raise funds for 2020 JCMGA projects.

*The Fundraising Committee*







## Master Gardener

# 2019-2020 Events & Community Education Classes

Workshop information unless otherwise stated:

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

**Pre-register and [pay online](#) or call 541-776-7371**

Oregon State University Extension Service

### 2019

#### DECEMBER

**Wednesday, Dec. 4** | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**New Board Orientation** (all 2020 board members), Extension office.

**Tuesday, Dec. 10** | 5:30 – 7:30 pm

**Planting in a Post-Wild World** |

*Sherri Morgan, Master Gardener 2008*

There is not much left of our "wild" landscape as the natural world existed before settlers began to till, build roads and dam rivers. Nature can still teach us how native plants grow and are arranged in community. Master Gardener and landscape designer Sherri Morgan explains how to recreate natural plant communities, support native flora and fauna and enrich soil microbial life while incorporating basic design practices.

**Friday, Dec. 13** | 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**December Board Meeting**, Extension office.

### 2020

#### FEBRUARY

**Tuesday, Feb. 18** | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 pm

**Capturing Carbon for the Climate:**

**Part 1** | *Scott Goode, Master Gardener 2012*

Improve climate conditions right in your own backyard! Learn carbon cycling in the environment and theories behind carbon sequestration, which can be applied at home as a practical and empowering way to mitigate climate change. (Part of a series.)

#### MARCH

**Tuesday, March 3** | 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

**Landscaping with Cold Hardy**

**Succulents** | *Annie Schreck, Mountain Crest Gardens*

This class will cover the unique adaptations of succulent plants, the

basics of succulent care, and strategies to use them in low-maintenance, drought-tolerant landscapes.

**Tuesday, March 17** | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Grapevine Pruning** | *Dr. Alexander Levin, Oregon Wine Research Institute*

Learn the basics of grapevine pruning for home hobby or small-scale grape production in the Rogue Valley. (Part of a series.)

#### APRIL

**Tuesday, April 14** | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Grapevine Pest and Disease**

**Management** | *Dr. Alexander Levin, Oregon Wine Research Institute*

Identify common grape pests and diseases in the Rogue Valley, plus innovative techniques to both treat and prevent them in your home vineyard. (Part of a series.)

**Tuesday, April 21** | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Innovative Weed Management** | *Scott Goode, Master Gardener 2012*

A weed is just a plant in the wrong place. Learn how to identify weeds, then apply creative management plans to make "weeds" work for you!

#### MAY

**May 2-3:** Spring Garden Fair

**May 8:** Yard sale/Plant sale donations: Extension parking lot 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**May 9:** Yard sale/Plant sale: Extension parking lot 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 12** | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Grapevine Canopy Management** | *Dr. Alexander Levin, Oregon Wine Research Institute*

Improve fruitzone cluster microclimate and canopy management with proper

summer pruning techniques for your home or small-scale vineyard. (Part of a series.)

**Tuesday, May 26** | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Month-by-Month Insect Pests in the Garden** | *Marsha Waite, Master Gardener 1995*

This class will provide a calendar type look at what insect pests to look for in your garden month to month, plus appropriate management strategies.

#### JUNE

**Wednesday, June 24** | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Grapevine Nutrition & Irrigation Management** | *Dr. Alexander Levin, Oregon Wine Research Institute*

Learn how to properly feed and water your grapevines to optimize yield and fruit quality in your home or small-scale vineyard. (Part of a series.)

#### JULY

**Tuesday, July 14** | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Inviting Nature into our Yards and Gardens** | *Lynn Kunstman, Master Gardener*

Growing native plants in our yards, cities, and common areas provides the best hope for saving our pollinators. Based on the work of Dr. Doug Tallamy, this presentation will teach you why and how to add native plants to every yard.

#### AUGUST

**Tuesday, Aug. 11** | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Capturing Carbon for the Climate: Part 2** | *Scott Goode, Master Gardener 2012*

Build upon what was taught in the first class by looking at outcomes from

*Continued on Page 15*

**Jackson County Master Gardener Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Nov. 8, 2019**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Roberta Heinz announced the Holiday Gala will be held 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22 in Greenhouse #2. Bulbs, wreaths, swags, Christmas decorations, houseplants, and native plants will be sold.

2. Gina Velando distributed fliers from the Winter Dreams Summer Gardens caterer.

3. Patrice Kaska asked Working Group chairs to remind their committee chairs to announce to committee members that membership forms must be accompanied by the two OSU forms.

4. Jane Moyer announced that JCMGA has been accepted by CARS for vehicle donations. A Beet story will give the details.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Kate Hassen introduced Jack Ivers who has been named editor of The Beet. Jack will also join the JCMGA



**Recording Secretary**

Jane Moyer

Master Gardener 2005

Board in January as a member-at-large.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Susan Koenig congratulated Rebecca Jurta and Kathy Apple on the 2019 Winter Dreams Summer Gardens and thanked them for their leadership. A chair or co-chairs are needed for 2020.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Annette Carter

commented on the October Treasurer's Report filed in Drop Box. Major expenses included tune-ups on the Treasurer's and Membership Secretary's laptops and the purchase of external hard drives for both so all information can be backed up. The new irrigation pump, the January – August 2019 electric bill, and upgrades being made on the Practicum classroom and greenhouses were also major expenses. The \$1,000 anonymous donation from a JCMGA member was the major income source. Treasurer Annette Carter moved that the Garden Enhancements Committee be allowed to overdraw their 2019 budget by \$600 to purchase supplies for making Garden ID Signs and Way Finding Arrows to be installed before the 2020 gardening season starts.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Patrice Kaska reported the results of the election for the 2020 board members. (See Attachment #1 for a list of the 2020 elected board members.) The election of Barbara Davidson was inadvertently omitted from the report so the report was amended.

2. Marcia Harris announce she is stepping down as chair of the Technology Working Group and moved the Technology Working Group be dissolved and reformed as a committee within the Communications Working Group. Marcia will be the committee chair with all the same responsibilities plus will become the liaison between the Communications Working Group and Laurel Briggs at Creative Design who will be hired as webmaster for the JCMGA website.

3. Kathy Apple, chair of the By-laws Committee moved the Awards

**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.

*Continued on Page 15*



# Board Minutes: Nov. 8

*Continued from Page 14*

Committee be included in the Executive Functions on the JCMGA organizational structure chart. Linda Holder seconded. Unanimous approval.

4. Barbara Davidson moved and Kate Hassen seconded approval of 2019 School Grants totaling \$4,760 to be given to the schools recommended by the School Grants Committee. Unanimous approval. (See Attachment #2 for a list of the schools.) The School Grants Committee will research signs at each school listing JCMGA as donor.

## STATUS REPORTS

1. Rebecca Jurta and Kathy Apple reported 188 people attended Winter Dreams Summer Gardens. Master Gardeners made up 40 percent of the participants. A detailed report, including financial information and evaluations will be given at the December board meeting.

2. Kate Hassen announced for President-elect Ronnie Budge a board retreat will be held 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Friday, Jan. 24, in the OSU Auditorium and will include a potluck lunch. Topics recommended

for inclusion are:

a. Coordination of educational programs

b. Advertising of JCMGA programs and fundraising efforts to both members and the public.

1. Barbara Davidson reported on the OMGA quarterly meeting held in Tillamook Nov. 1-2, 2019. A report on fundraising was given and will be included in Barbara's board report on Dropbox.

A statewide silent auction brought in funds equal to 85 percent of the value of the items as compared to the usual 60 percent. These funds will be used to help finance the 2020 mini-college which will be held on the OSU campus in Corvallis on July 24 and 25, 2020. The theme will be Grow Provide Sustain (GPS). See Barbara to volunteer for one of the many positions that need to be filled.

A database is being developed for use in Oregon Master Gardener Plant Clinics that will provide documentation for frequently asked questions so information will not have to be documented each time.

The OMGA alternative

representative from JCMGA will be appointed from the 2020 board members in January.

1. Pam Hillers announced she had written a letter to ODOT with suggestions on ways to remedy the danger of pulling out of the Extension driveway. Coincidentally, the trees and bushes on the property on the south side of the Extension have been trimmed back to make the sightline much better. Rich Roseberg has been working with ODOT on this.

## NEXT BOARD MEETINGS AND EVENTS

New board orientation (all 2020 board members): Wednesday, Dec. 4, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

December board meeting: Friday, Dec. 13, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Board retreat: Friday, Jan. 24, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. potluck

*Submitted by Jane Moyer,  
Recording Secretary*

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## Master Gardener 2019-2020 Events & Community Education Classes

*Continued from Page 13*

various carbon sequestration techniques. Scott will discuss results of research performed with the Desert Research Institute and Tikkun Olam Research and Teaching Farm. You will also have the chance to see carbon sequestration in action at the Master Gardener Carbon Sequestration Victory Garden at SOREC. (Part of a series.)

### SEPTEMBER

**Wednesday, Sept. 9** | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### Dive into Composting | Matthew Allen, Master Gardener 2019

Learn how to create multiple styles of compost systems and find which style works best in your home. You will have the chance to see some of these compost systems in action at the Master Gardener Compost Demonstration Area at SOREC.

### NOVEMBER

**Saturday, Nov. 7** | 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### Winter Dreams/Summer Garden

Higher Education Center, Rogue Community College, 101 S Bartlett St. Medford, OR 97502

Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens is a gardening symposium open to all. It is presented by Jackson County Master Gardener™ Association. This is our 21st year of offering classes on all aspects of gardening for beginners through expert gardeners and professionals in the landscaping field.

*Registration and program schedule coming soon.*

## Beet Box

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Photography: Glenn Risley

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

All articles and photos are due by the 15th of the preceding month and have a maximum of 500 words. Photos submitted cannot be less than 600x800 pixels.

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All information provided by the Garden Beet is believed to be accurate. A product named in an article does not constitute an endorsement of said product by JCMGA.

## Just one more thing ...



Context is everything! Is this a weed or ornamental grass? This was taken at the Extension a few weeks ago.

*Photo by Monette Hoffmeister*



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**JACKSON COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION**  
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