

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



## Virus closes Master Gardener program

### Events, classes halted, Extension grounds closed

"May you live in interesting times." That is said to be a Chinese curse. Well, we are living in interesting times, all right. (Substitute any adjective you prefer.) The novel coronavirus is causing massive disruptions to our daily lives and to our economy. It seems as though everything has shut down, including our own Spring Garden Fair, Wednesday Master Gardener classes, the Practicum, and all Extension buildings and grounds..

"Social distancing," as I understand it, aims to slow the spread of the COVID-19 disease so that it doesn't impact everyone at once, overwhelming the capacity of our hospitals to care for the sick. It may reach many of us sooner or later, but later is preferred, when our health care systems have more supplies and better treatments.

No one knows for sure how this virus will behave. Will it more or less disappear with warm weather, as seasonal flu tends to do? Or will it

continue to spread for many months? Or perhaps return annually but with less ferocity as more and more of us develop some degree of immunity?

In the face of this uncertainty, your JCMGA Board of Directors is taking things one step at a time, following the guidance of state and local health authorities and OSU Master Gardener leadership.



**President**  
**Ronnie Budge**  
Master Gardener  
2011

The first step was to cancel the Spring Garden Fair scheduled for May 2 and 3. This action was taken by the Board of Directors' Executive Committee even before OSU ended all face-to-face activities. The foremost reason was our moral responsibility to help slow the spread of the disease.

Although the Fair was to be our biggest source of revenue for 2020, the Board is confident we can weather this. We have suspended all non-essential expenses. The electricity to the greenhouses was shut off, for example, and vegetable seedlings given away (but donations encouraged) so those with gardens can grow food that our community will need. Many of the other plants that were being raised by the Practicum, such as natives and houseplants, are being nurtured outdoors or fostered by volunteers in

*Continued on Page 2*

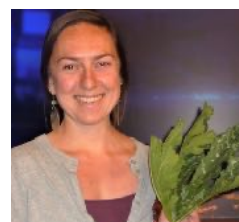
### Details of closings and cancellations; catch up on credits

*Dear Master Gardeners,*

I hope this all finds everyone healthy and with more time to spend in your own gardens! There has been a lot of information flying around the past few weeks. Here is a quick update regarding all things Master Gardener Program:

"Based on guidance from the CDC and OSU, through at least May 10 any face-to-face Master Gardener classes, meetings, outreach activities, and events, including Master Gardener conferences and plant sales, should be cancelled or postponed. All face-to-face Master Gardener activities, events, meetings – no matter how many people may attend – are suspended pending further notice."

All volunteer activities, including working in the Demonstration Gardens, are postponed until further notice. Only activities for preventing the loss of plant material are permitted



**OSU Program  
Advisor**  
**Erika Szonntag**

*Continued on Page 2*



Photo by Jack Ivers

Gates to the extension and doors to the greenhouses are all locked.

## Catch up on credits in off time

*Continued from Page 1*

at this time (this mostly applies to Practicum folks who have been doing a fantastic job working together appropriately).

The Extension office on Hanley Road was closed to public, volunteers, faculty, and staff as of March 23.

The Plant Clinic window will be closed through May 10 or until further notice. I am working to redirect questions to OSU's [Ask an Expert](#) service and will continue to work with OSU as far as how best to serve the public regarding Plant Clinic questions.

Volunteers may want to catch up on their continuing education credits by [reading approved publications](#), or by participating in the [Advanced Training Webinar Series for Master Gardeners](#). (See list, Page 12)

Please email me if you have any questions, concerns, or need clarification.

Please continue to prioritize your personal health and wellness. Take the time to regularly review updates from the [CDC](#) and [OHA](#) websites, as well as OSU's [COVID-19 webpage](#).

Thanks for your cooperation everyone. Again, I hope you are finding more time to spend outside and are all well, and hopefully, we'll return to business as usual soon!

– Erika

**Remember  
to log your  
volunteer  
hours!**

## Non-essential expenses shut off

*Continued from Page 1*

their homes. If we are allowed to host events in the summer, then we can hold “pop-up” sales of these plants. I am certain that our Fundraising Working Group will be creative about new ways to earn revenue. And thanks to the foresight of past Boards, JCMGA has reserves in the bank.

At present no one but Master Gardener Coordinator Erika Szonntag is allowed on Extension grounds. She will do what she can to keep plants watered and alive until our volunteers can get back to them. We are looking forward to that time. Everyone misses seeing one another, even if we must shout across the six feet between us.

Your JCMGA Board will continue to hold its monthly meetings, via ZOOM for now, and decide what activities can be resumed and when. We were all disappointed when some new initiatives had to be postponed. But our disappointments pale in comparison with those of so many others in our nation and throughout the world.

The Oregon Master Gardener Association is continuing to plan for Mini-College on July 24 and 25 in Corvallis. The keynote speaker is to be Robert Michael Pyle. He is the founder

of the Xerces Society, which aims to protect the natural world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats, with a current focus on pollinators such as bees and butterflies. OMGA will decide by May 15 if this event can go forward.

As of now, our end-of-summer picnic is still on the calendar, as is graduation of the 2020 class. Erika Szonntag, is working with students to find different ways to fulfill their education and volunteer requirements. We are lucky to live in a time when technology can help us do that.

And, I'm delighted to announce that we have three members who volunteered to chair the Winter Dreams Summer Gardens education event for this fall: Regula Pepi (class of 2003), and Susan Koury and John Yunker (both class of 2019). They are hard at work already planning for the Nov. 7 program.

Flexibility is key. We will keep you informed as events unfold, via Mail Chimps, Facebook, and the JCMGA webpage, as well as *Garden Beet*. In the meantime, stay healthy. And know that there is no group that I would rather go through “interesting times” with than our Jackson County Master Gardeners.



# Appreciating Doug Kirby's many talents

As with so many of you, I am a huge fan of Doug Kirby's gardening skills. He has taken a flat piece of ground between the Rose Garden and the Arboretum, turning it into hills, dales, nooks & crannies, showcasing an array of blooming treasures. With head down while admiring Snowdrops and its larger "cousin" Snowflakes (*Galanthus* and *Leucojum*), peer upwards at the contorted filbert (*Corylus avellana*, nickname Harry Lauder's Walking Stick). Also, Doug has been at work on the black

elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) which was previously trained to be a tree. Look at the humongous trunk on that thing! Now it's being turned into a shrub, much like a lilac. Wow.

Off hand, I'd say it's time well spent to visit the Perennial Garden often to see what surprises Doug is nurturing. Every month, every week,



*Edgeworthia chrysantha* (oriental paperbush)

there is something interesting pushing its way up through the soil and it's going to grab your attention and/or enthusiasm.

I am presently in love with *Edgeworthia chrysantha* (oriental paperbush) with its gorgeous yellow, FRAGRANT, blossoms on a deciduous shrub that is just aglow on a sunny spring day. I hope you saw its awakening in March.

**Peggy's Propagation**  
by Peggy Corum  
Master Gardener 1989



Sometimes I wish I would mark my next year's calendar so I'll know ahead of time what I want to watch for, although that would spoil the annual surprises.

Yes, I want one of those shrubs. Doug, it's cutting time again for this happy propagator. (By the way, it's a good idea – no, larger than just good – to ask the gardener if you can take a snip of their "child!") Your next stop? Perhaps at a local nursery. Or, if you have patience, maybe down the road we'll have some little rooted plants. Or, come join in at our Propagation Garden and try your hand at rooting cuttings. You might like it. I'm not sure how I did it, but my 4 grown children are not interested in propagating. They want the plant, they want it big and they want it NOW. Oh well.

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As I have admitted many times, I am not at all an accomplished landscaper: I am more accurately a plant collector. That is, if there's a plant I don't have, I want one. Or, if



Photo by Kate Hassen

Doug Kirby at work – as always.

it's a plant, tree or shrub I haven't propagated before, of course I would like to try it.

So, when a very sweet person asked me if I'd like to have clippings from her hibiscus, of course I said, "Oh, yes." We currently have these cuttings in our greenhouse since they are tender and not the winter hardy variety.

They most certainly can be enjoyed all summer, so just think ahead where you might put one next winter: in a greenhouse or indoors near a sunny window?

## Peggy's propagation garden

Normally, we'd tell you to drop by Peggy's Propagation Garden and see what's blooming.

Because of the restrictions in place, power has been turned off to the greenhouse and Peggy is staying at home.

# What's happening in the April garden

With the coronavirus afoot, we have more uncertainties in our lives than certainties. This may cause us to reassess the importance of our gardens in ways rarely considered.

Fresh veggies and fruit may be less available in markets, but we have the potential to fill that gap for ourselves and our neighbors by the crops we cultivate at home. We also hold the seeds of beauty in our hands as we peruse our flower seed packets, prepare beds, plant, and nurture our tender seedlings to full flower.

Another thought that has come to me strongly is that our ornamental and veggie gardens offer us respite from the worries of today. So much of our lives are pointed outwards. We're busy, sometimes harried. Perhaps having fewer outside demands leaves us with time to meditate and regenerate in the garden leaving us a little stronger to cope.

Now on to April garden checklist. As always, a wonderful resource on what veggies to plant this month is our Master Gardener publication, Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley, Year-Round & Month by Month and OSU Extension publications.

Weed, bait for slugs (Sluggo Plus or other eco-friendly product), and spread mulch with abandon – or until the Advil wears off! Check your irrigation system. Prune and fertilize with forethought. Clean fountains, birdbaths, bird feeders, check on your bug and frog houses, and butterfly puddles.

Plant perennials. Give special consideration to choosing local natives that support our pollinators, wildlife, and flourish in our local soils without a lot of amendments or excessive water.

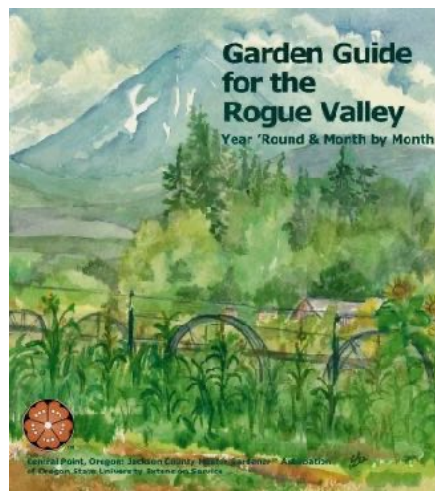
Many crowded perennials can be divided at this time of year when their green shoots are just appearing. Here's a partial list: daylilies, hostas,



By Janine Salvatti  
Master Gardener 2019

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## April Garden Guide



peonies, and oriental poppies. Dividing helps these plants to enjoy new vigor, perform better and manages plant size, plus you get multiple plants for free for your own garden or to share!

Get your treasure trove of veggie

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*At the end of your afternoon efforts, drag a comfy chair out into your yard with your favorite beverage and take time to simply appreciate your garden*

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and ornamental seed packets out to review indoor planting times so plants are ready for the garden by about Mother's Day.

Roses need pruning if not already done, and fertilizing. Climbers need to be pruned to the strongest 3-5

canes and gently secured to support in a lateral or horizontal position to encourage best flowering. Make sure the foliage is coming from above the graft and cut off any shoots coming from below the graft since these will not produce the rose you expect.

As your bulbs wane, dead head them but leave the foliage until it is completely spent; it feeds the bulb so its ready to sleep through the summer and winter and emerge gloriously again next Spring.

What to plant in April from the Garden Guide:

Direct plant cool-season veggies like carrots, chard, spinach, dill, beets, collards, chervil, Florence fennel, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, parsley, parsnips, peas, potatoes, radishes, salsify, scallions, swiss chard, tomatillos.

Sow for transplanting: Basil, cabbage, cantaloupe, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, squash, tomatoes, watermelon.

Transplant: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, endive, escarole, Jerusalem artichokes, leeks, lettuce onion sets, oriental greens, pak choi, parsley, rhubarb, tomatoes.

Fertilize: blackberries and established artichokes.

At the end of your afternoon efforts, drag a comfy chair out into your yard with your favorite beverage and take time to simply appreciate your garden regardless of the size. Breathe. Sip. Observe the wildlife visitors. Sip. Absorb the sunshine. Sip. Did I mention sip?

We're part of a gardening family. Social distancing does not mean isolation. This is an ideal time to send your gardening buddies pictures of what's happening in your garden and share a kind of gardening "happy hour" regularly to keep spirits pollinating!



# Buzzin' the Rogue Buzzway

By Kristina Lefever  
Master Gardener 2016

By definition, a gardener tends a garden, whether large or small, at home or in a community plot, or filled with veggies, flowers, or succulents. Recently, pollinator plants have become a favorite addition to gardens because people are realizing that the best way to save the bees and butterflies is to grow pollinator gardens.

There are two primary reasons for the critical decline of bees and other insects over the past 20 years. The most obvious reason is the disappearing landscape – previously rural lands have become cultivated, developed, or paved over, and with urban infill, fewer and fewer in-town “wild” areas remain. Less landscape means fewer flowers and plants the pollinators need to survive. And, not surprisingly, the plants that get planted in a human landscape tend to be similar, so the diversity of our native species is being lost.

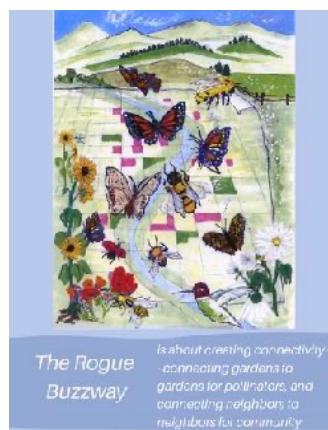
In tandem with the “neat” landscape philosophy is the use of pesticides: herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, miticides, and more, to keep our streets, roadsides, lawns, pets, and gardens weed and insect free. All of these synthetic products will harm pollinators in some way.

So, it is more critical than ever to grow pesticide-free, pollinator-friendly landscapes to provide much

needed food and habitat for insects, birds, and other wildlife. Trees, shrubs, and other plants that bloom throughout the year, as well as water, mud, and bare areas, are all important for these pollinating insects that feed us and so many of the critters with whom we share the planet.

Native plants are best, including trees, shrubs, perennial, and annual flowers. Although native plants do not usually have the long blooming season that we enjoy with hybrids, natives offer these important insects the best nutritional bang for the buck. Not to mention that many butterflies and moths require certain native plants as host plants (where they lay their eggs).

And, most gardeners know other gardeners, which brings us to the



concept of connectivity. Pollinator habitats in relatively close proximity give bees, butterflies, beetles, flies, moths, and birds “corridors” in which to move and find sustenance and shelter and insure species diversity and healthy populations. Connectivity is what the **Rogue Buzzway** is all about, an innovative project that is mapping the location of pollinator habitats

throughout the Valley. The Demonstration Gardens at Extension are on the map! But more data is needed! Does your pollinator landscape qualify?

Just recently, Kristina Lefever (Master Gardener 2016) and Anne LaFrance (Master Gardener 2016) tabled at Extension during lunch time to talk with MG students about this project, to get as many Jackson County Master Gardener pollinator gardens on the map as we can.

To learn more about the project and see the Rogue Buzzway maps, [click here](#)

Looking for ideas for pollinator plants? Check out these [lists](#).

Thank you for supporting the pollinators!

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*Kristina Lefever is a member of Pollinator Project Rogue Valley, Bee City USA Ashland, and the Jackson County Master Gardeners Association.*



Anne LaFrance holds down the Buzzway table.

Photo by Kristine Lefever

# Black sheep in the wolf family

Unlike in the fairy tale, this wolf wouldn't fool Little Red Riding Hood any more than it would fool her grandma.

*Lycium ruthenicum*, the rare black wolfberry (Gogi plant) sports not a red cape but a beautiful, shiny, ebony skin. Originating in the Himalayan Mountains in Central Asia, it's revered not for its cunning smile and large teeth to "eat you all up" but for its healthy offerings.

Loaded with vitamins A, C and E, wolfberries also contain some essential fatty acids that are rather unusual for fruits. They also have large amounts of proanthocyanidins, antioxidants similar to those found in cranberries and grape seeds, that assist with removing free radicals from cells.

Black wolfberries are shrubby plants reaching 4'- 6' tall with fleshy grayish-green leaves and rather pointy thorns. (At least they're less lethal than the fangs of that notorious wolf found in Grandma's bed.)

Their fruits start out as green spheres turning to purple, then obsidian-black when they're fully ripe. They're delicious fresh off the plant and sweeter than their red counterparts.

Fresh black wolfberries are delicious when added to smoothies. When fresh or frozen berries are steeped or added to foods they make

**Gardening Gourmet**  
by Sydney Jordan Brown  
Master Gardener 2000



an intensely deep-blue dye. Just think how spectacular a basket full of brilliant blue Easter eggs would be.

These berries can also be made

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*Originating in the Himalayan Mountains in Central Asia, it's revered not for its cunning smile and large teeth to "eat you all up" but for its healthy offerings.*

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into jam and are very tasty when dried to eat out of hand or added to cooked cereal, baked goods or anywhere else one might use raisins.

Although the black wolfberry is a relatively easy, undemanding and thrillingly prolific plant, propagating it from seed may leave you believing it is difficult to grow. It's really not but it's definitely preferable to

acquire young plants from a reliable nursery instead of sowing seeds that may not germinate well or at all.

Despite this, the exciting and rare plant will grow in most gardens and even in large (half whisky barrel size) pots. If you have a place or pot with well-draining, generously-composted soil that receives at least a half day of sun and late afternoon filtered light, you can grow a wolfberry.

Self fertile and seemingly not bothered by pests or diseases, about the only accompaniment might be a sturdy trellis to tether your plant as it matures.

Another great feature of this unique plant is that you'll not need to wait long for it to bear (no, not its teeth this time), its fruits. Only one to two years after planting you should be presented with tiny star-shaped flowers in mid-to late-spring.

Not long thereafter you'll observe the emergence of citron-green berries. Gradually they'll take on a purplish hue, then darken to their fully ripe bluish-ebony-black by late summer and early autumn.

So why not explore this rare and sensational plant and discover it's not a wolf out for meat but a berry that's truly sweet?

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**Black wolf cheesecake  
is a delight**  
**Page 7**

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# Entry enhancement looking good

One of the goals of the Garden Enhancement Committee for 2020 was to beautify the entry to the Demonstration Gardens. With help from our friends, we're nearly finished so make sure to take a look next time you visit the Extension. Our finishing touches will be labeling the plants and mulching.

You've heard the saying "location, location, location"? Well in the case of this planting area it was "soil, soil, soil! What gorgeous perfect loamy soil!" Makes a gardener want to weep! Especially when by stark contrast so many of us go home to soil perfect for the potter's wheel! And the worms! Big fellas, some 10 inches long and well fed!

Evergreen natives were chosen for their eventual height, flowering, deep rooting, and low water and maintenance needs. Another benefit of "going native" is that no amendments or fertilizer is needed.

Big THANK YOU'S go to:

Scott Goode for broad forking and weeding the planting area.

Sherri Morgan for selecting the native plants and placing them on the site.

Doug Kirby for bringing irrigation to the planting area.

April Magel, Pam Hillers, Marcie Katz, and Janine Salvatti for planting the 26 shrubs.



Photo by Janine Salvatti

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## Recipe: *Black Wolf cheesecake*

About 8-10 servings

Line the bottom of an 8" spring form pan with oiled parchment paper

### **Crust**

2/3 cup toasted almonds

1/2 cup regular rolled oats

1/4 cup dates, soaked in hot water for 1 hour

Grind almonds and oats in a food processor until finely ground. Add dates and pulse until dough forms. Press into bottom of a lined pan and set in refrigerator.

### **Cake**

1 1/2 blocks (12 oz) regular or light cream cheese, cut in chunks

1/2 cup agave nectar or honey



Juice of one organic lemon

2/3 cup fresh or frozen black wolfberries

Place all food in the processor and pulse until smooth. Pour atop crust in prepared pan and set aside.

1 1/2 blocks (12 oz) regular or light cream cheese, cut in chunks

Two 5 oz containers of vanilla Greek yogurt

1/4 cup agave or honey

Put all in food processor and pulse until smooth. Carefully pour atop berry cheese layer. Place in freezer for at least 6 hours or overnight.

To serve, remove from freezer and let sit on counter for about 20 minutes to cut in wedges.

Top with blackberries and rosettes

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### **Sources**

One Green World  
[www.onegreenworld.com](http://www.onegreenworld.com)

Logee's  
[www.logees.com](http://www.logees.com)





## Demonstration Gardens copycat

Here we are on the cusp of the new growing season and the hellebores are blooming. These lovelies have long been favorites of mine, but I've not had a chance to grow them before. I don't have a lot of shade, but what I have is destined to become a small forest of hellebores. What could possibly be lovelier? Well, having seen hellebores blooming in concert with an underplanting of hardy cyclamen in the Perennial Garden, that question has its answer.

As the days get longer and the creeping phloxes start to bloom, I'm reminded of a pale lilac phlox punctuated by the palest of yellow daffodils in the Entryway Garden. I must find a spot to replicate that combination. The Entryway Garden also provides the solution for

my extra calico aster problem. I had ordered a baptisia, but received the aster, one of which I already had. The one I intentionally purchased was to reproduce a combination from my former garden that I loved: 'Lady in Black' calico aster, joined by a stunning 'Gold Vibrations' daylily and drumstick alliums, backed by Giant Sacaton grass. Alas, I learned that what was outstanding in one garden won't necessarily be outstanding in another. So, what to do? Entryway Garden to the rescue. There, late in the season last year, I saw calico asters partnered with pure white Japanese anemones, to absolutely lovely effect. You bet I'm going to copy that.

And who knew burdock is so gorgeous? One fine day last summer as I was leaving the Plant Clinic, I glanced to my right and was stopped in my tracks by the statuesque form

and gorgeous bloom of burdock in the Culinary Herb Garden. In my prior garden, I regularly purged burdock, having been told it was undesirable. Little did I know what beauty I was sacrificing. In addition to its good looks, this biennial is edible; I'm told native Americans used the roots for food. I recently spotted three volunteers under my oak tree that have the look of burdock, so I'm leaving them be and keeping my fingers crossed.

Then there's a beautiful variegated yucca in the Rain Garden that I covet. And my husband is utterly smitten with the 'Crimson Bouquet' rose in the Rose Garden. And the Daylily Garden sported an eye-catching pairing of violet-blue verbena with a sparkling white zinnia with orange eyes.

The new season is upon us, and I can't wait to get a good look at the rest of the gardens. I'm certain more treasures await discovery.



### New Dirt

**MONETTE HOFFMEISTER**  
MASTER GARDENER  
STUDENT 2019



# Unexpected determination

## a.k.a. bloom where you're planted

By Lynn Garbert  
Master Gardener 2014

The gravel was spread – it was loud coming out of the wheelbarrow as the shovel scooped some and poured it onto the soil. Dry. Lifeless. Grey. Gravel. Plants had been removed from the scene and that was that. Bleak was the new norm. No green. No color. No life. But, wait...what was that??? ...

Is it an insect? No, it's not moving. Maybe a piece of trash? No it's different – it's a leaf shoot peeking through the gray clutter of stones. It seemed to say, "Here I am!! I'm back!!!! Did you miss me? Even if you didn't, I'm here – gravel won't stop me. Isn't the sunshine beautiful!?!?"

I'm amazed how here and there I see leaf shoots, but not really after



the owner replaced the yard with gravel. Spring is in the air: I see plants coming through the gravel, through the sod, through cracks next to the sidewalk. Plants are strong in

ways that amaze us. They don't take "good-bye" as a real farewell. They challenge us all. They inspire us to do more for ourselves. When we are knocked down, do we get back up? When life is filled with difficulties and sickness do we give up?

Weeds are plants we specifically don't want to grow in our yards. But what if a weed is a sign of determination? What if weeds are really the most beautiful wildflowers in town? It's how you look at it. I know there are weeds that are noxious and weeds that truly are in the way or prevent thriving, but sometimes I think: "Boy, that's a really pretty plant!" "It has just the right color. It's just right for a photo shoot." Maybe it's saying, "Stop, I'll pose for you!!"

Daffodils, tulips, dandelions: are they weeds? You tell me.

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## Recognize the service of our volunteers

Have you noticed that one or two of your fellow Master Gardeners have been doing exemplary work above and beyond what might be expected? Isn't it time for them to be recognized by everyone for their contributions?

If so, then nominate them for a Master-Gardener-of-the-Year Award or for a Behind-the-Scenes Award.

The annual Master-Gardener-of-the-Year Award recognizes outstanding dedication and service in support of sustainable gardening to benefit all of Jackson County and/or the entire Oregon Master Gardener program.

Describe your nominees' contributions in education and outreach, such as work in the Plant



Clinic, teaching classes, serving as a mentor, planning and organizing a major project, or other activities. Include any leadership roles they have held. If their work has had an impact beyond the borders of Jackson County, e.g. if other county Master Gardener programs have adopted projects that started in Jackson County, be sure to mention that!

The annual Behind-the-Scenes Award can also be for service just in

Jackson County or statewide. It recognizes individuals who work quietly and unselfishly in ways that may not be noticed by everyone, e.g. by preparing and serving refreshments, keeping accurate records, maintaining and repairing the physical plant, or seeing projects through to completion.

In 200 words or less, describe your nominees' activities as fully as you can with specific examples, and e-mail your nominations to Lynn Kunstman at [kunlynn52@gmail.com](mailto:kunlynn52@gmail.com).

Deadline is April 15 (easy to remember, same date as taxes are due, but this is more fun!)



# Volunteers clean pathways, gardens for spring



A group of hardy volunteers put hoes, shovels and backs to work over the last few months to get the Demonstration Gardens in shape for the coming season. JCMGA will be holding guided tours this summer to increase community awareness of our mission, our services, and our beautiful gardens. The garden tours seem a natural way to invite our community to see what we do and why we exist.

Six hour-long guided tours are planned: Wednesdays at 11 a.m.: June 24, July 22, and Aug. 26.

Saturdays at 10 a.m.: June 13, July 11, Aug. 8. If you know of organizations that would like to tour the gardens, please let Janine Salvatti know.



Photos by  
Linda Birch



# Enjoy photography? Win our contest!

By Patrice Kaska  
Master Gardener 2016

Why should the JCMGA Membership Secretary have all the fun – and responsibility – of deciding on the cover photograph for the JCMGA Chapter Directory each year?

The Member Services Working Group is pleased to announce the first annual JCMGA Photo Contest. The winner will have her/his photograph on the cover of the 2021 Chapter Directory, and four runners-up will have their names and photographs published in the *Garden Beet*. Any submitted photograph

will also be eligible for use in other JCMGA publications. Although

encourage you to begin your photoshoots as soon as you'd like.

All current (2020) members of the JCMGA are eligible to enter the contest. Photographs, however, are limited to those taken in the Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens and limited to flora. All photographs must be at least 1500x1575 pixels (5"x5-1/2" at 300 dpi) and all photos submitted become the property of JCMGA.

Specific guidelines and dates will be published later in the year, but please consider this an invitation to get your cameras, phones, iPads and such ready to capture the beauty of our gardens.

the submission dates for contest photographs will not occur until late summer, the spring blooming season is here, and we want to



## 2020 OSU webinars for Master Gardeners

Dr. Brooke Edmunds, Extension Master Gardener Faculty in Oregon, is once again hosting free, advanced training webinars for Master Gardeners. While the presenters and focus tends towards Oregon, the topics would be of broad interest to Master Gardeners, in general. Each class counts as one hour of continuing education for your recertification.

Tuesday, April 21 10 a.m.

**Gardening with Native Plants and the OregonFlora Project** | Dr. Linda Hardison

Free webinar for Master Gardeners. Pre-register [here](#).

Tuesday, May 19 at 10 a.m.

**Winter Squash Research at OSU** | Dr. Alex Stone | Associate Professor, Ext Vegetable Crop Specialist and Lane Seaman, assistant professor, practice

Free webinar for Master Gardeners. Pre-register [here](#).

Thursday, July 16 at 10 a.m.

**Solve Pest Problems: A New Resource for Master Gardeners and the Public** | Weston Miller

Free webinar for Master Gardeners. Pre-register [here](#).

Check [here](#) to to see if additional webinars have been scheduled.

## Reminders on watering houseplants

A common dilemma many houseplant parents face is figuring out how much water their houseplants need. Depending on your experience, you may or may not be surprised to know that the number one killer of houseplants is too much water. Most houseplant owners are overzealous with the watering can, but many houseplants actually benefit from drying out a bit between waterings.

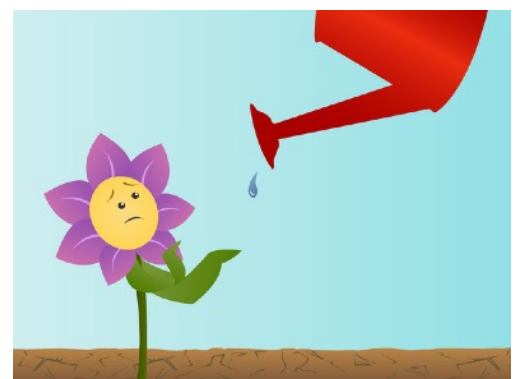
So how can you tell when a plant really needs water? Here are some tips.

- Stick your finger in the soil. In general if you go in an inch or two deep and you feel moisture, the plant does not need watering.

- ☼ Watch for changes in leaf color and sheen. A shift from deep green and glossy to bluish green and dull can signal oncoming wilt.

- ☼ Use the "weight trick": Lift the pot and gauge its heft. If a potted plant feels feather-light, it's dry; if it feels heavy, the soil is probably still damp. Of course this doesn't work if the pots themselves are heavy, or with large containers that are too unwieldy to hoist.

- ☼ A super-dry plant can be difficult to rehydrate. Try "double



watering"—water well, wait awhile, then repeat. It helps to set the plant outside or in a sink or bathtub during drenchings.

—Gardener's Pen, Oregon Master Gardeners Association

# **Jackson County Master Gardener Association**

## **Board of Directors Executive Committee Meeting**

### **March 13, 2020**

**Present:** Executive Board members Pam Hillers, Rebecca Jurta, Susan Koenig, Annette Carter, Lynn Kunstman, Kathy Apple, Ronnie Budge

**Guests:** Spring Garden Fair co-chairs Kate Hassen, Sandy Hammond, Sandy Hanson, Jane Moyer and Practicum co-chair Virginia Brown

President Ronnie Budge explained the Executive Committee meeting had been called to discuss urgent items on the agenda of the Board of Directors meeting that had been cancelled due to directives from the statewide Master Gardener program.

The first agenda item was to determine the feasibility of having the 2020 Spring Garden Fair with the cancellation of the 2020 Master Gardener Class and Practicum due to concerns about transmission of the coronavirus.

1. SGF Board Representative Sandy Hammond reported 63% of the booths have been sold, bringing in



#### **Recording Secretary**

**Jane Moyer**

**Master Gardener 2005**

over \$17,000 which would have to be returned if SGF is canceled.

2. All advertisers have been contacted and have agreed there would be no charges to JCMGA if cancellations were made before ad production was started.

3. The cost of posters and rack cards was paid out of the 2019 budget so will have no effect on the 2020 budget.

4. Noel Lesley Event Services has been contacted and is unsure about

deposit refunds (\$2,200).

5. The Expo has been contacted and is unsure about deposit refunds (\$3,429).

6. The Oregon Master Gardener Program directives state "All large Master Gardener events (i.e. those that draw more than 50 attendees) that are scheduled through the end of March, including those planned and managed by the Oregon Master Gardener Association and its chapters, should be cancelled or postponed until at least May." This allows for the possibility of extending the cancellations.

7. The SGF co-chairs said vendors and volunteers are already questioning the wisdom of attending the SGF. Additionally, the co-chairs anticipate reduced attendance.

8. Practicum co-chairs Jane Moyer and Virginia Brown reported that without students the number of plants that could be raised for SGF would be greatly reduced.

9. Kathy Apple moved and Lynn Kunstman seconded the 2020 Spring Garden Fair be cancelled. Unanimous approval.

10. Notifications will be handled by the following:

JCMGA membership: Ronnie Budge

SGF vendors: Sandy Hansen

SGF volunteers: Jane Moyer

Expo: Sandy Hammond

Noel Lesley Event Services: Kate Hassen

Advertisers: Sandy Hammond

Communications Working Group (*Garden Beet*, Mail Chimp, Facebook): Kate Hassen

Kathy Apple moved and Lynn

### **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 13*



# Board Minutes: March 13

*Continued from Page 12*

Kunstman seconded spending by the Jackson County Master Gardener Association be stopped until further notice from the Board of Directors. Any essential expenses must be authorized by the president. Unanimous approval.

Lynn Kunstman moved and Susan Koenig seconded the 2020 clothing sale be cancelled due to the suspension of the Master Gardener Class. Unanimous approval.

Pam Hillers, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved the Jackson County Master Gardener Association purchase non-profit Directors and Officers Liability Insurance to cover the risk to each individual board member in case of a lawsuit claiming personal injury or financial loss as a result of gross negligence, willful or fraudulent acts in dealing with the organization. The annual premium for one million dollars coverage is \$811. Unanimous approval.

Pam Hillers, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved the Jackson County Master Gardener Association purchase Employment Practices Liability Insurance to cover

the defense of an unlawful employment practice lawsuit (sexual harassment, discrimination on the basis of race, religion, etc.) as an add-on to the non-profit Directors and Officers Liability Insurance, adding \$43 to the annual premium. Unanimous approval.

Pam Hillers, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved the total cost of adding non-profit Directors and Officers Liability Insurance and Employment Practices Liability Insurance to the 2020 JCMGA budget be paid by reducing each line item of the budget by 1%. Unanimous approval.

These insurance policies will be in addition to the liability policy JCMGA already owns to cover Spring Garden Fair, the Winter Dreams Summer Gardens Symposium, and other activities throughout the year.

Lynn Kunstman moved and Kathy Apple seconded that Carmen Hernandez be approved as the 2020 student representative to the Jackson County Master Gardener Association Board of Directors with Sean Cawley as alternate. Unanimous approval. Both are invited to attend Board meetings.

Kathy Apple moved and Lynn Kunstman seconded that Regula Pepi, Sue Koury, and John Yunker be approved as co-chairs of the 2020 Winter Dreams Summer Gardens Symposium. Unanimous approval. They will be asked to choose one co-chair to be Board representative although all will be invited to attend Board meetings.

Jane Moyer presented a Garden Modification form from the Practicum for removal of the Birds, Bees, and Butterfly Garden. Because it is located next to Greenhouse #1, it has been an annual source of insect pests, weeds, and other plants into the greenhouse. Lynn Kunstman moved and Kathy Apple seconded the modification be approved. The motion passed. The request has been approved by the MG Coordinator. Approval will also be required by the Gardens Working Group and the SOREC Director.

**NEXT MEETING:** 9:30 a.m., Friday, April 10. Location to be announced.

*Submitted by Jane Moyer,  
Recording Secretary*

## Support Master Gardeners™ when you shop here

**Every time you shop at the Grange** we can earn money e! How cool is that? Whenever you shop at any of the Grange Co-Op locations, tell the clerk you are a Jackson County Master Gardener and they will credit our account with the amount of your purchase. At the end of the year, JCMGA will receive a percentage of all our accumulated credits back in the form of cash! This is like free money since we all buy plants, tools, and garden supplies! With that one caveat aside, this is one of the simplest and easiest fundraisers we can do.



**Amazon will donate** a portion of all you spend at Amazon Smile. Here's a great way to support Master Gardeners: **amazon smile** You shop. Amazon gives. To get started go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and 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 Master Gardeners Association. This will bring up a list of similar programs. Make sure to select the one in Central Point! (Typing Jackson County Master Gardeners will bring up one in Texas!)

**Donate your car or truck** is an easy and convenient way to support us. You'll get a tax write-off when you donate your used car, truck, SUV, motorcycle, RV, or boat on a trailer. And you'll get a tax write-off to boot! Just complete the online car donation form or call 888-227-5500. They'll need some basic information about you, your vehicle and where your vehicle needs to be picked up, then they'll schedule a pickup time.



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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 ...



*Photo by Sean Cawley*

A daffodil (*N. pseudonarcissus*) got caught in a recent snow that fell in the Southern Oregon mountains.

*See something fun or creative in a garden or around the Extension? Send it to [jcmgabeet569@gmail.com](mailto:jcmgabeet569@gmail.com)*



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