



Git Yer Learnin' On! Master Gardener training ahead

One of the most frustrating aspects of the current COVID-19 pandemic is our inability to attend master gardener and community education classes. If you are like me, you are missing the camaraderie of seeing friends in person and having access to ongoing education. Our Jackson County Master Gardeners Association has been working hard to learn new ways to do our educational outreach to our current students and the community at large. I must admit, it has been a steep learning curve for me. But hope is in sight!

Oregon State University and the Oregon Master Gardeners program have been working diligently to provide information of all kinds on-line and in a virtual environment. At the recent "State of

the Statewide Master Gardeners Program," our coordinator, Gail Langellotto, shared some exciting news about programs that will be rolling out in January, 2021. I highly recommend you view her presentation. Grab a cup of coffee, and spend some time learning what a remarkable program we run in this state. To see Gail's talk, you can follow [this link](#), but in the meantime, I am delighted to give a brief overview.

All of the following programs are available on-line and free of charge.

What other Master Gardener Programs are doing around the state during COVID-19:

Clackamas County MGA: Has a [YouTube Channel](#) with Mini

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**President
Elect**

Lynn Kunstman
Master Gardener
2012



President
Ronnie Budge
Master Gardener
2011

2020 was not what I expected when I started my term

By Ronnie Budge
Master Gardener 2011

When I volunteered to run for the office of JCMGA vice-president/president-elect in August 2018, it was because I'd been a little bored. I figured a couple of extra meetings a month would give me something new and interesting to do. Wise decision. I haven't been the least bit bored since. Sometimes a little busier than I might like, but never bored.

As I contemplated my presidential year, I envisioned myself walking around the Extension grounds every Wednesday morning, finding out what was going on and reporting to you via the *Garden Beet*. As we all know, 2020 turned out to be very different. Many of us recall a specific date when we first realized the impact COVID-19 would have on our lives. For me that date is

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New board to take the reins

Voting is completed and results are in. Returning to your JCMGA Board of Directors in their elected positions are: President Lynn Kunstman; Past-President Ronnie Budge; Recording Secretary Jane Moyer; Membership Secretary Patrice Kaska; Treasurer Annette Carter; Assistant Treasurer

Roberta Heinz; OMGA Representative Barbara Davidson; Archivist Pam Hillers; and Member-at-Large Kathy Apple. Newly elected Members-at-Large are Colet Allen, Regula Pepi, Margaret Saydah, and Devyn

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JCMGA continues its mission amidst pandemic

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still be held. But I am proud that JCMGA was among the first to recognize our responsibility to do what we could to limit the spread of the virus by not hosting an activity that would bring crowds together.

Although more activities had to be cancelled later, we still accomplished a lot. The Demonstration Gardens are in glorious shape thanks to the efforts of the volunteers who showed up faithfully every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning when the campus reopened in late June. Lynn Kunstman answered questions from listeners near and far on her regular Wednesday morning gig on Jefferson Public Radio. Practicum mentors led several on-line sessions for 2020 students who wanted to continue lessons after the classroom closed. We all learned to use Zoom and continued monthly Board meetings and even retreats without a hitch.

The *Garden Beet* likewise continued monthly publication and is a livelier read than ever. And have you checked out the *Beet* on our website? Each month's articles are now highlighted complete with photos. I always print out my copy to read over coffee, but someone who reads it online commented recently about how much easier it is to upload to her device.

We did our first ever virtual Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens event. For this initial "toe in the water" experiment, viewers could tour my vegetable garden via photographs with live narration and Lynn's native plant and vegetable garden in the same format. These have been recorded and we'll let you know soon how you can view them if you missed the first showing.

To support our community, we

Looking back, it is hard to believe we thought it even possible that such an event might still be held.

donated native plants raised by the Practicum to help restore landscapes destroyed by fire, garden tools to Habitat for Humanity to help with cleanup, and houseplants for Asante Women's Imaging to give to those who have mammograms that show abnormalities.

We celebrated our award winners, Barbara Davidson, Dee Copley, Steve Hassen, Doug Kirby, Bill Elliot, and John Kobal, with an afternoon Zoom gathering filled with

speeches, lots of thanks, and good cheer.

It looks as though JCMGA will finish this year in the black, despite the cancellation of our major fundraiser. We've kept expenses to a bare minimum. Meanwhile our Garden Guides sold better than ever; we received donations from community garden group plant sales; and bottle returns and credits from the Grange Co-op and elsewhere added a bit to the bottom line.

JCMGA remains a vital organization. Just reading the comments from those who ran for office convinces me that: "The opportunity to be working with people who give so much of themselves for our community is a great honor." "Master Gardeners is an amazing place to learn about gardening and a great resource for community." "I am grateful for all JCMGA does to practice and teach the art and science of gardening."

We will have a fabulous Board of Directors in 2021. So many wished to serve that every position (except president-elect, still searching!) will be filled and no one will need to wear more than one hat. I am proud and happy to pass the baton on to Lynn Kunstman, who will do an amazing job as your 2021 president.

New officers, Working Group chairs assume roles

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Schneck. Seán Cawley will continue to represent the class of 2020.

Representing the various working groups will be: Communications Kate Hassen; Community Outreach Jim Buck; Fundraising Sandy Hansen; Gardens Marcie Katz; Member Services Keltie Nelson; Spring Garden Fair Sandy

Hammond; Winter Dreams Summer Gardens Sue Koury; and Program Support (and MG program coordinator) Erika Szonntag.

We will miss those who will no longer be on the Board (but whom we know will continue to contribute

Meet the board, WG chairs
Page 3

in many other important ways): Susan Koenig, Bill Gabriel, Janine Salvatti, Jack Ivers, and Rebecca Jurta. Many thanks for your fine work.

And thanks also to those of you who voted in the JCMGA election. Even when positions are unopposed, the candidates appreciate your vote of confidence!

2020 Board of Directors

Working Group Chairs



President
Lynn Kunstman



Immediate Past President
Ronnie Budge



Recording Secretary
Jane Moyer

Photo not available

Membership Secretary
Patrice Kaska



Communications
Kate Hassen



Community Outreach
Jim Buck



Treasurer
Annette Carter



Assistant Treasurer
Roberta Heinz



Archivist
Pam Hillers



OMGA Representative
Barbara Davidson



Fundraising
Sandy Hammond



Gardens
Marcie Katz



Member at Large
Kathy Apple



Member at Large
Colet Allen



Member at Large
Regula Pepi



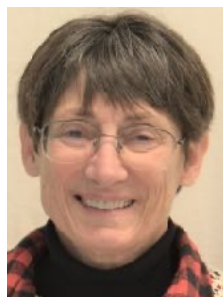
Member at Large
Margaret Saydah



Member Services
Keltie Nelson



Spring Garden Fair
Sandy Hammond



Member at Large
Devyn Schneck



Student Member at Large
Sean Cawley



**Winter Dreams/
Summer Gardens**
Sue Koury



Program Coordinator
Erika Szonntag

Array of classes available online

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Gardening Lessons on a variety of topics, called 10-Minute University.

Clatsop County MGA: Has a Seed to Supper Blog that disseminates that curriculum. Scroll down the right margin to the 2020 blog archive to see their Food Security Posts, taken directly from the Seed to Supper Curriculum.

Benton County MGA: Seed to Supper at Home program, done as four Zoom modules.

OSU extension Spotify Podcast Gardening Q & A

Upcoming from OSU: Elevated Master Gardener training, focused on skills building. These are due to roll out in 2021 and Erika will keep us apprised of dates.

- ◆ **Basic Zoom:** How to join a meeting and work on-line
- ◆ **Advanced Zoom:** For moderators, facilitators and speakers - for running Zoom lessons, conferences and presentations
- ◆ **OSU DATABASE and Plant ID trainings:** How to use for plant ID
- ◆ **iNaturalist training:** How to ID insects (any living organism)
- ◆ **Virtual Plant Clinic training:** How to work in this on-line environment
- ◆ **On-line Shareable Database of Plant Clinic Q&A:** Available statewide
- ◆ **Youth Gardening:** Training from Josephine County
- ◆ **Superpower Your Demo Garden:** Put education first in the demo garden
- ◆ **Community Science and MG Program:** Plug in to programs from around the state.

LifeForce



Luigi Bogni (Master Gardener 2016) submitted this photo to be considered for the cover of the 2021 Directory. With his entry, he wrote: "I would like to propose a picture that is intentionally put in 'context' with the current tribulations: I call it 'LifeForce' and it should be a wish for all of us to display the same stamina as this flower, covered in ice spikes. The picture was taken in my garden on Jan. 1, 2020, and for all my efforts I am not able to identify the species nor genus. If the Plant Clinic were open! (Editor's note: The Plant Clinic weighed in, saying it appears to be a Sweet William carnation – *dianthus barbatus*.)

- ◆ **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion presentations:** From other programs around the state
- I hope every member of our association will take at least one of these fantastic trainings. Our mission is to help educate the public and OSU and our fellow

organizations around the state have produced an abundance of information that we can help push to our local community.

Once again, grab that cup of coffee (or glass of wine) and "git yer learnin' on".

The indoor gardener's winter playbook

This morning (Nov. 20) when I got up at 7 a.m. it was 27 degrees and promising to be a beautiful day... except, did I mention it was 27 degrees?

I have finally come to terms with being a Goldilocks gardener. I freely admit I like to garden when it's not too hot and not too cold. Houseplants fit the bill perfectly. It's wonderful being able to garden in my pajamas any time of day or night when the mood strikes me.

But this year as COVID-19 deepens its hold on our country and the world, I am grateful for indoor gardening. The vibrancy houseplants bring to any space affirms life. I enjoy tending them. They are uplifting, therapeutic. And when they bloom, it feels like a precious reward.

Our outdoor gardening knowledge translates nicely to houseplants. The one big difference is that houseplants are wholly dependent on their human caretakers for ALL life support and health, water, light, environmental conditions.

Water: Most houseplants are killed by overwatering. This can be watering too frequently but might be more a case of a plant standing in water accumulating in saucers or decorative pots intended to protect household furnishing from water damage.



Garden Guide

by Janine Salvatti
Master Gardener 2019



Professional plant services commonly keep plants in the plastic pot they come in and place those in decorative containers for indoor use to protect against water damage. They

routinely check for standing water and remove it with a turkey baster. This is genius! By the way, roots respond better to room temperature water over cold water. And some plants don't particularly like chlorinated water.

They will also often elevate the plastic pot inside the decorative container with packing peanuts or other plastic pots as an added safeguard. This also serves to bring the top of the plant level to the top of the decorative pot. This is then dressed with moss, a very nice finishing touch.

If you are repotting, don't follow the old school recommendation to use gravel or clay pot shards in the bottom of the pot. That substrate stops water flowing out of the pot.

Light: Same old mantra. Right plant, right place. If you cannot provide enough natural light, plant lights are an easy fix. We gardeners know shop lights work, but these probably won't do much for indoor aesthetics. LEDs work just fine.

Indoor environment: Humidity is likely low due to heating systems and fireplaces. Check a reliable source online, usually ending in .org, for humidity requirements for your particular plant. Some might need to sit on top of a gravel-filled tray topped with water to increase humidity. Some might like to be misted or placed in bathrooms where showers provide more humidity. Some are happy without either.

Houseplants generally do not like drafts, including being homed under/over AC or heating ducts. Significant changes in temperature or extended direct exposure to hot or cold will damage plants.

Soil: Refresh by adding new planting mix or replace potting soil once every year or so. Each

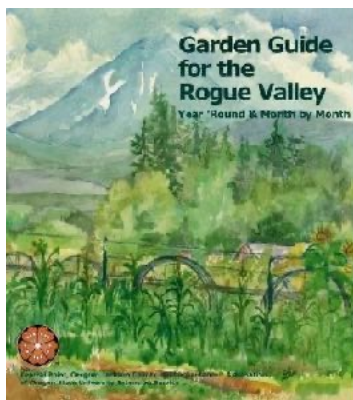
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December garden guide

December is a good month to:

- ◆ Inventory leftover seeds
- ◆ Send for garden catalogs
- ◆ Check stored harvest of vegetables and fruits
- ◆ Collect wood ashes
- ◆ Dig and divide rhubarb

From Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley



Making your houseplants happy

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plant has specific soil preferences. Fortunately, there are soil mixes for every need. Soil compaction also threatens plant health by not having enough open pockets to store oxygen.

Fertilization: After a few months, the potting soil nutrients are exhausted. While on-line, check the needs for each plant. Avoid damaging plant roots with fertilizing sticks since they often are too close to the roots in confined pots.

Pests and Diseases: Minimize these by bringing home healthy, pest-free plants from commercial sources. If our houseplants are stressed, they look mighty inviting to pests and diseases. Check out [OSU's tips](#).

Pet safety: Many plants are toxic to cats and dogs. If your pet ignores your houseplants, great. But if they want to chew them, it could spell real



trouble. December is the season for poinsettias and these are highly toxic to our pets.

Not long ago I read an article about making a “plant bowl” with cat grass (wheat grass) and herbs we humans commonly eat, all safe for pets, cats in

particular. Low profile bowls can be of any size, fanciful or utilitarian. They're healthy for our pets and can serve to distract them from other less desirable plants.

Resource for pet-safe plants: The ASPCA lists [safe and toxic plants](#) for pets. Note these same plants may also be toxic to children!

If you have any unusual houseplants you'd like to share with your fellow indoor gardeners, please [email me](#). I might be able to use your photo in an upcoming issue of the *Garden Beet*.

Resources

Podcast: [On the Ledge](#) by Jane Perrone

OSU Extension: [information](#) on houseplants, pests, and diseases

JCMGA membership renewals due

JCMGA membership renewal for 2021 is just about to begin. You will soon receive a Mailchimp letting you know how and when to renew. If you want to be included in the 2021 Chapter Directory, please be sure your renewal is received by Jan. 31. Three methods of renewal are available this year:

1) Complete the renewal form and pay online.

The online form is available on the member side of our website. Go to jacksoncountymga.org and press Member Login at the top of the homepage. Enter your username and password to access the Green House (the members-only portion of the website). On the Green House home page, scroll down through the Member Links on the right and click on Membership Renewal. There you can complete the form, make your

dues payment of \$25, and even make a donation to JCMGA if you would like.

2) Print out the one-page form and send it and your \$25 check for dues to: JCMGA Member Renewal, PO Box 401, Ashland, OR, 97520.

There is a link to a printable renewal form on the Mailchimps that will be sent out periodically throughout the renewal period. Click on the link, read the direction page, and print the one-page form. Complete the form and mail it and your \$25 dues to JCMGA Member Renewal, PO Box 401, Ashland, OR, 97520. Please do not send renewals to the Extension Center which is periodically closed during the pandemic.

3) Request that a paper copy of the renewal form be mailed to you.

There is also a link you can use to request that a paper renewal form be mailed to you on the renewal Mailchimps.

Potential JCMGA members who do not have email addresses listed with JCMGA have been sent a paper renewal form by mail to complete and return to the address above.

If you have questions about the renewal process, please contact Patrice Kaska, JCMGA Membership Secretary, at forpatricek@icloud.com.

This year Erika Szonntag, the Jackson County OSU Master Gardener program coordinator, will contact JCMGA members about the online completion of the two required OSU volunteer forms (Conditions of Volunteer Service and Code of Conduct). This process will begin in early 2021.

Lots of training in store for Master Gardeners

Dear Gardeners,

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday. It probably looked a little different this year than in past years, but I hope you all had the chance to connect with family and friends all the same.

Lynn wrote a great column about the recent statewide address from Gail Langellotto, current programs around the state, and courses that Master Gardeners can look forward to during the 2021 Elevated Master Gardener Training. Stay tuned to updates from OSU regarding registration and more class details. Again, this training is free and optional for current Master Gardeners, including 2021 students, and will take the place of traditional Master Gardener Volunteer training. We hope to resume training for new volunteers in 2022.

In case you missed the “Thank



**OSU Program
Coordinator
Erika Szonntag**

You” video to all Master Gardener Volunteers from Master Gardener Celebration week, [click here to watch](#).

I also want to give a quick reminder to please submit your hours in the [VRS](#), or mail your hours to me/bring them to the Extension office by Friday, Dec. 4. I want to make sure your hours are included in annual reporting. We use these numbers to show the university what we’re doing, in addition to showing the County Commissioners the value that Master Gardeners bring to the local community. It helps us maintain funding to keep the Extension open and otherwise fund the MG Program (such as funding the coordinator’s position).

To help you categorize your hours, [here is the document](#) which describes the different volunteer categories ([click here for the overall Volunteer Resources page on the OSU MG Program page on the SOREC website](#)). For students, half

of your 40 hours (due in October 2021) must be direct or indirect education hours. For recertifying volunteers, a minimum of 10 out of your 20 volunteer service hours must also be direct or indirect education hours (this means educating the public. Personal education for oneself is covered by continuing education credits). Again, hours for recertifying volunteers were waived in 2020, but if you have them, please report them!

In case you are looking for more reading, check out these two recent articles from OSU Extension and the National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture:

[What's the Real Story? Garden Myths Debunked](#)

[National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture: Plant a Tree, Improve Your Life](#)

Happy holidays and “see you” in 2021!

Erika

Extension office closures

The Extension office may be closed at times over the next few months due to COVID-19 precautions. These closings generally restrict Master Gardener in-person activities. Please check the [Extension website](#) before coming out.

Lend a hand

*It takes a lot to keep us moving.
Here are some of the ways you can pitch in and help.*

...

Do you have skills in photography, video development and editing?

Because COVID-19 has forced cancellation of our classes and workshops, the JCMGA Board is considering launching a Rogue Valley Gardening YouTube channel.

We’re looking for members who have any combination of photography, video development and editing skills who can help provide the Rogue Valley community with online gardening advice.

If you have the skills to help with the creation of these short gardening presentations, please email [Jim Buck](#).

The JCMGA website is looking for a few people to help out. This will be mostly uploading stories and updating things like the calendar. Training is provided. Knowledge of HTML is not needed.



Around the globe

In case you're wondering, this is not a story about that golden-grilled-gander that graces many holiday feasts, nor those supplying feathers for your down-filled comforters.

This is about another goose that's long been proudly perched upon its pedestaled-plateau at the other end of many a festive meal or sustainable food gathering.

Despite the U.S. ban in the early 1900s on importing hybrid gooseberry plants carrying a disease that decimated white pines in various Eastern states, the Northwestern native black gooseberry, *Ribes divaricatum*, was growing wild on the west coast.

Unlike *R. hirtellum*, native of the Northeastern/North central U.S., *R. divaricatum* is endemic, found almost exclusively west of the Cascades. This plant's natural home ranges from open woodlands and coastal shrubbery to prairies and moist hillsides.

It's also known as spreading gooseberry, straggle bush, wild and straggly gooseberry, American Worcesterberry, coastal black and common gooseberry.

The name comes from Old Norman/Middle English *grozes* or *grosier*, the old French word for *grosielle*, meaning red currant. All of these come from the Frankish root *krūsil*, meaning "crisp berry," not from serving it with goose.

Whatever you call it, this deciduous, spiny, multi-stemmed shrub offers much more than its

Gardening Gourmet by Sydney Jordan Brown Master Gardener 2000



feathered namesake. The fruits are perhaps the best-tasting wild gooseberries when they've ripened to a rich ebony-black.

These highly ornamental shrubs

These highly ornamental shrubs with miniature maple-like leaves grow delicate purple and white fuchsia-like flowers dangling like delicate lanterns from arching stems.

with miniature maple-like leaves grow delicate purple and white fuchsia-like flowers dangling like delicate lanterns from arching stems. They lend themselves well to the "wild" garden aesthetic.

Today, this plant is still highly

valued by Northwest Native American tribes (for food, medicine and family) who continue to steward and restore wild populations while sustaining and strengthening the integrity of the ecology, their cultural heritage and wisdom.

Despite their thorny nature, this plant is a very low-maintenance, easy-to-grow perennial that's great for sustainable landscaping. Note that it may well be wise to wear rose-pruning gloves to pluck the soft, ripened to ebony color, fruits. Despite their pricks, popping just one of these little gems in your mouth will make you glad you planted them.

You'll also be pleased by their very high vitamin C content and their pectin that naturally thickens any jam or jelly. You can also cook them into

chutneys and sauces for seafood or poultry, or bake them in tasty pies, tarts and cobblers. Yum!

Preferring full-sun to part shade and well-drained soils with adequate irrigation, self-fertile gooseberries will fruit in mid-summer in the third year. Topping out at 3 to 8 feet, they'll blend well with natural surroundings.

The black gooseberry isn't only a terrific native shrub, but will win raves for its natural beauty. It will also attract avian visitors; yet, astoundingly, deer avoid it.

So, the only goose cooked here is that of the native Western gooseberry.

Wild gooseberry galette
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Recipe: Wild gooseberry galette

Pastry

1/2 cup each
unbleached flour and
white whole wheat flour
(or gluten free
equivalent)

1/4 teaspoon sea salt

1 tablespoon organic
sugar

6 tablespoons cold
unsalted butter, cut in
1/2" cubes

3 to 4 tablespoons ice
water mixed with 1
teaspoon lemon juice

Filling

2/3 cup organic sugar

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 teaspoon ground ginger

1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

1 tablespoon flour

zest of one organic lemon

3 1/2 cups fresh black
gooseberries, washed with stems and
tails removed (cuticle or needle-
bladed herb scissors work best)

2 tablespoons each organic sugar



and milk

Instructions

Mix flour, salt, and sugar in food processor. Then add butter and pulse about 30 seconds until resembling coarse cornmeal. Add 3 tablespoons of ice water-lemon juice mix and pulse just until dough holds together. Gather dough into a ball and chill 30 minutes.

For filling, mix 2/3 cup sugar and ground spices, and set aside.

Preheat oven to 400°. Roll dough out on a floured surface (silicone mats work best) to about a 14" round.

This doesn't need to be perfect since this is a rustic style of tart. Using mat, transfer dough to a baking sheet covered with heavy foil topped with parchment paper. Sprinkle surface with 2 tablespoons spiced sugar.

Toss berries and lemon zest with remaining spiced sugar and 1 tablespoon flour then dump in the middle of crust. Gently pull edges of crust up and pleat leaving about an 8" opening in the center. With a pastry brush, use milk to paint exterior of crust then sprinkle with sugar.

Bake about 40-50 minutes until berries are bubbly and crust is golden brown. Serves about 6-8. Great with

Plant sources

Native Foods Nursery (Dexter, OR)
www.nativefoods nursery.com
6" to gallon-size plants

Friends of Sausal Creek Native
Plant Nursery (Oakland, CA)
www.sausalcreek.org

2020 Jackson County Master Gardener calendar

Due to COVID-19, events and classes have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. Webinars and JCMGA meetings are being held via Zoom. Contact Ronnie or Kate for the Zoom link to board and Communications Committee meetings.

Gardening in the Rogue Valley |

Wednesdays, 8:35 a.m.-ish | Lynn Kunstman is a guest each month on the Jefferson Exchange Wednesday mornings to answer radio listeners' questions about gardening. Tune in to Jefferson Public Radio's News and Information station at 102.3 FM or 1230 AM. The starting time may vary due to the nature of news programs.

Communications Committee |

First Monday of each month | 1 pm – 3 pm | *Kate Hassen, chair*
Subcommittees include the *Beet*, Mailchimp, Facebook, and Public Service Announcements.

JCMGA Board meeting |

Second Friday of each month | 9:30 – 11:30 am | *Ronnie Budge, president*

Webinars from the 2020 series of Advanced Training Webinars for Master Gardeners sponsored by Oregon State University Extension are available [here](#).

A year (of change) in the gardens

By Marcie Katz

Master Gardener 2019

2020 – A year most of us will never forget. It was a year of historic change. Our everyday life became stay-at-home with no restaurants or movie theaters. Large events, parties and gatherings, were cancelled. For Master Gardeners, it meant the end of the 2020 Practicum and a whole Master Gardener class put on hold, with GEMS and students kept out of the Demonstration Gardens so we all could stay safe in the time of COVID-19.

Our hard-working members had just finished pest-proofing greenhouses 1 and 2 and we were on our way with the first seeds started in the Prop house for SGF. I had just applied to be the GEM of the Bird, Bee and Butterfly Garden (BBB) when it was determined that it was planted too close to the west wall of GH 1, and posed a “pest potential”. The Gardens Working Group decided it needed to be moved and plans and paperwork went in to be approved. The Practicum could use this as an opportunity to teach the students about how to “dig and divide” perennials and March was the perfect time!

Then COVID-19 came! Three months later, we returned to our beloved gardens that were full grown, full of weeds and operating under maintenance-only guidelines. Three days a week for three hours a day, the GEMs and helpers took back control and things started happening. A new native nursery garden grew; others shrank or lay dormant. More changes.

It was well into June, and the BBB Garden was in its full glory, so full of blooming plants that nary a weed could invade. It bloomed all



summer and into the fall. It was so huge, some plants like “Queen of the Prairie” and “Joe Pye Weed” were over 6 feet tall! Russian Sage was popping out everywhere. In October, in preparation for the



move, Margaret Saydah and I decided to cut it back. It took two garden days! A group work day was scheduled on Nov. 4 and with my seven wonderful helpers and three hours of non-stop digging and heavy lifting, we moved all of the plants. It was a monumental job. We were all exhausted but jubilant at our progress! At this time, the future home of the BBB is unknown, but the plants are saved, heeled-in temporarily in the Children’s Garden raised beds waiting out the winter.

All in all, even with the quarantine, limited time, and what we were allowed to do, and though many of our Master Gardeners are considered as high risk and were unable to come out and work in the gardens as they would have liked, much was accomplished this year and changes were made for the better.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who made all things possible: all the GEMs, student helpers, Garden Enhancement Committee, and those who came out just because. Thank you. Thanks for sharing your time, your hard work, your knowledge and most of all your comradery in all things garden. And let us not forget about all the behind-the-scenes MGs that are working from home to keep our wonderful association afloat and make important decisions via ZOOM meetings in these challenging times. Change is something most of us don’t like but have had to deal with a lot in the last year. Change is in the way we do things so that we survive and prosper and guide us into the future, whatever it may be. Good bye old BBB Garden, goodbye 2020, let’s see what the new year brings. More change.

Recycle ... and help support JCMGA

Stop treating
us like
garbage



Jackson County Master Gardener Association is trying to raise funds for projects in 2021, including awards, scholarships, community gardens and community education classes.

One way to pick up a little spare change is by recycling the bottles and cans that hang around the house.

Me and my neighbors – collect cans and bottles for a great cause!

How to do it? Pick up a spare change thru Friday, in the Extension lobby. No more than two bags at a time.

Fill each bag to the brim! JCMGA is charged 40 cents for each bag to participate in the fundraising process so every little bit more in a bag adds up. We lose 20 cents for every bag that ends up sitting in someone's garage.

For more information, contact Jane Sawall at 541-301-5412 or email her at Janes435@outlook.com



Recycle this!

Water, beer, and soda bottles, along with other beverages, including tea, coffee, energy drinks, hard cider, fruit juice, kombucha, and coconut water.



On hold due to COVID-19

**Once your blue bag is (very, very) full, take your bottles and cans to:
Medford Redemption Center, 1179 Stowe Ave., Medford from 7 am-7 pm
Allied Environmental Services, 2645 Avenue G, White City 8 am-4:30 pm**

Don't wait in line at the Medford Redemption Center! The drop door location is at the side of the building. Simply scan the bag tag to open the secure door. Up to 10 blue bags can be dropped at a time.

We are no longer accepting drop-offs at the Extension.



Jackson County Master Gardener Association

Board of Directors Executive Committee Meeting

Nov. 13, 2020

Announcements

- ◆ Fundraising Working Group Chair Sandy Hammond is out of town so Annette Carter and Roberta Heinz reported the 2020 Holiday Gala will probably not take place due to the governor's recent pause in activity in an attempt to control the increasing outbreaks of COVID-19. Supplies have been organized in preparation for the 2021 Holiday Gala.
- ◆ JCMGA Coordinator Erika Szonntag reminded everyone that she is available to help with planning and gaining OSU approval for JCMGA activities.
- ◆ Patrice Kaska reminded those present that she has taken over Joan Long's job of sending condolences.
- ◆ Membership Secretary Patrice Kaska announced membership renewal will begin this month. There will be three ways to



Recording Secretary

Jane Moyer
Master Gardener 2005

renew: online renewal; print out the membership form, fill it out, return it to the Extension by mail or in person; or request a paper membership form.

- ◆ Treasurer Annette Carter will be in contact with Debbie Burroughs at SOREC to determine the amount JCMGA owes on the utility bill.

Updates on Jackson County Master Gardener Program

Coordinator Erika Szonntag will be

sending out the OSU forms this year.

Erika will be writing an article for *The Garden Beet* about the 2021 online classes. Community Education Classes, open to the public, and Elevated Classes, open to Master Gardeners, will be included.

Erika explained that work in the Demonstration Gardens has been cancelled for the remainder of 2020 due to the governor's recent pause in activity. Exceptions can be made by contacting Erika for necessary maintenance. As of Nov. 13, the Extension office is still open for business, so individual Master Gardeners can come to the Extension to pick up blue bags for can and bottle redemption or any other necessary business. Be sure to sign in at the office and follow the COVID-19 protocols. (*Editors note: The Extension will be closed effective Nov. 17 due to the governor's special announcement for a 2-week pause on social activities to help slow the spread of COVID19.*)

Erika asked that all 2020 volunteer hours be turned in by Friday, Dec. 4 in order to be included in the annual report that goes to the county commissioners and OSU. Extension funding is partially determined by the number of volunteer hours. Direct and indirect educational hours should constitute at least 50% of a Master Gardener's volunteer service hours in their initial year and 50% of a Master Gardener's volunteer service hours in their recertification years. (For more information, go [here](#).) Recertification hours have been waived for 2020. All perennial (i.e. veteran) Master Gardeners will be automatically recertified. Recertification stickers to be attached to Master Gardener badges can be picked up in the Extension lobby. JCMGA members will be informed through Erika's

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.

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Board minutes: Oct 9

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column and articles in *The Garden Beet* and Mailchimps.

Updates on Spring Garden Fair and Practicum

Jane Moyer, co-chair of the Practicum and Spring Garden Fair announced that, after looking again at the financial aspects of Practicum and a virtual SGF, the co-chairs realized that the cost for greenhouse utilities had not been taken into account because that expense comes out of the general budget rather than the Practicum budget. When that is taken into account, the expenses for these two activities would exceed the

Beet stories now on JCMGA website

In an effort to serve members who don't want to download the *Garden Beet* in PDF format, we're moving online. The stories you see in the *Beet* each month are now also available online. The PDF edition will still be published for members who want to see it in print.

To access the *Beet's* stories, just go to the JCMGA website and click on Garden Beet newsletter in the green bar at the top of the home page. It will take you to the *Beet* along with the *Beet* archives.

This gives an extra way to keep up to date with what's happening at the Extension and around the Master Gardeners Association.

You'll also be able to download a PDF of the current *Beet* in the same spot.

The *Beet* will still be available in print to those who want the print edition.

Watch for more changes to the website in the coming months.

possible income. Therefore, the Practicum will heat only the Prop House and raise only native plants and perennials that can be kept outside. Pop-up sales will be the venue for plant sales.

Report on WDSG Virtual Garden Tours Held Nov. 7

Rebecca Jurta reported on the virtual Winter Dreams Summer Gardens held Nov. 7 with hour-long presentations by Ronnie Budge (vegetable gardening in the Rogue Valley) and Lynn Kunstman (using native plants in the landscape). These presentations were recorded for future use. Although the virtual WDSG was free, donations were encouraged.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Annette Carter reviewed the details of the Treasurer's Report which can be found in Dropbox. OMGA will not be collecting dues for 2021. Annette anticipates JCMGA will end the year in the black.

Annette Carter moved to remove James Norfleet and Michael Riding's names from all JCMGA bank account records at Wells Fargo Bank. Kate Hassen seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Kate Hassen moved to make the acting JCMGA President and Treasurer key executives for all

JCMGA bank accounts. Roberta Heinz seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Tellers Report

Patrice Kaska presented the Tellers Report for the election of the 2021 board. (See Attachment #1.)

Proposed Revisions to Bylaws re Board Elections

Kathy Apple presented the proposed revisions to the bylaws regarding board elections for the first reading. (See Attachment #2)

Motion to Approve New Policy re MG Student Benefits: Kathy Apple, on behalf of the Bylaws Committee, moved a policy to delineate student benefits be established. Approval was unanimous. (See Attachment #3.)

Orientation for Board Members

Lynn Kunstman presented the agenda for the upcoming board orientation to be held via ZOOM on Dec. 4. Barbara Davidson requested OMGA be added to the agenda.

**Next meeting Friday, Dec. 11,
2020, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

*The full minutes and attachments
are in Dropbox*

Shop at Amazon? Support Master Gardeners™

Do you shop with Amazon? Here's a great way to support the Jackson County Master Gardeners™: Shop at smile.amazon.com!

How does it work? Go to 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!** That's it! Now every time you make a purchase at smile.amazon.com, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase to the Jackson County (Oregon) Master Gardeners.

Help us continue to support the Master Gardener program – and please send this to all your



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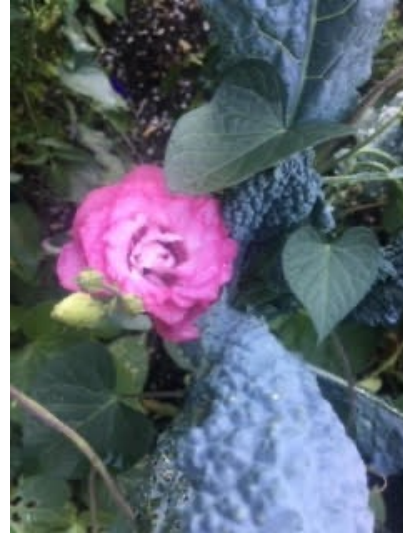
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All articles and photos are due by the 15th of the preceding month and have a maximum of 500 words. Photos submitted cannot be less than 600x800 pixels.

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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 by JCMGA.



**Just one
more
thing ...**

Shari Lawson (Master Gardener 2009) took this picture of a lisianthus and kale her garden.



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