

## A call to action

Happy New Year, Master Gardeners. I hope everyone is well and staying safe while we await an end to the COVID-19 crisis.

I am a bit nervous about taking the reins for JCMGA, both because of the difficulties we face due to the virus, but also because our last several presidents have left me big shoes to fill. I promise to do my best, despite the fact that most of our business will have to continue virtually.

This past year has been extremely hard on everyone. It is difficult to cope with all that has happened – to lose hope, as well as our tempers. So many among us have lost so much. I personally lost one of my closest friends in November to cancer and have had to isolate from my children and grandchildren. But we must persevere. What I want our organization to do in the coming year is unite around the common goals of community building, community education, member training and involvement, student retention, and a focused commitment by everyone to the success and survival of JCMGA.

My motto has always been, "Do one good thing a day to make a better world." So, I am now making it my



**President**  
**Lynn Kunstman**  
Master Gardener  
2012

call to action for you. During my tenure as president, I would like to encourage all members of our Jackson County Master Gardeners Association to rally around and become more involved in our association.

If you have the time and willingness to be involved, we want you! Our board committees meet regularly, via Zoom, and are looking for volunteers for Member Services, Community Outreach, Fundraising,

Communications, Garden Working Group and Program Support. These six committees are outlined in your 2020 JCMGA phone directory, on

---

*My motto has always been, "Do one good thing a day to make a better world." So, I am now making it my call to action for you.*

---

pages 34 and 35. If there is something of interest to you, please contact the person in charge. You can choose one, or many jobs. Jobs range from large to small.

An example from the Communications Working Group is someone willing to write a monthly

column for the Garden Beet. Entitled "Get to Know Your Master Gardeners," this column will feature one member gardener per month. The interview is conducted via email and the template of questions is already in place. Easy peasy. And, as always, we are looking for writers and members who have some experience with WordPress to help with our website.

Students in the 2020-2021 class, you can earn volunteer hours toward graduation through involvement in committee and board work. And, as the county, OSU and our Central Point campus begin to open up again, there will be opportunities to work in the Demonstration Gardens, and eventually, the Plant Clinic. Erika will keep us apprised of those opportunities.

This is my call to action for every member and student. Interest in gardening and growing food has skyrocketed in the past year and we know that gardening is a great way to improve lives. Now, more than ever, it is our mission to reach out and educate our community about gardening and it's many benefits in the Rogue Valley. I hope you will join us in the important work we do. Help us make a better world.

---

***Profile of our new president***  
***Page 3***

---

# Thank you notes to Ronnie

When Ronnie Budge took over the reins of JCMGA as President in January, 2020, she could not have foreseen what a topsy-turvy time we would experience this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our signature in-person events, such as the Spring Garden Fair and Graduation, had to be cancelled. Just as we were beginning to get to know the new Master Gardener Class of 2020, we had to call a halt to in-person Practicum sessions, the newly minted Garden Buds Program floundered and in-person classes were diverted to online lessons. Reopening dates for the Extension Grounds fluctuated and the fate of the Demonstration Gardens was uncertain. Confusion about what JCMGA would be able to do this year reigned and we all began to miss having in-person contact with our fellow Master Gardeners.

This is the unfortunate state of affairs that Ronnie had to deal with as President most of this year. We are very, very fortunate that Ronnie was up to the task of leading us through this trying time. Her leadership style features a calm, steady personality, great judgment, and an understanding of how to work through the issues. As Ronnie told me, there is something for the President to do most days, even if it is just answering a question. Most of the time, the issues she has had to deal with have been much more complicated. Whatever was on her plate as President, she handled it with intelligence and grace. Ronnie quickly mastered the Zoom platform for Board meetings and kept us moving forward. Looking back, it is amazing how much we accomplished this year. Ronnie deserves a lot of the credit for that.

Ronnie, I can't tell you how glad I was when you approached me to volunteer to run for President Elect in 2019, which would then make you President in 2020. You were the perfect candidate! I have so enjoyed

working closely with you the last two years on the Board and getting to know you as a friend. I also learned a great deal from you when we co-taught Practicum a few years back. Thank you for all you have done for JCMGA over the years.

– Susan Koenig

\*\*\*

As incoming president, I would like to thank you, Ronnie, for being an outstanding mentor and role model. Your patience, diligence, thoroughness and sense of diplomacy

---

*(Ronnie's) leadership style features a calm, steady personality, great judgment, and an understanding of how to work through the issues.*

---

have been inspiring and instructive. It has been a joy to work with you and I hope we will have many more opportunities to spend time together in the future.

With much respect and love,

– Lynn Kunstman

\*\*\*

Thank you, Ronnie, for taking on the hidden challenge of the pandemic President this year. You have been our strong leader, helping us keep positive thoughts about our association and what we can accomplish together. I appreciate you and all you do.

– Pam Hillers

\*\*\*

Thank you, Ronnie, for your expert, thoughtful, and respectful leadership. I know you worked hard behind the scenes to make sure the needs of members were met and that the Board had all the information needed to make good decisions. It goes without saying that this has been a difficult year for us all, but

especially for those in leadership positions. You were superb!

– Kathy Apple

\*\*\*

Ronnie, thank you for your patience, thoughtful listening, and graceful leadership. Your attitude and example of accepting and embracing change kept us moving forward during a crazy year.

Big hug,

– Rebecca Jurta

\*\*\*

Ronnie, thank you for your amazing leadership during this tumultuous year. Your calming presence and straightforward guidance were a welcome relief to a year turned upside down. You have made a difference and I deeply appreciate your dedication.

– Jim Buck

\*\*\*

Ronnie, is it really that time already to pay our respects to yet another wonderful leader of the JCMGA Board? When Ronnie was given the gavel, I am sure she expected (as we all did) that she was going to have a clear path leading to resounding success. Unfortunately, there was a kink in the works with the “Coronavirus” that sat everyone on their heels. Ronnie accomplished her goal by being a strong leader with grace and humor, plus a good deal of patience. I appreciated her making sure all voices were heard and every idea was brought to the table. I will always remember her mantra that seemed to be part of every meeting, “You have to unmute yourself.” Thank you, Ronnie, for being a fantastic leader.

– Sandy Hansen

\*\*\*

Ronnie can't possibly have foreseen what was ahead for us in

*Continued on Page 3*

# Lynn Kunstman: A teacher finds her tribe

By Maxine Cass  
Master Gardener 2015

"Keep 'em flying!" Lynn Kunstman, Jackson County Master Gardener™ Association President, signs her emails. Cheering on Monarch butterflies mirrors her ardent approach to gardening.

Raised in Lafayette, California, Lynn has a B.S. in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University and a Science Education M.S. from SOU. As a special education and science teacher for Talent and Ashland Middle Schools, she "launched a new generation of scientists."

Now, she says, "In Master Gardeners, I have found my tribe! There is nothing more satisfying than working with a group of like-minded people toward a common goal. Because we teachers cannot turn that teaching 'thing' off, it is a perfect match for me. I love instructing new Master Gardeners in class and in the Practicum. It feels like I am having a positive impact on people's lives."

The gardener who loved to teach future scientists started early. "One of

my earliest memories is of covering Indian corn ears with paper bags to do pollination experiments with my father and then my mother teaching me how to prune roses. My roses remind me of my mother's rose garden when I was a child; my Meyer lemon tree of my father's lemon tree."

Lynn's virtual guided tour of her Medford corner lot garden was featured in November's Winter Dreams Summer Gardens abbreviated program.

She told the *Garden Beet*. "My front yard is certified as a Monarch Way Station, Pollinator Garden, and Wildlife Habitat. I have 35 species of birds visiting this small area. I have put up signs for each of these certifications, so neighbors passing by and seeing my 'messy yard' can read and learn about the reasons it looks like it does. I do not do fall clean-up, but wait until early spring, when the native bees emerge from the stalks, and the birds have cleaned the seeds from the flower heads."

"The entire back yard is a food garden where we grow vegetables year-round and orchard, grape and berry crops in summer."

"I'm a lazy gardener," Lynn muses. "If it wants to grow there, let it; the leaves can wait until I need to move them in spring to plant; dandelions look pretty in the lawn to me. My garden looks like nature. There is nothing formal or controlled looking about it. My gardening style is no style at all. I am pretty haphazard and am constantly removing and planting plants. Currently, I have been removing non-natives and replacing them with natives, or allowing the natives to fill in the open spaces. I do NOT coddle my plants!"

Lynn became a Master Gardener in 2012. By 2014, she was a Practicum Mentor and later, appeared on the Master Gardener "In the Garden" television series. The Practicum Native Plants Nursery, with Lynn's supervision, has contributed to popular native plant "pop-up" sales and she's a regular gardening expert on JPR's Jefferson Exchange.

In her spare time, JCMGA's president gardens, preserves food, cooks, crochets, enjoys watercolor painting, reading, hiking and singing in her band, Ur Mom.

---

## A big thank you to Ronnie

*Continued from Page 2*

2020 when she agreed to be the JCMGA President this year. Yet she consistently steered us on a steady course forward, consistently guiding us around each problem put in our way. I am so impressed by Ronnie's laser-like mind that notices every detail, that questions, and that almost always has a solution to offer when faced with a messy issue. And who knows *Robert's Rules of Order* better than Ronnie?! Nevertheless, I found her to be a collegial presence who listens to and is quick to accept the suggestions of others. Thank you,

Ronnie, for the strength and steadiness of your leadership in 2020.

– Patrice Kaska

\*\*\*

Our organization was so lucky and privileged to have Ronnie Budge as our esteemed President this year. She had no idea what a can of worms 2020 would end up being, yet she handled everything with calm and professionalism. She is so instrumental in this organization, not only as president, but as a Practicum Mentor with an exceptional ability to

teach the Master Gardener science of gardening. I am so honored to call her a fellow Master Gardener and friend.

– Sandy Hammond

\*\*\*

Ronnie, thank you so much for maintaining a positive attitude and open mind during this challenging year. I am very grateful for the optimistic leadership you bring to the JCMGA; it is a pleasure to work with you!

– Erika Szonntag



# Training and volunteer opportunities for 2021



**OSU Program  
Coordinator  
Erika Szonntag**

**Community Science Projects** (adapted from the OSU Master Gardener Coordinators' blog, December 2020):

Community science projects, such as climate or invasive species tracking, are reliant on observant volunteers on the ground who are able to report back findings. In 2016, we developed guidelines to encourage OSU Master Gardener Volunteers to engage in community science projects and to have those hours count towards volunteer hours. These guidelines require that community science projects must:

- Align with the Master Gardener educational mission of discovering and disseminating research-based gardening information,
- Advance one or both of the flagship programs of the OSU Extension Master Gardener program: sustainable gardening and/or home and community food production,
- Involve participation on one or more levels of the community science typology. These levels are (from least to most involvement): crowdsourcing, distributed intelligence, participatory science,

## Projects for OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteer hours

Project Name	Discipline(s)	Sponsoring Organization(s)	Website
Oregon Season Tracker	climate monitoring	OSU Extension	<a href="https://extension.oregonstate.edu/ost">https://extension.oregonstate.edu/ost</a>
Vegetable Variety Trials	phenology	OSU Extension	email: <a href="mailto:brooke.edmunds@oregonstate.edu">brooke.edmunds@oregonstate.edu</a>
Forest Pest Detectors	entomology; invasive species	OSU Extension	<a href="http://pestdetector.forestry.oregonstate.edu/">http://pestdetector.forestry.oregonstate.edu/</a>
eButterfly	entomology	Oregon State University	<a href="http://www.e-butterfly.org/">http://www.e-butterfly.org/</a>
Oregon Native Bee Atlas	entomology; pollinators	OSU Extension, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture	<a href="https://extension.oregonstate.edu/bee-atlas">https://extension.oregonstate.edu/bee-atlas</a>
The Hazelnut Project	agronomy	Oregon State University	<a href="https://www.arborday.org/programs/hazelnuts">https://www.arborday.org/programs/hazelnuts</a>
Project Budburst	plant phenology	National Ecological Observatory Network	<a href="http://budburst.org/">http://budburst.org/</a>
Great Backyard Bird Count	ornithology	National Audubon Society	<a href="http://gbbc.birdcount.org/">http://gbbc.birdcount.org/</a>
Hummingbirds at Home	ornithology	National Audubon Society	<a href="http://www.hummingbirdsathome.org/">http://www.hummingbirdsathome.org/</a>
iNaturalist	biodiversity	California Academy of Sciences	<a href="http://www.inaturalist.org/">http://www.inaturalist.org/</a>
Community Collaborative Snow, Rain, and Hail Network (CoCoRahHS)	climate monitoring	NOAA, Oregon State University	<a href="https://www.cocorahs.org/state.aspx?state=or">https://www.cocorahs.org/state.aspx?state=or</a>
A Tree's Life	climate change; urban forestry	North Carolina State University	<a href="http://ecoipm.org/a-trees-life/">http://ecoipm.org/a-trees-life/</a>

collaborative science.

The following are Oregon and national community science projects which are approved for indirect

volunteer hours with the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program

*Continued on Page 5*

# January: The ‘ready, set – wait’ month

“Plant so your own heart will grow.” – *Hafiz*

\*\*\*

We are greeting 2021 with more hope than we’ve had in nearly a year.

Although Gardeners have not been spared from the myriad hardships of COVID-19, we can feel gratitude that our love for gardening has given us some measure of respite and comfort. Our hearts and community grow when we plant and when we dream of planting.

The garden checklist for January is scant. It’s kind of the “Ready, Get Set” month as days start to lengthen.

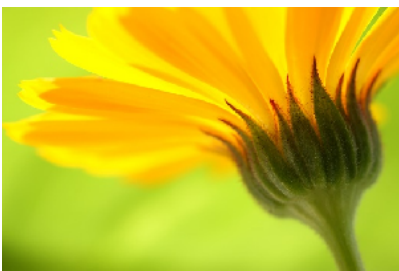
The nagging but prudent routine items continue to be pest and weed control. Better to address these early than letting them gain a bigger foothold in the garden. You may need to water ornamentals under the eaves if they do not get reliable rainwater.

Catalogs are rolling in. I hear your brain thinking, “I’d just like to try this or that.” Our eyes are greedy. Can you really use 200 seeds of any one plant? Although they will keep for next year, you might want to work out a sharing scheme with your gardening friends. Oh, and don’t let your seed stash from last year (or the year before that) languish!



## Garden Guide

by Janine Salvatti  
Master Gardener 2019



Assess your gardening experience from last year. Consider removing pest and disease prone plants and replace with resistant varieties. Does mulch need to be replenished?

The big thing for January is planning...

Your veggie plot. Crop rotation. Is this the year you go for raised beds or container gardening? Are you going to germinate seeds or buy starts? What needs to be pruned this spring? Is it time to test your soil? Are you planting a few native perennials and annuals? Get your row covers organized, clean the greenhouse and then drag yourself to a hot shower or the hot tub!

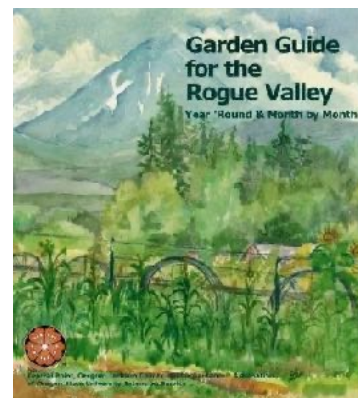
Wishing you a 2021 filled with promise and health.

## January garden guide

January is a good month to:

- ◆ Plan your garden
- ◆ Sow cabbage, lettuce and parsley for transplanting
- ◆ Direct seed peas
- ◆ Fertilize and prune grapes
- ◆ Control pests and diseases

From *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley*



## Training and volunteering opportunities

*Continued from Page 4*

as of December 2020. Hours which you spent collecting and submitting data can count as hours. When reporting volunteer hours associated with participation in approved community science projects, volunteers should report in the category of ‘Citizen Science’ (indirect volunteer hours).

Want to know if another community science project qualifies for Master Gardener volunteer hours? Contact [Erika](#).

\*\*\*

Get ready for 2021!

**Our 2021 Elevated Master Gardener Training** is coming up soon! Keep an eye on your email for registration dates and information for

the skills-building courses (January – March), the Culture of Gardening Series (May – June), and the Statewide Horticulture Series (second Tuesday of each month via Zoom, 3 – 4 pm PST).

[Click here](#) for dates and other information for the Elevated Master Gardener Training, public horticulture class series, and more.



# Homage to JCMGA Demonstration Garden gardeners

By Janine Salvatti

Master Gardener 2019

Our JCMGA gardeners are amazing in their dedication to seeing the Demonstration Gardens not just survive but thrive. Looking back on 2020, we were unable to work in our beloved gardens until late June.

At first glance, we literally could not see the gardens for the weeds. These babies were healthy, standing up to 6 or 7 feet tall and they were everywhere. Our gardeners came, they saw, and they conquered. By the final days in autumn, most gardens were looking well cared for. Our gardeners weeded, tussled with blackberries, organized new gardens, and came back week after week armed with tools, masks, and positivity. The Rose Garden was smothered in scent and beautiful flowers.

Here is a tiny pictorial sample of the bright spots:

- Doug put a lovely pathway through the Herb Garden.
- Gorgeous autumn crocus in the Entry Garden.
- A color facelift for Kitchen Garden seating.





# Brigcardoon

Although the legend behind the musical “Brigadoon” is a story of a mythical Scottish Highlands village, “Brigcardoon,” the cardoon, is neither invisible nor myth. You may well be captivated by its mythic colossalness.

A show stopping 4-foot-tall plant, the cardoon, *Cynara cardunculus*, has been making its “broad way,” cutting a 2-foot-wide swath into Mediterranean lands as well as into backyard gardens since the 1610s.

A perennial herb in the *Asteraceae* family, cardoon is native to southern Europe and North Africa where it’s mostly used as a vegetable. In some parts of Spain, the plant’s thistle down is substituted for rennet when making cheese. It’s also said to create a strong yellow dye.

A close cousin to the globe artichoke, cardoon is much larger, hardier, and less prickly than an artichoke. It’s also quite tasty and meatier because you consume the inner leaves, young stalks (sometimes called the chard), and thick main roots instead of the chokes that are more decorative than edible.

Cardoons' flavor is similar to that of artichokes, but more delicate. They are usually boiled, steamed or even fried before being added to eggs, casseroles, or sauces. Try eating raw like celery sticks or chopping to add to mixed salad greens.

Nothing takes center stage like the Rouge d’ Alger, one of the most attractive cardoon varieties with

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



violet blooms, crimson stalks and huge dusty-sage acanthus-shaped leaves. It’s no wonder the Quakers brought this spectacular plant to North America in the 1790s.

Thriving in full sun with a bit of afternoon shade and well-drained rich

soil, cardoons can be either sown from seed (unlike artichokes, cardoon seeds sprout true), or vegetatively propagated from divisions.

To make its seasonal show, you’ll need to start seeds at least 6 weeks prior to the last spring frost. Sow in sterilized seed mix; you’ll get the best sprouting at 75°F.

For a quicker start, plants can be purchased from nurseries specializing in heirlooms. Better yet, if you know someone who has mature cardoons, you may be able to cajole them into sharing some rooted divisions that can be planted out when soil warms.

When propagating cardoons for

consumption, it’s recommended to blanch them. No, not in boiling water. When plants are about 2’ high, wrap with straw and secure it by wrapping the lower leaves about the plant, then tie with string or cord.

Provide plenty of water during cardoons’ growing season for a most succulent performance. You can expect to indulge in the youthful leafy stalks around 120-150 days after planting. Cardoon is usually propagated as an annual performer; however, if pruned close to its base then protected with a generous blanketing of mulch, you can even get

repeat performances.

With spring’s next stage set, your plant may revive with a majestic cape of deep-cut leaves and crown of violet thistles for rave reviews from all who view its splendid stately presence.

---

## Seed and plant sources

### Seeds

Johnny’s Selected Seeds  
[www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com)

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds  
[www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com)

They have Gobbo Di Nizzia a rare Italian variety

Territorial Seeds  
[www.territorialseed.com](http://www.territorialseed.com)

### Plants

Growers Exchange  
[www.growerexchange.com](http://www.growerexchange.com)

Plants to Plant  
[www.plantstoplant.com](http://www.plantstoplant.com)

---

***Cardoon gratin***  
**Page 8**

---

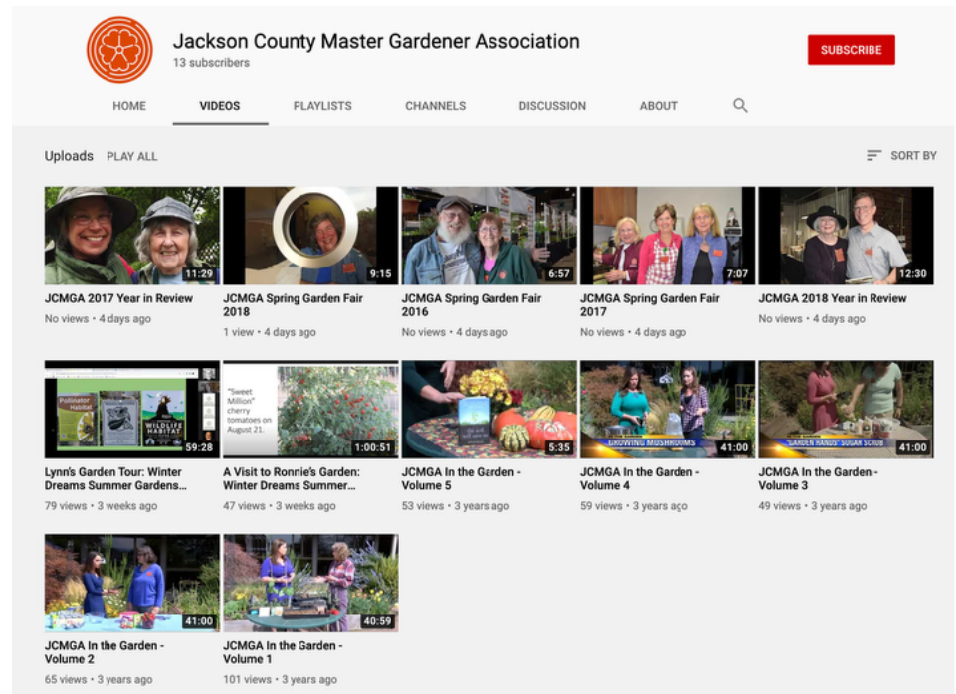
# Watch JCMGA on YouTube

By John Yunker  
Master Gardener 2019

If you missed the recent virtual Winter Dreams Summer Gardens event, you're still in luck – the presentations have been recorded and are live on our JCMGA YouTube channel. Simply go to the JCMGA home page and click on the YouTube icon at the top left corner of the web page.

You'll be able to tour the gardens of Ronnie Budge and Lynn Kunstman. You'll also find presentations from years past, including TV interviews and Spring Garden Fairs. We expect to add more videos in the months ahead.

If you haven't already, please click the "Subscribe" button. This way, you'll be alerted as new videos are added.



## Recipe: *Cardoon gratin*

### Ingredients

- 1 large piece of cardoon, about two 12" long pieces
- 2 organic lemons, juiced, and zest saved from one
- Sea salt to taste
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves of garlic, pressed
- 1/2 cup half and half (can use whole soy or nut milk instead)
- 1/2 cup freshly grated provolone
- 1/2 cup freshly grated parmesan
- 1/4 cup freshly grated fontina
- 1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg
- Fresh ground white pepper to taste
- 1/3 cup chopped toasted almonds

### Instructions

Preheat oven to 375°F. Bring to



boil a large pot of water. While waiting for water to heat, pull off strings on the ribs of cardoon stalks. Don't dig too deeply as you don't want to break the stalks.

Pour half the lemon juice in a large bowl of cold water. As you chop cardoon stalks into 1½" pieces, put them in lemon water to keep from discoloring.

Put remaining lemon juice in boiling water. Toss in cardoon pieces and cook on medium heat for about 40 minutes, then drain in a colander.

Oil a casserole large enough for cardoon pieces to be spread out. Mix olive oil, garlic and half and half, along with nutmeg and sea salt and white pepper to taste.

Arrange cardoon pieces in casserole. Sprinkle over the grated cheeses, then pour on the half and half mixture. Top with chopped nuts and bake for about 35-40 minutes until cheese is bubbly and lightly browned on top. Serve hot as a side dish. Serves about 4.



# The pine connection:

## Currants, gooseberries and white pine blister rust

By Katy Mallams  
Master Gardener 2012

Currants and gooseberries, members of the genus *Ribes*, are all hosts of the non-native and virulent fungal pathogen *Cronartium ribicola*, cause of white pine blister rust. It is called white pine blister rust because it causes lethal cankers on young five-needled pines (also known as white pines due to the light color of the wood) and severely weakens the larger trees by killing tops and branches. This makes them susceptible to later attack by bark beetles.

The fungus was introduced from Europe to North America in the early 1900s when five-needled pine seeds were sent to Europe, grown in nurseries and sent back as seedlings. It appeared on the West Coast in 1910 and spread through forests in the West wherever both five-needled pines and *Ribes* grew. The disease has contributed to major declines in the population of five-needled pines and has made successful planting of these trees very difficult.

During the 1930s to 1950s there was a great effort made to control the spread of the fungus by eradicating wild gooseberry and currant plants from the forest. The effort failed in the western U.S. largely due to the rough, remote terrain and ability of *Ribes* to sprout after cutting. Today there are programs in several federal agencies to develop disease-resistant five-needled pines for restoration planting.

In our part of Oregon, there are three native species of five-needled pines, all very susceptible to the



fungus. Sugar pines (*Pinus lambertiana*) are found in mixed conifer forests at middle elevations. A good place to see magnificent large sugar pines is along Highway 62 between Prospect and Union Creek. Western white pines (*P. monticola*) are found on higher and moister sites, mainly in the Cascades and in the Siskiyou on ultramafic soils. Whitebark pines (*P. albicaulis*) are found at the highest elevations, most noticeably around the rim of Crater Lake, and in scattered locations near Mt. Ashland and Mt. McLoughlin. We also have several native species of *Ribes* in our forests including stink currant (*Ribes bracteosum*), spreading gooseberry (*R. divaricatum*), prickly currant (*R. lacustre*), Sierra gooseberry (*R. roezlii*), red-flowering currant (*R. sanguineum*) (a popular choice in local gardens

for attracting hummingbirds), and sticky currant (*R. viscosissimum*). All can be hosts of the fungus but stink currant, red-flowering currant, and Sierra gooseberry are particularly susceptible.

The life cycle of *Cronartium ribicola* is complex and requires both *Ribes* and five-needled pines to complete. Spores of the fungus spread from five-needled pines to *Ribes* in spring and back to pines in the fall.

Although the spores can travel a long distance when conditions are right, most successful infections occur when *Ribes* and pines are within one-half mile of one another. On currant and gooseberry plants, both wild native and cultivated varieties, infection by the fungus causes small raised yellow-orange spots containing spores on the underside of the leaves in early to mid-summer. Later in the summer, brownish hair-like spore structures develop in the same area. Severely infected plants may lose all or most of their leaves.

White pine blister rust is not an issue for most gardeners because most of the five-needled pines growing in our local forests are not near where the majority of people are gardening unless you live near Prospect, Butte Falls, the upper elevations of the Applegate Valley or unless you have a five-needled pine in your landscape such as eastern white pine (*P. strobus*), Swiss stone pine (*P. cembra*) or Vanderwolf's Pyramid (*P. flexilis*). In these situations, blister rust-resistant species or varieties of currants and gooseberries should be chosen. Black currants grown for

*Continued on Page 10*

## 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 Lynn 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 on the Jefferson Exchange on the second or third Wednesday during winter 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 *Chair open* Subcommittees include the Beet, Mailchimp, Facebook, our Youtube channel and Public Service Announcements.

**JCMGA Board meeting |**  
Second Friday of each month | 9:30 – 11:30 am | Lynn Kunstman, president

**Advanced Training Webinars for Master Gardeners** for 2020, sponsored by Oregon State University Extension, are available [here](#).

**Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series |** Second Tuesday of the month Jan-Nov, 3 pm. This free monthly Zoom series offers education led by OSU horticulture experts for the experienced gardener. Take your gardening knowledge to the next level with timely topics ranging from gardening in a changing climate to techniques to extend your season. Zoom classes, with recordings available for you to view anytime. Master Gardener volunteers receive continuing education credit. Take one or take all. More information, including the list of classes available [here](#).

**Elevated skills training for current Master Gardener volunteers |** Late Jan-late March. Free. Master Gardeners will learn how to use new tools for plant ID and learn about community science within the Master Gardener program, as just a few examples. We'll be using an online training tool named Thinkific, which is the same platform we've used to deliver the COVID Safety Training and the Celebrate Master Gardener Week. Each week, a new lesson will open for you to work through, on your own time and at your own pace. Each lesson is optional: you can take whichever ones interest you. Once a lesson is open it will remain open for the rest of 2021, meaning you can take it at any time during the year. Take one or take all. More information, including the list of classes [here](#).

---

## Lethal cankers for western white pines

*Continued from Page 9*

home gardens are varieties of *R. nigrum* or *R. odoratum*. They are more susceptible to infection than red or white currants (*R. sativum*). However, rust-resistant varieties of black currants are available, including Prince Consort, Minaj Smyriou, Blackdown, and Titiana. Red currant cultivars Viking and Red Dutch are practically immune. Jostaberry is a blister rust-resistant cross between black currant and gooseberry species developed at Oregon State University that has qualities of both species.

### Sources:

Managing Insects and Diseases of Oregon Conifers by David C. Shaw, P.T.



Oester and G.M. Filip. Oregon State University Extension Service EM 8980. 2009.

*Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Management Handbook*, Gooseberry and Currant (*Ribes* spp.)-Blister Rust. [https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/gooseberry-currant-ribes-spp-](https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/gooseberry-currant-ribes-spp-blister-rust)

[blister-rust](#).

*Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Management Handbook*, Pine, White – White Pine Blister Rust. [Pine, White-White Pine Blister Rust | Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks \(pnwhandbooks.org\)](#)

*Shrubs to Know in Pacific Northwest Forests* by Edward C. Jensen. Oregon State University Extension Service. EC 1640. 2013.

Status of Sugar and Western White Pines on Federal Forest Lands in Southwest Oregon: Inventory

Query and Natural Stand Survey Results by Ellen M. Goheen and D.J. Goheen. United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region SWOFIDSC-14-01. 2014.

*Sunset Western Garden Book*, edited by Kathleen N. Brenzel. 2001.



## Recycle ... and help support JCMGA

One way for JCMGA to pick up a little spare change to raise funds for projects in 2021, including awards, scholarships, community gardens and community education classes, is by



recycling the bottles and cans that you have around the house.

Please contact Jane Sawall to arrange for pickup or delivery of the special blue bag with the JCMGA bar code on it.

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, email Jane Sawall at [Janes435@outlook.com](mailto:Janes435@outlook.com)



**Once your blue bag is (very, very) full, take your bottles and cans to:  
Medford Redemption Center,  
1179 Stowe Ave., Medford  
between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily**

*Don't wait in line!* 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



## Devyn Schneck appointed to board

*Devyn Schneck is a current student in the Master Gardener class of 2020.*

We were fortunate to have Devyn qualify, with completed hours, to run as a member at large candidate for the Board of Directors. Although not initially elected from the six candidates, we were fortunate to appoint Devyn when Marcie Katz resigned her member at large position to become the Board representative of the Gardens and Grounds Working Group. We are



so happy to welcome her to the board.

Devyn has been active on campus between COVID-19 shutdowns, working with Lynn in the Native Plants Nursery. She is an avid cook and gardener. As the owner of a freeze-dried food business, she is required to grow all

the food she processes and sells, so her garden is mammoth! She is also a long-time member of the Ashland Rowing Club, which means she is extremely buff!

Welcome, Devyn!

---

## Membership renewals due this month

By Patrice Kaska  
Master Gardener 2016

JCMGA membership renewal for 2021 is now in progress. Although members can renew at any time during the year, please renew by Jan. 31, 2021 if you would like to be listed in and receive the 2021 Chapter Directory.

Three methods of renewal are available this year. You can renew online; by printing out the form and mailing it and your \$25 check for dues to PO Box 401, Ashland, OR, 97520; or by requesting a paper renewal form be mailed to you. The occasional renewal Mailchimps contain a variety of buttons that lead directly to the various renewal methods to make renewing as easy as possible for each member.

If you have questions about the renewal process, please contact Patrice Kaska, JCMGA Membership Secretary.

In a change from previous years, Erika Szonntag, the Jackson County OSU Master Gardener 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.

As everyone during this pandemic, JCMGA has had to make many changes to its usual activities in 2020. Yet the Board and other committees are working diligently to plan and schedule various classes and other activities so that we can remain the wonderful association we've all valued over the years. We hope you will join us in 2021.

# Jackson County Master Gardener Association Board of Directors Executive Committee Meeting Dec. 11, 2020

## Announcements

Ronnie Budge announced she and John Kobal will be facilitating an OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) class via Zoom during the spring quarter. They will be basing the class on the *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley: Vegetables, Berries, and Melons*, especially the Month by Month section. They may be asking other Master Gardeners to teach some classes.

## Treasurer's report

Annette Carter reviewed the treasurer's report as posted in Dropbox. She also reported funds from AmazonSmile have started coming in. Sale of *Garden Guides* continues to be our greatest fundraiser. (THANKS, Sandy Hammond!)

## Proposed 2021 JCMGA budget

Annette Carter reviewed the 2021 budget. (See attachment #1). She



## Recording Secretary

Jane Moyer  
Master Gardener 2005

## Attachments may be downloaded [here](#).

explained December is when the budget is presented to the board and is the time for questions and concerns. This allows the budget committee time to make adjustments before the budget is presented to the board in January for an up or down vote. If there are problems in January it has to be voted down and sent back to the budget committee for resolution before returning to the board for

another vote.

## Motion to approve revisions to bylaws re: board elections

Kathy Apple moved on behalf of the Bylaws Committee the proposed revision to the bylaws be approved as written. (See attachment #2.) Unanimous approval.

## Working Group representatives

Marcie Katz was approved as representative from Gardens WG and Sandy Hansen as representative from Fundraising WG.

## Executive Committee action

When Marcie Katz was nominated to represent the Gardens Working Group in 2021, she resigned from her elected position as Member-at-Large. Ronnie Budge reported the Executive Committee appointed Devyn Schneck to the board position vacated by Marcie Katz.

## Garden Guides

Sandy Hammond reported the JCMGA insurance policy did not cover the *Garden Guides* lost in the Almeda fire.

## Proposal for Spring Garden Fair remix

Rebecca Jurta and Sandy Hansen proposed a spring plant sale, to include plant vendors, be held at Isola Arena at the Expo Fairgrounds the first weekend of May. (See attachment #3.) After discussion, Susan Koenig moved that the board approve the Spring Garden Fair Remix proposal in concept, and that the next step be to confer with Erika about OSU approval. Janine Salvatti seconded. Fourteen board members voted in favor, one opposed. Motion passed.

## 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 11*



## Board minutes: Dec.11

*Continued from Page 10*

### **Motion on policy that proposals be reviewed by Working Groups before bringing to board**

On behalf of the Spring Garden Fair Working Group, Jane Moyer moved that a JCMGA policy be adopted that all new ideas, practices, and programs that would require a committee of two or more people be proposed to and approved by the appropriate working group before being taken to the JCMGA Board of Directors and/or proposed to outside entities. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn and referred to the Bylaws Committee.

### **Study groups**

Susan Koenig moved on behalf of the Member Services Working Group that the Board approve the Horticultural Study Group program

as described in the attachment to the minutes. Unanimous approval. (See attachment #4.)

### **Jan. 29 retreat**

Lynn Kunstman would like the January board retreat to focus on the elevated trainings offered by OSU. A committee was formed with Lynn, Patrice Kaska, Colet Allen, Janine Salvatti, and others still to be invited.

Ronnie Budge thanked the board for a good year even though it was not what she thought it would be due to the difficulties imposed by the pandemic. Kathy Apple thanked Ronnie for leading us through a difficult year.

**Next meeting Friday,  
Jan. 8, 2021, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

**Board retreat Friday Jan. 29,  
2021**

## **Got Questions!??**

**By Sandy Hansen**

**Master Gardener 2017**

We launched a new program to help you navigate all of those questions and help you get the answers you are looking for. The program is designed for new students and volunteers, even if you are a veteran of the program can assist you as well.

Sample questions;

How do I sign up to volunteer in the demonstration gardens?

What time is the meeting?

How do I access the *Garden Beef*?

Sandy Hansen has volunteered to man (or woman) the information telephone to assist you with all of those questions. You can call 541-227-1358 and she will point you in the right direction or answer the question directly.

## **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 out 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 AmazonSmile.



Here's a great way to support Master Gardeners: 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.

## Beet Box

Editor: Jack Ivers

Copy editors: Lisa Brill, Maxine Cass, Keltie Nelson

Photography: Seán Cawley

Email us at [jcmgabeeet569@gmail.com](mailto:jcmgabeeet569@gmail.com)

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.

Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or disability as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Oregon State University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

## 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.



[www.facebook.com/jcmgaor](http://www.facebook.com/jcmgaor)



**JACKSON COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION**  
Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center  
569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR 97502