



# Garden Beet

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

March 2021

Jackson County Master Gardener™ Association

## Spring!

Greetings, Master Gardeners! And happy spring!

As we wait impatiently for reopening, your Jackson County Master Gardener Association is hard at work doing the daily business of the association. Our Community Outreach Working Group has been especially busy these last few months and can always use help from members who are looking to assist in educating our community. Jim Buck, the working group chair, is the person to contact if you would like to become involved. The working group has several committees that function under its umbrella: School Garden Grants, Scholarships, Speakers Bureau, Community Gardens, and Native Plants Gardens Tour.

The School Garden Grants and Scholarships committees are led by Barbara Davidson and are responsible for monies that are donated to school garden projects and students. School garden grants are donations awarded to local teachers for gardening projects in the Rogue Valley. Among other things, these donations have helped establish butterfly gardens and vegetable gardens at many of our local elementary and middle schools. Scholarships are awarded to OSU



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

university students who must be at the junior or senior level in good standing and enrolled in a horticulture-related major.

Our Speakers Bureau, now led by Colet Allen, has a cadre of Master Gardener speakers who are available to present educational lessons on a variety of topics. Local organizations such as the library, garden clubs, churches, and schools contact the committee chair to arrange for a speaker on the topic of their choice. Find a list of topics and speakers on the [JCMGA webpage](#).

There are also two new programs which started in the last year: There's a Wednesday radio show on JPR's Jefferson Exchange at 8:35 a.m. where I talk with Geoffrey Riley and answer listener questions about gardening. Click [here](#) for streaming radio, or tune in locally. Ronnie Budge and John Kobal will begin teaching an OLLI ([Osher Lifelong Learning Institute](#)) class starting this month, using our [Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley](#) as the text.

Our Community Gardens

committee, chaired by Master Gardener Mary Foster, is responsible for helping community members start gardens for citizens and groups that do not have access to land for personal gardens. There are community gardens in almost every town in our valley. For a list of these, [see our website](#).

Currently, this committee is spending their \$1,500 budget to help rebuild the Blue Heron Community Garden, in Phoenix, which was completely destroyed last summer in the Almeda Fire.

And finally, Sherri Morgan leads our Native Plants Gardens Tour effort. Scheduled for May, this will be a virtual tour and potentially in-person. She needs additional support to make this happen.

As a member of Jackson County Master Gardeners, you have so much to be proud of. Please consider becoming more

involved with our programs. If something you read here inspires you, please contact the Working Group or committee chair with whom you would like to work. Emails work great and you can find that information in your JCMGA Member directory. In the meantime, be well, and GARDEN FOR LIFE!



# Update on the 2021 Elevated Skills Training

Dear Gardeners,

Happy March! I would like to start by sharing an update about the 2021 Elevated Skills Training from Gail Langelotto, statewide MG Program Coordinator and Professor of Horticulture at OSU:

“If you are an Oregon Master Gardener volunteer, and haven’t already checked out the **2021 Elevated Skills Trainings for Master Gardener volunteers**, now is the time to do so.

Altogether, the 14 classes that are being offered have over 3,000 combined enrollments! Seven classes have already opened, and the other seven will open over the coming weeks.

Although the courses, themselves, will remain open for *self-paced learning that you can complete at your own pace, and when it is most convenient to you* ~ the discussion boards will only be monitored, and instructors will only be available to

comment on your assignment submission, through the end of April.

Early reviews for the courses include this note about the Woody Plant ID course: “Plant ID has been my nemesis for my 12 years as a Master Gardener. I pushed through. When we got to the plant ID tool I felt like a whole new and wonderful world opened up for me. I honestly am excited about identifying plants with this tool as a guide. This has me stoked and I have never been

‘stoked’ in my life.”

**Please Note:** We have changed the original guidance on CEUs for the Elevated Skills Training. Instead of one hour per course taken, **you can count and report your actual time in each class, as your number of CEUs.** In other words, if a class took you two hours, you can count two CEUs. If a class took you three hours, you can count three CEUs.



OSU Program  
Coordinator  
Erika Szonntag

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## Free well testing offered to wildfire victims

The Oregon Health Authority will provide free well water testing vouchers to private or domestic well users impacted by the 2020 Oregon wildfires. [Applications will be open](#) until May 15, 2021.

Vouchers cover the cost of testing for bacteria, nitrates, arsenic, and lead. Depending on well damage, some may also qualify to test for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene as well. Sample collection costs are not covered by OHA.

To be eligible for the vouchers, all of the following criteria must be met:



the property was impacted by the wildfires; the well water is used for things like drinking, bathing cooking and washing dishes; the well has three or fewer connections and is not part of a regulated water system.

Because domestic wells are unregulated, water quality testing is not always accessible to these households. After a fire, testing the well for contaminants is an important step to assuring homes have access to safe water. If a test results indicates high levels of contaminants, OHA will provide safety information and recommendations to the well user. OHA does not regulate private wells.

I am also working with MG coordinators to see if any part of course participation (such as time spent on the hands-on assignments and practical application of knowledge) can count towards required volunteer service hours. Stay tuned.”

I will support application of knowledge gained from the training towards volunteer service hours in Jackson County. As Gail said, stay tuned for more information! And, you can find her full post and other news posts for the [OSU Master Gardener Program here](#).

– Erika

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## Heartfelt ‘thank you to our Facebook master Janice Alderman

By Lynn Kunstman  
Master Gardener 2012

The Jackson County Master Gardeners Association wants to extend a heartfelt “Thank you” to Master Gardener, Janice Alderman, who is stepping down from running our JCMGA [Facebook page](#).



Janice attended the job fair during her 2018 Master Gardener class and volunteered to run our Facebook page. She began immediately and for the next three years posted regular timely and topical gardening information, along with moderating comments and answering questions.

Thank you, Janice, for doing this important work. You have left big shoes to fill.



# Blue Heron Park Community Garden restoration

By Mary Foster  
Master Gardener 2007  
and Lynn Kunstman  
Master Gardener 2012

The Jackson County Master Gardeners Association is helping restore gardens and landscapes around the valley that were damaged or destroyed in the Almeda Fire. Two of these projects were native plants donated to the Friends of Wagner Creek Watershed and Valleys of the Rogue Watershed Council.

We are also donating funds to rebuild Blue Heron Park Community Garden in Phoenix, which was completely destroyed in the fire. Here's a bit of history about that community garden.

Community gardens that JCMGA support provide access to fresh produce and plants as well as an opportunity for satisfying labor, neighborhood improvement, sense of community and connection to the environment. They are publicly functioning in terms of ownership, access and management, as well as typically owned in trust by local governments or nonprofits. Community gardens bring communities closer and are as diverse as their gardeners. While some grow only flowers, others communally share their bounty. Many have individual plots for personal use. Others are equipped with raised beds for disabled gardeners. They promote urban food

security, allowing citizens to grow their own food, and provide fresh produce donations to food banks. In creating a social community, these gardens break down social isolation and reduce local crime and vandalism.

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Mary Foster was the Educational Service District teacher for the teens living in the Jackson County Shelter Home when she began the Blue Heron Park Garden project. Those students, along with special education students from Phoenix High School, planned, mapped the area, and interviewed people living in trailers and apartments surrounding the proposed site at the Blue Heron Park in Phoenix. Nothing but a driveway into the park was there at the time. The City of Phoenix accepted the proposal and plan for the community garden in 2004, and a grant from the Carpenter Foundation for \$5,000 got the process rolling.

Unfortunately, the river bed on which the garden would be built was not soft, silty loam, but rocky, sandy, garden-unfriendly soil. In order to form the 20 planned plots, soil was purchased and trucked in to the tune of \$4,700! The kids installed all of the irrigation and built the deer-proof fence using only hand tools and lumber they had harvested through a thinning project with Christoph Buchler, a wonderful artist.

In about three months, the garden was growing food for 20 families from diverse backgrounds. People were sharing tools and recipes. There were monthly work parties



and potlucks, poetry readings, full moon ceremonies, music festivals and gatherings to just visit and enjoy the feeling of being in a lush growing space.

Some of the original members of that garden are still maintaining a plot there, 17 years later. Last September's Almeda Fire ran through the garden, destroying fencing and the garden shed. Compost bins and wheelbarrows and all tools were lost, as were the two handicapped-accessible beds at the entrance. All of the well-tended perennial borders which attracted beneficials burned.

The garden has received several grants from Jackson County Master Gardener Association in the past and this year, it will be the sole recipient of the 2021 Community Gardening Grant.

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*The Jackson County Master Gardener Association supports the Community Gardening Network, which is a group of gardeners and garden managers from community gardens throughout the Rogue Valley. This group meets quarterly to share information regarding plots available in their gardens, ideas for improving community gardens, and even consulting on the development of new gardens. Participants include representatives from Southern Oregon University, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, ACCESS Food Share and the Housing Authority.*



# Better know a gardener!

By Lynn Kunstman  
Master Gardener 2012

Mary Foster has been a Master Gardener since 2007 and is the chair of the Community Gardens Committee for JCMGA. While Mary has long been a presenter of community classes and Winter Dreams, Summer Garden seminars, her first love is the Community Gardens project to which she has been dedicated for many years. The Rogue Valley has many of these gardens established in various towns, thanks to Mary's dedication.

Mary became interested in community gardens in 2001, upon attending a conference in Denver on Horticultural Therapy. She saw a slide show on community gardens, was hooked, and knew she had to get one started in our area.

Mary's husband, Abdiaziz, had a question: When Mary gets an idea, why do I always end up with a shovel in my hand?

So, before he took up that shovel,



Mary Foster with  
Scott Lewis from  
KDRV Channel 12

they took a road trip in 2003 to see as many Northwest community gardens as possible. They saw nursing mamas sitting under a tree in a Eugene garden near the University of Oregon campus, comparing child rearing advice and tips on how to grow a bigger tomato. In Portland, where there were many established gardens, they learned that the city's Parks and Recreation Department coordinated

the gardens.

In Seattle, community gardens are called P-Patches. They visited the oldest garden in the city, The Danny Woo Community Garden, which covers an acre of steep hillside. Many gardeners are Asian-American and grow unusual plants they know from their heritage.

Some of those P-Patches had artistic gardens with beautiful mosaics installed by the gardeners. Some kept bees. In Pullman, Wash., Mary and Abdiaziz found Koppel Farm, a community garden created by students of Washington State University. This one included a children's garden for the kids to play in while parents tended their plots. And just across the border in Idaho, a wonderful community garden can be found in Moscow – a green paradise in the landscape of the Palouse.

Mary has worked tirelessly, with Abdi of course, for many years to bring community gardens to life in our valley. For those who do not know Mary, I fervently hope you now appreciate one of our many behind-the-scenes Master Gardener treasures.

She really does "Garden for Life".



Abdiaziz Guled, at left, at work on the Blue Heron Park Community Garden in Phoenix.



# March: Start your engines

If January is the month to get ready, set, and plan, then March is the month to start your engines to put that grand plan into action. March is one of the busiest months in the gardening calendar if you grow a vegetable garden or have cane fruit. There are many indoor jobs (starting many garden vegetables) as well as outdoor jobs (transplanting, pruning, fertilizing and spraying for disease).

March is also a month with dicey weather. It can be warm(er) and/or there can be lingering, icy blasts and plenty of rainy days. This year, we seem to be making up for our severe drought conditions all at once, with a very rainy winter. So, assemble your warm gear, pull on your waterproof boots and let's head to the garden.

The traditional saying is "Plant peas by Presidents' Day", but March is when I prefer to sow peas because I find they come up better than if planted earlier. This may be because I am at 2000 feet and almost everything in my garden and landscape is two weeks behind the



## Garden Guide

By Susan Koenig  
Master Gardener 2015

valley. My sister Gretchen's tip is to soak peas before planting and wait until a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the root is showing before planting to shorten the time before they poke their tips above the ground. There are many other green vegetables you can direct sow in March too, including cress, kale, lettuce, mustard and turnip greens, spinach, swiss chard, and cilantro. Carrots, scallions, radishes, chives and parsley will also do well if planted in a sunny spot. You'll be eating fresh garden salads in no time from your March plantings.

Onions and leeks can also be planted in March for harvesting in July. I find that adding a large helping of compost and decomposed manure to the onion-leek bed in the fall is easier than in the spring when the ground is almost certain to be wet and difficult to work when I plant onions. The same goes for the potato bed, which tradition has it should be planted by St. Patrick's Day.

March is also the beginning of the season for transplanting, although many vegetables require warmer soil and stronger sun to thrive than March provides. Asparagus and rhubarb roots, often available at local nurseries or by mail order this time of year, may be planted in a well-prepared bed with deep soil, good drainage, aeration and medium-high fertility. Incorporate aged manure, compost or leaf mold to the top 6"-8" soil in the bed. If you started broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage earlier, March through April is the time to set them out in the garden. March is also the time to get your strawberry patch planted to ensure that you have plenty of that sweet June treat.

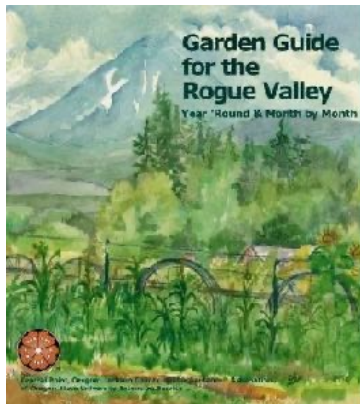
Fertilizing and pruning many cane fruit varieties is a March job. (For blackberries, wait until they flower). Check out the [OSU publications](#) on caring for blackberries, raspberries and blueberries in your home garden as well as many other gardening topics.

Get a head start on pest control in March by spraying plants that are susceptible to fungus like black spot, such as roses and cane berries. Lime sulfur or fixed copper sprays are often recommended, but I have achieved great results with a nontoxic spray of horticultural oil. Spray again in a couple of weeks and in the fall.

## March garden guide

**Sow for transplanting later:**  
artichokes, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, eggplant, leeks, oriental greens, peppers, tomatoes.

**Direct sow:**  
carrots, chervil, chives, cilantro, collards, corn salad, fava beans, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, mustard and turnip greens, onions, parsley, peas, radishes, scallions, spinach, swiss



chard, turnips.

**Transplant:**  
asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, onion, strawberries.

**Fertilize and prune:** established asparagus bed, raspberries, everbearing strawberries, grapes, currants, blueberries, and gooseberries.

**Spray for fungus diseases:**  
horticultural oil twice.

# What is a Master Gardener?

By Ronnie Budge  
Master Gardener 2011

The mission of the Master Gardener Program in Oregon is: Cultivating resilient and healthy communities through sustainable horticulture education and gardening projects that are rooted in science and that are supported by Oregon State University Extension volunteers.

To become a certified Master Gardener in Oregon (as of 2021), one must complete a prescribed course of study, pass an exam, and perform 40 hours of volunteer service, 20 hours of which must be in direct or indirect education.

Once a Master Gardener, always a Master Gardener; however, if one wishes to continue educating the public on behalf of the Master Gardener Program, one must be recertified annually. Currently in Oregon, 30 hours of volunteer time are required for recertification each year, of which at least 10 hours must be used for educating others (either directly, e.g., teaching a workshop, or indirectly, e.g., helping to plan an education event); at least 10 more hours providing any approved volunteer service (e.g., helping with a fundraising event); and at least 10 hours for one's own continuing education (e.g., attending a webinar/talk).

To be a member of the Jackson County Master Gardener

Association, one must be a certified Master Gardener. But it is not necessary to be recertified annually to belong to JCMGA, nor is it necessary to be recertified to perform volunteer work which does not involve educating the public. "Support" tasks, e.g., helping to maintain a demonstration garden, fundraising, or being an officer in JCMGA, do not require recertification.

All volunteer work, whether providing direct or indirect

education or giving other support to the Master Gardener Program, should be reported, preferably using the online [Volunteer Reporting System](#). The Master Gardener Coordinator Erika Szonntag uses this information to recertify volunteers and help justify annual budgets. [Email Erika](#) or call her at 541-776-7371 with any questions related to the VRS or volunteer hours.

More information on volunteer service, including necessary forms and a link to the reporting tool, are [here](#).



Master Gardeners clean up the Demonstration Gardens last year.



# Pie in the plant

Who would have thought one could produce a premium pie from an edible plant stalk? Apparently, no one. But be forewarned – the leaves are toxic and should not be eaten.

Botanically a vegetable but often referred to as a fruit, *Rheum rhabarbarum* – otherwise known as rhubarb – has had a very long life on this good earth.

Although ancient in its origins, this hardy perennial is in the *Polygonaceae*, or smartweed-buckwheat, family.

Despite its apparent “smartweed” genes, rhubarb has long been prized for its medicinal qualities. Native to central Asia, it was used 5,000 years ago as a physic in China, as well by the ancient Arabs, Greeks and Romans. In 1271, Marco Polo found it in the mountains of Sukchu.

Although it was the root, not the “fruit” of rhubarb that was first sought after, it was so expensive that European pharmacists encouraged propagating it locally.

When roots and seeds were finally brought to Western Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> century for pharmaceutical cultivation, France discovered the stalks produced a tasty, edible sauce. Leave it to those French chefs and their epicurean exploration.

British cooks were far behind liking this new food, (except mistakenly cooking the toxic leaves that poisoned those ingesting them). However, after accepting this vegetable, British scientists soon competed with Russians to produce a variety with stalks much more acceptable in taste and cooking

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



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## Crown sources

If you've decided to plant rhubarb, order early since gardening has taken off during this past year of confinement and nurseries are running out of stock fast.

### One Green World

Victoria and Crimson Cherry

### Park Seed

Victoria Red

### Wayside Gardens

Victoria Red

### Isons

Victoria Red

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quality.

As Queen Victoria was crowned in 1837, a startling new variety of rhubarb, Victoria, was introduced. It was easy to grow and reliably robust as well consistently tender and sweet.

A Victorian era favorite, the stalks

were treated like fruit and were featured in pies (hence the name “pie plant”), custards, fools, jellies and jams. Its migration to the US resulted in many-acre rhubarb farms during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Although it fell out of favor after the World War II, rhubarb is today making a comeback as a popular plant.

Treated as a perennial in our zone, it grows to 2-3' tall with a 3-4' spread and produces flowers on towering 5' stalks. Severing flower stalks during their nascent stage – which resembles rose-tinged cauliflower – produces more edible stalks. Alternatively, they can be left to unfurl into clouds of edible white blossoms.

For your spring garden plantings, either purchase crowns or get some from a fellow gardener willing to gift you with a division.

A heavy feeder, the “pie plant” prefers its soil well-drained (planting on a mound is most beneficial) and richly fertile with deeply dug organic matter. Consider propagating rhubarb in half whiskey barrel planters.

Well-rotted steer manure is favored for both mulching and fertilizing.

Rhubarb prefers full sun, but tolerates some afternoon shade and regular irrigation. Be patient – it is best to wait to harvest stalks until the second or third year of growth. Harvest by twisting or cutting off at the base.

Along with its stalks, you can also gift others with divisions of their own. So why not make rhubarb the apple of your next pie and plant?

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***Rhubarb fool***  
***Page 8***

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# Award nominations due April 15

By Lynn Kunstman  
Master Gardener 2012

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

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*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.*

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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](mailto:LynnKunstman@gmail.com). Deadline is April 15 (easy to remember, same date as taxes are due, but this is more fun!)

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## Recipe: *Victoria's no fool ... this is great*

### Rhubarb Fool

(Similar to a mousse)

#### Ingredients

2 cups of rhubarb stalks, washed and chopped in pieces

½ to 2/3 cup of organic sugar (to taste)

1 envelope unflavored gelatin

¼ cup cold milk

1 pint of whipping cream

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

½ teaspoon almond extract

pinch of sea salt

16 oz vanilla Greek yogurt

Chopped toasted almonds

#### Directions

Place rhubarb and sugar in a medium-sized heavy pot. Stir over medium heat until juices start to flow,



then cover and simmer on low until tender, about 15 minutes. Uncover pot, then turn up heat to medium and allow some of juice to evaporate, about 15 minutes longer. Put cooked rhubarb into a bowl and set in the fridge to cool, about an hour. You can make and chill it overnight to complete the following day if desired.

Put milk in a measuring cup, then

sprinkle gelatin on top and let it plump up, about 10 minutes. Dissolve gelatin mixture in microwave on medium power for about 30 seconds. Stir until smooth and let cool on counter for about 5 minutes. Meanwhile, whip cream with vanilla and almond extracts and salt until soft peaks form. Drizzle in the gelatin mixture while whipping cream on low, then continue whipping on medium until stiff peaks form, about 1-2 more minutes. Gradually fold in the yogurt.

Pour over the cooled cooked rhubarb and swirl in so that streaks remain. Pour mixture into a clear glass (clear dishes show off the swirled fool), serving bowl or individual clear glass serving dishes and sprinkle the chopped toasted nuts on top.

Serves about 8.



## Help JCMGA when you shop at the Grange



Every time you shop at the Grange we can earn money! 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 (account



**Buy tools, plants and supplies**



**Say "Jackson County Master Gardener" account #15333**

15333) 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! This is one of the simplest and easiest fundraisers we can do.



**Grange sends us money**



## 2021 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 Kunstman for the Zoom link to board and Communications Committee meetings.

### Online classes

**Beneficial Insects for a Healthy Garden** | Kristina Lefever | March 13, 2 pm - 3 pm. Free. [Registration required](#). Sponsored by the Jackson County Library Services.

**Best Veggies for the Rogue Valley** | Ronnie Budge | April 10, 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Free. [Registration required](#). Sponsored by the Jackson County Library Services.

**Gardening Success in Raised Beds** | John Kobal | May 8, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Free. [Registration required](#). Sponsored by the Jackson County Library Services.

### Ongoing online classes

**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. 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. More information, is [here](#).

**The Culture of Gardening** | Free classes beginning on May 18. Let's explore what gardening means to different people and groups, and how to grow and use plants from a variety of cultures. This new series of blog posts and talks will debut in late spring 2021, with a keynote address by horticulturist Abra Lee on the history of African American gardens and gardeners. More information, including the list of classes [here](#).

**Mini-College for OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers** | July 16-17 | The Oregon Master Gardener Association is organizing the first all online [Mini-College](#), coming this summer. Plans include an array of classes and workshops for gardeners of all levels. More information, including the list of classes, will follow.

### Listen in

**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 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.

# **Jackson County Master Gardener Association**

## **Board of Directors meeting**

### **Jan. 8, 2021**

#### **Announcements**

Patrice Kaska has replaced Kathy Apple on the Executive Committee.

There is a new link to the [OSU training descriptions and registration.](#)

#### **Reports**

##### **Coordinator's Report**

Sandy Hammond gave Erika's report today. The Creepy Old House is now permanently closed due to asbestos in the ceiling. No one can enter without a hazmat suit. This also applies to the Practicum Classroom. Sandy will try to get the hundreds of Garden Guides out of the COH. They are our main source of income during the pandemic. Sandy has been selling them like hotcakes and needs to get them out. Roberta Heinz offered to store them in her barn temporarily. This would take a crew to move them all. Lynn will talk to Erika about this.

##### **Treasurer's Report**

Annette Carter, Treasurer, stated



##### **Recording Secretary**

**Jane Moyer**

*Master Gardener 2005*

there was a \$79 profit in January. There was \$200 from cans, Giving Funds donations \$185, dues \$1600. Expenses were \$455 for WEB upgrades (Garden Beet, online forms, election forms etc.) The School Grants didn't get into last year's budget because the names were not received before December and so will come out of the 2021 budget (the OMGA Tax forms have already been done for the year).

##### **Outreach Group Report**

Jim Buck reported the Community

Gardens Committee would like to dedicate the entire Outreach budget of \$1500 to the Blue Heron Park Community Garden in Phoenix, OR. Lynn approved the expenditure of the budgeted funds.

##### **Fundraising Committee Report**

Sandy Hansen reported the Grange Co-op account is now closed and we will have to open a new account (although one member said her recent purchase was credited to JCMGA's account, so it may not be closed after all). It also appears that some individuals may have received a discount on their purchases based on what had accumulated in JCMGA's account. Another related matter is that there may be two different Grange accounts, one for discounts and the other for an annual rebate.

We also need a way to designate who may use our funds. Sean Cawley suggested having cards made up for just two people (i.e., President and Treasurer) with our logo and names. Pam Hillers thought that the Grange could issue cards to those who have approval to use the account. It is also possible that the Grange Co-op can simply mail checks to the treasurer for what was earned during the year, as happened in 2020.

Sandy Hammond will go to the Grange office and attempt to get answers to these questions and resolve the various issues.

##### **OMGA Report**

Barbara Davidson said OMGA is asking for donations from the chapters for a silent auction during the virtual Mini-College in July. However, the OMGA Board is uncertain how physical items can be distributed to the auction winners and is seeking input from the chapters. We had no new ideas to suggest. We

#### **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: Feb. 12

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usually give them \$250 rather than items. Annette Carter said we did not budget for this, we only budgeted for Mini-College scholarships but not for a donation. Ronnie Budge said the Board could decide to donate later if our proceeds are more than expected. We could also ask our members if they want to personally donate to it. The silent auction is the only fundraiser for OMGA besides the registration for Mini-College and sales from PNW books. Barbara will attend the next OMGA meeting and report back.

### School Grants

The School Grants Committee approved grants for the following schools: Abraham Lincoln \$350, Talent Elementary \$350, Rogue River Elementary \$350, Willow Wind \$350, and South Medford HS \$400. This leaves \$200 in the budget.

### January Board Retreat

As a follow-up from the January 29<sup>th</sup> retreat, Lynn asked if people have been taking the online trainings from OSU. Barbara Davidson stated she has had difficulty getting on. That has been an issue for many and Lynn posted the new link (see Announcements) to solve the problem, so everyone should bookmark it: Gail Langellotto is still working on “glitches.”

Sandy Hammond reported the Pear Blossom Parade is scheduled according to their website. The \$75 entry fee to walk in the parade is due by 3/23/21, and then the price goes up. Lynn reiterated that Erika must approve, there is no guarantee that the restrictions on us will be lifted by then, and with the new strains of COVID, this could be a huge “spreader event.” It was decided to postpone any further consideration.

### Motions

JCMGA OSU Scholarship Fund Agreement – Kathy Apple moved the Board approve the JCMGA agreement with the SOU Foundation as follows:

1. Direct the OSU Foundation to not award a JCMGA scholarship for the school year 2021/2022 nor utilize the current interest in the fund account for scholarship purposes for 2021/2022.

2. Amend the current agreement with the OSU Foundation as follows: It is our intention that awards be no more than \$2,500 per student per year. JCMGA will provide the additional amount needed to reach this award size until such time that the endowment provides that amount on its own.

a. If the JCMGA Board of Directors decides in any given year that the supplement amount will not be available, then the award will consist only of the interest earned in that year even if less than \$2,500.

b. If the JCMGA Board of Directors decides in any given year that the supplement amount is not available and does not want the current earned interest to be awarded, it may direct the OSU Foundation to not issue a JCMGA scholarship at all in that year.

3. Request the OSU Foundation notify JCMGA of the current interest amount available by Nov. 15 of each year to assist the association in the budget preparation.

Ronnie Budge seconded. The vote was approved unanimously.

### Approval of 2021 JCMGA Organizational Chart

Kathy Apple moved the Board approve the JCMGA Organizational Chart and Venn diagram for 2021 as revised. Ronnie Budge seconded the motion. Kathy noted edits that have

been made regarding chairs and co-chairs. Patrice Kaska questioned if the Apprentice Coordinator should still be in the Gardens Working Group, as per Chair Kari Giles there are no apprentices this year. Ronnie Budge recommended it be left on the chart. All board members voted in favor of the motion to approve the new chart and diagram.

Kathy was asked to make some additional edits to the Organizational Chart: Patrice would like the information in the charts to be alphabetized so they are consistent. Ronnie recommended only budget categories be listed within the Fundraising Working Group chart. Ronnie Budge as parliamentarian stated that such minor editing can be done by Kathy without formal action by the Board.

### Discussions:

#### Forms Committee

There has been a review of the application forms 1 and 2 for new projects and the projects review form we received from Erika. There has been a new committee formed to do this consisting of Kathy Apple, Barbara Davidson, Pam Hillers and Ronnie Budge. They will get the forms aligned with our organizational structure, by-laws and policies.

#### WDSG

Regula wanted to know if the committee should book the Higher Education Center for WDSG on November 6. Since it may be possible to hold WDSG the committee will look into it.

**Next Meeting:** Friday, March 12, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

*Submitted by Marcie Katz for Jane Moyer, Recording Secretary.*

## Beet Box

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## 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.



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