

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



Garden Beet

Jackson County Master Gardener™ Association

Summer creeping in after a scorching May

Greetings Master Gardeners.

Summer is almost upon us. May was quite the scorcher, and it looks like that will be the default setting for this month as well. Like me, you are probably worried about keeping your summer gardens watered during the current drought conditions we are experiencing. Hopefully you have installed drip irrigation in your vegetable gardens, and mulched everything you can to preserve the soil moisture. Master Gardener Doug Kirby has been repairing and turning on the watering systems in the Demonstration Gardens at the Extension campus so they can survive until we are able to get back to normal operations there.

As Jackson County COVID-19 numbers come down, and we can move into MODERATE, or LOW risk status, the closure on campus should ease. Erika will keep us all informed about when we can return to work in the gardens. Watch for her emails.

Meanwhile, there are steps you can take to keep your yard and gardens "waterwise." Landscaping with native plants can help you reduce water consumption. Western native plants are adapted to our dry summer conditions.



President
Lynn Kunstman
Master Gardener
2012

If you have not seen the fantastic, virtual NATIVE PLANTS GARDEN TOURS, put together by our awesome Master Gardener Sherri Morgan and her group of superhero volunteers, I encourage you all to follow [this link](#) to view them. Please be sure to hit the donation button when you visit the site.

The Community Garden Club has native plants for sale at 3939 Tami Lane in Central Point. Hours are from 9 am–5 pm daily. Sales are self-serve, with instructions for leaving payment in the barn. And of course, when we can return to campus, JCMGA will be selling native plants from our Native Plant Nursery weekly and at pop-up sales.

For those of you who would like to know more about what is going on with JCMGA, I encourage you to attend our monthly board meetings. Members are always welcome at our meetings, which happen on the second Friday of each month from 9:30 - 11:30 am. If you would like to attend, please email me at kunlynn52@gmail.com, so I can send you the link to our next Zoom meeting.

Stay well, and Garden for Life!

OMGA Mini-College scholarships available

By Patrice Kaska
Master Gardener 2016

The Oregon Master Gardener Association's (OMGA) 2021 Mini-College is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, July 16-17. It will be all-virtual and the cost of registration is \$49. JCMGA has set aside funds to provide scholarships for six JCMGA members.

On Friday, Keynote Speaker Robert Michael Pyle, a writer and Yale-trained ecologist, Guggenheim Fellow, and founder of the Xerces Society, will discuss "People, Plants and Pollinators in the PNW." Following his talk, there will be concurrent sessions including wide-ranging topics such as the Oregon Bee Atlas, mason bees, native garden plant considerations for pollinators, insect pests, microbes, and workshops on hydroponics and the OSU plant identification program. Since the Mini-College is virtual, all sessions and workshops will be recorded and posted online so that registered participants may watch any of the classes or workshops at a personally-convenient time!

On Saturday, the Keynote Speaker

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Community veggie start donations a success!

Dear Gardeners,

Happy June! This month, I'd like to highlight incredible work done by some members of the 2020 class, plus include some other program updates.

Community Veggie Start Donations:

Over the past few months, Ann Hackett, Carolyn Gale, Debbie Connolly, and Barbara Low (all class of 2020)



OSU Program Coordinator
Erika Szonntag

have been raising vegetable starts to donate locally to their local neighborhoods and communities, utilizing greenhouses and other propagation space they had available at home, and either using their own seeds, or using seeds from the Grow This! Challenge.

Debbie and Barbara are still nurturing their herb and flower starts (as of mid-May). Carolyn and Ann both had very successful donation events from their homes (which were pre-approved by OSU and followed COVID safety guidelines). Carolyn raised several hundred starts and donated about 200 over the course of a weekend from her home to her neighborhood and local community. Ann donated 808 starts to friends, neighbors, and to Alameda fire victims at the 'New Roots Alameda Plant Gifting' event at the Habitat for Humanity in south Medford on May 15th. Both Ann and Carolyn developed a handout for how to care for starts, with a lot of help from Ronnie Budge and Lynn Kunstman, who helped with content. Ann provided details of what she raised, which included 12 varieties of tomatoes, 17 varieties of peppers, four varieties of eggplant, and four varieties of tomatillos. She



Hackett starts on their way.

also gave away flower seeds which she had saved from previous years.

Together, Ann and Carolyn donated over 1,000 vegetable starts to their communities, plus provided folks with high-quality information on how to care for those starts. Thank you for your amazing contributions to the community and thank you to those who helped Ann, Carolyn, Debbie, and Barbara along the way.

Program Updates: If you have not yet been tuning into the 'Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level-Up Series', it's not too late! Our next talk will be on June 8, titled 'Unique Winter Vegetables to Grow'. [Registration information is here.](#)

Currently, OSU has not yet provided additional guidance on



how being vaccinated affects volunteerism, but I will keep you all posted as I hear new information.

From the Statewide Office – Your Questions Answered: Please see the [latest blog post from the statewide Master Gardener Program office](#), where you'll find answers to your questions about 2021 recertification and 2022 Master Gardener Program Training.

Thanks for all you do, everyone!

– Erika

June is for leftovers

Remember last month I wrote that I think of May as a “race to the beginning” when I try to get everything in the ground to start growing as soon as possible? Well...I never quite make it—there are always a few things I don’t get planted—so early June is when I plant the May “leftover” starts. Waiting for my winter Bloomsdale Savoy spinach to go to seed to make room, I held up planting the peppers for a few weeks. I also debated about how many eggplants and tomatoes to plant until I learned that the irrigation situation is worse than I thought. I have given away many of my starts. Hopefully, those who adopted them will have more water than I will.

This year, due to the lack of irrigation water, I have planted a much-reduced garden. I have two vegetable garden areas – 6 raised beds and a huge in-ground garden suitable for plants that require a lot of space like squash, tomatoes, corn, pumpkins, and gourds. Sadly, I will not have the water for any of these this year (except 4 tomato plants). I’m piling mulch (straw and leaves) on the “upper garden” to keep the weeds at bay until, hopefully, next year or maybe this fall when I may be able to use that area again.



Garden Guide

By Susan Koenig
Master Gardener 2016



I will not be making tomato soup, sauce or paste. Fortunately, I have a few jars left from previous years. No corn roast for this year and I will have to wait to try a new method of curing gourds. There is nothing so disappointing for a gardener as having to reduce the size of the garden while not growing any new varieties. Boohoo!

Two of my apple trees failed to bloom for the first time ever, so I won’t be getting any Braeburns or

Golden Delicious. I asked around and a couple of friends reported no blooms on their trees, but not everyone has this problem. Hmm...Mine are mature trees which have always produced well and they appear very healthy, so I researched reasons for this failure. There seem to be two possible reasons: either they are taking the year off or we did not get enough sub-freezing days this winter for them to bloom. My other apple tree didn’t get the memo, fortunately. It bloomed well and should have lots of apples.

In June, we can still direct sow a long list of vegetables: bush or pole beans, carrots, corn, beets, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, edamame, okra, scallions, lettuce, Malabar and New Zealand spinach and parsnips. There are also many herbs than can be planted outdoors this month: dill, chervil, basil, summer savory and amaranth.

Be sure to get after the weeds while they are still small and have small root systems. With the warmer weather, weeds grow at an astonishing rate and can rob your garden plants of nutrition and water they need. Landscape cloth and a thick layer of mulch are your best defense.

In order to get a good crop of potatoes, hill the plants when they are about 8” high by raking soil, straw, leaves, grass clippings or compost to cover the stems, leaving about 4” showing. Repeat this every 2–3 weeks to protect the developing potatoes from direct sunlight and to provide more space for the tubers to develop.

One last note, be sure to label your veggies in the garden. If you are like me, you have 3-4 different varieties of some types of veggies like beans, lettuce, peppers,

June garden guide

Here are a few of the many things to do in June:

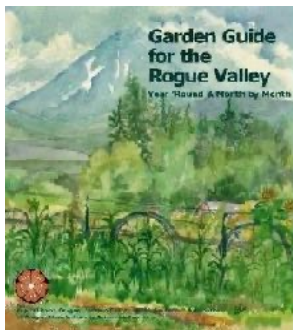
Direct seed: There are almost two dozen things to direct seed this month, from amaranth to summer savory.

Transplant: From cantaloupe to watermelon, there’s plenty to do.

Sow for transplanting: Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower

Don’t forget to control pests and diseases

For more, check out the [*Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley*](#)



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Watching out for the birds

By John Yucker
Master Gardener 2019

We're losing birds, by the billions.

Which is why I wanted to mention a movement in which you devote 2/3 of your land to native species of plants. You can learn more [here](#).

The organization writes:

North America has lost close to 3 billion birds since the 1970s, almost a third of the entire bird population. It is not just rare or endangered birds that we are losing, our familiar backyard songbird populations are disappearing too. The die-off is primarily attributed



Harland watches the turkeys.

to loss of habitat and the use of pesticides.

Our yards are filled with exotic plants and empty of insects. Our

birds have fewer and fewer bugs and berries to eat, no cavities for nesting, and no thickets for protection from predators.

If we could plant even half of our 40 million acres of lawn in 2/3 native plants, and keep them pesticide free, we could turn the bird losses into gains.

Also, if you can, please keep your cats inside. If they pester you to go outside, just do what I did for many years — I walked them. It's a great way to bond with your cat, clear your head, and watch the birds.

Or, in the case of our Harlan, watching the turkeys.

June's chores keep us busy

Continued from Page 3

eggplants, tomatoes, etc. If one variety does particularly well or you love one type, but don't want to repeat another, you want to be able to tell them apart. I have found that the little white plastic stakes or seed packets on sticks don't last all summer. The ink fades and they often get lost. I have taken to using wooden stakes with permanent marker for many things like corn, squash, pumpkins, gourds and row crops. Duct tape labeled with permanent marker doubled over the wire cages of tomato, pepper or eggplant cages also works well.

OMGA scholarships available

Continued from Page 1

will be Dr. Gail Langellotto, the Oregon Master Gardener State Coordinator, who will discuss the "Oregon Master Gardener Program – Successes, Challenges and Opportunities." The concurrent sessions will include talks on agricultural adaptations for the urban environment, organic vegetable gardening, the Japanese beetle, biochar, and year-round pollinator plants. Workshops include designing a pollinator garden with native plants and using [I-Naturalist](#) for insect identification.

Additional information and registration for Mini-College is at:

Sessions including topics as the Oregon Bee Atlas, mason bees, native garden plant considerations for pollinators and insect pests.

mastergardenerminicollege.org.

The six JCMGA scholarships will be offered on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to apply for a scholarship, please send an email to Patrice Kaska at forpatricek@icloud.com using the subject heading "Mini-College Scholarship" indicating your interest.

Second annual JCMGA photo contest opens

By Patrice Kaska
Master Gardener 2016

The Jackson County Master Gardener Association Member Services Working Group (MSWG) announces its second annual photo contest.

Although the actual contest will not take place until August 2021, we would like to share this year's information and guidelines now to give you a chance to consider what photo(s) you might like to enter:

- The 2021 JCMGA Photo Contest is open to all current Jackson County Master Gardener Association members.
- Photos may be submitted from Aug. 1 through Aug. 31, 2021. We are able to accept two (2) photos from each member, although there will be only one winning photo per person.
- Photographs are limited to those taken in gardens of the Rogue Valley and the focus must be on a plant or planting—no people (for privacy concerns).
- Please submit your photograph in portrait format, rather than



landscape format.

- All photographs must be at least 1500 x 1575 pixels (5"x 5-1/2" at 300 dpi) and all submitted photos become the property of JCMGA.

Like all human endeavors, we hope that those of us involved with the photo contest will improve as we gain experience and practice. For

example, it was recently pointed out to us that the winning 2021 cover photo could be considered ineligible since it included fauna – which was forbidden in the rules. Although MSWG members felt strongly that we did not want to include photos of people's pets, backyard chicken coops, and visiting wild turkeys, we didn't consider that insects are also fauna. Therefore, we apologize to entrants who were careful to include only flora in their photographs as we had requested.

In addition, since the photograph on the cover of the directory is longer from top-to-bottom than from side-to-side, photos taken in portrait format rather than landscape format work best.

If you have questions, please email [Patrice Kaska](mailto:Patrice.Kaska@membershipsecretary.com), Membership Secretary.

The winning photograph will appear on the cover of the 2022 JCMGA Chapter Directory and four runners-up will have their photographs featured in the *Garden Beet*. Winners will be announced in the October *Garden Beet*.

Lend a hand

It takes a lot to keep us moving.

Here are some of the ways you can pitch in and help.

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Thee gardens are calling! Our demonstration gardens need us desperately, but we cannot come back to the Extension, at anything approaching normal until the county's risk level falls to moderate, or below. Please **GET YOUR FREE COVID VACCINE** to help Jackson County lower its risk level. Free vaccinations are available at Expo seven days a week without appointments for anyone over 16. Check out the [website](#) for more information.

4-H judges: 4-H is looking for a horticulture judge for this summer's Jackson County Fair. You will judge the specimen quality and visual appeal of various houseplants,

flowers, herbs, vegetables and container arrangements. I encourage all judges to ask youth questions about how they care for their plants and to explain what they have learned. 4-H judging day is Saturday July 10, from 11 am – 3 pm at the Expo (building to be determined). Arrive 10 minutes early for a brief training about the Danish merit system and the judging feedback forms. You can then meet the kids who want to do face-to-face judging. As a judge, you will receive a nice lunch, and you may choose to log volunteer hours, or receive a \$75 stipend. We will be following all safety protocols. If you serve as a Master Gardener volunteer, you will wear your badge and can log hours for this event as "Other Approved Projects – Support". If you choose to receive the stipend, please refrain from wearing your MG badge (we cannot be financially compensated for volunteer work.) If interested, please call or text Lena Hosking at 541-727-4237.



The root of all purple

Have you ever wondered what might have happened if Peter Rabbit's pilfering Mr. McGregor's garden had presented him not with an orange, but a purple carrot? He surely would have been quite surprised.

Although our own expectations may be similar to Peter's experience, there's way more to the story about today's carrot, *Daucus carota*, subsp. *sativus*.

Some 5,000 years before the cultivation of today's common garden carrot, *Daucus carota*, the wild carrot, grew abundantly in areas of the Middle East, Asia, Europe, as well as Afghanistan.

First propagated by the Egyptians, Greeks and ancient Romans, they were used for medicinal properties carried within their seeds. Although many of those first (not so tasty) roots were white, yellow, and red, those of deepest amethyst were probably the main variety in Iran and Afghanistan.

While most varieties carried some variation of orange coloration, the

Gardening Gourmet by Sydney Jordan Brown



true orange carrot was crafted from a mutant strain of purple carrots. Although the Dutch might take credit for many of today's orange varieties, new evidence shows that there were orange varieties before the 17th century.

Most people envision carrots being orange, and darker varieties appear dull in color when overcooked. Perhaps that is why the "root of purple" almost disappeared.

Fortunately for us, the heirloom violet-purple and darker "black" varieties are making a comeback not only in specialty seed catalogs, but in today's garden plots. If you're not impressed with the purple roots you'll be astounded by deep pink flowering stems.

Why plant purple? Not only are

these amethyst roots beautiful to behold, their vitamin and mineral benefits are bountiful. Along with

beta carotene, purple carrots are high in terpenoids and low in sugar. They also contain an abundance of anthocyanins, as well as anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties in the blackest varieties.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, some purple carrots seeds were saved. Southern Exposure Seed Exchange reintroduced them in 1991.

With new methods to lightly cook vegetables, a multitude of purple carrot varieties show up not only on the menus of well-known chefs, but dazzle on our own dinner plates. They also make quite a statement when shredded raw in salads.

While you might find such carrots in markets carrying heirloom produce, why not plant your own pinnacles of purple?

Like their orange counterparts, they require at least a foot of loose, well-composted soil to keep their 8–9" tapered roots straight.

They can be direct sown (seedlings don't transplant well) anytime from late spring through late summer. Thinning young seedlings to 2–3" apart will encourage larger and straighter root growth and avoid "love-knot" bundles from those clustered too close together. Lots of mulch and light fertilizing with low-nitrogen fertilizer along with regular irrigation is all you need.

From tops (yes, they're edible too) to bottoms, put some punch in your garden palette and plant some seed for that "Root of all Purple."

Seed sources

Baker Creek Heirloom seeds

They have 3 varieties of purple carrots

Trade Winds Fruit

They have several varieties

Pinetree Garden Seeds

They have two varieties

*Note: SESE wasn't listed since their seeds are sold out for 2021

***Carrot, mint and lovage
salad Page 8***

Landscaping with native plants

By Lynn Kunstman
Master Gardener 2012

Landscaping with native plants has many benefits. Here are seven steps you can take to help the environment and increase our declining bird populations.

1. Remove at least half your lawn: There are 45 million acres of lawn in the US, using 2 billion gallons of gasoline, creating 41 billion pounds of CO2 and 13 billion pounds of toxic and carcinogenic air pollutants emitted from leaf blowers and mowers. We spread over 100 million pounds of pernicious lawn chemicals and fertilizers. American lawns use 9 billion gallons of water A DAY! REPEAT ALL OF THE ABOVE FOR ANNUALLY!

2. Remove invasive and non-native plants from your yard: Non-native plants are carried to wild areas by animals and wind, where they often break bud and flower earlier. They provide less, or no nutrition to our native wildlife, and crowd out or outcompete our native vegetation, thereby impoverishing our ecosystems.

3. PLANT NATIVE PLANTS!

Native plants build and stabilize soil, filter water, sequester carbon, provide critical habitat and food for our declining native birds, pollinators, beneficial insects and other wildlife. They support local food webs and biodiversity.

4. Avoid or minimize the use of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. All of these compounds



Squash bees (*Peponapis pruinosa*) nestle inside a pumpkin flower in my garden two summers ago.

have detrimental effects on soil health, on insect populations that support our birds, and on local water systems that support our fish.

5. Build a pollinator garden. Pollinators are responsible for one out of every three bites of food we eat. They are in decline, and need our protection.

6. Leave the leaves! Hundreds of butterfly and moth species overwinter in leaf litter. They, along with other insects hiding there, provide critical winter food for birds. Gently rake your leaves up under

your shrubs. Don't send next summer's butterflies to the landfill.

7. Turn off outdoor lights. Lights at night confuse and exhaust our nighttime pollinators, and cause our migrating birds to strike windows and die. Install motion sensor lights, or YELLOW LED

lights outside.

By choosing to grow native plants and decreasing the size of your lawn, you make a commitment to help the environment and save our struggling birds and pollinators. If you are already growing native plants in your yard, then consider getting on the Homegrown National Park registry.

Here are more resources:

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard: Dr. Doug Tallamy, Timber Press

Nature's Best Hope: YouTube video

Oregon Flora: Beautiful website to help you find the NATIVE plants to go into your landscape. Sort by size, water requirements, flower color, etc.

Rogue Native Plant Partnership: Native plants and seeds, assists with planning for native landscapes

Homegrown National Park Movement: By removing half the lawns in the U.S., we could grow more acreage in native plants than we have in all our national parks combined.

Native Plant Finder: Keystone plants by zip code.

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



**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.



Got Questions?? Get the answer!

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 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 Beet*?

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.

Recipe: Carrot, mint and lovage salad

A very tasty dish with lovage. If you haven't any lovage, use celery leaves. This also makes a delicious relish on sandwiches.

Ingredients

1 pound of purple (or a mixture of carrots including orange and red) carrots, washed, peeled and shredded on the coarse side of box grater or food processor.

2 tablespoons fresh Italian parsley, washed and finely chopped

3 tablespoons fresh lovage (or celery leaves), minced

2 tablespoons fresh mint, washed and minced

1 celery rib, washed and cut into small diced pieces

¼ cup toasted walnuts, chopped

zest and juice from one organic Meyer lemon

1 tablespoon organic honey

3 tablespoons organic cider vinegar

2 tablespoons extra virgin

olive oil

1/8 teaspoon sea salt or to taste

Directions

Toss carrots, herbs, celery, nuts and lemon zest. Mix together lemon juice, honey, oil, vinegar and salt. Pour over carrot mixture and toss until all is coated. Refrigerate for a couple hours before serving. Serves about 4-6.

Extension office closures

The Extension office may be closed due to COVID-19 precautions. These closings generally restrict Master Gardener in-person activities. Please check the Extension website before coming out.

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 & events

Master Gardener BioBlitz | Grab your camera and join us on our [iNaturalist project page](#) to capture the insects, birds, wild plants, and other wild organisms in your garden or a nearby community or public garden space. Your efforts will help to document garden biodiversity in Oregon!

✳ July 24 | [Master Gardener Summer BioBlitz](#)

✳ Sept. 25 | Master Gardener Fall BioBlitz (Link will be accessible at a later date.)

International Master Gardener Conference | Sept. 12-17, 2021 | Leading researchers. Industry experts. Master Gardeners from around the world. Six days of virtual networking, workshops, and education brought to you by the Virginia Extension Master Gardener program. [Registration required.](#)

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](#).

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](#) 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 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.

JCMGA meetings

Communications Working Group | First Monday of each month | 1 pm – 3 pm. *Marcia Harris, Chair*. 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*

Member Services Working Group | First Friday of each month. | 9:30 am | *Keltie Nelson, Chair*

Jackson County Master Gardener Association

Board of Directors meeting

May 14, 2021

Announcements

1. Lynn Kunstman announced the online Native Plants Garden Tour will start tomorrow.

2. Sue Koury announced the Winter Dreams Summer Gardens Committee has started planning for an in-person symposium in November. The Higher Education Center reservation can be made in August. Keltie Nelson has agreed to co-chair along with Sue and Regula Pepi.

3. Jane Moyer announced, due to health problems, she is resigning as co-chair of the Spring Garden Fair immediately, as co-chair of the Practicum effective with the June mentor meeting, and as GEM co-chair and co-GEM of the Wanda Hauser Garden after the October GEM meeting.

4. Lynn Kunstman reminded board members of the board retreat scheduled for Friday May 21 (9 a.m.–12 p.m.).

5. Ronnie Budge announced the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute



Recording Secretary

Jane Moyer

Master Gardener 2005

(OLLI) gardening class taught by John Kobal and her has ended and was a success. It is hoped more OLLI gardening classes will be taught in the future.

6. Sandy Hansen announced the Fundraising Working Group is planning a summer yard sale with the date dependent on permission from OSU.

Coordinator's report

Erika Szonntag reported the coordinators are doing a statewide needs assessment. Due to retirements

and resignations, there are currently only 15 coordinators statewide. Erika is temporarily 0.75 FTE in Jackson County and 0.25 FTE in Josephine County.

No changes have yet been made to the OSU COVID-19 requirements.

Treasurer's report

In the absence of Treasurer Annette Carter, Assistant-Treasurer Roberta Heinz announced April had \$647 more in expenses than income.

OSU Extension Master Gardener diversity, equity, and inclusion task force (DEI):

Jim Buck and Colet Allen have been assigned to the newly formed DEI. Jim gave a slide presentation on the task force. He encouraged board members to attend the online class, Culture of Gardening, May 18 (12-1) <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/event>

By-laws committee/by-laws revision

On behalf of the By-Laws Committee, Kathy Apple moved the Board adopt the proposed bylaw revision to Article IV Working Groups and Committees, Section 1. Unanimous approval.

Grant proposal

Ronnie Budge moved the JCMGA Board of Directors authorize the recording secretary and president to submit a grant application to OMGA for \$250 for the purpose of installing an automatic watering system for the Native Plant Nursery and Propagation Garden. Second by Keltie Nelson. Unanimous approval.

Retreat agenda

Subjects to be discussed at the May 21 board retreat:

- Reprinting of Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley Year 'Round &

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

ZZ plant: Are you up for it?

By Lynn Garbert
Master Gardener 2014

ZZ plant?? What is a ZZ plant?? What an odd name!?! What's its real name?

Well ... I'm glad you asked. ;)

ZZ (*short for Zamiaulcas zamiifolia*) – I'd love to hear you pronounce those two words – has been thriving for centuries in Africa where *drought is the name of the game*. Even being such a tender-looking plant, it actually loves the great outdoors.

During the mid-1990s Dutch nurseries saw that ZZ plants had easy propagating potential and thus, world-wide distribution brought ZZ plants to us all. Soon, it was realized they thrived indoors.

ZZ is in style at your office

This plant has wide, dark, glossy leaves and is low maintenance. It fits easily into your office or home décor and seems to cheerfully say "Hi" to each passerby.

Air purifier made easy

NASA research showed the ZZ is able to remove abundant amounts of toxins (including Xylene, Toluene, and Benzene).

Beware of toxicity

Keep pets and children from snacking on the ZZ – this beautiful plant is poisonous. To avoid skin irritation after handling it, it's a good rule to wash your hands.

Ease of care

- An easy – easy – easy plant for beginners, busy office staff, or black and brown thumbs.
- The ZZ plant reaches 2–3 feet in width and height. However, it will NOT quickly outgrow its container, so enjoy the beautiful planter you potted it in. You can prune off branches that tend to grab you as you walk by.
- Plant in well-draining potting soil and feed once a month with a balanced (e.g., 20-20-20) liquid fertilizer.
- Water and light don't concern the ZZ – it keeps growing with a *minimum of each*.
- Remember it flourishes in low light and only water it fully *when dry*. (This plant pictured lived for



decades in a local library.) Your ZZ can wait between watering because it has thick rhizomes that resemble potatoes – they store water – a ZZ will stay alive even when you forget to water.

- ZZ may produce tiny white blooms in late summer, but it's regarded as a foliage plant.

Multiply to give as gifts or have more for yourself

You can separate the rhizomes (potato-like roots) and replant them – I hear they grow faster when planted in groups. Or, what I did was to take three leaves with a bit of stem attached from my friend's plant and put them in about ½–1 inch of water in a jar. It normally takes months for the leaves to sprout roots but it did happen.

It was fun to check every week or so for roots and finally some appeared.

Try it yourself. ZZ is up to the challenge ... are you?

Board minutes: May 14, 2021

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Month by Month

- Practicum
- Spring Garden Fair
- Moving equipment/supplies from the creepy old house to the new storage containers
- Other ideas can be sent to

President Lynn Kunstman. She will send the final agenda early in the week.

Board Retreat: Friday May 21 (9-12)

NEXT MEETING: Friday, June 11, 2021 (meeting begins at 9:30 with 9:00 sign-in)

Agenda item: "Open House" for the updated JCMGA website (Look at it in advance.)

Beet Box

Editor: Jack Ivers

Copy editors: Lisa Brill, Maxine Cass, Keltie Nelson

Photography: Seán Cawley

Email us at jcmgabeeet569@gmail.com

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Seán Cawley caught these daffodils blooming at SOREC this spring.



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569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR 97502