



Jackson County Master Gardeners Announcements

August 2023

Every Wednesday in August

- From 9-10 a.m. at the SOREC Extension Office, 569 Hanley Rd., we will be accepting donated produce for Access. See details on JCMGA website <https://jacksoncountymga.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Plant-a-Row-Update.pdf>

Monday, August 14th

- Registration open for Winter Dreams Summer Gardens 2023

Saturday, August 19th

- JCMGA Membership Annual Picnic at OSU Extension, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point. It will be from 5:00-8:00 p.m.



Saturday, August 26 from 9am to 12pm.

ART-IN, the Gardens – A plein air event for artists of all skill levels

- are invited to draw, paint, photograph the scenic JCMGA Demonstration Gardens on:
- Wander the gardens until inspiration sprouts, then settle in to capture your vision.
- If you have questions, contact Janine Salvatti by text: 541-973-7456. Please share this invitation with your creative friends!

September 13th Field Trip to Oshala Farm in the Applegate

- Oshala is a certified organic farm that uses regenerative, sustainable cultivation practices.
- The field trip is free and, if we have a sufficient number of MG participants, Oshala will give us an exclusive tour.
- Additionally, we have the option to stay after the tour for a class on making tinctures and extracts. There will be a cost for the class, but it should be a really fun learning experience.
- If you are interested in attending this event, **please contact me by August 31st**. Sandy Hansen (707) 332-4934, or sandyhansen08@gmail.com.





The President's Corner

Who and What is the Garden Enhancement Committee?

by Marcie Katz

As President, I am involved in the many aspects of the JCMGA business. Before I became President, I gradually involved myself in several committees to get a feel for the things that we as an organization do and the people who do them. I then graduated to being a part of several working groups. Some groups are mostly “business”, and some are about activity-related business. I enjoy all of them, and as I can’t seem to stay out of anything, especially if it involves an event, I am there!

There is one committee that I am especially fond of, and I have been a member since I was a student. It is a “get it done” group that is not afraid to get their hands dirty (or face or clothes, LOL). Most of the members don’t hold any other positions – we are all the same hardworking people who enjoy each other’s company. The Garden Enhancement Committee – affectionately known as the GEC – is a committee in the Gardens Working Group. Our fearless leader is Janine Salvatti and members include Kari Gies, Marcie Katz, Candie Steely, Lyn Boening and Gail Ropel. We meet every Monday from 9 AM to 12 PM.

We tackle many projects. All the pathways that connect the gardens are our domain. We keep them intact and weed-free by using vinegar, Preen weed preventer, hard work and lots of decomposed granite! We also maintain all the signage for the Demonstration Gardens. All those signs with the info boxes in each garden are put in place by us. The brochure boxes are put up each spring and taken down in the fall. The face pages in the boxes are written (with input from the GEMS) and designed by our graphic designer, with the same verbiage that is on each garden’s webpage. This year we revamped and updated them to include a QR code which takes you right to the JCMGA webpage. The directional arrows on the signpost and throughout the gardens are placed by us as well. As there have been many changes in the gardens in the last few years, it has been challenging to keep up!

Our little group has also taken on a few areas of our own to develop. The driveway entry sign used to have grass and weeds around it until we planted native plants with the help of Sherri Morgan and Lynn Kunstman several years ago. Since there is no irrigation out there, we manually water every week and keep it maintained.

Many of you are familiar with the “Gathering Place”, that peaceful area under the beautiful old oak. That area used to be a part of the Kitchen Garden, which was decommissioned due to placement of the storage pods. We decided to make it a meeting/lunch/quiet spot. We spray painted the patio tables and chairs, then transformed the remaining raised beds into a cut flower garden for all to see and enjoy when entering the parking lot. Janine, our resident artist, made the mosaic butterfly on the “Gather” post and turned us on to making “glass panel mosaics.” We had

a workday where we made the glass panels you see hanging in several of the gardens. They are quite a hit! So much so, the Fundraising Committee has scheduled a workshop on September 15 for anyone who wants to make some! Bring materials (frame with glass, vase marbles, colored glass saucers, cups, etc.) and create a masterpiece of your own!

We have also been known to help out in Demonstration Gardens that don't have a GEM. Currently we are working on the Fig Grove – weeding, cutting blackberries and eventually laying down wood chips. All in all, not bad for a group of aging women! Even our meetings are fun. We meet at each other's homes once a month for lunch, take a tour of the gardens and talk shop! If you are interested in joining our merry little band, come over on any Monday, or contact Janine Salvatti at lesandjanine@gmail.com



Coordinator's Column

Grace Florjancic

Hello Gardeners,

We are getting into that hot time of year when fires pop up. Many of us have heard about ways we can manage large areas of land to reduce the chances that fire could spread. What can homeowners with smaller yards do? Here are just a few of the many tips to help.

Keep your driveway accessible to first responders.

Can a fire truck fit in your driveway? Check to see if you need to prune any low hanging, far reaching branches so fire teams will be able to park their trucks in your driveway.

Hardscape the immediate space around your home.

Create a space within the first 5 feet of your home where there are no flammable materials. This can mean mulching with gravel closer to your house instead of wood chips or removing shrubs directly against your house.

Remove ladder fuels in your yard.

Ladder fuels are flammable structures (plants included) that allow the flames to spread up. Removing the lower branches of large trees up to 6 feet, or limbing up, can reduce the chance of the fire reaching the tree's canopy. Removing tall plants under trees and replacing them with shorter plants can also reduce the chances of fire spreading to a tree's canopy.

Most importantly, talk to your neighbors.

When houses are close together, fire resistance is a team effort. Encouragement and education of our neighbors can help create more resistant neighborhoods.

There are many more ways to increase your home's resistance to fire. Each neighborhood and part of the county is different. It can be overwhelming to try to change your entire yard so pick a few tasks and work towards becoming more fire resistant. Some questions to consider are:

- How close is the nearest fire station? How long will it take them to arrive?
- What type of land surrounds my home? Urban? Industrial? Farm? What are the potential fire risks of these lands?
- Which plants am I OK with moving or replacing?

For more information on reducing the fire risk of your home check out these sources.

Fire resistant plants for home landscape: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/pnw590>

Prioritizing your home hardening approach: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/video/prioritizing-your-home-hardening-approach-recorded>

Oregon Defensible Space: <https://oregondefensiblespace.org/>

How to harden homes against wildfire: <https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/Documents/fire-hardening-grant-guide.pdf>

2023 Oregon Master Gardener of the Year Award Winner:

Lynn Kunstman

By Barbara Low



Jackson County Master Gardener Lynn Kunstman is the recipient of the 2023 Oregon Master Gardener of the Year Award!! Lynn volunteers tirelessly for JCMGA. She is always eager to share her knowledge relating to gardening and native plants. She has helped many of us to realize the importance of planting native plants in our own gardens. I for one have started planting more native plants and have noticed a marked increase in beneficial insects in my own yard and gardens.

Lynn has been a Practicum mentor and a Garden Bud for students in the Master Gardener Program. She started the Native Plants Nursery which grew hundreds of plants to sell when we had no other plants during the pandemic. Lynn is instrumental in teaching us about the importance of native plants and how to grow them in our yards. At the same time, she is encouraging us to make our yards into pollinator havens.

Lynn also has a weekly appearance on the Jefferson Exchange radio station, fielding all sorts of gardening questions. Lynn has up to 8,000 projected listeners with this radio series. She contributes regularly to the JCMGA Garden Beet Newsletter on a variety of gardening topics. Her work propagating and organizing sales of native and non-native plants grown by students in the Practicum is tireless. The money from the plant sales is a source of income for JCMGA.

Lynn teaches many gardening classes, including one for our Winter Dreams Summer Gardens Symposium. She has taught at the [OMGA Mini-College](#) for the last three years.

Lynn Kunstman has been very active in the leadership of the Jackson County Master Gardeners Association. She served as the 2020 President-Elect, 2021 President, and the 2022 Past President. Lynn spearheaded a “Go Fund Me” page calling and emailing Master Gardeners and friends to raise \$10,367 for a water catchment system for the Jackson County Master Gardeners Association plant nurseries and demonstration gardens.

Lynn’s involvement in acquiring the water catchment system which we now have has allowed us to continue to grow and propagate plants in our nurseries. Our well went dry (September 2021 and in the fall of 2022) and there were problems with the water pipes – yet we were able to water our plants using the water catchment system.

Using her innate leadership skills, Lynn challenges the Master Gardeners to step up and do what needs to be done. She does this by example. During the pandemic, Lynn’s leadership skills

encouraged us to stay focused and continue as an organization. She was calm, organized, steady, focused, and supportive.

Lynn has made a huge impact on our organization with her emphasis on providing a healthy environment for our native pollinators by planting native plants whenever we can. She is an excellent speaker and very knowledgeable in the subject of native plants. Due to her presentations, many of us have started reducing our lawns and planting native plants instead.

Lynn has taken out her lawn at her home and planted many native plants. She sets a model for what she has been speaking about – the importance of native plants to encourage pollinators and to provide them with the habitat they require to survive. Her yard is recognized as a Native Plant Park. She has been involved in tagging butterflies.

Congratulations to a very own Master Gardener extraordinaire – Lynn Kunstman!!!

OMGA Joy of Gardening Conference

By Colet Allen, A Satisfied Attendee

I was lucky to attend this year's Oregon State University Extension Service [Joy of Gardening Conference](#), two days of research-based classes on edibles, ornamentals and pollinators. It was held in Corvallis, OR on July 7 and 8. The conference was well organized and had excellent presenters. I learned a great deal about gardening that can be applied to my personal garden as well as Jackson County Master Gardener Association projects, training and gardens.

In addition to attending, I volunteered to help new attendees staying in the dorms to get their room keys, building passes, and directions to registration, etc. I also wrote a process to provide guidance to participants and the planning committee, and submitted it to the planning committee for use in 2024. Volunteering gave me insights and great appreciation for how hard the Joy of Gardening planning committee works and the value they bring to the Master Gardeners of Oregon. Thank you, Oregon Master Gardener Association.

The conference was excellent and every presentation provided new information to help Master Gardeners deal with current issues. I learned lessons that will be passed back to the Joy of Gardening planning group, and can also be applied to projects here at JCMGA. There were two outstanding Keynote speakers:

Tom Kaye on *Coping with Climate* was informative, had a good sense of humor and summarized recent research on how plants respond to changing climate. We hope he accepts our invitation to present at the 2024 Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens (WD/SG).

Dr. Melathopoulos is affectionately called "the Bee Guy". He spoke at last year's WD/SG and is scheduled again this fall. We hope he will update us on the fabulous Citizen Science efforts of Josephine County Master Gardeners, especially their findings about rare bees. Josephine County Master Gardeners will continue collecting data on rare bees in spite of their county commissioners' defunding decisions. OSU is helping. This is great news.

The Joy of Gardening Conference is also a place to connect with groups to make a difference. I took a class on "Citizen Science", an approach in which volunteers help conduct scientific research. Master Gardeners may be able to earn volunteer hours and provide a valuable service as they gather data, and it doesn't take much effort! Please contact [Grace Florjancic](#) with any questions.

Grace and I participated in a round table discussion where we learned that most chapters are looking for ways to increase participation, retention and expand volunteers and membership. Grace and I discussed our efforts with creating Friends of the Gardens. The round table was an opportunity for different chapters to compare their issues and problem-solve. I think it should be included every year.



I was so thrilled to see how well JCMGA is doing as a chapter. We had the greatest number of people mentioned for awards. Lynn Kunstman was awarded the Master Gardener of the Year at the state level. She so deserves this recognition. Thank you, Lynn, and congratulations. You go, girl!

OMGA raises scholarship money, via a raffle, to help people attend the Joy of Gardening Conference. This year, their *Send a Friend* project provided five people across Oregon the opportunity to attend. Next year, JCMGA could look into a similar fundraising effort. Perhaps it could be a reward for one of our Friends of the Garden or an outstanding student in the 2024 class.

In closing, I would like to mention another lovely activity at this year's Joy of Gardening. Attendees visited the [Polk County Inspirational Garden](#). We were met upon entering the garden by a Master Gardener and given refreshments, learned some history and took an informative stroll through this reclaimed area. I will let you learn about this beautiful space, its creation and development on your own virtual visit.

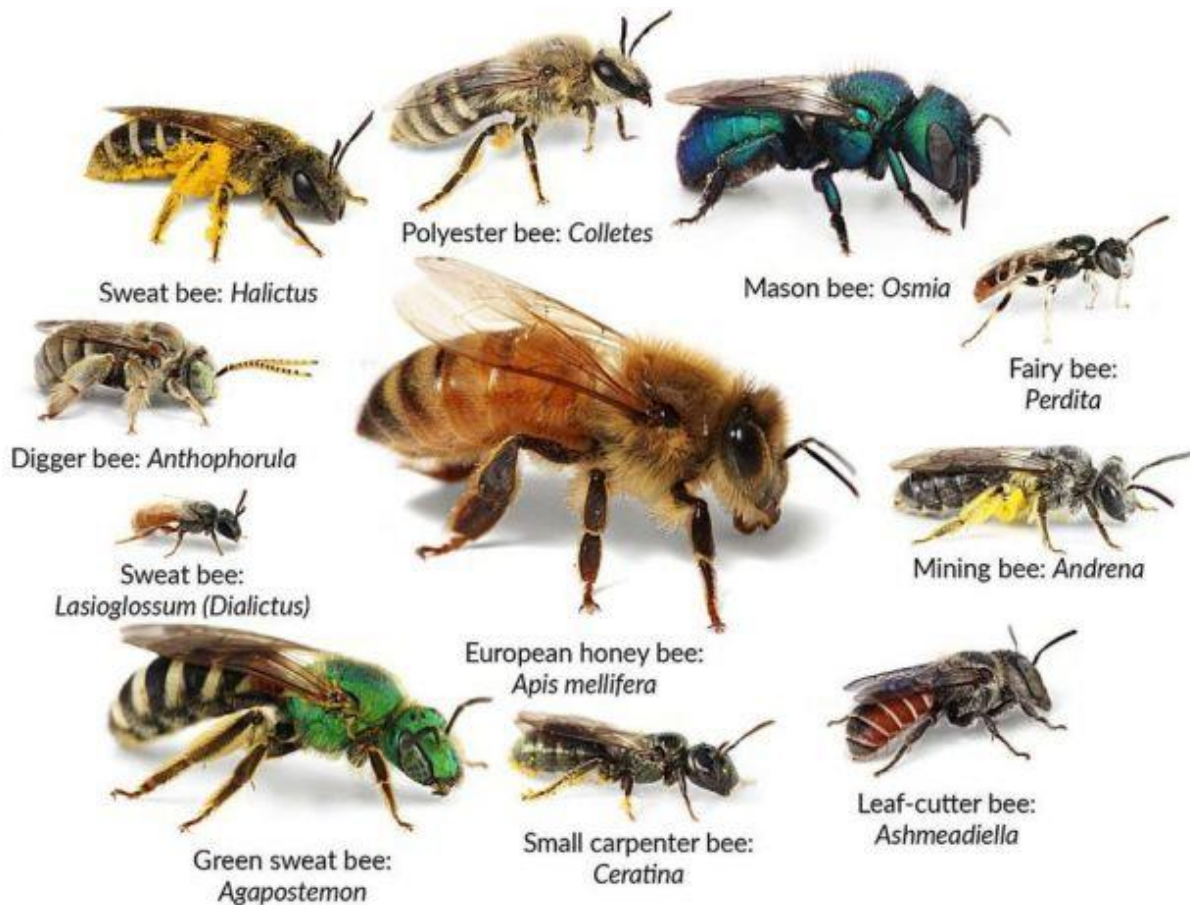
The Inspirational Garden has an acronym with an interesting history. FIG stands for Friends In the Garden. This beautiful place is managed and maintained by the Master Gardeners of Polk County and Friends, who are all volunteers. Brooke, the interim State MG, helped get the friends part of this in place as it was known that Master Gardeners alone could not do this on their own. Thank you to Brooke for helping to make that happen. This is a good example for us all. Many chapters have a claim to fame. It would be nice if these outstanding works were shared with OMGA and OMGA could advertise to all what Master Gardeners are doing throughout the state.

Beneficial Insects You Need to Know - Part 3

Lynn Kunstman

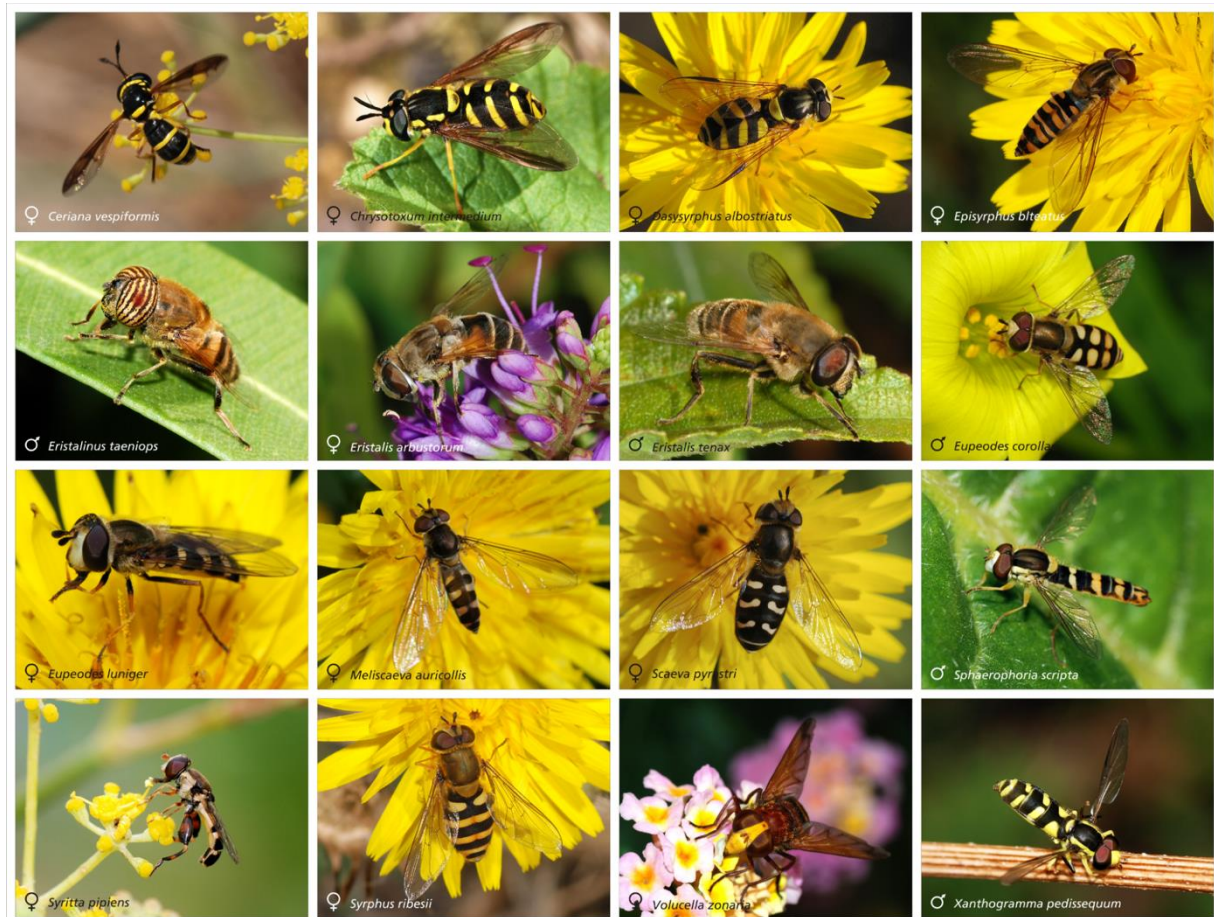
In past articles we discussed predatory and parasitic beneficials. Now we turn our attention to pollinators. Who are the important pollinators in your yard? Everyone is familiar with the non-native European honeybee (*Apis mellifera*), but there are so many more insects that provide our pollination services. In Oregon, we have over 700 species of NATIVE bees, all of whom are servicing our native and non-native plants. And good news: native bees do not sting!

All bees need pollen and nectar to reproduce. Many of our native bees are specialists on the pollen of particular native plants so that, if the plant isn't present, those bees cannot survive. Plant natives! Some examples of our beautiful native bees are bumblebees – which everyone recognizes – sunflower bees, and others shown below.



Most of these bees are solitary stem or ground nesting bees. Young queens gather and build a “bee loaf” of pollen and nectar to lay an egg on, then seal that egg and food in a chamber.

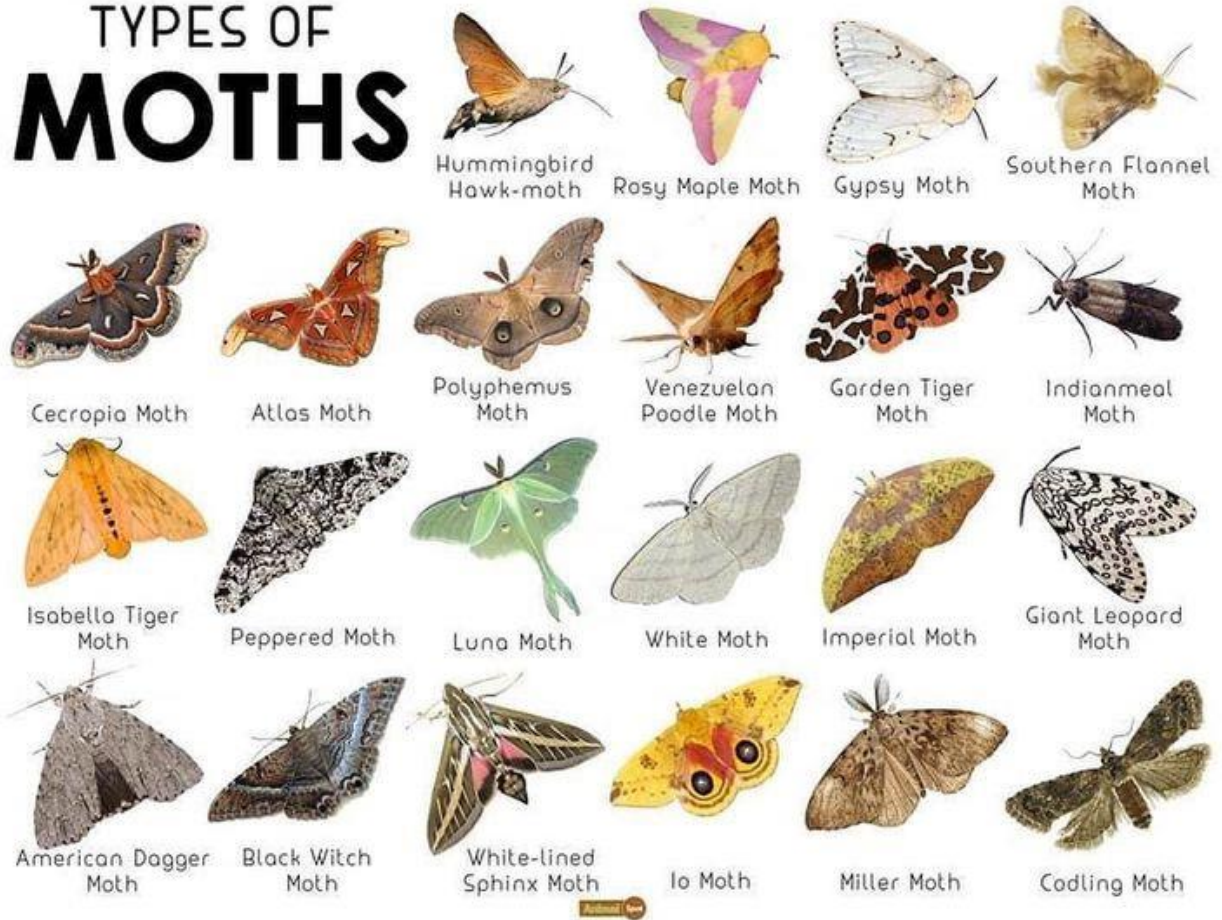
Our second most important pollinators after bees are our native flies, especially the hoverflies.



These little bee mimics can be identified by their large eyes and their hovering behavior over flowers. Our beneficial flies overwinter in fallen leaves, and many of their larvae provide winter food for birds. So “leave the leaves”.

Moths and butterflies are a third group of important pollinators. Remember that all butterflies are moths (that fly in the daytime and are brightly colored), but not all moths are butterflies. The moths are critical nighttime pollinators, so it is important to put your outdoor lights on motion sensors, keeping your yard mostly dark for these important insects.

TYPES OF MOTHS



Wasps and beetles make up the other two large groups of pollinating insects.

For more information, visit the [Xerces Society](#) page about pollinators.

Plant a Row Opportunity Update

Barbara Low

We have started collecting any extra produce you grow and donating it to [Access Community Action Agency of Jackson County](#). Access will distribute it to help feed others.

Plant a Row provides a great opportunity for us to help others who need a little extra help to feed their families.

How can you donate produce to people in need?

1. Produce can be dropped off at the SOREC Extension at the Gathering Garden on Wednesday mornings from 9-10 a.m.
2. Once you've dropped off your donation, we will have a record sheet which you may use to record how much produce (by weight) and what kind of vegetable/fruit you have donated so we can keep track! (The form is on the next page if you want to fill it out in advance.)
3. We have a beautiful Plant a Row Food Donated Thermometer to record how much food we are able to donate to Access (by pounds). Thank you, Janine Slavatti, for creating the thermometer!!
4. Encourage friends to participate even if they are not Master Gardeners.

If you have questions, please
contact Barbara Low at barbaralow@msn.com.





Plant A Row Project

Name _____ Date _____

Type of Vegetable/Fruit	Weight of Produce

Please drop off donations at the SOREC Extension
569 Hanley Rd, Central Point, OR 97502
At the Gathering Garden on Wednesday mornings from 9-10 a.m.

GEMS, our Garden Custodians

By Marcie Katz



You've heard me talk about the GEMS before. Formally known as the Garden Education Mentors, they are the garden caretakers and custodians of the beautiful Demonstration Gardens on the Extension grounds.

If you haven't been out to experience the gardens, now is the perfect time, as they are in full bloom! This year, with the help of our Student Apprentices, the gardens look amazing. We have a great bunch of workers, and as they say, "many hands make light work." And it shows! I am excited to see that many of the students are dedicated to their selected gardens, are engaged in long-term garden planning and show up every week to carry on with the constant maintenance required.

If you are interested in becoming a GEM or co-GEM, we have two gardens in need of a GEM – the Entry Garden and the Lavender Garden. Or, if you simply want to come out and help, lend a hand to these two gardens. The Rose Garden needs additional help because its team of six workers has dwindled down to one. All those the roses require deadheading and that's a lot to do by oneself every week!

Being a GEM is rewarding. You will share in the comradery of working on a group project, giving and receiving help from other gardeners, feeling pride in your garden, and having fun in teaching gardening practices. Sometimes the students are even the teachers!

If you are interested in becoming a GEM, please contact Marcie Katz at marciek10@gmail.com

The Lavender Trail Stops Here!

By Marcie Katz



There's a weekend every June when the lavender farms from all over the Rogue Valley are open to the public for the Lavender Festival Trail. Visitors can choose to visit them all or select a few favorites, and immerse themselves in the heavenly aroma of French and English lavender in full bloom.

This year, our site was somehow omitted from the official Lavender Trail brochure. However, the dates coincided with our scheduled native plant sale, so Margaret Clark and Irv Johnson, the GEMS of our beautiful Lavender Garden, didn't give up. With the help of Master Gardener volunteers, they patiently planted themselves under canopies for the three days, hoping our signs along Hanley Road and on the SOREC billboard would catch the attention of lavender lovers.



"If you make it, they will come." A stream of garden enthusiasts stopped by to wander among the 80 plus varieties in the Lavender Demonstration Garden; the only one in the PNW that is registered in the Herb Society of America. Margaret did an amazing job of providing shortbread cookies rolled in lavender sugar, lavender lemonade, samples of Lilli Belle lavender chocolate and Rogue Creamery's "La La Lavender" Blue Cheese. She beautifully decorated the tables with lavender tablecloths, décor and napkins.



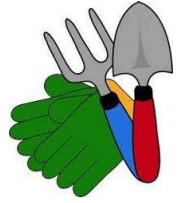
It was another “we are back” moment for the Association; 2019 being the last year in which we participated. All in all, it was a fun and successful weekend, and you can be sure we will be back on that list for next year! My thanks to Margaret and Irv and the wonderful volunteers; not only those who came out in the heat to work that weekend, but also those who worked for several days prior to the festival to help get it ready. It truly does take a village!

There will be a lavender harvest workday in August, where we will learn how to harvest, store and braid the lavender, which we will sell at our Fall Harvest Festival. Also, Irv is looking for a replacement (he

has been working in the garden for over 15 years), so if any of you want to be a Co-GEM (Garden Education Mentor) with Margaret or just a lavender helper, come out on Wednesdays from 9-12. Contact Marcie Katz for information about the Lavender Garden at marciek10@gmail.com

August in the Garden

By Barbara Low



I am continuing this series of articles and hope that you find them helpful and inspiring. In August, there is quite a bit to do in the garden depending on what you want to grow. Our gardens still need to be cared for so that they will do well and we will have a plentiful harvest. By caring for our gardens, we are also caring for ourselves – physically, mentally, and emotionally.

The Jackson County Master Gardener Association has a great resource for gardeners to use. It is the *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley – Year-Round & Month by Month*. This great reference book for gardeners is mainly about growing vegetables, berries, and melons.

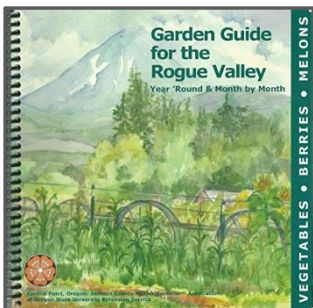
August is the time to:

- Harvest **cabbage**.
- **Save some heads of garlic** for replanting later on.
- **Edamame soybeans** should be ripening.
- **Sow for transplanting**
 - Broccoli (fall variety)
 - Cabbage (over-wintering varieties)
 - Chinese Cabbage
 - Pak Choi



- **Direct Seed**
 - Arugula
 - Chervil
 - Corn, salad
 - Cress, upland
 - Beets
 - Collards
 - Cress, garden
 - Endive and Escarole

- Kale
 - Lettuce, leaf
 - Onions
 - Peas
 - Radish
 - Spinach
 - Turnips
 - Kohlrabi
 - Mustard greens
 - Oriental greens
 - Radicchio
 - Rutabaga
 - Swiss Chard
 - Turnip greens
- **Transplant**
 - Broccoli, fall variety
 - Cabbage – fall or winter varieties
 - Chinese Cabbage
 - Brussels sprouts
 - Cauliflower – late variety
 - Pak Choi
- **Fertilize and Prune**
 - Vegetables while in heavy production
 - Pole beans after they finish their first flush production
- **Control Pests and Diseases**
 - Spider mites



Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley – Year-Round & Month by Month. This book contains a wealth of gardening information. You can purchase it at our local Grange Co-op or at the OSU Extension office for \$21.00. It can also be purchased on-line at <https://jacksoncountymga.org/shop/>. Note that a shipping fee will be applied.

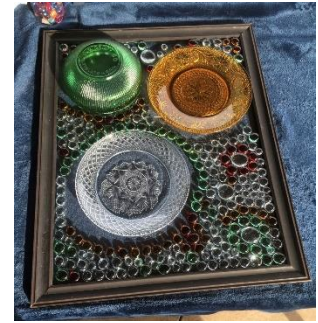
Happy Gardening and Stay Cool
Garden For Life

GLASS ART CLASS

Janine Salvatti

GLASS ART CLASS BY POPULAR REQUEST

Many Master Gardeners and visitors have admired the glass art pieces hanging in a few of the gardens which were made by members of the Garden Enhancement Committee. They have requested a class to learn how to create their own framed glass art. So here goes! It is so much fun!



Date: September 15th

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: SOREC Administration Building – Auditorium



The class is free, but you will need to bring your own supplies.
Suggested supplies are:

1. **Suitable glass options to use for a base or substrate**, preferably one that will permit you to hang for display. (Keep in mind most pieces in your project should be transparent.):

- Glass platter or large plate
- Unframed flat glass. Choose a standard size so you can frame later. Tape the edges to avoid cutting yourself.

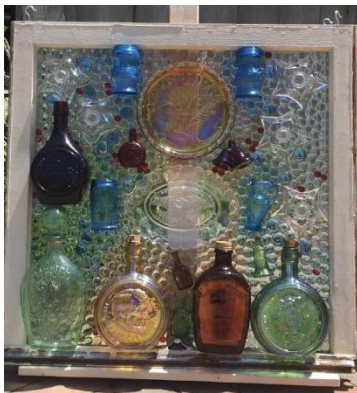
○ **Frame with glass.**

- You can choose any size, but first projects are easier if you start out with a small to medium size.
- Glue the glass into the frame with one of the glue options below before class. It should be dry before you arrive.

2. **Glue options suitable for outdoor use:** clear silicone, Wellbond, E-6000.
3. **Various sizes and colors** of glass flat-backed beads or “blobs”, transparent pre-cut mosaic glass, colored glass saucers, small china bowls/cups, small glass figures, shiny aquarium sand, small pebbles, colored bottles, **ANYTHING THAT STRIKES YOUR FANCY**. Think outside the box! Sources: Dollar Store, on-line, garage sales, thrift stores, hobby store, etc.
4. **Think of a simple design.** This project does not lend itself to a lot of detail unless you wish to cut glass to certain sizes and shapes, as you would for stained glass.



- Design examples: simple flowers in a grass meadow, hearts, simple butterfly shapes, geometric shapes, abstract designs.
- Design inspirations: [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com). Search for: “Gluing glass beads to window glass.”
- Draw your design on paper that fits your substrate. This pattern goes under the glass for you to follow. Choose your glue-on items with a color scheme if you wish or just embrace the random!



- Several pre-made patterns will be available for you to use if you don't have something in mind.

This is a fun, fun, fun event! We would love to help you make glass art. You can make it for yourself – or you can you donate it to the display in the gardens or it can be sold by the JCMGA at the Fall Festival.

Your questions are welcome. Call, text, or email: Janine Salvatti or Marcie Katz.



JCMGA Annual Member Picnic

Saturday, August 19th

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

SOREC Extension Auditorium

569 Hanley Road, Central Point

- A time to get together and celebrate all that we've accomplished this year!
- Awards will be presented to our very deserving members!
- BBQ hamburgers, garden burgers, and hot dogs will be available.
- **Contact Barbara Low at barbaralow@msn.com by August 14th to let her know:**
 - how many people in your family will attend
 - how many hamburgers, garden burgers or hot dogs your family will want
- **We ask families to bring:**
 - A side dish (last names beginning L-Z) and Desserts (last names beginning with A-K)
 - Your own plate, silverware, napkins, and drinking glass
 - Your JCMGA badge
- A great time will be had by all!
- Contact Barbara Low, barbaralow@msn.com, if you have any questions.



Master Gardeners Catch the Rain!

by Lynn Kunstman



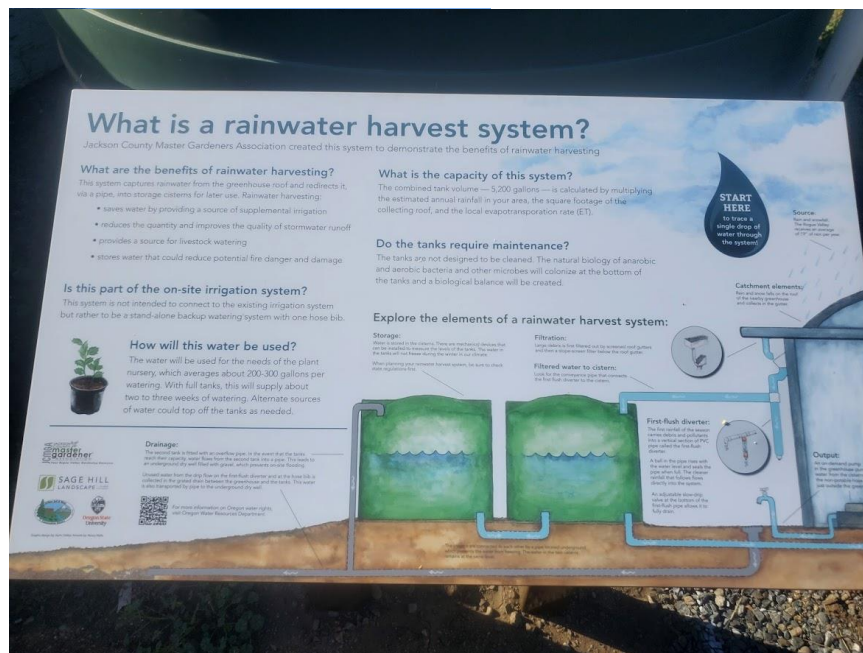
In September of 2021, the irrigation wells on the OSU Southern Oregon Research and Education Center campus in Central Point ran dry. Watering of all campus demonstration gardens stopped, and plants in the native plant nursery began to die. Through a massive emergency effort, the nursery stock was either donated to local restoration projects or taken to member homes to be maintained until we could install a watering system.

In October 2021, bids were sought to find a contractor to construct a rain catchment system, pending approval of the project. All contractors with rain catchment skills were fully booked until late Spring 2022. As an interim solution, JCMGA purchased eight 250-gallon cage tanks and filled them with water from a local watering delivery service. A small pump was purchased and watering the remaining nursery plants continued all winter using the two thousand gallons of water in these small tanks.

In January 2022, as the new growing season approached, [Jackson County Master Gardener Association](#) received approval to install the rain catchment system as an emergency irrigation backup for our well. Fundraising began for the \$15,000 system with a Go Fund Me campaign in February of 2022. A total of \$10,367 was raised, with the remaining funds being acquired through plant sales from the native plant nursery, and a generous grant from [Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District](#). Sage Hill Landscape, the installation contractors, also donated one of the tanks to the project.

The system, installed by Sage Hill, was completed in the summer of 2022. It is a 5,000-gallon system consisting of two 2,500-gallon tanks that capture water off the roof of greenhouse #2. When the campus well failed again in the late fall of 2022, JCMGA was able to utilize the rain catchment system, beginning in February 2023 to grow all the plants for our May 2023 Spring Garden Fair.





As of July 2023, the well on campus is functioning, and the rain system tanks are full. Master Gardeners will use the rainwater to maintain the native plants in the nursery on campus in the event of another well failure. Additionally, the system will serve as a demonstration teaching tool for Master Gardeners, Small Farms, Land Stewards, 4-H programs, and any community

association that would like to bring members onto campus to see what a large capacity capture system looks like. An interpretive sign was installed in early July of 2023, and we look forward to the public being able to learn about rainwater catchment on the SOREC campus.

WINTER DREAMS



SUMMER GARDENS

**Exciting News!
We are back,
virtually!**

**Friday Oct 27th + Saturday Oct 28th
Friday Nov 3rd + Saturday Nov 4th**



Dig into four days of virtual garden immersion seminars taught by 14 presenters, all designed to help you plan next year's spectacular garden.

2023 Winter Dreams Summer Gardens Symposium is an ideal time to take stock while learning with experts about Gardening in our Rogue Valley climate.

Enjoy from the comfort of your own home via Zoom!

Presented by:



Make it a family reunion and invite friends, family and all your known far flung Garden Enthusiasts!

Cost: \$30. Pick your favorite topics or watch them all. All sessions will be recorded and available for a limited time for paid participants.

In cooperation with and support of



**Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™**



**For more information scan
the QR code or visit:**

[https://jacksoncountymga.org/
winter-dreams-summer-
gardens-symposium/](https://jacksoncountymga.org/winter-dreams-summer-gardens-symposium/)



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A Preview of the 2023 Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens Symposium

By Sue Koenig

Planning for the 2023 Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens Symposium is well underway. The symposium will offer 14 different class sessions, four each day on October 27th, 28th, and November 3, and two more on November 4th. There are many gardening-related topics from which to choose, but the WD/SG Working Group decided on four subject areas: critters in the garden; climate change/ecology; home gardening; and a “grab bag” category.

To increase our audience, we are again partnering with the Oregon State Landscape Board, who will offer our classes for Continuing Education credits in horticulture to landscapers. We are also trying new avenues of advertising, including color ads in both the Ashland and Medford Parks & Recreation Departments’ Fall Catalogs. Because the classes will again be presented via Zoom, there are plenty of seats!

We have booked 14 spectacular speakers, a few of whom you may already know and others who are new to WD/SG. This month, and for the next two months, we will be showcasing the bios of several speakers in the *Garden Beet*.

The schedule of classes and registration information will be available in mid-August. You will be able to register and pay online through PayPal at the jacksoncountymga.org website. Watch for the MailChimp announcement in August.

2023 WD/SG Sessions

Taking a Walk on the Wildside... In Your Own Backyard

Andony Pelathopoulos, Presenter



Last year, Andony talked about how Oregon is leading the nation in cataloguing its bee biodiversity. All of this data has provided great insights into the top bee-attractant plants for your garden. In this lecture, we talk about what we are learning from the Oregon Bee Atlas in terms of best plants for bees in southern Oregon.

Andony Melathopoulos is an Associate Professor of Pollinator Health Extension in the Department of Horticulture at OSU. He leads the Master Melittologist and Bee Steward Programs and hosts the podcast [PolliNation](#).

Succulent Gardening for Drought Resilience

Annie Schreck, Presenter

Looking for easy, drought-tolerant plants that can bring color to your garden *and* attract pollinators? Explore why succulents are ideal for low-water landscaping and learn how to incorporate them into a stunning, low-maintenance rock garden.



Annie Schreck is the researcher and editor-in-chief for [Mountain Crest Gardens](#), a family-owned, online nursery that grows succulents in Northern California. She found her passion for horticulture as a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay. Upon returning to the US, she worked in a native plant nursery in the Willamette Valley and earned her certification in Permaculture & Design. She now takes great pleasure in researching and writing about succulents, talking plants with novices and experts alike, and helping people cultivate resilient, waterwise plants at home and in the landscape.

Masses of Grasses
Bonni Engelhardt, Presenter



Overwhelmed with the abundance of ornamental grass options, but ready to delve into this endlessly useful category of plants? Come explore the varieties that are best suited to our region, including many North American natives, and learn about their bountiful benefits such as deer resistance, drought tolerance and wildlife habitat, among others. Tips and information on the best care practices will also be

discussed.

Bonni Engelhardt is a landscape designer, Master Gardener, and writer. She loves to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for plants with the community.

Fire Adapted Landscaping Best Practices and Understanding Defensible Space
Brian Hendrix, Presenter

Designed to help gardeners improve their understanding of what ‘being firewise’ really means for gardens and landscaping around the home. Learn how various wildfire risk reduction activities can improve the survivability of a home in a wildfire event. Terms and activities relating to wildfire mitigation will be introduced, as well as some basics of effective plant spacing and maintenance for improved defensible space, and differences between a firewise versus a flammable plant. We'll offer examples from local homes and help prioritize actions related to vegetation maintenance for wildfire preparedness.



Brian Hendrix is the Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator for Ashland Fire & Rescue. He is a Certified Wildfire Mitigation Specialist. Before taking over the FAC Coordinator role in 2021, Brian was the Weed Abatement Coordinator and a Wildfire Mitigation Assistant for AF&R's Wildfire Division.

Irrigation Systems: Common Problems & Solutions for a Water Wise Landscape

Cody Scoggins and Aaron Adachi, Presenters

Irrigation systems provide us with a convenient way to water our landscapes more evenly and at the most optimal times of day (early morning and late evening). However, these systems also need regular maintenance to ensure that water is being used as efficiently as possible. This presentation will cover common problems that can occur in irrigation systems and best practices for creating a thriving water-efficient landscape.



Cody Scoggins is the Water Efficiency Coordinator for Medford Water Department. He has a Master's Degree in Natural Resource Management. He's part of a committed team who thrive on being good stewards of our water and a reliable resource for those who look to be good stewards themselves.

Aaron Adachi is a Water Efficiency Technician for Medford Water Department. With a Master's Degree in Business Administration, Aaron chose to come to Medford Water for the opportunity to implement lasting change in the surrounding community with the skills that he learned from the private sector.



A Cot Above

With each season we're blessed with some of God's most incredible and delicious fruits. There's nothing comparable to *Prunus armeniaca*, the apricot, with flavors unmatched by any other fruit.

Apricots were domesticated as early as 2000 BC in Central Asia and China. Archaeological evidence also shows them in ancient Armenia. Alexander the Great is said to have introduced them to Greece. They were later introduced to the Romans. It's believed apricot trees were introduced to the New World by Spanish missionaries in California in the early 18th century. Early French explorers brought them to the eastern US in the 1700's.



While the apricot's cultivation likely spread because of its taste, more recently it has been consumed for its bounty of health benefits. These nifty little easily-eaten-out-of-hand fruits are loaded with generous amounts of vitamin A and C, B1, B2, niacin, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and iron, as well as fiber. Who says healthy food must taste bad?

The best fruits are of course from your own tree ripened to their most succulent sweetness. Aside from savoring them fresh, they're also great frozen, canned, dried, or made into jam. Commercially, they're also used for making liqueurs. There's even a National Apricot Day every January 9th!

Today's apricots are cultivated on every continent in the world except Antarctica. In the US, most commercially grown apricots are grown in California, Washington,

and Indiana, but home gardeners can cultivate them in Oregon as well. The main secret to success is selecting the appropriate variety.

No matter the variety, apricot trees can top 45'. However, they can be kept at 10'-12' with annual pruning. They're broadly spreading with ovate bright-green leaves and lovely pink flowers that appear in spring. Most are self-fertile, but some aren't and require a pollinating partner.

They're also very long-lived generous producers (usually at 2-3 years of age) of velvety golden-to-deep orange, slightly tart, perfumy-sweet fruits that nearly melt in the mouth. Like peaches and plums, they contain a single seed (kernel). (Note: While many claim that consuming apricot kernels can fight cancer, there is no scientific evidence to support this claim. **DON'T consume the apricot kernel.** It contains a chemical called amygdalin, which the body turns into cyanide. Eating apricot kernels is unsafe, especially when eaten in large amounts.)

While hardy in zones 4-9, the challenge in our area is spring frost. Selecting late-blooming, disease-resistant varieties is most important.

Eight hours of sun is needed for good fruiting. Apricots tolerate a variety of soils if they're well drained. They're too large for growing in a container. Water deeply (1' per week over the root zone) by drip irrigation, mulching generously to retain moisture.

Fertilize with generous amounts of well-rotted compost. Spray with copper fungicide in spring and apply foliar micronutrients to aid the immune system.

Although a little challenging, there's nothing like harvesting your own fruits that are sure to be a "cot" above the rest.

Resources:

Ty Ty Nursery

<https://www.tytyga.com/Apricot-Trees-s/1832.htm>

Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/plant/apricot>

Harvest Time Foods

<https://harvesttimefoods.com/21511/the-history-of-apricots-and-why-theyre-called-yellow-plums/>

Raintree Nursery

<https://raintreenursery.com/pages/growing-fruit-trees-appricot>

National Today

<https://nationaltoday.com/national-apricot-day/>

WebMD

<https://www.webmd.com/vitamins/ai/ingredientmono-1190/apricot-kernel>

Sources for apricot trees:

Varieties to look for: Harglow; Zard; Puget Gold; Wenatchee Moorpark

One Green World

<https://onegreenworld.com/?s=apricot>

Raintree Nursery

https://raintreenursery.com/search?type=product&q=apricot*

Shooting Star Nursery

<https://roguevalleynursery.com/retail-clients#availabilitylist>

Recipe:

Fresh Apricot Crisp

Preheat oven to 350°

Grease an 8x8" square baking pan with oil.

Filling:

6 cups fresh apricots, washed, pitted and cut in lengthwise wedges (about 6 per fruit)

1 tablespoon tapioca starch

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

½ teaspoon each ground ginger and nutmeg

½ cup organic honey or pure maple syrup or organic sugar

zest of one organic lemon and 1 tablespoon juice

Mix all ingredients together in a bowl, stirring gently until the fruit is coated. Spoon into the prepared pan.

Topping:

1 cup organic thick rolled oats

1/3 cup organic oat flour

1 teaspoon cinnamon

½ teaspoon nutmeg

1/8 teaspoon sea salt

6 tablespoons olive oil

zest of one organic lemon

¼ cup pure maple syrup, organic honey, or organic brown sugar

Mix together the topping ingredients until blended and clumps form. Crumble topping over apricots in the pan.

Bake in preheated oven for about 35-40 minutes until filling is bubbling and the top is golden brown.

Serve warm or cold with vanilla ice cream, whipped cream or vanilla Greek yogurt.

Makes 6-8 servings.



JCMGA Working Groups Summaries

Community Outreach Working Group

- Work is continuing to be done to update the Speakers Bureau and help support new potential speakers.
- We are looking into how to better support the Spanish speaking community in our valley.
- We are looking at how to rejuvenate the Community Gardens and also provide them with support.
- JCMGA has been invited to participate in the 2024 Josephine County Home Show at the Grants Pass fairgrounds (Feb. 16, 17, and 18) and the Southern Oregon Home Show at Expo in Central Point (May 3, 4, and 5). The COWG thought these both may be feasible, especially if JCMGA partnered with the Josephine County MGA. Although the May dates overlap the Spring Garden Fair, which will be held on the SOREC campus again, master gardeners who are less physically active may want to staff an information table at the home show instead of assisting at the SGF.

FUNDRAISING WORKING GROUP

chair is Sandy Hammond

The Fundraising Working Group meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at 1:00 in the conference room. We sure do welcome newcomers to attend with brainstorming ideas. Our next event will be on Oct. 14th at the extension. We are planning a native plant sale, Christmas items including wreaths and other decorations. We will also be selling beautiful garden art made by the Fundraising folks. We hope to have food and other plant vendors join us. We love new ideas and fun participation.

Garden Enhancement Working Group

Chair, Janine Salvatti

We are the path maintainers, the provider of garden signage and information boxes, the common-area weeders, the haulers of DG, the creators & caretakers of the Entry Sign planter and the Gathering Place, the temporary helpers in gardens in need of a helping hand, makers of glass art in the garden. We look our best dusted in soil, dotted with those dang sticky weed seeds, and

with garden hats askew-it's more picturesque if I say at a "jaunty angle". Most of all we are appreciators of all the volunteer gardeners who work hard to maintain the Demonstration Gardens.

Marketing and Technology Working Group

chair is Marcia Harris

We have been busy looking at the technology which JCMGA has and asking if it meets our current and future needs.

Member Services Working Group

chair is Barbara Low

We are busy planning the Membership Picnic, which will be Saturday, August 19th. We hope that you will join us for this celebration!

We have developed a DRAFT proposal for the "Friends of JCMGA". The Community Outreach Working Group and Member Services Working Group are working together on this concept.

Program Support Working Group

Chair: Grace Florjancic

While the 2024 Master Gardener training class is months away preparations have begun! Thank you to all the 2023 students for providing feedback about what worked well and what needed improvements. This is very helpful for me in creating the layout for the 2024 schedule. If you are interested in becoming a Garden Bud or know someone interested in becoming a Garden Bud, please let me know! Garden Buds play an important role in supporting our new students in class and helping them become familiar with the many aspects of our program.

Winter Dreams Summer Gardens Working Group

chairs are Colet Allen, Susan Koenig, and Barbara Low

We have been busy organizing the Winter Dreams Summer Gardens 2023 Symposium. This virtual event will be October 27, 28, November 3, and 4.

We have secured our 14 speakers on a wide variety of topics.

There are details posted on the JCMGA website.

REGISTRATION will be open Monday, August 14th!