



## **Jackson County Master Gardeners Announcements**

### **October 2023**

#### **JCMGA 1st Annual Fall Festival**

- Date: Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>
- Time : 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Where: SOREC Extension, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point

#### **Winter Dreams Summer Gardens 2023 (via Zoom)**

- October 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>

#### **Register NOW for Winter Dreams Summer Gardens 2023**

<https://jacksoncountymga.org/winter-dreams-summer-gardens-symposium/>



## **The President's Corner**

### **October – the Harvest Month**

**By Marcie Katz**

October. My favorite month, but then again, I'm biased. I belong to those who are October-born, and "Libra" all the way through. Known as the tenth month of the year and the second month of autumn, October was the eighth month in the Roman calendar – hence "octo", the Latin word for eight. When they converted to the twelve-month calendar, several Roman emperors tried to change the name, but it stuck when it entered into old French and then into old English.

When you think of October, it signifies everything autumnal. The weather is cooler at night, leaves are turning colors, and the long summer of working in the gardens is rewarded with bountiful harvests to put up for the long winter.

October has many days of observance too. There's the Hunter's Moon, the full moon closely tied to the autumnal equinox and folklore. There is Lief Eriksson Day, Columbus Day, and Indigenous People Day (an oxymoron having them in the same month, don't you think?). International Ships in a Bottle Day, National Fossil Day, Word Origami Day, and Frankenstein Friday! And let's not forget the original Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, in October this year. That's the day in 1307 when French King Philip IV, owing a large debt to the Knights Templar, ordered their arrest and burning at the stake. When their leader Sir Jacques De Moray was burning, he cursed the King and Pope Clement V that they would both meet their death before the end of the year. Both men did meet their demise shortly after, contributing to the clout of the lore about Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Of course, how could we leave out the most popular day in October – Halloween? Also known as "All Hollows Eve", the day before the Catholic holiday of "All Saints Day". As "hollows" means saintly or holy, the name evolved into Halloween. There are many customs and practices of Halloween. The Irish used to hollow out turnips for candles and carve faces of demons on them. Placing it by your front door kept the evil spirits away. When immigrants came to America, there were no turnips, so they used the bountiful native pumpkins to carve. Corn husk dolls and shrunken carved apple heads were traditions taken from the Native Americans. There is also the ancient celebration of "Samhain", a sacred Celtic and Druid festival honoring the harvest, the end of the year and when the spirits can cross over while the moon's veil is at its thinnest.

All in all, October is a fun month! It embraces celebrating the end of the growing season before the earth goes into its winter sleep. This year the JCMGA is celebrating the wonderful year we have had by having a “Fall Festival”! It will be a small one-day event with native plant sales, several vendors, fall and holiday décor, dried flower bouquets, lavender from our demo garden, hanging glass garden mosaics, and a petting zoo with the “3 Amigos” – goats from Sanctuary One! So come on out on ***October 14<sup>th</sup> from 9am-2pm at the Extension*** and help us celebrate! Happy October!



## Coordinator's Column

Grace Florjancic

Hello Gardeners,

As October begins, we approach the end of the Master Gardener volunteering year. I have had a great year getting to know our perennial Master Gardeners and experiencing the program for the first time with our new Master Gardener students. We had a great crew of students, many of whom will graduate on November 4<sup>th</sup> and continue on to be lasting volunteers in the Master Gardener Program. Thank you everyone for all your hard work in making this year successful and providing feedback and ideas to make next year even better!

### **Remember to record your volunteer hours!**

Recording volunteer hours is important for every Master Gardener no matter how many or few hours you volunteered this year. Program Coordinators (like me!) track our numbers in our yearly reports to show our counties how awesome our volunteers are and all the amazing things you accomplish. The deadline for reporting hours is the end of October. The sooner you get those in the better!

OSU uses an online website to report volunteer hours called the Volunteer Reporting System. (Website Link: [https://vrs.osumg.org/sec\\_Login/](https://vrs.osumg.org/sec_Login/)) This makes it easier to keep track of everyone's hours to see who will remain certified to teach next year and which students have completed their hours for graduation. Here are helpful videos on how to use the VRS. (Videos: [https://vrs.osumg.org/v\\_video\\_demos/](https://vrs.osumg.org/v_video_demos/))

Students need a total of 45 volunteer hours to graduate and become certified to teach others. Perennial Master Gardeners need 20 volunteer hours and 10 continuing education hours to remain or become certified to teach. Teaching can range from being a Plant Clinic Mentor educating the community on their plant problems; being a Seed to Supper instructor educating the community on veggie gardening on a budget; or a GEM leading Master Gardeners and students in the Demonstration Gardens, giving presentations to garden clubs through the Speakers Bureau, and much more!

### **It is not too late to complete your 2023 graduation or recertification hours!**

Please reach out to me at [grace.florjancic@oregonstate.edu](mailto:grace.florjancic@oregonstate.edu) so I can help you find ways to reach your goals!

Enjoy the cool fall weather, Grace Florjancic

## **JCMGA 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fall Festival**

Sandy Hammond

The 1st annual Fall Festival is set for **October 14th**  
at the SOREC Extension, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point.

This will be a 1-day event.

**The hours are 9:00am to 2:00pm.**

- A fun day was had by all on September 15th making glass garden art. Some volunteers made their art project to keep, and some made garden art to sell at the Fall Festival.
- There will be 6 outside vendors along with our wonderful Native Garden nursery.
- The event will be outside and in Greenhouse #2.
- We will even have Sanctuary One bringing their goats for petting and viewing.
- There will be holiday items such as wreaths and decorations along with garden art.

Cookies and beverages will be provided for free.

Thanks to Jane Moyer there will also be beautiful Christmas cacti for sale.

Parking will be in the parking lot only so carpooling is a good idea.



## Fall is the Best Time to Plant Native Plants!

by Lynn Kunstman



While most gardeners think of planting new garden plants in spring when the weather warms, the very best time to plant those native plants you've been meaning to put in is fall.

Autumn planting of natives has many benefits for the gardener, the plants and the soil. Our native plant nursery at Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center has many beautiful native grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees for you

to plant in late October for establishment over the winter months. And as an added bonus, we will be selling them on Saturday, October 14th from 9 am to 2 pm. Yes, this is shameless self-promotion, but we want EVERYONE to plant a native this fall!

Plants that go into the ground in mid-to-late fall have an advantage over those planted in spring. Because native plants use the first several months in the ground growing their root systems, they can take advantage of the soil warmth, even after air temperatures drop to the point that top growth becomes dormant. It may look like nothing is happening, but those roots are growing and moving down in the soil, making associations with the mycelial organisms that will help them grow faster in the spring, and helping to infiltrate the rain that falls on your property. When planted in the spring, native plants will often appear to not be growing at all, as they race to get their roots established. By taking advantage of fall planting, and cool season root growth, you can see faster growth in spring of the above ground vegetation.

Of course, benefits to the gardener include not having to water through dry hot seasons while the plant establishes itself. Native plants require less water and pruning maintenance in comparison to non-natives, but like any young plant, if planted in spring they will require more watering to ensure survival. Fall planting just makes sense to keep both the plant and the gardener from stressing!

Benefits to the soil abound as well. As long as the plant can photosynthesize – that is, build carbon body parts using sunlight and carbon dioxide through above-ground vegetation – that carbon is being absorbed out of the air and into the root systems. Carbon in the form of root tissue can stay in the soil for hundreds to thousands of years. Think of our native prairie soils, made rich and black by millennia of native bunchgrass roots. The exact same thing happens in your garden when you plant our deep-rooted native plants. Soil organisms that evolved with western native plants abound where natives grow, and add to the richness of the soil ecosystem.

Plant some native plants in your yard this fall and you will see the ecosystem benefits: healthier soil, more abundant and diverse wildlife, more pollinators and butterflies, more breeding birds, better water retention and less need to irrigate.

This fall, GARDEN FOR LIFE!



## Plant a Row Opportunity Update

Barbara Low



- We had a great first year!
- **727 pounds** of produce were collected!
- A BIG thank you to everyone who contributed produce!
- **55% of the produce** collected was from our JCMGA Vegetable Demonstration Garden. The garden's GEM is Seán Cawley. Thank you to Seán and his team for their hard work in the Vegetable Garden!
- All collected produce was donated to the [Access Community Action Agency of Jackson County](#). Access distributed the produce to help feed others in our community.
- A Big Thank You to Grace Florjancic for setting up the collection area at the Gathering Garden each Wednesday and for coordinating with Access to have the produce picked up from the SOREC Extension!
- Plant a Row provided a great opportunity for us to help others who need a little extra help to feed their families.







## The Glass Garden Art Class Was a Bloomin' Success!

By Janine Salvatti

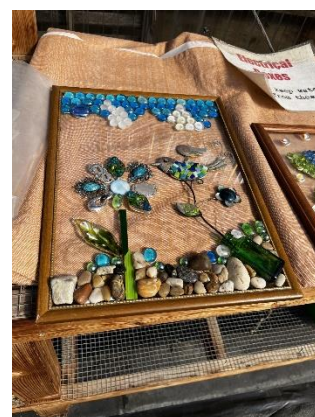
Fifteen or so gardeners piled in to Greenhouse 2 on Friday, Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, armed with bits of vintage glass plates, bowls, glass blobs of all descriptions, old jewelry, tiny tiles and rocks, beads, stained glass, and a whole lot of creative spirit.

As morning proceeded, the glass garden art took shape. Gluing glass to glass is easy and satisfying. Everyone's projects were so different. So much creativity! So many pretty pieces!

This event blossomed because visitors and Master Gardeners admired the pieces of glass garden art that were created by members of the Garden Enhancement Committee (GEC) and which now decorate some of the Demonstration Gardens.

The GEC took on this activity as an opportunity for fun and comradery and with the goal of creating a number of pieces to be sold at the Fall Festival on October 14<sup>th</sup> to help with fund-raising.

By the end of the morning, gardeners were already expressing their desire to have another session. Let's see what the future holds!



**New Opportunity**  
**JCMGA Friends of the Gardens**  
**Barbara Low**

The Community Outreach Working Group and the Member Services Working Group are planning something new – a Friends of the Gardens Program. The JCMGA Board has approved the program to begin in April, 2024.

Friends of the Gardens participants will be non-MG volunteers who are interested in gardening but not interested in becoming a Master Gardener. The details are still being worked out and we will provide updates in March. We anticipate that participants may want to work in a specific garden because of individual interests. They would also have the opportunity to move around to other gardens at a later date as long as the GEMs involved agree.

Friends of the Gardens participants would work on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. with GEMs. Participants could start the first week of April and end the last week of November.

This is a great opportunity which will benefit the individuals involved as well as JCMGA. It is a great program to help support our community!

Make sure to let your friends know!!

## **I Love This Tomato Because...**

Cassandra Toews

Do you have a favorite tomato variety that you grow every year? Or have you recently discovered a new favorite? We are looking for personal recommendations from local gardeners to include with our tomato 'varietal information' signage for the Spring Garden Fair 2024. I realize this may seem early, but right now those tomato qualities that you love are fresh in your mind, and fresh in your garden!

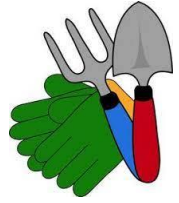
Your recommendation should have the **specific tomato variety name and describe the qualities that you value the most** (taste, appearance, vigor, size, etc.). You could also include how long you've grown it, how you use it (fresh, slicer, paste, salsa, etc.), and any other aspects that you think are important.

Please email your glowing recommendation of 100 words or less, in Word or Rich Text format, to Barbara Low at <[barbaralow@msn.com](mailto:barbaralow@msn.com)> and include your name as you'd like it to be listed in our signage.



## October in the Garden

By Barbara Low



I am continuing this series of articles and hope that you find them helpful and inspiring. In October, there is quite a bit to do in the garden depending on what you want to grow. Most of our produce has been harvested and we are getting our vegetable beds ready for winter. 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.

### October is the time to:

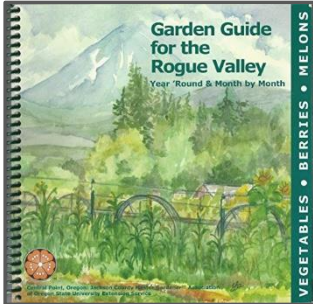
- Check temperature forecasts and cover frost-sensitive plants when needed.
- Put mulch around perennials and over-wintering crops.
- Later in the month, cut globe artichokes back to 6” and mulch.
- Jerusalem artichokes have tubers which should be ready to dig as needed.
- Cut perennial herbs back to about half their height before winter.
- Horseradish should be ready to dig. Harvest all roots, if possible.
- Prepare garden tools for winter storage.



- **Direct Seed**
  - Fava Beans
- **Transplant**
  - Garlic cloves
  - Shallot bulbs

- **Control Pests and Diseases**

- Use copper sprays on cane berries – if leaf and cane spot fungus have been a problem.



*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**

**Garden For Life**



## Gardening in the Fall

Seán Cawley

The Vegetable Demonstration Garden was planned to demonstrate companion planting, harvesting healthy and delicious food and sharing with [ACCESS](#). For the past month or so the garden has been a source of great abundance. Over 300 pounds of produce has been harvested and donated to ACCESS so far this year from the garden.



Today you can walk through the verdant forests of tomatoes, tomatillos and sunchokes or gingerly step around buttery colored butternut squash, blue bachelor buttons and a kaleidoscopic of colorful nasturtiums, yellow and white yarrow, red and golden raspberries and much more. Not all of the plants were planted for culinary use and human consumption. Some were planted for their medicinal herbal qualities or to attract and/or repel various insects. Some plants are growing as cover crops to protect and nurture the soil of the

various beds. Plants were chosen as companion plants to grow in harmony, reduce infestation, enhance soil and for many other purposes.

Now that the days are getting shorter and the nights are cooler, consider putting the garden to bed for the winter months. Commune with nature in the garden and think about different actions you can take to improve the garden over the winter. By spending time in your garden, you can learn to watch and observe before you make a move. You will notice that nature is way more willing to help than cause trouble. And, you may find ways that are [less labor-intensive and built upon Nature's processes](#). Then take your ideas and prepare for the winter.



The soil is the most important aspect of a healthy garden. Although the garden may seem inactive and dormant over winter, there are many actions to take to ensure the soil will be ready come spring for seeding and planting. For example:

- Should you sow a cover crop?
- Chop down the dying vegetable plants and cover with a tarp? (AKA “chop n drop.”)
- Maybe cover with a thick layer of straw?

Maybe try all of these based on what will go into the garden next spring.



But it all starts with the soil. A healthy garden is balanced and biodiverse. If you have happy microbes in your soil, you have happy plant roots that can fight off pests and diseases and uptake more nutrients.

Every plant, every insect and every four-legged critter has a purpose. Look for the balance.

Your garden is as healthy and diverse as you wish to create it in harmony with nature. Your garden harvests sunshine, combines it with water and nutrients, and creates

carbohydrates which it shares with multiple microbes and mycorrhizal fungi in the soil. In return the mycorrhiza share micronutrients with the surrounding plants' roots.

*"Mycorrhizal symbiosis enables the fungi to forage for mineral nutrients in the soil and deliver them to the trees in exchange for carbohydrates."*

*Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass, Chapter: The Council of Pecans.*

*"Plants know how to make food and medicine from light and water, and then they give it away."*

*Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass, Chapter: Skywoman Falling.*



In the fall as you remove the summer tomatoes and squash, be sure to leave the roots, water the beds and cover them to keep out the light. The microbes in the soil will over-winter well and will be ready for next spring when you return to plant. Come spring, you can remove what is left of the various roots of the plants. Leaving the roots over winter provides food and aeration for the soil biota. If your beds are raised you may wish to add amendments like calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) in preparation for next year's tomatoes. If you have cover crops on some of the beds, maybe just chop n' drop the cover crop, water and tarp for the winter. Next spring when you remove the cover you will see almost nothing is left of your chopped cover crop. It fed the soil critters.



Speaking of cover crops: What kind? And when to sow? These are great questions and the answer depends upon your plans for next year. The [Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley](#) has some tips. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education ([SARE](#)) has great resources as well as [Green Cover](#), a commercial cover crop company.

Now is the time think about how to prepare your garden for next spring.

- Think of the soil.
- Think about the types of covers.
- Think about the microbes.
- Think about balance and go out into your garden and sit and listen to nature.

Happy Autumn Equinox to everyone.



## **SOREC Plant Clinic – Plant Mystery Central**

Grace Florjancic

The Plant Clinic is one of the first volunteer efforts offered by the Oregon Master Gardeners. While OSU Extension researchers help the state's commercial growers, the Master Gardener volunteers help our home growers. The Jackson County Master Gardener Association was formed in 1982 as a chapter of the OSU Master Gardener™ Program. The SOREC Plant Clinic began soon after and has grown and expanded from its humble beginnings.

Plant Clinic Mentor Liz Koester started her time as a Master Gardener before the Extension office made its home on Hanley Road. The old location had a very small Plant Clinic, only about a third of the size as our current Plant Clinic! When Liz was a student, there were only a couple active Plant Clinic Mentors. Now we have a dozen SOREC Plant Clinic Mentors and there will soon be more from our graduating 2023 class. Our office has seen many changes over the years to help our fabulous plant detectives solve the mysteries of Jackson County gardens.

Not all those changes have been great. From 2020 to 2022, the SOREC Plant Clinic went 100% virtual. Anyone who has had a friend or family member give vague descriptions or blurry photos of plants knows how difficult it is to solve plant problems without samples of the plant in hand. Our Plant Clinic Mentors made the best of a bad situation to help our community's gardeners with their plant questions with phone calls and emails.

The SOREC Plant Clinic is happy to be back in person this year. Prior to 2020, the SOREC Plant Clinic answered over 2,000 questions from home gardeners each year. This year we are getting back into the swing of things and have answered 996 plant and insect questions from January through July. In addition to helping a larger number of people in the county, being back in person brings forth the best parts of volunteering in the Plant Clinic.

I asked a few Plant Clinic Mentors why they love working in the Plant Clinic so much. The most common answers were that you are always learning something new in the Plant Clinic and it is a great way to interact directly with our community. The satisfaction of solving a mystery through the gripping (and sometimes irritating) hunt for illusive answers keeps Mentors coming back. It is also a great way for Master Gardeners to get to know a wide range of other members and build some teamwork when tracking down clues. Students have said they are intimidated by the Plant Clinic when they first start but learn so much from our Plant Clinic Mentors.

### **Do you want to be a Plant Clinic Mentor?**

Come to our interest meeting on Thursday October 19th at 2:00pm in the SOREC Auditorium. Snacks and tea will be served!

Requirements:

- Certified Master Gardener
- Winter Plant Clinic volunteer hours

- Plant Clinic focused trainings

We hope to see you in the Plant Clinic next year!



## ~~~ Registration Now ~~~

**The Jackson County Master Gardener Association is back, virtually!**

**Dates:** Fridays, October 27 and November 3 and  
Saturdays, October 28 and November 4, 2023  
9:00 – 4:30 p.m.

**Comfort of your own Home via Zoom**

We have a variety of top-notch speakers who will be speaking on many interesting and time relevant topics.

All sessions will be recorded and available for a limited time for paid participants.

Cost is \$30 for 14 presentations.

Landscaper Board CEH re-certification available.

<https://jacksoncountymga.org/winter-dreams-summer-gardens-symposium/>

Email us at [jcmgawdsg20@gmail.com](mailto:jcmgawdsg20@gmail.com) if you have any questions

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

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials.



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

## Wednesdays in the Gathering Place

By Marcie Katz

I want to give a huge shout out to all the Garden Education Mentors (GEMs) and student Master Gardeners who attended the Wednesday Demo Garden workdays this season! We have had a steady turnout every week. There were only two Wednesdays that were called off due to excessive heat and/or smoke. The students were exceptional. They came out to work and in return got to know each other and the GEMs. In two gardens, the students took the lead while their GEMs were on vacation or out of commission. Many of the students continued coming, long after they fulfilled their volunteer hours obligation, much to the delight of the gardeners.

When the cow bell rings, it's time for us to head to the Gathering Place each week. We take a break under the shade of the beautiful old oak tree, as hummingbirds and bees buzz throughout the flowering beds and we recharge ourselves with yummy snacks. Fruit, cakes, chips, cheese and meat trays, biscotti and cookies were some of our favorite delights, along with dispensers of ice water and lemonade or iced tea.

This is a vital part of the Demo Gardens because it is where we meet each other, "talk story" about gardens and share quality time with each other while taking a breather in our grubby work clothes. But alas, the season is ending as September comes to a close. I would like to thank the many GEMs for contributing to our weekly snacks. It was fun to see what was served. I believe the grand prize for imagination goes to Marsha Waite, with her ladybugs on leaves! So, so cute and delicious. THANK YOU, Marsha, for the time you spent making them.

Next year, hopefully there will be an apprentice coordinator who will lead this weekly event. With or without an apprentice coordinator, it will carry on. That's just how we roll (or dig) out there in the gardens!



## **What Is Going On in the Herb Demo Garden?**

By Colet Allen and Herb Garden Team

At the end of 2023 Practicum, Jory Kaplan and I became Co-GEMs of the Herb Demo Garden to rescue it from its sad state of overgrowth with oregano. We had others who wanted to join us, so a team was built. Shirley Wentworth, the previous Herb Garden GEM, generously helped us with identification of what was left after the oregano invasion, even though she was struggling with a major shoulder issue. She gave us her notebooks and lots of historical information on the garden. She still comes occasionally to check on our progress and we are grateful for each visit.

There is a big rose bush in the middle of the garden and the team discussed its future. Due to limited space, our plan was to remove it eventually. Joanne Mitani researched with her Rosarian friends and let us know this should be a keeper. It is a Black Cherry rose from Jackson & Perkins, patented in 2006. There is a 20-year patent on it, so we have until 2026 before that patent expires and we can propagate the rose. It is not a climber and should only be about 3' tall. We are pruning it back to its expected size and will determine what to do with it next year. Thanks, Joanne, for the research and education on this beautiful and happy thriving rose.

Our concepts and guiding ideas are:

- To consider labor and aging backs by making the garden as maintenance free as possible.
- To make it truly a demonstration garden, show several different gardening techniques that will support growing herbs. The various ideas were barrels, a rock garden, a terraced container area, raised beds, and inground planting for larger and taller plants. It was not our goal to make a traditional Herb Garden but something providing more educational opportunities.
- To incorporate art into the garden. We hope our efforts will be a positive visual addition to the Entry Garden for the front of SOREC.
- To base the refurbishing effort on team decisions and collaborative work.
- To bring in friends and relatives who want to work in the garden to join us.

We have been able to address our main ideas and goals. So far, we have received a donation of four wine barrels that we are preparing for Cultural Kitchen Gardens – Mexican, Indian/Middle Eastern/African, indigenous (potentially) and teas. Over time we may rotate the plants in the barrels as we discover different cultural herbs that will grow in our region.

We may use metal stock watering tanks rather than building raised beds. We received an offer of a donation of two tanks that we felt would accommodate our needs. We will paint and decorate these tanks and make them more appealing to the eye.

The container terraced area will be addressed later in the year, and we have a donation for materials and the potential for an individual to help construct that phase of the project.

# Saving the Best for Last?

by Susan Koenig

This is the last Garden Beet article showcasing our Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens presenters. Have I saved the best for last? Well, who knows which will be the best presentation? They all sound exciting to me! Join us on October 27-28 and November 3-4 for Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens. Sixteen 1½-hour lectures with Q&A on timely and relevant gardening topics will be presented.

Be sure to register at [jcmgamga@osu.net](mailto:jcmgamga@osu.net). The registration cost is only \$30.00 for all 14 lectures; a little more than \$2.00 per lecture. Now, that's a bargain you can't turn down! The zoom link will be sent to you the day before each symposium day and will be the same link for each class that day.

## Speakers

### Max Bennett

- **Title of presentation:** Trees on the Edge: Forests and Climate Change in Southern Oregon
- **Description of presentation:** How are the forests of Southern Oregon coping with a warming climate? Which species and ecosystems are most at risk? How can we help local forests better adapt to the climate change, now and in the future? This presentation will review these and related questions while providing practical, "climate smart" guidance on native tree care for landowners and homeowners.
- **Short bio:** Max Bennett is a recently retired Extension Forester for Oregon State University. He spent 24 years advising forest landowners and managers on tree and forest health, wildfire mitigation, and small woodland management. He enjoys hiking and cycling the trails and backroads of s Southern Oregon.



### Govinda Shrestha

- **Title of presentation:** What You Can Do to Identify and Manage Insect Pests in Your Garden
- **Description of presentation:** Gardening is an area where we would like to see no or minimal insecticide use. Govinda will share his knowledge on what integrated pest management methods (such as identification, pest monitoring, cultural control, biological control and biological insecticides) can be used to manage harmful pests in your garden.



- **Short bio:** Govinda Shrestha is an Assistant Professor (Practice) and Hemp Extension Specialist at Oregon State University. As an applied entomologist, Govinda has over ten years' working experience in crop insect pest management. He is very passionate about gardening. Govinda sees gardening as a natural therapy center, improving mental health and family and societal bonding.

#### Neil Bell

- **Title of presentation:** Avoiding the Green Meatball: How and When to Prune Flowering Shrubs
- **Description of presentation:** Often what passes for pruning in many landscapes is annual shearing of the plant into some sort of geometric shape; the sphere (or meatball) being the most popular. Besides being wretched and mindless horticulture, this practice often is more work than pruning to the natural habit of the plant. It also eliminates from the landscape the texture and form, and often flowers, that plants of different architectures contribute. This class will cover identification of growth habit and flowering of shrubs so that the array of plants in your garden can be pruned the right way at the right time.
- **Short bio:** Neil is retired from the OSU Extension Service, where he was the Community Horticulturist and oversaw the Master Gardener program in Marion and Polk Counties from 2000 to 2021. His efforts with curriculum development for the Master Gardener program were presentations and written materials on pruning of ornamental plants and diagnosis of plant problems, among other topics. Since 2021, he has been employed one day per week by Extension to assist with a multi-year evaluation of 118 olive cultivars at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora.



#### Maud Powell

- **Title of Presentation:** Identifying and Managing Weeds in Your Garden
- **Description of Presentation:** Understanding weeds is the key to controlling them, whether in a garden, farm or elsewhere. Controlling weeds can save you time and money and make room for the plants you want to grow and thrive. This class will introduce you to what weeds are, how to identify them, and how to manage them.
- **Short Bio:** Maud Powell has worked in the OSU Extension Small Farms program for seventeen years. Additionally, she and her husband own and operate Wolf Gulch Farm, a small, diversified



vegetable and seed farm in the Little Applegate Valley. She is passionate about reinvigorating rural communities by strengthening local economies and increasing food and fiber production.



## **October JCMGA Working Groups Summaries**

### **Community Outreach Working Group**

#### **Speakers Bureau:**

Colet Allen, chair of the Speakers Bureau, is continuing to work enlarging the Speaker Bureau.

#### **Friends of the Gardens:**

The new program for non-MG volunteers to become “Friends of the Gardens” was approved at the last Board meeting. It is time now to consider how best to implement the program. COWG members want to continue to be involved along with the Member Services WG.

#### **Community Gardens:**

Mary Foster has scheduled a meeting of the Community Gardens Network for Thursday September 28, from 10:30 to noon, in the Talent branch library. This is an opportunity for rejuvenating JCMGA’s support for and participation in the network.

#### **School Grants:**

The deadline for applying for 2023 school grants is November 3. John Kobal has updated the application form on the JCMGA website and will be using various methods to let all the schools and teachers in Jackson County know about this opportunity. Sandy Hansen offered to promote it on our Facebook page.

### **FUNDRAISING WORKING GROUP**

chair is Sandy Hammond

The 1st annual Fall Festival is set for October 14th at the extension. This will be a 1-day event. The hours are 9:00am to 2:00pm.

A fun day was had by all on September 15th making glass garden art. Some volunteers made their art project to keep and some made garden art to sell at the Fall Festival. There will be 6 outside vendors along with our wonderful Native Garden nursery. The event will be outside and in Greenhouse #2. We will even have Sanctuary One bringing their goats for petting and viewing. There will be holiday items such as wreaths and decorations along with garden art. Cookies and beverages will be provided for free. Thanks to Jane Moyer there will also be beautiful Christmas cacti for sale. Parking will be in the parking lot only so carpooling is a good idea.

### **Garden Enhancement Working Group**

Chair, Janine Salvatti

We are continuing to work in the gardens and are now getting them ready for the cooler temperatures.

### **Marketing and Technology Working Group**

chair is Marcia Harris

We didn't meet in September.

### **Member Services Working Group**

chair is Barbara Low

We are continuing to update the membership files.

We have made detailed plans for the MG Class of 2023 Graduation Celebration on November 4. The Friends of the Gardens proposal was approved by the Board. Community Outreach Working Group and Member Services Working Group will continue to work together to work out the details.

### **Program Support Working Group**

Chair is Grace Florjancic

The Program Support Working Group is looking for Master Gardeners interested in becoming Plant Clinic Mentors. We are hoping to gain enough Mentors to staff weekend events to accommodate our Master Gardeners and our community members with questions who are busy during the week. Reach out to Grace Florjancic [grace.florjancic@oregonstate.edu](mailto:grace.florjancic@oregonstate.edu) if you are interested in getting involved with the SOREC Plant Clinic!

## **Winter Dreams Summer Gardens Working Group**

chairs are Colet Allen, Susan Koenig, and Barbara Low

Registration is now open Winter Dreams Summer Gardens 2023 Symposium. This virtual event will be October 27, 28, November 3, and 4.

## **Peter, Peter, Pepon Eater**

Given that the pumpkin, *Cucurbita pepo* (from the Greek *pepon*, meaning large melon), has delicious flesh and a delightful design, it's become a squash icon and symbol of autumn.

It's no wonder Peter dined with delight and Cinderella's fairy godmother chose a pumpkin to conjure her creative carriage.

Pumpkins belong to the *Cucurbitaceae* family, along with squashes, muskmelons, watermelons and gourds. While pumpkins are classified as winter squashes, not all squash are pumpkins.

Pumpkins are actually fruits, as they have seeds that develop from mature ovaries of the plant's blossoms. Their versatility has given them great value since their cultivation.



Despite somewhat unclear origins, the earliest records of domesticated seed remnants and consumption date back to approximately 8750 BC and 7000 BC in Oaxaca, Mexico.

There's also evidence of domestication in North America, (Missouri in 4000 BC and Mississippi in 1400 BC) and in Central America. Pumpkins were shipped to Europe and other parts in the world during the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Pumpkins have a long culinary and medicinal history. Native Americans roasted and dried pumpkin strips to eat and store. American colonists originated "pumpkin pie" by removing seeds then filling pumpkin cavities with honey, milk, and spices and baking them in hot ashes. No pan to wash here! Seeds were also likely roasted by the Aztecs as high protein snacks.

The pulp and sap of pumpkins has long been used medicinally in North and Central America for burns. Another by-product, pumpkin seed oil, is usually mixed with other oils and used for cooking and salad dressings.

Their decorative contributions are many, including dried strips woven into mats by Native Americans, mini varieties for tabletop decor, and of course, Jack O' Lanterns, a Celtic tradition started with smaller turnips, beets, and potatoes in Ireland. Arriving in America, the Irish readily carved pumpkins into lanterns for scaring off tortured souls (like Stingy Jack) on Halloween.

Pumpkins are high in iron, vitamin A, protein and fiber that support anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and antifungal properties.

Cooked flesh is found in pies and is delicious in soups, pasta, salads, desserts, preserves, candies, beverages, (beer and hot spiced cider) or roasted and dried. Cook edible leaves like any greens, stuff and fry flowers and roast seeds (pepitas).

Pumpkins come in a multitude of colors, shapes and sizes besides the classic rich orange ribbed rounds – from petite decorative pumpkins to gigantic monsters (largest ever recorded – 2,323 pounds!). Typically though, most grow to 20-40 pounds, and field pumpkins can reach up to 65 pounds.

Planting pumpkins is easy. Start seeds inside or outside in good potting soil or well amended garden soil, sowing seeds 1" deep. Sow 3-4 seeds about 10-14 days before last frost in 4" pots inside and the same depth outside in 5" high flattened mounds that warm more quickly than flat soil.

Keep all consistently moist and indoor seeds at 70-75°F. Once sprouted (in about 5-8 days), acclimate inside seedlings a week before planting outside.

Provide generous amounts of rotted compost for nutrients and mulch. Supplement with balanced organic fertilizer and plenty of horizontal (or vertical) space.

Whether planted for pies or for that giant first prize, the mighty pumpkin never disappoints!

**Resources:**

Armand's Harper Valley Farms

<https://harpervalleyfarms.com/history-of-pumpkins/>

HerbaZest

<https://www.herbazest.com/herbs/pumpkin/pumpkin-origin-history>

Pastorino Farms

[http://www.pastorinofarms.com/abt\\_pmks/history.htm](http://www.pastorinofarms.com/abt_pmks/history.htm)

**Seed Sources:**

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds

<https://www.rareseeds.com/catalogsearch/result/?q=pumpkin>

Pinetree Garden Seeds

<https://www.superseeds.com/search?type=product&q=pumpkin>

Territorial Seeds

<https://territorialseed.com/search?q=pumpkin>

**Recipe:****Pumpkin Scones**

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Cut a piece of parchment paper to cover a cookie sheet.

2 cups white whole wheat or oat flour

1 cup regular organic rolled oats (not quick or instant)

¼ teaspoon sea salt

1/3 cup organic coconut sugar

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

½ teaspoon ground nutmeg

½ teaspoon ground ginger

¼ teaspoon ground cloves

1 tablespoon fresh grated ginger root

½ cup chopped toasted walnuts (almonds, pecans or filberts), optional

¼ cup olive oil

2/3 cup pureed pumpkin

½ cup buttermilk

extra buttermilk and organic coconut sugar (for topping)

Mix together flour, oats, sea salt, sugar, ground spices and grated ginger. Pour in olive oil and blend until mixture is crumbly. Mix in nuts. Pour in pumpkin and buttermilk, then mix with a wooden spoon or clean hands just until mixture clings together, then gather into a ball. Transfer to parchment paper and flatten to an 8"-9" round. Score the round into 8 wedges with a sharp knife. Brush the top with a little buttermilk and sprinkle with some coconut sugar. Bake in preheated oven for about 15 minutes until top is golden. Serve warm or freeze for longer storage.



**Jackson County Master Gardener Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes  
August 11, 2023**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Zoom at 9:27 a.m. with President Marcie Katz presiding.

Board Members Present: Marcie Katz, Barbara Low, Jane Moyer, Sean Cawley, Keltie Nelson, Kathy Apple, Colet Allen, Dee Copley, Trina Stout, Lucy Pylkki, Rob McWhorter, Marcia Harris, Ronnie Budge, Sandy Hammond, Janine Salvatti, Grace Florjancic

Absent: Regula Pepi, Margaret Saydah, Pam Hillers, Cassandra Toews,  
Guests: Sherri Morgan

Consent Agenda: Ronnie Budge asked two questions about the picnic plans as described in the Member Services WG Report. "Offers and Needs" is an icebreaker where everyone tells three things they need, then three things they have to offer. The Arboretum was mistakenly labeled the pavilion. **Ronnie Budge moved and Colet Allen seconded the Consent Agenda be approved. Unanimous approval.**

Additions to the Agenda: The blue barrels were deleted from the agenda to enable the board to follow Policy 1.8.

Approval of Agenda: **Kathy Apple moved to have the agenda approved as amended. Ronnie Budge seconded. Motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes: Keltie Nelson pointed out four board members were listed as both present and absent in the July minutes. **Keltie Nelson moved and Ronnie Budge seconded the July board meeting minutes be approved as corrected. Unanimous approval.**

Announcements:

1. Barbara Low reported to date 57 people had signed up for the picnic on August 19.

Sandy Hammond will run the 50/50 raffle. Colet Allen is arranging for the groceries.

2. The Nominating Committee will be chaired by Barbara Low. A Mail Chimp will be sent out asking for more members.

3. Barbara Low announced the 2024 graduation will be held at 5:30 on November 4.

Both students and perennial Master Gardeners need to report their hours online

(VRS) or turn a paper version into Grace.

4. Janine Salvatti reported a workshop will be held September 15 for making glass

mosaic garden art. It will be open to Master Gardeners and the public. Participants

can find the supply list in the August *Garden Beet*.

5. Janine Salvatti announced Art in the Gardens will be held 9:00-12:00 August 26.

Artists are invited to make "plein air" art in the demonstration gardens. The only request is that artists include "JCMGA" in their art piece.

6. Sandy Hammond reminded board members the Fall Festival will be held October 14.

Setup will be Friday, October 13. Plant sale booths will be located in the parking lot.

All other sales will be in the auditorium, including holiday items.

#### Coordinator's Report: MG Coordinator Grace Florjancic reported

1. Danielle Knueppel, MG Coordinator and Small Farms Coordinator for Josephine Co.

has resigned effective August 31. A replacement will be advertised for.

2. interpretive signage for the gardens is being edited and will be ready for installation in the spring.

3. Talk to Grace if you are interested in a citizen scientist project involving rain gauges.

4. One-hundred fifty-five pounds of produce have been collected for ACCESS to date.

Bring extra produce to the Gathering Garden 9:00-10:30 on Wednesday mornings.

Discussion items:

1. Barbara Low announced the dates for the 2023 Winter Dreams Summer Gardens

Symposium have been set for October 27, 28, November 3, and 4 (14 sessions). All

speakers for the 2023 WDSG have been arranged plus one for 2024.

Registration will

open on the JCMGA website on Monday, August 14. The 2024 dates will be October

18, 19, 25, and 26 (16 sessions).

2. The Southern Oregon Home Shows will be held in Josephine Co. February 16, 17, 18

and in Jackson County May 3, 4, 5 (the same weekend as Spring Garden Fair). The

Community Outreach Working Group will be in charge of JCMGA involvement. It is

thought there may be some MG's who are unable to physically help with SGF who

might agree to doing a shift at the May Home Show.

3. A Community Outreach Working Group committee made up of Ronnie Budge, Colet

Allen, Trina Stout, and Romina Klayman will determine how to proceed with Spanish

translation of MG written materials.

4. Jane Moyer asked about reaching out to the Josephine Co. Master Gardener

Association to start investigating the possibility of having a two-county association

similar to the Tri-County Master Gardener Association in the Portland area. It was

decided it might be premature. OMGA Representative Kathy Apple was asked to find

out information about how they formed and how they function, though.

5. Jane Moyer also suggested it might be a good idea to have a representative at the Jackson Co. Commissioners meetings. Master Gardener Coordinator Grace Florjancic will ask Extension Manager Heidi Gehman and SOREC Director Alec Levin if it would be appropriate. The next meeting is 9:30 a.m. Friday August 16. Barbara Low offered to attend.

6. Master Gardener Sherri Morgan, representative to the SOREC Advisory Council reported the next meeting will be Thursday, August 17. She will report on it at the September board meeting. Topics of interest to the board include ADA requirements, solar panels, timeline for the Creepy Old House, painting a mural on the front of the COH, regular mowing of the front yard of the COH.

7. Keltie Nelson reported JCMGA has outgrown the capacity for having a free Mail Chimp account. Upgrading would cost \$20/month with a 50% nonprofit discount. No vote was needed because the budget already has funds available. Keltie also reported all students are receiving Mail Chimps.

8. The topic of including financial information in *The Garden Beet* was continued from the July meeting. It was decided that pie charts will be developed to show by percentages where JCMGA's funding comes from and how it is spent rather than showing actual amounts.

9. Janine Salvatti asked board members to save large pieces of cardboard for the Gardens Enhancement Committee to use as weed barrier.

Motion Items: Jane Moyer received bids from Travis Curtis Construction for concrete pathways around and in the Lavender Garden. The original bid covered

a 42" pathway between the Vineyard and the Lavender Garden with a small section going into the Lavender Garden and a landing pad in front of the garden. The estimate is \$9480. After discussions with Alec Levin, a second bid for a pathway through the garden was requested and received for \$3250 with half the amount over \$10,000 to be paid by JCMGA and half to be paid by SOREC (\$1365 each). **On behalf of the Fundraising Working Group, Jane Moyer moved the board approve the amount of \$1365 for JCMGA's share of the amount to be paid over \$10,000. Unanimous approval.** Jane will be meeting with Alec Levin and Travis Curtis to obtain a copy of the plan along with a contract.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** President Marcie Katz adjourned the meeting at 11:33.

**NEXT MEETING: Board Meeting (Hybrid) Friday, September 8, 2023, 9:00 chit-chat, 9:30 meeting**

Submitted by Jane Moyer, Recording Secretary