



## **Jackson County Master Gardeners Announcements**

### **January 2024**

#### **January**

- JCMGA Board Meeting will be a hybrid meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>.
- JCMGA Membership Renewal for 2024 is now open.
  - Remember to be included in the JCMGA Chapter Directory, you need to renew your membership by **January 31, 2024.**
  - If you don't want your contact information in the 2024 Directory, let Barbara Low know **by January 31<sup>st</sup>.**
- **Articles for the February Garden Beet due by February 20<sup>th</sup>. Send articles to [jcmgabeet569@gmail.com](mailto:jcmgabeet569@gmail.com)**

#### **February**

- JCMGA Chapter **Directory Photo Contest**
  - Have photos to Sandy Hansen **by February 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- Friends of the Gardens Logo Design Contest – submissions due **by February 15<sup>th</sup>.**
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## President's Corner

Barbara Low

Time seems to fly – 2024 has already begun!

In looking back at 2023, I hope that you all have had a wonderful, relaxing time with your family and friends during the holidays.

Last year, Marcie Katz led us as we worked to move forward after Covid. We held more in-person events, increased activity in the Demonstration Gardens, reinstated Student Practicum, and held hybrid Board of Director meetings, to name a few. Marcie is a wonderful role model.

I plan to continue moving our organization forward in 2024. This will include increasing activities in our communities and improving our communication with each other and with the OMGA. To do this, we need to work together. I encourage you to continue to be involved with our many working groups (Fundraising, Community Outreach, Gardens, Marketing & Technology, Member Services, Program Support, Spring Garden Fair, Winter Dreams Summer Gardens). If you are not currently involved with a working group, please consider joining one. It is a great opportunity to learn the inner workings of JCMGA and to meet new friends.

Working together includes discussing old and new ideas, collaborating, brainstorming, setting goals, and – best of all – celebrating our accomplishments!

For example, last year the Community Outreach Working Group and the Member Services Working Group worked jointly to create the Friends of the Gardens program. The Board has approved the program and we are continuing to work on the details so we can implement it in April!

We are a unique organization with tremendous energy, experience and ideas to offer. I am asking for your support, patience, and insights...

🌸 Our January board meeting will be January 12<sup>th</sup> and will be a hybrid meeting (in-person at SOREC Auditorium and via Zoom). From 9:00-9:30 a.m. will be a social gathering; the meeting will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. You are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, contact me at [barbaralow@msn.com](mailto:barbaralow@msn.com).



## Coordinator's Column

Grace Florjancic

Hello Gardeners,

The cold and snowy weather is the perfect time to think about next year's veggie garden. What do you like to eat? How much will your family eat? How much can you grow in your garden? These are the questions we think about when planning our gardens. I encourage all of you growers to also think about how you can dedicate an extra row, bed, or section of your veggie garden for food donations.

One of the Master Gardener program priorities is local food production and access in Oregon. A large component of that is food security for all Oregonians. There are lots of ways a more food secure Jackson County can be achieved. One way we, the Jackson County Master Gardeners, help out is through produce donations to ACCESS Food Bank. Last year we donated 1,108.5 pounds of produce! Much of that donation came from our Plant a Row Campaign.

The Plant a Row Campaign encourages people to grow an additional row of veggies for the purpose of donation. This past summer we collected and weighed produce donated at SOREC on Wednesdays. Our contact with ACCESS picked up our donations with their food van. That food gets distributed throughout the county at various ACCESS sites. We are hopeful that more people will participate in this campaign next year to increase our positive impact within Jackson County. You do not have to be a Master Gardener to donate produce through our Plant a Row Campaign, so tell your neighbors!

While the Master Gardeners partner with ACCESS Food Bank, there are many other groups that offer food pantry services in the county. If you cannot make it to SOREC to drop off produce for our collection day, consider dropping off produce to your local pantry. Here is a list of food pantries in the county

<https://accesshelps.org/food-pantries/>. Reach out to see if they will accept your homegrown produce.



## **Volunteers Needed**

**Sandy Hammond**

Jackson County Master Gardener Association is participating in the Builders Association Josephine County Home Show in Grants Pass.

The show is on February 16th, 17th, and 18th in the Floral Building at the Grants Pass Fairgrounds.

We will have a booth with our volunteers to answer questions and to pass out our many brochures and sell Garden Guides.

This will be a fun event and a great opportunity to meet and greet the public.

Volunteers are needed to be in the booth.

### **The event is**

- from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 16th.
- On Saturday the 17th the hours are 10:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- On Sunday the hours are 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Please contact Sandy Hammond to volunteer.  
email [sandrahammondmg@gmail.com](mailto:sandrahammondmg@gmail.com)

There will be a volunteer meeting at the extension at the end of January



## Lavender Garden ADA Paths

Jane Moyer

During the 2023 class, student Kendyl Berkowitz approached the Fundraising Working Group with an offer that couldn't be refused. As Executive Director of Rebuilding Together Rogue Valley, a local foundation providing housing upgrades for low-income families, she searches for grants available to

fund the foundation's work.

A \$10,000 grant had come available from Fortune Brand. The requirements included the funds had to be given to a local non-profit to increase accessibility. Kendyl determined the Jackson Co. Master Gardener Association would be the ideal recipient.

All Working Groups were asked for accessibility ideas. Garden pathways that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards was chosen. Because the renovation of the grounds will be starting soon, creating the need to move some gardens, it was decided that a garden unlikely to be moved should be chosen. For that reason, and because it is on the annual Lavender Tour and, thus, more visited by the public, the Lavender Garden was determined to be "the one."



Irv Johnson and Margaret Clark, the Garden Education Mentors (GEMs), asked that the work be scheduled after the Lavender Tour in July. The contractor, Travis Curtis Construction, set the beginning date for October when the cooler weather would be suitable for drying cement.



Originally the path to be converted to ADA standards was going to run between the Lavender Garden and the Vineyard with a landing pad running along the front of the garden. SOREC Director Alec Levin asked that another path be added to run from the entrance to the northeast corner of the garden, allowing visitors in wheelchairs to get into the garden. He offered to use funds available to him to pay half the cost of this addition. The JCMGA Board of Directors agreed to pay the other half.

GEM's Irv Johnson and Margaret Clark; Garden Enhancement Committee members Marcie Katz, Janine Salvatti, and Lynn Boening; Fundraising Working Group members Sandy Hammond and Jane Moyer; JCMGA Board Member Kathy Apple, 2023 student Lorrie Kaplan, and Master Gardener Coordinator



Grace Florjancic worked multiple days to cut back the lavender along the affected paths to create room wide enough for wheelchairs.

Everything was going smoothly. Travis Curtis used small equipment to dig the paths out. The date for pouring the cement was set for October 12. And then, OH, NO! Travis contracted COVID! Everything came to a screeching halt!

Finally, in early November, the day came with one unexpected bonus. Travis had mistakenly cut one path too many. Rather than having to take the time to fill it back in and compact it, he offered to make an additional path at his expense. THANK YOU, Travis!

We encourage all Master Gardeners to pay a visit to the Lavender Garden to see the new paths. They are beautiful!



## JCMGA 2024 Board Members

- **President** – Barbara Low
- **President-Elect** (vacant position)
- **Past President** – Marcie Katz
- **Recording Secretary** - Kathy Apple
- **Membership Secretary** - Ann Ackles
- **Treasurer** - Keltie Nelson
- **Assistant Treasurer** – Regula Pepi
- **OMGA Representative** - Colet Allen
- **Archivist** - Pam Hillers
- **Members-At-Large:**
  - Rebecca Cohn
  - Randa Linthwaite
  - Rob MacWhorter
  - Lucy Pylkki
  - Cassandra Toews
- **Working Group Chairs:**
  - Community Outreach – Ronnie Budge
  - Fundraising – Jane Moyer
  - Gardens - Janine Salvati
  - Marketing & Technology – Randa Linthwaite and Barbara Low
  - Member Services – Barbara Low
  - Program Support – Grace Florjancic
  - Spring Garden Fair – Marcie Katz and Lucy Pylkki
  - Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens – Colet Allen, Susan Koenig, and Barbara Low

JCMGA Board Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. (We have a social time from 9:00-9:30 a.m.)



## **“Friends of the Gardens” Logo Development Contest**

Ann Ackles

The Jackson County Master Gardeners Association would like you to enter the Friends of the Gardens Logo Development Contest. You could win a \$25 gift certificate to use at the JCMGA’s native plant nursery. We will feature the winner in the March Garden Beet.

As we look to expand our volunteers through the **“Friends of the Gardens”** program we would like a unique logo for the program. **If you have artistic skills, please enter our contest!** The logo would be use on letterheads, JCMGA website, posters, and flyers to catch a gardener’s eye and will be used to brand and promote this program.

So, pull out your drawing implements, paints, or computer skills and send in your ideas! Please submit an electronic copy of your design. We plan on using the design when advertising the Friends of the Gardens program. The design would become the property of JCMGA. We would like the finished design to be in either jpg or Word format and submitted by 5 pm on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Designs are to be submitted to the JCMGA President, Barbara Low [barbaralow@msn.com](mailto:barbaralow@msn.com)





## **We are preparing the JCMGA 2024 Chapter Directory!**

### **Preparations include:**

- Making sure members know that they need to **renew** their membership by January 31, 2024, to be included in the Directory.
  - Log onto the JCMGA Member Portal to begin the renewal process.
  - To renew your membership, you don't need to have recorded volunteer and educational hours. Just pay the \$25 and complete the Membership Renewal Form.
  - If you want to teach a gardening class, help in the Plant Clinic, or be a mentor in the JCMGA Student Practicum, you need to make sure to record your volunteer and educational hours.
- Making sure that members can leave their contact information out of the Directory.
  - If you do not want your contact information in the JCMGA 2024 Chapter Directory, you will need to contact Barbara Low ([barbaralow@msn.com](mailto:barbaralow@msn.com)) by January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Having a Photo Contest. The winning photo will be on the cover of our 2024 directory. Information will be emailed soon to members.



**Announcing the Annual Jackson County Master Gardener™ Association  
Photo Contest  
Sandy Hansen**

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

♦ The 2024 JCMGA Photo Contest is open to all current Jackson County Master Gardener™ Association members.

♦ **Photos may be submitted from January 1<sup>st</sup> until February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.** We can accept two (2) photos from each member, although there will be only one winning photo per person.

♦ Photographs are limited to those taken in gardens of the Rogue Valley and the focus must be on a plant or flower - no people (for privacy issues), or garden animals or insects.

♦ Please submit your photograph in portrait format, rather than landscape format to [jcmgaphoto1@gmail.com](mailto:jcmgaphoto1@gmail.com).

♦ All photographs must be at least 1500 x 1575 pixels (5"x5-1/2" at 300 dpi) and all submitted photos become the property of JCMGA.

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

Please submit your picture to [jcmgaphoto1@gmail.com](mailto:jcmgaphoto1@gmail.com) and include your name, phone number, email address and a short description of the flora pictured. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Hansen, [sandyhansen08@gmail.com](mailto:sandyhansen08@gmail.com). All identifying information will be removed and the contest will be judged by members of the Member Services Working Group and the editor of the Garden Beet.

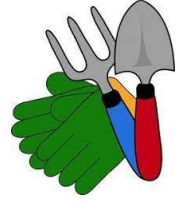
The winning photograph will appear on the cover of the 2024 JCMGA Chapter Directory, and four runners-up will have their photographs featured in the *Garden Beet*. Winners will be announced in the April *Garden Beet*. Four runners-up will have their photographs featured in the *Garden Beet*. Winners will be announced in the April *Garden Beet*.

Whether your garden consists of several acres or a single plant in a hanging basket, we would love the opportunity to honor the beauty you have created and nurtured.

- All submitted photos become the property of JCMGA.

# January in the Garden for 2024

By Barbara Low



Last year I did a month article concerning home gardening based on *The Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley – Year-Round & Month by Month* book. It was suggested to the articles in this year's Garden Beet. I hope that you find these articles helpful and informative.

The air is brisk and temperatures are just plain cold. Plants are dormant – sleeping for the winter and awaiting the warmer temperatures that spring will bring. Hopefully, we will get lots of precipitation during the coming months for our plants to thrive and survive the summer.

With that said, our gardens still need to be cared for so that they will do well in the spring and summer.

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* book. This great reference book for gardeners is mainly about the growing of vegetables, berries, and melons.

In this article, I will briefly refer to what we should be working on during the month of January based on the information in this book and articles on the OSU website.

## **January is the time to**

- **Plan** what you want to plant in spring – if you haven't done it already. What seeds do you want to order? Do you want to try some new or different vegetables and/or berries? Last year I tried some new vegetables, and I will be growing them again this year – Italian Sweet Peppers and Midget Cantaloupe. It's always fun to try new things.
- Take the time to **browse seed catalogues** or websites – but don't take too long or you might not be able to receive the seeds you want to try. Find plants that are good for growing in our area during both cool and warm weather. *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley – Year Round & Month by Month* (Revised 2017). Pages 52-58 (Crops to Grow in Cool Seasons) (Crops to Grow in Warm Seasons) (Berries); pages 58-69 (Planting Tips for Specific Crops); and page 87 (Month of January).
- **Plants which you plant as seeds to transplant later** are
  - Cabbage
  - Lettuce
  - Parsley
- **Plants which you can plant as seed outside**
  - Peas (if there are the right soil conditions)



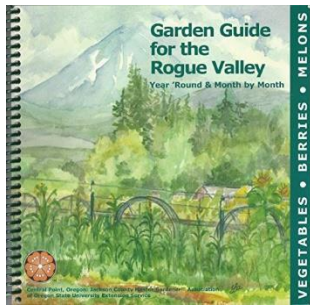
- **Time to prune your grapes**

- <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1639> This publication from the OSU Extension is great in showing exactly what to do to prune and take care of the grapes.



- **Time to spray your blueberries** for bacterial canker protection

- <https://jacksoncountymga.org/in-the-garden-video/> The Clackamas videos are great for dealing with berries – including blueberries.
- <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/pub/ec-1304> This is a very comprehensive article on growing blueberries in your backyard. The information concerning the spraying of blueberries is towards the end of the article.



The *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley – Year-Round & Month by Month* 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.

**Happy Gardening and Stay Warm**

**Garden For Life**



# **Zero Waste**

Jane Moyer

The Jackson County Master Gardener Association is moving towards zero waste. Zero waste simply means creating no garbage. Recycling guidelines change from time to time depending on available buyers for the materials; however, as a group, we try to consistently keep waste to a minimum.

Currently, Rogue Disposal will accept mixed paper (including envelopes) and clean cardboard for recycling. There is a recycling can for paper in the Extension office, another in the lobby, and a third one in the auditorium. When Practicum starts in February, a fourth container will be in Greenhouse #1. Additionally, empty soda cans and plastic bottles can be placed in the marked container in the lobby.

We ask students and perennial (veteran) Master Gardeners to bring their own reusable coffee cups for classes. For social events, we encourage attendees to bring their own table service – preferably reusable plates, silverware, glasses, cups, and even napkins.

The initial social event every year is the annual welcoming lunch for students on the first day of class. We don't expect them to know our practices yet, so we borrow the table service from the Master Food Preservers and use the dishwasher in the Extension kitchen. Convenient? Not really! But in the long run, think of the waste we didn't create.

As individuals, there is more that can be done. If your garbage company accepts materials other than what can be accepted in the SOREC containers, take items that are not accepted home with you and put them in your recycling can. Use reusable containers and cloth napkins if you bring food. If you have leftover food, take that home for leftovers, disposal or composting.

Together, we can move our association closer to realizing its goal of zero waste. Waste not, want not!

## Medford Water Commission Update Grace Flojancic

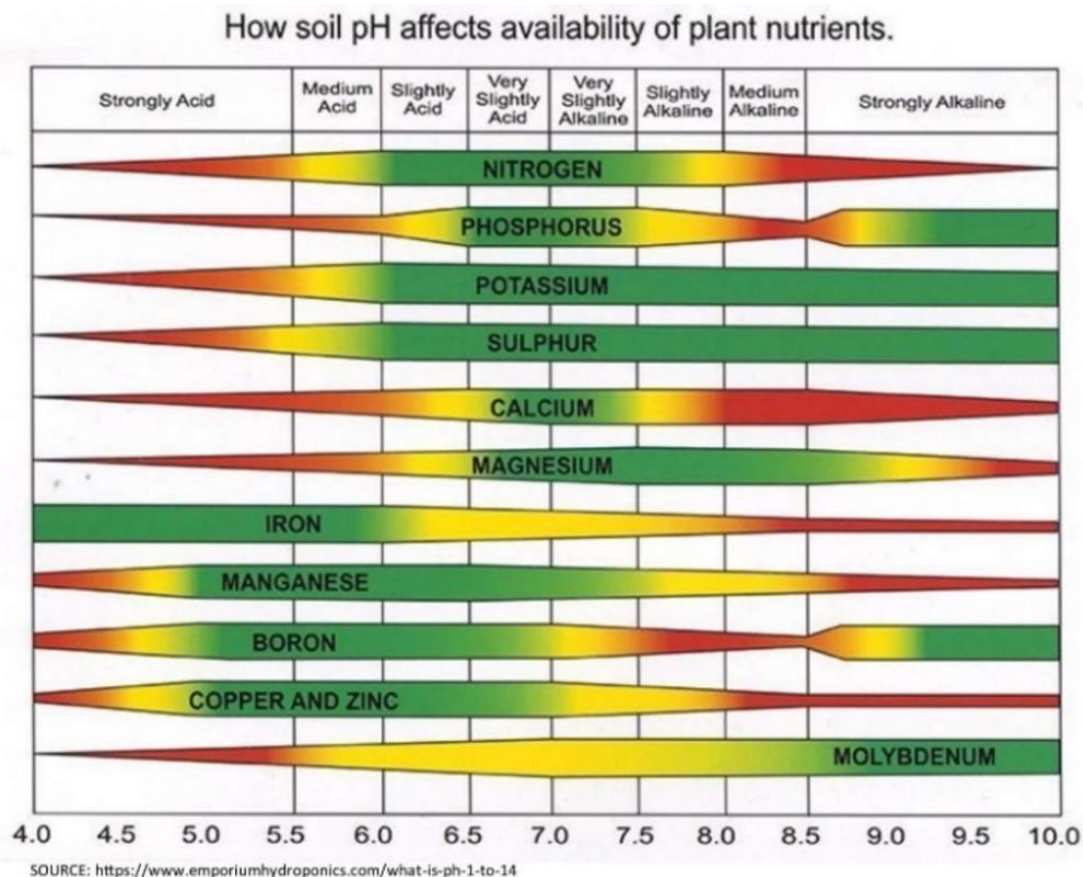
Hello Plant Clinic People,

The Medford Water Commission has decided to make a small change in the water treatment process for their water supply. They will be raising the pH of the water from about 7.1 to 7.8 by adding sodium hydroxide (NaOH). While this change is unlikely to impact garden plants, there is a chance that over time some plants could show signs of nutrient deficiency due to the higher alkalinity in the water. Plants that are acid-loving, like blueberries, may be impacted. It's something to keep in the back of your mind when you think you have a case of nutrient deficiency on your hands in the upcoming years.

Medford Water Commission: <https://www.medfordwater.org/Page.asp?NavID=642>

Michigan State

University: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/water\\_alkalinity\\_and\\_ph\\_what\\_they\\_mean\\_in\\_regards\\_to\\_water\\_quality](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/water_alkalinity_and_ph_what_they_mean_in_regards_to_water_quality)



## Claire Hanley Arboretum

Submitted by Linda Holder, Archive Committee

This article originally appeared in the *Garden Beet*, March, 1998. Knowing that major changes are now in the works for the beautiful Claire Hanley Arboretum, we thought you might enjoy learning some of the history of that area. Today, when you see the pink ribbons in the Arboretum, think about the meaningful beginning of those beautiful trees.

In the mid-1950's, a group of farmers\* approached the Jackson County Court with a request for a new site for the Southern Oregon Research Center. Prior to this, research grounds were at two locations; 47 acres on Colver Road, and a smaller site on Highway 99 where the Jackson County Animal Shelter now stands. These sites were eventually relinquished, to be used by other county services. This request came in happy synchronism with the Hanley sisters' (Martha, Claire, and Mary) decision to sell a portion of their land, with the intention that it be used for agricultural research. The County Court said "Yes" to the farmers, the Hanley sisters said "Yes" to the Court, and the sale of 81.2 acres, for a cost of \$50,000, was finalized in the fall of 1957.

Leveling the terrain in preparation for horticultural trial grounds began in the spring of 1958, and a full slate of research orchards, vegetable and field crops were planted in the wake of the bulldozer wheels. The official move to the new site occurred in the fall of 1958. The original structures were the Research Station, the student residence, and one greenhouse, all still standing.

Claire Hanley was the most avid of the gardening Hanley sisters, and, although she was the first of the sisters to die, she did live long enough to see her dream of an Arboretum become reality. In 1958 she was President of the Southwestern Oregon Organization of Garden Clubs, and it was at her urging that the Arboretum was created. Funding for the project was provided by the Garden Club Organization, and many of the trees donated were planted as memorials, of family or friends, by members of that organization.

The actual labor of planning the landscaping and planting the trees however was done by John McLoughlin. John was then the Ornamental Horticultural Agent for the Extension Service. The trees were acquired and planted in 1961 and 1962.

Some shrubs and trees have been added to the original Arboretum landscape. Many of these are living memorials of loved ones. Some were planted because of their rarity or singular beauty, a few in hands-on learning experiences for Master Gardeners.

\* Special thanks to John Yungen, Professor Emeritus of the OSU Research Center, and Maureen Smith, from the Jackson County Historical Society, for providing this information.

Claudia Law MG96

Editor's note: In 2023 dollars, \$50,000 in 1957 is now worth about \$520,000.

## My Favorite New Vegetable

### Italian Sweet Peppers

Barbara Low

I had never grown Italian Sweet Peppers before and a friend at JCMGA recommended them. So being adventurous, I picked up a few plants at our Spring Garden Fair. I dutifully took care of them and watched them thrive. They produced many red peppers that were delicious! I used them in green salads, stir fry dishes, and omelets. All were wonderful.

The peppers have an amazing taste and I have been told they are good for making pickles. This summer I am going to try making pickles.

Needless to say, I will be growing these again in 2024!





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## **January JCMGA Working Groups** **Celebrating 2023 Summaries**

### **Community Outreach Working Group**

Chair, Ronnie Budge

#### **School Grants:**

We awarded the following School Grants: Abraham Lincoln Elementary \$250 (for potting soil, pots); Madrone Trail Charter School \$600 (for hand tools, wagons); South Medford High School \$500 (for soil, bulbs, containers, worms for composting); and Jefferson Elementary School \$2,170. This last amount is more money than JCMGA usually awards. However, it is to be used for significant refurbishing, including improvements to the irrigation system, of a large garden that is maintained by students during the school year and as a community garden during the summer.

#### **Community Gardens:**

We still do not have a JCMGA chair for the Community Gardens Committee. Without a chair who is a JCMGA member, we cannot administer the grants program. The chair could also attend the Network meetings to see if there are other ways JCMGA can provide support and be a contact person for individuals in the community who are looking for a location where they can garden. Ronnie and Grace will each try to find willing volunteers to chair or co-chair the committee.

#### **Speakers Bureau:**

It was noted that although attendance has been sparse at gardening presentations given in person or via Zoom for the public library, the recordings have each been viewed 30-100 times on the library's YouTube page. We are working on more ways to publicize the library presentations. There will be a spring series with a "natives" theme and Colet Allen is seeking presenters for fall and winter programs with themes yet to be decided.

### **Fundraising Working Group**

Chair, Sandy Hammond



The JCMGA Fundraising Working Group has fun while working on ways to make money for JCMGA. Without its efforts, JCMGA would struggle to implement many of its programs.

There are several ways we raise funds. Selling JCMGA's two volumes of *Garden Guides* to many vendors in Jackson and Josephine Counties has been a strong success.

The Fundraising Group is involved in searching for grants. This year we received a grant to help pay for beautiful new paved paths in the Lavender Garden.

We also have an ongoing bottle and can return project. Anyone who wishes to donate their own returnable items will find the bags to use in the entrance of the Extension.

This year we had a Fall Festival in October at the Extension grounds. We learned a great deal, as this was our first attempt at holding a Fall Festival.

We are always looking for additional ways to raise funds. The group meets once a month at the Extension. We would love to have more volunteers join this jovial group.

The new 2024 chair is Jane Moyer, who would like to hear from you if you want to participate. Please contact her at [janemoyer@mtashland.net](mailto:janemoyer@mtashland.net).

## **Garden Enhancement Working Group**

Chair, Janine Salvatti

In 2023, the Garden Enhancement Working Group accomplished the following:

- Installed beautiful large-scale interpretive signs for the Native Plant Garden and Water Catchment project.
- Our two biggest and most labor-intensive projects were:
  - Pathways: hauled and spread DG on several pathways in the gardens and tried to keep all communal pathways weed-free.
  - Fig Grove: pruned trees, weeded, card-boarded area, completely covered with wood chips.
- Contracted to have trees on the south side of the gardens pruned, including the iconic white oak in the Gathering Place.
- Signs and information boxes
  - Installed the “Gardens open” feather flag
  - Reinstalled info boxes and information sheets for each garden.



- Maintained the Gathering Place and planted a colorful flower garden in the raised beds.
- Maintained the planting area near the entry sign.
- Created and hosted a new event/workshop – Glass Art Mosaics for the Garden.
- Assisted in giving Garden Tours to 6 local Garden Clubs over a 2-month period in the summer.

## **Marketing and Technology Working Group**

Chair – temporary – Barbara Low

We were busy this year keeping the technology part of JCMGA helping to promote our organization and all that we do.

We are planning to continue to work on using technology and marketing to promote JCMGA this year.

Our new co-chairs for 2024 will be Randa Linthwaite and Barbara Low.

## **Member Services Working Group**

Chair, Barbara Low

We had a very busy year!

We organized successful events –

- 1<sup>st</sup> lunch for 2023 Student Master Gardener class
- Plant A Row (food for Access)
- JCMGA Member Annual and Awards Picnic
- 2023 Student Master Gardener class Graduation Celebration

We worked jointly with the Community Outreach Working Group to create and present a proposal concerning the Friends of the Gardens program to the JCMGA Board. This proposal was approved. We are continuing to work together to complete the details and plan to have the Friends of the Gardens program start in April.

The Member Services WG sent out a member survey and are now looking at the data to help to make plans for 2024.

## **Program Support Working Group**

Chair is Grace Florjancic

We had a 2023 OSU Student Master Gardener Class. It was a great class including enthusiastic students and wonderful presenters. We had 45 students graduate.

In 2024 we are bringing back our Seed to Supper classes! Seed to Supper is a 6 weeklong basic vegetable gardening class for folks in our county with lower incomes to help increase food security in our communities. This program was put on hold during the past few years but is coming back. We have a few locations in the county to pick out to hold these classes, but we need instructors! The more instructors we have, the more classes we can hold next year. If you are a certified Master Gardener looking to help with this program, contact Grace Florjancic at [grace.florjancic@oregonstate.edu](mailto:grace.florjancic@oregonstate.edu)

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

chairs are Colet Allen, Susan Koenig, and Barbara Low

We had a very successful event this Fall!

The Winter Dreams Summer Gardens 2023 included a wide variety of gardening topics presented by 14 knowledgeable and experienced presenters. This was a four-day event, and we had 105 people register for the event. Recordings of the presentations were made available until the end of December to those who registered.

We have already started planning for the WDSG 2024 event which will be October 18, 19, 25, and 26. This will again be a virtual event.

Gardening Gourmet

Sydney Jordan Brown MG 2000



### **New Year Almondac**

Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don't. This might in part due to prices batting the budget beyond the back nut field.

If you love *Prunus dulcis* var. *dulcis*, sweet almonds, perhaps in this new year it's time to propagate one. Do not confuse sweet almonds with bitter almonds, *Prunus dulcis* var. *amara* – the latter contain serious toxins and must be cooked prior to eating them. For centuries, almonds have been used as nutritionally rich food supplies. In addition, their taste has placed them on a pedestal of preference and great value.

Their importance isn't new. Biblical references indicate almonds have been grown in Israel since 2000 BC in Canaan. In the book of Numbers, we read that Aaron's rod blossomed and bore almonds (Numbers 17:8). They're also mentioned in Genesis, Ecclesiastes, and Jeremiah.

Almonds were traded among ancient travelers on the Silk Road between Greece and Turkey, then exchanged for other expensive commodities.

The first almond trees arrived with the Franciscan monks near Sacramento, California in the mid-1700s. Today more than 25 types are grown commercially in California, and supply 80% of the world's almonds. It's also where the largest managed pollination event in the world occurs, as 1.1 million beehives are rented to do the job.

Even with modern mechanization, like tree shakers for expediting harvesting, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) has led to global decline of honeybees. With this threatening the almond

industry, there's even more reason to plant a sweet almond and attract some Mason bees for pollination.

Although many nut tasters prefer the flavor of pecans, raw, sweet almonds – with their satisfying crunch and distinctive taste – have become the prime ingredient for many foods, candies, pies and cakes. They're toasted and dipped in various coatings for snacks, ground into meal and flour for baking, and processed into butter. Move over peanut butter!

Almonds are not true nuts, in which the seed is contained in a hard shell that doesn't naturally open to release the seed. Instead, almonds are edible seeds (or pits) of the fruit of the tree. Like most seeds, they contain great nutritional value. Consuming sweet almonds is very beneficial due to their generous offerings of protein, fats, iron, calcium, phosphorus, and vitamins A, B, and E.

Almonds are also lovely landscape additions, given their elongated leaves and spectacularly fragrant five-petaled blush-pink flowers that perfume the air from late January through April. They're hardy, deciduous trees that top out at 10-15', and 6'-9' for dwarfs, so perfect for most garden spaces.

While many require another variety as pollinator for fruit production, some are self-fertile. There are also dwarf and low chill varieties. Have limited space? Put in a dwarf self-fertile variety. Tolerating a wide variety of well-drained soils, newly planted almonds flourish with 8 hours or more of sun, good mulching, well-balanced organic fertilizer, and regular-deep irrigation (typically 1" per week over the root zone). Once established they need little supplemental irrigation.

After 2-3 years you can expect your first crop sometime in October. So, act now and acquire that sweet almond you've wanted to try.

### **Resources:**

Britannica

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

Ty Ty Nursery



<https://www.tytyga.com/History-of-Almond-Trees-a/368.htm>

Raintree Nursery

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

### **Tips for selecting a sweet almond tree:**

- Make sure you know your areas chill hours (check with JCMGA for info)
- If you have room for one tree only, make sure it's self-fertile
- If you want a dwarf tree, make sure the plant identification gives maximum height at maturity (smallest dwarf sizes are 6-9')

### **Sweet Almond Tree Sources:**

The following nursery sources have adequate information on their stock so you'll know exactly what you're getting. For further assistance, they have knowledgeable assistants ready to help by phone or email.

Both of these sources have self-fertile and dwarf trees suitable for this area.

#### **Raintree Nursery**

<https://raintreenursery.com/collections/almonds>

#### **One Green World**

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

### **Recipe:**

#### **Roasted Cocoa Spice Almonds**

Preheat oven to 350°F

Line a jelly roll pan with heavy foil

1 lb raw almonds

2 teaspoons olive oil

2 tablespoons organic honey

¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder

¼ teaspoon sea salt

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

¼ teaspoon ground cloves

¼ teaspoon ground allspice

Mix oil and honey, then pour it in a large zip-type bag. Add almonds. Close bag and massage until all are coated.

Mix cocoa, salt and spices in a large bowl. Dump in almonds and mix until all are coated. Spread almonds on foil-covered pan. Bake in preheated oven about 15-18 minutes until centers are golden when broken open. Remove pan and let almonds cool. Store in rigid containers (locking top plastic boxes, glass jars), in a cool dark place for up to 4 months or freeze to keep longer. Serve whole or chop for adding to or topping desserts or cookies.

**Jackson County Master Gardener Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes  
November 9, 2023**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Zoom at 9:40 a.m. with President Marcie Katz presiding.

Present: Marcie Katz, Regula Pepi, Barbara Low, Janine Salvatti, Kathy Apple, Sean Cawley,

Pam Hillers, Ronnie Budge, Keltie Nelson, Lucy Pylkki, Cassandra Toews, Grace Florjancic, Jane

Moyer

Absent: Rob MacWhorter, Marcia Harris, Colet Allen, Sandy Hammond, Trina Stout, Dee

Copley

Guests: Lynn Kunstman

Consent Agenda: **The Consent Agenda was accepted with unanimous approval.**

Additions to the Agenda:

1. Barbara Low asked that 2024 working group chairs be announced.
2. Sean Cawley asked that purchase of a dump trailer be added to the

agenda.

Approval of Agenda: **Janine Salvatti moved to have the agenda approved as amended.**

**Barbara Low seconded. Motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes: Barbara Low noted the following information was missing in the October minutes: ballots for 2024 board positions will be sent out October 23 and returned by November 4. Pam Hillers was named as the third person tallying the votes. **Ronnie Budge moved and Keltie Nelson seconded the October board meeting minutes be approved as**

**amended. The motion passed.**

Announcements:

1. Barbara Low announced 75 people attended graduation. The program was planned  
by Grace Florjancic and Jane Moyer. The dinner was delicious. Set up and take down  
went well.
2. Barbara Low reported 135 people attended the Winter Dreams Summer Gardens  
Symposium. A survey was sent to attendees on November 5. Recordings of the  
classes will be sent to attendees soon.
3. Barbara Low announced the Member Services Working Group has set the date for the  
2024 picnic on June 29 due to the amount of smoke in August.
4. Barbara Low reported the Member Services Working Group has sent out a survey to  
all JCMGA members to find out what they like about the association and asking for  
suggestions they would like to see implemented. The date for completion is  
November 20 with a report planned for the December board meeting.
5. Jane Moyer reported work on the Lavender Garden ADA-compliant paths was delayed  
because the contractor contracted COVID. He started work on them this week.

Tellers Election Report: President Marcie Katz read the list of officers who were elected to the 2024 Board. (See Attachment #1.). There were no candidates for President-elect or Assistant Treasurer. Article III Section 7 of the JCMGA Bylaws states "Unfilled Positions. If there is no nominee for a position at the time the ballots are sent, and votes are received for write-in candidates, and if these candidates have not received a majority of the votes cast, they are not automatically elected. The President shall recommend an individual to fill the position and present the name to the Board. A majority vote of the Board shall be required to fill the position."

Orientation for the 2024 board is scheduled for December 1. They will also be invited to attend the December board meeting. The 2024 officers assume their positions on January 1.

Coordinator's Report:

1. MG Coordinator Grace Florjancic will be in Josephine Co. on Thursday afternoons until their new coordinator arrives.
2. Grace will be out of town the last part of December. She'll have her computer if anyone needs to contact her.
3. SOREC Director Alec Levin is moving ahead with plans for building student housing where the Vegetable Garden and Orchard are now located and a farm office at the south end of the open barn. The Creepy Old House will be torn down in 2024. (See Attachment #2 and #3.)
4. Grace will contact Alec about Practicum mentors going into the old MGP classroom to retrieve what is still in there and to take pictures of the wall murals.

Discussion items:

1. Finding new ways to offset SOREC fees: postponed until the December meeting.
2. Purchase of dump trailer: referred to 2024 Budget Committee.

Motion Items:

1. **Janine Salvatti moved and Kathy Apple seconded approving up to \$100 for a plaque to be given to Irving Johnson at the December board meeting for all his work in the Lavender Garden.**
2. Purchase of laptop and laser printer for JCMGA use: **Keltie Nelson moved \$2500 of donated funds be dedicated towards the purchase of a laptop and laser printer to**



be kept at Lynn Kunstman's home and used for Native Plants Nursery and other

presentations. A process for other committees or Working Groups to check the

laptop out will be developed. Janine Salvatti seconded. Unanimous approval.

3. Barbara Low moved the following Working Group chairs be approved for 2024:

Marketing and Technology--vacant

Community Outreach--Ronnie Budge

Fundraising--Jane Moyer

Gardens--Janine Salvatti

Member Services--Barbara Low

Spring Garden Fair--Marcie Katz and Lucy Pylkki

Winter Dreams Summer Gardens--Colet Allen, Susan Koenig,

Barbara Low

Kathy Apple seconded. Unanimous approval.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** President Marcie Katz adjourned the meeting at 10:57.

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

Submitted by Jane Moyer, Recording Secretary