

Jackson County Master Gardeners Association

2026 Winter Dreams Summer Gardens

Presenters and Presentations



Dr. Achala N. KC

Presentation Title : "Tree Fruit Disease Identification".

Presentation Summary: Dr. Achala KC will talk about identifying plant disease symptoms, differentiating them from other environmental factors, and the basics of disease management.

Presenter Bio: Dr. Achala KC is an Associate Professor at Oregon State University, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. She is stationed at Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC), Central Point, OR. She completed her Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, and was a post-doctoral research associate at the University of Florida-Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, Wimauma, FL. Her primary focus at SOREC is to develop applied research programs for tree fruit and wine grape industries that include disease diagnosis, population biology, epidemiology, and integrated disease management towards developing sustainable and cost-effective disease management programs. She also engages in extension and outreach to the tree fruit and wine grape industries in Southern Oregon.



Logan Bennett

Presentation Title: The Good, The Bad, and The Buggy: Organic Gardening Fundamentals

Presentation Summary: Logan works in all agricultural and gardening systems, with a focus on reduced chemical use and regenerative production. His work centers on integrated pest management, soil-building practices, and applied education for small-scale producers.

Presenter Bio: Logan Bennett serves as the Master Gardener & Small Farms Coordinator in Douglas County. A licensed pesticide consultant, Logan brings a balanced, informed perspective to pest management while emphasizing reduced-risk and ecologically based approaches. He also draws on his experience as a former small-scale organic farmer, grounding

his work in practical, real-world application for growers seeking sustainable, biologically based solutions.



Logan Collier

Presentation Title: Tree Health: From the Roots Up

Presentation Summary: Join Logan Collier as we explore common root collar disorders and enhance tree health through common cultural tending techniques. Topics will include common root collar disorders, root zone decompaction, and techniques for managing stem girdling roots. We'll delve into the benefits of mulch, covering its role in adding organic matter, retaining

soil moisture, suppressing competition, and even cooling the soil during hot temperatures. Participants will gain insights into various mulch types, the effects of different mulching practices, and learn how strategic mulching and planting practices contribute to long-term tree health and growth.

Presenter Bio: Logan is a dedicated arborist with a rich family legacy in arboriculture spanning three generations in the Pacific Northwest. As an arboricultural skills trainer for Bartlett Tree Experts, he shares his knowledge and expertise with aspiring arborists. Logan actively contributes to the PNW ISA climbing competitions, serving as a judge and organizer.

With a degree in Urban Forestry and extensive experience at Collier Arbor Care and Bartlett Tree Experts, Logan has excelled as a Local Office Safety Coordinator, prioritizing the well-being of his colleagues and implementing robust safety programs. He also serves as a Consulting Arborist, specializing in tree inventory and risk assessments, utilizing advanced technology and management systems. Logan's proficiency extends to his role as an Arborist Sales Representative, focusing on pruning, pest management, and tree risk assessment. Additionally, he is a skilled Plant Healthcare Specialist, adept at diagnosing and treating plant pests and diseases. Logan holds several prestigious certifications, including ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified professional, and Certified Tree Care Safety Professional. In summary, Logan's unwavering dedication to arboriculture, extensive experience, and impressive range of certifications make him an invaluable asset. His commitment to safety, expertise in tree management, and passion for plant health contribute significantly to the field.



Teddi Davis

Presentation Title: “The Hope of Hydroponic Container Farming: The Future for the Small Farmer, or Still Out of Reach? “

Presentation Summary: Can hydroponics help redefine the future of farming, or does it remain an expensive technology beyond the reach of most small producers? The answer is still unfolding. Join Gold Lick Farms as we share the beginning of our journey into commercial hydroponic farming. This presentation explores what hydroponics is, why it has captured the imagination of growers, researchers, and communities around the world, and the promise it holds for producing fresh, local food more efficiently and sustainably. We’ll also discuss the realities of acquiring and locating our hydroponic container farm, starting a small hydroponic farm—the opportunities, the challenges, and the lessons we’ve learned so far along the way. Rather than presenting all the answers, this session offers an honest look at a work in progress. As Gold Lick Farms begins supplying living lettuce to Southern Oregon markets, we invite you to explore with us whether hydroponics can be a practical tool for strengthening local food systems and creating new opportunities for commercially viable, small-scale agriculture.

Bio: My name is Teddi Davis, and I have no background in farming whatsoever. Though I do have a career behind me in marketing and product development in renewable energy and high tech. Like a lot of you, we were ready for a change after COVID. We wanted to live more sustainably and enjoy our blessings— without having to hustle all the time to keep all the balls in the air just to afford our lifestyle. My family and I moved to Jacksonville from Colorado two years ago. We have 107 acres of steep terrain that is simply stunning. It would be wicked to farm, and the forest would have to be removed for livestock. So we are trying something different. Vertical Hydroponic Container Farming feels more approachable and, at first blush, easier than learning how to farm conventionally, given climate change and the realities of our land. Like the beginning of any good story, if you knew what it would really entail, you might never have embarked on the journey... but we’ve jumped all the way in!



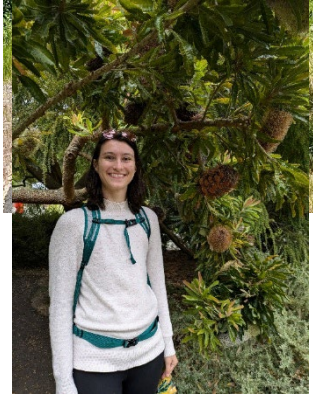
Flavia Franco

Presentation Title: “Your Garden, Your World; How Composting is Key to a Sustainable Future”

Presentation Summary: We are creating our future as we go about our daily lives. In this presentation, we'll look at the status quo of our current food system and how our future might be impacted if we stay on the current course. Composting is one solution to shift our linear food economy into a more sustainable circular, less wasteful food cycle to help restore balance with Nature. And we'll look at how Community Composting can: encourage collaboration between

urban and rural communities; include education about reducing food waste; bring people closer to Nature and Science, and help us learn to work together to solve common problems.

Presenter Bio: Flavia Franco is a retired financial analyst and a current climate and community composting activist as a Volunteer with Southern Oregon Food Solutions. Flavia moved to Rogue Valley in 2017 and has been involved with local climate action groups and has been working to raise awareness about reducing food waste, and she helped form the Community Compost Coalition. She is also the Rental Coordinator and President of Ashland's Bellview Grange #759 and is a member of two community gardens.



Grace Florjancic

Presentation Title: Plant Propagation: Stem and Leaf Cuttings

Presentation Summary : Propagating plants by cutting can be a great way to increase the number of plants you have. Whether for your outdoor plants or your indoor plants, propagation is a great skill for any gardener to have. You can make many copies of your favorite plants with the same features. You can save cuttings of your favorite cold sensitive plants indoors throughout winter and prepare them for spring to cut down the cost of buying new plants every year.

Presenter Bio: Grace Florjancic has been the Jackson County Master Gardener Coordinator for four years. Prior to their work with OSU Extension, they worked in botanic gardens, greenhouses, and research apple orchards.

Erin Galbraith

Presentation Title: “iNaturalist: Citizen Science in the Garden”

Presentation Summary: Discover how iNaturalist can turn everyday garden observations into meaningful citizen science. In this engaging session, Erin will show gardeners and naturalists of all experience levels how to use this powerful, easy-to-use tool to identify plants, insects, wildlife, and fungi; sharpen observation skills; and ask better questions about the natural world. With her stunning photos and practical examples from her own iNaturalist collection, Erin will introduce you to the app as well as explore topics like the importance of identifying pollinators vs. pests, observing companion plants in their natural habitats, and shifting bloom times of

established plant communities—offering fresh insight into the hidden life of your garden and favorite natural areas.

Presenter Bio: Erin Galbraith is an Oregon-based naturalist, photographer, and Jackson County Master Gardener volunteer with a lifelong passion for native plants, birds, insects, and the living systems that connect them. Her interest in wildflowers began at age twelve on a field trip to Upper Table Rock and has grown into years of field observation, species documentation, and a deep appreciation for the biodiversity of the Applegate Valley and beyond. Erin volunteers with the Friends of Ruch Library and the Jackson County Master Gardener Association, and she is currently building a thriving garden—including natives, a pollinator meadow, sensory beds, and a magical tunnel of flowers just outside her tiny house on wheels in Ruch, Oregon.



Eric Hagerman

Presentation Title: Rocks That Don't Roll - Rock Gardening Essentials

Presentation Summary: Rock gardens can be fire-wise, drought tolerant, and pollinator friendly and beautiful. Gardeners from many countries have for centuries incorporated rocks into their gardens. This presentation will touch on the history, types, construction, and plants used in rock gardens. Local microclimates and native plants will be highlighted. Beginners and experienced gardeners will both find something new in this lecture.

Presenter Bio: Coming from a family of gardeners, Eric learned at the elbow of his mother and grandmother. He has worked in the Green Industry for more than 30 years - doing everything from routine maintenance to installation to nursery sales and propagation. But rock gardens and rock garden plants are special in his mind - they bring an extra layer of complexity and interest, and a fresh pallet of plants to work with. The past Chair of the Siskiyou Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society, Eric is excited to share his love of this branch of the gardening world with you.



Susan Koenig

Presentation Title: “Annual Color”

Presentation Summary: The annual flower cutting garden, with its profusion of brightly colored blooms throughout the summer, was once a feature of most gardens. With some preparation and understanding of the many choices you have, you can establish a cutting garden to provide an abundance of flowers to for your

enjoyment and to attract birds and pollinators. Whether you have a small or large space, you can create a bright spot in what has become an endless sea of green landscape. This presentation will help you with selecting the area to plant, choosing what to grow, layout, preparing the soil and other tips for growing a successful annual flower garden.

Presenter Bio: Susan Koenig is a life-long gardener who became a Master Gardener in 2016. She lives on 3/4 of an acre where she has established extensive ornamental and vegetable gardens and a small orchard. She tends a rose garden with over 60 plants, a large native plant area, mixed borders, and a large annual cutting garden. She serves as a mentor to Master Gardener students and has taught propagation and vegetable gardening for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute for the past 5 years.



Jordan Land

Presentation title: "Gardening With Wildlife: Peace, Plants, and Practical Solutions"

Presentation description: "Many gardeners appreciate our Pacific Northwest region for its weather, beauty, and wildlife - but less so when that nature treats our garden like a salad bar. However, with some careful strategizing, selective landscaping, and a re-evaluation of priorities, many gardeners will find that they can truly garden in harmony with the local wildlife that has called this area home long before we put up our picket fences. Join us as we look at proven strategies for reducing wildlife damage, while encouraging biodiversity and appreciating the benefits that wildlife can bring to our backyards",

Presenter Bio: "Jordan Land has been gardening in the Rogue Valley for over two decades, with many years experience coordinating a local garden center. He believes that no gardener truly has a 'purple thumb', but that gardening is a time-honed technique where open-minded folks can discover the strategies that work best for their situations. He currently works at Grange Co-op as the Youth & Community Outreach Coordinator, and enjoys hosting intro-friendly dialogues and activities for local garden clubs and community gatherings. Loves: any Agave. Dislikes: car-dependent environs & inaccessible green spaces"



Kristina Lefever

Presentation Title: Can a (Native) Pollinator Garden Save the World?

Presentation Summary: Is it true that the plants we choose for our landscape matter? Come to this presentation to learn how pollinator gardens help create a more sustainable – and beautiful – Southern Oregon! Learn about our native bees, butterflies, flies, wasps, beetles, and hummingbirds, and the plants and habitats that best support

them – and more! These creatures, critical to our ecosystems and food systems, face many threats in today's world, but together, we can make a difference.

Presenter Bio: Kristina Lefever is the Volunteer Executive Director and President of the Board of the Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. She joined others in a grassroots organization called Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (PPRV) and, in 2015, helped lead the effort for Ashland to become the fifth Bee City USA (now a program of The Xerces Society). In 2017, Kristina began assembling a team to grow PPRV into a strong nonprofit organization, with a dedicated team of volunteers, and now three staff, all passionate about inspiring, engaging, and educating youth and adults about our region's native plants and how they best support our pollinators for our food systems and ecosystems. Based in Phoenix along Main Street, PPRV operates a small shop, an 800 sq. ft. native plant demonstration garden, and a 1000 sq ft (soon to be 4000 sq ft) propagation nursery. Kristina is a member of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, Siskiyou Chapter.



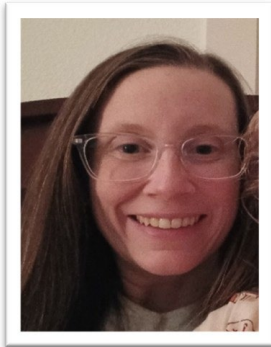
Elva Manquera

Presentation Title: "Gardening For Birds"

Presentation Summary: Discover how your yard, garden, or community space can become a meaningful habitat for birds. This presentation explores the science behind bird-friendly gardening, from native plants

and insects to layered habitat, leaf litter, water, and safe nesting cover. Participants will learn practical ways to support birds through every season, including reducing lawn, planting native trees and shrubs, leaving leaves and natural materials, avoiding pesticides, keeping cats indoors, and making windows safer. The talk also highlights connections between local plants and birds, showing how small garden choices can contribute to healthier ecosystems and bird conservation.

Presenter Bio: Elva Manquera DeSheilds works for the Klamath Bird Observatory as their Science Communications, Outreach, and Partnerships manager. Through this role, she gets to blend her love of teaching, science, and connecting people to nature. Elva has a bachelor's degree in Zoology from Oregon State University and a Master of Science in Environmental Education from Southern Oregon University.



Lindsey McNab

Presentation Title: “Small-scale Permaculture: Creating a Sustainable Cottage Garden “

Presentation Summary: Permaculture offers a system of garden design based on ethics with principles centered around meeting human needs while working with, not against nature. This presentation will introduce you to this system and show you how to utilize it to create a modern cottage garden that is practical, sustainable, and fits into your available space. You will learn how Permaculture is both regenerative and sustainable, how it can reduce the need for human input, and how it efficiently use available energy, while creating no waste. Come and learn how Permaculture can offer a new perspective on home gardening.

Presenter Bio: Lindsey McNab is an Oregon transplant originally from the Midwest. She holds a Master’s degree from Missouri State University and is a first-generation farmer and herbalist. Lindsey began her horticulture journey growing various herbs in pots and experimenting with greenhouse production. She eventually moved up to working on various farms and plant nurseries in the Midwest and ran her own 50-acre property in Missouri, where she and her husband raised livestock, created a permaculture oasis, and engaged in woodland restoration until relocating to the PNW. Lindsey is currently the Program Manager at Freedom Farms where she handles all aspects of program activities which consist of sustainable farming education, including market garden production, and land conservation management, including wildfire mitigation and riparian restoration. She is also an active Jackson County Master Gardener and has completed additional vocational training in professional gardening and landscaping.



Geogg Purier

Presentation Title: Success with Herbs

Presentation Summary: In this presentation, Geoff will cover how to successfully grow your own culinary and tea herbs in your own yard or garden. Learn how to start your own herbs, how to

successfully plant and grow them, as well as harvest and store them to put together your own home-grown spice rack.

Presenter Bio: Geoff is the head of the Xeriscape and Herb gardens at the Douglas County Master Gardener™ Discovery Garden - having designed both spaces to grow with little or no irrigation. He is also the designer and webmaster of the DCMGA website, douglascountymg.org. Geoff is an avid collector of plants and heirloom seeds, spending the last 16 years amassing a very large collection of both. As a 13-year veteran of the MG program, and former nurseryman and market gardener, Geoff has a lot of experience working with plants both in the ground and in containers and gives regular educational presentations on a multitude of sustainable gardening topics.



Janine Salvatti

Presentation Title: "The Powers of Smart Tools – helping gardeners enjoy gardening for a lifetime."

Presentation Summary: Janine will talk about how to successfully use simple lightweight batter-operated garden tools.

Presenter Bio: Janine has been a Master Gardener since 2019. She started gardening late. After retirement and completing the Master Gardener course, she continues volunteering to help maintain the Demonstration Gardens on the OSU Research Extension in Central Point, Oregon. However, an accident that resulted in a broken wrist, left her with two choices. Either she had to put her gardening on hold for the summer or figure out how to carry on with a few accommodations. She chose the latter and she is forever grateful that the proverbial lemon of experience was transformed into lemonade! Beyond the accident, she has found that using simple lightweight batter-operated garden tools has not only extended her gardening life but made garden chores stressless and enjoyable.



Marsha Waite

Presentation Title: The Care and Hybridization of Daylilies

Presentation Summary: In this class you will learn all about all the wonderful new varieties of daylilies that have evolved over the years, how to care for them, and how to create your own special cultivars.

Presenter Bio: Marsha Waite has been a Master Gardener since 1995. She has worked in the Plant Clinic for 31 years and has taught Entomology, Integrated Pest Management, and many garden classes in Jackson and several other counties throughout the years. She started the daylily garden at the Extension in 1998 and has hybridized many of her own cultivars.