

Garden Beet

Newsletter of the Jackson County Master Gardener™ Association • April 2011

Better Than Ever

Blooming with color, beauty and sales! Perfect for Mother's Day weekend! The finest garden and plant sale between San Francisco and Portland! It's the 2011 Jackson County Master Gardener Spring Fair, May 7, Saturday 9 am-5 pm and May 8, Sunday 10 am-4 pm, at the Fairgrounds!

With approximately 150 vendors, it's a gardener's paradise. Compton Arena becomes a sea of green, filled with row upon row of magnificent plants. There is something for everyone: from unique garden art pieces, garden hardscaping features, garden structures to used gardening and cook books, a wine pavilion, and two food booths. Enjoy shopping for locally grown fruit, vegetable, and ornamental plants at fantastic prices and value.

Whether you are just beginning to experience the gardening craze or you have dirt in your veins, you will find the two-day event exciting and informative. New gardening techniques and innovative ideas will be presented to rev up your spring planting enthusiasm. There are attractions for kids too. They'll love the hands-on gardening demonstrations in the Kids Booth, the Boy Scout Jump House, and the many unusual items offered. What kid could resist something called llama beans? (Use your imagination as to what "llama beans" might be.)

In honor of Mother's Day, hourly gift drawings will be held on Sunday with additional raffles throughout the weekend.

Admission is \$3.00 per adult. Children 15 and under and Master

Gardeners wearing their badges are admitted FREE. Parking is also free. One hundred percent of the proceeds of the Spring Fair are used to support JCMGA educational programs in our own community.

During the month of April, admittance tickets will be presold at the Plant Clinic with buyers automatically entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate for the Grange Co-op. Presale tickets can also be bought from Elah Self, Maryen Herrett, and at garden club meetings. (Has your garden club arranged to have a Master Gardener presentation about Spring Fair and presale tickets?)

Include in your Mother's Day plans a leisurely stroll through the beautiful plant-filled Spring Fair. Better yet, plan to work a shift or two during the week-end or the two days of preparation preceding the fair.

Email: JCMGSpringFair@gmail.com to get in on the fun.

Jane Moyer
Master Gardener 2005



Best Garden Show & Plant Sale
between Portland and San Francisco

Spring Fair

32nd Annual

Compton Arena, Jackson County Expo
Saturday, May 7 from 9 to 5pm
Sunday, May 8 from 10 to 4pm

- Admission \$3/ Children 15 and under free
- Free Parking
- Over 150 exhibitors and plant vendors
- Free Gardening Classes both Saturday & Sunday
- Don't miss it if you love gardening

JCMGA JACKSON COUNTY master gardener™ ASSOCIATION
Your Rogue Valley Gardening Resource



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OSU Advisor's Report

The number of folks coming into our Plant Clinic is increasing every day. And they're bringing an amazing range of questions. So it's that time of year for my annual column on "The Questions Master Gardeners™ Don't Answer."

To answer or not to answer:

Can you tell me how to manage the weeds in my pasture?

The fir trees in my woodlot are turning brown.

What should I do?

Which nursery has the best quality plants?

How do I preserve my tomatoes so I can keep them until winter?

What are the medicinal uses of this herb?

What do all these questions have in common?

All are questions that a Master Gardener shouldn't answer.

1. and 2. Timber and agricultural questions should be referred to the appropriate agent – as Master Gardeners we answer questions related to urban horticulture and we only give science-based answers supported by Oregon State University. Answering questions beyond our training and expertise is a disservice to the public.

3. You and I both have our favorites. But, as representatives of OSU, we can't recommend one commercial vendor over another. But what we can and should do is educate folks so they can make judgments themselves about which plants are healthiest and the best buy for them.

4. Master Gardeners have been trained in growing plants, including vegetables, from selection, to planting, and on to harvesting. But once the vegetable is harvested, it is beyond the training of a Master Gardener. This is a good opportunity to educate the public about another one of Extension's outstanding programs – the Family Food Education Volunteers who have been specifically trained in safe and healthy food preparation and preservation.

5. And finally, we're not trained in medicine and any ideas we have personally about using plants to treat ailments should be kept to ourselves when we're responding as a Master Gardener. Suggest instead they take their questions to a medical professional. Or they might take one of the Extension classes in Healthy Aging or Medication Management.

As OSU Extension Master Gardeners, we answer questions about home horticulture, that is, about their home landscapes, vegetable gardens, and houseplants. Our answers should always be unbiased and science-based. Use the PNW Handbooks as your guide for any chemical (either organic or synthetic) control option. Take the time to be correct.

As Master Gardeners, we all have a service orientation that leads us to always want to satisfy our client, whether in the Plant Clinic or informally, in the neighborhood. That's a really good trait. Master Gardeners have developed a reputation in the community for being able to find the answer, and the answer that can be counted on. That's a trust we should be proud of, and that we should guard and foster through outstanding service in urban horticulture.

Bob Reynolds

Jackson County OSU Home Horticulture Agent

Master Gardener 2005

BEET BOX

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All information provided by the *Garden Beet* is believed to be accurate. Readers must assume all responsibility for their own actions based on this information. Occasionally a product or company may be named in an article but this does not constitute an endorsement of said product by JCMGA.

Garden Tour Garden Tour Update

If you are at all like me, you are chomping at the bit to get into the garden and get your fingernails dirty! We may get fooled every once in a while, but spring has not sprung as yet!

Also, if you are like me, you are raring to go on another garden tour! Let me tell you that I am working on lots of new and interesting gardens for us to see along with some tried and true, but none the less, favorite repeats.

Mark your calendar for April 15, Friday for our first tour of the year. What better way to spend tax day. Our first tour takes us to water-wise gardens in Ashland. We will visit some great gardens exemplifying many wonderful ways to utilize drought tolerant plants and some pretty efficient ways to use rain water. Stay tuned for further details in a follow-up email.

Coming up in May, you won't want to miss seeing not just 450 Japanese maples, but more like 500! Yes, we are going back to Applegate to see this magnificent garden of beautiful maples just budding out for spring. If you missed the first tour, you won't want to miss this one!

I am working on some pretty impressive garden tours in Grants Pass, Eagle Point, Applegate, Trail, Jacksonville and Central Point.

Also working on a day of putting together your very own worm bin...stay tuned...you won't be disappointed!

Judie Richardson-Loveless
Master Gardener 2008



Japanese maple

President's Message

This year, we have reorganized the Marketing and Publicity position. The Marketing Team is headed by Carol Oneal, the "umbrella holder," as she calls it, and includes Peggy Audibert, in charge of Public Service Announcements (PSA); Bonnie Martin, Community Outreach chair; Germaine Ploos, Speaker Bureau chair; Richard Brewer, in charge of Branding; Bobbi Murphy, consultant. The Marketing Team has developed a new JCMGA logo and a new JCMGA Facebook page. Richard, working with the Marketing Team, created a beautiful Spring Fair poster. Be sure to look for the JCMGA logo, the article on how to access the Facebook, and the Spring Fair poster. When the *Garden Guide on Ornamental Trees and Shrubs* is published, the Marketing Team will be in charge of promoting it. The Marketing Team is also in charge of developing and implementing the strategic marketing and publicity plans for JCMGA.

Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, the second *Garden Guide*, is due to be published this month. Rose Gerstner, Julie Dock, Cheryl Magellen, Marsha Waite, Marjorie Neal and many other wonderful contributors have been working diligently for the past three years to put this beautiful second *Garden Guide* together. According to Rose, the *Garden Guide* team coordinator, "it guides the readers through the processes of selecting plants, designing the landscape, and maintaining plant health. It also offers advice on how to garden with native plants, how to plan a water-wise garden, what to plant in fire country, how to attract wildlife, and how to create beautiful gardens in small spaces," and so much more. It is written by JCMGA MGs for the Rogue Valley's very diverse climate. It is illustrated by our Master Gardeners as well. Cora Lee, one of the artists, has donated all her original artworks from this book to JCMGA to be auctioned off to benefit the Arboretum. We want to thank everyone on the *Garden Guide* team for their dedications and their wonderful contributions!

Since Shari Dallas joined the *Garden Beet* team, she has been working extra hard as the Editor and the Graphic Designer. She has done an outstanding job in putting the *Garden Beet* online. In February, Shari decided to step down from the Editor and Board positions. She has graciously agreed

to stay on as the Graphic Designer, which is her first love. Carolyn Trottmann has agreed to be Editor-in-Chief and Board representative for the *Garden Beet*. Carolyn retired from Colorado State University as the Assistant Director of Residence Life after working there for twenty-five years. She has supervised, written, and has done layout for more than seven publications. We are very fortunate to have Carolyn and Shari on the *Garden Beet* team. Thank you both and welcome!

Li Harder
President
Master Gardener
2009

Garden Letter



Rosa villosa

Where is the WANDA? Every year when we have a new class the Wanda Hauser Herb and Rose Garden seems to be a hard place to find. A lot of people still don't know where it is or what it is. Do you?

The Wanda Hauser garden was dedicated with a wooden sign to honor a Research employee before Extension ever moved to our current location. Wanda had made a garden directly behind the Research building. This was not an ordinary garden, and Wanda was not an ordinary gardener. She was interested in everything and she kept records, which included the original 8 rows of plants she tended and the locations of the plants in the Arboretum. It has proven very useful over the years and provides an excellent reason for keeping a record for our gardens.

When the class of 1994 moved to the new Extension building, Wanda's garden was already there. That summer she retired and moved to North Carolina. Typical of herb gardens, it quickly grew out of bounds and together into a lump. Several of us who were interested in herbs and armed with Wanda's inventory, spent that fall on our hands and knees trying to identify what was really there and what was really an herb. We needed an authority so chose to use the Herb Society of America's *Herb Encyclopedia* written by Deni Bown to guide us on what to keep and what was "weed." By spring the garden had tags. The new gardens around the Extension buildings were developing, and we were all involved. A culinary garden on the west front of the building became a focus garden, and the Wanda became a garden to show plants that are herbs, but used for landscape and general flower gardens. Paths went in everywhere and especially in the Wanda so that you could see each plant. Even today some of the original plants are there, no longer in rows, but unmoved. Perennial herbs are often short lived. Without continual use, picking, and trimming, they can grow to be quite awkward and woody. This year there is a major renovation happening including some heavy pruning of roses and replacement of misshapen rosemarys. We are grouping some of the herbs together for better identification of herbs with familiar names such as oregano, thyme, and salvia. Some of them are still culinary

herbs, but others with the same genus are useful for their lovely flowers or attractive growth. They are beautiful, decorative, and useful for landscaped gardens.

Several years into the garden, the roses Wanda was growing needed more sun and were moved to the edge of the parking area. The following winter a long freeze period killed many of them and the Rosarians replanted the rose garden with donations of modern roses from Jackson and Perkins. So encouraged by the wonderful catalogs and the desire to showcase some of the old roses, we chose roses to feature in the sections of the Wanda Hauser. Two of the roses located in the 8 rows remain today, Shreveport, a *grandiflora*, and an old rose identified now as *Rosa villosa*. Now there are examples of Bourbon, Rugosa, Alba, Moss, and others dated before the 1800s. A real herb and rose garden.

Pathways, arbors, and fences have been added over the years as well as annual emphasis on a particular genus. It is a good learning tool for the gardeners who garden here and interesting to those who visit. The Arboretum trees give a lot more shade now and, though many people think herbs only are sun plants, there are many herbs that like a cool shady place.

Just where is the Wanda? Take a walk towards the Research building directly across the parking lot from the northeast side of the Extension. The Rose Gardens will be on your right and the Daylily Gardens on your left. A path leads to the Research building and is currently in bloom (late December and well into May) with primroses. To the left (north) is the Wanda. Come visit the garden. You'll find some very familiar plants that you didn't know were herbs and others you will enjoy getting acquainted with.

Come visit all the gardens, you are always welcome.

Cora Lee
Master Gardener 1994

The Bitters of Spring



With frost nips still in the early morning air, and Pixee hot on the tunnels of the next generation of moles, I am trenching for the Broccololetti di rape, as it's known in Italy. Although this green is a kissing cousin to the turnip, raab (pronounced "rab"), is grown for its tender young shoots, crinkled fuzzy green foliage, and small florets. It's also one of the most marvelous spring greens to include in the kitchen garden.

Although raab is often mistaken for turnip greens in the garden bed, its unique flavor is all its own. Slightly bitter, it has a pronounced undertone of broccoli combined with the sweetness of young spring turnips, and a hint of asparagus. This easily cultivated green should be a staple in every early spring garden.

Since raab prefers cooler as well as wetter conditions, early spring and fall plantings are best in our area. We are so fortunate to be able to enjoy not one, but two crops for such little fuss! Before sowing, working in a good amount of well rotted organic compost to the bed will bring you many rewards. After preparing the beds, either broadcast seed or sow in rows atop soil. Lightly sprinkle enough fine compost to just barely cover seed, about 1/8" deep as more might deter germination.

Water the seed thoroughly with a half strength mixture of fish emulsion and wet table kelp powder. Make sure the bed stays moist until the seed sprouts in about 10-14 days. To get an even earlier start, you can plant seeds in six packs in February (1-2 seeds per section), and then plant seedlings out in March.

Keep seed consistently moist before sprouting, as well as throughout their growing season. Continual moisture helps

extend their life by keeping the surrounding soil cooler. Once the little plantlets have popped and risen to a new height of 3", you can thin them to about 3"- 4" apart. Don't toss out those thinnings! This is a terrific time to enjoy a mess of the first succulent baby raab plants steamed tender crisp or tossed with your favorite fettuccini. Delicious!

Raab is quite easy to care for, owing much to its more pronounced flavor that seems to help discourage many ravenous multi-legged diners, except deer, who tend to traverse their way through most any tender greenery upon which they can clinch their teeth. Hot weather, however, usually causes bolting, all the more reason to get those plants in early, or late for a fall crop.

When plants are about 12"- 24" tall, small budded stalks will begin appearing. Cut tops before the buds blow open, which can happen before you blink unless monitored daily. You can also cut side shoots, as well as the more tender leaves. Although you can pull the plant out by the roots, leaving it in the ground offers even more. When left to grow after removing the main bud, the remaining stem will send up a second crop of slightly smaller budded stalks, shoots, and leaves that are often even more tender than their first clipped counterparts. Many times, you'll even get several more cuttings until the heat causes it to blow out in a celebratory blossoming.

So if you're looking for a way to fill in that blank place in the garden bed, don't forget to put in the Broccololetti di rape. Then for a fast fix, freshen up some fettuccini with the first spring raab buds floating in a peppery garlic sauce.

Sources:

www.territorialseed.com

www.superseeds.com

www.cooksgarden.com

Sydney Jordan Brown

Master Gardener 2000

Recipe:

Broccololetti di rape with Fettuccini

1 lb fettuccini, whole wheat, herbed or spinach, broken into about 3" lengths
6 cloves garlic, minced
1TB each minced fresh oregano, lemon thyme, and mint leaves

1 red jalapeno, seeded and minced

2TB extra-virgin olive oil

10 cups fresh broccoli raab, leaves, stem tips and florets, cut into 2" pieces

Chicken or vegetable stock

Fresh ground pepper and sea salt

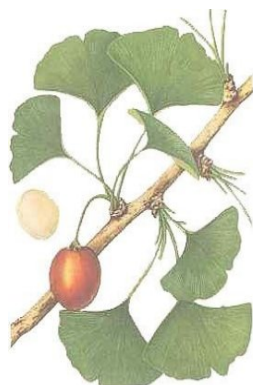
3TB toasted pepitos (green pumpkin seeds) or pine nuts

In a large skillet, sauté garlic, minced fresh jalapeno, and herbs in olive oil. When the garlic begins to brown, add one cup of chicken or vegetable stock. When the stock boils, add the pasta, stirring until all of it is thoroughly coated with the sautéed mixture.

When the broth starts to boil again, turn it down to a gentle simmer and cook about 8-10 minutes, until the pasta is al dente. Stir the mixture often as it cooks down and add a little extra broth until it's nearly done, to keep it from sticking. When it's almost cooked, add the broccoli raab and stop adding broth. Cook about 5 or so more minutes until the remaining liquid is absorbed into the pasta and the mixture is thick enough to eat. Season with fresh ground pepper and salt and serve immediately. Offer fresh grated Parmesan Reggiano to sprinkle on top. Serves 4 as a side dish. A nice accompaniment with grilled fish or meat.

HERBAN RENEWAL

Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)



银杏

Ginkgo
(*Ginkgo biloba*)

There is a tree with herbal properties growing near the Wanda Hauser garden whose predecessors co-existed with dinosaurs more than 200 million years ago and, hence, is sometimes described as an ancient treasure, a living fossil, and a botanical dinosaur. We know this herb as either maidenhair tree (because its leaves resemble those of a maidenhair fern) or ginkgo.

The ginkgo is a slow growing very hardy tree that can reach a height of 130' feet but is generally in the 50'—80' range. It is indigenous to China and possibly Japan. The herb grows from Zones 3 to 9 in sun or light shade in fertile, well-drained soil. This member of the Ginkgoaceae family is extremely resistant to pests, fungi, diseases, and pollution. It has a long life span—ginkgo trees have been known to live over 1000 years. Because of these sturdy traits, it has become popular as a street tree in North America. When young, the tree has an upright pyramid shape and, with age, the branches spread. The trunk is light brown with somewhat corky fissures. The bright green 2"—3" leaves are in clusters on stubby branchlets and the slightest breeze makes them flutter. They are fan shaped with 2 lobes, hence biloba, with radiating veins. In autumn, the leaves turn a brilliant daffodil yellow and, from my observation, the leaves fall almost in unison. In warm summers when the tree is 20—30 years old, the male tree produces small green catkins with flagellated sperm (very rare among plants) and, if the female tree is nearby, its small round green fertilized flowers form small yellow plum shaped fruits (actually, botanically seeds) about 1" across. Take note—the fruit has an extremely foul odor that has been described as smelling like very rancid butter. Propagation is usually by stem cuttings, since seeds take 3 months to a year to germinate. The ginkgo is classified as a deciduous conifer or a cycad and its closest living relative is the yew tree. Perhaps the most astonishing thing about the ginkgo is that it has changed so little throughout the millennia. This is, in part, due to its longevity and slow seed production but, maybe, it just got it right the first time.

Fossils of 200 million years ago show remnants of ginkgo trees. The Ginkgoaceae family originally numbered many closely related species and, by the end of the Cretaceous period, only a single species survived. Chinese monks cultivated the

ginkgo as a sacred tree and are credited with keeping it in existence. The herb was taken to Europe in 1730 and was first recorded in America when an imported tree from England was planted in a cemetery near Philadelphia. It was thought to be extinct in the wild until a grove was discovered in 1914 in China, although it is possible they may have seeded from a cultivated tree. In 1923, a fire destroyed much of Tokyo but spared a temple surrounded by ginkgos. There is a belief by the Japanese that the tree repels fire. The first trees to produce un-deformed buds after the atomic bomb blast in Hiroshima were ginkgos living only two miles away.

The name derives from the Japanese words gin and kyo meaning silver apricot which the ginkgo fruit resembles. The nut or kernel is obtained after the pulp rots off. The fruit pulp contains a chemical which is similar to that found in poison ivy and can cause dermatitis. The Chinese make a porridge using the nut along with rice, water, and honey which is considered a delicacy. The nuts are roasted and used as flavoring in Chinese and Japanese cuisines or simply eaten alone. The roasted seed, which can be toxic, is used to treat hangovers. The Chinese eat the fruit at weddings to symbolize longevity.

The ginkgo seed has been used for medicinal purposes in China, since 2800 B.C., mostly for pulmonary conditions. During the past 25 years, western medicine has become interested in ginkgo leaves which contain a unique substance called ginkgolide, a potent inhibitor of platelet aggregation necessary for blood coagulation. The compound appears to inhibit allergic responses and has been used to treat severely irregular heartbeats and blood circulation problems, many having to do with the brain. However, reputable recent research has found no long term memory enhancements nor any protection against Alzheimer's disease.

The ginkgo tree inner bark yields a light brown dye. Both the leaf and fruit are used in China to control aphids and grubs. A female clone with scentless fruit has been developed along with variegated and weeping forms. There are ginkgo plantations in France, China, and South Carolina. As for me, I plan to enjoy the tree on our grounds and hope to see it to maturity!

Ellen Scannell
Master Gardener 1986

This Month In The Garden

From *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley*

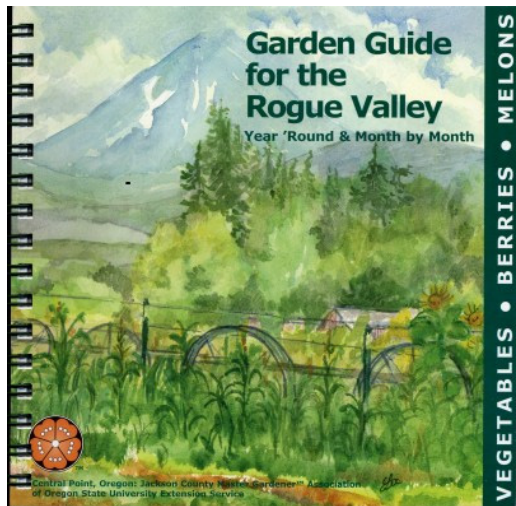
April

Plant new grape vines, or rooted cuttings, in well-drained soil. Don't fertilize. Trim roots to 6". Cut top to three buds. Keep evenly moist first year. p. 96 *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley*.

You'll find this information and much more in the *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley*. The *Guide* is distributed to more than 30 businesses (mostly garden centers and book stores) in the Rogue Valley between Ashland and Grants Pass. The Master Gardeners booths at the Growers Markets stock them, and they can also be purchased through the Josephine County Master Gardener office.

New Master Gardeners purchasing a guide for his or her OWN use will pay only \$15. Additional purchases will be at the market price.

The new *Shrub and Tree Guide* is expected to be available soon. It can be ordered ahead, at the same discount, through the Master Gardener office at the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center until distribution in May.



JCMGA

Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley

Master Gardener Profile

The Jackson County Master Gardeners lost one of their most active and beloved members with the death of Bill Dietz on January 27, 2011.

Bill was in the 2004 class, and immediately became very active in a variety of areas. He worked in the Greenhouse every year as leader and mentor, passing on his skills and knowledge to several classes of new Master Gardeners. A lifelong educator, Bill chaired the JCMGA Educational Grant program for Jackson County schools for several years.

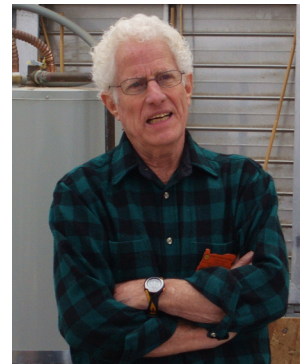
He was involved with the Children's Garden, teaching many young gardeners his skills and love of gardening. He showed up for most activities and was always there with a smile, a joke, and a helping hand. Bill also went through the Master Food Preserver training and has done workshops for the Family Food Educators on home beer making.

The following information was supplied by Bill's family:

Born and raised in Concord, CA, Bill, 69, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, teacher, and Master Gardener, died unexpectedly at his home. His genuine passion for education, and the desire to make a difference in the lives of young people, led him to seek his degree in Education from Southern Oregon University, having already earned a degree in Business from Oregon State University.

Upon receiving his teaching credentials, Bill did his student teaching at Talent Elementary School, and never left that school district for his remaining 31 years as a teacher. Bill was an avid sportsman, a huge OSU Beaver fan, farmer, deer and elk hunter, coach of wrestling, football, and track, lifetime runner, miserable golfer, and one heck of a fly-fisherman. He enjoyed gardening, traveling, cooking, and above all, lived his life with a positive, caring, and adventurous spirit. He was renowned for his expertise as a home brewer (he never met a hop he didn't like), keeping his family and friends well supplied with excellent beer.

Bill was a prolific jokester as well, never missing a chance to pull a clever prank, write a funny email, or wear a wacky costume. Luckily, his friends and family ultimately found ways to retaliate, and he ended up on the receiving end of some



BILL DIETZ
(In Memoriam)

good ones over the years. Mostly, Bill was a loving, generous and remarkable person. Bill brought a smile to those who met him, valuable lessons to those he taught, and tremendous joy to all who knew him.

Bill is survived by his wife, Barbara, four children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all of us, and we know God will have His hands full!

Carol Oneal
Master Gardener 2002

What do you do in the Waterwise Garden?

Marydee Bombick and I maintain a garden of mostly drought tolerant plants. We group the plants by their color and water needs: a rock garden, a blue and white garden, a yellow and orange garden, and a formal area which is in flux. The formal area has suffered winter die-off and vole damage, making the garden more asymmetrical than symmetrical in design. We are deciding what to do with it. The rock garden section is the driest of the four areas, and the other three have about the same water needs.

Last year, we had a small section of moisture-loving plants, but will replace them with drought tolerant plants this year. As we replace them, we are thinking about making hardware cloth baskets to protect the "yummier" new plantings from voles. We'll experiment with a few and see how it goes. Last year, I swear the little varmints chewed the plants, popped up out of their holes, and winked at me.

We like to experiment with suggested plantings from our apprentices. Last year we planted a hardy kiwi but the sun scorched its leaves. Well, it looked like it had plenty of direct sunlight at the nursery! The leaves did come back and the vine looked

good. It needed more water than the rest of the garden. We kept a close watch on it for signs of stress and wilting, making sure it had enough water. We practiced being "waterwise" by giving it extra water from its own irrigation head with maximum water output, and watering by hand as needed. After another year, it should be well enough established to be more self-reliant. We will then decide its watering cycle based on our overall system.

Currently, our water cycle is the same as Peggy's Propagation and Gramma's Garden. This caused overwatering in our drier rock garden section made up of yuccas, sedums, and other minimal water plants. To control this excess water, we installed irrigation heads that could be turned off. We'd water this section by hand or by turning on the heads when the system came on.

Early in spring, we will fertilize our garden. All but the rock garden will be fertilized with compost. When the rainy season is over, we'll add a thin layer of mulch. (We use a thin layer so that the water goes deeper to the roots with the current water cycle.) Because the rock garden is mulched with deco sand, we will fertilize it with a commercial fertilizer, and then we'll redo spots as needed with deco sand. With the good drainage, we won't wait for the end of the rainy season. Ah, springtime: time to start a new growing season and to declare war on our enemies, the Extension Center voles.

Alexandra Ganoë
Master Gardener 2006



Voles

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Spring is in the air! And with spring comes the urge to do at least a little spring-cleaning. Think "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" as you clean.

Reduce: Many cleaning products contain petroleum or multisyllabic mystery-named ingredients. One way to make sure that you are using formulas safe for your environment, as well as the world environment, is to make your own. An effective mirror and window cleaner may be made by mixing 1-cup rubbing alcohol, 1-cup water, and 1-tablespoon vinegar in a spray bottle. (If desired, a few drops of essential oil can be added for smell.) Spray it on and wipe dry with old newspapers (the black and white sections) for added shine. To clean the oven, put a bowl of vinegar in the oven to sit overnight. Put the oven racks in an old plastic bag, pour in a cup of vinegar, and let sit overnight. The grime will wipe right off in the morning. Spray mold with straight vinegar or lemon juice or a mixture of 2-teaspoons tea tree essential oil and 2-cups of water and let sit without rinsing. (The smell will dissipate).

Reuse: Old toothbrushes make handy little scrub brushes for tight places. Use one to clean the crud out of window and sliding door tracks, for cleaning around faucet parts, or use as a fingernail brush after working in the garden. When you can't stand the toothbrush any longer, throw it in the plastic recycling bag.

Recycle: The city of Central Point holds an annual Recycling Day in the spring. This year it is scheduled for Saturday, May 7 at the Jackson County Fairgrounds (Gate 1). Start now to clean out your closets, cupboards, and garage to get rid of unwanted items and clutter. They will have stations for recycling all kinds of stuff, including all that plastic that can't be put into co-mingled recycling. How handy! That's one of the days for the Jackson County Master Gardener Spring Fair, also at the fairgrounds. Load your vehicle up with recyclables, drop it all off at Gate 1, then head over to the Spring Fair to load back up again with plants, garden supplies, and ideas. And it's all in one trip!

Jane Moyer
Master Gardener 2005

Notes from the Archivist

As I reported in January, archiving and preserving our JCMGA history is an on-going process. I envision organizational records properly organized, stored, and labeled so that our history will not only be preserved for the future but available to all members for review and research.

I invite you to help us gather this material. We're particularly interested in archiving *Garden Beats*, board minutes, calendars, and financial statements back to the beginning if possible. We have many of these records on hand; however, there are still large gaps in the collection. We are particularly searching for materials from the 1980s and 1990s. If you have any of these items and would like to donate them, please contact one of us and we can coordinate pickup with you. If you have material that you would like to retain in your files, we can arrange to make copies.

Of particular interest are two older 3-ring binders that we know exist, we just don't know where they are. We're searching for a black binder, perhaps 2-3" wide, that was the "Secretary's Notebook" from 1991-1993 and another binder (also black, we think) that contained *Garden Beats* (yes, that's how it used to be spelled!) from 1982-1993. Please, if you would, take a moment to peruse your bookshelves in the event you might have borrowed one of them from Extension.

If you have other materials or questions, please do not hesitate to call on one of us.

Joan Long, Archivist—Chair
jd@ccountry.net

and Committee Members

Diane Seitz
diane18@directv.net and

Linda Holder
lholder@charter.net

Master Gardener Profile

While many of our Jackson County Master Gardeners have moved numerous times, and lived in a variety of places, where Sharon lives now is surely one of the greatest contrasts to where she was born.

Born in the Bronx, New York, Sharon's school was so large that there were 14 fourth grade classes. It was so big, she says, that her school didn't have a name – just a number. In that East Coast setting, the love of gardening began to grow, as Sharon spent time at her aunt's cottage in the Catskills of upstate New York.

Sharon earned her degree in Social Sciences at California State University, East Bay. She also received her teaching credentials and began teaching elementary school.

With a baby daughter joining the family, Sharon became a stay-at-home mom, and learned a lot about gardening in Oregon from her neighbor. She and her toddler daughter especially liked raising strawberries. A son soon completed the family, and when husband Tom was transferred to Lost Creek, the family settled in Eagle Point, and had an even bigger garden.

Then it was off to Colorado, living at 9000' ("No garden," says Sharon, sadly), followed a year later by a move to Boulder City, Nevada, where the family lived for 13 years, and Sharon earned her Master's degree. Retirement loomed at that point, and Sharon and Tom had no doubt about wanting to return to Oregon.

She and her husband now live a contented life on five acres on the edge of Medford – five acres that is 4.5 acres of wild land, full of wildlife, and a half-acre garden. When she retired she immediately enrolled in the Master Gardener program, graduating with the class of 2009. She apprenticed in the Water Wise Garden, to learn more about drought (and deer) resistant plants. Now, however, she is Chair of Gramma's Garden, and enjoys being in the teaching role again.

Sharon has been involved in Early Childhood Education in a variety of ways over the years. Upon moving to Medford, she worked for Southern Oregon Public Television as Education Outreach Coordinator, teaching parents and child care providers how to use educational TV with children. Through that job, Sharon



SHARON MAY

"even met Elmo!" she said, with a grin.

In her spare time, Sharon loves to fish, her "claim to fame" being a 40" salmon, caught off the Oregon coast. She's also active in her Garden Club, Senior ACES, and volunteers for SOPTV. She and Tom also make time for grandchildren, who live in Beaverton and Michigan, and there is that big garden, of course!

Like most Master Gardeners, when asked what she likes about JCMGA, she loves the people, their love of gardening, and their willingness to share knowledge.

Carol Oneal
Master Gardener 2002

Membership Changes

Additions to the 2011 Master Gardener Directory

Christine Lindaman
8363 Gold Ray Rd
Central Point, OR 97502
541-664-3327
chrislindaman@gmail.com

Gina Savage
PO Box 868
Shady Cove, OR 97589
541-878-9483
lfbrand@aol.com

Gina Lee Smith
2654 Brownsboro Hwy
Eagle Point, OR 97524
ashergram@yahoo.com

Corrections to the 2011 Master Gardener Directory

Sue Bower
ksbower@earthlink.net

Barbara Davidson
barbdav@charter.net

Brad Taft
btaft1976@gmail.com

Walt Shontz
541-879-0394

Marj Wornell
Membership Secretary
JCMGA

Classes in April

Ah, April! As I was planting primroses, strawberries, and peas in the rain and snow, I was beginning to think April might never come. Seeding broccoli, onions, artichokes when it was 20° outside made me wonder even more. But, now, here it is—April—in all its wondrous glory! The landscape is beginning to be flooded with flowers, the chickens are laying again, and baby animals are appearing in roadside pastures.

Almost as if on cue, as things get busier in our yards and gardens, classes slow down at the Extension Centers. We go from 27 classes available in March (between Jackson and Josephine Counties) to three available in April. But they are three that are well worth any gardener's time and effort.

Master Gardener Christy Hope will start the month off on April 5, Tuesday (7pm-9 pm) with a class on "Dandy Dahlias." She claims that dahlias are easy. One little tuber can give an abundance of color and happiness. A yearly look at dahlias will be provided: varieties and classifications, purchasing, when and where to plant, pests and problems, digging, and winter storage will all be covered.

On April 6, Wednesday (10 am-noon), Marsha Waite will be teaching "Websites for Gardeners." This is a class more than worth making time for. Marsha will highlight websites that are invaluable to any gardener. "Wondering minds want to know" and Marsha will lead the way to the most informative sites for finding out.

Cliff Bennett, owner of Chet's Garden Center in Grants Pass, will present "Made in the Shade" on April 19, Tuesday (7pm-9 pm) covering annuals, perennials, evergreens, and unusual conifers that will thrive in a shade garden. Soils, fertilizers, and insects pertinent to shady sites will also be discussed.

Guess how much these classes cost! To those on-the-ball Master Gardeners who have their badges with them, they're FREE! To everyone else, the evening classes are \$5. To top it off, refreshments will be served at the evening classes.

Jane Moyer
Master Gardener 2005

The Propagation Garden

Spring certainly is THE time for browsing all available seed catalogs; it is also time for me to consider what cuttings I want to do this year. I'm adding pomegranates to my list. . .again.

About three years ago, I had the pleasure of tasting a nicely ripened pomegranate, bursting with juice, raised right here in the Rogue Valley. Oh my, was it ever good! I have never been a huge fan of that fruit, I think because of those darned little hard seeds. You know the rule, chew your food a thousand time (exaggeration) before swallowing. I didn't know if it was a one-time good year or what, but that fresh pomegranate had seeds I hardly noticed because I could chew 'em right up. Maybe the seeds were just undeveloped and infertile; the fruit was, oh so sweet. Whatever. I decided right then that I had to start a bush of my own. They rooted nicely and did just great until winter 2009. It was a weird winter: cold, warm, cold, warm. (Does that sound a bit like this winter?) I'm more determined than ever, so I'll be looking to start pomegranate cuttings again. A lot of plants were lost last year and not just pomegranates. But my interest has been piqued again after buying a flat of the fruit this year and freezing the big juicy seeds for making delicious smoothies.

Spring brings vivid, delightful, and colorful visions of things to come, eh? Is there a plant (or shrub) that you would like to have the propagation people pursue? We are open to requests.

Peggy Corum
Master Gardener 1989



Pomegranate

Phil VanBuskirk, relayed information about discussions being held at the University level regarding consolidation of Extension Office administration. He is working locally with Jackson County officials regarding establishment of a Service District as a funding source for Extension. In addition, County Commissioners have suggested co-locating Federal, State and County Farm Program offices on the Extension/Experiment Station grounds.

OSU Extension is celebrating 100 years of service this year. Anne Manlove, 4-H staff, is requesting 2-3 Master Gardener volunteers to help with a float for the Pear Blossom Parade. JCMGA will host an open house in August.

Officers' Reports

President (Li Harder) For the OMGA Demonstration Garden project, Cora Lee will work with Nathan Swofford to prepare a submission. Work is continuing on the mission and vision statements, and values. Li offered her vision for JCMGA as '*The most trusted gardening resource in the Rogue Valley*', and her values as 'welcome to all'; '*trust and respect.*' What are your visions and values? We still need input from all the Board members and membership on the Mission, Vision, and Value statements. Please e-mail them to Li at li0002@yahoo.com. The website team, led by Trisha Mullinnix and Jeff Haug, has obtained two domain names and are evaluating framework options.

OSU Extension Agent Sharon Johnson inspired and encouraged the Grant Writing Committee at their exploratory first meeting held February 28. A follow-up session will be scheduled in the near future. Please submit ideas for projects to Jim Scannell (chair).

Li recommended Carolyn Trottmann, formerly of Colorado State University, for the position of *Beet* Editor. MOTION: To appoint Carolyn Trottmann to the position of Editor and Board representative for the *Garden Beet*. Motion passed. Shari Dallas has agreed to stay on as graphic designer; the process for submitting articles will remain the same. Any comments for the editor need to be sent to Carolyn. Bob Reynolds noted complements come to our *Beet* from staff statewide. MOTION: The JCMGA Board would like to express appreciation and provide an official *Thank You* to Shari Dallas for undertaking double duty as both editor and layout designer, for converting from paper publishing to electronic format, and providing exceptional

overall work on the *Garden Beet*. Motion passed.

Mary Ellen Deluca has requested JCMGA's sponsorship of the Rogue Valley Growers and Crafters Market poster. MOTION: To be a sponsor of the annual RVGCM poster. Motion passed.

Li would like Toni Van Handel to develop a proposal for a Memorial for Bill Dietz in the Children's Garden.

OSU Extension Agent (Bob Reynolds) Bob noted 1979 was the first Master Gardener class in Jackson County. This year's class is going great. Thanks to Jane Moyer for excellent evening and weekend classes. Toni Van Handel and the Children's Garden are looking for summer volunteer leaders.

"Ask an Expert" is a national initiative new to OSU Extension. Jackson County Master Gardeners Carol Oneal, Marjorie Neal, Marsha Waite, Wendy Purslow and Bob Reynolds have signed up to respond to questions submitted electronically. Their answers will be tracked and compiled for others to browse.

Committee Reports

Garden Guide (Li for Rose Gerstner) The new *Garden Guide* is expected to be ready sometime in late April. It features paintings by Cora Lee. She has donated the originals for JCMGA to auction to fund arboretum nameplates. Marketing of the new *Guide* will include media exposure, an art auction, book launch signing, and cross promotion with the Grange Co-op. Jim Scannell noted cost to print the *Guide* would be more than estimated due to additional pages. MOTION: To increase budget to cover printing of the *Garden Guide*. Motion passed.

Spring Fair (Elah Self) Presale tickets will be available to Garden Clubs and in the Plant Clinic up until May 3. Presale tickets include entry into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to the Grange Co-op.

Archivist (Joan Long) Committee members include Joan, Linda Holder, Diane Seitz, Jim Scannell and Jackie Reavis. Diane and Joan visited the Southern Oregon Historical Society to learn more about preserving our recorded history. Joan noted that two books are missing – the 1982-1993 issues of *Garden Beet*, and the 1991-1993 Secretary's Notebook. She hopes they can be located and returned.

Marketing (Carol Oneal) Marketing Team's projects include class shirts, website,

Facebook, and a Spring Fair publicity video. Carol introduced the new JCMGA Logo. Thanks to Richard Brewer for initiating the new logo idea.

Community Outreach (Bonnie Martin) The Facebook page is up. Bonnie has been in contact with a community housing facility regarding raised beds for senior low-income residents. Design and planning for the Expo garden project continues. Community gardeners in Eagle Point and Ashland are interested in mini-classes at their locations.

Plant Clinic (Wendy Purslow) Volunteers solved 107 problems in February; half of them in the one warm week. Plant Clinic specialist training will be held March 26 and 27.

Scholarships and Grants (Barbara Davidson) Master Gardeners received a glowing letter from scholarship recipient Ryan King. Barbara's committee sent out 45 letters to schools. She will follow-up with phone calls.

Zero Waste Initiative Coffee will no longer be provided routinely at Board meetings; hot water will be available.

The next Board meeting April 1, Friday 10 am-noon

Claudia Hill
Recording Secretary

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 1, Friday (10 am–noon)

Board Meeting

April 5, Tuesday (7 pm–9 pm)

"Dandy Dahlias"
Christy Hope

April 6, Wednesday (10 am–noon)

"Websites for Gardeners" *
Marsha Waite

April 15, Friday (10 am)

Garden Tour
Water-Wise Gardens in Ashland

April 19, Tuesday (7 pm-9 pm)

"Made in the Shade"
Cliff Bennett

May 7, Saturday (9 am–5 pm)

Jackson County Spring Fair



Happy Spring Gardening

JACKSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center
569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR 97502

JCMGA website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/mg/>

*Qualifies for recertification

Unless noted, all classes will be held in the Extension Center

NOTES FROM GRAMMA'S GARDEN

Gramma's Garden still needs plants. This is the month for dividing, transplanting and trimming perennials. Please think of us when you do these jobs. We have lots and lots of iris, Shasta daisies, and daylilies (except very special ones) but need sedums, ground cover and edging plants, cranesbill (true geranium), hellebores, heuchera, hosta, liastris, lobelia, aster and other daisies, coreopsis, mint, nepeta, paeonia, obedient plant, coneflower, scabiosa, salvia, veronica, and anything else that you love and wish to share. When you donate, please fill out the form you will find in the mail box and include as much information about the plant as possible. Pictures are welcome.

