Congratulations to our new 2021 Board members

Julia Bott
Gina Knox
Sherry Baum
Tom Kerr

The new Board already has some great things planned. I’d like to personally thank Jeff and Ruth for the last 2 years of sitting on the Board with me, your professionalism and dedication kept me going in light of the weird year we had with the COVID changes. Julia, what can I say? You’re a rock star, filling in and taking over the meetings when asked and spearheading the 2021 budget.

To recap this trying year: The COVID restrictions hampered our education outreach mission for 2020, yet many Master Gardeners were still able to complete their volunteer and education hours largely due to the propagation greenhouse, Riley Creek garden and the online classes provided by OSU.

With the mini Plant Sale, we didn’t bring in the funds we normally do. Surprisingly, we still did great and made enough money to support our supplies and not go into the reserves. Riley Creek’s greenhouse cement floor was completed due to the generous donation from Rotary.

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday season, stay safe and healthy! See you all next year!

Lori Phelan, CCMGA 2020 President
ANNUAL PLANT SALE
All the plants are snug in the courtyard. Cuttings for new plants are growing under the mister. We are done for the year! We have stopped coming to the greenhouse to help prevent the spread of COVID. I will be checking on the plants on a weekly basis, so if anyone has questions, please feel free to contact me.

This has been a challenging year, but we all made it! Thank you to everyone for their help.

See you in the new year.
Carol Hobbs

RILEY CREEK GARDEN
94350 6th Street, Gold Beach
Contact Mary Jacobs or Lori Phelan.

DIG YOUR LIBRARY ~ Julia Bott

Chetco Community Public Library Annex
402 Alder St, Brookings. Contact Julia Bott jbott@batnet.com or tele, 650.520.5673

Dig Your Library programs are still on hold for 2020; we’ll be back...some season...
TAKE ONE MORE GO AT THE GARDEN BEFORE RETIRING FOR WINTER

Nov.20, 2020 – Kym Pokorny–CORVALLIS, Ore. – We’re running right into the holidays, daylight is in short supply and rain comes down days at a time, but if you can get out in the garden or at least the garage, you’ll be happier come spring.

A perennial question is whether to cut down plants now or in spring. The answer is not clear cut, said Jeff Choate, a former horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service. When it comes to vegetable gardens, everything should come out. Annuals, too, can be uprooted. With perennials, it depends.

“With vegetable gardens, removing spent plants is essential because of the risk of disease; soilborne diseases can remain viable for years,” he said. “For herbaceous perennials, it’s more of a choice. Some people like to tidy up the garden; others leave it until spring.”

You’ll recognize some perennials that are good choices to clean up now because they die to the ground anyway. Clear up the debris and throw it into the compost pile or yard debris bin. Avoid the compost pile for plants plagued by disease.

There are perennials – like ornamental grasses, coneflower, Joe-Pye weed, sedum and black-eyed Susan – that provide birds with much-need seeds and insects with places to spend the winter. These are good candidates to leave standing. Choate noted that it’s also a good idea to design your garden with shrubs and trees that produce berries, which will help out the birds, as well.

To spread leaves around the garden or rake them up is another oft-asked question. Yes, place them on vegetable beds, where they’ll protect the soil from compaction from the rain, suppress weeds, increase soil fertility and help open up soil structure to keep it draining well. Spreading leaves around shrubs is also a good idea. But once again, perennials beg the question. Those rascally slugs love to lay their eggs under garden debris, but that can be mitigated with a low-toxicity slug bait.

“It’s a tough one, I admit,” Choate said. “There’s a good side and a bad side. The good side is that the leaves break down and feed the worms and other beneficial organisms. The bad side is slugs. But the benefits of leaving leaves down around ornamentals outweighs the disadvantages.” It is a good idea, though, to keep leaves – and bark dust, for that matter – away from slug favorites like hostas.

If you act quickly, it’s still an OK time to add lime to vegetable beds and lawns. Choate recommends buying a simple pH test kit at the garden center or home improvement store. For the vegetable garden, if it reads below 6, apply lime at a rate of 5 pounds of lime per 100 square feet.

One chore you can take off your plate is pruning. Choate recommends waiting until the latter part of February to prune shrubs and trees.

Be sure to know what your plants’ needs are, he noted. Spring-blooming plants like rhododendrons, azaleas, lilacs, and forsythia shouldn’t be trimmed until after they bloom.

One more thing before moving into the relative warmth of the garage: Gather fruit hanging in trees or rotting on the ground and get it out of there to minimize diseases and pests such as apple scab and codding moth next year.

Onward to the garage where tools and lawn mowers await your attention. Choate advises cleaning your tools as you go. He keeps WD-40 and a rag in his garden bucket to use as needed. But if you don’t get to it every time, be sure to clean them now so they don’t sit dirty and rusting during winter. Wash and dry them, sharpen, oil any moving parts and rub linseed oil on wooden handles to keep them from drying out and cracking.

Smooth edged tools can be sharpened at home, but other types – think pruning saws, chainsaws and the like – should be taken to a professional to avoid damage to the tool or injury to yourself.

Lawn mowers need attention now, too. The single most important task is to empty them of gas. Turn on the motor and let it warm up for 30 seconds, then shut it off and siphon the gas. Restart the engine and run until it quits.

“The number one issue for small gas engines is bad gas,” Choate said. “That stems from the fact that gas has 10 percent ethanol, which will absorb water from the atmosphere. Having water in your lawn mower is not a good thing.”

Also, take the time to change the oil, spark plugs and air filter. When replacing the spark plugs, make sure you’re using the right one. Your owner’s manual (sometimes you can find it online if you don’t have the paper version) should indicate the correct one. Make sure the gaps are correct by using an inexpensive gap tool.

Now all you have to do is wait for spring.
CCMGA – GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – Nov. 17, 2020
Zoom Virtual meeting using Scott’s OSU no time limit account.

Meeting commenced approximately 10 AM.


Lori P. asked if there were any changes to last month’s minutes, answer No. Ruth P. made motion to approve, Debbie R. seconded. She mentioned that there will be no meeting in December, this was the last meeting of the year.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

TREASURER’S REPORT: Lori P. asked if there were any questions about the financial statements. Scott T. was surprised about the amount of net income for this past year despite the shutdown. He & Debbie R. had questions about where the income came from on the “Direct Contributions” line under “Direct Public Support” & the difference between that income & “Plant Sale Income”. Ruth P. explained that the October “Direct Public Support” included all income from January 2020 including donations from the public & CCMGs for vegetables & perennials given away after the shutdown, also Amazon Smile money, & Fred Meyer Community Rewards through Oct 2021. The “Plant Sale Income” was for the planned, permitted plant sale held in October.

Ruth P. asked if anybody has any expenses for reimbursement for the past year to please submit them to her by the end of the year.

2021 BUDGET APPROVAL: Lori P. asked if there were any changes to the proposed budget for 2021. Scott T. mentioned on the last page of the 2021 budget there was an amount for $200 on the “Public Education” line item in “Community Outreach” that money will purchase new reference books for the office library. He had discussed this with Julia Bott (not present). Michelle A. made a motion to approve budget for 2021 & John Albi seconded. The budget was approved.

VOTING FOR 2021 BOARD: It was asked if there were any other nominations for the 2021 Board. There were none & after some discussion on proper procedure all 2021 Board members were approved.

President - Julia Bott
Vice President - Ginny Knox
Secretary/State Rep - Sherry Baum
Treasurer - Tom Kerr

MEMBERSHIP: Debbie Richter – The 2021 CCMGA membership renewals are ready to go out by email. She said Scott will explain something in his report about membership status & badge stickers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

RILEY CREEK: Mary Jacobs – In-person school has started so it has been hard to prepare the vegetables for delivery like they were doing. They switched to a time when kids are being dropped off or leaving. Kids & their families can come into the garden one family at a time to pick their own vegetables, following all protocols. Lori P. said both kids & parents have been enjoying their time in the garden. Scott said because of the latest mandated “pause” there can be no face-to-face contact with the public for the next 2 weeks. Mary will wait till after Thanksgiving to see if it will be okay to open & may have to get OSU approval.

PROGRAM ASSISTANT’S REPORT: Scott Thiemann – Asked if anybody had seen the movies during the MG Celebration &/or participated in the follow up discussions. He was able to participate in a couple of the discussions which were very good. He recommends viewing Gail Langelloitto’s talk on the state of the MG program in Oregon. She thanked everybody in the program for working through a difficult year & talked about what is planned for next year. More information to come about next year’s training.

Gail was nominated by Scott with help of other faculty for the Extension Leadership Award, which she received.

One of Scott’s goals is to work with Dennis Triglia to put together a program for next year’s plant clinic. He hopes two people at a time can sign up to take one- week shifts answering questions using the ECCo software. Scott & Dennis T. will be the quality control team. Questions from the public will have to be submitted online or by phone & passed on to volunteers.

Lori P. asked a question about how the continuing educational component for next year will work to maintain MG status. What classes will count? Example: Viewing videos like the CC Master Gardener Fall Vegetable Growing class, if viewed that would count as an hour of continuing education. Many classes/webinars like that are online. Next year continuing education horticultural classes will be presented by OSU agents & faculty. Support & training classes will be provided to help in dealing with the internet. Lori P. asked if there will be a calendar set up to show when the classes are available? No schedule yet, training is still being coordinated.

MAIN TOPIC: Scott showed a screen of VRS Hours chart that showed our total hours for the past year (November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020). We completed about half the hours compared to last year but good under the circumstances.

Most educational outreach hours were at Riley Creek. He then went over the page on site that detailed the categories of volunteer hours. Direct Education & Indirect Education versus Support. He went over the 2016 Mission Focus on Education. At least 50% of your volunteer hours must be Direct or Indirect Education if you want to be re-certified as an MG. If you are a “perennial” then 10 of your 20 hours of volunteer service needs to be under the Education categories plus an additional 10 continuing education hours [30 hours total]. He asked if it makes sense. There has been a lot of confusion about the expectation for volunteer hours & how to categorize them. If a member does not complete the educational outreach hours, they will not be certified for the following year. Debbie C. explained that if you don’t fulfill the educational outreach hours you can still be an Associate Member as long as you pay your dues. Then you can be eligible to re-certify for in following years if you complete the enough hours. This year many members did not meet the required hours because of very limited opportunities for educational outreach for most of the year.

Next year in Brookings there may be additional educational opportunities besides Julia’s Dig Your Library, ABC Preschool, & Seed to Supper programs. It may be possible to volunteer with the Brookings School District garden. Julia Bott has been communicating with them.

Michelle A. who has worked hard all year as a member of the class of 2020 expressed disappointment with the announcement that most of us will not be certified because of the educational outreach hours’ requirement. She did not feel that the requirements were clearly explained. He apologized & said he thought he went over them during the first class. Debbie Carroll explained that normally the last day of class was when the volunteer requirements were again discussed & how to enter hours but this year there was no “last class”.

Lori P. asked Scott if there will be a new 2021 class next year? Answer No, OSU decided that it won’t be possible to have in-person training for 2021. There will be free training for all current MGs through the internet. A statewide shift in education is happening, more online education with less in-class learning. Besides the virus, budget issues are part of the reason for this. Lori P. asked if we can’t get out into the community for educational outreach what do we do? Do we make our own videos to be delivered online? He said that if you want to make your videos go ahead but it is a lot of work & planning. Lori P. thought Scott was taping videos with Eric Feliciano [class of 2020]. Scott said that was an idea discussed [January Board Meeting] but nothing happened. He has had some discussions with Sherry B. about doing the Seed to Supper class online this coming year with CCMGs (Del Norte people did it last year). That & the programs mentioned earlier would count towards Educational Outreach. He ended with If you don’t get a sticker don’t worry. Continue working on getting hours next year.

Lastly Debbie C. mentioned that at the Gold Beach greenhouse they would “stand down” for a month and just have one person come once a week to check and water plants. Jeffrie H. sent email about meeting (OMGA’s Dec 1 retreat) where part of the meeting will have members discuss how they have done online plant sales. She & others plan to attend.

Lori thanked everybody for a fun 2 years and goodbyes were said.

The meeting adjourned approximately: 11:00 AM

Submitted by Jeffrie Hall
10 TREES FOR FIERY FALL FOLIAGE

STORY BY: Kym Pokorny SOURCE: Neil Bell, 503-373-3765,

November 02, 2020. –CORVALLIS, Ore. – When trees get dressed with the colors of fall, it’s time to go shopping.

“If you’re specifically interested in fall color, it will soon be the time to start looking,” said Neil Bell, a horticulturist with Oregon State University’s Extension Service. “There are already some trees starting to display color.”

First, though, Bell recommends doing some research. Walk around neighborhoods, parks and public gardens to get ideas. If you can’t identify the trees you like, snap good photos, pick up several leaves or ask the owner for a cutting. Take them to the nursery or contact your local OSU Extension office for identification. You can also cut out pictures from magazines and flip through garden books to find possibilities.

But wait, you’re not done. After filtering down your favorites, be absolutely sure about size, soil and sun requirements, Bell said. You don’t want to be stuck with a 60-foot tree where a 30-foot tree should have gone.

“The biggest problem people have,” he said, “is that a tree gets too large, and then they are forced to prune just to reduce the size of the tree, which can often look horrible. I see it all the time.”

Topping – or cutting off the tips of trees – is especially undesirable. It introduces the possibility of disease and gives pests more access. Topping also encourages weaker growth and alters the shape. “It disfigures the tree,” Bell said. “That’s my major objection.”

Before buying, also find out if the tree needs sun or some shade and if it requires irrigation in summer. Most do, according to Bell. And most want sun, although vine maple, katsura, paperbark maple and ‘Eddie’s White Wonder’ dogwood don’t mind some shade.

Fall is an ideal time for planting, Bell added. Soil is warmer than in spring, so roots get a good head start. The weather is cool so trees are under less stress. Rains will start soon and reduce the need for watering.

“All in all, fall is the perfect time to select and plant a tree,” he said. “Wait for the leaves to start changing color and go for it.”

Here are Bell’s recommendations for trees with excellent fall color:

- **Red maple** (Acer rubrum): A common tree, but for good reason. Not much beats the vibrant scarlet color this maple displays in autumn. Make sure you’ve got room for it though; red maples grow quickly and eventually reach 60 feet tall and 25 to 35 feet wide. At that size, it makes a great shade tree. In addition to western Oregon, it grows well in the central and eastern part of the state. Hardy to Zone 4.

- **Big-leaf maple** (Acer macrophyllum): An impressive tree all around, big-leaf maple stirs up attention when its 12-inch leaves transform into a rich yellow, sometimes tinged with orange. A large tree up to 50 feet at maturity, this West Coast native is not appropriate as a street tree or in small gardens. However, if you can find it, ‘Seattle Sentinel’ is a much smaller, narrower alternative, 15 feet tall and 5 feet wide, but only hardy to Zone 6. The species is hardy to Zone 2.

- **Vine maple** (Acer circinatum): Native to the Northwest, vine maple really comes into its own in fall when the foliage lights up in lively shades of red and orange. A useful small tree up to 15 feet that often grows with multiple trunks. Good for the east side of the Cascades. Not suitable for full sun. Hardy to Zone 6.

- **Paperbark maple** (Acer griseum): Unmistakable cinnamon-colored peeling bark and glowing orange-red fall color make this slow-growing, small tree (25 feet eventually) a much-loved specimen in any size garden. Prefers a partially shady exposure. Hardy to Zone 4.

- **‘Raywood’ ash** (Fraxinus oxycarpa): Big and bold, this tree grows 60 to 70 feet tall and almost as wide, which is a consideration when deciding where and if to plant it. But if you’ve got the space, you’ll be happy with its striking claret-colored fall foliage and the equally appealing texture of the lance-shaped leaves. Drought tolerant and hardy to Zone 6.

- **Katsura** (Cercidiphyllum japonicum): The unmistakable heart-shaped leaves emerge purple in the spring and seem to turn buttery yellow overnight in autumn. Falling leaves smell wonderfully like burnt sugar. The form is tall – up to 60 feet – and rounded. Hardy to Zone 4.

- **Sourwood** (Oxydendrum arboreum): A little-known but deserving tree that has the unusual feature of sending out long streamers of fragrant, white flowers in fall just as the foliage turns to heady shades of red, orange and purple. At 25 to 30 feet tall, sourwood fits nicely into a small garden. Hardy to Zone 5.

- **‘Eddie’s White Wonder’ dogwood** (Cornus kousa): A spectacular cultivar of Korean dogwood that is blanketed in large, white star-shaped flowers in spring and strawberry red color in fall. Its 20-foot stature makes it ideal for small spaces. Other kousa dogwoods are outstanding as well, most turning a deep crimson-purple in autumn. Hardy to Zone 5.

- **Persian ironwood** (Parrotia persica): Another smaller tree (25 feet tall and 30 feet wide), ironwood is bathed in every color of the sunset in fall and has the bonus of gray and beige exfoliating bark. An easy tree to grow that grows in parking strips where the situation isn’t ideal. Hardy to Zone 4.

- **‘Wild Fire’ black gum** (Nyssa sylvatica): Although the straight species of black gum can be a bit weedy, newer cultivars such as ‘Wild Fire’ don’t go to seed. Glossy green leaves emerge a deep red in spring and end the season with a spectacular show of orange, yellow, scarlet and purple. It has a nice pyramidal shape and grows up to 20 feet. Hardy to Zone 6.

Jeff’s spectacular Japanese maple
P. ALLEN SMITH MAKES A T-SHIRT GARDEN TOTE BAG
(You’ll need an old t-shirt and scissors - No Sewing required)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLZSaSyC0NA

HOMEMADE FALL POTPOURRI – A mixture of dried petals and spices placed in a bowl or small sack to perfume clothing or a room.

Ingredients
• 4 cups water
• 2 oranges sliced (peel on)
• 3 cinnamon sticks
• 1 tbsp whole all spice
• 2 apples sliced
• 1/2 cup cranberries fresh, frozen or dried
• 1 tbsp whole cloves
• 1 whole nutmeg

Instructions
Fill a crock pot half full of water. Place all other ingredients inside and mix well. Cover and cook for 2 hours on Medium heat. Remove cover, turn heat to Low setting and cook for up to 8 hours. Stir occasionally.

Ingredient options:
• Nutmeg
• Essential oils (any citrus)
• Rose petals
• Lemon slices or peels
• Pine
• Cinnamon and cloves
• Star anise
• Grapefruit slices (rind on)
• Dried apple slices/dried fruit
• Sage, rosemary, thyme, oregano

Trash to Treasures…. 
December Gardening Tips

Maintenance and Cleanup
- **Western Oregon**: Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.
- Spread wood ashes evenly on your vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 pounds per 100 square feet per year. Don’t use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.
- Protect new landscape plants from wind. Use stakes, guy wires or windbreaks as needed.
- Yard sanitation: rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds, and hoe or pull winter weeds.
- Turn the compost pile and protect from heavy rains, if necessary.
- During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tilling, ditching, and French drains are possible short-term solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales as a longer-term solution.
- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, and fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow or ice breakage.
- **Western Oregon**: Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water regularly during the winter.

Planting and Propagation
- **Western Oregon**: This is a good time to plant trees and landscape shrubs.
- Plant paper whites or amaryllis bulbs for indoor holiday cheer.

Pest Monitoring and Management
- Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. First consider cultural, then physical and biological controls. Choose the least-toxic options, and use them judiciously. Some examples include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don’t treat unless a problem is identified.
- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. Remove weeds to prevent rodents from using them as hiding places. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Avoid mounding mulching materials around the bases of trees and shrubs. The mulch might provide cover for rodents.
- Monitor spruce trees for spruce aphids. Treat if present in large numbers. Read and follow pesticide label directions.

Indoor Gardening
- Protect poinsettias from cold. Place them in sunlight; don’t let the leaves touch cold windows. Fertilize with houseplant fertilizer to maintain leaf color.
- Plant Paper whites. Hyacinth, or Amaryllis bulbs for indoor holiday cheer.
Have you seen the Curry County Master Gardeners website?
Extension.oregonstate.edu/curry/mg
The Brambles is usually posted there by the second of the month.

The last Monday of the month is the cut-off date for submitting articles for the Brambles. Email them to Cathe Barter umpqua.bart@gmail.com

This is your newsletter, if you have something to share please send it in. We will make every effort to include it.

Thanks to all of you who generously contributed to this edition of the Brambles. All submissions are gladly considered.

CCMGA Officers for 2020
President ............... Lori Phelan
Vice President......... Julia Bott
Secretary............... Jeffrie Hall
Treasurer............... Ruth Patton
OMG State Rep....... Jeffrie Hall
Newsletter Editor..... Cathe Barter
Historian............... Cathe Barter
Past President........ Lori Phelan
OSU Program Asst... Scott Thiemann

1 - 800-356-3986
To contact officers, leave a message at the Extension office 1-800-356-3986

Curry County Master Gardeners Association
monthly meetings 3rd Tuesday, 10 am to noon in Gold Beach, OR

www.facebook.com/OSUExtCurryMG

Curry County Master Gardeners Association
PO Box 107
Gold Beach, OR 97444

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