OPPORTUNITIES BLOSSOM IN SPRING

By Julia Bott, CCMGA President

What is your favorite harbinger of spring? The leaves of crocus poking through the soil? A hummingbird visiting the first salmonberry blossoms? Sunsets at 6 pm? Longer meetings?

Well, while longer meetings usually aren’t a favorite thing, our February Curry County Master Gardener Association meeting was certainly a harbinger of a busy spring. It was much longer than the past few meetings. Lots of activities are being planned! And, with these activities, come volunteer opportunities.

There will be an Annual Plant Sale. This is both an important fund raiser for us as well as a chance to connect with the community, not to mention the opportunity to get the perfect Mother’s Day gift. While the shopping will be online this year, volunteers are still needed to package orders and to greet and direct shoppers. Nothing will replace the camaraderie and connection made during the in-person sale but the committee working on this has come up with creative solutions for a great plant sale.

Seed to Supper will be offered again this year. Last year, program leaders adapted and offered a virtual program that was well received. I zoomed in on one of the final sessions and loved seeing the happy face of a person who thanked everyone for helping her and saying, “I kept plants alive this year and was able to eat fresh vegetables, thanks to you.” There are many ways for you to share your knowledge directly or through videos of you in your garden. We even have a volunteer who can take and edit the video for you.

One of our most important services – the plant clinic – will be offered this year. If you enjoy sleuthing solutions to plant problems, researching answers for the public’s questions is a possible volunteer option for you. Yes, it will be virtual and involve additional technology but the basics of helping people identify best practices as well as specific solutions to their problems remain the same. Approximately 10 volunteers have already stepped up, but we’ll need more volunteers as spring progresses into summer.

Mary Jacobs is moving on and Cathy Boden, with the Youth Education Program at Curry Watersheds Partnership, has stepped in as coordinator at Riley Creek School Garden. But the need for volunteers remains the same. If you just want to get your hands dirty – weeding, watering, and watching out for bugs are always helpful. The raspberries need pruning. There are also opportunities to work with kids but check-in with Scott to make sure you have your paperwork in order.

These are just some of the opportunities available for you this spring and summer. I look forward to seeing the blossoms and fruits of your Master Gardener volunteer activities.
**FAREWELL AND THANK YOU!**

We’d like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the remarkable contributions of three of our long-term members who recently have or soon plan to move from our area. *Hats Off to each of these fine ladies. We send you off with gratitude for your service and warmest wishes!*

**MARY JACOBS** became a master gardener in 2012. While her contributions to Curry County Master Gardeners are many, most notable has been her tireless dedication developing programs and coordinating improvements at the Riley Creek Elementary School garden. Through years of ongoing service, Mary has successfully forged relationships with school administrators and educators, students, parents, and volunteers to transform this garden into a gem of the community. The garden has become a place of learning and fun; host to routine lessons as well as annual community harvest festivals. Fresh produce from the garden is supplied to both the school cafeteria and the local food bank. Mary has been responsible for countless improvements to the garden; new-refreshed beds, compost bins/piles, new hoop house, and hydroponic growing systems, to name a few.

Mary is always quick with a smile and a kind word. Her enthusiasm has surely inspired a life-long love of gardening in many students! She plans to move to the Seattle area later this year to be closer to her two daughters and their families.

**BARB CAREY** became a master gardener in 2013. Shortly after classes were completed, she jumped right into volunteer service at the Little Bear Patch garden at the Brookings Elementary School, as one of the volunteers developing and leading programs with the Youth Transition Program. Barb also actively volunteered at the Brookings Food Bank, and led the charge to build, plant, and maintain a raised bed garden producing fresh produce there. Most recently, Barb developed and coordinated gardening education programs the ABC preschool in Brookings. Her bravery and good nature engaging with these young children to inspire gardening enthusiasm in kids is admirable.

Volunteers who worked with Barb at the preschool commended the time and attention she gave to planning and preparing the garden and lessons, and commented that her “enthusiasm and kindness touched each of the children she worked with”. Barb and her husband John relocated to Washington State earlier this year.

**PAM LESLIE** became a master gardener in 2015. She assumed a leadership role as President of the Curry County Master Gardener Association in 2017, and continued that service through 2018. Pam organized driftwood collecting adventures at the beaches, and graciously hosted hypertufa and driftwood container workshops at her home several years in a row. These events provided increased opportunities for our members to interact and get to know one another in a social setting. Our membership retention improved notably over her two years of service as President; it is under her leadership that we really become a master gardener “family”. Along with various other volunteer activities, Pam has been a reliable member of the plant sale committee for several years, helping to make the annual plant sale a successful and fun event.
Michelle’s March Puzzler
Here it is - Copy & Paste:

https://www.puzzle-maker.com/temp/hour-19/Marnold@email.com--LateWinterGarden.pdf

Curry County Master Gardeners Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2021 10AM

In Attendance: Julia Bott, President; Ginny Knox, Vice President, Tom Kerr, Treasurer, Sherry Baum, Secretary, Scott Theimann, Ali Van Otterloo, Pam Leslie, Ruth Patton, Cathy Boden, Patrick Cahill, Michelle Arnold, Diana St Triglia, John Albi, Gro Lent

1. Introductions & agenda changes/additions
Additions to agenda:
- Pam Leslie - Pam is moving in 2 weeks to Washington, and wanted to thank everyone for the education, support and the association. She will miss everyone and hopefully will see everyone in future.
- Tom Kerr, Treasurer requests that we add to the agenda designated agents for the Credit Union bank account.

2. Minutes approval January meeting. Ruth Patton moves to approve and John Albi second; all approved.

3. Business Items
A. President’s report – Julia Bott
1. Silent Auction/Send-A-Friend OMGA March meeting discussion
Recommended donation of 250 dollars or auction items for silent auction to raise funds for the annual mini-college tuition; requesting our input. Ruth P. States 250S might be high considering no plant sale last year. Historically per Ruth the Curry County Master Gardeners Association has donated 75$, Scott stated that other years we have donated plants or tickets to events such as the Rogue Jet boat trips or other gift certificates. These donated plants and tickets have made the auction approximately 100$. Gifts certificates would be easier, Julia volunteered to contact the Jerry’s Rogue Jets for a possible donated gift certificate.

B. Vice-Presidents report – Ginny Knox
1. Awards - County Level: Master Gardener of the Year - This award selection is in partnership with our Curry County members and Scott Thiemann. Scott stated that the group makes selections and votes and then he will add background information. Ginny will send the nomination form to the members and make a list of names. Also there is a Behind the Scenes Award for a member who works hard. Longevity awards are also available (this starts at 20 years, so we don’t have any members that qualify). County Master Gardener of the Year and the Behind the Scenes award; deadline is May 15, 2021. Ginny will email a nomination form at the end of February and the board can make a decision if we are going to forward any names. Debbie C. states it might be helpful to know who has been recommended in the past. Debbie C. has a list of past recommendations.

3. Board of Directors
A. Treasurer’s report – Sherry Baum
1. Curly County Master Gardeners Association has donated 75$, Scott stated that other years we have donated plants or tickets to events such as the Rogue Jet boat trips or other gift certificates. These donated plants and tickets have made the auction approximately 100$. Gifts certificates would be easier.

3. shore is Triglia, John Albi, Ali Van Otterloo, Pam Leslie, Ruth Patton, Cathy Boden, Patrick Cahill, Michelle Arnold, Diana St Maria, Dennis Triglia, John Albi, Gro Lent

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(Cont. on page 5)
ANNUAL PLANT SALE - April 25th through Mother's Day.
Carol Hobbs - 541-251-2422
We are all anxious for Spring Planting! In the greenhouse, we continue to watch our little cuttings grow and develop. A slow process, but it amazes me every year that we produce a courtyard full of plants from little 2 inch cuttings.

Currently we are sorting and identifying succulents. These all have to be identified so we can sell on line. Descriptions and photos of each type of plant we plan to sell has been done. As the weather permits we will start to sort and organize perennials so we can pick and pack and safely sell and be socially distant. Our plans are to have an online sale open to the public at the end of April. We will once again be able to offer perennials, vegetables, succulents and succulent planters.

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

The Dig Your Library youth gardening programs at the Chetco Community Public Library are on hold for 2021. There may be some volunteer opportunities.

CHETCO SEED LIBRARY ~ Julia Bott

Thank you to those volunteers who worked on repackaging seeds, folding envelopes, and breaking down seed packets for home gardeners. If you still have seeds, please arrange to get them back to Lynette.

The seed library will be in 2 locations this spring – the Chetco Community Public Library (open Mon-Sat) and the Brookings-Harbor Farmers Markets on Saturdays through May. Lynette and the seed library will be in the smaller tent where Sylvia’s Produce is located. Seeds are going fast so you may get up to 6 different seed packets each time.

Help replenish the seed library! When you are shopping for seeds, consider purchasing an extra pack or two to donate to the Chetco Seed Library. Or donate the partial packets of seeds (grown for this year) that you don’t use. For example, I will be purchasing lemon cucumber seeds but with a small garden I will only use a few seeds so will donate the remainder. It is best to donate them in their original package. Take a photo for your records. If you really want to keep the package, include a photo of package or provide the information (type, planting time, sun requirements etc.) when you drop off the seeds at the library or in person to Lynette at the Farmers Market on Saturdays.

Following on the great success with Plant a Row for the Food Bank last year with 1,590 pounds donated, we are hoping to increase that by another 1,000 pounds. If you’re interested participating, chat with Lynette at the Farmer’s Market.

RILEY CREEK GARDEN - Provided by Cathy Boden
94350 6th Street, Gold Beach

Full steam ahead at the Riley Creek Garden!

Cathy is currently taking a “Teaching in Nature’s Classroom” course and coming up with some great, creative ideas for the school garden. As I get more organized I will reach out to MG’s to see if folks are interested in specific projects.

I have ordered a ton of seeds from Territorial, they just arrived yesterday! I am planning on another production garden this year, so there will be plenty of food for school families, Riley Creek Garden volunteers (for free), and finally the public for a donation to support the school garden. Thinking about a family U-pick day for the summer, one family at a time. I also purchased some new watering wands, sprinkler, hose, and various garden tools, and educational supplies! And you may have noticed that I secured two loads of Wahl Sheep Compost! Soon we will plan our spring garden work party!

Darby Miller’s 2nd graders took a scavenger hunt to identify places in the garden, made garden journals to document their learning, planted a new strawberry bed, learned the elements plants need to grow by stringing a bracelet with beads and creatively doing yoga poises! Students also learned that plants are medicine, and we discuss how Native American’s used plants to heal while they transplanted Aloe Vera plants. This week we will be sprouting seeds in a clear glove so that they can watch how various seeds sprout. We will also start cleaning out older strawberry beds, and planting two new beds with our strawberry starts.

Rolland is making a new, additional raspberry bed, and will also prune and divide the older raspberry bed.

Mary is due back soon, and I am sure she will have some projects in store for us as well!

Cathy’s at the garden most Tuesdays with kids only from 8:45 – 9:45 & 1:00 – 2:00. Stop on by and see what’s happening!

Cathy is interested in creating a sense of community where we all work, learn and grow together. You can contact me at cathy@currywatersheds.org, call my home/office 541-332-5039, or text my work cell at 541-373-3359.
Minutes, cont. from page 3

C. Treasurer’s report – Tom Kerr
Need to add signatures for the Credit Union checking account - Tom states it previously was the president and treasurer. Ruth states bring a copy of the minutes with Julia’s name as the president and Tom as the treasurer. Ruth states the protocol is to take the minutes with both Julia and Tom and their titles to the credit union and their identification. Only need one signature to write a check. The board approved this. Also someone will need to change name at the post office and who is in charge of the account and pay the bill. Tom will handle the post office.

Julia has a question regarding a new reimbursement form. Tom did change the donation receipt form, but doesn’t have the reimbursement form. Ruth states Lori should have a virtual copy and Ruth has a hard copy. Tom will contact Lori to request it. Financial reports provided.

D. State Rep’s report – Sherry Baum - Discuss next meeting for State Representatives is for March. Really main information is a request for information concerning the donations for the silent auction.

E. Membership report – Debbie Richter - Please check that the information on the membership report is accurate for the membership list and the email. Final list will be sent out in one to two weeks.

4. Committee Reports

A. Plant Sale/Greenhouse – Michelle Arnold
Standing in for Carol, reporting on the Annual Plant Sale; challenging to hold plant sale safely but an on-line sale is planned. Committee is hard working and accomplishing tasks. Julia states she saw a request for volunteers, and Michelle stated that yes we are getting members to volunteer. Two phases of volunteers needed; 1: volunteers to pick and pack plants and put in parking spots in the ocean front area, and then 2. The second group of volunteers will interact with the people reviewing the receipts and helping people pick up their plants they purchased.

B. Plant Clinic – Dennis Triglia & Scott
Scott: 9 people have stepped up to help with the online plant clinic. Classes to learn how to use ECCO on how to enter data. Hoping to launch the clinic by April, working in teams of two. One of the segments of skills building classes discussed working as teams and using each person’s different abilities and equipment (apps) working together.

Dennis: Dennis has been working with the ECCO database program and courses, states the courses and modules have been very high quality and you can also use the courses for education credits. Have heard that they may take the courses down at end of year, but Dennis states he hopes not. Dennis has been taking many of the classes and finds that Echo is great with entering the data and makes it available for others to access. He is also encouraged by the volunteers and interest in the program, approximately 10 others. Dennis will make a hard copy of the questions just in case, and then the information will be directed to Dennis and Scott. This information is very collaborative.

Scott states this is a wonderful opportunity to use this program and they are making it really easy to gather information or make a great email to communicate.

If anyone is interested in volunteering please contact Scott. Great service to offer for the community. The database will be a valuable resource. The goal is to have answers to the plant questions in a week and want to make sure the answer is accurate and complete.

Julia states that if you have any people you think would be interested in getting involved in the plant clinic, reassure them that there is plenty of support and you are working with partners.

5. Program Assistant’s Report - Scott Thiemann
Most items covered in committee reports. He cautioned members that they but no grapes.

Scott: This is another great opportunity for volunteers and a great program to make available to Del Norte and Curry County.

Sherry: This program is going to start in April and was successful last year and working with Del Norte to continue with the collaboration. The program will be on-line and two times a week, the first class in the week will be the education classes and the second will be more interactive questions and answers with sharing of gardens. Hoping that Tom Kerr and Mark will still be involved. Planning at this point to continue to use the previous recorded classes. Also looking for volunteers to help with videos and questions and answers. Tom was involved in the questions and answer aspect and people did enjoy sharing. The seed to supper program (OSU and Oregon Food Banks) provides the educational materials. Also if you have something to share, John will help with videos. You can contact John or Scott if you have any videos or topics you want to share during the live part.

D. Riley Creek – Cathy Boden, from the Curry Watersheds Partnership
Cathy is coordinating the Riley Creek and Curry Watershed Partners, Mary has been keeping the garden running, shouting out to her for all her work; unfortunately she is moving, and was hoping the Riley Creek school would hire another permanent garden coordinator, but with change in school administration this goal is beyond them currently. Cathy currently has funding through June and hoping to get more funding over the summer. This garden needs Master Gardeners to continue to run, Cathy relies on the Master Gardeners to help with the work with the gardens and need the expertise as well as eyes to keep it going and on the garden itself. This is an educational garden for the school, but still many roles that don’t involve working with the children; roles could include compost, weeding, planting, watering, etc.

D. Riley Creek – Cathy Boden, from the Curry Watersheds Partnership
Second graders are taking a part in the garden and the children are very excited, and taking plants to class to keep growing. Cathy is working on goals and the directions, could use volunteers like Jeff Richter helping with fixing things in the garden, need help with composting, watering, etc. If there is something you are good at and can take on contact Cathy.

Money from plant sales has been really helpful, volunteers who help clean up would also be helpful. If you live in town and could just check on the garden, see whether the irrigation is working, or if any water is needed. The strawberry plants are getting tired and may need to be cleaned, the second graders are planting the new strawberries in a new bed. Cathy wants to label the beds so we can discuss virtually and make a map of the bed, the children would like to start seeds in the greenhouse, and we need to communicate what needs are needed for children as well as for the plant sales.

Thank you for the partnership
Julia stated is there a need for the pruning of the raspberries, new bed for them and hopefully can make a new bed, trees need pruning as well as the grapes. Scott asked if any grows grapes, Dennis stated that he has grown them but no grapes. Even teaching the children about grape vines and how they grow is helpful.

E. ABC Preschool - no report
F. DigYour Library - no report

Meeting Adjourned at 11:33 am on 2/16/21

Sherry Baum, Secretary
MARCH 2021 GARDEN TIPS

Planning
- Plan your vegetable garden carefully for spring, summer and fall vegetables that can be eaten fresh or preserved. If you lack in-ground gardening space, plan an outdoor container garden.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. Some cool season crops (onions, kale, lettuce and spinach) can be planted when the soil is consistently at or above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Maintenance and cleanup
- Lawn mowing: Set blade at 0.75–1 inch for bentgrass lawns; 1.5–2.5 inches for bluegrasses, fine fescues and ryegrasses.
- Compost grass clippings and yard waste, except for clippings from lawns where weed-and-feed products or weed killers have been used.
- Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.
- Prune gooseberries and currants; fertilize with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees if needed. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- If needed, fertilize rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas with acid-type fertilizer. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- Western Oregon: Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blossoms fade.
- Western Oregon: Fertilize caneberries using band fertilizer, broadcast fertilizer, a complete fertilizer or manure.

Planting and propagation
- Divide hosta, daylilies and mums.
- Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
- Plant insectary plants such as alyssum, phacelia, coriander, candytuf, sunflower, yarrow and dill to attract beneficial insects to the garden. For more information, see Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden.
- Western Oregon: If soil is dry enough, prepare vegetable garden and plant early cool-season crops (carrots, beets, broccoli, leeks, parsley, chives, rhubarb, peas and radishes). Plant onions outdoors as soon as the soil is dry enough to work.
- Western Oregon: Plant berry crops (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries and other berry-producing crop plants). See OSU Extension publications for berry varieties.

Pest monitoring and management
- Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after studying 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.
- Spray trees and shrubs for webworms and leafrollers, if present.
- Protect new plant growth from slugs. Least toxic management options include barriers and traps. Baits are also available for slug control; use with caution around pets. Read and follow all label directions prior to using baits or any other chemical control.
- Learn to identify the predatory insects that can help keep aphids and other pests under control.
- Spray to control leaf and twig fungus diseases in dogwood, sycamore, hawthorn and willow trees.
- Prune ornamentals for air circulation and to help prevent fungus diseases.
- Western Oregon: Start rose blackspot control tactics at budbreak. Control rose diseases such as black spot. Remove infected leaves. Spray as necessary with a registered fungicide.
- Western Oregon: Monitor for European crane fly and treat lawns if damage has been verified.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don’t treat unless a problem is identified.

Indoor gardening
- Trim or shear heather when bloom period is finished.
- Start tuberous begonias indoors.
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 2021
President ............. Julia Bott
Vice President........ Ginny Knox
Secretary.............. Sherry Baum
Treasurer............... Tom Kerr
OMG State Rep....... Sherry Baum
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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