



### April 2021 Calendar

Tues., April 6, 9:00-Noon

Discovery Garden work day

Tues., April 13, 9:00-Noon

Discovery Garden work day

Tues., April 13, 3:00

**Level Up Series: "Dazzling Dahlias" live presentation**

Wed., April 14, 1:00

Executive Board Meeting (Zoom)

Tues., April 20, 9:00-Noon

Discovery Garden work day

Tues., April 27, 9:00-Noon

Discovery Garden work day

Thurs., April 29, 10:00

Chapter Meeting (Zoom)



## The Prez Sez...

**Julie Stanbery**

Geoffrey B. Charlesworth wrote in his book, *A Gardener Obsessed*: "Sometime after mid March, one or more of the following significant events occur: Canada geese fly over, headed North; coldframes are left open at night; a snowdrop bayonet drops its head and opens; redwings, robins and starlings arrive; a warm rain thaws the ground; the first 70 degree day since fall arrives; turkeys scratch looking for leftover sunflower seeds; raccoons quarrel after dark; hawks circle overhead looking for food; the first seedlings sprout; the grass greens."

Time passes so quickly - suddenly it is spring and the world seems a bit brighter and more welcoming. We have a gang of about 30 male turkeys who parade up and down our driveway all fanned out in full plumage, the turkey buzzards have returned and tomorrow may be our 70 degree day. Mother nature and the spring garden seem to be universally observed.

With spring upon us, it is time to return to the Horticultural Learning Center and continue the work of our great volunteers. The generous grant from Cow Creek Indians had allowed us to make upgrades to the East Side greenhouse irrigation system and as well as in the Discovery Garden. These improvements will allow us better control of water delivery and, in turn, more responsible and sustainable use of river water.

Winter pruning has been completed. Kudos to every volunteer who gave us their time to accomplish this complex garden task. With 23 separate garden areas, we certainly have every style of pruning imaginable.

Beginning Tuesday, March 30, we will return to weekly work days in the Discovery Garden. There is always something to be done. Weeding and mulching lead the list. We have some grant money from OMGA to upgrade some of the signage in the Discovery Garden. Anyone needing labels please contact me.

Sooner than later we will need to think about starting the river irrigation. An additional volunteer is needed to join the team for the summer. It's a nice task, quiet and not requiring any heavy work. Complete training will be given to make you feel comfortable with the irrigation system.

Finally, I want to give a heartfelt "thank you" to Steve Renquist for his leadership and friendship. Steve, your dedication to sustaining our chapter, in the face of all odds, is much appreciated. With your continued help (hint) we all look forward to better times.

From *Confessions of a Passionate Amateur Gardener*, Martha Smith wrote, "Anyone who tells you gardening is soothing, is either lying or old and mellow. After all, it's such a problem-ridden area that the federal government subsidizes a health department and infirmary---the Cooperative Extension Service---to care for those wounded in the line of duty."

See you in the garden,  
Julie

**Spring Gardening Seminar**  
**VIRTUAL CLASSES**

- Avoiding the Green Meatball: How to Prune Flowering Shrubs**  
Saturday April 3, 10:00 am
- Producing Blueberries and Raspberries in Your Home Garden**  
Saturday April 3, 1:00 pm
- Native Plant Landscaping**  
Saturday April 10, 10:00 am
- Practical Irrigation**  
Saturday April 17, 10:00 am
- Lawn Care in Central Oregon**  
Saturday April 24, 10:00 am

**\$5 per class**  
**Register at [gocomga.com](http://gocomga.com)**  
**All classes will be offered via Zoom.**

**Presented By:**

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Another opportunity to learn new stuff! Here's the link to register for the Central Oregon Spring Gardening Seminar being held each Saturday in April:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/events/spring-gardening-seminar-virtual-classes>

## Treasurer's Report

Diane Smith-Lewsadder  
02/25/2021 - 03/24/2021

<b>INCOME</b>	
BottleDrop	\$114.90
Membership dues	\$47.50
Soil Testing	\$80.00
Interest	<u>\$4.66</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$247.06</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration	\$69.73
Discovery Garden	\$48.49
HLC	\$53.99
Propane Tanks	\$342.30
Utilities - Electricity	\$272.49
Utilities - Water	\$119.23
2020 Cow Creek Grant	<u>\$44.96</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$951.19</b>
<b>Breakdown of our accounts at 03/24/2021</b>	
NWCC - Checking	\$1,678.72
NWCC - Reserve	\$5,007.18
NWCC - MMK Savings	<u>\$29,038.38</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$35,724.28</b>

**OMGA**  
Chris Rusch

We had a terrific first quarter OMGA meeting on March 5 via Zoom. We began the meeting with a power point presentation on OMGA Representative Orientation; Roles and Responsibilities. The power point will be available on our website soon. The rest of the meeting was centered on regular business that included a thorough report about our planned virtual Mini-College scheduled for July 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>! Sue and Eric and their hard-working committee have put together an excellent program to look forward to, so make sure to MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Look for more information and "ways you can help" emails as we get closer to the event.

We also discussed recruitment and succession. As most of you know we are still facing some vacancies on our Executive Board and other important "heads of committees" positions. Most notable, our President Elect position remains vacant. This is a very important

position that organizes our Education Forums as well as provides a pathway for our succession into leadership. Please contact me if you are available to serve. Also we need someone to take on the leadership for our newsletter, "The Gardener's Pen".

Gail Langellotto reported on the success of our continuing education programs offered by OSU including the Growing Oregon Gardeners, Level Up Series and the Elevated Master Gardener Skill Building Series. Make sure everyone takes advantage of these terrific programs.

Next we covered our OMGA grant programs and Master Gardener of the Year nominations. All are due May 15. Check out our website for applications. <https://omga.org/documents-and-forms/>

All in all, we had a terrific meeting with lots of great information shared. For more details, check out the meeting minutes on our website. Our next meeting is June 4.

Let's continue to remain hopeful that our Extension Offices will be open by summer.

And on a personal note, despite all the cool weather and rain recently, our gardening season is just around the corner. Sugar snap peas are a rare treasure in the early garden. I already planted mine on February 15, a tradition in my family for many generations, and I am happy to report that they are about 2" tall as of this writing. Happy gardening!



Welcome to *Succulent Corner*. I hope to tell you and show you some really spectacular succulents. And just maybe they might be what you are looking for to add to your garden or home.

*Kalanchoe fedtschenkoj* also known as Aurora Borealis and Lavender Scallops is native to Madagascar. It is named after a Russian botanist, Olga Fedtschenko.

The Aurora Borealis gets its name because of the beautiful coloring it gets throughout its leaves and plant as it gets more and more sun.

When this plant is able to be in the sun the leaves of this succulent turn pink to lavender. It must have sun to keep its coloring.

The leaves of this plant grow in tight clusters and are thick and fleshy. The outer part of the leaf margins are serrated with a creamy off white to light pink hue color. As this plant starts to grow and mature several stocks will grow out of the center to about two feet tall.



Striking pink bell-shaped flowers will dangle from the center. The outer layer of the flower is pink while the center is a brighter pink to lavender. When in full bloom this succulent is a show stopper for all to see.

The Aurora Borealis can be either an indoor or outdoor plant, but it is not frost hardy. Bring in in early fall. Water when dry to the touch. Fertilize once a year in the spring. After a few years you may need to repot. Take special care in handling as the stocks are not strong and may snap.

Have questions about succulents? Give me a jingle.  
Ann Severson



## Ask The Tool Man Alley

One of the most common questions I receive while at the Discovery Garden, or when giving presentations on garden tool maintenance and sharpening is, **“Is there one special file you would recommend to keep my hand pruners sharp, particularly when I'm working in the garden?”**

This is a good question. Last August I prepared an article on this very question: 1. because we had added Master Gardeners, and 2. this is the time of year we start thinking about spring garden clean-up chores, including the use of our favorite hand pruners.

Since I wrote the article for the August 2000 Newsletter, I have gained more knowledge about sharpening hand pruners, have found and used different sharpening tools, and listened to many Master Gardeners about their preferred pruners. This prompted me to prepare this updated article. Last year I recommended the Barnel B-Sharp, Diamond Blade Sharpener. While still recommended, I have found I use the Corona AC8200 more often. It is perfect for the small hand sharpeners. For example, while I was visiting the Discovery Garden last Tuesday, taking photographs for our Newsletter (“Fred’s FAV’s”), I stopped by both the Westside and Eastside Greenhouse. As I was visiting from a distance, I stood there sharpening a number of the crew's hand pruners. I used the Corona AC8200, which of course was in my pocket. Works well, so, I now have added it to my recommended hand pruner sharpeners.

There are so many different quality hand pruners on the market. It is very difficult to choose the perfect one, as we have many different pruning tasks. I will share with you in the May Newsletter my two favorite hand pruners and my favorite general purpose steel garden file. While the number of available hand pruners is significant, the number of small hand sharpeners you can carry in your pocket or apron is limited.

My top two choices for small hand sharpening files are:

- The **Corona AC8200 carbide file**. The file size allows one to keep the file in your pocket or apron, has a non-slip grip and the grip is bright red, so it stands out if you drop it in the garden. The file is small enough to access the entire cutting blade while sharpening. This file is shown in Photo #1 on the left side of the Corona hand pruners. It can be locally purchased. Cost: \$7-\$10.



- The **Barnel B-Sharp, Diamond Blade Sharpener**. This sharpener is made by Barnel USA, a longstanding USA company founded in Portland Oregon. Good ease of use. The file has both a fine and coarse sharpening grit and the small size allows one to keep the file in a pocket or apron. This file is shown in Photo #1 on the right side of the Corona hand pruners. It can be purchased locally at a cost of \$22-\$26.

The two sharpeners serve the same purpose - to sharpen your hand pruners to a razor-sharp cutting edge. However, they have differences in how they are used during the sharpening process.

- **The Corona AC8200 sharpener** sharpens the cutting edge as you draw the file down the cutting edge in one smooth movement from the back edge of the cutting edge to the tip of the cutting edge. It is important to keep the file at 20-23 degrees to keep the sharpening process to the original cutting edge. This process takes practice, but you will see the resulting new shiny edge you just completed.



- **The Barnel B-Sharp, Diamond Blade Sharpener**, has two durable carbide files, a coarse side and a fine side. This sharpener, unlike the Corona sharpener, provides the coarse file that enables you to remove serious cutting blade damage. The sharpener clearly identifies the two different file grids. After using the coarse file to remove any bad damage (nicks), use the fine file edge to achieve the razor-sharp edge.

Photo #2 illustrates how to hold hand pruners during the sharpening process for the two sharpeners that I have described below. Remember, sharpening pruners with a razor-sharp edge takes practice.

- Hold the pruners open, as wide as possible, firmly in your left hand, the point of the pruners turned to you.
- **For the Barnel B-Sharpener**, with your right hand, set the coarse side on the file parallel along the cutting edge of the blade. Drag the file towards you, staying with the 20-23 original degree edge. Depending on the dullness of the cutting edge, you will need to repeat the process 5-6 times. **Next, repeat** the same process with the file side of the file. After 5-6 passes, you will create a razor-sharp edge. **Lastly**, turn the blade over and make 2-3 passes with the fine side of the file along the back edge of the cutting edge, to remove any burrs created during the sharpening process. Keep your file flat to the edge. You are done.
- **For the Corona Sharpening AC 8300**, like the Barnel, with your right hand set the carbide file parallel along the cutting edge of the blade. Drag the file toward you, staying with the 20-32 original degree edge. Again, depending on the dullness of the cutting edge, you will need to make at least 5-6 passes with the file. Carefully with your finger, feel the cutting edge. You should easily feel the razor-sharp cutting bridge. Lastly, turn the pruners over, place them in your left hand, pruners facing away from you, and drag the sharpener over the back side of the cutting edge to remove any burrs created in the sharpening process. Keep the file flat to the edge. You are done.



Photos #3 and #4 illustrate the process of removing any burrs you may have created on the back side of the cutting edge, using the Barnel and Corona file. Lastly, it is important to lightly oil your pruners after cleaning or/ or sharpening. This creates a barrier to prevent rust and corrosion from taking place. Barnel sells a B-Oil for daily maintenance for this purpose. Felco has a nice spray oil. WD-40 and 3-in-1 Multi-Purpose Oil is readily available. My choice is Remington REM Oil, which is used on firearms. I like it, as it maintains a nice barrier against corrosion and has no strong odor like other oils. But it is becoming harder to find, and is one of the more expensive oils. It is best to leave the oil on the pruners while in storage, but remember to wipe off the oil before you use the pruners or wash your pruners with a brush, warm water and dish soap.

If you have more questions about tool tips or maintenance, give me a call or email me: 541-733-6232, [fhasla@msn.com](mailto:fhasla@msn.com)

Happy Gardening and Stay Safe.



## Plant Sale Update

Bonnie Durick

We are still in the “hurry up and wait” mode for whether or not we will be able to have our plant sale. The plan for how we will do things out at the greenhouse for our sale has been presented to Steve who in turn forwarded it to the people he reports to. He was told that they won't even look at our plan until Douglas County has reached the moderate risk level for COVID. The numbers we need to see for moderate risk level are less than 100 cases per 100,000 people in a two week period. As you know, we are now in the high risk level and will be at that level until April 9. If we are able to have lower COVID positive numbers and make it to the moderate risk level, we will be in that level until April 23. Should numbers increase after that time, we could be back up. With Spring Break just over for Oregon, we just have to wait and see if our numbers go up or down. (I just hate this).

Right now, we continue to plan on the fact that we will be able to have the sale. We can't advertise it nor can we have workers and the public preregister for spots until we are sure it is a go. The plan is to have set up on Thursday, May 6, Master Gardener sale Friday May 7 and the sale for the public on Saturday, May 8. So, keep your fingers crossed that our numbers are low and we can go ahead with our sale. I will keep you posted via emails as I know more.



“Bentley” cooling off in the Candy Tuft - Diana Woodward



## Time Sheet Reminder

Just a reminder on how to turn in your time sheets:

1. Leave them off in the box in the Westside Greenhouse OR
2. Mail them directly to Vicki McAlister, 422 Winter Creek Ln., Roseburg 97471

Please **do NOT** mail them to the Extension Office!

**We've come a long way, baby!**

Reported by Bud Cruger in the April 1996 DCMG newsletter:

*"We now have an email address"*

Julie Stanbery

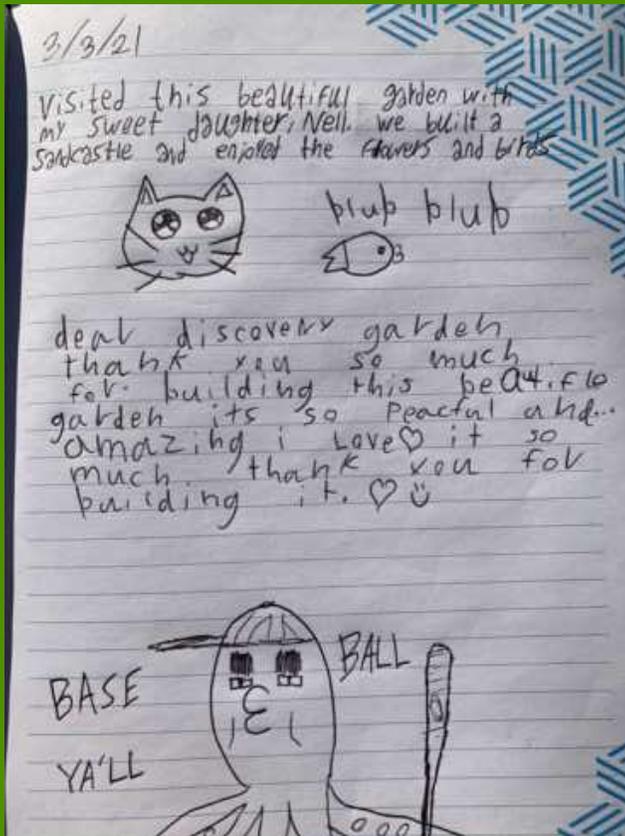
Here's a U-Tube video Philece Humphrey thought very interesting:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3waibCUoKo&t=357s>  
“10 Vegetables You Should Always Grow”





## *Scribblings from the Little Free Library*



## DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Chapter Meeting (Zoom)  
March 25, 2021

**Continuing Education:** Discussion of “Dirt Gone Bad” from the Level Up online series.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. There were 23 in attendance, including President Julie Stanbery, Past President Nancy Fuller, Vice-President Diana Woodward, Secretary Bonnie Courter, Treasurer Diane Smith-Lewsadder, Membership Kay Livermore, and OMGA Alt. Rep. Kish Doyle.

**Agenda Approval:** The agenda was approved as posted.

**Minutes Approval:** The minutes were approved as posted.

### **Agent’s Report - Steve Renquist:**

Gail Langellotto reported that April 5 begins registration for the International Master Gardener Program which will be virtually held September 12. Gail also reminds all the chapters to submit their State awards nominations by May 15. Mini-College will be July 16 and 17 and open soon for registration.

Steve has heard from various local farmers who are having soil issues. He was surprised how few of them knew what their soil classification was. Knowing your own soil classification is very helpful for successful crops. Soil classifications can be looked up online at:

<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

When you get into the site just keep clicking on the map in Oregon, and then in the area of Douglas County until you see things on the map like the Umpqua River and cities like Roseburg. Eventually you will start seeing neighborhoods etc. Once you spot your yard click on the tab that says, area of interest. You can draw an outline in the area you designate. Then click on the little tab that says soil map it will give you a soil code with the details in the map unit legend box. Write down the soil types that you see overlaying your neighborhood.

The soil types are all listed with more information at another site. [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_MANUSCRIPTS/oregon/OR649/0/DouglasOR.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/oregon/OR649/0/DouglasOR.pdf)

This second site is where you look up details about the soil codes you retrieved from your soil map. Just go to the pages that have your code listed and you will get very detailed information of best uses for your soil type.

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

**Membership - Kay Livermore:** We have 229 members. Membership cards can be picked up next week at the HLC.

**OMGA - Kish Doyle:** The Zoom quarterly OMGA meeting was held March 5 with five Douglas County members attending. President Chris Rusch gave an overview of the OMGA organization and the

responsibilities of OMGA reps. No state dues from chapters were taken this year. The budget has been bleak, but there have been some Kroger donations, and most chapters have sent in \$250 donation checks in lieu of contributing to the silent auction for Mini-College. **Toni Rudolph made a motion to send \$250 to OMGA in lieu of sending in physical donations for the silent auction. Karolyn Riecks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

There are still openings for State board positions for President and Treasurer, whose terms will end this year, as well as for an editor for "The Gardener's Pen" newsletter. Contact Chris Rusch if interested.

Gail Langellotto presented her report, and will give her annual report at this year's virtual Mini-College. \$49 is the cost to attend this year's virtual Mini-College. Workshops can be watched from "the comfort of home".

**Treasurer - Diane Smith-Lewsadder:** Financials were sent out. We received \$136 from BottleDrop, but \$25 was taken out for the start-up fee.

**Vice-President - Diana Woodward:** The next "Level Up" class for Continuing Education will be on Dahlias live on April 13. Diana will send out the link.

**Past President - Nancy Fuller:** Present, no report.

**President - Julie Stanbery:** Central Oregon does an annual spring seminar. This year's seminar will be every Saturday in April. The cost is \$5/class, and classes qualify for recertification. Julie will send out the link along with more information by email and also include it in the Newsletter.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Awards - Diana Circle:** The Awards Committee is working by phone and email on nominations for State awards. Diana has been meeting MG's to get their bars updated.

**Community Outreach - Leo Grass:** Not present, no report.

**Discovery Garden - Julie Stanbery:**

- Since the County is back down to "high risk" COVID status, we can go back to limited work parties again. Tomorrow (Friday) we will be holding a pruning session in the Japanese garden, from 1:00-4:00. Julie encourages MG's, especially the new students, to come out for that.
- Next Tuesday we will be starting work days in the Discovery Garden again. The smoke bush in the Xeriscape garden needs to be pollared, and there is general cleanup needing to be done.
- One more person is needed to join the irrigation team for this coming watering season. It takes about 2 hours each time. Contact Julie if interested in volunteering.

**Fundraising - Nathan Baily:** Not present, no report.



My lab, Gabe, has already picked up two bags full of recycle cans for our BottleDrop fundraiser on our daily walks. Good Boy!  
Bonnie Courter

**Greenhouse East - Ann Severson:** Limited crews will start working there next week. There are 3 raised beds for sedums on the outside that MG's can check out.



Cymbidium orchid growing in Eastside Greenhouse taken by Fred Alley.

**Greenhouse West - Barbara Robinson:** Not working crews.

**Hallmark - Linda Thames:** Jim Leet is recovering from knee surgery.

**Newsletter - Bonnie Courter:** Articles due Saturday.

**Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch:** Chris is still answering emails - only a couple each week. Steve gets about 8-10 calls a day relayed from the Extension Office. Hopefully by June the Clinic can open up once again.

**Plant Sale - Bonnie Durick:** Not present. Bonnie is concerned about the viability of our sale. April 6 is the next time our County COVID status will be reviewed. We will have to wait and see if our County status goes down to “moderate” level for OSU to consider letting our sale happen in May. It’s cutting it close, but we can probably do it with a month’s notice.

**Publicity - Cheryl Caplan:** Not present. No report.

**Trash to Treasure - Ann Severson:** We will have to wait and see about a possible fall sale, depending on OSU approval and her family’s health situation.

**Victory Garden - Carolyn Ruzicka/Linda Brunancho:** Not present. No working crews. Next week, they will have limited crews working and will contact MG’s via email.

**Winter Training - Kish Doyle:** Of the 2020 class, 4 have completed their 60 hours, and 4 have completed 53-56 hours, so are very close.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

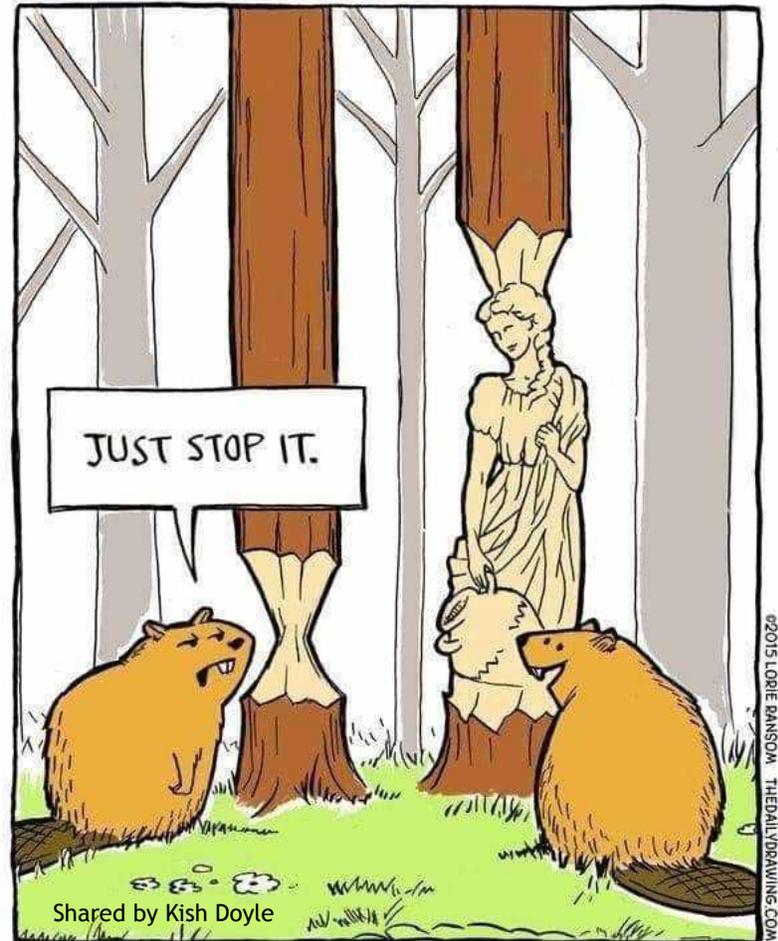
**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**SHOW AND TELL:** Julie Stanbery: There was a lovely picture in the “My Scene” photo section of the News-Review recently showing the garden facelift at the Elks Lodge. Kish Doyle has been working on that project along with Tasha King.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Courter, Secretary

## Fred's Fav's



# Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: E-mail submissions to Bonnie Courter: [rbcourter@gmail.com](mailto:rbcourter@gmail.com)

Website: [www.douglascountymg.org](http://www.douglascountymg.org)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487)

Horticulture Agent: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture),  
[steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu](mailto:steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu)

OSU Douglas County Extension Service: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas)

OSU Gardening Information: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening)

OSU Master Gardeners Program: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg)



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to attend an event, please notify the office at 541-672-4461 no later than 2 weeks prior to event date. This publication will be made available in an accessible alternative format upon request. Please contact Bonnie Courter, [rbcourter@gmail.com](mailto:rbcourter@gmail.com).

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