



## Master Gardener Class of 2020

### Steve Renquist

OSU Extension agents and Master Gardener coordinators met online on Thursday, March 26, 2020 to discuss program issues. One issue that affected all participants in the class of 2020 training from around the state is that we couldn't finish our last few classes. In Douglas County our field final meeting at the Discovery Garden and the written final exam review at the OSU Extension office were missed. The state Master Gardener coordinator suggested that the counties simply delay the requirements of getting your 60 hours of volunteer time in before the end of 2020. Depending on when we can start meeting again, we will allow the class of 2020 to roll their volunteer time requirement into 2021. We will advise you when it is safe to start volunteering in the clinic and out at our garden and greenhouse sites again.

For veteran Master Gardeners we are also delaying recertification requirements in 2020. The 20 hour activity requirement for recertification and the 10 hour educational activity will be waived for 2020. We will go back to our normal recertification standards again starting in 2021. I do encourage all of you to come back to our program as soon as it is safe. I know I already miss all of you, and miss being able to support our local gardening community together. Stay safe.



## President's Post

Nancy Fuller

I do so wish I had good news for all of you. Unfortunately, these might be the most difficult times our chapter has ever experienced. I encourage you to follow the guidelines we've been given by the CDC, the State of Oregon, Douglas County and of course, OSU.

We need to keep our social distancing and stay at home plans in effect for an unknown period of time into the future. Per OSU, we, as MG volunteers, are not to be out working in the Discovery Garden, the Victory Garden, or the greenhouses until further notice.

Our plans? At the moment, we are working on ways to care for the plants in the greenhouses. Steve Renquist, as an OSU employee, is the only person that is authorized by OSU's Master Gardener State Coordinator, Gail Langellotto, to be out in the greenhouses or gardens. Steve will do what he can to help our plants survive.

We do not yet know for certain that our 2020 plant sale is cancelled. We did move the date to May 23rd, but now that the county has closed the fairgrounds, we haven't yet heard from them if we are automatically cancelled or if there is a possibility that the fairgrounds will reopen by that date.

Since our chances of holding our 2020 plant sale are looking pretty grim, I want you all to understand that we will be facing extreme financial restrictions. I've sent out emails recently with the financial plan for the rest of this year and into the beginning of 2021. We are operating on the premise that we will not have the 2020 plant sale to replenish our funds and allow spending of monies approved for the 2020 budget. Toni Rudolph did an excellent analysis for where we are and will probably be financially for 2020 and into 2021. (Please refer to my email of 3/26/2020, sent through Shirley, for Toni's analysis.)

Bottom line? The organization, going forward from 3/12/2020, will pay for water, electricity, garbage removal, and propane next fall and winter. Anything that was purchased prior to 3/12/2020 will be paid. Otherwise, there will be no spending authorized by the organization. If there were monies approved in the 2020

budget for your section or project, those monies are no longer available. If you choose to spend your own money for items you want to add into your section of garden, then you and we will consider the purchases as donations to the organization.

I am hoping all our restrictions will be lifted soon so we can go back to our regular routines. In the meantime, I hope you can go into your own yards, enjoy the sunshine and the rain, plan or plant your own gardens and think good thoughts for all of us that are healthy and for those that have become ill or have passed on due to the coronavirus.

## Vice-President's Report

Diana Woodward

After going for walks with our dog almost every day now and looking at our garden and orchard from afar, boy is it weed free! We have had so much time for weeding, edging and spraying, the weeds did not have a chance. For the end of March we have never been so caught up on our gardening chores and have enough time for new projects. But I feel so bad and guilty for the greenhouses and our beloved garden - we can't go there? So disappointing.

I am still hoping for our Plant Sale, if not the 2nd then at the end of May? What we are going through now, will be worth it if we can regain some normalcy by the end of May. Praying that it all works out for us, and all of us and our families stay well.

With so much unknown in the future, all I can do is hope we can get back to it all soon. I am still very hopeful for at least our summer Chapter meetings to take place, so we are still needing a June and August meeting home. It is probably a lot to ask for someone to commit now, but just think about it for now and we can see what the future holds. God Bless, stay safe and healthy.



## OMGA Report

### Barbie Hamby

The OMGA Quarterly Meeting was held March 6-7, 2020, at Josephine County OSU Extension in Grants Pass.

Friday, March 6, was the Educational Forum. President Chris Rusch led a presentation about the OMGA, its mission, primary purpose and vision. She also talked about the roles of the elected executive committee, the positions appointed by the executive committee and the chapter representatives and alternate representatives.

The reps serve as a liaison between the executive board and their respective chapters and share pertinent information as they receive it. The reps should be willing and available to work on OMGA committees.

Chris's report was timely and well-received. She also noted that the board still needs a president-elect.

#### Grants and Awards

Nominations are due May 15 for numerous awards offered by OMGA. These include Search for Excellence; Karl Carlson Grant (\$250 to assist with new programs and projects); and Send-a-Friend, which will pay Mini-College fees for a Master Gardener who needs financial assistance to attend. Forms are available on the website.

#### Gail Langellotto's Report

Gail was pleased to report that OSU has made "strong investments" in the MG program. They have hired Professor of Practice for Lincoln, Tillamook and Jackson Counties. They have also hired a part-time assistant for Gail. This position is 3 days a week for two years.

Dig and Divide: MG's are to no longer "dig and divide" so as to prevent movement of potentially invasive plants, weeds, diseases or critters, like the Japanese beetle. Instead, MG's are to use other methods of propagation.

#### Mini-College (Grow- Provide- Sustain) Update

The Mini-College committees have been busy planning this year's event. It begins on Thursday, July 23 with a Corvallis Knights baseball game at Goss Stadium. OMGA has paid for 100 tickets for those who would like to go.

The event will offer workshops, lecture classes, tours, a raffle and silent auction and bookstore, as well as time to socialize with old friends and meet new ones. Classes held on the Entomology Track include: mason bees, Oregon Bee Atlas and Insect Pests. The Ornamental Track will offer classes focused on peonies, roses, hostas, hydrangeas and dahlias. There is also a Vegetable Track with classes on small space gardening, hydroponic gardening, companion planting and vegetable research. There is also an Oregon Season Track with classes on Pesticides, biochar, Urban Soils, Microbes under your Fingernails, painting clay pottery and mushrooms.

Workshops will cover plant propagation, native plants in your landscape, common insect ID and plant problem diagnosis.

The keynote speaker is Robert Michael Pyle, founder of the Xerces Society and author of 17 books, including Chasing Monarchs.

For the silent auction, chapters are asked to donate 10 or more items with a minimal retail value of \$25. Donated items should be in new condition and not limited to gardening items.

The Friday evening banquet will offer a no-host bar, music, and a catered dinner.

Cost will be \$49 per day and includes lunch. Rooms at the Garden Hilton are \$132 per night and dorm rooms are \$40 per night and includes linens.

Chapters are being encouraged to create a display to share and showcase how their chapter does education outreach.

Tables will be offered for Chapter Sales. Tables must be reserved by June 1. Gardening items, tools, aprons, etc. are great items to sell. Since there'll be a bookstore, chapters are asked to not bring books to sell.

## Membership

Membership has declined this year by 311 paid members since last year (2018: 3435 total members, 2019: 3124 members). Trainees went from 582 in 2018 to 368 in 2019. Numbers weren't in for 2020 yet. OMGA has a priority to search out ways to enhance membership retention and diversity and would like to develop a more "welcoming attitude" and possibly create a "Garden Buds" program for mentoring new MGs.

## Treasurer's Report

Toni Rudolph

<b>INCOME</b>	
Refund	\$50.00
Soil Testing	\$190.00
Trash to Treasure	\$3,774.50
Interest	\$3.65
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$4,018.15</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration	\$68.62
Winter Class	\$8.99
Discovery Garden	\$72.94
Plant Sale	\$428.54
HLC	\$269.40
Propane	\$1,058.62
Utilities	\$504.80
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,411.91</b>
<b>Breakdown of our accounts at 3/26/2020</b>	
NWCC - Checking	\$3,550.13
NWCC - Reserve	\$5,004.68
NWCC - MMK Savings	\$20,853.32
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$29,408.13</b>

We as a society are in an unknown place right now. It is likely that the Plant Sale for 2020 may not happen. As a result we stopped all expenditures of Master Gardener funds on 3/12/20.

I have heard there are some outstanding receipts that are dated before 3/12/20 that have not been turned in. Receipts dated on or before 3/12/20 need to be attached to an Expense Form with the **approved signature**.

Please mail those directly to me at:

Toni Rudolph  
1686 NW Apache Dr  
Roseburg, OR. 97471

I will notify you via email, what action and when it will happen. My getting those now will help us to move forward in a fiscally responsible manner. Thanks!!



Shared by B. Robinson

## Plant Clinic

Chris Rusch

Plant Clinic is one of our DCMG programs that reach out to our community to help people solve a wide range of gardening and landscape questions. This includes diagnosing plant problems and identifying insects. The Plant Clinic training program is a great opportunity for our new members to put their knowledge of Sustainable Gardening to work. The Plant Clinic began training our newest volunteers from the class of 2020 in February and March. We are lucky to have a great training team this year with Leo Grass, Bonnie Courter, Barbara Horst, Ernie Amabisca, Chris Rusch, and Karolyn Riecks.

We began the month of March enthusiastically, continuing with the training of our new volunteers when all of a sudden we were facing a national emergency over the COVID19 pandemic. Many of us are seniors and find ourselves in the high risk group of individuals susceptible to this virus. Given that older adults are both a vulnerable population and an abundant group in the

Master Gardener Program, OSU recommended that local Master Gardener coordinators carefully consider the guidance provided for upcoming large events (such as conferences and plant sales) and ongoing Master Gardener activities (such as plant clinics and demonstration garden work). Thus, the Plant Clinic training was temporarily suspended on March 12<sup>th</sup>. However, for about 10 days Leo, Karolyn and I staffed the Clinic on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We worked alone, just answered phone messages and emails. We did not take in any visitors or walk-ins. However, as you all know the entire Extension closed its doors March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We will begin our training program again as soon as it is safe to do so. These are very trying times for everyone. Let's remember to follow our OSU guidance, treat each other with respect and practice safe hygiene in all that we do.

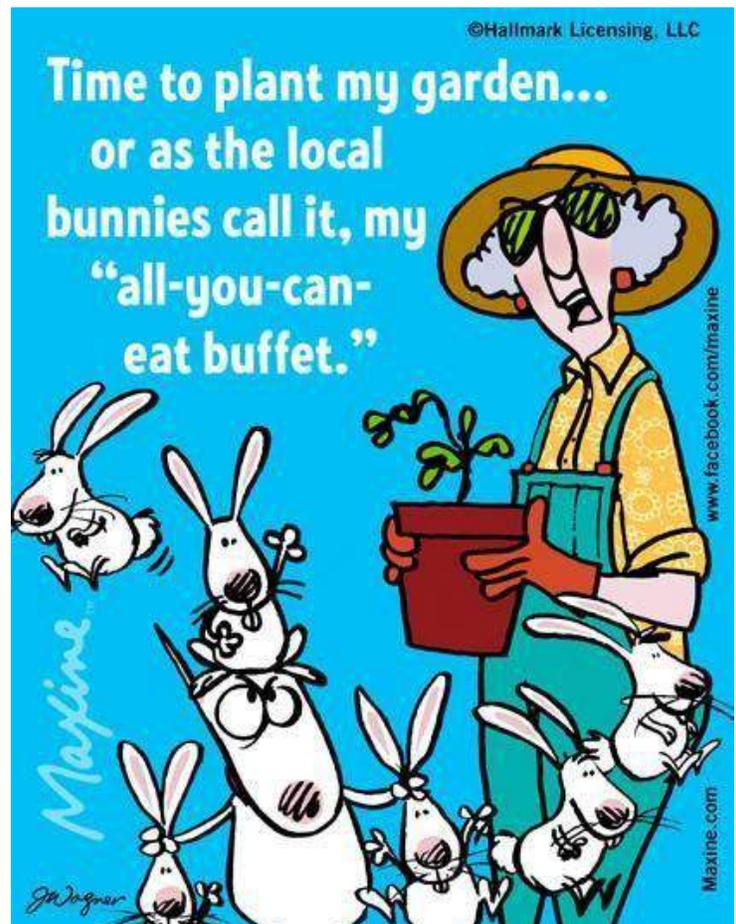
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### Some Garden tips for April:

- Write in your garden journal throughout the growing season.
- Prepare garden soil for spring planting. Incorporate generous amounts of organic materials and other amendments, using the results of a soil analysis as a guide.
- Prepare raised beds in areas where cold soils and poor drainage are a continuing problem. Incorporate generous amounts (at least 2") of organic materials.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. When the soil is consistently above 60°F, some warm season vegetables (beans, sweet corn) can be planted.
- Allow foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to brown and die down before removing.
- Apply commercial fertilizers, manure, or compost to cane, bush (gooseberries, currants, and blueberries), and trailing berries.
- Place compost or well decomposed manure around perennial vegetables, such as asparagus and rhubarb.

- Cut back ornamental grasses to a few inches above the ground, in early spring.
- Cover transplants to protect against late spring frosts.
- Optimum time to fertilize lawns. Apply 1 lb. nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn. Reduce risks of run-off into local waterways by not fertilizing just prior to rain, and not over-irrigating so that water runs off of lawn and onto sidewalk or street.
- Optimum time of year to dethatch and renovate lawns. If moss was a problem, scratch surface prior to seeding with perennial ryegrass.
- Prune and shape or thin spring-blooming shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.
- Plant broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, endive, leeks, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, spinach, and turnips.

Enjoy your time at home in your garden!



## Plant Sale

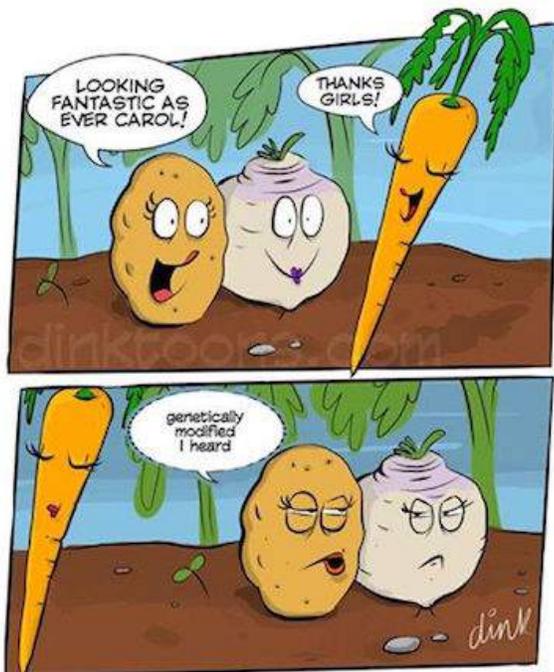
Bonnie Durick

Where is a crystal ball when you need one? I wish I had a definite answer to whether or not the Plant Sale is possible this year. As you all know, we have changed the date to Saturday, May 23. Whether it will happen or not is up to the Corona virus situation.

I have had some great suggestions from our Master Gardeners for sale alternatives. These ideas include an on-line plant sale, just a sale for MG's where we divide the alphabet and have only so many people come on certain days at certain times, and selling at the Umpqua Saturday market.

These ideas have been great, but on the negative side, they all entail people working in the greenhouse to maintain the plants and get all the background things ready for a sale. As we have been told not to be working in the greenhouse, this limits our possibilities. There is a Master Gardener group in the Bay Area of California doing an online sale. I have been in contact with the plant sale chair there to find out how they are going about it. No sense in reinventing the wheel. The logistics of these things is quite complex.

I wish I had good news, but as of right now I just don't know. Keep healthy.



## NEWS FLASH!

Mini-College 2020 "GPS" is still scheduled for July 24 & 25th at OSU.

There is a spirit of optimism in all of us who grow things and those who are working on Mini-College have a lot of that spirit.

After a careful review of the commitments and hard work done towards Mini-College, and with the support of our State Director Gail Langellotto, OMGA has decided that we are moving forward with Mini-College 2020. This decision will remain in constant review and May 15th has been determined to be the point at which the final decision will be made. Until then Mini-College is moving ahead at full speed.

This year's Mini-College is shaping up to be an outstanding event. The final details are in place on a truly excellent curriculum of classes, workshops, and tours. Scientists, educators, growers and some very creative people are on tap to offer an array of presentations. The topics are not only timely and informative but share ways to enhance the beauty and productivity in our lives.

Returning this year are the popular extracurricular activities. Friday night is banquet night in the lovely setting of the Adair Clubhouse. The Silent Auction, Send-A-Friend Raffle, and Bookstore are all on tap. Early attendees can join in a social on Thursday night in the Omaha room at Goss stadium for an evening of socializing and baseball. The game is scheduled between the Corvallis Knights and the Yakima Valley Pippens. OMGA is buying the first 100 tickets. And there will be the usual fun and games in the dorm.

With a registration fee of only \$49.00 a day (lunch included) and housing options from the economy of the on-campus dorm (Bloss Hall), to the Hilton Garden Inn, a KOA Campground and a variety of local hotels, Mini-College is, as always, a great value. A delightful way to enhance your education. Come spend time with friends from around the state, meet some new gardeners, and just have a fun weekend. This year it's on the beautiful Oregon State University campus.

More details are on the way. The OMGA website, Chapter newsletters and our OMGA reps will be putting out additional information as we get nearer to the May 15th deadline. Our plan is to open registration as soon as the details are in place and we get a final "all clear" to move forward. Mini-College 2020 "GPS." Come enhance your abilities to: Grow...Provide...Sustain

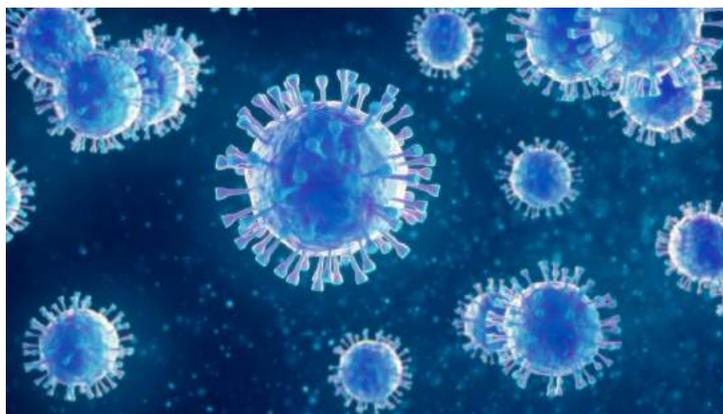
We're looking forward to seeing you in Corvallis.

ERIC BOSLER, OMGA

*(The following article by Barbara Ingham, Wisconsin Extension Food Safety Specialist, was shared by Julie Stanbery.)*

## Food Safety in the Time of COVID-19

What do we know about food safety and COVID-19? COVID-19 is caused by one of a family of coronaviruses. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness. The primary route of infection is through air-borne virus particles from the droplets of a sneeze or cough of an infected individual. If you breathe in virus-containing droplets of mucus or saliva from a cough or sneeze, the viruses can multiply in your respiratory tract and make you sick. About 15-30% of common colds every year are caused by a type of coronavirus. COVID-19 is a particularly virulent and contagious coronavirus. The last major coronavirus epidemic was in 2002 when SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) caused 800 deaths worldwide. COVID-19 is being referred to as SARS-COV-2.



Is COVID-19 going to make us sick through the food that we eat? There is no evidence that COVID-19 is a food-borne illness. The way that we get the COVID-19 illness is primarily from breathing in infected droplets from someone coughing or sneezing. Another way that we may get sick is from contact transmission. Contact transmission is touching a contaminated surface and transferring live virus particles to the mucus membranes in our nose, mouth or eyes by touching these areas. There isn't any evidence that you can get COVID-19 from food.

What about restaurant or take-out food? Laboratory studies suggest that coronavirus can survive on some surfaces, perhaps for up to a

day. If you are worried about take-out packages or grocery store items, simply washing your hands will help prevent any contact transmission that might occur. The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is easily removed from surfaces with soap and water, this includes your hands. So wash your hands with warm, soapy water after handling anything, and before eating. If you bring in groceries or take-out food, wash your hands both before and after putting the food away or starting meal preparations.

How is COVID-19 different from something like Salmonella? Salmonellosis, the illness from Salmonella, is caused by a bacteria not a virus.

When we get sick from Salmonella, we have eaten a food with Salmonella bacteria in it. The Salmonella bacteria somehow avoid being destroyed by the acid in our stomach and end up in our gut, our small intestine. In the warm environment of our small intestine, the Salmonella bacteria start growing and make us sick. A food-borne illness is a gastrointestinal illness, not a respiratory illness. Some people say that a food-borne illness gives them flu-like symptoms, but that is incorrect; the flu is a respiratory illness, not an illness in your gastrointestinal tract.

What's the best way to avoid getting sick with COVID-19? All the experts tell us to practice social distancing and wash our hands before and after touching food, before putting hands to your mouth or face, after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose, after petting animals or handling animal waste, after using the bathroom or changing a diaper, after handling garbage....and all those other common sense things your mother taught you! Stay well and food-safe.

## When is the Best Planting Time for 2020?

Steve Renquist

That, of course, depends on what we are planting. You should get any bare root trees and shrubs in now as late March is about the latest you can wait and still give them a good chance of developing a sufficient root system to deal with the heat of summer. If your new trees or shrubs are potted and have a good root system, you should plant them no later than the end of April to give them time to get established before the heat and high moisture demand of June arrives.

For a new lawn, there are two preferred planting seasons. The best season for seeding a new lawn is in late August into early September. In late summer the soil is still warm to help seed germination and the day length is receding making it easier to keep the soil moist with frequent light irrigation. The second best time to seed turf grass is in April or early May. Following a pretty dry winter the ground could be about right now to prepare a good seed bed. If you delay seeding too long into May, the young grass plants may not have a very strong root system before the heat of summer arrives. Using sod to establish a new lawn is often the best choice in spring for our region.

When planting a vegetable garden remember that some cool season crops are quite frost-tolerant and can be planted whenever the soil is dry enough to work in March. These plants include garlic, onions, peas, spinach, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, lettuce, kale, collards, and leeks. The recent run of frosty mornings can make germination go a little slower, but it won't kill the seedlings of these hardy plants. If the soil is 50 degrees or warmer, any of the cool season crops will germinate and establish. Raised beds have the advantage of staying about 3-5 degrees warmer than the ground, helping plants grow more actively in spring.

When planting your vegetable garden with warm season crops it is a very good idea to wait until the soil temperature is 60 degrees or above. It is also important to know what the last expected spring frost date is for

your area. Around Roseburg the average last frost date over the relatively warm past ten years is April 20. The average last frost date over the past thirty years is May 9. If you think about our current mild dry spring weather, planting most hardy veggies will be fine going into April. I would encourage you to be a patient planter with your warm season crops. I have suggested this to many new classes of Master Gardeners. Plant a tomato in your garden in late April, one in early May, and another in your garden in late May. Often the late-planted tomato will look as good as or better than the early planted tomato by July 1.

With the delay or possible cancellation of our public Master Gardener Plant Expo, I would encourage all of you to be patient with much of your plant buying this year. We may be limited to selling many of our excellent plants to you Master Gardeners. We know most of you are at home trying to stay safe and want something to do. Stay in touch with the organization and we will advise you when we will be open for business.



Fred's Fav's

# Full bloom

Master gardeners help others get the most out of their vegetables, flowers and more

By DELLA O'HARA



Master gardener volunteers planting a demonstration garden.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

## COSTCO CONNECTION

Costco warehouses and Costco.com carry a variety of items to help you create 8 beautiful and successful gardens

**A**ll across America, this growing season, roughly 86,000 volunteer extension master gardeners will help more than 5.5 million amateur gardeners solve problems they encounter with the flowers and vegetables they tend.

### Digging in the dirt

In the beginning, master gardeners (MGs; [mastergardenerextension.org](http://mastergardenerextension.org)) helped suburbanites manage their lawns and ornamental plantings. Since then, community gardens and a surge in the culinary arts have sparked interest in herbs and vegetables; however, the pendulum swings back and forth. Jennifer Marquis, Washington State University (WSU) Extension's Master Gardener Program leader and a Costco member,

says Washington MGs are fielding more questions about how to grow food.

Natalie Bunniger, an assistant professor of residential and consumer horticulture at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Tennessee's MG coordinator and chairperson of the Extension Master Gardener National Committee, notes a backward trend in Tennessee of growing small-fruit plants like blackberries and raspberries. MGs can help with houseplants, too.

Some programs offer youth camps and workshops, but only adults can qualify to volunteer. While most MGs are retirees, Marquis says she is seeing volunteers in their 20s, "and they're sticking with it."

In the U.S., MGs start out with varying gardening experience but receive extensive training, for a fee, in best practices for residential gardening. They sit for certification exams and can access up-to-date horticultural information through their own state extensions.

### Geminating

"We say it's not about knowing everything; it's about knowing where you can find that information," says Bunniger. Requirements vary from state to state, but Bunniger says volunteers can expect to train at least 40 hours, spend about the same amount of time volunteering their first year and be required to meet annual volunteer and continuing education minimums.

Volunteer opportunities nationwide include staffing hotlines and help desks; assisting with instructional gardens at schools; making presentations at fairs, shows, farmers markets and public gardens; and in general taking gardening know-how to the public. Extension master gardeners are not allowed to use their title commercially.

Bunniger says she believes MGs get a lot of personal value from their activity, including the chance to become more proficient gardeners themselves. "They're getting enjoyment and the opportunity to contribute. Our communities are getting great benefit, too," she says. ■

Della O'Hara is a writer based in Chicago, and an enthusiastic gardener.

### COMMON QUESTIONS

Here are some of the questions volunteer extension master gardeners commonly hear from the amateur gardening public:

- What is this plant?
- What is going wrong with my plant/area?
- What is this bug that seems to be damaging my plant?
- How can I get rid of this garden pest?
- Can I garden effectively without pesticides?
- What plants do best in our climate?
- What plants will do best in my sunny/shady yard?
- What plants are pest-resistant to ants?
- How can I produce my own food?
- How do I start a community or youth garden?—DO

**Helpful links**

For more information visit these sites:

- Find a master gardener program: [mastergardener.org](http://mastergardener.org)
- extension.org/about-us/find-a-program
- National MGs: [sites.google.com/extension.org/eng\\_coordinators/extension-coordinators](http://sites.google.com/extension.org/eng_coordinators/extension-coordinators)
- national-committee-washington-state-master-gardener-wsueducational-program/overview—DO



Spring Into Gardening seminar was chaired by **Chris Rusch** who led our troops with 23 volunteers helping present our educational program to the public.



**Ann Severson** had a crew for Trash to Treasures of 48 volunteers setting up, pricing and selling our wares to all the individuals looking for that one special treasure. **Chuck Goodin**, class of 2019, worked both days. We really appreciate our newer Master Gardeners supporting our program in this way.



We want to give a special thank you appreciation award to **Dave Hopkins** and **Scott McKain** for their extra effort in the Victory Garden hauling wood chips and adding soil amendments. The crew was very happy for your help.

Another big thank you to all our great DCMG volunteers!

**Looking for Volunteers**  
**to step up for the following positions:**  
**DCMG President, 8/2020**  
**DCMG Treasurer, 8/2020**  
**Winter Training Coordinator(s), 2022**  
**Publicity Chairperson, 8/2020**

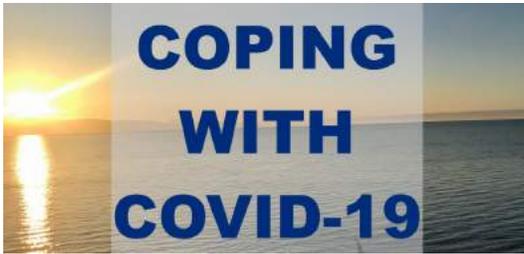
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**Also needed:**  
**“Volunteer to sand down our two green picnic tables and repaint the table surface.**  
**Great work environment,**  
**Friendly Boss Lady.**  
**Call Julie Stanbery if interested.”**



Trash To Treasure at Winston Community Center





I asked Master Gardeners to share how they are riding out this COVID-19 pandemic which has brought normal life to a virtual standstill. Here's some of their responses.

**IVOR CHAPMAN**

Nice to hear from my son in Wales (Europe). Seems they're taking it more seriously at this point in time and it may be where we're heading. Pubs are closed so the stores are out of bottled beer, except the store he visited was not out of Corona...don't know whether it was ignorance or superstition. Like you won't find a row 13 on an American airline plane or a floor 13 on an American multistory.

He went to the hardware store and they allowed in one person at a time; you ordered from a catalog and took it away with you when finished, you placed your order on the counter and the server stood back while you did it. You stood back while the server picked up your order, the server also sanitized the credit card machine before you entered your card...the goods were exchanged in the same way.

At least Douglas County is not there yet, or like California with empty stores and armed police protecting a pallet-load of toilet paper. Should of got my hair cut when I had the chance!

**DIANA CIRCLE**



Three new garden beds built last week while on lockdown. Garden fun!



**BONNIE DURICK**

It is amazing at the things that can be done at home when going out and about is very limited. Since this shelter in place scenario has been here, these are some of the things:

- Clean out closets - CHECK. (How and why did I have so much junk shoved into the back corners of these closets?)
- Get weeds under control - CHECK (of course this is never-ending, but right now it is something to do)
- Wash windows inside - CHECK - (Getting desperate for things to fill in the time)
- Take down and wash light fixtures - CHECK (Wow, this is rather sad that there isn't anything fun to do right now)
- Work on charity quilts - CHECK. You may or not know that I am a quilter and I make charity scrap quilts from scraps people give me. These are taken to a group of ladies at one of the area churches who tie the quilts, then they are donated to various places in town that need them. Right now I have about 4 large garbage bags full of fabric scraps, so I should be good for the long haul to be able to keep sewing.

Hope everyone keeps safe and well.

**LORI & MARK SALARS**

When I read your email I thought about emailing you right back and being a smart-alec and ask what you meant. As in, what do you mean "coping"?! As usual, this problem is affecting us about as much as Snowmageddon did.....not. We're used to not coming to town but once a week and that's usually just to deliver eggs and see what's on sale at the grocery store. And this time of year, we mostly just hang out here on the hill and see what we can pick out of the winter garden for dinner like the cabbage and winter cauliflower that I sent a pic of. Hope all is going well with you and yours. Take care.

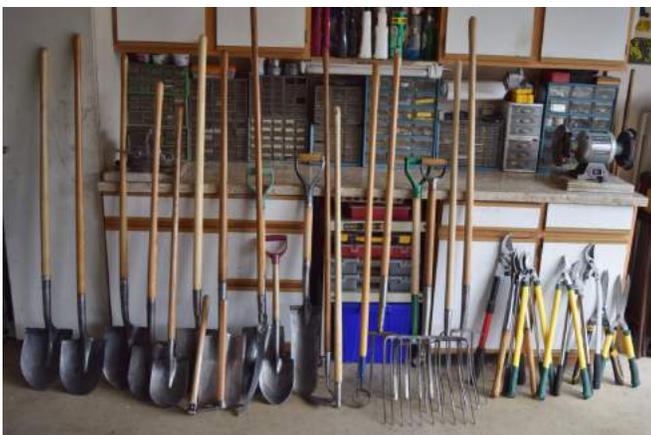


## FRED ALLEY

What does Fred Alley do with his free home bound time during COVID-19?

Well, as most of us Master Gardeners, I have to prioritize my time. In during so, I suspect the priorities are:

- Working in the yard and garden (weather permitting)
- Working on my photos in my office and taking a few more at the DG
- Organizing our household and office files/records
- And my favorite, refurbishing garden tools in my garage.



Now you have to realize, this last summer and fall, Sandy and I went to a lot of garage and estate sales which enabled me to build my collection of old/discarded garden tools. It's not because I knew COVID-19 was coming, it was because I can't help myself. It has been rather difficult getting both my Jeep and Sandy's Honda in the garage because of the stack of garden tools in the corner of the garage. I'm pleased to say the stack is dwindling. As you can see from the photograph, I have refurbished at least 30 tools from round shovels to pick forks to loppers and more. I have twice as much waiting hidden in places throughout our property. My personal favorite is collecting antique garden tools, focusing on Corona tools. No, I did not include the collection in this photo. I don't let Sandy know what I have. Hopefully she will not read this issue of the Newsletter.

Anyway, stay safe and healthy. I miss going to the Discovery Garden and seeing all of you. The Garden is absolutely beautiful this time of the year, thanks to our many Master Gardener volunteers.

## JACK FINNEY - "THE IRIS DOC"

"A true gardener is a person who does not see work to be done. Rather, the individual who finds joy in gardening sees a heart's desire becoming reality. S/he is invigorated by the essential elements of gardening: exercise, a sense of accomplishment, the acquisition of new knowledge, successful problem solving, and artistic expression. For the enthusiastic gardener, it is not work. The difference between work and play is whether or not you want to do it."



Inspired by 'The therapeutic value of the garden in trying times' by Adrian Higgins, [Washington Post](#), March 29, 2020

## JULIE STANBERY

How to endure the pandemic: "Driveway Quarantini Party". "Quarantini" recipe: 2 packets of Emergence C vitamin powder mixed with adequate parts of vodka or gin. Set chairs 6-8 feet apart, enjoy!!!!

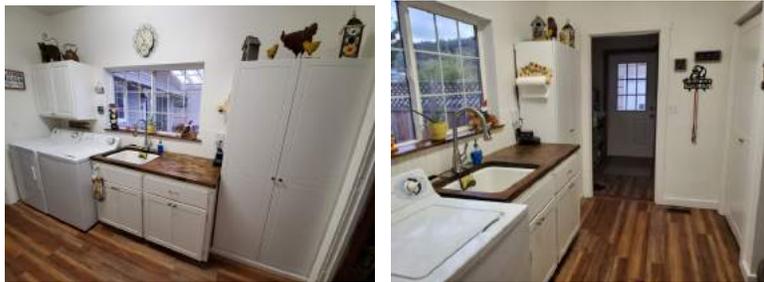
## BONNIE COURTER

Between bouts of weeding, reading, seeding and kneading (sourdough bread), I've tried to keep busy. Managed to finish knitting my cardigan sweater and finally expanded the mulch around my clerodendron tree. (Tal Blankenship would be so proud of me!). Mostly missing my Master Gardener friends and hoping this ends soon. We'll get through this. Gardening inspires positivity and hope.



## KISH DOYLE

Now that we all have spare time, I decided to tackle my old and dingy laundry room. New paint, vinyl plank flooring, built in utility cabinet, utility sink and butcher block countertop. I even cleaned and organized my "junk drawer." It's now the cleanest room in my house!



## ANNE BACON

Since being "stuck" (I really like it here), at home, I've been staying busy learning an art form called Zentangle. I'm using YouTube videos and some books to teach myself this method. It's relaxing and has almost instant gratification because each little piece can be completed quickly. You can also take your time and make small masterpieces. I've included some of my favorites from the past week.

If you'd like to learn more you can check out this website: [about-the-zentangle-method](http://about-the-zentangle-method)

I hope you're all well and staying out of trouble.



## NANCY FULLER

Since staying home, For the first time in 25 years, I've been baking bread from scratch. I'd forgotten how time & labor intensive it is to do. The blooming African violet on my counter is a happy sign that I can keep some plants alive. 😊



## JEANIE OWEN

Covered my garden beds with wire to discourage the neighborhood cats. Turned my compost pile and screened the finished compost. I ended up with 6 buckets of compost. The cold frame is for my seedlings, for home, and hopefully the Easy Access Garden. Mark, Ernie, Jan, and I are sowing extra seeds at home so if we are allowed back in the garden we will have a few plants ready to go. We know we won't have any money to purchase plants. The tulips are just for fun, I'm always excited to see them come up. They're a beautiful sign of spring.



# Douglas County Master Gardeners

**Newsletter:** The deadline for the May 2020 Newsletter is April 30. 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)

**Oregon Master Gardeners Association (OMGA):** [www.oregonmastergardeners.org](http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org)



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you 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, 541-391-2890, [rbcourter@gmail.com](mailto:rbcourter@gmail.com).

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