

The Gardener's Pen



A Publication of the Oregon Master Gardeners™ Association in Cooperation with OSU Extension Service™

Mini-College News

March 20 2020

The Executive Committee of the Oregon Master Gardener Association met via teleconference to discuss the impact the present health crisis may have on the 2020 OMGA Mini-College. They decided to continue working on the conference preparations with the hope that it will not be necessary to cancel our event.



The situation will be evaluated again at their next meeting on May 15, 2020 and a final decision made at that time. So, don't take this off your calendar.

Some of the exciting speakers and events that are scheduled include:

- ☞ Thursday evening social in the Omaha Room at Goss Stadium to watch the Corvallis Knights vs the Yakima Pippins baseball game
- ☞ Keynote speaker, Robert Michael Pyle, author and founder of the Xerces Society
- ☞ Classes such as: Dr. Karen Trippe - BioChar, Richard Bertram - Hydroponics, Lori Sampson - Hosta and also Peonies, and many more
- ☞ Workshops including a Plant Problem Walk: Insects and Diseases with Gail Langellotto and Brooke Edmunds
- ☞ Tours including the Oak Creek Center
- ☞ Banquet at the Adair Club House catered by Valley Catering

Please check **the [OMGA Web site](#)** frequently for the latest information about Mini-College.

April 2020

Insects & Gardening
Pests



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**The deadline for the
July issue is:**

June 15, 2020

Please send articles to:

Renee Taylor

rcitlau@gmail.com

Mini-College
Keynote Speaker

Robert Michael Pyle

*Celebrated Author
and Founder of
Xerces Society*

COVID-19 Updates

For the latest COVID-19 updates that pertain to the OMGA, visit:

- [OSU COVID-19 Latest Updates](#)
- [OMGA Coordinators](#)
- [OMGA Website](#)



From the Desk of the President

Chris Rusch, OMGA President, Douglas County 

As you all read this, we in our Oregon Master Gardener program are facing a national emergency over the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of us are seniors and find ourselves in the high risk group of individuals susceptible to this virus. The guidance from Oregon State University is rapidly evolving and new guidance was issued March 25, 2020. The latest guidance can be found on [**OSU's COVID-19 Webpage.**](#)

Given that older adults are both a vulnerable population and an abundant group in the Master Gardener Program, OSU is recommending 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 and green house plant care). This latest guidance is affecting our greatest fundraiser of all, Plant Sales. We should consult with our local Extension Agents/coordinators for guidance. Some may be more flexible than others. These are very trying times for everyone. Let's remember to follow the best guidance available; that is stay home, and practice safe hygiene in all that we do, including social distancing. And always treat each other with kindness and respect. Thanks for your understanding as we navigate these challenging times together!



We had a terrific **first quarter OMGA meeting** on March 6 and 7 in Josephine County. I want to thank Josephine County Chapter President Mark Schallheim and his terrific crew of volunteers for hosting. On Friday March 6, our Educational Forum was dedicated to OMGA Representative Orientation. The power point will be available on our website soon.

Our next day was devoted to regular business that included a thorough report about our planned **Mini-College** scheduled for July 24th and 25th! 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! 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 (crusch@hughes.net)**

Another important topic on the agenda was a discussion on **plant sale "Best Practices"**. Everyone agreed that we need to further advance this topic to an Education Forum topic for our November quarterly meeting. Speaking of which, we are searching for a Chapter willing to host this meeting. If your Chapter can host our November meeting, or if you are interested in participating in the plant sale "Best Practices" topic please contact me. We ended our meeting with a review of our OMGA goals and objectives for 2020 (available on our website). All in all, we had a terrific couple of days with lots of great information shared. For more details, check out the meeting minutes on our website.

And on a personal note, despite all the cool weather and rain recently, our gardening season is just around the corner. I am already planning my garden for 2020.

This includes my annual seed order. I hope you too are getting your seeds ordered or shopping for them at your local garden shop! Sugar Snap Peas are always part of my order. 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 3" tall as of this writing.



Happy gardening dreaming!



OMGA Grants & Awards

OMGA Grants



OMGA offers several grants to our Chapters. **The deadline for applications is May 15.**

Applications are available on the **OMGA Website** (<https://omga.org/documents-and-forms/>).

The following is a brief overview of the grants that are available:

- ☞ **The Karl Carlson Memorial Fund serves** to enhance and supplement the OSU home horticulture program. This can help fund your many projects tied to educating our community about sustainable gardening practices.
- ☞ **The Marje Luce Search for Excellence Program** recognizes outstanding work by Chapters in community service, innovative projects, youth programs and much more.
- ☞ **Extension Educator Grant** supplies fund to help OSU Extension agents and program assistants enhance their ability to education the public.
- ☞ **Send-a-Friend Mini College Scholarships** are used to help fund one or more of a Chapter's Master Gardeners attend mini-college, who might need financial assistance to do so.

Make sure your Chapter takes advantage of this great opportunity!!

OMGA Awards



Nominations for county and statewide awards are due by May 15, 2020. Please download the applicable form on the

Applications for each of the following OMGA Awards are on the **OMGA Website** (<https://omga.org/documents-and-forms/>).

- ☞ County Master Gardener of the Year
- ☞ County Behind the Scenes Master Gardener of the Year
- ☞ Statewide Master Gardener of the Year Awards
- ☞ Longevity Recognition Award



OSU Master Gardener Program to be Featured on Dam Proud Day / OSU Giving Day

...by Gail Langellotto, PhD, Statewide MG Coordinator

On April 30, Beavers everywhere will come together for Oregon State University's second annual Dam Proud Day, a 24-hour fundraising event for transformative education, life-changing research and other important programs. Our goal will be to engage 500 donors in a 24-hour campaign, to support advances in the science of sustainable gardening. Your tax-deductible gift can be as small as \$10 (and as high as \$99,000), and will be used to cover the costs associated with sustainable gardening research: plants, plot fees, greenhouse fees, and supplies. Please keep an eye out for the campaign on April 30th, and the buzz leading up to the event.

There are many ways you can help this campaign succeed:



1. **Donate on April 30th.** Any gift, from \$10 to \$10,000, makes a huge difference!
2. **Share news about Dam Proud Day | Beavs Give** in your Master Gardener newsletter. Newsletters published near the end of March or the beginning of April will have the biggest impact.
3. **Amplify messaging shared on the Master Gardener Facebook page**, by sharing news about Dam Proud Day | Beavs Give on your own social media. I will begin posting about this campaign in the two weeks leading up to April 30th.
4. **Sponsor a challenge gift** of \$1,000-\$5,000. Challenges are funded by donors and create opportunities to leverage your support for a program that matters to you. These may include goals for a certain number of people to donate within a certain period of time or to donate a certain amount, which will unlock additional funding for the program.
5. **Wish us luck**, as we embark upon our first crowdsourcing campaign, with the goal of engaging 500 or more donors to support the Master Gardener Program.

If you have questions about how you can support the April 30th campaign, please contact Gail Langellotto (gail.langellotto@oregonstate.edu | 541-737-5175).

DAM PROUD DAY



Carnegie Foundation again bestows coveted 'Community Engagement' designation on OSU

Story by Chris Branam, [OSU News Room](#)



Oregon Master Gardener Association was one of 15 organizations selected by Oregon State University to contribute to the community-engaged institution application to the Carnegie Foundation. The honor reported in this press release goes to the OMGA, as much as to OSU and the other partner organizations that contributed to the application.'

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Oregon State University has been awarded its second Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, a designation that acknowledges the strength of OSU's commitment to community engagement and engaged scholarship among Oregonians statewide.

The re-classification vaults Oregon State into a select group of only 28 universities in the United States and its territories to earn the community engagement classification in 2020 and also hold a "very high research activity" classification, both from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The 2020 list of community-engaged institutions **was announced today**. In OSU's case, the award continues a designation that the university first received in 2010.

"This honor speaks to OSU's demonstrated commitment to serve and collaborate with our broader local, regional, national and global communities," OSU President Ed Ray said. "This classification recognizes the impact of our community engagement that crosses all aspects of the university's three missions: research and scholarship, teaching and learning, and outreach. It also demonstrates the strength of our partnerships with many community stakeholders throughout Oregon and beyond."



In awarding the re-classification, the Carnegie foundation said OSU displays an "excellent alignment among campus mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement."

Oregon State has long been recognized for exceptional community outreach throughout Oregon with programs such as the **Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service and Forest Research Laboratory**, as well as Oregon State's highly-ranked **Ecampus** and myriad **programs that serve K-12 students**, notably its **4-H youth development program, Extension Service Outdoor School and Open Campus**.



"Community engagement is core to OSU's mission as a land grant university," said Anita Azarenko, interim vice provost for outreach and engagement and director of the Extension Service. "Through our research and scholarship, we engage in communities throughout Oregon in teaching, identifying and serving local needs and pursuing opportunities, attending to dilemmas and solving problems. This collaborative work serves to improve the health and well-being of all Oregonians."

Including this year's class of 119 institutions, a total of 359 institutions nationwide now hold the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. OSU is one of three institutions in Oregon to hold the classification, joining Portland State University and Concordia University.



Beneficial Insects

Not all bugs are bad. Insects get labeled as "pests" when they start causing harm to people or the things we care about, like plants, animals, and buildings. Out of nearly one million known insect species, only about one to three percent are ever considered pests. What about the rest of them? Some insects actually help us by keeping the pests in check.



If we let them do their jobs, many **types of insects** can actually help us out:

☞ By preying on pest insects

Spiders are predators of insects. So are some types of beetles, flies, true bugs, and lacewings.

☞ By parasitizing pest insects

Parasitic insects, like some small wasps, lay their eggs inside insects or their eggs. This can help drive the pest population down.

☞ By pollinating plants

Insects like native bees, honeybees, butterflies, and moths can provide this service, helping plants bear fruit.

☞ Don't forget about non-insect beneficial animals!

Birds and bats are examples of animals that can feed on pest insects.

Think about it this way:

Your backyard ecosystem is a cafeteria for all sorts of insects.

The balance of that system depends on whether you cater to the "pest" insects or to the "beneficial" ones.

What can you do to cater to beneficial insects?

1. Attract them to your **yard**, **garden**, or other landscape.
 - Include a variety of native plants to provide a variety of food sources (like nectar).
 - Provide shelter for them. Include a mixture of features like ground cover plants, dead leaves or other plant material, and some areas of bare soil.
2. Protect them so that they can help you in return.
 - Practice **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**
 - Identify the pest – make sure it's not actually a beneficial insect!
 - Decide how many of the pest insects are tolerable. Remember, some pests are necessary to feed the beneficial insects and some plant damage is natural for any ecosystem.
 - Think about using alternative control methods while you wait for the beneficial insects to take over for you. Be patient, it can sometimes take several days for them to make a difference.
3. If you choose to use a pesticide, consider selecting one that will target your pest specifically, rather than a broad-spectrum product.
4. Keep your **lawn** and other plants healthy. Give them appropriate amounts of nutrients, water, sunlight, and do regular upkeep. A healthy ecosystem will have fewer pest outbreaks.

(National Pesticide Information Center: <http://npic.orst.edu/envir/beneficial/index.html>)



The Physical & Mental Benefits of Gardening

Julia Darnton, and Lauren McGuire, Michigan State University Extension - May 19, 2014

Nature has long been known for its relaxing qualities, as a place for humans to find tranquility and healing. Gardening in particular is associated with mental clarity and feelings of reward, and it has many physical benefits as well. Food gardening can particularly be gratifying and an excellent source of fresh produce. From soil preparation to the joy of harvesting, there is always a task, big or small, during the growing season! If you have ever spent a summer gardening, you know that these tasks can serve



Photo credit: Michelle Lavra I

With many community leaders in Michigan, such as Michigan State University Extension, working to promote private gardens as well as urban agriculture opportunities such as community gardens, there has never been a better time to use gardening for exercise. But just how beneficial to your health is this age-old agricultural tradition?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), moderate-intensity level activity for 2.5 hours each week can reduce the risk for obesity, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, heart disease, stroke, depression, colon cancer and premature death. The CDC considers gardening a moderate-intensity level activity, and can help you to achieve that 2.5 hour goal each week. Additionally, those that choose gardening as their moderate-intensity exercise are more likely to exercise 40-50 minutes longer on average than those that choose activities like walking or biking. By venturing outdoors to various community garden spaces around Michigan, you not only assist in keeping their community vibrant, but become healthier in the process. For example:

- ☞ "A ten percent increase in nearby green space was found to decrease a person's health complaints in an amount equivalent to a five year reduction in that person's age" according to the Gardening Matters nonprofit of Minneapolis' page, "Multiple Benefits of Community Gardens."
- ☞ Exercising both the arms and legs is recommended to help prevent illnesses like coronary disease. With most everyday activities only involving the arms, gardening is a great way to incorporate the entire body while exercising.
- ☞ According to the journal Biological Psychiatry, some experts even say the fresh air can help prevent Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and result in higher test scores among students.

Gardening has also emerged in recent years as a scientifically proven stress reliever. Stress can cause irritability, headaches, stomach aches, heart attacks and worsen pre-existing conditions in the body. An experiment published in the Journal of Health Psychology compared gardening to reading as a stress-relieving activity; test subjects that gardened experienced a more significant decrease in stress when compared to the subjects that were assigned to read.

In addition to health benefits, gardens are also known to increase property values and save money when grocery shopping. With so many options and resources for both community and personal garden development available in Michigan there is no reason not to enjoy the outdoors this season by growing a vibrant, beneficial garden and getting your exercise in the process.



Plan for Spring Flowers

Early Spring Flowers



Hellebore—Helleborus x hybridus

This early spring flower, also known as Lenten Rose, comes in a variety of colors. Cut back stems after flowers face to encourage new growth

Plant in a shady spot with well draining soil and incorporate compost in the planting area. Spring bulbs, ferns and hostas make good companion plants.



Snowdrop—Galanthus

Grow snowdrops in a location that has full sun during the spring . They prefer rich, well-drained soil.

Plant the dry bulbs early in the fall, but after the soil has cooled – generally when nighttime temperatures are in the 40's and 50's. Space the plants 3" apart and set the bulbs 3" deep. Fertilize in early spring when shoots first appear or after blooming.



Bleeding Heart—Dicentra eximia

Bleeding heart bears white, pink, or red heart-shaped flowers on arching stems above fern-like leaves. Plant these alongside bold-leaved plants that will grow up and cover the dying foliage. They grow best in rich, well-draining soil with regular moisture. For longer-lasting plants, the foliage and flowers of fringed bleeding heart or western bleeding heart will last into fall with regular watering. Grow in a woodland setting with other shade lovers, or in a container.

Spring



Daffodil —Narcissus

A dependable and easy flower to grow, daffodils require very little care and are a great choice for beginning gardeners. Their trumpet-shaped flowers are typically yellow or white and they grow best in full sun or light shade. For best results, plant in masses in a perennial garden, or let them naturalize in a woodland garden.

Late Spring



Flowering Onion—Allium spp.

Alliums are closely related to edible onions. Colors include white, red, pink and purple. Flower height ranges from 6 inches to almost 3 feet. They grow best in full sun and well-drained soil. Divide them if they become overcrowded, and replant the bulbs in the fall.

Garden Design <https://www.gardendesign.com/flowers/spring.html> , <https://bygl.osu.edu/node/99>, <https://wimastergardener.org/article/snowdrops-galanthus-spp/> https://extension.usu.edu/news_sections/gardening/bulb-planting , https://extension.usu.edu/news_sections/gardening/bulb-planting , <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/flowers-shrubs-trees/spring-flowering-bulbs>



Astro Culture 101

Posted on March 24, 2020 by Mykl Nelson, Garden Ecology Lab

Why astroculture?

Astroculture: growing food in space! 'Sure, cool concept,' you might be thinking, 'but what does this have to do with garden ecology?' Well, the tight confines onboard spacecraft are more constraining than most any compact, dense city on Earth could claim. Perhaps only those in capsule-style housing can begin to appreciate the cramped living quarters of astronauts.

The effort to grow food in space is about more than creating a system which can reduce the need for supply shuttles from Earth. Astroculture is the proving ground for compact, synthetic production environments. Any experiments are as isolated as possible. This has resulted in NASA (or the National Aeronautics Space Administration) and other space agencies playing a central role in the development of new technologies to support the growth of plants in artificial conditions.

From 1970 to the present there have been:

- 21 plant growth chamber design systems
- 50 different cultivation experiments
- across ~40 species

The first food crop grown in space were onions in July, 1975, by cosmonauts Klimuk and Sevastianov during the *Salyut* space program of the Soviet Union. They aimed a few bulbs from the crew's on-board lighting system at the seeded trays, but nothing more. Some plants did germinate, and for the first plants humans have put in space, that's a significant enough accomplishment on its own. One of the limitations to this and all the other experiments at this time were the short flight durations. Only two years previous, the record time in space was set at just eight weeks—by the United States.

NASA pioneered research into intra-canopy lighting with a technique they called 'lightsicles'—poles of lights which lit ever-higher as the plants grew taller. This idea itself isn't new. Experiments 'on the ground' had shown that shading out lower leaves will lead to senescence or the decay and loss of those leaves.

See, the problem wasn't in supplying the right spectrum of light—controlled conditions in space quickly produced plants with lush growth in their upper canopy. The problem they quickly realized was a shading out and subsequent decay and loss of leaves below the plant canopy. Lights like high-pressure sodium or metal halide were simply too hot to be placed within the plant canopy itself. This heat also meant there was significant distance between light source and plant. This empty space between light and plant was the most the aeronautic agencies were willing to sacrifice to carry out these agricultural experiments. They definitely were not going to now account for empty space between lights on multiple sides of a plant's growing area!

The scientists at NASA were ready and waiting for something better. They quickly embraced emerging technologies like LEDs for all the same reasons Earth-bound producers have: they're energetically efficient with little waste heat all in a compact design. This lighting design and strict need for density meant NASA also found itself on the frontier of vertical farming innovations.



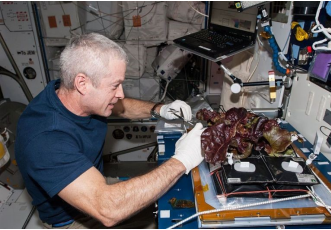
#SpaceFlower, a zinnia grown on the International Space Station (ISS). Image courtesy of Wikipedia Common

(Continued on page 10)



Experiments in astroculture, of growing plants in space, mostly boil down to understanding plant function in microgravity. Be this on a shuttle, station, Luna, or Mars, all locations exert less gravitational force than the Earth.

In 1982 *Arabidopsis* was successfully grown seed-to-seed in space then germinated back on Earth. This was proof of concept, plant life off-planet was possible. But the success rate was only about half, and all with a simple, model plant. This is like sending mice into space before chimps or humans. Subsequent experiments of greater scope found microgravity seriously impedes and sometimes even alters plant physiology.



Steve Swanson tending Romaine lettuce aboard the ISS. Image courtesy of Wikipedia Common

Now, let's talk about carbon dioxide for a second. Plants breathe the air, just like us, but they've got a use for CO₂: it plays a key role in photosynthesis. Atmospheric enrichment of CO₂ within closed production environments has been practiced since the 1970s. A limited set of experiments in 1989 found CO₂ supplementation also improved a great number of factors in microgravity. But this might not be so groundbreaking or critical to astroculture. This is still well before the current field of controlled environment agriculture had developed. We now see carbon dioxide as key to increasing plant growth but also recognize a number of other inherently limiting factors within artificial environments. Put shortly: most plants, on *terra firma* or in outer space, do better with CO₂ supplementation.

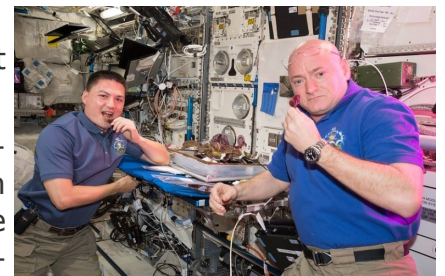
What has emerged as uniquely problematic in microgravity is irrigation. Maintaining a reliable range of moisture in the root zone has become the critical adaptation of astrocultural production. I'm sure we're all familiar with water adhesion and its surface tension. On the planet's surface, adhesion and tension are frequently dwarfed by the force of gravity itself. This pulls water into the soil, pulls water through the soil, and actually plays a large part in the water cycle itself. In microgravity, adhesion and tension begin to exert their dominance. It's difficult to direct and instead will cling to most surfaces it touches. So when water is applied to the root zone, it clings to the roots. Many plants end up anoxic: they've drowned in their flooded conditions.

The latest developments are using porous tubes and/or plates to slow the delivery of water and nutrients. It seems like, if we can't stop water from coating everything it touches, the plan is to greatly restrict its flow and access to non-target areas. A slow osmosis via a clay pipe works as a bottleneck to prevent drowning.

In the early 2000s on board the International Space Station, astronauts successfully completed two generations—that's seed-to-seed,-to-seed—of soy: Space Seeds™. Ok, they're not really trademarked, but it's fun to call them 'space seeds.'

On August 10, 2015, NASA astronauts were officially allowed to eat space-grown produce for the first time: some leaves of lettuce.

In addition to innovative irrigation control techniques, the latest astrocultural experiments have just recently begun to increase in scale. The first growing area, in 1971, was a mere 10cm². Little gains were made until 2014 when they achieved 1700cm² of production area by using an 'inflatable' model which astronauts assembled once in outer space. The latest plans utilize a vertical racking system and aim for a full square meter (10,000 cm²)



Astronauts Scott Kelly and Kjell Lindgren eating the first leaves of space-grown lettuce. Image courtesy of NASA Johnson on flickr.



Container Gardening

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

If your vegetable gardening is limited by insufficient space or an unsuitable area, consider raising fresh, nutritious, homegrown **vegetables in containers**. A window sill, a patio, a balcony or a doorstep will provide sufficient space for a productive mini-garden. Problems with soilborne diseases, nematodes or poor soil conditions can be easily overcome by switching to a container garden. Ready access to containers means that pest management is easier. Container vegetable gardening is a sure way to introduce children to the joys and rewards of vegetable gardening.



Vegetable Selection

Almost any vegetable that will grow in a typical backyard garden will also do well as a container-grown plant. Vegetables that are ideally suited for growing in containers include tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, green onions, beans, lettuce, squash, radishes and parsley. Pole beans and cucumbers also do well in this type of garden, but they do require considerably more space because of their vining growth habit.

Variety selection is extremely important. Most varieties that will do well when planted in a yard garden will also do well in containers. Some varieties of selected vegetables which are ideally suited for these mini-gardens are indicated below.

Suggested Container Grown Vegetables

*Name (Container Size, Number of Plants) – *Varieties*

- **Broccoli** (2 gallons, 1 plant) – *Packman, Bonanza, others*
- **Carrot** (1 gallon, 2-3 plants. Use pots 2 inch deeper than the carrot length) – *Scarlet Nantes, Gold Nugget, Little Finger, Baby Spike, Thumbelina*
- **Cucumber** (1 gallon, 1 plant) – *Burpless, Liberty, Early Pik, Crispy, Salty*
- **Eggplant** (5 gallons, 1 plant) – *Florida Market, Black Beauty, Long Tom*
- **Green Bean** (2 gallons minimum, space plants 3 inches apart) – *Topcrop, Green-crop, Contender, (Pole) Blue Lake, Kentucky Wonder*
- **Green Onion** (1gallon, 3-5 plants) – *Beltsville Bunching, Crysal Wax, Evergreen Bunching*
- **Leaf Lettuce** (1 gallon, 2 plants) – *Buttercrunch, Salad Bowl, Romaine, Dark Green Boston, Ruby, Bibb*
- **Parsley** (1gallon, 3 plants) – *Evergreen, Moss Curled*
- **Pepper** (5 gallons, 1-2 plants) – *Yolo Wonder, Keystone Resistant Giant, Canape, Red Cherry (Hot), Jalapeno*
- **Radish** (1 gallon, 3 plants) – *Cherry Belle, Scarlet Globe, (White) Icicle*
- **Spinach** (1 gallon, 2 plants) – *Any culti-var*
- **Squash** (5 gallons, 1 plant) – *Dixie, Gold Neck, Early Prolific Straightneck, Zucco (Green), Diplomat, Senator*
- **Tomato** (5 gallons, 1 plant) – *Patio, Pixie, Tiny Tim, Saladette, Toy Boy, Spring Giant, Tumbling Tom, Small Fry*
- **Turnip** (2 gallons, 2 plants) – *Any culti-var*



Splinters From the Board

by Sharon Bordeaux, OMGA Secretary, Douglas County



1st Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting, March 7, 2020 at Josephine County

Nesbitt gave reports on Mini-college scheduled for July 24-25th.

- ✿ An impressive list of speakers and presenters has been assembled.
- ✿ The Thursday night mixer will be held in the Omaha Room at Goss Stadium to watch a Corvallis Knights baseball game. Entrance free; food and beverage on your own.
- ✿ Extensive report in the Executive Committee and Board Meeting minutes.

OSU Extension Program Coordinator Gail Langellotto gave her reports.

- ✿ The 2019 Annual Report is available at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/2020/01/27/2019-annual-report/>
- ✿ Gail reported on new positions funded by OSU for the Extension program: North Coast Professor of Practice serving Tillamook and Clatsop Counties, Wasco County Horticulture/Master Gardener Coordinator (Professional Faculty), and Statewide Master Gardener Program Coordinator (Professional Faculty part time). The College of Agricultural Sciences is working to reclassify the Jackson and Lincoln County Master Gardener Professional Faculty positions into Professors of Practice. The College of Agriculture also adjusted the FTE for faculty in the Portland Metro region, Josephine and Jackson counties to more fairly reflect and provide compensation for their time worked. Gail feels that all of these changes reflects OSU's commitment to the OSU Master Gardener program.
- ✿ Sue Nesbitt and OMGA were one of 15 community partners selected to contribute to OSU's application to the Carnegie Foundation, for the coveted 'Community Engagement Classification'. This honor recognizes OSU's university-wide commitment to engaging with local, national and global communities to advance all aspects of our mission through research and scholarship, teaching and learning and outreach. Oregon State is now one of a select group of only 28 universities in the United States and its territories to earn the community engagement classification in 2020 and also hold a "very high research activity" classification, both from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. You can read more about this honor at <https://engagement.oregonstate.edu/initiatives/carnegie>.

Treasurers Workshops announced by Treasurer, Patrice Sipos

- ✿ Treasurer Patrice Sipos announced she will offer workshops for treasurers at the Educational Forums in September and November. She is encouraging all chapters to convert to Quick Books to provide uniformity in financial reports. Complete financial reports are available on the OMGA website.

President, Chris Rusch, presented OMGA Grant information

- ✿ Chris encourages chapters to apply for grants. Applications are due by May 15, 2020. A list of grants is on the OMGA website.

Yamhill County will host the third quarter Educational Forum and OMGA Board meeting.



Oregon Master Gardeners 2020 Meeting Schedule

Executive Committee	Educational Forum	Board of Directors
Friday, May 15, 2020 Linn County Extension Office Tangent, Oregon	July—None	Thursday, July, 23, 2020 Corvallis
Friday, August 7, 2020 Linn County Extension Office Tangent, Oregon	Friday, September 11, 2020 Yamhill Chapter	Saturday, September 12, 2020 Yamhill Chapter
Friday, October 2, 2020 Linn County Extension Office Tangent, Oregon	Friday, November 6, 2020 TBA	Saturday, November 7, 2020 TBA

Thank You!

A big thank you to **Marcia Sherry** for all of her help and support in providing resources, tips, instructions, and files for the OMGA newsletter.

OMGA Updates

Visit the **OMGA Website** (<https://omga.org/>) for updates on Mini-College as well as other OMGA events.

WCMGA Plant Sale Canceled

The Washington County Master Gardener Association (WCMGA) plant sale has been cancelled, but some plants may be available in April. For updates go to: <http://washingtoncountymastergardeners.org/upcoming-events/>



"Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal

THE GARDENER'S PEN

The Gardener's Pen Newsletter is published three/four times per year: April, July, October, and December/January by the Oregon Master Gardener Association.

Deadline for the July issue is:

No later than June 15th, 2020.

Theme: "Grow, Provide, & Sustain"

Please send articles and photos to:

Renee Taylor, Managing Editor @
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