



June 2023

Presidential Musings
By: Georgia Moulton

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Spring has turned into Summer and much has been happening in my garden, as I imagine it has been in yours. However, my thoughts this month are turning to how we can become more resilient in the face of uncertainty and ever-changing conditions. We all understand that we are living in changing times, in fact this has been our life-long experience. So, why are we so resistant to change? Why aren't we more resilient? One definition of **resiliency** is *the ability to successfully adapt to changing conditions*. Now is clearly the time for us to build or strengthen our *Resiliency Muscle*.

Recently, our duly elected County Commissioners have seen fit to zero out the local property tax levy that has provided for the administrative support we have enjoyed from the OSU Extension Office since 1996. In addition, they terminated the Service Agreement between the County and OSU that activated all the Extension programs our neighbors have taken advantage of for over 100 years. This would be a blow to many here in Josephine County who have been Plant Clinic clients, and/or used the many other Extension services. At this writing, we don't know yet what OSU will decide to do in response to these changes.

However, this action hasn't inactivated JOCOMGA. We are still a stand-alone organization, and a chapter of OMGA, with our own bank account, our own officers, bylaws, and decision-making capability. We are here to stay and do the great things that we do in our community regardless of the outcome.

We, Master Gardeners, have a variety of viable options. The Executive Committee will meet as soon as we hear about how things are moving. At that time, we will discuss our options, and share them with all of you in an organized manner. Then, I expect to convene another Membership-wide meeting to help develop a plan to **successfully adapt to our changing conditions**. In other words, we hope to exhibit our Resiliency. We will discuss our many options, consider our best alternatives, and take the necessary action to move ahead as a stronger group. If you have any ideas to suggest, please give one of us a call to discuss them. We are open to all ideas, no matter how far-fetched they may seem at first. Please warm up your *Resiliency Muscle* and get ready for some action. We will face these changing times together!

Please note, due to the July 4th holiday, we will reschedule the July Association meeting for one week later, on July 11th. More information will be sent by email.

EXTENSION OFFICE UPDATE

Announcements from Danielle Knueppel, OSU Master Gardener Coordinator

A Few Announcements from Danielle Knueppel, OSU Master Gardener Coordinator

As of this writing, there are no new updates from OSU Extension leadership on the direction that we are taking following the Commissioner's decision on June 7th. We are all eagerly waiting to know the next steps, and as soon as receive information, I will send an email to all. Thanks for your patience in this time of uncertainty.

As I wrote in my email on the 9th, for the immediate time-being, we will continue to do the great work that we do... the plant clinic, the perennials plant sale on June 24th, our booth at the Growers Market (have you signed up yet?), the monthly speaker series, the demo gardens at the office and at Wildlife Images, the summer camp gardening activity with kids at Parkside Elementary. It's also a priority of mine to make sure that the current Master Gardener students will be able to graduate and become certified Master Gardeners. What we do in this program is important and greatly appreciated by so many!

I imagine you're all very busy with your gardens these days! I know there were a lot of packs of seed going out to the Master Gardener students this year during class, and if they planted all those seeds, they're surely swimming in plants by now!

As the days become hotter and drier, watering can become a big task. Drought tolerant plants are ideal for this area! Have you added these to your garden yet? The key to keeping drought tolerant plants happy is to give them the habitat they are used to – good draining soil, a small amount of slow-release fertilizer, and minimal water.

For tips on garden activities in the month of June, check out the [OSU Extension June Garden Calendar](#).



We have been invited to help with **gardening activities at a summer day camp** at Parkside Elementary School. The camp is run by On Campus Kids and goes from June 20th – August 11th.

We're looking for Master Gardeners who are interested in coming out once per week (either on Mondays or Thursdays from 9-10:30) to help lead garden activities with kids. Master Gardeners would be supervising the garden care (along with a camp counselor), answering questions & directing youth in gardening activities, like learning about plants, taking care of the garden (weeding, harvesting, watering, etc.) & diagnosing any problems with the kids.

This is a great opportunity to directly educate and influence a lifetime of future gardening for these kids. **Please get in touch with Keith Hall (keith.hall@oregonstate.edu or 541-476-6613) if you want to sign up for Mondays, Thursdays, or as a substitute!**



Master Gardeners at the June 6th Association Meeting. Meetings are usually the 1st Tuesday of each month at 9:30. Please join! All are welcome!

FINACIAL REVIEW

By John Etchells

As reported at the June meeting:

Total Assets as of 05/31/23

Checking: \$17,544.30

Savings: \$28,559.61*

CD: \$3,678.77

Total Assets: \$49,782.68**

For May, we had Net Revenue of \$12,002.24. (Net Operating Revenue \$13,690.16)

Total Revenue for April: \$13,690.16 This Revenue comes from:

- **Programs** (Garden Guides) - \$280.00
- **Fundraising** - \$13,213.21
 - Greenhouse Sales - \$10,886.21
 - Greenhouse [Soil Sale] - \$60.00
 - Perennials Sales - \$2,242.00
 - Vendor Rent - \$25.00
- **Administrative** - \$196.95
 - Donations - \$61.82
 - Interest - \$0.13
 - Member Sales - \$50.00.
 - Member Apparel Sales - \$85.00

Total Expenses for

May: \$1,687.92: Expense by category:

- Programs: \$724.98
- Mentor Program - \$49.98

- Special Projects (Wildlife Images) - \$675.00
- **Fundraising** - \$813.73
 - Perennials (Misc.) - \$5.00
 - Spring Garden Fair (Food) - \$228.75
 - Spring Garden Fair - Publicity - \$579.98
- **Fundraising** (Spring Garden Fair) - \$44.50
- **Administrative** (Credit Card Fees) - \$149.21

* Includes \$1,245.40 restricted for Greenhouse Maintenance/Repair, Library Programs, and a restricted donation in memory of Phylis McIntosh

** These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 5/31/23 bank statements.

*** Reminder - While shopping at the Grange Co-Op and or using the Fred Meyer Reward Programs, don't forget to have them credit your purchases to Jo. Co. Master Gardeners.

*** - When you have bills for payment, please be sure to complete an Authorization for

Payment/Reimbursement Form and must signed by the committee head or officer responsible for the item. Failure to do so will delay payment of your expenses.

*** - All bills should be submitted within 60 days of incurring the expense.

Getting Schooled in the Garden

By Pat Olson

A Portrait of schools that are getting it right. Few things evoke warm fuzzy feelings like marrying the word "school" to "garden." And not surprisingly this year when we have added 3 schools in the community to the list of school gardens that are up and running again. Mainly through the hard work, and unfailing fortitude of Kristin Smith, and her helper, Annie, from Raptor Creek Farms.

Parkside elementary needed some major renovation this year, and through the help of Master Gardener volunteers, it has come alive again. This school garden is unique in the way the raised beds are set up. They are in the shape of a smiley face. Kristen said this school has had great success this year and working with the students has been a lot of fun. The activity like a scavenger hunt for making up a healthy salad was a big hit.

At Madrona we had 7 volunteers helping this school year. We had fifteen to twenty-five students from each of the 3rd and 4th grade classes come out to the garden each week. The garden was very popular with the kids this year because Cindy Allen and Karen Matula planted up enough plants in the greenhouse to give each student a plant to take home each week. Sharen Allen made up, and laminated cards that told them about the plant, and added a recipe that it could be used with. And thanks to Fred Meyers they also got a seed packet to take home each week. The kids would make comments like "My Mother gets so excited to see a new plant each week to put in her garden." The students enjoyed the hands-on activities like planting; carrots, onions, potatoes, little jacks, peppers, and harvesting radishes, and they love.... love...love to water! I have never seen such beautiful round plump good tasting radishes that were grown in

the garden this year. They were planted at the perfect time and harvested at the perfect time.

Not all the kids wanted to eat one. We told them you pick it you eat it, or at least try it. Most of them just wanted to pull it out of the ground, but not eat it. And some were very amazed that they did like it. Some of these kids have [agriculture] in their blood. Some just love being in the garden, digging in the garden, planting, watering, and just talk, talk, talking about gardening.

The activities and lessons they enjoyed were learning about pollination and pollinating each other with Cheetos pollen. Last week they really had fun making seed bombs, made of white clay, with seeds in the middle, and then rolled in soil. to take home, thrown into their garden; where they will hopefully germinate and grow.

School is now out for the summer but, at Madrona, we will continue to look after the garden. We will participate at the County Fair, and then in the fall when the students get back to school, we'll open the garden for back-to-school night, where the students get to harvest all the produce that they helped plant and take it home. Only through some very caring, reliable, faithful Master Garden volunteers, have schools like Madrona and Highland school gardens stayed active for the last 5 or 6 years. The 3 other schools that have benefited from the Grant that Kristin from Raptor Creek received this year are Hidden Valley High School, Gladiola, and South Middle School. It's a much deeper and richer learning experience using the garden as a classroom. As with many school gardens the richness of that experience relies on community volunteers like you.....while we fight to keep the zucchini at bay. I WOULD LIKE TO PERSONALLY THANK ALL THOSE I HAVE WORKED WITH IN THE LAST 8 YEARS. FRIENDS LIKE YOU, WHO SHARE THE LOVE OF WORKING IN THE GARDEN, AND ARE SO ENJOYABLE TO BE AROUND ARE TRUE FRIENDS!

MADRONA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



**“In every gardener
is a child who loves
to play in the dirt.
In every child is a
gardener ready to
grow.” —
Anonymous**

Master Gardeners are Back at Grower's Market

By: Fred Schlieper

Lou Ann and I had a good reception on our first appearance at the Growers Market this weekend. We felt welcomed by the Market Leadership and the shoppers as well. We expected and received many questions about what was happening with OSU Extension Services, but we remained neutral in our responses and said we just need to see what will pan out.

People didn't seem disappointed to fill out contact information forms to be responded to later in the week by the Plant Clinic. They are happy to wait a few days for science-based answers to their questions. We took the information and slipped it into the slot in the Extension office door.

The biggest learning from this first week was what to take and what not to take, to keep things simple. We now have everything organized in the shed and labeled with blue painter's tape, so it will be easy for the next team. Next week we'll have one of the black tablecloths, for example.

Now all that is missing is for more of us to sign up to help. It takes two people each week to speed up the set-up and tear down. We must arrive at 8:15 to get in, as they close the doors to vendors at 8:30, and we must stay until 1:00 before we can begin tearing the booth down. You can go to the Google docs sheet and sign up for any Saturday that you are interested in helping. These hours count as MG Support. Hope to see you there!



Photo - Georgia Moulton

**EVERY FLOWER MUST GROW
THROUGH DIRT.
Laurie Jean Sennott**

Photo - Pam Zaklan



Mark your calendars for the next Jo Co MGA **Sustainable Gardening Speaker Series!** The next three dates are July 15, August 19, and September 9. Bring your friends and neighbors!

Check out the amazing work to install the new **Native Plants Demo Garden** at the entrance to Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center on Lower River Road. You can find more photos on the [Association website](#).

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE | MASTER GARDENERS

SUSTAINABLE GARDENING SPEAKER SERIES

Date	Topic	Speaker
6/03/23	Forest Die Back & Decline in SW Oregon: why here & why now?	Max Bennett
7/15/23	Bees/ Pollinators	Dave Kollen
8/19/23	Plant Propagation	Joan Foley & LouAnn Strahan

Join us for a monthly speaker series to learn about sustainable home gardening practices and related topics.

All sessions:
1:00pm-2:30pm
Free & open to public

Location for all sessions:
OSU Extension Auditorium
215 Ringette St.
Grants Pass, OR
541-476-6613

extension.oregonstate.edu/josephine




Have you registered for a morning of fun and learning about Pollinators at the Herb Pharm?

Oregon Pollinator Conservation Day at Herb Pharm

When

Date: Sunday, July 9th
 Time: 9am - 1pm, PST

Activities

Join us to celebrate and learn about our local diversity of native bees and Monarch butterflies. Speakers will be educating participants on insect biology, habitat needs and local conservation.

You'll also visit a field of herbs buzzing with bees and butterflies, and explore the Herb Pharm Botanical Garden.

Cost & Registration

Cost for this event is FREE!
 Suggested donation of \$10.

Attendance is limited, so please register in advance.



HERB PHARM®



Tips for Terrific Tomatoes



By [Suzanne DeJohn](#)

Published for the Middle South

By now you've planted your tomatoes in the garden. Have you thought ahead and set up some sort of training or staking system? Mulched around the bases? It's not too late, but the sooner the better. Tomatoes are often cited as one of the easiest garden vegetables to grow. Yes, they're easy to grow, but if you want the best and longest harvest, you'll need to help the plants along.

Left on their own, tomato plants sprawl, making the fruits difficult to harvest. And the tomatoes rest on the soil where slugs will happily take one bite from each fruit. (I wouldn't mind if they ate a whole tomato, but to sample them all. What are they, Goldilocks, looking for the one that's not too hard and not too soft?)

Mulch is Key

If you do nothing else, mulch your tomato plants. Some people like red plastic mulch but I prefer a thick layer of straw. The plastic mulch supposedly increases yields, but a few tomato plants usually yield more than I can eat anyway. Straw not only keeps tomatoes off the ground, but it also allows air circulation beneath them, reducing rot. It keeps soil from splashing up on the leaves, minimizing problems with soil-borne diseases. It conserves soil moisture, important for the health of the plant and for helping to prevent blossom and rot. And at season's end you can rototill it in, adding organic matter. At around \$5 per bale, it's a bargain, and my favorite mulch for the vegetable garden.

Types of Tomatoes

Before you set up your cages or stakes, it's helpful to know what kind of tomatoes you have. Tomatoes are categorized as determinate or indeterminate. Determinate tomatoes, sometimes referred to as

"bush" types, grow to a certain height, then set their fruit all at once. They usually produce ripe tomatoes earlier than indeterminates, but the harvest season is shorter.

Indeterminate varieties are true vines, continuing to grow until something -- frost, pruning, disease -- stops their growth. They produce fruit over a longer season, and ultimately produce more fruit per plant, but they produce their first fruits later than determinates. And the plants can get big. Like, 8-foot-tall, big.

Most heirloom varieties are indeterminate; hybrids can go either way. Seed packets may tell you, or you can do an Internet search on the variety. When in doubt, assume they're indeterminate and that the plants will get large.

Diseases. Tomato foliage is attacked by numerous diseases. It's not that important to identify the pathogen. Plant at least one variety labeled as disease resistant, space plants generously to ensure good air circulation, pick off infected leaves and throw in the trash, and clean up plant debris. You can spray a fungicide containing copper or another organic control, but in my experience if you can keep the plants alive until late summer, you'll end up with a good harvest, even if the plants are straggly.

Many tomato fruit problems, such as catfacing, cracking, sunscald, and blossom end rot, are caused by environmental conditions, not pests. Good cultural practices can help minimize problems. Don't overfertilize, keep soil evenly moist, and leave enough foliage on plants to prevent sunscald. Some varieties are more prone than others to these problems. In any case, just cut away affected parts and enjoy the rest of the tomato. Photo - Pam Zaklan





**OMGA MINI-
COLLEGE PRESENTS:
THE JOY OF GARDENING
CONFERENCE 2023
AT OREGON STATE
UNIVERSITY
JULY 7 AND 8**

The Conference will be held in
Corvallis at the OSU Alumni Center.
Registration opened on May 15th.

Join us Friday July 7

8:00-9:00: Welcome,
Announcements, Chapter Grant
Awards

More information on the website:
oregon master gardener association
mini conference 2023 schedule

Plant Clinic Hours

The plant clinic has started
summer hours of 9:00-noon,
Monday, Wednesday, and
Thursday. In addition, the clinic
is also open Thursday afternoons
from 1:00-4:00.

-Terry Ruitter, Plant Clinic
Coordinator

Josephine County Master Gardener Association

SUMMER PLANT SALE

An assortment of perennials, trees,
and indoor plants.

SATURDAY JUNE 24
9 AM – 2 PM

OSU Extension Office - Greenhouse Area
215 Ringuette Street, Grants Pass

All sales support the OSU Extension Master
Gardener program activities in Josephine County.



The **Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Webinar Series** has been wildly popular, with over 34,000 views. Gardeners all over the world have been leveling up their science-based gardening skills.

The 2023 **Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Webinar Series** is well underway! You can watch these gardening webinars live, or you can watch the recordings posted on the website after the event.

On July 11, the topic is: **Getting Wild: Using Native Plants to Restore Biodiversity**, and on August 8, the topic is: **Savoring Summer: Safely Preserving Your Harvest**. These webinars are free, open to the public, and count as Continuing Education hours.

[Find out more and sign up here!](#)

Statement of Policy

Information provided by the Josephine County Master Gardener Newsletter is accurate to the best of our knowledge. However, readers must assume all responsibility for their own actions based on information found in this publication. If, and when, a company or product is named in an article, it is not an endorsement from the Master Gardeners, Josephine County, or the OSU Extension Service. Alternate gardening methods are sometimes presented for your information and consideration, but they are not necessarily the only approach to gardening problems.

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Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™

The Josephine County Master Gardener Association is in collaboration with and in support of The Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener Program.

2023 ELECTED OFFICERS

President --Georgia Moulton

Vice President --- Mike Watson

Secretary --- Rae Watson

OMGA State Rep -Mark Schallheim

OMGA Alt. State Rep -Corinne King

Past President - Mark Schallheim

APPOINTED COORDINATORS:

Treasurer ----- John Etchells

Green House Managers --- David Coon/John Etchells/Terry Ruitter

Plant Clinic -- Terry Ruitter/Mike Zerwer

Communications/Computer Coordinator --John Etchells

Spring Garden Fair-Georgia Moulton

Newsletter Editor--- Pam Zaklan

ECAN Representative - Pam Zaklan

New Projects -Terry Ruitter

Publicity ---- Linda Price

County Fair-Pam Zaklan, Mike Watson

Growers Market -Fred Schlieper, Lou Ann Strahan

K-12 Program ----

Mentor Committee --Joan Foley

Webmaster --Fred Schlieper

Perennials -- Lou Ann Strahan

Young Master Gardeners -Barry Burnsidess/ Savaka Lean