

April 13, 2020

## In the Garden

I have been working a lot in my garden and believe it has literally “gone to the birds.”

When I went to hook my garden hose to the faucet after the irrigation water was turned on, I found a bird nest on a little house where I store gloves, sprinkler, etc. in on a post I hang the hose on. Strings, vines, and little pieces were freshly used as this wasn't there less than a week ago.

I found another nest high up in a magnolia tree in my back yard and another nest in a medium size tree in my front yard.

I feed the birds in the corner of my back yard year round and it was amazing to see how they have moved in. Rest of the family coming soon. . . These nests were all made in less than a week. Something worth noting in my garden journal.

*Jenny Mansfield*

More going on in the garden photos on pp 4=5



### THIS WEEK'S TO DO LIST

Wednesday is Meeting Day  
Via Zoom

10:30 FOUNDATION:

Officer elections, Buena Garden, and options for a Plant Sale along with Claudia's PC report are all on the agenda.

NOON CLASS

[Jenny Glass](#) on diagnosing insects & diseases



I walked out into my garden (the orchard) this morning and it sounded like a beepert. As I stood there and listened to the bees it seemed like my whole orchard was going to take flight anytime. The bees are amazing little pollinators. Trying to take a picture of one is almost impossible. They are so focused and busy. But I did manage to get one to stop momentarily. My pears and cherries are in full bloom and my garden is very fragrant. It's a lovely time of the year!!! Enjoy the simple pleasure of life and appreciate everything Mother Nature has provided us. Stay well!!!

*Camille Smith*

*The birds and the bees carry on, oblivious to our plight.*

# Greenhouse



*Oops! I didn't mean it.*

Thanks to Darrel Monroe for the photos on this page



Master Gardeners are entering the final lap on our annual race to the plant sale! After many productive months in the greenhouses, nearly every table is overflowing with vegetables, herbs, annuals and perennials.

A lot of moving and rearranging of our thousands of plants has begun, from the old greenhouse to the new house or the hoop house. Hostas and day lilies are already in the hoop house.

The big greenhouse is a riot of colors, and subtle fragrances hint of summer days ahead. The baskets are hung on the rods, every one of them lush and beautiful. Thousands of tomatoes were recently potted up and are still maturing in the old greenhouse.

Some annuals remain to be potted and labeled, but most of the work, besides moving plants to the new house, will be watering and grooming. For members who need some hours, check with the leaders of any team for assistance with that.

*Joan Sousley*

## Herbal Moments

### AGASTACHE

An all around winner! Agastache. Mislabeled Anise Hyssop although it is neither anise nor hyssop is a member of the mint family (feel the square stem).. Totally hardy here, attracts pollinators *and* hummingbirds. It grows 3-4' high and holds its inflorescence into fall/winter season. Cut back stems before spring. And it will grow back beautifully.

All parts of the plant are edible.

For further research on this plant see the works of Dr. **Roger Guillermo Fuentes-Granados** of Iowa State University. His definitive thesis on this plant was republished by the *Journal of Herbs, Spices and Medicinal Plants* in



Great Britain and is downloaded and cited by researchers at many universities. He lists 77 components within the plant that plant scientists and herbalists alike find interesting. Among them the turpenes carvacrol, linalool, thymol which give it its particular scent.

The Blue fountain agastache is available in both the Herb and Perennials sections of the plant sale. Other hybrid colors are available in Perennials.

Put it in the back where you can leave it for years and enjoy butterflies, bees and hummingbirds.

References:

University of California Somoma: Plant of the Month: Agastache.

[http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/Plant\\_of\\_the\\_Month/Agastache/](http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/Plant_of_the_Month/Agastache/)

North Carolina State Master Gardeners *Agastache foeniculum*

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/agastache-foeniculum/>

Iowa State University An Overview of Agastache Research

[https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1035&context=ncrpis\\_pubs](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1035&context=ncrpis_pubs)

Judith McDonald

People ask, so here is an article on edible flowers from West Coast Seeds These are not university approved, and Margaret says I shouldn't tell people to eat flowers, but this gives you an idea of what is possible and you can decide.

<https://www.westcoastseeds.com/blogs/garden-wisdom/list-of-edible-flowers>



Basil and others "plugging along" on the heat table.

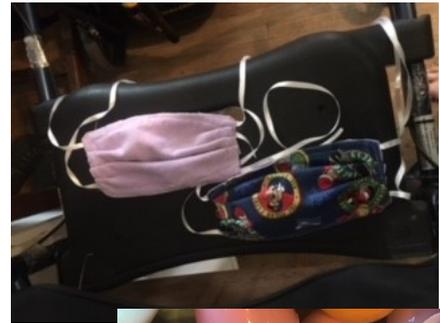


To me a carrot is as beautiful as a rose and nothing so precious as a wildflower in bloom jm

# What We're Doing



Mask Makers:  
(clockwise from top left) Nancy Probst, Sally Mayo, Carol Barany, Judith McDonald and Wendy Guske,



Facemasks for the 20-somethings.



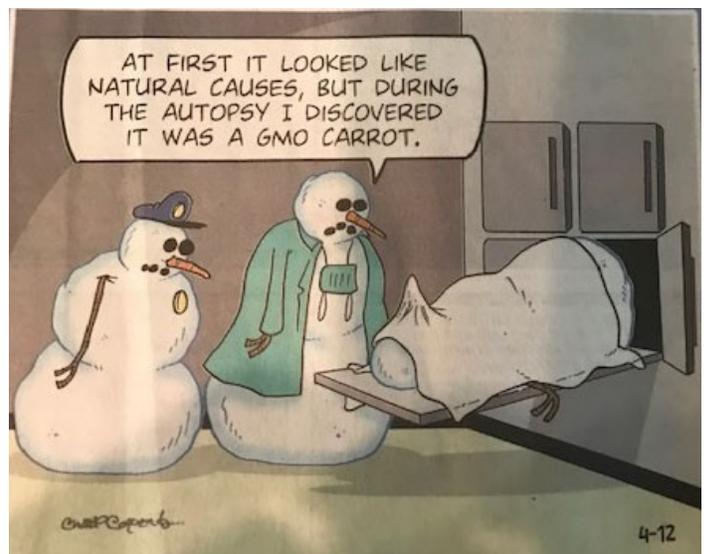
Nancy models what looks like the most efficient mask yet. What's the fabric, Nancy?

Deadly serious and refusing to lose our sense of humor!

## About Masks:

Nancy is working with Memorial, Sally with JoAnne's. They can help you get started if you want to sew. If you need a mask, just ask. I know Marco said Wendy was sewing some for us and others. Judith is not doing production sewing, but will make you one if asked. There are many patterns. Fabric masks are *not* virus *proof* without special filters but will slow it down nonetheless. When my RN daughter said the virus could go through the fabric masks I made the little girls, I told her they were "training masks". Seriously, how are we going to get children, those little germ banks, to wear such things? Training. Until we have a vaccine, we'll need protection in other ways.

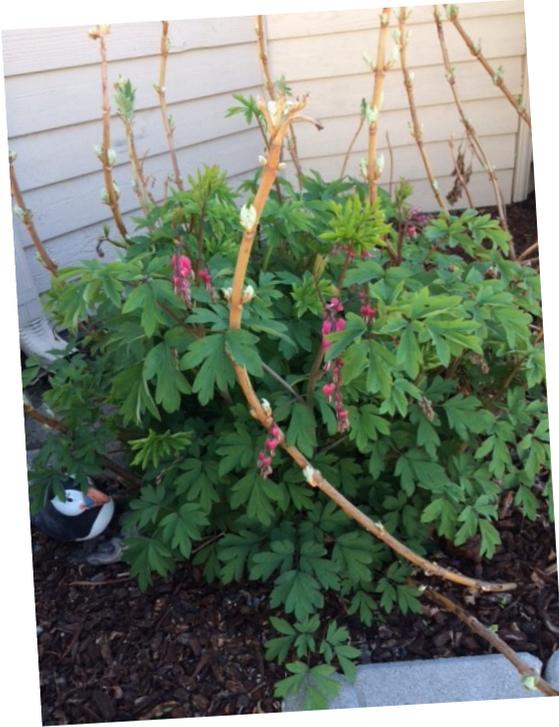
Judith McDonald



Thank you Melody Westmoreland! (from Sunday's UB.)

# In the Garden

Continued



Bleeding heart in midst of oak leaf hydrangea branches that are starting to show leaves (left)

*Nancy Probst*



These carrots were unearthed while planting kale this week. A gift from last Fall. Rod Woolcock  
<rodwoolcock@gmail.com>



Fava beans looking quite perky. I didn't care for them when I grew them before and I gave them to my Italian friends. In this colder climate and shorter season, I'll try them again, since they will germinate in cold weather, improve the soil (they ARE a legume) and provide food for someone. Anyone have a good recipe?

*Judith McDonald*

# CLODS

Life in the time of COVID19

## Questions from master gardeners

### How do we do haircuts?



Are we all well and happy?

Yeah, but. . .Boxes for charity are stacking up. Recycling is overflowing. We are standing still. Nothin to do about it. “Nothing to do, nowhere to go, and no one to meet.” Experience it. It might be your only chance.

Sam Hines says:

Hey, Regarding the plant sale. I already voted for number 1 but I want to add that if we do that I will buy lots of plants for my many friends who wouldn't otherwise have access to the sale. Further, if we don't have the sale I don't know where I would be able to get all of these plants, so my

Vegetable garden would be between a disaster and non-existent.

HA! HA! I voted for both Number 1 and Number 2. The app would have let me keep voting forever!! But I had no intention of stuffing the ballot box, just couldn't see why they were exclusive of each other. jm.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Here it is Monday morning and I'm redoing the *Dirt again*. It's OK. The week we shut down, I had to redo it 4 times! One of the changes many are experiencing is no sense of time/scheduling. If we aren't going anywhere, what does it matter what day it is? That's my excuse, anyway. And that is coupled with daily changes that affect all of us. Today I'm grateful that I worked 20 yrs at a high stress job that taught me how to deal with multiple changing priorities without having a hissy fit.

I'm receiving many last minute changes and additions — “Life in the Time of COVID 19” — and I appreciate **every one of them**. I laughed this morning as I received Joan Sousley's offering for the Greenhouse Effect that was due Friday! Did she know I'm still working on it? We aren't going anywhere right now, so keeping schedules posted (except for Wednesday) is no longer what the *Dirt's* about. The primary focus these days has less to do with keeping the Teams in sync and more to do with keeping us connected a little longer — until after the Plant Sale .

Generally, the *Weekly Dirt* ends at the end of April. Julie Hunziker will be doing the monthly Newsletter beginning May 1. Since the plant sale is postponed, I'm wondering if we need to keep a weekly zine going until that time.

**Foundation Meeting Wednesday. 10:30.**

**Be there.**

<https://extension.wsu.edu/yakima/home-garden/master-gardeners/master-gardener-resources/>



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