

September 16, 2026 - Don't Bug Me!!!

Janice Smith, Certified OSU Extension Master Gardener

Janice Smith is a native Oregonian and a long-time gardener who has a vast amount of experience in dealing with both pests and beneficial invertebrates. Janice has been a Certified Master Gardener since 2017 and has a lifelong love of conservation and gardening. She is especially interested in bees and is currently enrolled in the OSU Extension Master Melittologist (bees) Program.



Janice loves to eat what she grows and has found that bugs also love to eat what she grows. She has learned many strategies in managing creepy-crawlies from the Master Gardener Program as well as from personal experience.

Janice is excited to share some of her basic knowledge of entomology, identifying the good bugs from the bad, pest management strategies, and love for these amazing creatures!

October 21, 2026 - Don't Play with Fire!!!

Matt Smith, Botanist with USDA Forest Service



Matt is happily married and the proud father of two amazing daughters. He has a BS in Environmental Science from Cal Poly Humbolt and an MS in Biology from Old Dominion University in Virginia.

He moved to Oregon in 2017 and has worked as a Botanist for the Siuslaw National Forest's Central Coast Ranger District since March of that year.

Matt is originally from Paradise, CA, which lost over 18,000 structures due to the "Camp Fire" of 2018. Poor pre-fire prevention efforts, infrastructure oversight, dry conditions, and high winds further fueled the fire's destruction.



Using fire-resistant plants in Oregon coast landscaping can reduce wildfire risk while maintaining an attractive and functional yard. Matt will discuss fire-resistant plants and care.

November 18, 2026 - Plants to Dye For!!!

Randi Stevens, Owner of Tidewater Creations, Seal Rock



Randi has been dyeing fabric using plant leaves, onion skins, and fresh flowers for the past two years. She only uses natural fibers and began the process on habotai silk scarves. Silk fibers possess excellent absorbency. This allows habotai silk to absorb dyes effectively and fix the color.

Randi will discuss how she harvests colors from garden to garment, transforming garden-grown plants into textiles using natural dyes.

January 20, 2027 - It's That Thyme Again...Moonlit Gardens

Emily Stimac – Manager & Co-Owner of The Thyme Garden, Alsea



Emily is a 2nd generation herb enthusiast. Her parents are the founders of The Thyme Garden in Alsea, where she has worked since its opening in 1990. She proudly is now the manager and co-owner.

Sharing a love and respect toward the earth and living creatures, her family has cultivated the idyllic 80-acre property into something of a botanical haven. They have created a Thyme Garden with Salmon Pond, a Culinary Garden, a Medicinal Garden, an Edible Flower Garden, a Household Herb Garden, and, what she'll be discussing in her program, a Moon Garden.



February 17, 2027 - Lavender Blue Dilly Dilly....

Cat Sandor-Korte – Co-owner of Arrowhead Lavender Farm & Co.



Alongside her husband, Colby, Cat has built a lavender farm centered on faith, family, hospitality, and stewardship. Colby has transformed the property, while Cat has shaped its vision and growth.

They opened the farm to the public in 2023. Since then, they have expanded the experience, adding hand-crafted botanical products, U-pick lavender, artisan beverages, workshops, family-friendly spaces, and other thoughtful touches that invite guests to slow down and enjoy the countryside.



Passionate about entrepreneurship, regenerative farming, and creating meaningful experiences, Cat enjoys sharing the lessons she's learned about building a business with purpose. Together, she and Colby hope every visitor leaves feeling refreshed, inspired, and more connected to the beauty of God's creation.

March 17, 2027 - A Lily by Any Other Name, Canna Asiatic....

Darren Morgan, Manager of Shonnards Nursery



Darren grew up in the Willamette Valley on a small family farm. He has worked at Shonnards Nursery in Corvallis for 36 years and is currently the nursery manager. He specializes in plants of all sorts, edible gardening, and, most recently, beekeeping.

Darren enjoys teaching community education classes and workshops at Shonnards, at many garden clubs and Master Gardener events, and through Linn-Benton Community College. He is happy to be here with us today.



Friday, March 19 and Saturday, March 20, 2027

2nd Annual Flea Market Sale

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



April 21, 2027 - Go Native....

Ann Geyer, Native Plant Society of Oregon

Ann's introduction to gardening came through her grandfather, a landscaper at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.



During her college years, she worked at the University of California Botanical Garden, focusing mainly on native plants. After completing her studies, she joined the Master Gardner Program in 1981 where she has remained actively involved.

In 2026, she founded the Midcoast Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon to address the increasing interest in native plants.



She is a regular speaker and a strong advocate for sustainable gardening.

May 19, 2027 - It's Kind of a Shady Thing....

Emilia Lacy, Certified LCMGA/OSU Extension Master Gardener



Emilia has been a Master Gardener for almost 30 years in Lincoln County and Iowa. She is currently the Native Plant Exhibit Leader for LCMGA/OSU at South Beach Demonstration Garden.

She has gardened in more than 18 sites ranging from balconies to 2-acres on the West and East coasts, the great Midwest, and Western Europe. Her garden skills are continuously developing, while every one of her gardens has offered her a great learning experience, delight, and gratification. They have been the foundation of her gardening skills.



She is thrilled to share her knowledge and experience with "Gardening in the Shade".