KPOV – *The Point*

Gardening, Get Good At It

“Spring Gardening Seminar”

April 9, 2019

Hello Everyone! My name is Vickie Minor and I’m a Master Gardener with the OSU Extension Service. With all the snow we’ve had this winter, I am sure you are like me and YOU ARE READY FOR SPRING! To get you jump-started, come spend a Saturday with other gardeners and get the scoop on what to grow in Central Oregon!

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Spring Gardening Seminar, sponsored by the Central Oregon Master Gardener Association in cooperation with the OSU Extension Service. The seminar will be Saturday, April 20th in Redmond at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds. There are four different time blocks, with four different classes in each one.

If you’re new to gardening or just new to the area, these classes may interest you:

Gardening Basics for the High Desert – Yes! Things Will Grow Here! – this class is designed for the newcomer to Central Oregon or for anyone who wants basic information on gardening in our climate. It does not include anything on vegetables but we have that covered, with our Vegetable Gardening in Central Oregon class. That class will give you the information you need to know to grow veggies that work well in our area.

For those of you who love your lawns, we have a class on the proper care and maintenance of turfgrass. We’ll also have a class on young tree care, taught by a certified arborist. This class will help you learn how to pick the right trees for our soil and climate.

Because we live in the high desert, watering is always a critical element of any garden. We have this covered with a session on designing, installing, and maintaining an irrigation system, taught by the owner of LandSystems Nursery.

For experienced gardeners and those with other interests, we’ll have sessions on:

The Basics of Greenhouse Management, taught by Amy Jo Detweiler, the horticulture agent in our area. Other classes include straw bale gardening, Drying Your Harvest, identifying weeds, and Landscape Considerations when purchasing a new home. Of special interest to bee lovers will be the session on Native Bees and other pollinators, which will cover the types of plants and practices that will make your garden a pollinator resort. For the gardeners who love to cook, be sure to catch the session on Culinary Alliums - garlic, onions, chives, leeks, and shallots.

Finally, we have some demos and DIYS during the day. We’ve brought back Jim Erickson to do a hands-on session on growing dahlias. Moonfire and Sun will do a class on growing hardy succulents in small containers, and there will be a session on miniature garden landscapes – that is, terrariums and growing gardens in glass containers. Finally, there will be a demo on Hypertufa – a light weight cement used to make stepping stones and planters that mimic quarried stone.

To register, go to the Central Oregon Master Gardeners ™ website - GOCOMGA.COM and click on the Spring Gardening Seminar flier. The entire list of classes is right there, as well as cost information. If you have questions that aren’t answered on the website, you can call Rocky at 541-548-0789.

Registration is open until April 13. You can register for the entire day or just for a few classes. If you sign up for the day, that will include four classes and lunch. If your schedule is tight, you can sign up for just one or two classes. We will also take registrations at the door, provided the classes are not already full. Again - registration closes April 13 so don’t delay.

The classes start at 8:00, 10:00, 1:00, and 3:00. Lunch is from 11:30 – 1:00; each class lasts 90 minutes with half hour breaks between classes.

There will also be a garden market with plants, books, landscape products, a silent auction and more. The Master Gardeners will have row cover and soil thermometers for sale and if you have gardening questions, there will be people around to help you.

All classes and the lunch will be in the Middle and South Sisters buildings at the fairgrounds. Check in at the Middle Sisters building to get your registration packet, silent auction bid number, and any other information you’ll need for the day.

This is a great seminar to get you ready for gardening this year. So remember – it’s on April 20th starting at 8:00 AM. For complete details on cost and classes, you can go online to the GOCOMGA.com website or call Rocky at 541-548-0789.

If you want to see what we talked about today, click on the orange KPOV tab on the website. Thanks for visiting with us on “Gardening, Get Good At It” on KPOV’s The Point.