



## A year of completion and dream catching

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

This year we'll be finishing current enhancement projects and catching our dream with a community celebration and dedication for our generous donors and volunteers who have helped make our park so wonderful.

### Save the date

Come help us celebrate on Saturday, September 26, at Cantrall Buckley Park. We'll have lots more information about this special community event in the next issue.

This winter, Jackson County park rangers were busy with maintenance jobs, including repainting the campground restroom and showers in preparation for

the next camping season and digging holes for and installing new interpretive signs.

Over the next few months we'll be removing the park's conifer trees that have died due to stress and the insect infestations that follow. We're making plans to replace them.

This spring the park will host at least five sessions of Outdoor School Education. Part of the program for each school will be service work in the park. As they help replant conifers, students will learn about a tree's requirements for growth and the species of conifers that can adapt best to the changing growing conditions in this park.



Save the date! Plans for a special community celebration are in the works for Saturday, September 26, at Cantrall Buckley Park. Look for more information in the next *Applegater*.

Illustration: Janis Mohr-Tipton.

### Upcoming event

SOLVE IT (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) for Earth Day at Cantrall Buckley Park is set for 9:30 - 11:30 am on Saturday, April 18. Watch for more information on the all-ages, family-friendly event in flyers, on Applegate Valley Connect ([applegateconnect.org](http://applegateconnect.org)), and in

the *Applegater*. For more information, call me at 541-846-7501 or sign up online at [solveoregon.org](http://solveoregon.org).

Let's work together to keep our park clean and healthy!

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## Planting flower seeds for spring blooms

BY STACEY DENTON

Things are gearing up here on Flora Farm in Williams after a restful winter's retreat. I've begun to seed the first of what's known as "cool season annuals" for transplanting out in the next month or two. A surprising number of plants can get their start in the greenhouse this time of year, and what's even more mind-bending for us gardeners who associate flowers with summer, is that they really like to get planted out when it's still pretty darn cold outside in our Zone 8 climate.

So who are these hardy characters? You'll recognize a few: poppies of all types (breadseed, Shirley, Iceland), calendulas, bachelor's buttons, dill, and sweet peas.

Small poppy seeds are easier to track when planted in flats, but I do find that poppies don't really enjoy getting transplanted (starting them in soil blocks reduces the potential of root stress). Then, there are a few lesser known but equally tough flowering plants: cerinthe, orlaya, lisianthus, stock, and bupleurum. I start each of these species in trays in an unheated greenhouse. The lisianthus and stock will go on heat mats (the stock just to germinate), but all of the rest tolerate cool soil temperatures for germination. Plus, our February thaw always gives everyone a good boost of growth in the greenhouse. Lisianthus is amazingly slow-growing, so it

won't flower until the height of summer, but all the rest of these plants are critical floral spikes, focal flowers, filler, and foliage for the May and June wedding arrangements I design.

I direct-seeded other cool season annuals into the garden in early fall because they always sprout well outside at that time of year and prefer not to be transplanted. These species include larkspur and nigella. I also planted and

am overwintering an earlier wave of calendulas, sweet peas, carnations, and stock. In addition to the cool season annuals, I seed lots of biennials in the fall to overwinter and flower in the spring—plants like foxglove, campanula, sweet william, and dame's rocket.

When it comes to spring, most of us are wowed by the flowering bulbs. Tulips, daffodils, and ranunculi are spectacular, but in order to make flower bouquets that truly stand out, I need all these other species to round out the chorus. Maybe these planting tips will help you to see beyond the soloists, and you'll be inspired to plant some new cool-season flowers in your garden this year!

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Many colorful flowers like being planted when it's still cold outside.

Photo: Ann Nguyen.

Stacey Denton is an organic farmer and florist who specializes in growing and designing flowers for weddings and special events. She also offers weekly flower subscriptions beginning in April. You can find many of the flower seeds mentioned in this article at [siskiyouseeds.com](http://siskiyouseeds.com).

You can start seeding your cool season annuals now.



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