

GARDENING CORNER

ATTRACTING POLLINATORS

Perennial plant of the year — calamint — has long lasting blooms

BY LIZ DOUVILLE • For The Bulletin

February is a good month to dedicate a small spiral note pad, one that fits in your purse or your pocket, to start a plant shopping list. You know my favorite saying: good memory but short. The Perennial Plant Association announced the 2021 Perennial Plant of the Year. It is *calamintha nepeta* subsp. *nepeta*, or the common name of calamint, lesser calamint.

Calamint has two important qualities that appeal to gardeners: bees and other pollinators work the long-lasting bloom period, plus the aromatic foliage is deer-resistant. One fact sheet described the foliage as being mint-scented, oregano-like foliage.

Calamint is rated as hardy. It is probably less well-known in our area due to its plant hardiness rating of Zone 5. Preference in plant selection for Central Oregon is usually for up to a Zone 4.

The blooms differ from the blue tones of the more common walkers low catmint.

Calamint blooms with plumes of tiny, tubular lilac to white flowers. The perennial needs full sun and soil that has good drainage. The low mounding or bushy habit is ideal for the front of a border or in rock gardens according to the Perennial Plant Association.

The National Garden Bureau has declared 2021 to be The Year of the Monarda. Monarda has a history of being used as a medicinal herb.

The Oswego Indian tribe used the plant to make an herbal tea. They taught American settlers how to make it, which came in handy following the Boston Tea Party in 1773. The settlers revolted against the British tax on tea so the settlers thumbed their noses at the tax and drank monarda tea instead.

The native plant was named for Nicholas Monardes, a physician from Seville. Monardes conducted trade between Seville and American, part of which included receiving medicinal plants. Monardes wrote about his findings in the publication "Joyfull Newse out of



File photo

Monarda is a member of the mint family but it won't take over the garden. The foliage is minty scented and unappealing to deer and rabbits.

the Newe found World in 1577" The plant was thought to soothe stings and bites from various insects resulting in the common name of bee balm.

Monarda is cold hardy in plant hardiness Zones 3 to 9, plant in

full sun with moderate moisture. Monarda is considered a pollinator magnet. Each one of the flower heads is a cluster of long tubular, nectar-filled blooms. The shape of the bloom makes it easy for butterflies and hummingbirds to take

a drink. Magenta or red varieties draw in the most pollinators to the garden. Bloom time is from mid-summer to fall.

Monarda is a member of the mint family but it won't take over the garden. The foliage is minty

scented and unappealing to deer and rabbits. Some monarda varieties are more susceptible to powdery mildew than others. Jacob Cline, also spelled Kline, variety shows excellent resistance to mildew. Wide spacing between plants is advised to promote good air circulation to prevent powdery mildew.

Most monarda are listed as a growth height of 3 to 4 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet wide. The height and width of this size make them valuable as the back of a garden bed. Newer cultivars grow 8 to 12 inches tall and 12 to 24 inches wide. Make sure when you are shopping you are aware of the mature size of the variety.

Companion plants could include oxeye daisy, blanket flower and the native white yarrow.

If you are a trendsetter, you will be interested in the latest announcement from Pantone for the 2021 Colors of the Year.

The colors are Pantone 17-5104 Ultimate Gray plus Pantone 13-0647 Illuminating (a vivid yellow). The color combination is intended to send the message of strength and hopefulness that is both enduring and uplifting.

The bright yellow flower selections would be easy to choose. The gray plant pallet for us would be more limiting. Dusty Miller, artemisia varieties and Tanacetum come to mind.

Pantone's Color of the Year has influenced product development in multiple industries from home furnishings, fashion and landscaping.

Keep your notepad handy, we have lots to talk about in the coming months.

MADRAS

Councilor offers resignation following Facebook row

Austin Throop called fellow official 'pathetic terrorist' for not wearing mask

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

A Madras City Councilor who drew ire for a Facebook post calling a fellow elected official a "terrorist" will resign.

Austin Throop submitted his letter of resignation to the city administrator following a special meeting Friday to discuss the online incident, according to Lysa Vattimo, city spokeswoman.

Councilors ended the meeting by saying they would accept public input and decide what to do with Throop at the council's next meeting, Feb. 9. Now, the council will vote whether to approve Throop's resignation on that day.

His seat would be filled by the rest of council through an appointment process.

"We've never had to do this before so we're still figuring it out," Vattimo said.

Throop, 30, is a self-employed web developer and lifelong Central Oregon resident. He was a councilor for only two meetings after defeating Republican challenger Mathew Birchard in the November general election.

Throop quickly set to ruf-



Dean Guernsey/Bulletin file photo

The "South Y" or the South Madras Gateway in Madras.

On Jan. 27, Throop commented on a photo showing fellow councilor Jennifer Holcomb and three other people maskless at a local gym, calling them "pathetic terrorists."

fling feathers on the council, according to testimony from fellow councilors, who said he quarreled with them and wrote unprofessional communications to staff.

On Jan. 27, Throop commented on a photo showing fellow councilor Jennifer Holcomb and three other people maskless at a local gym, calling them "pathetic terrorists."

He said Friday he was frustrated with a movement underway in Madras involving business leaders and members of the city council to flout COVID-19 guidelines, which could accelerate the spread of

the deadly virus.

Holcomb read a statement Friday chastising Throop for his unprofessional conduct and calling on him to resign.

Another incident involving a councilor was discussed by the council Friday. Royce Embanks had raised his voice and stormed out of a meeting during public comment after a resident criticized Embanks' wife, The Madras Pioneer reported.

Embanks apologized and the council decided it was sufficient to not sanction him.

Reporter: 541-383-0325,
gandrews@bendbulletin.com

HEARING IS NOW MORE ESSENTIAL THAN EVER!



Miracle-Ear is here for you!

We have remained open to our community throughout this worldwide crisis to service our community with their hearing needs. We understand how crucial it is to hear and now more than ever. Curbside assistance is being offered along with personal care one-on-one appointments. Our office is taking all precautions to provide a safe and clean office for you to visit!

"The people at Miracle-Ear are so friendly, so personable, and very professional."

Hearing loss is different for everyone. At Miracle-Ear, we listen to you and your needs so we can customize a solution that fits your lifestyle and budget. Plus, every hearing aid is backed by the Miracle-Ear Promise, so we'll continue to be there for you throughout the lifetime of your device! Don't let hearing loss stand in your way. **CALL TODAY!**



- Colleen Greene, Bend
Miracle-Ear
patient of 12 years!

Miracle-EarMINI™

1 FOR \$595

Save on Our Custom Digital Hearing Aids!

Offer valid on MEMINI 1 CIC only. Valid at participating Miracle-Ear locations. <Fits up to 35db loss.> Limit one coupon per purchase. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Does not apply to prior purchases. See store for details. Cash value 1/20 cent. Offer expires 2/12/21.

ALL RECHARGEABLE HEARING AIDS

BOGO 50% off

Save on Our Rechargeable Hearing Aids!

Special offer applies to purchase of same Miracle-Ear make and model hearing aid. <50% discount applies on <Level 5, 4, 3, 2> solutions only when first aid is purchased at regular list price. <Coupon discount applies to our posted price list.> Valid at participating Miracle-Ear locations only. Limit one coupon per purchase. May not be combined with other offers and does not apply to prior sales. Cash value 1/20 cent. Offer expires 2/12/21.

Don't Miss a moment with your family! Miracle-Ear is offering a Friends & Family Discount event, please Join us!



Miracle-Ear® 541-527-8270
Hear A Better Day™

NEW LOCATION!

111 NW Larch Ste 101 • Redmond, OR 97756

No other offers or discounts apply. All discounts do not apply to prior sales. Good only from participating Miracle-Ear representatives. **Hearing aids do not restore natural hearing. Individual experiences vary depending on severity of hearing loss, accuracy of evaluation, proper fit, and ability to adapt to a hearing aid. Only your Miracle-Ear® representative can determine if a Miracle-Ear® hearing aid is right for you. ©2012 Miracle-Ear, Inc. 14548R0PA/HP4CYEL

Read and recycle