

Lower expectations lead to more enjoyment



Q&A

with
Carole Birney



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Blossoms from a liberty apple tree in Carole Birney's backyard garden.

Q: You are a 2014 graduate of the OSU Master Gardeners program. Describe that program for us.

A: Thanks for the opportunity to talk about the Master Gardener program. It's a function of Oregon State University Extension Service and operates here through the Clatsop County Office. I completed the initial training in 2014, which requires 60 hours of instruction and 60 hours of volunteer time. The instruction covers such topics as soils and fertilizers, entomology, pruning, botany basics and much, much more. The program promotes sustainable gardening, which is a balance between inputs such as water, labor, amendments and results. Master Gardeners participates in local activities such as a presence at the Sunday Market and farmers markets, a yearly gardening seminar, staffing a help/information line to answer garden-related questions, maintaining the demonstration garden at the Fairgrounds, and education programs.

Q: What did it do for you?

A: I have become a more relaxed gardener due to the sustainable gardening concept. I don't like to use a lot of pesticides or herbicides, so what it amounts to, is your level of tolerance. I don't mind a few weeds or sharing a little with garden pests, but I do want my plants to grow well and my garden to look nice. In other words, I no longer feel my garden has to be perfect and relaxing my expectations has made for a more enjoyable gardening experience.

Q: What are you doing in your garden right now?

A: Weeding, pruning, soil preparation which, because I have a lot of garden area, usually takes until May. I start in January as weather permits. Because I have sandy soil, my ground is workable a little earlier than those with clay-type soils, which hold more water. I try to get most of the grunt work done before the planting fun begins, but I planted cool weather crops, kale, lettuce and peas in my small, raised vegetable bed in March. I have two fairly large ornamental beds and a large herb garden which need to be reworked this year. Not a very exciting project, but the prospect of visiting garden centers and nurseries and choosing new plants is tantalizing to a gardener!

Q: What is the biggest gardening challenge you face?

A: Well, it would be weeds. Because I have sandy-type soil, I am always fighting weeds. I don't care much for bark mulch, but use it in some areas such as around my ornamental grasses. There are other types of mulches that help to hold down the weeds and hold in moisture during the summer months, but

I don't mind a few weeds or sharing a little with garden pests, but I do want my plants to grow well and my garden to look nice.

mostly it just involves hand labor and my tolerance since I use minimal herbicides. Oh, I forgot the deer and elk! There are deterrents, but fencing and plants they don't like to eat work the best. No tulips or roses — deer candy.

Q: What part of your personality is reflected in your garden?

A: I have been gardening since I was a child in 4-H with my father, in Seaside. My grandfather had a nursery in Olney, and my great-grandmother grew flowers on her Seaside property and sold them. I like lots of color, and I would say my gardening style is somewhat casual. I do like the full-blown, in-your-face, overgrown English cottage garden look. Colorful and crowded as opposed to the neat, organized, well-spaced garden look. I like to grow native plants and encourage some native wild flowers to fill in the spots.

Carole Birney lives in the Hammond historic area. She retired 2013 from the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office after 30 years in the support enforcement division. She sings with North Coast Chorale and St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church choir, is a 45-year member of Beta Sigma Phi, member of Clatsop County Master Gardeners' Association and a volunteer for St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in Astoria. She is married to Daryl Birney and enjoys clam digging and spending time with children and four grandchildren.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Carole Birney stands in her backyard garden in Hammond.

Middle-ground Republican could give Brown a race

By **STEVE FORRESTER**
Capital Bureau



SALEM — If there is a conventional wisdom about Kate Brown's first campaign for governor it is that a middle-ground Republican could make a race of it. Especially if the Democratically held Legislature goes over the top with a liberal, Portland-centric agenda.

Brown also goes into the governor race without the high name familiarity of a governor who won the first race and has served three years. John Kitzhaber's name familiarity registered in the 90s.

Two names surface as prospective Republican challengers — Dr. Bud Pierce and Allen Alley. Pierce, a Salem oncologist, has announced his candidacy and Alley says he's "seriously considering it."

State Rep. Knute Buehler is mentioned by Republican players, but he has no plan to

join the governor's race. The Bend orthopedic surgeon lost to Kate Brown in the 2012 race for secretary of state in which he was endorsed by all Oregon newspaper editorial pages. Other, outside prospects mentioned are Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis, who serves in an executive role and impressed many in the March Dorchester audience, and Rep. Julie Parrish, of West Linn/Tualatin.

Pierce — like Chris Dudley and Dr. Monica Wehby — is a first-time candidate and is personally capable of providing a base of campaign

funding. The drawback of the novice candidate in a statewide race is that they haven't been tested under fire. Of Dudley, Pierce says: "I think he actually ran a strong campaign. He could have been a little better prepared about issues."

The big question is whether Alley will make the race, because he would enter the Republican primary with relatively high name familiarity. While Alley engaged Republican pollster Bob Moore in 2014, Alley says he has no poll presently in the field.

Alley ran a convincing

race for Oregon treasurer in 2008, securing the endorsements of a number of Oregon newspapers and losing to Ben Westlund by a margin of 51-44 percent. He lost to Dudley in the 2010 Republican primary for governor.

The trick of the Republican primary, says Alley, "is whether you alienate the rest of the electorate."

With the Oregon electorate split into thirds — Democrats, Republicans and Independents — Alley says: "The day is gone when Democrats can win on their own." They must attract Independents.



Dr. Bud Pierce



Pete Forsyth via Wikimedia
Allen Alley

"A Republican must get crossover from Democrats."

The race for Oregon governor costs between \$5 million and \$10 million.

Pierce, who is 59, has retained Paul Phillips of Pac/West Communications and is being advised by Sen. Jackie Winters of Salem. Pierce says he "was thinking 2018" until Gov. Kitzhaber unraveled.

"I'm willing to commit personal resources to this. But if you can't get others to support you, you're not valid as a candidate."

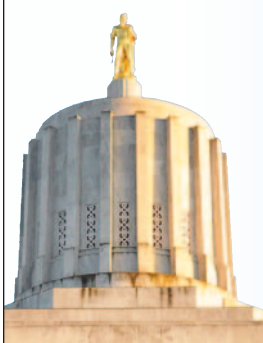
Pierce's next step is to "get the PAC going." Phillips will advise him on when to file.

Rep. Buehler, who is 50, is on the board of the Ford Family Foundation, whose focus is rural Oregon. Buehler says: "I'm in no hurry." He adds: "I have laser focus on representing Bend. My future plans are a distraction from more important issues."

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From left: Peter Wong, Hillary Borrud, Mateusz Perkowski