

Douglas County Master Gardeners Chapter Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2013

The OSU Douglas County Master Gardeners chapter meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM on July 25, 2013 by President **Larry Sutton**. Forty members were in attendance. The agenda was accepted as written. The minutes of the June 2013 chapter meeting were approved as written.

Bonnie Couter, our hostess, gave an overview of their property, which had been the local school house from the 1850's to 1940's.

HORTICULTURE AGENT – Steve Renquist reported that the Department of Agriculture has put out 10 times the usual number of traps, which you may notice around town. Research is underway to identify plants that repel or deter the Spotted Winged Drosophila (SWD). In the lab, they are investigating the olfactory capabilities of the SWD. Vinegar traps work very well, but only up until the time the fruit ripens.

Steve has been in touch with the watermaster, who expects to limit irrigation water soon.

A prep meeting for the River Forks Park tree management plan will be on Tuesday, August 13th at 11:00 AM.

An update on the bumblebee die-off in Wilsonville: the trees were linden trees, whose pollen is toxic to bumblebees (but does not affect honeybees). Thus the bees were already in a weakened state when they were sprayed with Dinotefuran. Make sure you're not using any products including an insecticide.

Gail Langellotto has reported severe aphid breakouts in the Willamette Valley. Avoid chemical over-use.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – Vicki McAlister reminded members who need replacement badges to contact her or her successor.

OMGA REPRESENTATIVE – Rosemary Brinkley reminded members about Mini-College, which will be held August 7 – 9th at OSU in Corvallis. Master Gardeners with 20+ years of service will be awarded a new swinger bar. Rosemary and **Michelle Harding-Olson** and their team are hard at work creating the table decorations for the Awards Banquet at Mini-College.

TREASURER – Toni Rudolph reviewed the Treasurer's Report. She appreciated everyone's help during her tenure as Treasurer, especially with the budget process.

VICE-PRESIDENT – Fred Alley thanked **Bonnie Courter** for hosting today's meeting. The August meeting will be **Barbara Horst's** home, 18 miles east of Canyonville. The September meeting will be at the Discovery Garden. Fred gave a presentation to **Michelle Harding-Olson's** Arts Connection group on his home's landscaping.

PAST-PRESIDENT – Judy Huntley reminded members that the Awards Banquet will be September 28th.

PRESIDENT – Larry Sutton reported that four scholarships to Mini-College were granted. He read a thank you card from UCAN for our food donations, and encouraged members to contribute.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Leo Grass circulated the sign-up sheet for booth duty at the Douglas County Fair. **Beth Brown** gave a tour of the Discovery Garden to the Cobb Street students. Leo gave a talk on alternate weed/insect control, down at the Heaven on Earth restaurant on I-5. The Westside Community Garden has requested a presentation on winter gardening, if anyone is interested. Leo's evening of beer sampling and a sing-along at the Discovery Garden will be Wednesday, August 14th. Leo is looking for someone to replace him in doing the soil tests.

PLANT CLINIC – **Judy Mercer** circulated the Plant Clinic sign-up calendar. They are getting many calls about overheated plants. She thanked everyone who is walking in or made a donation to the Alzheimer's Walk in September.

KRUSE MARKET – **Maureen Benice** (reporting for **Diane Twete**) reported that there are open slots for the first two weeks of September.

UMPQUA VALLEY FARMERS MARKET – **Karolyn Riecks** reported that very few people have signed up, and the folks who had been doing it are not interested in continuing. If more people don't sign up, we will have to close the season early.

DISCOVERY GARDEN – **Julie Stanbery** reported that the Parks Department repaired the river irrigation system. Our pump feeds the entire complex. There was a break in the Umpqua Basin water system, right at the edge of the greenhouse. Many thanks go to **John Denny** for repairing it. Expect a large bill from Umpqua Basin. Julie asked members to be more judicious in their water use. Aim sprinklers accurately, and use the river water as often as possible. Remember to wear your badge while working in the garden. Do NOT drop off any unused pots at the greenhouse, as they are not needed.

DISCOVERY GARDEN SIGNAGE – **Karen Glatz** reported that we're getting closer to final designs for the Xeriscape and entry signs. There will a meeting of the signage committee directly after this meeting. **Jen Bailey** explained that we'd won two awards from OMGA, the Extension Educator Grant and the Karl Carlson Memorial Fund, for a total of \$750.

VICTORY GARDEN – **Mik Carlson** reported that the Victory Garden is going well, though consistent water delivery remains a challenge. The tomatoes have been replanted, and they are succession-planting bush beans, carrots and pole beans. The Victory Garden has donated 913 lbs of food to UCAN thus far this year. Members' and the Easy Access garden's donations total 245 lbs.

There is a distinct area in the Victory Garden where plants are dying of herbicide damage. **Steve Renquist's** theory is that contaminated material from the RV Park was introduced into our compost area. The RV area is in shade, which delays the break-down of the herbicide. He will talk to them about it. Steve explained that Richard Wilen's farm in Yoncalla lost their tomato crop from herbicide damage, from contaminated recycled material. Steve recommends using mint compost, as the mint was grown with no herbicides.

AWARDS – **Betty Ison** had nothing to report.

GARDEN TOUR – **Betty Ison** encouraged members to attend the Garden Tour on Thursday, August 1st. There are seven sites, in Oakland, Sutherlin and Roseburg.

PUBLICITY – **Bonnie Couter** had nothing to report.

HALLMARK – **Linda Thames** had nothing to report.

NEWSLETTER – **Jen Bailey** reminded everyone that the deadline for submission is Friday.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – **Rosemary Brinkley** announced the slate of officers, and thanked nomination committee members **Mik Carlson** and **Leo Grass**. There were no nominations from the floor. The new officers were elected by unanimous vote of the members. They are: **Michelle Harding-Olson** (President), **Fred Alley** (Vice-President), **Janet Parkerson** (Secretary), **Vicki McAlister** (Treasurer), **Ruth Stafford** (Membership Director) and **Rosemary Brinkley** (OMGA Representative). We still need an OMGA Alternate Rep.

SHOW-AND-TELL – **Fred Alley** brought pictures of his home landscape, which will be included on the Garden Tour. **Julie Stanbery** mentioned there is a Liquid Fence product for moles, which **Judy Huntley** confirmed is available on-line. **Julie** gave away Crocosmia bulbs. She encouraged members to enter the fair's flower

competition. **Bonnie Couter** raffled off three garlic braids she had grown and made herself. They went to **Shirley Purcell, Jon Thrane** and **Judy Weaver**.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Bailey