

Douglas County Master Gardeners

Oregon State UNIVERSITY **OSU** Extension Service Douglas County

February 2008

Volume 24, Number 2

YOUR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Gardening???.....what gardening??? With the snowy and chilly weather we've had the last couple of weeks, there is little to do in our gardens except pray that we haven't lost too many plants in our landscape. A little warmer weather will soon offer some clues, some sign of new growth that, hopefully, some of our favorite plants have survived.

This type of unusually cool weather reminds us that landscaping with mostly native plants is the smarter way to garden.

By now, our winter training class is well under way. I've enjoyed mentoring this year and being involved with a program that is so well organized and appreciated by an enthusiastic class of new students. It also provides me an opportunity to show my passion and share my own enthusiasm for our Douglas County Chapter of Master Gardeners and the multitude of projects underway in the coming year.

Pruning classes were well planned until the weather prevented them from taking place. Hopefully, these will resume

during February and give us all a chance to share and/or develop those important pruning skills. Check with Steve if you didn't receive a copy of those classes planned, and the new dates if they were rescheduled.

I encourage as many of the new class members as possible to get involved in Steve's "Spring into Gardening" mini-seminars at Umpqua Community College on Saturday, February 23rd. This is a great opportunity to volunteer and, of course, will count as a part of your payback volunteer hours.

Trivia question: Which one of our Executive Board member is a former lead guitarist in a rock band? Answer next month.

Keep warm!

Elaine Moriarty

President
OSU Master Gardeners
Douglas County Chapter



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"Missing Something?"

Missing something, maybe it has found it's way into the Plant Clinic office. There is an assortment of dishes, utensils and coats left from various activities. If you want to reclaim, do so soon or they will become part of the Trash to Treasure Sale."

OUR MISSION

- EDUCATE HOME GARDENERS IN THE DOUGLAS COUNTY AREA WITH THE MOST PRACTICAL AND SAFE HOME
- HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES BASED ON A PROGRAM OF KNOWLEDGE UPDATE AND REGENERATION, AND,
- CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF ENJOYMENT FOR ALL



Agent's Report by Steve Renquist

Landscape Sustainability Checkup

Within the next month I will be sending an article to the News Review talking about a new OSU Extension program I am going to lead from Douglas County called "Oregon Sustainable Landscapes". This sustainable program intends to help homeowners find a gardening style that is good for them and our surrounding ecosystem. I have condensed the whole low input sustainable gardening system down to a one page check list publication. The publication will be distributed at our "Spring Into Gardening" seminar on February 23, at the home show March 1 & 2, at Earth Day in April, and at our Plant Expo in May. Our roll with this program initially will be as coaches, encouraging and helping people to evaluate their landscapes, getting them ready for our OSU certification process.

The early evaluation process will begin with the homeowner doing a walk through of their landscape with the publication. This will allow the homeowner to decide what changes they may need to make with their landscape or gardening practices before they call the OSU Extension office. The check list has a number of categories to help guide homeowners. The categories include, improving water efficiency, soil building, recycling of organic wastes, wildlife compatibility, soft pest management, right plants for our area, fertilizing properly, storm water control, and stream side enhancement. The checklist asks homeowners a number of questions from each of the categories as part of our educational process. If homeowners cannot answer certain questions they are directed to the OSU website and specific publications. They are also encouraged to visit or call the Master Gardener clinic for consultation. Homeowners will be required to go through the certification check list with the agent or a Master Gardener™ eventually to verify that they meet the standards.

The certification review process of "Oregon Sustainable Landscapes" potentially will be the most intensive educational outreach program we have tried. At this time we don't know if we will have two landscapes a week to certify or twenty, but we should start gearing up to handle potentially a large number of requests. We should get together at the February 6th 10am outreach meeting in the Extension office to

discuss a few more details about this program. If I am the only person in our group that thinks this is a worthwhile venture then we need to discover this early on.

My vision of this program is to reach out to a lot of people with a low input gardening system that is not too technical, is not expensive, and is good for our ecosystem. Several OSU Extension agents across the state are rolling out WaterWise programs in 2008 that help people understand water management better. I felt that I would like to take the WaterWise idea one step further and roll out a low input gardening system that includes water management and other important topics. This type of program is being used in Florida with great success. It took them several years to get the program going and they eventually merged their program with others from several agencies and organizations. In Florida a very good website with reference material backs up their program for easy access by homeowners so that is the probable direction of this program too. If you have an interest in hearing more or discussing these ideas in greater detail come to the February 6th meeting at 10am in the Extension kitchen.

Steve



MG News & Events

Oregon State Master Gardener (OMGA) State Representative

The Jest of the Story or It Coulda' Happened That Way

Sometime in the 1600's the Christian holiday, Candlemas, was started in central Europe. Occurring midway between the solstice and the equinox, it was celebrated on February 2nd. As the tradition evolved, the local priest would make candles and deliver them throughout the parish as gifts of light and love for the community. As the deliveries were made, lore has it that if the priest saw his shadow, winter would continue for another six weeks. By the 1700's, in Germany, the tradition had once again evolved and now it was associated with the waking of the hedge hog from a winter's hibernation. The shadow and its relationship to the end of winter persisted. In the 1800's as the German population immigrated to Pennsylvania, they brought their traditions with them. There being no hedge hogs native to the new world, the responsibility for the determination of winter's end was transferred to the groundhog and the day of the awakening was celebrated as February 2nd.

The groundhog actually has three known uses. The first of course is the predicting of the length of winter; secondly the reproduction of future generations of groundhogs; and thirdly, the aerating of the earth by its insistent construction of subterranean apartments to be used by its protégés that would include but not be limited to other groundhogs, rats, rabbits and snakes. We have already discussed the first use which brings us to the second and heralds the occasion for this treatise. When the male groundhog curls up for his long winter's nap he does it alone and has completely depleted the contents of his scrotum. As he sleeps the wonders of Mother Nature allow him to recharge his batteries and when he awakens he is ready to go forth and multiply. His primary interest is not in looking for a shadow, but in finding a female of the species. Contrary to tradition he does not always awake on February 2nd, but usually it is in late January or early February. Now we can look at one of the paradoxes created by Mother Nature. Just as the male groundhog's awakening can be predicted during a certain time frame, so can the female groundhogs. Unfortunately for the male the female typically awakens two weeks, or a fortnight, later. While the male's key interest upon awakening is finding a female, the female's interest is in finding something to eat. Do we see a parallel here? Does it stand to reason that if the male brings her gifts of succulent items that she desires, her interests might be more closely aligned with his at an earlier time?

The human element, watching the habits of the groundhog, saw an opportunity for exploitation and established a "holiday" for the sole purpose of allowing the male to shower upon the female sweet tidbits to get her mind off food and to share with her his vision of light and love for the community. This holiday became known as Groundhogs Fortnight and was celebrated on February 14th, to coincide with the awakening of the female. Once again tradition evolved and the name was changed to honor an early Christian martyr, St. Valentine.

State Representative -Larry P. Sutton



Community Education 2008

The Douglas County Master Gardener Community Outreach Program provides the basis for all of our gardening education programs throughout the area. We hold seminars, present programs to garden and other interested organizations and provide speakers for community service groups. We set up and staff booths at various functions, provide on site training for school and interested community groups as well as providing guides for our Discovery Garden tours.

In 2007 we made presentations at over 30 venues with direct contacts with individuals numbering over 1200 (direct contact is a discussion with a person about gardening related topics).

We can do better! The way to make that happen is to have our members step up as opportunities arise and make a contribution. All efforts offer significant payback time, but the rewards are most often felt in the sense of accomplishments one feels when helping another person solve a problem.

So, if you have experience speaking before groups, are good with computer programs such as Power Point, have a knack for putting together exhibits and/or demonstrations, let me know. If you are a new class member, talk, with your mentor about the opportunities in our Community Outreach Program-or give me a call.

Jack Wright

Community Outreach Coordinator 673-1924



HALLMARK

Sadly, it was reported at the January membership meeting that we lost a long time MG, Emil Johnson several months ago. He'd been a member since 1985. Although I did not know him well, it is amazing to me the number of gardening tips of his that have stayed with me over all of these years. Every time I pinch off a sucker from a tomato plant I think of him. He told me that's how to get better quality and larger tomatoes. I think of him hundreds of times every summer, especially when I get compliments on my tomato crop just from that one tip. He's also the one who told us about Territorial Seed Company's Cool Breeze Cucumbers. He said they're not bitter. They're the best all-around eating and pickling cucumber he'd found. It's the only variety I bother to grow year after year. It lives up to his praise. I always think of him when I'm in my garden and I thank him for sharing his knowledge with us. That's one of the best things about Master Gardeners. I will never forget him.

Our Pat Galloway lost her dear husband, Steve in December after his long fight with cancer and Mildred Gum lost a son, Bill, just before Christmas. Our most sincere sympathy was expressed to them and their families in cards.

I sent out a number of Get Well and Thinking of You cards recently but I don't know which recipients, if any, want their names listed in the newsletter, so I'll just say we all hope everyone's feeling better and better every day!

I want to thank Shirley Purcell for sending out some of the cards for Hallmark this past month when I was leaving on a trip to California.

If you know of any MG who would appreciate a card from us, please let me know and if they want that information listed in the newsletter and announced at our membership meeting, I'd also very much appreciate knowing that.

Linda Thames - (Hallmark)

linbill2@charter.net

673-3978

HALLMARK (More)

Please remember to let me know if you hear of any MGs who might be ill or hospitalized or for whatever reason might benefit from receiving a cheery card from us. I want to emphasize, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. I'm always surprised at how many times MGs have thought that I must've already been told... I'd rather be told a dozen times then never told at all. Thank you. **Linda Thames 673-3978 or e-mail at linbill2@charter.net.**



Vice President

First I want to say another big thank you to Carol Beckley for her presentation on what's happening at the Elkton community Education Center and the Native Plant Botanical Garden. During the presentation she mentioned several websites, organizations and businesses that she has worked with on acquiring and propagating native plants. Several people have asked to have these repeated and so here they are:

www.wallyhansennativeplants.com - A wealth of information as well as a site to purchase native plants. There are back issues of his plant journals available as well as a site to download the current month's native plant focus. Botanic artwork enhances the site. They are great to work with and a visit to their spot in Salem (directions available on the website) is a treat.

www.boskydelnatives.com - A crowded nursery space is covered with a huge variety of native plants in varying sizes. They are great to visit and their website is helpful for information and available plants. The nursery has a West Linn address. Their site provides information on site-specific native plant attributes (for drought, erosion control, wildlife habitat, etc.)

www.sevenoaksnativenursery.com - Although this is a wholesale nursery, the site is interesting in their method of listing plants by seed sites and availability. The nursery is staffed by enthusiastic personnel with lots of native plant know how. For the home gardener it provides some insight into varieties.

www.forestfarm.com - Located in Williams, Oregon, there is a huge inventory of lots of domestic and native plants. They often have hard-to-find specimens.

Some of the continuing education topics that we will have in the upcoming months are Roger Sawyer's presentation on Mason Bees, Gregory Flick's presentation on establishing historically accurate gardens and orchards as part of the restoration of Fort Umpqua, and the "Four Chairs" group program on plants in poetry and song. If you have a topic you'd like to suggest, give me a call at 459-4940.

Please come and join us during the hour before the regular monthly business meeting for these continuing education opportunities. The coffee will be on!

Bill Howitt Vice President



Plant Clinic News

By Mildred Gum, Clinic Coordinator

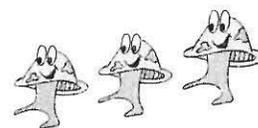
The Plant Clinic will be open Mondays and Wednesdays during February. More calls are beginning to come in each week, on a variety of subjects. After the Concurrent Session on Feb. 5, trainees and mentors will come together for initial Plant Clinic training. If each team will sign up for one time, all should have received their first session by April 15. After that time, you may sign up for more Clinic times to complete your 36 hours, please be fair and share the time.

Training for Veterans who plan to work in the Clinic is scheduled for Thursday morning, Feb. 7, at 10:00 a.m., and Friday afternoon, Feb. 8 at 1:00 p.m. Class of 2007 are now considered Veterans to work in the Clinic and are urged to come for the training. &



Mushrooms in Lawns May Mean You Have Healthy Soil

Source: OSU



Fall rains often bring mushrooms to lawns and gardens, but don't become alarmed. Mushrooms are actually the reproductive structures of fungi.

If your property has mushrooms, it may indicate that your soil is healthy and a good place for trees and other plants to grow. Fungi and bacteria play an integral role on earth – they break down complex organic compounds including proteins, carbohydrates and fats into their most basic elements. Then these basic compounds of life can be used by other generations of organisms.

Underground, below the mushrooms popping up on your lawn, are thread-like networks, called hyphae. Some of these hyphae attach to plant roots, creating thread-like extensions that reach far into the soil, increasing the surface area of the plant roots up to 1,000 times. The fungal hyphae and the plant roots working together are called mycorrhizae.

These intricate webs of hyphal filaments capture water and minerals and deliver them to plant roots via the mycorrhizae. Oregon's forest trees and many of our native and landscape plants depend on fungi and mycorrhizal relationships for optimal health and growth. The extended reach of these fungal threads is astonishing. A thimbleful of soil can contain miles of mycorrhizal filaments.

Fungi and mycorrhizal filaments produce organic compounds that glue soils together to improve soil structure and porosity to enhance root growth. In addition, the presence of mycorrhizae in the soil has been found to suppress soil-borne pathogens, protecting plants from root diseases.

It all adds up to a fundamental relationship between fungi and green plants, one that has been evolving for millions of years. Most plants – from orchids, rhododendrons and madrone trees to most fruit and nut trees, turf grasses, annuals and perennials – depend on some type of fungal activity. A few kinds of plants don't have beneficial relationships with fungus, including plants that grow quickly following disturbance and plants that grow in saturated soils, such as cattails.

Mycorrhizal fungi are not fertilizers, although inoculating roots with the fungi can improve a plant's growth rate and tolerance to drought and disease

If mushrooms and toadstools offend you, remove them with a rake and bury them in your compost pile. But be ready to see a new crop spring up, as they can sprout new fruiting bodies in a day or so. After a while, the mushrooms will stop forming, and the mycelia will live unobtrusively in the soil for another year.

Using fungicide chemicals to get rid of mushrooms is wasteful and ineffective because the fungus plant may be several feet below the soil surface.

Find this complete article (search keyword: mushrooms) and many more at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/enews/>



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT UCAN CALL: NANCY 492-3509

Glide Transfer site Wood-lot – Physical and outdoors—provide firewood for low income individuals and families. Wood needs loading & splitting (they have a machine).

Head Start classroom help, 2-3 Volunteers Monday thru Thursday 9:30 AM-1:30 PM. Also need a volunteer with a Food Handlers certificate (or who will obtain one) to help with breakfast and lunch. Sutherlin Head Start also needs a volunteer to read to kids.

Maintenance and Weatherization needs help with events and packaging energy kits for efficient energy use and savings on utility bills. No heavy labor required.

Confidence Clinic—Transitions Women's Center will need help February 4th through 24th for clean up and organization of their Jackson street site. This is during the clinic's break and will assist them in sorting items for donations and file storage.

Warehouse help for Food Shares –help lifting and moving food that is delivered to our warehouse which UCAN distributes to county-wide food banks and kitchens to help with hunger in Douglas County.

SAVE THE DATE!

25th Annual Gardener's Mini-College "Going Green On Our Silver" Wednesday July 23-Saturday July 26, 2008 Oregon State University Campus, Corvallis Oregon

This outstanding conference is dedicated to improving the knowledge of Oregon Master Gardeners™ and other dedicated gardeners. "Going Green On Our Silver" honors the 25th anniversary of this event as well as sustainable gardening techniques promoted and utilized by Oregon Master Gardeners.

Thought-provoking sessions presented on diverse topics and in a range of formats:

- **Leadership Forum** will support life skills and develop the capacity of Oregon Master Gardeners to serve as officers and leaders in their local or statewide chapter.
- **Seminars** on Gardening for Ecosystem Services, Pollination in the Home Garden, Gardening with Native Plants, Composting and more.
- **Tours and Workshops**, including the OSU Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture.

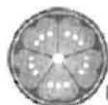
Conference Registration Rates

Postmarked by June 6, 2008
A 10% discount

Postmarked June 7th through July 7, 2008
Prices Same As in 2007!

Prices vary, see website or registration packet (available May 2008) for selections and procedures. Registration ends July 7, 2008

Visit the OSU Master Gardener™ website for updates and information on sponsorship opportunities.
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/>



Oregon State University Extension Service
Master Gardener™ Program



Request for those Members Growing Plants for the Plant Expo

If you are growing plants for the May 3rd Plant Expo, we ask that you give us the information about those plants **NOW** so that it can be entered into our plant label database.

Carol Gray and Karolyn Riecks created a database of plant material sold at last year's sale. Carol's husband wrote a formula that makes producing the labels faster and easier. For this system to work, the plant information needs to be entered into the database **first** so that labels can be produced when they are needed. Please send the information even if you aren't sure you will eventually donate the plants.

The information needed is:

1. Scientific Name
2. Common Name
3. Type of Plant - example: perennial, annual, herb, etc.
4. Flower color (if any)
5. Light requirements - example: sun, shade, part shade, etc.
6. Height/width of mature plant



Please send this information to **Karolyn Riecks**. Karolyn's e-mail address is: kriecks@charter.net. If you don't have e-mail you can call her with the information at 643-7237.

Master Gardeners Start 52 Seedlings

Many of you were present on 8 January when we hosted the Welcome Potluck for the Class of 2008. Lorenna Remington and Diana Circle out-did themselves in the organization and presentation of the epicurean delight.

If you were there and took the time to chat with the member of the Class of 2008 you might have talked to a future DCMG president, several future board members, and one or two thinking about working at the state level. You would have also met the teams that will be answering the phones in the plant clinic, pulling weeds in the Discovery Garden, and standing in front of groups and organizations explaining best gardening practices. You would have been one of the first to meet the future of Douglas County Master Gardeners.

This future will not just happen, it will be the result of a large team effort on the part of all chapter members. Geneva Croft starts the ball rolling by handling the myriad of details that have to be addressed before the new members can have seating assignments, name tags, and handouts. Next, comes the mentors. Twenty-six mentors and eight substitute mentors met in November for mentor training and to refine the mentoring program for this year. Each mentor has two new students they are responsible for as the class progresses. Next time you see a mentor, thank them for taking on the responsibility for developing our future gardeners and organization. Next time you see a new student, thank them for taking on the responsibility of being our future.

Master Gardner News

Don't Be A Loner, Join (Run With) the PAC

The Douglas County Friends of Extension Political Action Committee recently mailed each of you a letter requesting your support. If you haven't mailed it in yet, please pull it out and see how you are best able to support keeping our Extension Office open.

The PAC's first order of business was to get a measure on the May ballot to create a tax district for the support of our Extension Office. Just to refresh your memory, the Extension office stopped receiving county funding in 2007; if it is going to remain in Douglas County, Extension will need to obtain additional funding. The County Commissioners will make their final decision as to whether or not to put the tax measure on the ballot on February 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the courthouse. You are all invited to the Commission meeting to show support for the ballot. Once the Commissioners have approved the ballot, our second order of business will be to get the ballot passed!

The ballot will establish a .065 cents property tax for every \$1,000 of assessed property. In other words, if you live in a home of average value in Douglas County, your home is worth \$200,000.00. The proposed tax would add only \$13.00 to your tax bill each year. The measure ensures that the percentage will not increase, so in essence we are asking you to give up one evening of two Big Mac's, a Happy Meal and a Netflix.

As of this writing the PAC is approximately \$15,000.00 short of the amount it needs to run a minimal campaign for the proposed tax measure. Anything you are able to give will be put to good use.

How else can you help? Money is not the only way you can contribute to our success. The PAC is forming a writers group; members of this group will write and/or edit articles for letters to the newspaper editors or other county publications. We are also searching for possible articles for submission in the voter's pamphlet. You don't have to be a professional writer, just willing to write. When we get closer to the election, you can put bumper stickers on you car, make phone calls to your friends & neighbors, and/or put signs in your yard. Don't wait, run with the PAC.

Swinger Bar Hours

60- Sandy Allen Don Heiden Rani Sawdyer	Cindy Cadotte Gloria Heiden Tricia Smida	Jenny Friedman Chris Honse Susan Vecchio
200- Don Atchison Pat Galloway Carol Radmacher Lori Salars	Maureen Benice Patti Langille Fred Radmache Paula Yingst	Mik Carlson Fred Muir Carolyn Register Doug Gissel
500- Pam Barrows Carol Gray	Cheryl Boodell Maggie Nichols	Debbie Fenzl
750- Laverne Bailey Ray Link Karolyn Riecks	Richard Johnstone Sheila Lund Ann Waddington	Caroline Link Margaret Miles Dolores Williams
1000- Judy Huntley	Kathy McIntyre	Linda Thames
1500- Elaine Moriarty	Irene Thomason	
2000- Chuck Aiello	Gloria Amorde	Larry Sutton
2500- Shirley Purcell		
3000- Barbara MacPherson	Mildred Gum	
3500- Philece Humphrey		
4000- Tasha King	Roger Sawyer	
8500- Betty Ison		



Discovery Garden News

Our new trainees may find it confusing to see four sessions set for one day. Indeed, February 6th seems a very popular date. The good news is that our group is diverse enough that we can have all these activities and have a good turnout for all. First and foremost is the 10 am County Commissioner's meeting in room 216 at the courthouse. We need our staunchest supporters (who would not be going to the garden or pruning sessions) to represent OSU Extension and the Master Gardeners. Just being present during the hearing gives credence to our request. PLEASE REMEMBER: As unthinkable as it may be, the service district is the ONLY way to keep Extension in Douglas County. As exhausting and cumbersome as the process is, we must prevail. We can only do that with your continued support. There will be time enough to rest after the polls close on May 20th.

Secondly, we have scheduled a Discovery Garden work day from 10am to noon. This is a great time for trainees to get really acquainted with the garden! Please come rain or shine, dress for the elements; bring a hoe and a short handled weeding tool and kneeling pad. We will be attacking the lovely bittercress (before it pops) in the garden beds. The paths will be sprayed asap. We will also be available to help with the new greenhouse if they need extra hands

Thirdly, the "powerpoint" Community Outreach group meets at 9am in the annex kitchen. This group spearheads our speakers bureau.

Lastly is a fruit tree pruning session at Rani Sawyer's house. See handout for directions.

So as you can see, we are a very busy group, well-rounded group with lots of choices. As always, thank you for your efforts, you are all much appreciated!!!

(Submitted by: Julie Stanbery)



FUTURE DATES:

Saturday, February 9 10am to 2pm Ornamental pruning session in the Discovery Garden. New class encouraged to attend, public invited, bring your neighbor or a friend. Hands-on class, bring your pruners, lopers, and hand saws. Instructors Julie Stanbery and Cheryl Boodell.

Wednesday, February 13, 9am MG Executive Meeting annex kitchen everyone welcome, new encourage your input.

Friday, February 15, 10am to noonish Discovery Garden workday in the Japanese Garden. Bring pruners and lopers and shears. Pruning is a bit different style in this garden. Come learn hands-on how to alter the shapes of shrubs and conifers. Bring a spade, too, we will be dividing grasses and other plants.

Saturday, February 16 Fruit tree pruning session with Richard Johnstone. See handout for directions and time.

Monday, February 18 1pm to 4pm. Rose pruning class in the Discovery Garden. Bring pruners and alcohol. Instructors Bud Cruger and LaVerne Bailey.

Wednesday, February 20 10am to noon. Project to be announced.

Saturday, February 23 "Spring into Gardening" Seminar at UCC....and... PAC Fundraiser MFP/MG bread making class at Sutherlin Community Center

Monday, February 25 1pm to 4pm same as Feb 9 ornamental pruning this day for MGs only. Great refresher for newer MGs!!

Wednesday, February 27 10 to noon Discovery Garden Workday

Thursday, February 28 9am Master Gardener meeting and continuing education program. Trainees encouraged to join us in the fun!!



SAVE THE DAY

Our annual Trash to Treasure Sale will be Saturday, March 29, from 9:00 to 4:00, upstairs at the annex our regular meeting room for classes). Please begin collecting GOOD donations for delivery to the annex March 28 between 9:00 and 6:00 so we can price and sort the items for the next day.

We are hoping for really good stuff; gently used or even new, i.e. no junk, no clothing, no magazines, no broken electrical stuff. Just ask yourself if this is something you or your best friend might wish to buy.

There will be sign-up sheets for spotters, cashiers, and other needed workers at the Feb. meeting.

Remember, we are looking for quality items in good working order. Thanks, and see you there!

Margaret Miles ✨

Are You Missing \$40 Million Dollars?

Each year the Oregon Department of State Lands receives and processes the unclaimed property that has been turned over to the state. This amounts to over \$40 million dollars annually in unclaimed money and property being turned over to and held by the state. The good news is they don't want to keep this money, and try to give it back to the rightful owners. For unclaimed money and or property, check out the list at www.oregon.gov/dsl/up. If you are web-site challenged, there is a phone at 503-986-5200. Oregon also has a web site for checks in your name that have gone unclaimed. They are held by the Oregon Department of Revenue at www.oregon.gov/DOR/index.shtml.

For those of us that have lived in other states you can check out the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators (NAUPA) at www.unclaimed.org. They have links to 39(?) states for property claims. Of importance to most you is that one of the links is California.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING 2007 TIMESHEETS

The deadline for turning in your timesheets for 2007 is Friday, Feb. 29, 2008. Any timesheets not completed and turned in by that date will not be valid. I know a lot of you wait until the very last minute to do this, but as it's important to have an accurate count of all volunteer hours for the year, we need to have a cutoff date.

Please remember:

- put your name and the month on your timesheets. There are still a few in the grey box with neither.
- total your hours according to category in the right-hand column. Again, there are some in the grey box which haven't been totaled. You don't want to trust my math...

do not include 1/4 hours.

The following categories seem to cause the most confusion, so, briefly:

- **Plant Clinic** also includes insect committee, Kruse Farms and Farmers' Market.
- **DG** is any time spent working inside the garden fence.
- **HLC** is for hours spent anywhere else at the Discovery Garden, except when you are working specifically on plants (propagation, repotting, etc.) for the **Plant Sale**.
- Monthly meetings should be recorded under **Chapter Duties**. 1-1/2 hours.

The 1-hr program before the meeting is recorded as **Continuing Education**.

If there are any questions about your hours, please call or email me.

Thank you all for being a part of this wonderful community of gardeners.

Pam Barrows
784-2305

evensong@wizards.net

February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Clinic is open 12:30-4:00 P.M. Mondays and Wednesdays Alternates/Substitutes					1	2
3	4 Leo Grass, Mildred Gum, Adrian Mendez *	5	6 V Diane Smith V Carol Gray T T	7 10:00 Plant Clinic Training for Veterans	8 1:00 Plant Clinic Training for Veterans	9
10	11 Leo Grass, Mildred Gum, Adrian Mendez *	12	13 9:00 MG Exec. V Diane Smith V Karolyn Riecks T T	14	15	16
17	18 Leo Grass, Mildred Gum, Adrian Mendez *	19	20 Carol & Fred Radamacher T T	21	22	23
24	25 Leo Grass, Mildred Gum, * *	26	27 V Elaine Moriarty V Maureen Benice T T	28 9:00 MG Cont. Ed. 10:00 MG meeting	29	

OSU EXTENSION MG GENERAL MEETING

January 31, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by **President Elaine Moriarty**. Approximately 47 members were in attendance.

Reports

Treasurer: Debbie Fenzl passed out and reviewed the 2007 Income Statement and the Balance Sheet and Income Statement sheets as of 1/31/08. Total account balances are \$30,345.23. She advised that there are new expense forms in the MG office and reminded everyone that she needs a receipt with every expense form. **Debbie** also advised that any income must be reported in a sales book. There was a discussion about donations to the Trash to Treasure sale and the tax implications for the donor and the Chapter.

President: Bill Howitt thanked **Carol Beckley** for her presentation. Anyone interested in more information may contact her. **Bill** will get a list of all the websites she mentioned and put them in the next newsletter. In February a presentation on Mason Bees will be given by **Roger Sawyer**. The presentation by **Gregory Flick** on "Developing Historically Accurate Gardens for the Umpqua Restoration Project" will be rescheduled for March.

State Representative: Larry Sutton reported that the dates for Mini-College are July 23 – July 26. The prices are being maintained at the 2007 level. If you get your registration in by June 6 or earlier, you will get a 10% discount. A nominee for the OMGA Secretary has been found and will be voted on March 1. **Larry Hern** has been appointed to the position of Past President. There is an opening for State Historian. If anyone is interested in the position, please contact **Larry**.

Membership: Diane Aiello said that 67 people had paid their dues with another half dozen paying today. The newsletter will go out next Tuesday.

Plant Clinic: Mildred Gum said that at Tuesday's concurrent session, mentors and trainees will be able to sign-up together for one session of Plant Clinic through April 15th. She needs more veterans to sign-up for February as the hours are expanding to Monday and Wednesday. Training for veterans in the Plant Clinic will be Thursday, February 7th at 10 a.m. or Friday, February 8th at 1 p.m.

Community Outreach: Jack Wright said that two presentations will be given in January and February - one for a garden club and the other to a church group. The "Spring Into Gardening" seminar will be February 23rd. Help is needed for registration. The pruning class for February 1st has been cancelled. The next Outreach meeting will be on Wednesday, February 6th at 10 a.m. At least one new PowerPoint program will be reviewed at that time. The Home Show is coming up the first weekend in March. A sign-up sheet will be put out for members to sign to work at the show.

Discovery Garden: Joanne Bohm reported that the new class garden tours went well. The next workdays will be Wednesday, February 6 from 10 a.m. to noon as well as Friday, February 15 from 10 a.m. to noon. Weeding will be done on the 6th, while on the 15th pruning and plant divisions will be done in the Japanese Garden. Wednesday, February 27th from 10 – noon will be a general work day. **Julie Stanbery** and **Cheryl Boodell** will be holding two pruning classes at the garden covering ornamentals shrubs and small trees. They will be Saturday, February 9 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Monday, February 25 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There will be three new class projects in the garden. They are a berm, rock garden area and side entry area. **Julie** is still negotiating with the jail crew to help build the "mother bed" for perennials and to finish the paths for **Bill Decker**. **Bud Cruger** said that the roses will be pruned on February 18 at 1 p.m.

Newsletter: Elaine Moriarty said that articles for the next newsletter are due at midnight this Friday, February 1st. **Elaine** said that putting together the newsletter is very involved, so articles need to be submitted earlier.

Awards: Betty Ison has the year-end swinger bars for veterans. She read a list of veterans that are eligible for new bars. The list will be published in the newsletter. She explained the swinger bar system to new class members. **Betty** also has award certificates for members that have not received them. She advised that members have until the end of February to turn in their 2007 hours.

Publicity/Website: Patti Langille said that she sent in press releases about the February change in Plant Clinic hours, the Trash to Treasure event and the Plant Expo. She has nothing to report about the website.

Hallmark: Linda Thames said that in December **Pat Galloway** lost her husband, **Steve**, and **Mildred Gum** lost her son, **Bill**. **Judy Wood** is in Portland for rehab and is doing well. **Rebecca Ricardson** and **Jim Swegles** were both in the hospital and are out now. **Larrie Prociw** is ill and **Anne Waddington** had hand surgery and is recovering.

Agent Report: Steve Renquist said that there will be four groups at the concurrent session on Tuesday. At lunch on Tuesday, **Steve** will talk to the class members about the new class projects. Volunteers are needed on February 23rd for the "Spring Into Gardening" seminar. New class members earn payback hours if they help that day.

Old Business

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PAC Report: **Larry Sutton** explained the PAC's purpose to new members and said that the commissioners are having a hearing on February 6th at 10 a.m. to finalize the Extension service district measure. The first of three fundraisers sponsored by the Master Food Preservers raised \$1,000, only \$15,000 short of the funds needed. If you are holding onto your PAC letter requesting support, please find it and send it in along with your check as soon as possible. The PAC is looking for writers and or editors for a writing team. We need letters to the editors of the various area newspapers and people to ghost write articles to be submitted in the voter's pamphlet. Each article submitted for the voter's pamphlet costs \$500.

New Business

Trash to Treasure Sale: **Caroline Link** said that the sale is March 29th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. They will be collecting items on March 28th. NO CLOTHING WILL BE TAKEN! There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers to sign-up to help. Storage space is needed, so if anyone has space available, contact **Caroline**. There was a discussion about donations and income tax ramifications. **Caroline** and **Debbie Fenzl** will meet to determine how to handle those issues.

UCAN Food Security Coalition: **Robyn Thompson** said that community gardens are being developed in Glide, Sutherlin and Winston. Everything will be provided, but UCAN is asking for Master Gardeners to be involved as resource persons for the gardens. Contact **Robyn** if you are able to volunteer in any of these community gardens

Vice President Title Change: **Elaine Moriarty** advised that the Executive Board eliminated the 2nd Vice President position and changed the 1st Vice President title to Vice President.

Show and Tell/Good of the Order

Community Supported Agriculture: **Philece Humphrey** said that a CSA farm, an organic farm growing produce, has started in Myrtle Creek. She explained that they are selling subscriptions to the public. Anyone buying the subscription will get a large box of produce, once a week, during the growing season.

Scrapbook: **Marjorie Orr**, the MG Historian, said that the group scrapbooks of events are in the MG office.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karolyn Riecks

Secretary

**Douglas County
Master Gardeners
Newsletter**

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Articles for the next Newsletter
are **due February 29, 2008.**
To: Rebecca Richardson
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**Douglas County Master Gardeners of
OSU Extension Service
Important internet links:**

Website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/mg/mgindex.php>

Discovery Garden: www.dougcomg.org

MG Plant Clinic Email: douglasmg@oregonstate.edu

Steve Renquist Email: steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu

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