



Douglas County Master Gardeners



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

December 2008

Volume 23, Number 12

YOUR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hope you all had or are planning to have (depending on when you receive this newsletter) a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.



Two new greenhouses have been added and are already being utilized by Tasha and Gloria's hardworking greenhouse crews. If you haven't already done so, come on out on Tuesday mornings from 9 am to 12 noon...they can always use an extra hand or two.

It's just astounding that we've reached the end of this year...and we're still "here", still strong and getting stronger. It has been a historical year for our Douglas County chapter. Thanks to the blessings bestowed on us by the voters, our Ballot Measure overwhelmingly passed – what a vote of confidence from our county and, of course, without the many volunteer hours by our own Master Gardeners, this would never have happened.

Last, and certainly not least, we will soon have a functioning permanent restroom, thanks to our grantwriter, Nancy Southerland and Steve Renquist, who dotted all the "I's" and crossed all the "T's" in getting our application completed and approved. No more of those "fun trips" to the porta-potties!!



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Our Discovery Garden and the encompassing Horticultural Learning Center grounds are healthy and continue to change as we grow and are leaning towards more efficient and sustainable practices. We are working on an improved and more desirable watering system within the Garden perimeters which will, hopefully, be up and running next year.

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

Household Hazardous Waste

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality just recently finished analyzing the data they collected from a phone survey of 615 Oregon residents called in 2008. The survey wanted to evaluate how hazardous substances commonly found in homes, and yards, are handled when being used, when stored, and when disposed of. The survey was also interested in measuring how homeowners perceived these products.

The products being evaluated were considered hazardous because they are highly flammable, corrosive, reactive, or poisonous. Common examples included lawn herbicides and insecticides, items containing lead or mercury, household cleaners, paints, pool and spa chemicals, and automotive chemicals. To see the fact sheet that summarizes the report data visit this website: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/pubs/factsheets/sw/HHW2008SurveyResults.pdf>.

I was most interested in the section on lawn care and how people were managing their turf. The data collected was quite thorough and gave me more reasons to want to continue with the Oregon Sustainable Landscape worksheet and program. It was very evident that a large portion of the population was not well informed about sustainable practices. For example: When asked how many times per week do you water your lawn 19% said never, 27% said once a week or less, 42% said two to four times a week, and 11% said five to seven times a week. 53% of the total survey base seems to be interested in higher intensity lawn watering. Another interesting aspect of this data was people from the Portland metro area had the

highest number of people watering just once a week or less. It seems we rural folks need to follow the city lead on this issue.



Who are the people who water the most, people in the highest income group. Households from the lowest income group had the highest percentage of homes not watering at

all during the summer. And 41% of people in the middle income range were watering once a week or less. This correlates pretty well with research showing people with in ground irrigation systems watering the most. Now I will know who all the wealthy folks are in our neighborhood, the ones with their sprinkler system on every day. Maybe with our current recession we will see water use decline a bit.

On another issue when asked what you do with your grass clippings, 41% said leave them on the lawn, and 57% said remove them from their lawn, 2% didn't respond. Way over half the people in the survey still need to be taught this easy step to recycling. The age group that is best about leaving their grass clippings on the lawn, 45-65 year olds. 25-44 year olds and 66-80 year olds both like to remove the clippings.

The use of herbicides on lawn had some interesting data. Less than half of all people surveyed (47%) spot treat with herbicide,

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President's Report from page 1

The Plant Clinic has added new books to their library, thanks to some generous donations from the Aiello family, and Roger Sawyer, our current Vice President, is planning on leading us through some vital and informative Continuing Education sessions next year which will aid and increase our knowledge and skills in working in the Plant Clinic office.

We WILL hold a Trash to Treasure sale next year on Saturday, May 30th (mark your 2009 calendars now) and this will be enough time to recover from the Plant Sale. We are trying to reschedule events, keeping our members' energy levels in mind. Carolyn Link has offered to chair this event so save your trash (or treasures) and remember, no clothing is accepted.

We have so many fabulous volunteers in our organization and that is what keeps me going forward with renewed energy. At each step of the way, someone always comes forward to chair this event or that function, even adding some "fun-filled" events, such as our tomato taste-off this year. It can be daunting at times leading an organization as large and active as ours and I couldn't continue without each and every one of you.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart and my best wishes as you join your family and friends to celebrate the holidays.

With gratitude,

Elaine Moriarty
President



Agent's Report from page 2

4% use weed and feed, and 29% use weed killer over their whole lawn. Rural residents of Oregon were much more likely to use weed killer over their whole lawn than urban folks. Again higher income residents were more likely to use herbicide and insecticide on their lawns. People over 65 were the most likely to use herbicides.

When asked if chemical methods to manage an attractive lawn are more effective than natural methods, 68% of respondents agreed. This type of response makes it pretty evident to me that we need to continue to educate homeowners about alternative lawn care and gardening methods that include cultural practices, biological materials, and changing people's ideas of what the perfect lawn or garden should look like.

Steve



Community Outreach

A great big thank you to some of our Master Gardener presenters. Roger Sawyer presented two programs on Mason Bees. Our pruning expert, Chuck Aiello demonstrated the fine art of pruning to the Glide Garden Club. Cheryl Boodell brought the West Slope Garden Club up to date on Container gardening techniques. Our queen of the green house, Tasha is coordinating with the D.C. Juvenile detention center on efficient green house operation. My sincerest thanks to you all. Your interaction with our community plays a big part in building the respect that our chapter enjoys throughout Douglas County.

Leo

December Garden Calendar

December 2008

• Spread wood ashes evenly on vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 lb/100 sq ft/year.

Do not use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 if potassium levels are excessive.



- Use dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on fruit trees and roses for general disease control.
- *Western Oregon*: Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water regularly during the winter.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Do not treat unless a problem is identified.
- Yard sanitation: rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flower beds, hoe or pull winter weeds.
- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs.
- *Mid-December in western Oregon*: Spray peach trees with lime sulfur or approved fungicides to protect against peach leaf curl. Choose resistant varieties if possible.
- *Western Oregon*: Still time to plant spring-flowering bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocuses. Don't delay.
- Avoid mounding mulching materials around the bases of trees and shrubs. The mulch might provide cover for rodents.
- During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tiling, ditching, and French drains are possible solutions.
- Monitor houseplants for adequate water,

fertilizer, humidity. Water and fertilizer requirements generally are less in winter.

- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- Make holiday decorations from trees and shrubs in the yard.
- Monitor spruce trees for spruce aphids. Treat if present in large numbers. Read and follow pesticide label directions.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow or ice breakage.
- If the lawn is frozen, stay off it.
- Use paper tree wraps on lower trunks of newly planted fruit and nut trees to avoid sun damage.
- Turn the compost pile.
- *Western Oregon*: Good time of year to plant trees, landscape shrubs.

HALLMARK

I sent cards conveying out most sincere sympathy to three separate members in November, all of whom had lost their mothers, Pat Galloway, Rusdee Chastain, and Beverly Guyton.

As announced at the previous meeting, Dorothy Roberts has a slight change of address. She is still at 1301 E. Fulton Street, Newberg, OR 97132 but her room number has changed. It is now Room 71HC.

As always, if you know of any member who might like receiving a card, please phone or e-mail me the information and please also note if it is to be kept private or not.

Linda Thames

State Representative's Report

Greetings from your St. Rep.

As some of you know, my trip up north to the tippity-top of Oregon was a mixed bag. Our trip up was great and the weather was perfect. The first half of the meeting was fun new and exciting. I was thrilled to hear of some of the projects other chapters have been working on this past year. I also learned that attendance at mini-college was up.

I want to remind everybody that Mini-College is a chance to learn from experts in their field, and a trip through the bookstore is worth the trip to Corvallis.

There are some scholarships available so now is the time to set aside the dates of August 5,6 and 7, and to budget so that we can have a large turnout from Douglas County.

I would also remind everyone that I am accepting door prize donations for Mini-College from now through July.
Happy holidays and garden trails,

Carolyn



Master Gardener News

Master Gardener 2009 Winter Training Program is Full!

Announcement!

From: Mary Hoffmann, Extension Secretary & MG

The class for the 2009 Master Gardener Winter Training Program is full with 46 paid registrations. The Master Gardeners did a great job of promoting this program. **Thank-you!**

No additional registrations are being accepted, however we will be happy to put people on a waiting list in the event there are cancellations. These contacts will also be added to the mailing list for the 2010 class information packets that are mailed in September 2009.



Bylaws Change: “Emeritus Membership”

In article II, Section 4, an addition (5) stating: **“at the time of nomination the nominee must be a dues paying member.”**

The Membership will vote on this at the January 29,2009 meeting.

2009 Membership Dues Reminder

Membership Director-Mik Carlson

The Membership Director is responsible to maintain an Excel data-base that lists all Douglas County Master Gardeners. This listing includes each member's name, address, telephone number and e-mail. It also includes a record of dues payments. Any changes to this roster are provided to the Oregon Master Gardener Association. If a change is made to an e-mail address, this change is forwarded to **Shirley Purcell** so that she can update her records. Any change in address is forwarded to **Mary Hoffman** so that she can update her mailing list for the monthly newsletter. The new class members are also added to the listing prior to April. Any questions should be directed to **Mik Carlson** at 541-464-0634.

Please contact **Mik Carlson** at 541-464-0634 or mikc@dcmg.com if

you have any updates to the DCMG roster.

Please contact **Shirley Purcell** at shpurcell@gmail.com to update

your e-mail address.

Cut here

Check No. _____

Date _____

Douglas County Master Gardener 2009 Dues (Due Before 04/01/2009)

Do not put this reminder aside thinking that you will get to it later. By making out your check now, you will be assuring yourself of an uninterrupted subscription to our monthly newsletter and the association with a diverse and dynamic group of outstanding people. Please complete the application below.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE _____

The 2009 dues are \$10.00 for an individual or \$15.00 for a couple.
Check should be written to DCMG. Mail the completed form along with your check to:
Mik Carlson, 1381 San Souci Drive, Roseburg, Oregon 97471 or
drop your payment in the Master Gardener's Dues Box.

Awards Banquet 2008--Special Recognitions

At the recent Awards Banquet there were several individuals who were presented with very special honors, and I would like to acknowledge those people here. Since everyone doesn't attend the Banquet the rest of the membership should know who these individuals are.



Shirley Purcell is the **2008 Douglas County Master Gardener of the Year**. Shirley has been a volunteer for 11 years and has put in nearly 2900 hours of service. As part of our Outreach Program she has been involved with the Plant Clinic, Kruse Farm's, the Fair Booth, Display Fair Plot, Spring Fair, the Elkton Garden Celebration, Spring into Garden Seminar, the Speaker's Bureau, and the PowerPoint Project. She has also helped with fundraising activities such as our Tree Sales, Trash to Treasure Sales, Bake Sales, and the Plant Sale. Shirley has volunteered in various areas of the Discovery Garden, and takes care of our worm bins. Shirley donated her own compost tea brewer to the MG's, and has now turned that into a major fundraiser for us, making gallons and gallons of compost tea. Other activities in which Shirley has been involved are the nominating committee, greenhouse watering crew, the Giant Pumpkin Project, MG E-mail notification, and being a class mentor.

Photo by Linda Thames



The **2008 "Behind the Scenes" Master Gardener of the Year** is **Irene Thomason**. This award is for someone who works quietly and unselfishly behind the scenes, often going unnoticed, but is always there when work needs to be done. Irene has been a volunteer for 6 years and has put in over 1900 hours of service. Activities in which she has been involved are the Plant Clinic, Nominating Committee Chairperson, Class Mentor, helping with greenhouse training for the Winter Program, and serving as our Chapter State Representative. Her fundraising activities include Tree

Sales, the Auction, Trash to Treasure Sales, and Plant Sales. Irene is also very active helping with all the work at the greenhouse, as well as being part of the greenhouse watering crew, and she can be found working in the Xeriscape portion of the Discovery Garden.

Photo by Linda Thames



Two newcomers were selected as **Outstanding New Master Gardener Trainee**, they were **Jim Ivy** and **Dave Hopkins**, both honored for their very active and wide involvement within the organization. Both have worked with various Outreach Programs, helped with the Plant Sale in numerous capacities, and stepped up big time to help out in the Discovery Garden, and around the Horticultural Learning Center.

Another special award presented during the evening was the **Horticultural Agent's Award**. The recipient of this award was **Jack Wright**. He was selected by our Horticulture Agent Steve Renquist. It is for volunteers who by helping the agent achieve his goals, positively impacts the Master Gardener program. Jack has been instrumental in promoting our Outreach Program, and getting our name out into the community.



These are all very special volunteers and more than deserving of the recognition they have received, so if you have the opportunity congratulate them for a job well done. CONGRATULATIONS ALL!!!

Betty Ison
DCMG Awards Chairman

DCMG General Meeting - November 20, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 10:15AM. by **President Elaine Moriarty**. Approximately 54 members were in attendance.

Reports

Treasurer: Karolyn Riecks reported overall total balances as of 11/19/08 of \$41,664.57. The new bathroom at the HLC has been paid off though there may be bills outstanding.

Vice President: Roger Sawyer said there is NO GENERAL MEETING in December. The next 5 months' Continuing Education will be on Plant Clinic subjects which will make working in the Plant Clinic easier.

State Representative: Carolyn Register went to the OMGA meeting in St. Helens, Columbia County on November 1st. Though she got sick she gave her Douglas County Chapter report. She said Mini-College had 335 people in attendance, up from 250. She asked that we start thinking about door prizes for next year's Mini-College. She announced that the International conference is to be held in Las Vegas March 22-26, 2009. If anyone is interested in going let her know and she will get the information to you.

Membership: Mik Carlson said that there are 255 active members. The 2009 Dues reminder will be in the December Newsletter. Please fill it out and either mail it to the address on the reminder or drop it in the Dues Box in the Plant Clinic. Be sure to make any changes to Name, Address, Telephone Number, or Email Address before turning it in.

Plant Clinic: Mildred Gum said that Plant Clinic is to be held Mondays for the months of December and January. The 2009 Calendar is available in the Plant Clinic. Please sign up.

Outreach: Leo Grass said he had nothing "meaningful" to report.

Discovery Garden: Julie Stanbery said the Parks Department is adding leaves to our compost pile and that **Bill Decker** will add manure and coordinate the addition of grass clippings from the RV Park. If you see anyone adding to the compost ask if they had permission and from whom, then report to her if it doesn't seem correct.

Awards: Betty Ison said there were no 60 hours updates. She thanked **Philece Humphrey** for heading the Awards Banquet. There are some certificates still to hand out from the banquet.

Publicity/Website: Patti Langille announced she is seeking a replacement for Publicity Chair. Please contact her or **Elaine Moriarty** if you are interested in this position. She will continue as Website Chair. She asked the Discovery Garden heads to please write a description and

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DCMG General Meeting

continued from previous page

purpose of their garden so she can put it on the DCMG Website. She also said that she submitted articles to the paper regarding the change of Plant Clinic hours, the Bake Sale and a picture of the 20-year members.

Newsletter: **Elaine Moriarty** said the newsletter articles are due by noon on Saturday, November 22nd. Please email them to ibenicca@douglasfast.net.

Hallmark: **Linda Thames** reported that she had sent some cards of sympathy to three members whose mothers had passed away, also she sent some Get Well cards.

Agent's Report: **Elaine Moriarty**, reporting for **Steve Renquist**, said Spring Into Gardening at UCC will be February 28, 2009, 9AM-4PM, and he would like help in set-up, registration, etc. Please signup with him or just show up at 8AM. Mr.Koyama from Japan will be teaching a class.

Old Business

2009 Budget: **Karolyn Riecks** explained that the 2009 Budget was in the November Newsletter and requested a motion from the floor. **Betty Ison** made a motion to approve the 2009 budget as written. **Barbara MacPherson** seconded the motion. Discussion was held. A vote was called for and the budget was approved.

Mentors: **Joanne Bohm** announced that there will be an Orientation meeting of Mentors for next year's class on December 4th at 10AM in the kitchen. She said 2 more mentors were needed. Hours worked as a mentor can be applied toward your 60 hours. **Steve Renquist** is working on the class lists and schedules. There will be an informational January Newsletter to give to the new class members.

Bake Sale: **Diane Aiello** announced that the Bake Sale had food arriving all day and that **Ray and Caroline Link** were of great help. The Bake Sale earned \$557.50. She thanked everyone who participated.

Bylaws Change: Membership Emeritus: **Elaine Moriarty** said that the Executive Board suggested a change to the Bylaws which will be in the next Newsletter: In Article II, Section 4 an addition (5) stating "at the time of nomination the nominee must be a dues paying member." The membership will vote on this at the January meeting.

Continued on next page

Good of the Order and **Show and Tell**: There was a standing ovation for **Bud Cruger** for all his contributions to the DCMG. He is moving soon and this is his last meeting with us. A BIG THANK YOU and we will miss you!

There will be **NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER**. Next General Meeting is on **January 29, 2009**.

Big THANKS to **Ted Benice** for making the Newsletter fun to read.

Lost and Found items are in the Plant Clinic. A jacket and a notebook were shown as examples.

Julie Stanbery showed a Protect-A-Plant cover from the "Whatever Works" catalog.

Bob Brindley announced the "Wine Walk" in Oakland this Sunday, 1-5PM. There is a new gardening store and a chocolatier. He also said the bakery is closed and may open in another location.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Benice

Secretary



Bud Cruger

A *big* thank you, Bud, for all your contributions to Douglas County Master Gardeners over the years.

We all will miss you.

Plant Clinic

Plant Clinic News:

The Plant Clinic will be open on Mondays only during December and January. We have received several calls on Mondays recently regarding spraying, pruning, insects (they want to get inside where it is warm), etc.

I am happy to see that so many from the class of 2008 have completed their hours and wear their swinger bars proudly. Congratulations. I hope you will like serving in the Clinic and will fill the new calendar as Veterans. A new calendar will be available soon for 2009.

If you still have hours to complete, they will carry over till early next year. Be sure to sign up as soon as possible.

Thanks again to all who have filled the Clinic and outpost spots in 2008. Have a very happy holiday season.

Mildred

Treasurer's Report As of 11/21/2008

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Bank Accounts	
CD - Expires 2-26-09	\$12,020.24
CD - Expires 2-26-09 - Reserves	\$3,700.00
Checking	\$2,932.34
Money Market	\$11,321.47
Money Market - Grants	\$10,259.75
Money Market - Reserves	\$1,000.00
Reserves	<u>\$300.00</u>
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$41,533.80
Cash Accounts	
Newsletter USPS Bulk Mail	<u>\$334.33</u>
TOTAL Cash Accounts	\$334.33
OVERALL TOTAL	<u>\$41,868.13</u>

The major activities of the month were:

- 1) the 2009 budget was approved by the membership,
- 2) \$32,894.25 was paid from grant monies for the Discovery Garden toilet.

The final cost of the toilet cannot be determined as we have not yet been billed by the contractor.



**Douglas County
Master Gardeners
Newsletter**

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OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE

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Executive meetings: second Wednesday, 9am, kitchen conference room; Chapter meetings: last Thursday, Jan thru May: 10am, annex auditorium; June, July, August: member's gardens, 10am; Sept: Pavilion, Discovery Garden, 10am; Oct, Nov: 10am, annex auditorium; (no December meetings)

Douglas County Master Gardeners of
OSU Extension Service

Important internet links:

Website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas.htm>

Discovery Garden: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/discovery-garden>

MG Plant Clinic Email: douglasmg@oregonstate.edu

Steve Renquist Email: steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu

Articles for the January 2009
Newsletter are due Noon
Saturday, January 3rd
Please email articles to
Ted Benice
(tbenice@douglasfast.net)

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