



# Douglas County Master Gardeners



NOVEMBER 2010

Volume 25, Number 11

## YOUR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Well, after working in the Pumpkin Patch for Camp Millennium, on Sunday, I do believe that Fall has arrived in style. What a day, sun, wind, rain, hail, thunder and lightening. Several brave families came out and enjoyed the activities, which benefit the camp. Hopefully next weekend will be better for all to enjoy Halloween.

With Fall comes all the cleaning we need to do in our gardens and yards. The same chores need to be done in the Discovery Garden also and several brave members have been getting the Victory Garden ready for winter.

Wow !!! Over a ton of produce sent to UCAN this year. Also some of the chores in the regular garden are being finished. A crew is looking at replacing the roof on the main greenhouse – a very large job. Hopefully many hands will make all these jobs go faster.

I am sorry to report that Teresa Saylor has had to resign as publicity chair. I am looking for a new person to fill these BIG shoes. I know one of you would be great at this job and we need someone to help us toot our horn in the media. I know several people will be happy to help with information if you are willing to step up. Please give me a call if you have questions about this position.

I am looking forward to our annual bake sale on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up to bring lots of goodies so that we have as great a sale as last year. Yvonne Henderson is heading this event again this year and she is very excited. Hopefully we can break our record.

Please remember that our November meeting will be one week earlier, on November 18<sup>th</sup>, because of Thanksgiving. That will make for a busy week with the Diagnostic Meeting, General Meeting and Bake Sale all that week.

Thanks to Joe Yetter for his first publishing of our newsletter. A few problems, but all is well and we look forward to our next efforts. Joe gave us a few pointers to make life easier so please read our chapter minutes for updates.

Here is a bit of wisdom I came across last month. Do not have a source so it will remain anonymous.

## Lessons From My Garden

1. It's okay to be a late bloomer.
2. Always try to be outstanding in your field.
3. It's important to branch out.
4. We've all got our own rows to hoe.
5. You always reap what you sow.
6. Some problems are perennial.
7. Weed out all the annoyances in your life.
8. People with lawns have more fun



I am off to San Antonio and Houston to the National Quilt Show. Will be back for the executive meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Hope all goes well while I am gone.

Judy Huntley  
President DCMG

## Inside this Issue

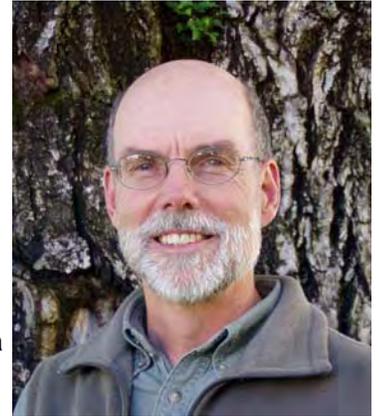
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## OUR MISSION

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

### Recharging Groundwater in Your Landscape



In our Mediterranean Climate, rainfall comes from fall to spring. That means much of the rainfall we receive is not being used when it falls. Many homeowners and communities plan their rainfall handling systems to dump the excess rainfall into the street and down the storm sewers. This traditional water handling system works well in the short term. It keeps water from standing in our yards, or parking lots. However, once that water is quickly funneled from our rooftops, to the street, and out into the river, it has by-passed a couple of important steps. By sending water into the street it has not had a chance to be cooled or cleaned by passing through soil. The water has not had a chance to infiltrate into the soil to recharge springs, aquifers, and groundwater. And the water is returning to the river in the rainy season when river levels are traditionally high, risking greater chance of flooding. You may be thinking, how do I let water from our rain gutters pour onto the yard, without flooding the yard and my home.

Landscape architects and designers have been working with engineers to answer that question during the past 5-6 years. Designers and architects are now seeing the future and realize our human footprint on the environment can be lessened by using a little creativity, and science. Now we homeowners need to change our view of a traditional landscape to include some concepts that you have heard me talk about before.

Bio-swales, rain gardens, and permeable pavers are just a few of the new concepts being used in landscapes. Bio-swales are just smoothly made depressions that can either handle runoff from driveways, parking lots or rain gutters. These depressed areas will often fill for a number of hours or even days during rainstorms, but over time they allow the water to infiltrate back into the ground. The swales are usually planted with turf and sedges in the bottoms, and trees and shrubs around the edges. The plants you select have to handle both wet and dry cycles.

Rain gardens are a little different from swales. They are usually designed to handle the runoff from down spouts without ponding. The gardens are designed with long trenches or pits filled with permeable materials like rock and gravel, and they run away from any structure. They are often set up so when one is filled with water and overflows it goes downhill into another trench. There are hundreds of variations for water gardens depending on slope, size of lots, soil types etc. People that love to landscape with rock can have fun making rain gardens. If rain gardens interest you take a look at the following OSU publication. [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/story.php?S\\_No=1124&storyType=garden](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/story.php?S_No=1124&storyType=garden)

Permeable pavers are also an interesting idea where water can seep back into the ground instead of running off. Some of these pavers just have porous gaps between the rocks, others are materials that are both strong and porous, and a third type is one that allows grass to grow in between supporting surfaces. Porous pavement now exists that allows water from a running hose to pass directly through it into the ground below.

Once you start incorporating some of these ideas into your landscape you will be amazed at how well landscapes can absorb water without causing erosion or threatening your home. Each fall I disconnect the downspouts on my home and attach extensions to the downspouts that carry the water out onto the lawn into swales well away from my house. These areas remain soggy all winter but quickly dry out come spring. My rain garden is a simple winding fake stream-bed filled with rock that also functions very well. I encourage you to join the groundwater recharge movement by incorporating just one new feature in your landscape in the year ahead.

—————Steve Renquist

#### **BAKE SALE REMINDER! BAKE! SELL! SUPPORT MASTER GARDENERS!!**

Our BAKE SALE fund-raiser is on November 20th—the Saturday before the Thanksgiving holiday. Perfect timing!

For those of you who want to celebrate this coming season by selling some wonderful baked goodies to our family, friends, neighbors, and some of the nicest strangers in our community, there is still time to sign up. You may want to BAKE and deliver to Linda Thames by first calling her; you may deliver to our General Meeting on November 18, between 9 to 11 AM; you may call me for pick up; or you may wish to deliver to the event at 8 AM that morning. You may wish to then stay to help PRICE, SELL, SELL, SELL, and finally CLEAN-UP.

For those of you who have already signed up to participate; I sincerely thank you, and will see you on the 20th of November. REMEMBER; dress warmly--in layers (scarves for the neck and gloves will help). Bring money!! We'll have fun. ———Yvonne Henderson (*Editor's note: phone numbers are in Yvonne's e-mail to all of us.*)

## Editor's Note

This edition includes more links to other sites than you have seen here; in fact, I plan to include with every issue a "Links to Other Sites" section, with annotations. This issue also includes an article on *Osmia lignaria*, the orchard mason bee, along with links. These links will grow increasingly useful as more and more of us rely upon the on-line version of this newsletter.

Once again, I encourage all of you to opt for on-line only when you renew your membership.

I plan to include, each month, at least one article that applies science to practical gardening. The mason bee article this month is my attempt to model this writing; I am hereby soliciting your own essays, and your suggestions for topics of interest. Those of you who attended mini-college are prime candidates for this writing assignment!

Similarly, if you have gardening websites that you find valuable, I'd be happy to include them in "Links to Other Sites" so you can share with the rest of this community. Any documents you want included in the newsletter should be in Microsoft Word, Arial, 12point, unless we agree on some other format; other formats may not be compatible with the final printing—and we may not discover this until after printing!

Joe Yetter [joeleeyetter@yahoo.com](mailto:joeleeyetter@yahoo.com)

### Links to Other Sites (annotated)

(suggestions for additional links are solicited)  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/> Welcome to the Mother Ship! Check in frequently, as Mother is updated with news and information you need, but didn't know you needed. Browse, read, repeat.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture>

The Horticulture link, with further valuable links (including the Umpqua Valley Hort News, and a trove of other info).

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/enews/>  
Northwest Gardeners' e-News.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/calendar/>  
Nag, nag, nag: what you should be doing in your garden this month, what you forgot to do last month, what to start procrastinating on for next month.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/newsletter>

The Metro Master Gardener Newsletter. Your editor hates looking at this gem.... But you should: it's rich with articles of interest, and considerable humor. The October issue has an ad for a community bee-wash.

<http://hort.oregonstate.edu/> OSU Horticulture.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/gardening/mga>

Jackson County MGs, with events, links to their fine newsletter ("Garden Beet"), and lots more.

[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/sites/default/files/documents/garden\\_beet\\_nov\\_2010-online\\_edition.pdf](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/sites/default/files/documents/garden_beet_nov_2010-online_edition.pdf)

November's "Garden Beet"—taste this! Yum!

<http://oregonmastergardeners.org/GardenersPen.htm>

The Gardener's Pen! Don't forget to sign up for this by email.



## Notes from the Clinic

We are still having a slow but steady stream of clients coming to the Clinic. We are getting lots of questions about fall spraying and pruning.

Susie Robbins brought in a very interesting bug yesterday. We identified it as a Rain Beetle. It is reported that they tend to come out with the rain. The males are attracted to light and will often come onto porches when the lights are on.



The larvae feed on the roots of fruit trees and some evergreens. They can remain in the larval stage for 9 to thirteen years; only molting once a year. For more information go to: <http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displaySpecies.php?pn=630>.



(see also:

<http://baynature.org/articles/web-only-articles/its-raining-rain-beetles> —ed)

The Clinic will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays for the Month of November. The calendar is pretty full but we could still use a few more trainees and Alternates.

Susie Robbins has resigned her position as point person for Farmers Market. Thanks for all your hard work this year Susie. Debbie Haynes has offered to once again take that position. Thank you Debbie!

The lost and found box is full again so I will be making a trip to Goodwill after the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. If you are missing anything please drop by and take a look.

We sold our first Cookbook in the Clinic yesterday and the cash drawer works great; thanks Roger.

Alternates for November: Jackie Carpenter

Judy Mercer  
Plant Clinic Manager

# DCMG General Meeting

## October 28, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President **Judy Huntley** at 10:23 a.m. There were approximately 55 people in attendance.

**Agent Report:** In **Steve's** absence, **Judy Huntley** reported there are 94,865 MG's nationwide contributing 5.1 million hours annually. Judy also advised travel time will no longer be counted as reportable hours on our time sheets per **Steve**. The master copy in the Plant Clinic has been updated to be used for guidance.

### Officer Reports

**Membership:** **Barb Robinson** reminded the members that "dues are due." If you pay by check, it will not be cashed until January 1, 2011.

**OMGA Report:** **Maureen Benice** is scheduled to attend her first OMGA meeting in Beaverton on November 6th and will report next month. **Maureen** has lodging information available for Mini College for 2011. (July 11 - 17, 2011) The Gardeners Pen is available in the Plant Clinic for those members who do not receive email. There will be no Gardeners Pen in December.

**Treasurer:** **Toni Rudolph** reported there is \$16,473.64 in our multiple accounts.

**Vice President:** **Leo Grass** gave a big thank you to **Loren Russell** for his wonderful presentation on rock gardens and plants this morning for CE. In November, the presentation will be "Tall Tales From Mini College." Presenters lined up so far include Ted Benice on wastewater, Maureen Benice on honey bees, and Judy Huntley on invasive plants.

**President:** **Judy Huntley** is looking for a volunteer to serve as Publicity chair to replace **Teresa Saylor** who has recently resigned.

### Committee Reports

**Community Outreach:** **Leo Grass** thanked **Elaine Moriarty** for her presentation to the Masonic Women's Group discussing the Discovery Garden.

**Plant Clinic:** **Judy Mercer** has the sign up sheets available in the Plant Clinic for the upcoming bake sale, mentors for the Winter Class, help on orientation November 9, 2011, and a few open slots for November and December in the Plant Clinic. Call or stop by the Plant Clinic to sign up. **Judy** had a big thank you to **Susie Robbins** who has chaired the Farmers Market this year. **Susie** will step down and **Deb Haynes** will chair the Farmers Market in 2011. **Toni Rudolph** has printed deposit envelopes to be used for any and all money collected. Be sure to fill out all information on the front of the envelope and deposit into the locked drawer in the Plant Clinic. Thank you **Roger Sawyer** for the drawer retrofit.

**Discovery Garden:** In **Julie Stanbery's** absence, **Judy Huntley** read Julie's report to the Executive Board for the membership. **Julie Stanbery** gave a special thank you to **Dave Hopkins** for repairing the major water line break we had during our General Membership Meeting at the Discovery Garden in September. **Dave** will also be repairing the roof on the yellow shed. The areas in the shed will be reallocated for specific projects/supplies. **Doug Holloway** is cleaning out the pots. There was 20 yards of hemlock mulch delivered to the Discovery Garden. The automatic water system has been shut off in the Discovery Garden for the year. **Noel Groshong** and his crew are still working on parts of the permanent water system. **Julie** gave a big thank you to the Parks Department and Twin Rivers Park for delivering their leaves. **Richard Johnstone** suggested covering the finished compost pile to minimize leaching. **Julie** is still working on the "donation envelope" project as many people who visit the Discovery Garden would like to make a donation.

**Awards:** **Betty Ison** reported that **Janice Bartholomew** and **Melissa Garguilo** have earned their 60 Hour swinger bars. Please pick them up from **Betty**.

**Hallmark:** **Linda Thames** has sent out many cards recently. **Len Lanza** appreciates everyone's thoughts. Keep **Ray Link** and **Doug Johnson** in your thoughts. **Lorena Remington** and **Melissa Garguilo** are both recovering from recent surgeries.

**Victory Garden:** **Mik Carlson** thanked the many volunteers who helped with the first Victory Garden for the DCMG. They finished the year by donating 2,017# to UCAN. The garden has been composted, leaves hauled in for the pathway areas, and multiple types and combinations of cover crops have been seeded and marked. It was a fantastic first season!

### Old Business

**Postal Permit:** **Judy Huntley** reported the Executive Board voted to renew the permit for one more year. Newsletters will be published online beginning January 1, 2011.

**Cookbooks:** **Judy Huntley** gave a history on the recent happenings regarding the cookbook. The MFP's asked the Executive Board for financial help in placing another order of books. After much discussion, the Executive Board decided not to fund an additional printing of the cookbook. After the original order is sold, let the MFP's take over the project. In the meantime, the MFP's met and want to do a reprint of 200 books at \$7.25 per book. **John**

**Punches** explained the MFP position and again asked the MG's if they would like to participate. continued on the  
**Bill Howitt** made a motion that MG's do not participate or fund the reorder and was seconded by next page

## **General Meeting** continued from the previous page

**Elaine Moriarty.** Motion carried. **John** has volunteered to fund the additional printing and let the MG's purchase books at cost for \$7.25 each for sale in the plant clinic after the first 500 books are sold.

## **New Business**

**Bake Sale:** **Yvonne Henderson** reminded everyone of the upcoming Bake Sale which will be held November 20, 2010 at Sherms Thunderbird in Roseburg. We need product!!! You can bring your baked goods to the meeting November 18<sup>th</sup>, deliver to Sherms at 8 a.m. on the 20<sup>th</sup>, or contact **Yvonne** or **Linda Thames** to deliver directly to them. We will also be selling cookbooks at the sale.

**Mentor Program:** **Larry Sutton** encouraged volunteers to mentor for the upcoming Winter Class. Orientation will be November 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Annex.

**Newsletter:** **Joe Yetter** asked for help in getting the newsletter out on a timely basis by following some consistent guidelines -

Use Arial 12 pt. font

Articles due by 12 noon Saturday - October 30<sup>th</sup>

Use the email address - [joeleeyetter@yahoo.com](mailto:joeleeyetter@yahoo.com)

Provide links for more information

Sign your article

Obtain permission before using a member's email address, picture, or phone # in an article

## **Show & Tell**

**Toni Rudolph** has glad bulbs for giveaway.

**Shirley Purcell**, reporting for **Julie Stanbery**, called our attention to a recent article in the Oregonian about a Bronze Birch Borer affecting birch trees. (*Look for an article in the November newsletter—ed.*)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

## **Announcements**

Winter Training Registration November 9<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m.

Mentor Training Meeting November 9<sup>th</sup> 12:45 p.m.

Executive Meeting November 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m.

Diagnostic Meeting November 17<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m.

Chapter Meeting November 18<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. Continuing ed;  
10 a.m. Chapter Meeting

Bake Sale November 20<sup>th</sup> - 8 a.m. Sherms



Respectfully submitted,

**Debbie Hesseltine**

Secretary

Bronze birch borer, *Agrilus anxius* . Find our more, now:

[http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/bronze\\_birch\\_borer.htm](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/bronze_birch_borer.htm)

## **Discovery Garden Update**

Part one: (meant to be in 10/10 newsletter)

We are now in the winter work mode, so there are no more official Tuesday workdays. We'll have an occasional project now and then to keep us in shape.

We have had a wonderfully successful year with many accomplishments in the garden. Thanks to everyone who gave us their time, support and expertise.

A few garden notes:

Neal and Hank are still hard at work weeding, chopping and "neating" things up for us.

The "finished compost pile" will be moved closer to the patio. DO NOT ADD TO THIS PILE. You will see a huge mound of manure and hay where the original pile used to be. Please add compostible material to the new pile. Remember that the trailer is parked behind the ornamental garden for material

continued on the next page

## **Discovery Garden** continued from the previous page

that is too chunky or woody for the compost pile. We now have a chipper that we will use as the trailer fills up with garden matter.

Big hugs to Fred for fixing the tractor. :}

Dave Hopkins deserves a big shout-out for the entire day he spent Friday, digging a huge hole, diagnosing and then repairing our main 3" irrigation pipe. It will be tested Sat am and then should be good to go.

Part two: (November update)

Big change in the butterfly garden! John Panches and two of his climbing buddies cut down the cottonwood tree. At first it seemed really empty and now it's hard to remember it at all!!

Noel worked the last two weeks finishing the xeriscape irrigation and winterizing the system. The UBW is turned off at the pavilion. Hoses, filters and sprinklers will be stored in the chemical room.

Dave Hopkins has caulked the leaks in the roof of the yellow shed and will be replacing the fiberglass pieces that are leaking. The closets are now "dryish" and usable. Room #1 is for plant sale storage of tents, hangers and whatever else Gloria wants in there; EXCEPT BOXES. Boxes have their own dry closet next to the cage full of pots. Room #2 is reserved for the victory garden to store their supplies. Room #3 (the old chemical room) is off limits to everyone as it is in need of major decontamination.



We have a new shopvac for use in the buildings. Feel free to use it to clean up the bat guano.

The big news this month is the decision to replace the roof of the transplant greenhouse before the end of the year. Richard Johnstone is the lead for this project. Please let him know if you are available to work on this major project.

Special note from the Japanese Garden. Our group had purchased a 'forest pansy' Red Bud in memory of our friend Sara Buchanan. The tree died off this summer and we were quite crestfallen until we noticed the 5 or 6 new shoots coming up from the base. We don't know if it's grafted (time will tell) but we will be able to establish a new trunk. It's good to know that Sara's spirit is alive and well in her tree.

—Julie Stanbery



### **HLC Winter Weather Guidelines**



Barring a massive storm/freeze which causes us to lose electricity, the Umpqua Basin Water will not be turned off this year. All five greenhouses are now heated. The heaters will be set to come on when the air temp reaches 40 degrees. The plan is that the heat will keep the waterpipes from freezing (which is how the beds are heated) as well as keeping the air temp warm enough to prevent the plants from freezing.

We have four "weather watchers" this year: Richard, Julie, Gloria and Tasha. If the temperature is prognosticated to hit 30 degrees, we will send out an urgent appeal for help moving the plants into the greenhouses.

Kudos to Richard Johnstone and his cohorts, Jim Ivey, John Denny and Dave Hopkins for all their work this summer setting up the heaters and for making everything cold hardy. Good job all!!

—Julie Stanbery

## HALLMARK

I sent out quite a few cards this month but I always find myself unsure whether or not to report on them all as I do not want to violate anyone's privacy. Len Lanza did tell me that I could report that he very much regrets that his health is preventing him from participating in Master Gardeners/Master Food Preserver activities and he misses everyone. About the only time he gets into Roseburg now is to go to a doctor's appointment or a physical rehab session. He very much appreciates the cards he has received and the expressions of concern he has received from so many of his friends.

Since it was mentioned at the meeting I will add that I sent a card to Ray Link. I understand he's been undergoing tests and wanted him to know we are thinking of him and the same with Doug Johnson, although I did recently hear he'd had surgery so I will send him another card.

Lorenna Remington is recovering well from knee surgery and Melissa Garguilo had shoulder surgery.

While I was gone to California a member of last year's class, Gene Morano passed away and I thank Shirley Purcell for sending a card on our behalf.

Several Thank You notes went out to people for helping us. I sent a card with a cute cartoon cow on it to Fred Rhodes for the donation of manure for the Discovery Gardens. Three thank you notes went out to John Punches, Tom Thompson and Jason Deapon for tree removal in the Butterfly Garden. I personally think John just loves being able to get up into those trees but did want him to know how much we appreciate the efforts of all three men.

If you know of anyone to whom I should send a card from the MGs, please let me know and, if possible, tell me if that person would want me to put it into the Hallmark report or keep it private.

Linda Thames, HALLMARK

## **Continuing Education**

For those who didn't attend October's continuing ED session, you missed a terrific presentation. Loren Russell, from the American Rock Gardening Association, gave a great talk on planning and growing rock gardens. I personally have never had much luck growing rocks, but am willing to give it another try. Seriously folks, I may never choose to grow a rock garden, but at least now I can speak the language. That's part of what continuing education is all about. Remember, we don't just garden for ourselves, we are in the business of teaching others how to garden more efficiently.

I have labeled November's continuing ED ; 'Tall Tales From Mini College'. Ted Benice will give a presentation on Waste Water Management. Maureen Benice will teach us what she learned about bees. Our President, Judy Huntly will caution us about invasive plants. November's business meeting is on the third Thursday of the month; that will be the 18<sup>th</sup>. Continuing ED starts at 9:00 sharp; come on in and have a cup of coffee, and expand your mind.

—Leo Grass

(Editor's note: I will have more information from Loren Russell next month. In the meantime, you can browse: <http://nargsemerald.org/author/loren-russell/> ; <http://www.nargs.org/> ; <http://wildgingerfarm.com/> ; and <http://rockgardenplants.com/> )



## OMGA Representative Report: October 28, 2010

November 6<sup>th</sup> is the first OMGA/Chapter meeting that I'll be attending as DCMG representative and it's in Beaverton. I'll report back at the Chapter Meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> what went on there. I'm hoping to meet people with whom I've been in conversation through email...you know, put faces to words.

I have a list of lodgings available for Mini College, July 13-16, 2011 in Newport. I will send the link around to our email people when the list is on the OMGA Website. Right now, if you want to have it, I'll email it to you. My email is: [mbenice@douglasfast.net](mailto:mbenice@douglasfast.net).

Just let me know. If the list is not on the OMGA Website by next week, I will send it as an email. If you don't have email and want the list, please contact me (541 673 4671) and we'll make arrangements for you to have it.

The most recent OMGA newsletter, "The Gardener's Pen" is September 2010. There will be no newsletter in December. If you want to read the newsletter it's on the OMGA Website ... click on <http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org/docs/GardenersPen/GardenersPenSept10.pdf>. If you don't have email, copies are in the Plant Clinic.

—Maureen Benice

### Mini College 2010 and the Bees

As I have in the past, I was excited to read the Mini College class list and the description of the classes for Mini College 2010 in Corvallis. When I did, I saw nothing that interested me except "Horticultural Casebook: Psychiatric and Medical Disorders in the Garden" (of course *THAT* would interest *Me!*). I'm interested in bugs...all kinds of bugs and the only BUG class was Spotted Winged Drosophila (SWD). I'd taken that class here in Roseburg, taught by the same person. No BUGS and the only INSECT class was BEES. Well, I was disappointed, but signed up for "Current Challenges – Sustainable Beekeeping" thinking maybe there was some new information on Bee Colony Collapse. On Saturday there WAS a hands-on class called, "Peek inside a Bee Hive". That and the *craziness* in the garden sounded OK, and I WAS going to Mini College ... for the fun, camaraderie and the food, also. So I signed up for those three classes and whatever else looked to be OK (maybe).

The lecturer for the Bees classes was Ramesh Sagili, Phd. He is doing bee research at OSU. In the "sit-down" class Dr. Sagili talked about the importance of Honey Bees, the different types of Honey Bees, the Biology of Honey Bees, how they divide the colony labor, how they communicate and reproduce. All very interesting! Then he discussed the symptoms of Colony Collapse Disorder and possible causes. The research at OSU is on Honey Bee nutrition, health and yes, why is pollen so important to the bees? The outdoor class on Saturday was hands-on, if you wanted. Even if you didn't want hands-on you got to see inside the colony. There is a lot to learn about bees. The Bee Research is ongoing and maybe there will be an opportunity to visit again. I hope so!

—Maureen Benice



### My First Mini-College Experience

Since my wife, Maureen and I became Master Gardeners, she has attended each Mini-College, while I remained home, slept in, stayed up late and ate unhealthy food (Sort-of bachelor style). Upon her return, she always told about how much she learned and how much fun she had. Of course, this made me feel badly, to have missed such excitement. Sure it did. In my previous life, before retirement, I had attended a number of company symposiums and so harbored few illusions about their fun factor.

This year I relented and said I would go. It turned out to be a much more enjoyable experience than I had expected. The food was good and I stayed awake during the speeches. I also attended several very interesting presentations, one on the different ways to supply water to the garden, which I will give a short report on at the next General Meeting. Another, a walking tour around part of the OSU Campus to look at trees and other plants struggling to thrive in the college environment titled: "Trees for your Yard, A Campus Tour", conducted by Paul D Ries, Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager, OSU Dept. of Forestry.

During this tour, he mentioned that Douglas-fir trees are not fir trees. Whaddayuh mean, they're not fir trees? Turns out they are "False Hemlock" In fact, they can't be properly called *Douglas Fir*, they have to be called Douglas-fir or Douglasfir. All this time I thought Christmas trees were Fir trees. I thought this very interesting, so I bought a tree book from the Extension Office, and learned that Port Orford Cedars are not Cedars. Another illusion shattered.

So, there's lots to be learned at Mini-College, and in spite of my bias against symposiums, I'm sure that I will go again.

—Ted Benice

## ***Osmia* for master gardeners**

—(Promoting sex in your orchard and garden!)

Do you have apple flowers withering of unrequited love? Cherries and pears and plums and berries that never come to be, for lack of bees? Do you need more pollinators? Is that your problem, friend?

Well then: Welcome some orchard mason bees (*Osmia lignaria*) into your orchard and into your garden. These busy, yet nearly-stingless bees stay close to home, pollinate more flowers per bee than do honeybees (*Apis*), are native to this area, and are not threatened by Colony Collapse Disorder.

You can buy mason bees and their nest boxes from nurseries and garden supply houses, but the cheapest, smartest thing to do is to learn a bit about them, and then make a suitable habitat for them. They will reward you many times over.

The facts on *Osmia lignaria*:

Life cycle, sex, and home life: solitary bees. Bees emerge in the early spring; the males emerge first, and await the emerging females. After mating, the females begin the task of gathering pollen and laying eggs. The female finds a suitable hole in wood or a reed stem, lays a fertilized egg next to a pollen-loaf she's made, and walls off that segment of the hole with mud, then repeats the process. After about three or four cycles of this, she lays an unfertilized egg next to a pollen-loaf, seals that cell, and repeats that process, with another unfertilized egg, several times over. Bees (as other hymenoptera) have gender determined by haplodiploidy: unfertilized eggs yield males, and fertilized eggs yield females. (So Benjamin Bee has no daddy, and will have no sons; but he has one grandfather and might, if he gets lucky, have grandsons). The egg "hatches" and the larva feeds on the pollen loaf, pupates, and becomes an adult, all in the dark, in that little mud-cell in a hole in the wood, and the adult bee sits there all summer, and through the fall, and winter, and, just as your cherries and plums begin to blossom the following spring, the adult emerges into the sunlight to enjoy the few remaining weeks of its life: boys mate, sip a bit of nectar, and die; girls mate, sip nectar, gather pollen, lay eggs, pack mud, and die.

Pollination: these are megachilid bees, which carry pollen on their scopa, rather than on their legs, and they are very inefficient gatherers of pollen; this is good news for you, because it means that momma-*Osmia* has to make a lot of trips to a lot of different flowers, and thrash about among stamens and pistils for hours on end, just to make a few loaves of pollen for her kiddies to eat.

Parasites! Bees get mites. See below.

OK. From our perspective, *Osmia* doesn't have much of a life. But they are useful for us. Want to make life easier for them?

Housing: Momma-*Osmia* is looking for a hole about 5/16" diameter, 4-6" inches deep; deep is good, and deeper is better, because shallow holes yield an excess of males and a paucity of females. You can drill holes in untreated scrap lumber, or construct houses with stacks of routed-out boards. Drill them smooth! (And don't drill all the way through the wood.) Some people line the holes with paper soda-straws or parchment, but "my" bees hate paper, even excavate it before they move in. Make lots of holes; each female will fill several with her eggs. Put the bee-condo in a place that won't get rained on, near your fruit trees (or some early-flowering trees like manzanita), with eastern (morning sun!) and southern exposure if possible. Set them out in very early spring (before your earliest trees pop). If you have local mason bees, you will see mommas checking out the real estate shortly after the first flowers appear. (Maybe earlier: the first spring I did this, bees were moving in while I was still drilling the wood!) Be sure that the bees have a local source of mud; in early spring in Oregon, this is unlikely to be a problem. Monitor. Don't thump, whump, drop, or shock your bee-condo in the first several months, as jarring will separate pollen loaf from larva, and the baby-bee will starve to death. If you want to bring the bee-condo into a cool environment for the coldest months, survival may be enhanced; but don't let your bees warm up to spring temperatures artificially, or they will awake, emerge, and find that the nectar-and-pollen-buffet is not yet prepared. "My" bees wintered over outdoors and survived the 10F just fine, as far as I could tell. Lots of people use stacks of paper straws as bee housing (see references).

Food: Just be sure the condo is placed near the fruit trees, berries, or other early blossoms; these bees are homebodies. Protection: woodpeckers, flickers, and other birds consider the larvae to be candy. A little bit of wire screen wouldn't hurt. "My" bees without a screen suffered a bit of a hit. I suppose it was mostly boys that were lost. Males are not so useful for pollination, but they are oh-so-necessary for fertilization—so that some females will emerge next spring (remember: haplodiploidy rules!).

Stings: *Osmia* can sting; however, they have no honey or sisters to defend, and are docile. If you grab one, or get one



## **Osmia** continued from the previous page

inside your shirt, or step on one with bare feet, you might get stung. There is some anaphylactic cross-reactivity among hymenoptera stings, so caution is in order.

**Outsourcing:** if it turns out you don't have local *Osmia*, you could set your bee-condo up at a cooperative neighbor's orchard for the season, or you could buy a starter colony commercially. Stay local, as much as possible: you don't want to be responsible for spreading disease that may lurk in the bees, the mud, or the scrap wood. So setting your bee-condo in a neighbor's yard is good. Steve Renquist advises sourcing within the county.

**Mites:** Krombein's Hairy-Footed Mite (*Chaetodactylus krombeini*) affects mason bees. These are mites that are different from the mites that affect honeybees. Recommendations for control include buying disease-free bees, decreasing humidity, increasing heat, and scrubbing up your bees with bleach to decrease mite populations (see references). Scrubbing bees requires an open-nest system like stacked, routed boards and/or straws, and (in my opinion) requires a level of OCD that means your human relationships will be so few, that you will have plenty of time available for bee-scrubbing.... But real experts advise bee-scrubbing, especially if you are introducing bees for the first time. Parasites are always with us: "... a Flea Hath smaller Fleas that on him prey/And these have smaller Fleas to bite 'em/And so proceed ad infinitum. ---Jonathan Swift, 1733

Sources and references:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/mason-bees> Fine article, specific to Douglas County

<http://gardening.wsu.edu/library/inse006/inse006.htm> Another fine article, this one from University of Washington.

[http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/apiculture/factsheets/506\\_osmia.htm](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/apiculture/factsheets/506_osmia.htm) Nice info, pics, and mites.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mason\\_bee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mason_bee) Wikipedia, of course; a good starting point on mason bees

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orchard\\_mason\\_bee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orchard_mason_bee) Wiki, again, on our orchard mason bee; excellent discussion, except for the last few sentences, which apparently were written by a third-grader on a tight deadline

<http://crawford.tardigrade.net/bugs/BugofMonth35.html> Mites! Pictures to give you nightmares!

[http://www.pollinatorparadise.com/solitary\\_bees/FAQ7.htm](http://www.pollinatorparadise.com/solitary_bees/FAQ7.htm) More mites, mite control.

[http://insects.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/beemites/species\\_accounts/chaetodactylus.htm](http://insects.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/beemites/species_accounts/chaetodactylus.htm) Mites, links

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/07/science/07bees.html> Colony Collapse Disorder may be caused by a one-two punch from a virus and a fungus.

<http://www.physorg.com/news192195058.html> This one's about *Osmia avosetta*; the Turkish/Iranian cousin with a great fashion sense.

The Forgotten Pollinators (By Stephen L. Buchmann, Gary Paul Nabhan) ; a fine book about bees, birds, bats, wasps, and other pollinators.

## **Tomato Taste-Off 2010**

There was a shortage of tomatoes to taste this year; normally we have over 20 different red varieties alone. This year we had only six! Weather was a major factor. In all we tasted 18 tomatoes. The winners were:

### **Red Slicing**

1st R5 Brandywine (Karolyn Riecks) by a wide margin

2nd Tie between R3 New Girl (Jim Leet) and R4 Stupice (Karolyn Riecks)

3rd Tie between R2 Ace (Jim Leet) and R6 Wilamette (John Denny)

Also tasted R1 Morton

### **Cherry**

1st C2 Sungold (Jim Leet)

2nd C6 Sungold (John Denny)

3rd Following way behind, a tie between C1 Sausalito Cocktail (Bob Brindley) and

C4 Brown Berry (Jim Leet)

Also tasted R5 Sweet Baby Girl and R3 Sweet William

### **Non-red Slicing**

1st NR3 Sungella (Jim Leet)

2nd NR4 Lemon Boy (Jim Leet)

3rd Again, following way behind, NR2 Green Zebra (Jim Leet)

Also tasted R1 Taxi

### **Paste**

1st P2 Amish Paste (Jim Leet)

2nd P1 Health Kick (Jim Leet)

Only one vote

—————Bob Brindley



## Awards Banquet 2010--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.

**Karolyn Riecks** is the **2010 Douglas County Master Gardener of the Year**. Karolyn has been a volunteer for 5 years and has put in nearly 2300 hours of service. She has been involved in a wide variety of activities. Karolyn was Chapter Treasurer for 2 yrs, Secretary for 2 yrs, and has been on numerous committees. As part of our Outreach Program she has been involved with the Plant Clinic, Farmer's Market, Spring Fair, Home Show, a Class Mentor, Spring Into Gardening Seminar, the Speaker's Bureau, the PowerPoint Project, etc. She has also helped with fundraising activities such as the Bake Sale, Trash to Treasure Sales, and Plant Sales. Karolyn has also been very involved with the greenhouse crew, class greenhouse training, and for the past three years has maintained a Plant Database and printed all the labels for the Plant Sale (thousands of them).

The **2010 "Behind the Scenes" Master Gardener of the Year Award** was a tough decision this year, so the Awards Committee opted to select two excellent volunteers; they are **Anne Waddington**, and **Ken Hays**. Both of them have been volunteers for 8 years, and have been involved in various MG activities. Anne was selected because of the dedication she has had for some of the projects she has chosen to work on. Plant Sale (8 yrs)--2 yrs as Floor Coordinator, and this year as Set-up Coordinator; Discovery Garden (8 yrs)--7 yrs in the Xeriscape Garden; Greenhouse Crew (8yrs); Class Greenhouse Training (7 yrs)--where she teams up with Gloria Amorde to teach plant division; also the Trash to Treasure Sale (6 yrs). Ken Hays was selected because he actively promotes our mission of Outreach Education. Ken does a lot of speaking and teaching engagements on composting and lasagna gardening. He was a member of the PowerPoint Project, has been a winter program instructor, class mentor, and has been a Spring Into Gardening Seminar Instructor for 4 yrs. He also volunteers in the Discovery Garden helping with the worms, he coordinates and manages the compost area, and also maintains two lasagna garden beds in the Easy Access Garden.

The **2010 Outstanding New Master Gardener Apprentice** is **Debbie Hesseltine**. She was selected for her very active and wide involvement in the organization. She has worked with the greenhouse, fair booth, soil testing, nominating committee, Discovery Herb Garden, Plant Sale, Plant Clinic, and Farmer's Market. She has done over 250 hours of service in her first year, and has already jumped into a leadership position by becoming our new Chapter Secretary.

Another special award presented during the evening was the **Horticultural Agent's Award**. The recipient of that award was **Karolyn Riecks**. She 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.

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

### Swinger Bars: Want a new one? Here are the rules:

People are continually asking when they are going to receive their new swinger bars, so I will try to explain that here. For new Apprentices, as soon as they have completed their original commitment of 36 hours in the clinic and 24 other hours, and the hours are recorded by the volunteer time keeper, I will hand out the bars. Apprentices may have a lot of hours, but no matter how many hours you have, you are not complete until those 36 clinic hours are done.

For all other members, **swinger bars** are only **handed out once a year in January**, after the previous year's hours have been recorded and added to all other years' hours. The increments are 60 hrs, 200 hrs, 500 hrs, 750 hrs, and 1000 hrs, after 1000 the increments are by every 500-example 1500, 2000, 2500, etc.

We recycle the swinger bars, so you must turn in the old bar to get the new bar.

Betty Ison

DCMG Awards Chairman

2011 DCMG PROPOSED BUDGET submitted by Toni Rudolph, Treasurer

**INCOME**

Bank Interest	\$10
Dues	\$2,200
<b>Program Service Project (PSP) Income</b>	
Soil Testing	\$850
<b>Total PSP Income</b>	<b>\$850</b>
<b>Special Events Income</b>	
<b>Plant Sale</b>	
Drawings	\$600
Entry Fees	\$1,500
Sales - Event	\$19,000
Sales - Pre	\$1,000
Sales - Post	\$1,000
Vendor Booth	\$2,600
<b>Total Plant Sale</b>	<b>\$25,700</b>
<b>Special Events Other</b>	
Bake Sale	\$500
Compost Tea	\$900
Cookbook	\$900
Trash-to-Treasure Sale	\$2,000
<b>Total Special Events Other</b>	<b>\$4,300</b>
<b>Total Special Events Income</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$33,060</b>

**EXPENSES**

<b>Management &amp; General Expenses</b>	
<b>Awards &amp; Banquet</b>	
Awards	\$350
Banquet	\$1,000
<b>Total Awards &amp; Banquet</b>	<b>\$1,350</b>
<b>Bank Charges</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Conferences</b>	
Chapter Meetings	\$50
OMGA Travel	\$625
<b>Total Conferences</b>	<b>\$675</b>
<b>Dues-OMGA</b>	<b>\$1,540</b>
<b>Grants/Gifts/Scholarships</b>	
4-H Donation	\$80
Endowment	\$2,000
Gifts - Hallmark	\$50
Memorials	\$0
Officer Gifts	\$75
Scholarships	\$1,500
<b>Total Grants/Gifts/Scholarships</b>	<b>\$3,705</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>Liability Insurance</b>	<b>\$550</b>
<b>Postage</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>Supplies/Executive Board</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>TOTAL Management &amp; General Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,285</b>
<b>Program Service Project (PSP) Expenses</b>	
<b>Advanced Training:</b>	
<b>Continuing Education</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Field Trips</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	
Office Publisher Software & Updates	\$150
Postal Permit and Postage	\$635
Printing	\$0
<b>Total Newsletter</b>	<b>\$635</b>
<b>Tuition</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>Total Advanced Training</b>	<b>\$1,085</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>	
Greenhouse - 5 each	\$4,000
Greenhouse Plumbing	\$1,500
<b>Total Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>
<b>Clinics and Office</b>	
Computer	\$75
Farmers Market	\$50
Insects	\$200
Laptop for Treasurer & Software	\$1,000
Library	\$300

Plant Clinics and Office Supplies	\$100
Soil Testing	\$300
Website	\$100
<b>Total Clinics and Office</b>	<b>\$2,125</b>
<b>Community Outreach</b>	
Fair Booth	\$50
Home Show	\$50
Speakers Bureau	\$200
<b>Total Community Outreach</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>Discovery Garden</b>	
Brochures	\$400
Butterfly	\$1,200
Childrens	\$300
Compost	\$100
Dahlia	\$80
Daylily	\$40
Easy Access	\$950
Entry	\$200
Hedgerow	\$0
Herb	\$550
Irrigation	\$1,000
Japanese	\$0
Kiosk	\$0
Lily Bed	\$60
Maintenance	\$600
Orchard	\$100
Ornamental	\$0
Rock Garden	\$1,700
Signage	\$800
Sun Garden	\$50
Xeriscape	\$1,075
<b>Total Discovery Garden</b>	<b>\$9,205</b>
<b>Horticultural Learning Center (HLC)</b>	
Annual Plumping (diver in river)	\$300
Electric Bill	\$3,000
Greenhouse Supplies	\$400
Maintenance and Repair	\$2,000
Propane	\$3,500
Toilet Supplies and Repairs	\$200
Victory Garden	\$841
Water/UBWA	\$2,000
<b>Total Horticultural Learning Center</b>	<b>\$12,241</b>
<b>Winter Program</b>	
Cleaning the carpet after class	\$100
New Class	\$100
Speakers	\$350
<b>Total Winter Program</b>	<b>\$550</b>
<b>TOTAL PSP Expenses</b>	<b>\$31,006</b>
<b>Special Events Expenses</b>	
<b>Plant Sale</b>	
Advertising	\$2,000
Contributions/Plant Sale Volunteers	\$500
Exhibit Fees	\$2,447
Next Year Seed	\$750
Next Year Supplies	\$1,900
Plants	\$1,000
Supplies	\$2,700
Vendor Costs	\$800
<b>Total Plant Sale</b>	<b>\$12,097</b>
<b>Special Events Other</b>	
Bake Sale	\$25
Compost Tea	\$100
Cookbook	\$0
Tomato and Salsa Taste-Off	\$20
Trash-to-Treasure Sale	\$175
<b>Total Special Events Other</b>	<b>\$320</b>
<b>TOTAL Special Events Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,417</b>
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$52,708</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-\$19,648</b>

**Treasurer's Report  
Toni Rudolph  
As of 10/27/2010**

**Balance as of 9/30/2010** **\$17,183.05**

**INCOME**

Cook Book	\$1,610.00
Soil Testing	\$30.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,640.00</b>

**EXPENSES**

Continuing Education	\$50.00
Postage	\$46.83
Clinic & Office	\$5.47
Discovery Garden	\$163.24
HLC - Propane	\$2,034.19
Victory Garden	\$49.68
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,349.41</b>

**Account Balance as of 10/27/2010** **\$16,473.64**

**Breakdown of our accounts**

Checking 1	\$1,635.17
Checking 2-4	\$300.00
Money Market	\$9,822.00
Reserves - Money Market	\$4,654.41
Bulk Mail	\$62.06

**Ending Balance** **\$16,473.64**

**Secure Place for MG money**

Thanks to Roger Sawyer, we now have a secure place to store cash and checks in the Plant Clinic. There will be no further need for the OSU Extension Office to have any of our funds in their drawers. You will notice the drawer to the left of the computer has been slotted. Envelopes have been provided next to the Computer Monitor. Please place receipts for collected money (soil testing, dues, cookbook sales etc) along with check or exact cash in the envelope. On the outside of the envelope list who gave you the money, what service/product was purchased and the total of the money. Seal the envelope and slip it in the slot. This will assist me in keeping the money in the correct budget area.

THANKS!

Toni Rudolph, Treasurer



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

**DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2011 DUES**

(Due **BEFORE** 01/01/2011)

**PLEASE complete ALL information below EVEN if nothing has changed:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**You will be receiving the Master Gardener Newsletter online. If you cannot receive it online, place an "X" here \_\_\_\_\_ and it will be mailed to you.**

The 2011 dues are **\$10.00 PER PERSON** or **\$20.00 PER COUPLE**. Checks should be written to *DCMG*. Drop your payment AND completed form in the plant clinic's dues drawer OR mail to:

Barbara Robinson, 544 Quail Lane, Roseburg, OR 97471

**Douglas County  
Master Gardeners  
Newsletter**

1134 SE Douglas Ave.  
Roseburg OR 97470  
541 672 4461  
1 800 883 7568

**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE**

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Executive meetings: second Wednesday, 9:30am, kitchen conference room; Chapter meetings: last Thursday, Jan thru May: 10am, annex auditorium; June, July, August: members' gardens, 10am; Sept: Pavilion, Discovery Garden, 10am; Oct, Nov: 10am, annex auditorium; (no December meetings)

Articles for the December 2010 Newsletter are due Noon Saturday, November 20th Please email articles to Joe Yetter (joeleeyetter@yahoo.com) (Word, Arial 12pt; and include "Newsletter" in subject line)

Douglas County Master Gardeners of OSU Extension Service

Important internet links:

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

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

MG Plant Clinic Email: [douglasmg@oregonstate.edu](mailto:douglasmg@oregonstate.edu)

Steve Renquist Email: [steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu](mailto:steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu)

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