

Douglas County Master Gardeners

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

MARCH 2011

Volume 26, Number 3

YOUR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN —Judith Huntley

Hi Everyone,

WOW—what a week! And it is not over yet. Seems I have moved my potted plants around my patio numerous times this winter. Just when I think it is all right to uncover them and put them out on the porch, here comes a storm, and I move them under cover again. Hope this is the last time.

Sorry for the confusion and canceled monthly meeting. Leo Grass and I debated for sometime whether to go ahead or not. Thanks to the 20 or so who were there to hear Jack Wright's presentation. As I read the newspaper and saw the young girl's car in the ditch, I felt like it was a good idea that you all went home safe. Makes me think we need a better way, like a phone tree maybe, to deal with circumstances like these.

I want to give a special thanks to those members who stepped up to take several positions. Stacy Buell will be taking over for Lorenna Remington on the Hospitality. Maureen Benice and Debbie Haynes will be taking over for Geneva Croft on the Winter Program. Barbara Robinson will be partnering with Gloria Amorde as Plant Sale Chairmen. We are still in desperate need of a Publicity Chairman. Also I am hoping there is someone that would just love to take on the Field Trip Chairmanship. We really need to treat ourselves to some fun trips. It has been a while since we did the last one. Please see me if you are interested, and again thanks ladies for stepping up.

By the time you read this it will be nearly

time for the **Um-pqua Valley Home and Garden Show** (March 4-6). Leo Grass is in charge of the DCMG Booth, and I hope you all filled the time slots. It is a really fun place to work and to meet the public.

Please make sure you are setting aside those great treasures for our **Annual Trash to Treasure Sale**

on March 19th. There is a signup sheet in the Plant Clinic for those who want to help set up on March 18th and sell and take down on March 19th. Let's make this a great fundraiser!

I am sure Steve is rescheduling the pruning classes for March and we can all use the review. Also be sure to put March 15th on your calendar. Our new class members will be finishing and re-



**Judith Huntley
DCMG President**

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<i>(No DCMG minutes this month)</i>	

ceiving their certificates in the afternoon. We all need to be there to support their achievements. I am sure Lorenna will have one of the yummy cakes.

I have heard great things about our new approach to the Plant Clinic orientation for the new master gardener trainees. Judy Mercer and her team have put together a wonderful checklist for the new members, and it seems to be going very well. Sounds like we veterans are going to have to step up also to make sure we are on top of everything in the clinic. Hopefully Judy and the crew will put something together for us to take advantage.

Since we will not have chapter minutes with the announcements, I am including them here:

Umpqua Valley Home and Garden Show March 4 – 6 Fairgrounds

Executive Meeting
March 9th 9:30 am
Annex Kitchen

New Class Graduation
March 15th Afternoon Annex

Diagnostic Meeting
March 16th 10 am Annex
Kitchen

Trash to Treasure Sale
March 18th Set Up
March 19th Sale

Chapter Meeting: March 31st
9am Continuing Education
10:00 a.m. Chapter Meeting

See you all in
February!

Respectfully
Judith Huntley
DCMG President

Editor's note: see a film, eat ice cream, and support a local farmer: [page 8](#).



Leo Grass
DCMG Vice-President

Continuing Education

—Leo Grass

Many thanks to Jack Wright for hanging in to present a great program on 'Soils of Douglas County'. It was nip and tuck with Old Man Winter, but a good number of hearty souls convened to share Jack's program, a cup of coffee and a sweet treat.

Next month, we will host Carl Riggs, from Wild Wood Nursery. I believe Carl will speak on: growing small fruits and berries. Carl has a great deal of practical experience in the horticulture business in Douglas County. See you there at 9:00AM March 31st...Leo

Community Outreach

—Leo Grass

Thanks to everyone who signed up for the Douglas County Home Show booth. It's one of my favorite activities of the year. I know we will all have a good time, and put our best foot forward for our neighbors. It's a great chance to answer all their questions about that mysterious organization known as Master Gardeners. See you there.



Judy Mercer
DCMG Plant Clinic
Manager

NOTES FROM THE CLINIC

—Judy Mercer

The Student training in the Plant Clinic is in full swing. To date, seven students have completed their initial two training sessions.

The new training system seems to be working well and we have had some very positive feedback from the students.

I must say I am very impressed with the students. They are jumping right in and picking up the routine.

We should be done with all of the training by the end of May at the latest. At that time we will open up the signups to everyone.

See you in the Clinic!

Judy Mercer
Plant Clinic Manager

Agent's Report

Building Better Garden Soil

—by Steve Renquist

When I was developing my gardening skills as a young adult in the 1960's and 70's, it was a sign of having made it to the top echelon of gardeners if you owned a Troy-Bilt™ rototiller.

There wasn't a soil I couldn't pulverize, no matter how big the clods. Despite the fact that I was an organic gardener, I now realize I wasn't doing any favors to my soil. I was disturbing and damaging a very dynamic soil food web.

[No-till gardening](#) is the method I prefer these days, given research results from over the past fifteen years that demonstrates the benefits of no-till gardening. I believe there are a number of reasons many traditional gardeners may not want to stop tilling soils. One reason is that they allow too much compaction of their soil to occur during the year so they need to loosen up the soil before planting. This compaction is usually caused by walking on garden soil, or leaving garden soil uncovered during the growing season or exposed to winter's pounding rains. Gardeners also have a feeling that soil should be clean or free of all material when planting seeds or seedlings. Roto-tilling can clean up the surface of soil, but it may contribute to wrecking the structure of the soil if done when the soil is too wet. And tilling may cause the depletion of humus and organic material from the soil if overdone with no additions of composts or cover crops.

Every type of soil will need to be managed a little differently, but, in general, no-till gardening follows the same basic principles everywhere when you want to build a better garden soil.

If you are starting a garden, the first step is to commit to not tilling. Just remember that even a light till breaks up worm tunnels, threads of fungi, and it kills important beneficial organisms. If you have what appears to be a hard shallow soil you will want to create a lasagna style garden where layers of materials like compost, old spoiled hay, aged manure, livestock bedding, or cover crop material are piled on top of one other. You will plant directly into



Steve Renquist
OSU Extension Agent

the layered materials and, over time, earthworms and other soil organisms will aid the decomposition process and move nutrients up and down in the soil. It may take a few years, but the soil will soften and loosen up—all thanks to the life in your soil, and without breaking your back. Plant roots will also help to break into the deeper layers of the soil.

During the first few years in a new site with poor soil, it is important to provide enough nitrogen fertilizer to get good growth. Your fertilizer source should be an organic product to encourage the living organisms in your soil. You could choose from alfalfa meal, cottonseed meal, blood meal, fish emulsion, or aged livestock manures. You may also wish to use compost and compost tea, which are wonderful for the health of the soil, despite the fact that they do not contain high amounts of nitrogen. The bacteria and fungi in composts and teas really give new garden sites a boost. If your garden site is being used primarily for vegetable production, then you should favor bacterial composts and teas; use more composts derived from manures and food scraps. If your site will be used more to raise tree fruit and woody berry crops, your composts can include more woody materials that often lead to fungal-driven compost. Whether you are planting in a good soil or in poor soil, using lasagna gardening or a more traditional style, it is important to keep all areas of the soil covered with organic mulches like grass clippings, old hay, and shredded

bark or leaves. These materials in summer allow the soil to stay moist keeping the environment favorable for soil organisms. Mulches also keep weeds under control. In the winter, mulches protect the soil from compaction by excessive rains, and they buffer the soil against extreme temperatures. Over time, your mulch will contribute organic matter to the soil and will add some nutrients. If you need to add a lot of organic matter to improve your soil and have a difficult time finding it, you can also grow a variety of cover crops to improve the health and tilth of your soil. Use both grasses and legumes in your cover crop mixes to provide nitrogen and root mass. In late spring—when the soil is warming up—it is OK to pull the mulch back from planted rows a bit to let the sun warm the soil faster.

When laying out your garden take care to identify your best areas for planting, and try not to walk on these areas. In your higher-traffic areas, put deep layers of old hay to help limit soil compaction. If you find that some areas of your garden soil seem to need occasional aeration or loosening, try planting deep-rooted plants with vigorous root systems to help break up the soil. Using a garden fork to loosen a soil, not turn it, can also be helpful while only causing a minor amount of disruption to worm tunnels and other soil life.

No-till gardening and farming also contribute to reducing erosion and water runoff from urban and rural land, while sequestering large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. If you question whether no-till gardening can work, you need to read "[Gardening without Work](#)" by Ruth Stout, an early proponent. Her gardening methods, of course, need to be adapted to our soils and climate, but they make sense.

Steve Renquist



Editor's note:

This newsletter is your publication. Your editor solicits articles, essays, and photographs. I'd love to have reviews of books and other arts related to gardening, alerts to new techniques and developments, and any feedback you can offer to improve this publication. And, 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.

"Name that Invasive!" and "Name that Native!" are on holiday this month.



(Some or all links appear not to be working this month. Regrets!)

Joe Yetter
joeleeyetter@yahoo.com

Links to Other Sites (annotated) (suggestions for additional links are solicited)
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/> Welcome to the Mother Ship! Browse, read, repeat.
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture> The Horticulture link, with further valuable links
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/enews/> Northwest Gardeners' e-News.
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/calendar/> What you should be doing in your garden this month.
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/newsletter> The Metro Master Gardener Newsletter.
<http://hort.oregonstate.edu/> OSU Horticulture.
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/gardening/mga> Jackson County MGs' *Garden Beet*
<http://oregonmastergardeners.org/GardenersPen.htm> The Gardener's Pen! Don't forget to sign up by e-mail.

FARMERS' MARKET

—Debbie Haynes



My name is Debbie Haynes, and I am the point person for our MG booth at Farmers Market here in Roseburg, which begins on April 16.

Master Gardeners have an information booth on site at the market from 8 am – 1 pm every Saturday* on Diamond Lake Blvd. where Dixon Steel and Dutch Bros. Coffee are located. (*Exception! Plant Sale weekend and the weekend of the Douglas County Fair, we do not have a booth at market.)

We need two or three people willing to be responsible to deliver and pick up the gear (tent canopy, table, and 3 storage bins of resources), every Saturday* from April 16th until end of October.

Steve has authorized an hour of clinic time for this exchange for every Saturday you help with this. For those of you who do not like the telephone, or whose free time is limited, this is the job for you!

Gear must be delivered promptly by 8 am for set-up and picked up no later than 1 pm.

This task could be job-shared with others. Perhaps two individuals can take the task for 2 1/2 weekends a month: (1) delivering, picking up (2)

delivering, picking up (3) delivering, and changing the 'guard' for another two 1/2 weeks. Or you can come up with whatever schedule you like. I can brainstorm with you.

AND, we also need two veterans and two trainees/ students to start signing up to work in the booth every Saturday. Please sign up soon and start logging your hours.

I am available for questions at thedebhlhay@gmail.com.

Thank you for your ongoing support! Looking forward to seeing you at Market!

HALLMARK

—Linda Thames

One might think that the hardest cards to send are sympathy cards. I did send two of those this past month. Although he hadn't been an active MG for the quite a few years, [Clinton Atherton](#) certainly was one of the most active members during the history of our Douglas County chapter, along with his wife Emogene. He died a few weeks ago. We also lost an honorary member of our MG family, Kathy Shayler's mother, Mary. She always came to our Awards Banquets, where Kathy was usually in charge of the cooking.

I do think the hardest cards to

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send are those Thinking of You cards where our friends and fellow members are in declining or poor health. We do miss them and want them to know we haven't forgotten them. Not wanting to list their names without their permission, I'll only encourage you all to send cards to any friends you know aren't well or would appreciate hearing from you.

If you know of an MG who would benefit from receiving a card, please let me know.

Please email me, if possible, at linbill2@charter.net : If you do, I'll get the message; but if you call, and try to leave me a message I might not get it! I can't hear half of the messages left on my answering machine! My phone is: 541-673-3978

Linda Thames, Hallmark

Vermicomposting (Worm Bins) and Compost Tea

—By Shirley Purcell

The Compost Tea Team of Barbara & Gale Robinson and Shirley Purcell welcome all the new Master Gardeners!

When you visit the Discovery Gardens you will see the Verimcomposting Area, included in the Composting Area behind the pavilion, I believe Larry Sutton explained this to you during your orientation to the gardens.

The Tea Brewer is housed along the back wall of the green shed, the brewer is used to make Compost Tea, that is sold for \$2.00 a gallon on Tuesdays, at the beginning of the growing season. This is a fund raiser for the Master Gardeners. We appreciate your support of this project.

All of this will become clearer as you become acquainted with the different areas of the Discovery Gardens. In time you will be working in some of the areas. We in the compost area would welcome your help, just let us know if you are interested, a few more good hands are needed this spring.

We look forward to getting to know you, as well as working with you during the next few months.

WELCOME to the Douglas County Master Gardeners Program!

Barbara
(barbararob@gmail.com)
Gale
(thefirebee2@hotmail.com)
Shirley (hopover@gmail.com)



Ask an expert

*(editor's note: the February 25th training event has passed; but you can see the recorded training session, and **you can be an expert!** You didn't know it was that easy, did you?)*

The OSU Extension Service will soon launch its Oregon [**Ask an Expert**](#) project. I'm writing today to remind you that the *Ask an Expert* training team will conduct a live training event designed specifically for Master Gardener volunteers this Friday, February 25, from 10-11 a.m. Gail Langellotto, statewide coordinator of the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program, will help provide the training, which can be viewed at <http://oregonstate.adobeconnect.com/aae>.

The ideal situation would be for you and your volunteers to view the training session as it occurs this Friday. We understand, however, that everyone is busy and some people may want to view a recording of the training after it occurs. For that reason, we will record the training session and provide a link to the recording on Friday afternoon.

Another thing I want to make you aware of is that Master Gardener volunteers who wish to participate in *Ask an Expert* will need to have an eXtensionID. While the national eXtension system readily accepts eXtensionID requests from OSU faculty and staff (who have .edu email addresses), we need to take a different approach with volunteers because they don't have .edu email addresses and because eXtension requires each "Expert" to have his/her own ID (for accountability purposes). For these reasons, I am going to need a single email address for each of your Master

-continued on next page...

Gardener volunteers who wish to receive questions. Please assure your volunteers that we will not share their email address with anyone and that all questions assigned to them will go to the supplied email address. Once I have your volunteers' email addresses, I will be able to issue invitations through the eXtension system, your volunteers will receive an email that helps them set up their eXtensionID, and they can then complete their user profile and preferences within the national eXtension system.

If you have any questions about the *Ask an Expert* project, I encourage you to visit the Oregon *Ask an Expert* website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/webhelp/oregon-ask-expert>. We've compiled a lot of basic information on the website that should answer most of your questions. This Friday, we will be adding a link to the recording of the Master Gardener training session, and in the next week or so we will unveil a new "Frequently Asked Questions" document.

Thank you for your support of the [Ask an Expert](#) project. It is greatly appreciated.

Steve Dodrill
Oregon
Ask an Expert Coordinator



From Amazonia to your garden in 1500 years

—Joe Yetter



[Terra Preta, Biochar, and Soil Enhancement](#)

Deep in the forest of the

Amazon basin, there lurks

an ancient, rich, black earth that may enrich your garden, and just might help to save the world: **terra preta**. Terra preta (Portuguese for "black earth") is the product of thousands of years' worth of efforts by humans to enrich tropical soils that are otherwise very poor and unproductive. Beginning perhaps 2500 years ago, humans made charcoal and mixed this, along with pottery shards, dung, and offal, into the soil. The charcoal was the key element: it was stable enough to last in the soil for many hundreds of years, and provided a matrix for fungi and other organisms that would actually add more carbon to the soil over the years. Portuguese explorers "discovered" the soils, which are actively used today.

Now it's your turn to discover and use terra preta/biochar.

Biochar is the product of incomplete "burning" (more correctly, *pyrolysis*) of wood and other fibers at relatively low temperatures. It's charcoal. It's a complex mix of carbon compounds that binds water, ions, and larger molecules, and serves as a marvelous habitat for all sorts of fungi and other organisms beneficial to your garden. It hangs on to valuable nutrients, preventing leaching, but making the nutrients available to your plants. And did I mention it hangs out in the soil for hundreds, maybe thousands, of years? Enrich your soil now, and the salutary effects will linger long after we are gone.

Biochar improves crop yields. How much it improves yields depends on the soil you started with: the poorer

the soil, the more biochar can help. Biochar helps to retain water in sandy soils, and adds needed organic matter to clay soils, increasing porosity and improving tilth. Studies are underway worldwide to determine the best practices—even though the use of biochar is ancient, the science is very young.

The persistence of biochar and its effect on increasing yields have led to a great deal of enthusiasm for its potential to sequester carbon in the soil: locally produced biomass (forest slash here, sugarcane in Hawaii, eucalyptus in Australia, and so on) is cooked to biochar, incorporated into soil, yielding better forest growth (or sugarcane, or eucalypts), yielding more biochar and more growth, and more sequestered carbon, and so on, in a virtuous cycle.

In industrial production of biochar, syngas and diesel fuel are also produced. A demonstration project was recently conducted here in Douglas County. Homebuilt biochar "cookers" are also used; caution is mandatory: fires, injuries, and deaths are possible!

Some local biochar enthusiasts are working hard to educate us. Steve Renquist is cooperating with them, and Master Gardeners will soon have an opportunity to help conduct some trials in our own soil and gardens. If you are interested in participating, please see me (Joe Yetter), to learn more, or even to start up a biochar interest group.

Further reading/ resources:

[Biochar for Environmental Management: Science and Technology](#) (*Johannes Lehmann and Stephen Joseph)
[The Biochar Solution: Carbon Farming and Climate Change](#) (Albert Bates)
<http://www.biochar-international.org/>
<http://www.biochar-international.org/Pacificwestbiomass>
<http://www.biochar-international.org/profile/ACON/Kenya> http://www.ses.wsu.edu/PDFFiles/WorkingPapers/sgalinato/WP_2010-03.pdf http://www.ses.wsu.edu/PDFFiles/WorkingPapers/sgalinato/WP_2010-03.pdf

<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/biochar.html>

Medieval Gardens

—by Christine Gohier



The Middle Ages (500-1500 Europe) had the beautiful idea of “courtly love” where people met in the peaceful atmosphere of a closed garden, or *hortus conclusus*. They recited poems to each other, exchanged thoughts, but hardly touched. The backdrop of the gardens provided a way to convey love with flowers.

At the same time, The *Rule of Benedict* (RB) constituted the basic guide for thousands of Christians who followed the monastic movement. Written in the sixth century the *Rule* was followed in thousands of monasteries in Europe, so much so that the Church of the early Middle Ages, beginning especially in the ninth century, was characterized as monastic. In it, gardening was described as “second only to prayer”. Gardening also meant that the monks and nuns could provide to their needs, and use their extensive knowledge of medicinal plants to care for their own population, as well as the surrounding village population, and the many travelers who crisscrossed Europe in the Middle Ages. Although medical schools

flourished in the 10th century, like the one in Salerno, Italy, healing was decidedly the domain of the Church. They dispensed prayers and threw a few herbs in the mix for good justice. A few incantations and the price was right!

This was the topic of a presentation by Christine Gohier, MG living in France, on January 13th, 2011. She explained the historical background of the monastic and private gardens, and presented some of the main medicinal, culinary and tinctural plants of the era. Did you know, for example, that [Agrimony](#), if pounded with frogs and with a little human blood added, was used to treat internal hemorrhages? Or that [Artemisia](#), or [wormwood](#), was tied to the skirts of pregnant women, because it was said that it would help the child to not “fall out”? And when the baby was coming, wormwood would be tied to the lady’s leg, to attract the baby outside the womb. The father had then to dispose of the wormwood, after the birth, or the placenta would not come out...An alteration in the Old English “vermode” gave you wormwood, because of its popularity to cure worms in children, and ...vermouth... because it is made with Artemisia.

A good time was had by all, and a little medieval food was served, including rosemary and honey butters, and apple-onion pie.

Christine will come back next

fall, and present “**Grapes, Pears, Apples, Cheese and a little Chocolate!**”, on the region of Touraine, France, famous for its beautiful castles, but also its gastronomy. If persuaded, she may even have a presentation on the Republic of Georgia, birthplace of wine. For additional information, or just to gab, you can reach Christine at:

cgohier2000@hotmail.com

Embroidery pictured above, left: “Tenture de la Vie Seigneuriale : La Broderie” Late 15th or early 16th Century; Anonymous; [Musée national du Moyen Âge](#)- Thermes de Cluny



Artemisia absinthium . Yum!



Agrimonia eupatoria



Treasurer's Report

Toni Rudolph
As of 2/25/2011



Toni Rudolph
DCMG Treasurer

INCOME 1/26/11 - 2/25/11	
Dues	\$790.00
Interest - Umpqua Bank	\$0.17
Soil Testing	\$145.00
Trash to Treasurers - presale	\$20.00
TOTAL INCOME	955.17

EXPENSES 1/26/11 - 2/25/11	
Management & General	\$125.00
Postage - Newsletter	\$52.80
HLC - Toilet Repair & Supplies	\$50.00
Plant Sale - Exhibit Fees	\$5.00
Winter Program	\$115.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$347.80

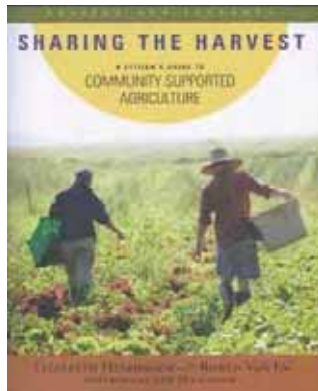
Breakdown of our accounts	
Checking - Umpqua Bank	\$2,280.00
Money Market - Umpqua Bank	\$2,500.17
Checking - Chase	\$1,287.87
Checking - Reserves Chase	\$4,654.41
Bulk Mail	\$168.72
Ending Balance 2/25/2011	\$10,891.17

** NOTE **

RESERVE DOLLARS are set aside - cannot be used for normal expenses	\$4,654.41
DOLLARS available 2/25/11 thru 5/7/11	\$6,236.76

Necessary Costs before May 1

Dues to OMGA (\$7*(272-41))	\$1,617.00
Plant Sale - Fair Grounds	\$1,136.00
Plant Sale - Advertising	\$2,000.00
Plant Sale - Supplies	\$500.00
Trash-To-Treasurers -Ads	\$150.00
Electric (7/1/10 - 1/10/11)	\$1,417.15
ESTIMATE OF COSTS until 5/7/11	\$6,820.15



Minutes of February meeting



**Community Announcement:
Second Annual "That's My Farmer"**

Tuesday, March 15 , at 6:30 pm
First United Methodist Church, 1771 W. Harvard, Roseburg

Come meet some of our local farmers and learn about [Community Supported Agriculture](#). Watch a Movie: "[Fresh](#)".....new thinking about what we're eating. Enjoy Umpqua Ice Cream with homemade toppings Sign up for CSA boxes Free! (freewill offering to support movie license fee)

Sponsored by Think Local Umpqua, Umpqua Community Development Corp, Roseburg First United Methodist Church. For more information, call 541-672-1629

The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World

—by Michael Pollan

(available as [book](#), and film, and other media)

—Review by Joe Yetter

What's up with this tulip? Is it a good thing? Bad? For whom?

What about that Johnny Appleseed guy?

No doubt, you have questions about pot and potatoes, too.

You got questions; Michael Pollan's got answers!

As Michael Pollan tells the tale, he was working in his garden, and it occurred to him that “his” plants were using him just as much as he was using them, and that our respective species had been exploiting one another for many thousands of years, in a complex and reciprocal relationship. We pretty much know what we do to the plants (or we pretend we know), but just **how do plants manipulate us into helping them make more of their kind?**

Pollan examines the relationship between humans and four specific plants and an attribute each plant uses to seduce us: **apples** (sweetness), **tulips** (desire), **marijuana** (intoxication), and **potatoes** (power).

Pollan tells the story of John Chapman (“Johnny Appleseed”) to illustrate how the apple's sweetness (and intoxication) led us to take it from the Caucasus to China, Europe, and the Americas, and how we have modified the apple, and how it has modified us and our society (Carrie Nation's ax was wielded against cider barrels and against apple trees!)

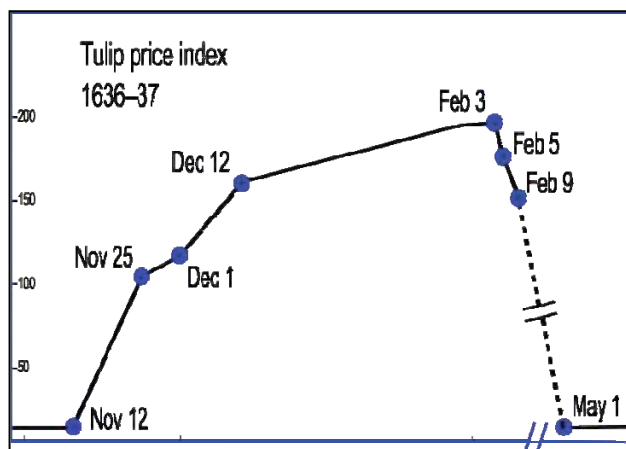
Pollan then goes on to examine the [Dutch tulip mania](#), and our own mania for potatoes, and our cannabis culture (in both senses of the word). He is immensely informative and entertaining about every one of the plants, and, of course the book is about far more than just these four crops: economics, politics, popular culture, and more.

I read the book several years ago; I saw the movie just a few weeks ago. I recommend both: there is a bit more detail in the book, but the *images* in the film are far more immediate and arresting. Netflix has it.

What's up with that tulip? It's infected with the [tulip breaking polyvirus](#), and the tulip is called the *Semper Augustus*; at the height of the Dutch tulip mania one bulb of this diseased tulip sold for the price of a large apartment on the canal in Amsterdam: think of a large apartment on Fifth Avenue today—maybe fifteen million dollars for a single sick tulip bulb (in constant florins).

So: it's infected. Not so good for the tulip—gonna get sicker and die. Good for the seller of the tulip; not so good for the buyer, when the tulip bulb dies, or when the bubble caused by the tulip mania goes Pop!

The Botany of Desire is a fascinating read, and an entertaining film. I recommend both. —Joe Yetter



(This graph will stir strong memories in people who, like me, bought Enron.... —Joe)

**Douglas County
Master Gardeners
Newsletter**

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1 800 883 7568

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Articles for the April 2011 Newsletter are due Noon Saturday, April 2. Send to: (joeleeyetter@yahoo.com) as an attached file.

PC users: Word for Windows

Mac users: Pages

Font: Arial 12pt

Include "Newsletter" in subject line. Include permission if you want your telephone, email, etc published. Include hyperlinks.

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)

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

Steve Renquist Email: steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu