



# Douglas County Master Gardeners

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

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waiting for someone to run with them. Of course if you have ideas we can talk. With a membership of over 280 people we have room for more leaders and more ideas. What would you like to help make happen in the next 12 months? We are now looking at the Strategic Plan developed at the state level for OMGA. Each chapter is being asked to examine the plan and see what elements, if any,

## YOUR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

—Larry Sutton

One of the things that constantly keep me on my toes in this organization is the many opportunities to volunteer. There is something or someplace to put your talents to use, be it working in the plant clinic, serving on a committee or even cleaning the rest rooms at the Discovery Garden. On Saturday, October 8, we will be having a get-together to celebrate and acknowledge all the people that have volunteered their time and efforts for the past year. I hope everyone can make it and share in the celebration.

And, for all of you that are now wondering where you might contribute during the next year, do I have some suggestions for you? Judy Mercer is always looking for people that want to improve their gardening and diagnostic skills in the plant clinic. Julie Stanbery has a list a mile long in the Discovery Garden and Barbara Robertson is already hard at work putting together next year's plant sale. Winter training is just around the corner. Maureen Benice is looking for a few good mentors for next year's class. Being a mentor can be one of the more personally rewarding volunteer positions we offer. This will be the eighth time I have taken the training and this is the year I am going to get it right. If you would like to investigate a place to put your leadership skills to work see me. I have a lot of fun ideas just

should be adapted to the individual chapter. Our local committee has met and identified public relations as the area where we should devote our time and energy. Mainly we will be looking at new, more, better ways to get our name and services out to the public. The committee doing this is headed by Debbie Haynes, Bonnie Courter and Jack Wright. If anyone has ideas or would like to work in the area of public relations feel free to contact any one of the aforementioned three. One of the ideas that launched in September was using the pavilion in the Discovery Garden for evening sessions. We combined the joy of learning with the social aspects of wine tasting for a fun and educational evening in the garden. 44 members and guests showed up to learn about wine tasting, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and engage on a social level. Unfortunately no one brought hot wings so high on the list for next year will be a hot wings appropriate gathering. We now have a social committee to plan more events along the

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same line. The committee is headed by Liz Zamba and Rusdee Chastain. If you consider yourself a social person that would like to help plan and put on parties with an educational bent contact either Liz or Rusdee.

Orchids this month go to Shirley Purcell for the way that she keeps us all informed. An orchid goes to Linda Thames for being the Hallmark lady. Until I got this job I had no idea how many of our members she contacts each month. Steve gets an orchid for walking us through everything from vocabulary to nuances involved in wine tasting. We will give Bob Brindley a large red orchid for his fourth year presenting the Fantastic Tomato Taste Off. This year there were two 8-foot tables nearly filled with tantalizing tomatoes to taste.

Next week Giuli and I fly almost (you can't get all the way there from here) to West Virginia for the International Master Gardeners Conference and then on to Oklahoma for my mom's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. We will think of all of you while we are gone and expect to have glowing reports upon our return.

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## Community Outreach

If we had been born squirrels we would be entering our frantic season of storing up nuts for winter, since the advent of Super Markets, we are spared that yearly chore. However, we humans emulate this survival behavior in other ways, I believe that all of our schedules tend to gain tempo as the final quarter approaches. The Community Outreach activity calendar has succumbed to this annual phenomenon.

Thanks to Maureen Benice for teaching our senior citizens the art of container gardening. Thank You Ken Hayes for agreeing to teach composting to the youth at the Douglas County Detention center. We have two groups of Head Start preschoolers scheduled to tour the Discovery Garden; if you would like to help, give me a call.

We are launching a new evening gardening, and food preservation skills program for the general public. These evening classes will be conducted on the third Tuesday of each month. They will teach: basic gardening practices, specific garden crops, and MFP's will teach preparation and preservation of those crops. MG volunteers, and

extension agents will teach gardening skills. Several Master Gardeners have already indicated a willingness to teach classes. All in all, it looks like a great harvest season.

Thanks...Leo Grass

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## Agent's Report

### The Importance of Following Healthy Guidelines When Growing Food Crops

The recent outbreak of Listeria poisoning from cantaloupes grown in Colorado reminds us of how important it is to follow a few healthy guidelines when growing our own food crops. Listeria is a very common bacterium that usually causes only mild cases of illness in healthy people. Unfortunately, it can cause serious illness or death in old people, babies, or people with compromised immune systems. Listeria is often found in wet mucky sites around crop production areas. The root cause of the Listeria outbreak in melons is still being investigated. However, a few common denominators of several of the last illness outbreaks in produce have lead back to wildlife droppings into fields being harvested for fresh consumption. Keeping all wildlife out of our gardens is a daunting and impractical task, but we can at least **eliminate all large animals like deer and wild pigs**. Those two animal species droppings have been the culprits in a number of the most recent cases causing illness.

**Wash your produce.** The Center for Disease Control recently said that there have been ten cases of food borne illness in the past decade caused by cantaloupe, seven of them have been caused by Salmonella, and three have been caused by norovirus. This recent outbreak is the first caused by Listeria. What this tells me is that certain types of fresh produce are more likely to carry disease because of their physical makeup. Cantaloupe, for example, has a rough porous surface that can retain soil or bacterium more easily on the surface of the melon. Then later when a

consumer cuts a melon the bacteria can be transferred to the interior flesh. Strawberries also have a rough exterior that can lie in wet soil and absorb contaminants. All leafy produce can have soil borne contaminants splashed from irrigation water or rainfall onto the harvested surfaces. All these food types that are eaten fresh need to be washed very thoroughly when brought in from your garden. Vegetables and fruits that are cooked before consuming of course will be much less likely to harbor contaminants.

**Compost or incorporate manures used in the garden.** The other step that most good gardeners know is to not use fresh manures from any source in food gardens. The simple process of composting animal manures or aging manures will dramatically reduce any contaminants threat. If you do have a source of fresh manure and do not want to compost it, spread it on your vegetable or fruit site and incorporate it into the soil. Competition with beneficial organisms in the soil for 90 days will eliminate the threat of disease causing contaminants. In homeowner gardens there is one contaminant threat that is not normally found in farm fields. That threat is pet droppings. If you have a dog or cat that likes to use your nicely tilled vegetable garden soil as a litter box, you should do what you can to keep them out of the area. You may need to pick up the poop and bury it elsewhere in your yard if you can't restrict the pets to another area of your yard.

Have fun gardening and as usual we want to encourage sustainable gardening methods. However, just because we follow organic or sustainable guidelines doesn't mean there is nothing potentially toxic to learn and know about. A few extra steps of precaution in our gardening practices are often time well spent.

—Steve Renquist

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## DCMG General Meeting September 29, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President **Larry Sutton** at 10 a.m. There were approximately 60 people in attendance. There was an introduction of guests and returning members.

Approval of agenda.

Maureen Benice submitted that the minutes should be corrected to read Kruse Farms Master Gardener participation closes on September 24. This should actually be a correction to the Executive Board minutes so the August 25 General Meeting minutes stand as published.

**Agent Report: Steve Renquist** discussed recent trap testing results. His opinion is to reduce or stop all spraying and make sure to pick the crops as they ripen. Berries are most critical to harvest on a timely basis. Also be sure to thin heavy crops to provide better produce.

### **Officer Reports**

**Membership: Cindy Rich** reported 284 members.

**OMGA:** No updates.

**Treasurer: Toni Rudolph** reported we have \$24,613.08 in all accounts and discussed the current financial report distributed to the members. **Toni** updated the membership on the insurance liability situation and made the following recommendation - "Our liability insurance has increased based on the number of members. From everything we have been able to find, there is only one company that offers insurance for organizations. Once our changes have been made we will net a refund of \$70. Our policy covers us for three activities (Plant Sale, Trash to Treasures Sale, and Bake Sale). Our policy is in effect from September 19, 2011 to September 19, 2012. Since the bill was due September 19<sup>th</sup>, I paid the additional \$360. I move that we reimburse

**Toni Rudolph** for the additional \$360 for the cost of Liability Insurance for our Chapter of Master Gardeners.” **Linda Thames** seconded the motion. Motion carried. **Toni** also had an additional motion. At this point, **Larry** closed the general meeting, opened the executive board meeting and asked the Executive Board to vote on the motion, to wit, augment the compost tea budget by \$58 to a total of \$158.00. **Barb Robinson** seconded the motion. The Compost Tea budget for 2011 is \$100. Chemical supplies were purchased for 2011 and 2012. The cost of those supplies was \$158. The motion passed unanimously. **Larry** closed the Executive Board Meeting and reopened the general membership meeting.

**Vice President:** **Barb Robinson** announced our CE program for October will be the MFP’s showing us how to dehydrate our harvest. The November program will be on Disaster Preparedness. January will be a presentation from our members who attended Mini College.

**Past President:** **Judy Huntley** has the food and program set up for the Awards Banquet. She needs every person attending to please sign up.

**President:** **Larry Sutton** has formed several committees we will hear more about in the future. The Strategic Plan Committee consists of **Debbie Haynes, Bonnie Courter, and Jack Wright**. They have met and will be reviewing the OMGA Strategic Plan and figure out which parts we should adopt at our level. **Larry** also asked for volunteers for a Social Committee. **Liz Zamba and Rusdee Chastain** have signed up. **Larry** would like to see 1 event each month during the summer months. The Wine 101 social was well attended and very informative.

### **Committee Reports**

**Community Outreach:** **Leo Grass** thanked **Maureen Benice** for her presentation on Container Gardening at UCC during the Extraordinary Living Seminar. **Leo** is working with **Steve Renquist** to begin a learning seminar each month open to the public. The plan is to hold the class on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month from 7 - 8:30 p.m. Each class would have 3 segments and be \$10 per person per class. **Steve, Leo** and volunteers would present the MG learning segments centered on particular crops.

**Lisa Gosciejew** would find volunteer MFP’s to conduct one segment on options for preserving that crop.

**Plant Clinic:** **Judy Mercer** reported we had 143 contacts this month through September 28<sup>th</sup>. Almost all calls have been regarding the webworm covering the trees. The clinic will cut back to 3 days per week beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Discovery Garden:** **Julie Stanbery** thanked **Chris Rusch** and **Marty Katz** for their work in the Japanese Garden. Another big thank you to **Marty** for your work on the Discovery Garden website. **Julie** asked for volunteers to help build the patio in front of the teahouse in the Japanese Garden. If interested, contact **Julie**. **Julie** also had a conversation regarding combining orders for the multiple gardens for slug bait, fertilizer, etc. to save money. Also, some items don’t store well once opened.

**Julie** discussed the shutdown of irrigation in the Discovery Garden in preparation for winter. She is also looking for the donation of a picnic table and benches to distribute throughout the garden. Whiskey barrels can be purchased at Jerry’s in Springfield. **Steve Renquist** updated us on the fact there will be a delegation going to our sister city in Shobu, Japan. They will be taking photos of the Japanese garden to take with them.

**Awards:** **Betty Ison** has 60-hour swinger bars for **Joyce Aschim, Rosemary Brinkley, Barbara Colebank, Dennis Connor, Diane DeMicco, Darlene Morey, Judy Roberts, Pamela Sadler, and Mykel McArthur**. Please contact **Betty** to pick up your award.

**Publicity:** None.

**Farmers Market:** **Debbie Haynes** announced the Farmers Market would be open through October. She needs several veterans to help out the last couple of weeks. We are done at Kruse Farms for the year. **Merrill McFarland** said the Drain Farmers Market would close at the end of the month. A big thank you to all members who have helped fill these positions.

**Plant Sale:** **Barb Robinson** advised that all greenhouses need help right now doing early prep work for the plant sale.

**Winter Training:** If you are interested in mentoring for the Winter Class, contact **Maureen Benice**. **Maureen** explained some of the duties of being a mentor. There will be 2

training sessions - the first one October 20<sup>th</sup> at the annex. The orientation for the new class will be November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Hallmark:** **Linda Thames's** partner has been in the hospital. **Bill Decker** has been in multiple hospitals and was recently released from OHSU and is recuperating. Our thoughts are with you **Bill**.

**Victory Garden:** **Mik Carlson** and **Lorreen Robinson** were extremely happy with the 2,119 pounds of produce delivered so far to UCAN. With several more weeks of good weather that number will continue to increase. There has been over 400 pounds contributed from member's gardens and the EZ Access garden. **Larry Sutton** mentioned he has been in contact with Tom Kelley from UCAN. Tom is very thankful for both the quantity, but especially the quality, from the Master Gardener group.

**Bake Sale:** **Yvonne Henderson** announced the Bake Sale would be on November 19<sup>th</sup> in front of Sherms. She needs bakers, gluten free products, sugar free products, helpers before, during, and after the sale. Also be sure to mark all products as to contents - especially nuts or other items customers may be allergic to.

### Old Business

**Installation of Officers:** **Jack Wright** installed **Debbie Haynes** as OMGA Rep and **Debbie Hesselstine** as Secretary. **Julie Stanbery** presented **Leo Grass** with an outgoing Vice President gift.

### Announcements

**Larry Sutton** announced the Executive Board Meeting will be October 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. in the kitchen at the Extension office.

**Larry** will be out of town from October 6 - 21 for the International Master Gardeners seminar. It's also his Mom's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. He will have his laptop and you can also contact VP, Barb Robinson.

### Show and Tell

**Larry** wanted everyone to be sure and look at our Chapter Display from Mini College. It won the OMGA People's Choice.

**Betty Ison** brought in tiger lily bulblets.

**Toni Rudolph** volunteers for SHEBA and reminded everyone the sign up dates/changes for

the senior stand alone drug plans is 10/15/11 - 12/07/11. They will be at the Douglas County Library every Monday beginning 10/15/11.

**Julie Stanbery** just purchased a large ceramic pot from Down to Earth. They recommended lining the pot with bubble wrap to help protect from freezing and breaking the pot. Her other idea was to keep a potato in your pocket when taking cuttings. Make cuts in the potato to keep your cuttings moist.

**Steve Renquist** brought in a huge heirloom apple from his orchard. He also brought in a box of Bartlett pears to share.

**Bob Brindley** presented **Jim Leet** with a crowned tomato for his excellent tomato growing skills.

Members also participated in a tomato taste off today.

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Debbie Hesselstine**  
Secretary

### Calendar of Events

October 5 Executive Board Meeting - 9 a.m. Extension Kitchen

October 8 Awards Banquet - 5:30 p.m. First Methodist Church

October 19 Advanced Diagnostics

October 20 Mentor Training - Annex

October 28 CE - 9 a.m. Annex  
General meeting - 10 a.m.

Annex

November 9 Executive Board Meeting - 9 a.m. Extension Kitchen

November 15 Winter Class  
Orientation

November 16 Advanced Diagnostics

November 17 CE - 9 a.m. - Annex  
General Meeting - 10 a.m.

Annex

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## Treasurer's Report as of 9/29/11

Toni Rudolph

### INCOME 8/24/11 - 9/29/11

Pavilion Donation	\$25.00
Interest - Umpqua Bank - MM	\$10.85
Soil Testing	\$105.00
Plant Sale - Sales-post	\$128.50
Compost Tea	\$321.00
Cookbook	\$202.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$792.35</b>

### EXPENSES 8/24/11 - 9/29/11

Liability Insurance	\$380.00
OMGA-Chapter Display	\$62.46
DG - Irrigation & Xeriscape	\$74.02
HLC - Electric -8/3 - 9/1/11	\$116.21
HLC - Greenhouse Supplies	\$139.23
HLC - Maintenance	\$42.67
HLC - Victory Garden	\$213.27
Plant Sale - seeds/supplies/plants	\$108.59
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,136.45</b>

### Breakdown of our accounts

Checking	\$914.44
Money Market - Reserves	\$5,659.10
Money Market	\$18,039.54
Bulk Mail	\$136.96
<b>Ending Balance 9/29/2011</b>	<b>\$24,750.04</b>

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### Please Submit Receipts for Reimbursement ASAP

— Toni Rudolph, Treasurer

When submitting expenses for reimbursement you need to fill out an "Expense Authorization Form". The form is available in the Plant Clinic or from the Treasurer. You must identify the Vendor, the category the expense is to be charged to, describe what was purchased and the amount spent. Attach copies of receipts for all related purchases. In order to be reimbursed, the form must be signed by the Committee Chairperson responsible for the budget.

Once you receive the check, please deposit it within 60 days of receipt.

Requests for reimbursement must be in the Treasurer's hands no later than December 31 of the year the expense occurred.

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## OMGA Report

I'm Deb Haynes, newly installed OMGA Rep for Douglas County. I've been a Master Gardener for 3 years and am still learning the ropes. Thanks to Julie Stanbery and Maureen Benice for guidance.

The only thing on the OMGA front is that our own chapter now has a Strategic Plan Committee comprised of Jack Wright, Bonnie Coulter, and me-the-D as Chair. We've met once and have chosen a path to explore and will share this direction after we present our revelations to the Board this coming Wednesday!

Maureen and I will be attending the quarterly OMGA meeting in Salem in early November, where she will introduce me to people there. I'm excited about getting more involved in the organization.

Other than that, there isn't much to share. Thanks!

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## Discovery Garden Autumn in the garden

It is amazing to look at the Discovery Garden each fall and realize how much we have accomplished year after year.

Many of our gardens have new leaders this year and these folks have really taken on the challenge with enthusiasm! We are already seeing new ideas taking shape and there are plans for much more.

Noel Groshong, our favorite water guy, not only worked week after week on the irrigation project, but he has established an iris garden just east of the pavilion.

Jamie, Anne and Jeannine have cleaned up the raised beds and the surrounding forest and are working with Tasha on their plans for the lilies and dahlias for next year.

Tasha is moving forward with plans for the rock garden on the far west end of the garden. We hope to get started with that later this fall.

The children's garden has been given a boost with the addition of three great volunteers (Cindy, Sharon and Betty ) who are working with Judy to enhance the fun and safety aspects for youngsters.

Last Tuesday was our last "official" work day for the year but work continues as needed throughout the year.

Chris Rusch and Marty Katz (our new co-leaders of the Japanese Garden) are planning a workday on Tuesday, November 1 to build the patio at the front of the teahouse. They would appreciate a helping hand and if you are not up to lifting rock, it is a great educational opportunity to learn how to set a rock patio and pathway. Come join us for the fun!!

In other areas, Ken is rebuilding compost bins and the butterfly garden will be planting next week for spring color.

Additionally, I want to recognize Diane Ayers and Betty Bean who volunteered many hours this summer to keep the irrigation up and running.

We still have plans for projects this fall and winter so watch your newsletter and email for updates.

Thanks to each and every volunteer who made the special effort to come to the garden this year. Your keen passion and zest for life are reflected in the beauty and grace of the Discovery Garden.

Julie

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## NOTES FROM THE CLINIC

Well, fall has finally arrived and it is evident in the Plant Clinic. We are beginning to get a lot of "When to harvest" questions. The Fall Web Worm has been the most frequently asked question by far.

The fall schedule has begun and the Clinic will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We still have a few open spots in the schedule so stop by or call the Clinic and signup.

Our final client count for the Month is one hundred and fifty one contacts. Not bad!

As of the first week in October I will be taking the Log book home on Fridays for review. I will be checking to see if we are accurately recording all pertinent information. I would encourage the Veteran who is working the Plant Clinic to review the entries during the day as part of our ongoing training. That way any omissions can be corrected on the spot.

I want to thank everyone that worked in the Clinic this last month. Good Job guys!

Judy Mercer  
Plant Clinic Manager

Alternates for the Month of October

Jackie Carpenter  
Ruth Frank

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## 2011 Tomato Taste Off Winners

This was the 4th year we have conducted a blind tomato tasting. There were 29 submissions in the four categories. This year's winners were:

### Red Slicing

1st	R12 Park Whopper	Betty Ison	12
votes			
2nd	R7 Mortgage Lifter	Bob Brindley	6
votes			
3rd	R11 Red Satin	Betty Ison	4
votes			

### Other tomatoes tasted:

R1 Cuore di Bue  
R2 Ace  
R3 Big Beef  
R4 Brandywine  
R5 Stupice  
R6 Oregon Spring  
R8 Foundhorn  
R9 Early Girl  
R10 Big Beef  
R13 Willamette  
R14 Brandywine

### Non-red Slicing

1st	NR4 Cherokee Purple	Ruth Stafford	
19			
votes			
2nd	NR2 Morado	Lorreen Robinson	5
votes			
3rd	NR1 Japanese Black Truffle	Joe Yetter	
3			
votes			

Other tomatoes tasted:

NR3 Taxi

### Cherry

1st	C2 Sun Gold	John Denny	14
votes			
2nd	C3 Sun Gold	Bob Brindley	8
votes			
3rd	C1 Red Cherry	John Denny	5
votes			

other tomatoes tasted:

C4 Black Cherry  
C5 Orange Panache

### Paste

1st	P2 Juliet	Betty Ison	
10			
votes			
2nd (Tie)	P1 Viva Italia	Betty Ison	
7			
votes			
	P3 Juliet	Shirley Purcell	
7			
votes			
3rd	P5 Roma	Chris Rusch	
4			
votes			

Other tomatoes tasted:

P4 Amish Paste  
P6 Roma Nova

Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all the participants. Winners received certificates redeemable for plants at the greenhouse (\$15 for 1st, \$10 for 2nd, and \$5 for 3rd). We will have another tasting next year at the September general meeting. I invite everyone to participate either as a supplier or a taster next year. Till then, happy gardening.

—————*Bob Brindley*

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## Gardening and the Arts

You've brought your tomatoes in, wrapped the pink ones in newspaper for ripening, canned some more, and enjoyed the last of the really ripe ones straight off the vine. The autumn rains, it seems, have begun, and your winter garden is enjoying the suddenly cool weather. There's a bit less to do now, and maybe you could take in a movie?

Take a peek at *Greenfingers*, a British comedy about the redemptive power of gardening. Very loosely based on a true story about gardening by prisoners in England, it's a feel-good lightweight flick with some really lovely scenes of gardens and some all-too-brief shots of

specimen plants. You'll get to see the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show (the largest flower show in the world), in case you missed that in July. You'll see plenty of English gardens, and even some English sunshine.

The plants and the gardens are not the stars, though: Clive Owen turns in a stellar, underplayed role as an isolated, chronic loser thrust into gardening by events and people—and plants!—around him; he and his fellow prisoners are transformed. Helen Mirren nearly steals the show as a kind of 'Martha Stewart' of English gardening. You get some gardening, some redemption, some romantic comedy, and some pathos in the form of a dying, repentant murderer (David Kelly). Written and directed by Joel Hershman.

A couple of warnings: the film gets cloyingly sweet. Some critics panned it for saccharine and predictability. There's a bit of sex and brief nudity. Rated "R"—for no reason I could see.

Netflix has *Greenfingers* (DVD). Douglas County Library has it in VHS.

—Joe Yetter

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**Douglas County  
Master Gardeners  
Newsletter**

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**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE**

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Articles for the November 2011 Newsletter are due Noon Saturday, October 30 . Send to: (joeleeyetter@yahoo.com) as an attached file.

PC users: Word for Windows

Mac users: Pages

Font: Arial 12pt

Include "Newsletter" (one word) 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](mailto:douglasmg@oregonstate.edu)

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