



Douglas County Master Gardeners



JANUARY 2012

Volume 27, Number 1



YOUR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Many of you may wonder why you are getting this newsletter and what it is all about. Traditionally we devote the January issue to you, the new students. We welcome you aboard and use this medium to explain what each of us do as an officer or committee chair for the Douglas County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA). As Master Gardeners we are trained to provide research-based answers to the public's gardening questions. As people we seem to have a need to provide organization and structure to the groups with which we associate.

The DCMGA provides that structure. We meet once a month for a business meeting and to provide continuing education for all. You are all invited to attend all meetings and participate in the discussions. We welcome your input. As soon as you have completed your apprenticeship program you will have full voting privileges.

We are all volunteers and some people volunteer more than others. Everyone is expected to volunteer sixty hours their first year. Your level of participation is up to you once you have completed your hours. Talk to your mentors, talk to other veterans, or talk to me to find out where your talents can best be used. In addition to providing a service to the community we want you to feel an integral part of what is now, your organization. We always

have work to be done and truly hope that you will find your own comfort zone working alongside us.

Oh yes, and I guess I am supposed to tell you what the president does. First of all, I get to preside at all meetings. I will be the good-looking one with the gavel. The president gets to appoint all committee chairs. If you want to head a committee or even work on a special

project grab me and let me know. We are fortunate in DCMGA to have a lot of creative hard working people and there is a place for you.

I sincerely would like to welcome each and every one into our organization. I welcome you, the new students, into the class of 2012 and most warmly welcome our veterans back for another productive year of service to our community.

Finally, orchids go out this month to the winter training team for all the work that has been done to prepare for the training. An orchid to Judy Mercer for getting the house elves together so we can start the new year with a spotless and organized plant clinic. Orchids also go to Debbie Haynes and Marty Katz for getting DCMGA on Facebook.

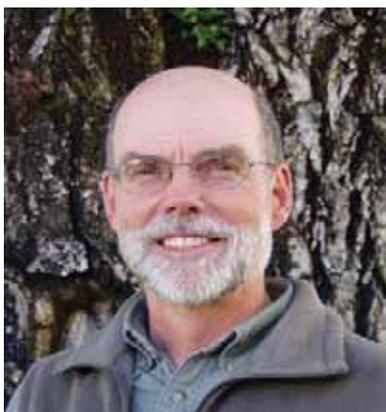
—Larry Sutton

Calendar of Events

January 3	New Class Begins - Potluck - Bring food and smiles
January 11	Executive Board Meeting - 9 a.m. Extension Office Kitchen
January 17	Great Gardening 7 p.m. Extension Auditorium
January 18	Diagnostics Group 10 a.m. Extension Office Kitchen
January 26	CE - 9 a.m. - Steve Renquist to present program
January 26	Chapter Meeting - 10 a.m. Auditorium

Agent's Welcome 2012

Welcome to the class of Master Gardeners™ 2012. Every year in January Oregon State University and the Douglas County Master Gardener Association have an opportunity to welcome a new group of gardeners from around Douglas County into our program. Our program has three major components, classroom education, hands-on education and outreach to the community.



Steve Renquist
OSU Extension Agent

The classroom education comes when you enter the winter training class. Experienced instructors will share their gardening knowledge with you for eleven weeks. Then when you begin your volunteer time in the plant clinic you will be able to interact with veteran Master Gardeners solving problems for others in Douglas County. This time in the clinic will be where you really reinforce all that you learn in the classroom.

The hands-on education segment of our program begins during the winter training classes. Many of our lectures are supported by demonstration and lab work. You will also be asked to take several pruning classes during January and February. If you look at the class schedule you will notice we have two sessions planned for the greenhouses at our Horticultural Learning Center (HLC). These classes will teach you how to do vegetative propagation and seeding. On the day you learn at the greenhouse you will be introduced to our Discovery Garden. The Discovery Garden is a teaching and demonstration garden for the public located at the HLC. You will be impressed with all the interesting theme gardens you can learn from and help develop. You will also have classes on raising tree fruit at the Discovery Garden. The class of 2012 will have a hands-on volunteer project too at the Discovery Garden or in the

Victory Garden. The Victory Garden is a project at the HLC which will produce vegetables for donation to UCAN.

The final component of our program is what we call our outreach to the community. This portion of the program consists of taking our sustainable gardening message to other groups in Douglas County. We give presentations and demonstrations wherever we can. Maybe you know a few groups we could reach. We also have a Master Gardener booth at Garden Shows, the County Fair, Earth Day and other gatherings around the county that you will be recruited to join. This is a great way to tell our story to others and recruit new trainees.

In 2008 we began offering to new Master Gardeners a chance to work with other community groups to teach gardening that helps reduce hunger in Douglas County. If you find helping others in your community rewarding we will allow you to use your non-clinic volunteer payback hours with groups fighting hunger like UCAN.

I am really looking forward to our year ahead together. We have thirty-two people signed up to join us. When you come into our classroom you will be assigned a table and a mentor. Make sure that you ask your mentor to introduce you to all that our program has to offer, fun day activities, "Spring in to Gardening" seminars, organizational committees, and mini-college.

We challenge you to be open minded, to study hard, and to have fun learning. You will be representing Oregon State University when you volunteer as a Master Gardener™ so we ask you to accept our gardening ideas and philosophy of sustainability when you reach out to the public. You will soon see that the energy and enthusiasm of our veteran Master Gardeners is infectious and we look forward to you joining our organization.

Welcome,
Steve

Vice-President

As a MG student in 2009, I had no clue how involved I would become in this organization and what wonderful friends would be made along the way.



**Vice-President
Barbara Robinson**

In fact, I was one of the skeptics wondering how on earth I would ever be able to meet the 60 hour payback requirement and how my husband would respond to the coursework, plant clinic hour requirements, etc. In talking with Steve Renquist, prior to registration, he assured me

they would work with us according to our comfort zones and help us find our niche in the organization. Fast forward to three years later... I am vice president and my husband, Gale, is known as the "tractor guy" out @ the Discovery Garden. The moral of the story? Do not be afraid to explore all your options within the organization to discover your own area of interest. There truly is a place for everyone. As VP one of my responsibilities is to provide continuing education programs for our monthly meetings. A variety of subjects have been presented in the past i.e. gardening topics, fungi/mushrooms, food dehydration, emergency preparedness, etc. We tap into the expertise of our membership and also bring in speakers from other organizations, businesses, etc. This hour of continuing ed each month counts toward your volunteer hours (after your initial 60-hour-payback), an added bonus! If you have a subject or speaker you have a burning desire to hear or learn about please contact me and we can certainly look into the possibilities. This month's program starts at 9 a.m. on January 26th featuring our very own Steve Renquist. This promises to be a presentation well worth your attendance. I hope to see you all there!

—Barbara Robinson

Secretary

Hi - My name is Debbie Hesselstine and I am the Secretary for the Douglas County Master Gardeners. My jobs include taking minutes for both the Executive Board meetings and the General Membership meetings. I also keep track of club policy changes. You can also find me in the greenhouse areas near the Discovery Garden.



—Debbie Hesselstine

Treasurer

The treasurer's job is to maintain the financial records of the chapter. This includes: assisting in the development of the chapter's budget, tracking income and expenditures, paying bills and depositing money, providing financial information to members at monthly board and general meetings and in the newsletter, and providing a year-end report of the chapter's finances to the state OMGA treasurer to be used in our federal income tax filing.



Any financial questions you may have should be directed to the treasurer at: toni@rosenet.net or 541-673-7803.

—Toni Rudolph

Plant Clinic Manager



Welcome to the class of 2012. I look forward to getting to know you all and working with you in the Plant Clinic.

You will find that the Plant Clinic is interesting, informative, rewarding and fun. We get to interact with the community, help our clients with their gardening questions and continue to learn.

—Judy Mercer

Oregon Master Gardener Association Representative



Happy New Year!
Welcome to 2012 and Greetings to our new Master Gardener Training Class! Besides helping to facilitate the new Training Class, I'm the Douglas County link / conduit to the Oregon Master Gardener Association™. We all pay dues to the OMGA and we are all members, represented by a

Chapter representative and one alternate. The role given to me, Debbie Haynes, allows me to attend the four quarterly State meetings, located in various counties all over the state. It is my responsibility to write, and verbally give, a report to OMGA regarding the happenings of our Chapter here in Douglas County; and to bring back any information our Chapter must know, such as by-law changes, or tidbits of information from other Chapters.

You will also find a short OMGA report every month here in our own Chapter's newsletter, as well as a verbal report at our monthly meetings.

In March, we will be hosting the first quarterly meeting of the year and I'm excited and anxious to get some helpful ideas on theme and decorating! Your participation will be a terrific contribution to showing our Chapter's hospitality. I'm looking forward to getting to know you!

Please let me know if you have any questions about this board position!

—Debbie Haynes

Plant and Garden Expo

Our Plant and Garden Expo is our biggest fundraiser of the year. You've heard the term "it takes a village?" Well, the success of this event depends on our entire MG village working cooperatively year round.

This year's Expo will be held Saturday, May 5 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Mark your calendar NOW! You will be exposed to the function of our greenhouses in the next few weeks. This will be a great opportunity for you to find where your areas of interest may lie. You don't have to be an expert! We will teach you and point you in the right direction.

If working w/seeds and/or plants is not your thing, there are many other behind the scene jobs. There is sure to be one that is just right for you! Regardless of where you decide to light within our organization, you will have the opportunity to meet and work with some of the nicest people around!

The plant sale committee and greenhouse crew welcome you and look forward to working with you!

—Barbara Robinson & Sharon Hopkins –
Plant Sale Co-Chairs

—Gloria Amorde & Tasha King – Greenhouse
Coordinators

DISCOVERY GARDEN NEWS

Bake Sale

Fellow Master Gardeners, Hello!

As chairperson of our “ANNUAL BAKE SALE,” I secure the date for our event. Traditionally, it has



been held on the Saturday just before Thanksgiving. It is the most joyful, friendly, fun-filled; albeit, brisk, chilly, and an early event. We have been fortunate to be allowed to use the entryway near the doors of Sherm's Thunderbird. It has been requested that I

keep my “Food Handler Certification” current. Other duties include making flyers for fellow Master Gardeners to pass around the communities, set sign-up sheets throughout meetings and clinics for those interested in participate, arrange with our publicity chairperson to broadcast via radio, newspapers and/or television, use our E-mail system to communicate with everyone, submit articles to our editor, and interact with the executive committee, our treasurer, and other chairpersons.

Before the day of the event, the chairperson researches pricing for the baked items for continuity and competitiveness, arrange for the tables and signs to be collected from the annex and delivered to the event, and bring all other needed supplies and chairs. Baking is the most important aspect of this fundraiser, for without the items, we would have no sale. If you delight in baking, whether it be savory or sweet, simple or intricate, this is your venue. I am here to encourage and entice you to sign-up to **set-up, cleanup, bake, cashier, affix price stickers, and sell**. Are you outgoing, fun loving, and willing to engage in conversation with community members to sell our delicious delicacies? Please sign-up and come make money for our chapter.

Welcome to the Discovery Garden at the Horticultural Learning Center! As new Master Gardeners you are invited to join us in a great adventure as we continue to develop our year round educational garden and teaching facility. MG volunteers participate in all areas of garden management including landscape design, planting, pruning and the ubiquitous weeding.

Working in the garden is a stimulating hands-on experience and lots of fun. All trainees will be asked to schedule volunteer payback time in the garden. These sessions will help familiarize you with all aspects of the garden and give you the opportunity to decide which area of the garden you would like to offer your volunteer time during the year.

Established in 1999, the entire garden has been built by thousands of Master Gardener volunteer hours and community groups such as Job Corp and inmate work crews. We have 15 gardens within the DG including Japanese, children's, hedgerow, orchard, scented entry, lilies and dahlias, shade and sun, compost, ornamental shrubs and grasses, butterfly, herb, xeriscaping, rock and easy access areas. Items of particular interest include the spider gate, human sundial, and the moon gate. We also have added numerous benches and picnic tables.

The goals and directions of the garden come from MG volunteers with guidance from OSU Extension and our Home Hort agent, Steve Renquist. We use the children's garden, worm bins, compost bins and pavilion as an outdoor classroom for school children and youth groups. Other gardens are used for public demonstrations including pruning and plant care.

Your winter program classes contain information in many aspects of the garden such as water wise gardens, dry garden (xeriscape), water collection and irrigation techniques, container and adaptive raised beds (easy access), herbs, Japanese, perennials, annuals, roses, lilies, and much more! All of our classes include ecological management practices that stress integrated

methods (IPM) and low impact techniques.

My name is Julie Stanbery and as coordinator of the Discovery garden, you will be hearing many garden updates from me. A number of your classes will take place in the garden, at the greenhouses and at Helleck Hall at the HLC. Your first classes at the HLC will be Jan 10 & 17. A tour of the garden will be part of these class sessions. You will be introduced to some of the veteran MGs who work in the individual gardens and learn the layout of the gardens. These classes are OUT-OF DOORS so dress in layers, wear long underwear, mud boots, rain slicker, gloves and hat!!

Steve will schedule "hands-on" pruning classes in the Discovery Garden. All students are asked to attend these classes. We encourage everyone to participate in the training. We will be working on fruit trees, ornamental shrubs, Japanese garden plants and landscape trees. Dates to be announced.

Starting March 20, we will have regular Tuesday work days each week through September.

Come dressed for foul weather as we work rain or shine. You need not be a strapping physical specimen; I can find a task for anyone!! Always come to the garden with work gloves, hand pruners, a good weeding tool, kneeling pad and a shovel. I'll let you know if we need special tools for any particular project. Working in the garden is considered payback time; specifics will be explained in class.

This spring, we will finish installing the last of the in-ground irrigation system. We have a year round pump and two reservoirs for water storage, so this is the next step to demonstrate water wise techniques and to get rid of the hoses!! We have many projects planned for the year including building a new rock garden, giving the Children's garden a makeover and refurbishing the ornamental garden.

We have a busy season ahead of us, but as all gardeners know, you meet the nicest people in the garden, we'll see you there!!

—Julie Stanbery

Find us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487>

Publicity

Welcome to the Class of 2012! As Publicity Chair for the Douglas County Master Gardeners, I endeavor to inform our local communities about upcoming events and fundraisers we sponsor throughout the year by working with the media. That entails writing Public Service Announcements (PSA's) to newspapers, radio and TV. I may also write news stories highlighting special events, awards, projects, or anything that may showcase our organization and its value to the community. A large part of my job is centered on our biggest fundraiser - the Plant and Garden Expo, which is held the first Saturday in May. I coordinate and design paid advertising for the sale, as well as fliers and bookmarks to distribute around the community. I attend Executive Board and Chapter meetings to keep up-to-date on what's happening. If you have a good idea for an article, or possibly a TV or radio spot, please let me know. You can reach me at rbcourter@gmail.com, or by phone at 541-672-3071. Enjoy your new adventure in gardening!

—Bonnie Courter



Vermicomposting Bins and Compost Tea

Three Vermicomposting Bins are housed in the compost area of the Discovery Garden. These bins contain red wiggler worms, which eat food scraps, turning them into worm castings. The worms thrive in this environment, producing a nutritionally rich organic fertilizer and soil amendment. As the red wigglers multiply they are available, for a minimal donation, to those in the community who want

to establish their own vermicomposting bins. The money from the worms goes into the OSU Extension Endowment Fund.

Vermicomposting is a cold process and the worms do have certain maintenance requirements. If you are interested in starting your own worm bin, check with one of the Vermicomposting team for assistance or contact Shirley Purcell at hopover@gmail.com. We will be happy to assist you with the process and/or answer any questions you may have. As a Master Gardener, start up worms is available to you at no cost.

The Compost Tea Brewer:

Worm castings have yet another role, producing compost tea. Compost tea can be applied by soil drenching or foliar application. These methods provide nutrients and microbial inoculants for disease or insect suppression. Compost tea makes happier plants.

Making the tea is a two-day procedure and is done in a 25-gallon compost tea brewer. To start off, about 5# of worm castings are placed in a mesh container inside the water filled brewer. The load is initiated with an organic catalyst and allowed to brew for 24 hours with the infusion of oxygen via a bubbler system. The tea is then sold to Master Gardeners for \$2.00 a gallon, beginning the middle of May. This is a fundraiser for our organization, which brings in about \$1,000 a year to our treasury.

Please feel free to contact any of us "tea brewers" for questions you may have or drop by and see the process in action. We can be found in the green shed adjacent to the Discovery Garden on Tuesday mornings this spring. We look forward to meeting you!

Barbara Robinson, Eileen Kelley, Gale Robinson

Communications

As person in charge of communications, I send out informational emails that relate to Master Gardener activities. If you have provided your email address to the organization, you will hear from me one or more times a week. Please add my email address, hopover@gmail.com, onto your accepted list so my emails are not routed into your spam box.

The MG Executive Board has given me permission to send out only those emails relating directly to MG activities. Therefore, please do not be offended if I cannot help you rent your house, advertise a garage sale, sell your craft items, etc.

If my emails are not getting to you in a timely manner, please let me know. Also, if you change your email address call or email me as soon as possible. Thank you for helping spread the Master Gardener news to all.

Shirley Purcell
hopover@gmail.com
(541) 673-3818

Victory garden

Greetings to the Master Gardener Class of 2012. The HLC's Victory Garden has had two great years, and we are already looking forward to a third. There are three major goals.

First, the Victory Garden offers Master Gardeners an opportunity to put into practice techniques



taught in our winter class such as succession planting, crop rotation, leaf mulching and vertical gardening. There are always plenty of jobs to be done...moving compost, planning, planting, fertilizing, mulching, pruning,

harvesting...and don't forget the weeding.

Second, by donating fresh, nutritious produce to UCAN, Master Gardeners are promoting and contributing to a healthier community. Last year we delivered over 3000 pounds of vegetables to be distributed to local pantries and community kitchens.

Our third goal is to share with each other...to share ideas, to share the work, to share laughter, and to share our love of gardening. So, if you want to nurture your love of gardening, while helping others, AND having a good time, come join us in the Victory Garden.

Mik Carlson and Lorreen Robinson

As membership director, I collect the annual dues. I maintain and keep current the database of names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of our members. A membership roster is published in the spring with my assistance. I attend the monthly board and chapter meetings reporting on any pertinent information regarding Master Gardener membership. If you have any membership questions or changes in your personal information on the roster, please contact me.

Cindy Rich

Membership Director

Insect Committee

Nearly 25% of the calls to the Master Gardeners Plant Clinic concern possible plant damage from or problems with insects and other arthropods.

With over 1 million identified species of insects worldwide and an estimated 15 million possible species total, this would seem an impossible task but an analysis of Plant Clinic data for Douglas County shows that 90% of the insect questions involve only about 50 insects and spiders.

While most Master Gardeners have no problem identifying the usual bugs brought into the clinic, the job of the insect committee is to supply aids and books to help with this task. The committee also identifies those uncommon insects that occasionally show up.

We are looking for additional people to help us produce material that would make insect identification and treatment recommendations even easier for Plant Clinic volunteers. Plus, we can always use help in identification.

We welcome new members; no experience required. The committee meets on the first and third Monday of every month for two hours or more if needed. And for those of you who are new to the Master Gardeners program, you can use insect committee time to help fulfill your clinic hours obligation.

I would be happy to tell you more about the committee. Please contact me at 459-7897 or rbrindley459@yahoo.com for more information.

—*Bob Brindley*

Membership Director



MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you haven't paid your membership dues for 2012, it isn't too late. See attached form (page 9). Thank you to those who have already paid.

Editor's Note

This issue—the first of 2011—welcomes the winter class of new Master Gardeners, and introduces our officers and committee chairs.

This newsletter is your publication. Your editor solicits articles, essays, and photographs. 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.

—Joe Yetter, editor

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.

Sometimes our hyperlinks come through; sometimes they do not. We're working on it!

—Joe

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Date: _____

Check No. _____

DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2012 DUES

(Due **BEFORE** 01/01/2012)

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 choose to have it mailed to you through the post office, you will need to check the line below AND PAY AN ADDITIONAL \$5 TO COVER POSTAGE.

____ **Please mail my newsletter. I have included an EXTRA \$5 to cover postage.**

The 2012 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: Cindy Rich @ 1666 NW Apache Dr., Roseburg, OR 97471

**Douglas County
Master Gardeners
Newsletter**

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Roseburg OR 97470
541 672 4461
1 800 883 7568

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE

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Articles for the February 2012 Newsletter are due Noon Saturday, January 28.

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

Steve Renquist Email: steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu