

Douglas County Master Gardeners



May 2012

Volume 27, Number 5

Your President's Column

Last year at this time I was busily involved in reviewing the Search For Excellence submissions from around the state. It was a rewarding job as I got to see not only what other chapters were doing but also see how they were doing them. This year the shoe has been on the other foot and I have been involved in getting the information together for Douglas County's submission for the 2012 Search for Excellence. By the time you read this our submission will already be in and it will be up to the judges to decide where our search for excellence rates among the other chapters that submit. No matter what they decide our project has produced some fantastic results and I would like to share some of them with you. The bottom line is of course how the public perceives what we are doing. Each year 100 clients are requested to evaluate our service to them. In 2008, the year we started our project, 86% of the clients surveyed reported that the Master Gardener volunteers helped them resolve their issues. In 2009, with the training well underway, 90% of the clients reported satisfaction. 2010 showed an increase to 93% and last year 95%. We may never be perfect but the public vote certainly shows us in the excellent category.

To see how the program has impacted us as Master Gardeners we surveyed last year's first time mentors. The results of the survey were:

1. Trainer explained volunteer roles and responsibilities? 94% strongly agree or agree.
2. Trainer introduced library and resource material? 94% strongly agree or agree.
3. Trainer introduced Extension people and work areas? 100% strongly agree or agree.
4. Trainer instructed me on phone, walk in customer relations? 88% strongly agree or agree.
5. Trainer instructed me on proper search methods, science based? 82% strongly agree or agree.
6. After two training sessions I felt confident to work with veteran MGs? 82% strongly agree or agree.
7. From the comment section: nearly 50% of our apprentices said the training sessions were so educational they would encourage us to add more to our program. (Continued on p2)

Calendar of Events

May 3	Plant Sale Transportation Crew - PU tables - 2 p.m.
May 4	Fairgrounds - Set up for Sale - 8 a.m. till done
May 4	Greenhouses - Report at 9 a.m. / When done report to Fairgrounds
May 5	Plant Sale - 8 a.m. until everything shipped back out of building
May 7	Insect Committee 10:00 a.m. Plant Clinic
May 9	Executive Board Meeting - 9 a.m. - Annex Kitchen
May 16	Advanced Diagnostics - 10 a.m. - Annex Kitchen
May 21	Insect Committee 10:00 a.m. - Plant Clinic
May 31	CE - Master Bee Keeper - 9 a.m. - Annex
	General Meeting - 10 a.m. - Annex

Everyone is invited to participate in this program. All you have to have is a desire to increase your gardening knowledge and want to apply what you know to helping the public. The Diagnostics Group meets the third Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. You can sign up for plant clinic at any time.

Orchids this month go to Judy Mercer and her Plant Clinic training team; Leo Grass, Karolyn Riecks, Chris Rusch, Maureen Benice, and what's his name.

Marijuana In The Plant Clinic

No, we are not suggesting that marijuana is being used in the plant clinic. Instead, we are pointing out from time to time, we get clients that have questions about their marijuana crops. To help you formulate an answer to these questions, Gail Langellotto, Statewide Coordinator, Master Gardener Program Oregon State University Extension Service has provided us with the following: Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener Program Plant Clinic Policy on Medical Marijuana

While the use of Medical Marijuana is legal in the state of Oregon, Marijuana remains a Schedule 1 illegal drug under federal law and as such, Oregon State University Extension cannot be involved with this item.

Thus, assistance with Medical Marijuana plant health questions will not be provided, via Plant Clinic or other Master Gardener venues, and individuals requesting such information will not be provided referral information.

If OSU Extension employees or volunteers (including Master Gardeners) assist medical marijuana growers, they will be acting outside the scope of their employee/volunteer role and assume personal liability for any legal action that may be taken against them.

Vice-President's Column

Mr. Squirrel, residing on our back deck, told me it was 78 degrees today! I do believe our April continuing education segment on drip irrigation will be very timely indeed. By the time this newsletter goes to print, you will have learned all about how to keep your garden's thirst quenched according to Curtis Young of Woodland Scenes Landscape Gardeners. Thank you to Curtis for sharing his techniques and ideas with us. (Lest you think I have gone totally "nuts" listening to squirrels.... Mr. Squirrel is a thermometer who brings me fond memories of years gone by when he hung at my parents' home.)

Several of you have requested a more detailed class on honeybees and bee keeping. Our May 31st chapter meeting will fulfill this request with Master Bee Keeper, Ed Jones, speaking on the basics of beekeeping. Mr. Jones achieved his Master Bee Keeper designation through the program taught by Ramesh Sagili who heads honey bee research at OSU.

Lastly, our summer meeting slots have been graciously filled with master gardeners offering their homes for our gatherings. We have a very diverse slate of locations throughout the county. Be prepared to do some carpooling as we travel to some really unique locations.



Notes From the Clinic

Greetings from the Plant Clinic. Our new students have been working hard in the Clinic and are rapidly becoming one of our best assets. All but 4 students have completed their training and the four remaining students have only one session to complete.

Bob Brindley reported that he is receiving far fewer insects to identify. We are getting the job done in the Clinic. Way to go guys.

The Farmers Market is coming together under the new leader; Judy Metz-Bridges. Thank you to Debbie Haynes for all of her guidance.

Jim Leet, who is transporting the canopy for us, will be taking a trip to Scandinavia with his wife Joni so we are assembling a canopy crew to take over while he is gone.

We still have a few open slots in May and we have no alternates. We like to have two or three alternates for each month to fill in for last minute cancellations so please call or stop by and sign up.

Thanks again to a fantastic Teaching Core for a great job.

Judy Mercer
Plant Clinic Manager

OSU Douglas County Master Gardeners

Chapter Meeting

April 26, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President **Larry Sutton** at 10 a.m. There were approximately 77 members present.

The minutes were approved as presented in the March newsletter.

Agent Report: **Steve Renquist** discussed the upcoming Great Gardiner Series on May 19th. **Steve** will submit press releases to advertise the event. If attendance does not improve, the classes may be cancelled.

Officer Reports

Membership: **Cindy Rich** reported we have 266 members. Replacement name tag orders are due today. The roster is available for pick up.

OMGA Report: **Debbie Haynes** reminded the membership that Mini College will be July 25 - 28 at Willamette University. **Maureen Benice** encouraged online registration. **Maureen** is collecting items for the silent auction at Mini College.

Treasurer: **Toni Rudolph** reported \$12,141.18 in our accounts.

Vice President: **Barb Robinson** announced our program for May will be a Master Bee Keeper.

Past President: **Judy Huntley** advised our annual Awards Banquet will be held October 13th at the Methodist Church on Harvard.

President: Larry Sutton reported the paperwork has been submitted for the Search for Excellence program. We received a thank you from OSU for contributing worm money. **Larry** also advised there are paper membership cards available and there are Mini College bookmarks available.

2012 Class Representative: No report.

Committee Reports

Community Outreach: Leo Grass announced the following events for his committee:

- 042712 - Callahan Court - Basic Gardening Presentation
- 042812 - Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA
- 042912 - Hucrest School - Pruning - 2 p.m.
- 051812 - Saving Grace Workday - 8 - 10 a.m.
- 061612 - League of Women Voters - Discovery Garden included in their home tour
- 071212 - Callahan Village - Container Gardening
- 090612 - UCC - Conference on Extraordinary Living - need a presentation

Leo is also helping advise 2 community gardens. One is behind the Methodist Church and the other is at Fullerton IV School.

Plant Clinic: Judy Mercer thanked the teaching core. All but 4 students have completed their 2 day training. Thank you to **Bob Brindley** who gave a presentation on insect identification at the last Advanced Diagnostics class. Thank you to **Judy Metz-Bridges** and her assistant, **Darci Moody** for heading up the Farmer's Market which will start May 12th. May is almost full in the plant clinic. **Maureen Benice** will head up Kruse Farms which will start June 2nd.

Discovery Garden: Julie Stanbery had a list of people to thank for all the great work happening in the Discovery Garden.

Victory Garden: No report.

Awards: Larry Sutton had kudos for **Betty Ison**. Douglas County was the first chapter to submit all the award nominations to the OMGA.

Publicity: Bonnie Courter has a big advertising blitz scheduled for this upcoming week before the Plant Sale. We were asked to remove one of the banners by the City of Roseburg. There was some discussion regarding a new location. There will be photographs and an article in the Sunday News Review.

Plant Sale: Barb Robinson announced there will be a TV spot on KPIC on April 30th. The pre-plant sales will be today and Sunday 1 - 4 p.m. Don't forget, MG's cannot buy at the plant sale until 3 p.m. even if you are not there to work the sale. There will be a hat contest with 2 prizes. Be sure to wear your DCMG apron, hat, or t-shirt. You cannot work the plant sale without your name badge. Bring UCAN donations. Be at the Fairgrounds at 8 a.m. both Friday and Saturday. Those loading at the greenhouses report at 9 a.m. On Saturday report to your committee chair at 8 a.m. Leave purses and valuables locked in your car. Do not park near the building.

Richard Johnstone personally mailed a letter to each member signed up to work transportation. Thank you to **Gale Robinson** and friends who had already brought everything down from the upper 2 levels that need to go to the fairgrounds. **Richard's** committee will load tables from the Annex and the Discovery Garden at 2 p.m. Thursday. Everyone report at 8 a.m. to the Fairgrounds on Friday to unload. Just a reminder, we need all the help we can get to transport plants and equipment back to the greenhouses.

Barb reminded the Plant Sale committee there is a meeting following the general meeting in the kitchen. **Pam Sadler** will head up the kitchen committee for the 2 days at the Fairgrounds.

Hallmark: **Linda Thames** was happy to report she had personally seen **Marjory Milroy** at the garden and she was doing well. **Linda** will be gone for several weeks so **Shirley Purcell** will act in her absence if there is a request to mail a card.

Newsletter: **Larry Sutton** announced the articles for the newsletter were due at noon yesterday. Anything submitted later, except the minutes, may not be included in the newsletter.

T-Shirts: **Toni Rudolph** advised the T-shirt order just placed has been delayed by one week. The shirts will be available Friday and Saturday at the sale.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Show & Tell/Announcements

If you have a worm bin for sale, contact **Toni Rudolph**.

Honda push mower for sale - used 2x - contact **Toni Rudolph**

Reminder of the Wildflower Show in Glide this weekend - **Dennis Moore**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hesseltine

Secretary

Special Thanks

Go out to Brittany Arnold for her wonderful article in the News Review highlighting our upcoming plant sale. Thanks also go out to Vicki Menard, editor of the News Review. It's really nice to see our organization getting more publicity at this crucial time of year!

Plant and Garden Expo: Final Countdown!

We are now counting, not the weeks, but the days until the fruits of our passion are fulfilled in our annual Plant and Garden Expo! Last month's newsletter included a detailed accounting of what/where/when/how so please refer back to refresh your memory on details.

Important reminders at this point are:

FRIDAY, MAY 4: Report to the **fairgrounds for set up at 8:00 a.m. or to the greenhouses at 9:00 a.m.** for loading of plants to be transported. After loading at the greenhouses is complete, your help will still be needed at the fairgrounds.

SATURDAY, MAY 5: Everyone to the **fairgrounds at 8:00 a.m.** Report to your committee chair.

POTLUCK: Remember your potluck dishes on both days.

NAME BADGES: Don't forget to wear yours. They are required to work the sale.

APRONS/SHIRTS/HATS: If you have purchased DCMG apparel please wear on sale day.

HAT CONTEST: Two prizes will be awarded. Have fun with this!

UCAN: Support our local community by bringing food donations for UCAN.

Any questions? Feel free to contact me at barbararob@gmail.com or give your committee head a call.

Barbara Robinson

Treasurer's Report as of 04/25/12

Toni Rudolph

INCOME 03/30/12 - 04/25/12

Dues - Membership \$30.00

Interest - Umpqua Bank - MM \$0.83

Soil Testing \$35.00

Plant Sale - Vendor Booth \$1,742.40

Special Events - T-shirt etc \$761.00

TOTAL INCOME \$2,569.23

EXPENSES 03/30/12 - 04/25/12

Management & General \$10.21

DG - Irrigation \$235.66

HLC - Greenhouse Supplies \$26.97

Plant Sale - Advertising \$34.97

Plant Sale - Electrical \$1,915.45

Plant Sale - Plants/Supplies \$327.26

Plant Sale - Vendor \$125.57

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,676.09

Breakdown of our accounts

Checking \$1,923.64

Money Market - Reserves \$5,659.10

Money Market \$4,558.44

Ending Balance 04/25/12 \$12,141.18

OMGA

No reports, however, a little birdie told me that you can view classes and register online at www.oregonmastergardeners.org/MiniCollege2012.htm.



Agent's Report

Gardening Ideas to Ease the Wet Dry Season Transition

This has been the wettest spring in about 100 years so preparing our landscape and food garden sites for the dry season will become a major task. I thought I would review a few ideas that might help you in the process.

In the short term, cover crops shade the ground so the surface of the soil seems to stay wetter than bare ground. However, the cover crops will pull moisture from the top 6-12 inches of soil helping the soil dry out faster. If you have a fairly heavy clay soil for your vegetable garden site, using a cover crop will help that site get ready to plant sooner than leaving the site bare all winter. The cover crop will also provide a good source of organic matter for the soil when incorporated, and it traps nutrients that might otherwise have leached away during winter.

In the spring of 2011 we faced a similar late wet spring. My cover crop grew very well but late rains kept the soil too wet to cultivate in May. I decided to chop up the cover crop with my weed wacker (trimmer) in early June. I let the crop residue stay in the walk row between my planted rows. Then using my triangular shaped skiff hoe, which has sharp points on two sides, I cut a very shallow slit in the planting row to place my vegetable seeds. Surprisingly the seeds germinated very well. Not rototilling the soil when wet kept me from ruining the soil structure. I kept any plant residues away from the seedlings during the first few weeks to help the soil warm faster. In late June as the new seedlings grew taller and stronger, I pulled much of my cover crop material up near the plants to use as mulch.

What I really was doing was borrowing from farmers the concept of no till farming where producers drill field crop seed in rows into the stubble of the previous crop. Since I didn't have the right equipment, I improvised. If you have a cover crop that you can't mow or disc into the soil you can use herbicide like Roundup to kill it and then plant in the dead residue. Another option that farmers are experimenting with is to roll or crimp the cover crop to flatten it on the ground and then plant through it in slits. This method for homeowners might be challenging but could be done with a sickle bar mower that drops the cover crop in one piece to lie flat on the ground. Then spreading the cover crop about 4-6 inches to plant a row of transplants might work the best.

It seems like we have to deal with wet garden sites each spring, so long term it might be smart to put in a few raised beds for the early season crops and just be patient with your in ground garden site. The raised beds always warm faster than the ground and definitely drain better. This will allow you to plant peas, collards, broccoli and other cool season crops in March for a good early garden. Later in May or June when the soil in your in ground site hits the magic 60 degree level you can plant your warm season vegetables.

Another timely step you should be doing now with your landscape is to very carefully view the route all our excess water wants to take as it crosses the site. If you can get a good look at the wettest spots and the natural paths the water wants to take you may be able to create some nice looking natural drainage systems like a rock stream bed that enhances the aesthetics of the site. Also if your food garden is in the wettest corner of the yard you may want to go to more raised beds. If your site has the space to create some swales or low spots that can capture water, it will keep the water from where you don't want it while doing something good for ground water recharge. – Steve Renquist

Member's Submission

In My Mother's Garden

It's early morning and the sun has just come up over the hills. The garden is heavy with dew and the first rays of sun find the blossoms and they sparkle as though they had been sprinkled with diamond dust.

This is my favorite time of day. As I walk amongst the flowers with my first cup of coffee my mind is filled with memories.

I can see Mom now; tending her garden. I loved the beauty but had no interest in the working part of gardening, and despite her efforts I didn't learn the art at her knee.

I remember what a difficult child I was during the teenage years. She had all of those ridiculous rules, wise sayings and words of advice. I vowed then and there that when I grew up I wouldn't be at all like her!

Time passed and we both survived those years of conflict. I managed to grow up in spite of her unwelcome interference.

I went to college, met my husband, and married.

The first baby came along. What an eye opener that was. All of a sudden I wanted my mother's advice and not only that, I took it. Two years later another daughter followed. Those were busy years. Since neither of these children came with an owner's manual I found myself calling my mother with increasing frequency.

A strange thing began to happen. I started to repeat many of the very things that I hated as a child. Now, they somehow made perfect sense.

I also started to garden. The chores that had repelled me as a child became my pleasure. I loved the tending and nurturing of my flowers. It was much like the parenting of my children. I found that I had learned both from my mother. She had taught me by example and like osmosis I had absorbed them.

Now as I walk through this garden that I have planted and cared for I realize it is my mother's garden and I am my mother's daughter. ~Judy Mercer



MINI-College AUCTION ITEMS

Dear Master Gardener Friends,

The time has come once again to gather up Silent Auction items for OMGA Mini-College. Usually we contribute 10, or more, items worth \$25 or more to Mini-College. Please put your thinking caps on and come up with something for the Silent Auction. These items need NOT be garden oriented. Contributed items have been sewing baskets, wine collections, scarecrows, wreaths, jewelry, art pieces, even aprons. Mini-College is in Salem at Willamette University on July 25-28. You can give me your contributions at any General Chapter meeting, the last Thursday of each month, until July, or at the HLC (Discovery Garden/ Greenhouses). Email or call me if you want to leave them in the Plant Clinic or hand them to me personally elsewhere.

See you out there,

Maureen Benice - OMGA Alternate Rep

541 673 4671 mbenice@douglasfast.net

Mini-College Scholarships Announced

Oregon Master Gardeners Association established the Send-A-Friend (SAF) Scholarship Program in 2002. Its purpose is to help Master Gardeners from around the state attend Mini-College that may have financial concerns that would make them unable to attend. The criterion for selection is as follows:

1. The Send a Friend scholarship is based upon financial need.
2. Applicant must be a current Master Gardener or Master Gardener Trainee in good standing with their chapter. (This is interpreted as having completed at minimum of 60 volunteer hours during the previous 12 months.)
3. No applications will be accepted after the stated deadline. Applications must be submitted to your president no later than 8 May.
4. Maximum of 1 scholarship per Chapter. Current scholarship amount is \$200.00 /chapter. This year OMGA has stated that the scholarship may split with \$100.00 going to two different people.
5. Recipients are requested to help sell SAF tickets at Mini-College
6. This scholarship is based on financial need of an individual MG or MG Trainee. It is not meant for a Chapter to divide among its members or to subsidize Chapter funding.

If you would like to apply for this scholarship please submit your application via e-mail to groofan@hotmail.com by 4:00 Tues 8 May. In the application state that you would otherwise be unable to attend, how you would expect to use the information learned at Mini-college and how many hours you have completed in the past 12 months.

Editor's Note

Hello everyone, your new editor here. My name is Clay Morrow and I'm a recent transplant to Oregon from New Mexico. My wife and I are very glad to be here in Roseburg to enjoy this gloriously green Spring of Douglas County, especially because I now know where to find the best gardening tips!

Douglas County
Master Gardeners
Newsletter

1134 SE Douglas Ave.
Roseburg OR 97470
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1-800-883-7568

Articles for the June 2012 Newsletter are due by Noon Wednesday, May 30.

Send to:
DCMGnewsletterinbox@hotmail.com

Please send file in "rtf" format in 12 point, Times New Roman font.

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

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Executive meetings: second Wednesday, 9:00am, kitchen conference room; Chapter meetings: last Thursday, Jan thru May: 10am, annex auditorium (following the continuing education at 9:00 a.m.); 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