



Douglas County Master Gardeners

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

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Congratulations, Elva!



Our very own Elva Sellens has been recognized by the American Dahlia Society as the Originator of a new variety of Dahlia. "Elva's Little Sweetie" is a "Mignon Single" type in dark pink (pictured on page 3). Elva has rejuvenated the Dahlia raised beds, originally established by Bud Cruger, at the Discovery Garden. She's been growing Dahlias for over 25 years, and is active at the American Dahlia Society. Many thanks to Mary Hoffman for this picture of Dahlias from Elva's garden.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, October 10 - Executive Board Meeting – 9:00 AM. - Annex Kitchen

Saturday, October 13 – Annual Awards Celebration and Banquet – 5:30 PM – First

Tuesday, October 16 - DC Global Warming Coalition – 6:30 PM – Roseburg Business Center (old DC Co-op Building)

Wednesday, October 17 - Diagnostic Meeting – 10:00 AM – TBA

Thursday, October 18 - IPM Presentation – 8:30 AM - OSU Extension Auditorium

Thursday, October 25 - Continuing Education – 9:00 AM – Chapter Meeting – 10:00 AM - Annex Auditorium

President's Report

Larry Sutton

I have always loved to travel. Over sixteen years of sea duty in the U.S. Navy either fueled that love or solidified it as a way of life for me. Since "retirement" we have been fortunate to continue traveling albeit on a lesser scale than the Navy provided.

I always look at each trip as an open door to learning. This month we returned to New Orleans and spent nearly a day in the Audubon Insectariums. Exhibits are designed for all age groups and experience levels. In one room we learned to capture, identify, and "pin" beetles for display purposes. In another room we learned what most of the rest of the world has known for ever and that is that insects are a ready source of tasty protein. We cooked and ate cinnamon flavored mealy worms and progressed to crickets prepared with taco seasoning. Even though I found them all delicious I do promise not to recreate the recipes for any of our pot lucks. For those that are interested I did bring back a few recipes and would be glad to provide them upon request. The last exhibit was devoted to large butterflies, small birds and koi. Benches were strategically placed throughout the exhibit so that observers could enjoy quiet meditation or in my case just get off my feet for a few minutes. No matter where your journeys take you there is always an opportunity to learn (and add to your Master Gardeners expertise).

I would be remiss at this point not to mention next year's International Master Gardener Conference on Holland America's Westerdam, There are still about a quarter of the spaces open, so you can still take advantage of this opportunity. Class registration is open and fairly easy to accomplish. This cruise is really the opportunity of a lifetime to combine both travel and learning.

Finally, October is the month in which we recognize our own and our accomplishments for the year. Come join us for a delightful meal, good company, some personal recognition, and the chance to recognize your co-volunteers for what they have done in the past year.

Vice President's Report

Fred Alley

I'm in the process of preparing/arranging the 2012/13 topics for our Master Gardeners Continuing Education Program. Thanks to those who have offered suggestions for the MG Continuing Education Program, especially, Barbara Robinson and Steve Renquist. We have a several topics lined up, starting with "Identification of Apples and Pears – Appearance and Taste" by Steve Renquist. The topic is perfect for this time of the year and for those who have visited Steve's home, he has an excellent variety of apples.

Other suggested topics include:

- The importance of Physical Therapy in the Garden
- Healthy Gardening – Keeping safe in the garden and what to do for special medical treatments one might incur in our gardening practices
- Work session on Master Gardener Time Sheets
- Fish and Game – Wildlife and gardening
- Master Food Preservers and Master Gardeners- The linkages

There are so many topics we can choose from. The topics need to be relevant to the Master Garden Program and if possible, timed to the best time of the year. We tend to think of our veteran Master Gardener educational needs first, but we should remember our mission is to education all, including our newest members and those first time Master Gardener Students.

We look forward to another great Sustainable Gardening Class this year. Please seek out those individuals that may be aware of the program or maybe they just need to special one on one contract. As I got home, today from the September monthly meeting, I learned a neighbor of mine wants to take the MG class. My assignment: hand carry an application and copy of our most recent Douglas County Master Gardener Newsletter. Maybe you too have such a neighbor?

The Continuing Education program is offered between 9:00-10:00 am, followed by the regular monthly meeting at 10:00 am.



Elva's Little Sweetie. Photo by Guilli Sutton

Winter Training Program

Maureen Benice

Yep, it's that time again and if you want to help a new member learn about our group of Master Gardeners AND learn something new...or just get refreshed on Master Gardener stuff ...sign up to be a Mentor. Winter Training 2013 starts the second Tuesday of January, January 8th, and goes through the second week of March. There are some new subjects and teachers along with a review of what we should/could know as Master Gardeners.

Two Mentor "classes" are scheduled:

- November 1st, 10 AM in the Annex Kitchen
- December 5th, 10 AM in the Annex Kitchen

These classes are designed to help you be a good mentor and learn the procedures for helping our students through class and Master Gardening.

You can sign up to be a full time or substitute mentor or to share the duty with another person.

And even if you don't sign up to mentor, come greet the new people as they get their books and go through an orientation on November 13th, 10:30 AM in the Annex.

The Signup sheet is in the Plant Clinic. If you have questions call or email me.

Community Outreach

Leo Grass

Reaching out to our neighbors is not unlike the whole gardening experience. We plant the seed of wonder of the earth and the things that grow from it, in the very young, when pre school class' view the beauty of our Discovery garden for the first time. They smell the blossoms, feel the worms, and are delighted to learn that they can tell time by the sun.

Later on, we tend those young seedlings in school gardens, 4H chapters and in our own gardens with our children, Grand children, and for some of us, Great Grand children.

As our plants gain strength and size we pull the weeds of misinformation, and fertilize with new ideas and inspiration. The plant clinic, garden tours, garden club classes, fair and home show booths all improve the tilth of our gardening community.

When harvest time comes we pick the fruit and flowers of; our communities' respect. New members sign up to take part in growing next year's garden. New community and personal gardens thrive within our borders of influence.

This year I've had the pleasure of addressing some of our 'Memory Care communities', seeing small remnants of past gardening joy in the eyes of these folks reminds me that gardening is as much about reflection as it is looking forward to next year.

Awards Celebration and Banquet

Judy Huntley

Why: Great Food, Fantastic Friendship, and Awesome Door Prizes

Where: First United Methodist Church
1771 W. Harvard Avenue
Roseburg, OR

When: Saturday, October 13, 2012
Social 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:00 pm
Awards 7:00 pm

We will be having Baked Potatoes, salads, bread, and dessert. I will need help setting up the tables and decorations on Saturday morning and then we will need a cleanup crew after the celebration is over.

Secretary's Report

Eileen Kelley

The OSU Douglas County Master Gardeners chapter meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. on September 27, 2012 by President **Larry Sutton**. There were approximately 54 members in attendance.

The minutes were approved and will stand as published.

Agent's Report: **Steve Renquist** reminded everyone that we are getting ready for the 2013 Winter Class. Registration is Tuesday November 13, 2012. If you are interested in helping with set up, be at the Annex from 10:30. New students will begin arriving at 11:30. We currently have 70 individuals who showed interest but usually only about one half to one third of these actually sign up to take the class. To date, we only have about ten students. The smallest class was in 2001 with twenty-two students. If you know of anyone interested, give their names to **Mary Hoffman**. There will be flyers posted at the Post Offices around the county. The Master Gardener program has been getting good press with the Discovery Garden article and the OSU Spotlight column, so hopefully more people will sign up. Steve will also be on the radio. He will be recruiting between Thanksgiving and Christmas and expects to pull in a few more people.

On October 16, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at the Roseburg Business Center (old DC Coop building), the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition will present a symposium on climate change and agriculture. This is the group that did the Bio Char presentation at the garden last year. There will be a link with the head of the International Climate and Agriculture Group in Washington DC, which is a group that travels around the world to educate third world countries on how they can help with global warming. Dr. Greg Jones, Southern Oregon University, who is an expert on climatology and is the son of Earl Jones who owns Abacala Winery (so knows a lot about growing wine grapes), will speak. Steve will be speaking on the global impact on local agriculture. There is no charge for this presentation.

Membership: **Vicki McAlister** reported we currently have 269 members. One member passed away and another moved out of the area.

OMGA Report: **Rosemary Brinkley** reported OMGA will have their 2nd Annual OMGA Introduction and Orientation which will be held in Wilsonville on Fri. November 2, 2012

from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. If you are interested in learning more about the Master Gardener Association, plan on attending. Both **Rosemary** and **Michelle Harding** will be attending so can report back to the membership.

Larry Sutton shared that he received an email from OMGA President, David Rugg, in response to his inquiry into budgeting expenses for Mini College next year. David said there will be a Mini College next year. Not sure of the dates. OMGA is currently negotiating with OSU to have it in Corvallis.

Treasurer's Report: **Toni Rudolph** reported we currently have a balance of \$30,695.88. Last month we received \$480.44 from post Plant Sales, Soil Testing and Compost Tea. Total expenditures of \$3,223.16 are for banquet & awards \$202, Discovery Garden \$863.99, HLC \$440.35 which includes the toilet repair and Plant Sale \$1713.18 for propane, as well as a few small expenditures. The expectation is that we will purchase propane once more before the end of the year.

Toni has sent out several emails reminding folks that Budget requests for 2013 were due last Monday. There are still about 10 folks who have not responded. On Wednesday Oct. 10th is the Executive Board Meeting at 9 a.m. when we will review the budget. If you are interested please attend.

Expense forms and receipts for expenditures made in 2012, need to be turned in by December 14, 2012.

Vice President's Report: **Fred Alley** said he is just pulling together the continuing education program. **Sharon Hopkins** and **Leo Grass** are assisting Fred. If anyone has ideas on presentations let him know. Next month's presentation has been arranged but will be a surprise.

Past President: **Judy Huntley** reminded everyone that the Awards Banquet will be held at the United Methodist Church on Harvard Blvd. on October 13th. Festivities begin around 5:30 with a Social hour. If you haven't already signed up, the signup sheet is in the Plant Clinic. Also, please include the number of people in your party that will be attending so **Judy** can make sure there is enough seating for everyone. Baked Potatoes will be the main course. Bring toppings and fixings as you would like including chili, salads, desserts and breads. We have folks who have volunteered to set up and clean up. Set up will at 9 a.m. Saturday morning if you are interested in helping. **Betty Ison** will be presenting awards for hours, as well as accomplishments & appreciation. There will be

great door prizes and there is talk of entertainment; not how we will be entertained or who will do the entertaining; just surprise entertainment.

Larry Sutton received a thank you note from the OSU Extension, Douglas County for a \$50 donation to the endowment fund.

Outreach: **Leo Grass** thanked **Betty Ison** for presenting "Starting from Seeds" to the UCC Extraordinary Living.

Leo received a phone call for a teacher at Yoncalla Elementary they are doing a garlic project as a fund raiser. They are interested in learning about growing, braiding. **Leo** will do a presentation on growing. If you live in North County and are interested in helping Yoncalla Elementary with this project, contact **Leo** as he would appreciate the help.

AmeriCorps is interested in starting a learning garden by the Wooley Center next to Fir Grove School. There is an issue with placement due to some trees that would have to be removed. If interested, contact **Leo**.

Lastly, Neighbor Works who is interested in doing a "Food Day" pot luck dinner on October 24th, which will centered on gardening and eating local. They would like a Master Gardener to be present. **Leo** will be there with the Seed Display that **Betty Ison** made. He is also interested in any information you may have about operating a seed exchange. **Leo** said that the Master Gardeners use to have a seed exchange before his time. He would appreciate hearing from you if you have any ideas.

Plant Clinic: **Judy Mercer** said that as of yesterday, the Plant Clinic has 89 contacts for September.

She also said the Diagnostic Class was very interesting. **Steve Renquist** did a presentation on the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug which has now been found in Medford and Salem. **Steve** had pictures of people sweeping them off the sidewalks, porches and walls. When these bugs come, they come in swarms and do incredible damage. They will eat everything, fruit, foliage and flowers. They have five separate instar stages as nymphs and all look completely different from the adult Marmorated stink bug. The adults are approximately ½ inch wide and ½ inch long and are larger than a box elder bug. **Judy** said they have a picture in the Plant Clinic of all stages of the bug development. The picture is on the back bulletin board of the Clinic so you know what it looks like. **Steve** said you can go online to pull up great

pictures of the Marmorated stink bug because it has caused so much damage back East.

On October 18 at **Steve's** Fall IPM Orchard Presentation, there is a good session given by a post graduate entomologist from OSU who will be there to talk about the Marmorated Stink bug. The bad news is they are vigorous, aggressive feeders and require strong chemicals to knock them out and ruins any IMP program. They are working to get a better pheromone trap. There is a small wasp that will parasitize them. Mostly, home owners have been bringing them into the Extension but they have been found in nursery crops. Worst states hit are North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Ohio where they came in about 5 year ago.

Starting in October the Plant Clinic is only open Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There are openings, please sign up.

Discovery Garden: **Julie Stanbery** was happy to report that the irrigation has been fixed. Down the backside where the rock garden is, Terry Tinker put in a new blowout valve. He determined that was the lowest point in the system and he thought all the sand was collecting there for over a year's time. We weren't bringing in new sand from the foot valve but that's what was clogging up the filters. **Gale Robinson** blew it out Sunday morning. **Janet Parkerson** ran the system, had a little bit of clogging to begin with but then she was able to water for three hours, changing the filter once. Thank you, **Janet Parkerson** and **Valerie Call** who have been our irrigation ladies. Thank you, **Gale Robinson** for spending most of Sunday cleaning out all the rain bird heads that had plugged up. The system is now functioning well. Thank you **Janet, Valerie and Gale** for all you time, energy and hard work.

Julie mentioned all the wonderful changes and improvements that have gone on this year. The dahlia garden is wonderful. Thank you, **Elva Sellens** and thank you to all the Garden Heads and folks for all your hard work. The bench in the butterfly garden, the Children's Garden, the Herb Garden and even the rock pile speaks to all the changes and improvements going on. **Julie** said since the Discovery Garden article appeared in the News Review people all over town have been mentioning they are looking forward to visiting. The article was great advertisement for us.

We now have most of the names up on the donor board. Take a look, if you see that someone has been left off, let **Julie** know and she will make sure it's corrected.

Julie said we will soon begin preparing for winter and this year, we will hang our hoses to get them up and away from the rats. She has purchased molded hangers which will be put on the wall in the green or yellow shed. The hoses will have your name on them. She is also putting bait traps in the worm bins.

She is looking for volunteers to oil the moon gate. We have the oil. She would like to get it done before the rain starts. If you have extra time and would like to volunteer, contact **Julie**.

Jen Bailey has volunteered to help this fall and into next spring to develop a plant labeling system

Philece Humphrey said that several folks have stopped to ask her how to plant in the straw bales. **Julie** wanted everyone to know that the Straw Bale garden is considered a separate garden as is the Iris garden and the Rock garden. We are up to seventeen sub-gardens now. **Sharon Hopkins** is getting several plastic realtor brochure boxes to distribute information in the Children's and Straw Bale Gardens.

Victory Garden: **Lorreen Robinson** reported to date 2670 lbs. have been picked from the Victory Garden and 689 lbs. from Master Garden's and the Discovery Garden. **Lorreen** said they have become really good at growing vegetables for our community and continue to take it to UCAN to distribute. The Victory Garden has become larger than just **Mik Carlson** and **Lorreen**. They now become the Victory Garden committee. The Committee decided that because the garden is getting too much shade this time of year, they want to change the direction the rows are planted. They will be asking for help when that occurs. They are also looking at expanding the variety of produce they grow.

Lorreen said they are complimented all the time on the quality and cleanliness of the produce they donate. She said they would like to find out where it goes and how it's used after it's donated to UCAN. **Dennis Moore** reported he has taken about 150 lbs. to his local Helping Hands Pantry in Glide. **Judy Huntley** also took apples and pears to her local pantry in Sutherlin. Neither of these was added into the total overall poundage provided by the Master Gardeners.

Awards: **Betty Ison** reported that six new members earned their 60 hour swinger bars. They are **Michelle Harding-Olson**, **Judy Metz-Bridges**, **Jim Muno**, **Janet Parkerson**, **Elva Sellens** and **Camille Simon**. Thanks

Betty for all your hard work and congratulations to all who have completed their commitment.

Publicity: No Report

Historian: No Report

Newsletter: No Report. Get your News articles in by noon on Friday, Sept. 28th

Kruse Farms: **Maureen Benice** said Kruse Farms is having their year-end get-together this weekend. Thank you to **Shirley Purcell** and **Barbara Robinson** for being there when she couldn't. Thank you, **Ted Benice** for always being there. Thank you **Valerie Call**, **Vicki McAlister**, **Pam Sadler**, **Beverly Guyton**, **Richard Johnstone**, **Rusdee Chastain**, **Michelle Harding** and **Dianne Billings** for helping.

Winter Training: **Maureen Benice** reports they will be starting Mentor training. She explained for those who have never mentored, it is helping students get acquainted, situated, familiar and comfortable with the program. It is a communications job. **Steve** said that even if you don't have all your hours in, if you are from the 2012 class; visit with **Steve** who will work with you to complete your hours. Because **Gail Langellotto** has had to deal with a sick parent, she had not had the time to work on the new books for this year. Therefore the goal is to have the new Sustainable Gardening Book next ready for 2014.

Hallmark: **Linda Thames** reported there will be a Celebration of Life for **Bob Agee** Saturday, Sept. 29th at 1:30 at the VA Hospital Auditorium. **Lorena Remington** had surgery on her neck which relieved her pain, so is doing much better. **Barbara Robinson** fell fracturing her ribs but was at the meeting.

Larry Sutton announced that today is **Linda Thames** and **Barbara Robinson's** birthday. **Linda** said that every year she pretends the meeting is her birthday party. Well, today we celebrate with a birthday cake and "happy birthday to you" song. Happy Birthday, and many more, **Linda** and **Barbara**

Old Business: All hours have been updated in the book. As we all knew, **Michelle Harding** has completed her hours so was sworn in as OMGA Alternate Rep by **Jack Wright**. Congratulations, **Michelle**.

New Business: No Report

Show and Tell: **Toni Rudolph** who is a SHEBA Rep will be giving a presentation on Medicare 101, The Basics for

people new to Medicare. The meeting will be at the DC Library on October 11th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Also this is the time of year when you can unroll from your current plan and enroll into a different plan. You need to be aware that some of the drug plan costs will increase substantially next year. SHEBA can help you chose a plan that may cost you less. Be sure you read the letters and information that will be coming to you in the mail from your insurance company. She handed out brochures with the SHEBA meeting times, dates, where they will be held and what you need to bring to the meeting.

Steve will be giving an IPM Class on October 18th at the OSU Extension Auditorium from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Speakers will talk about different disease pest. A Marmorated stink bug researcher will also be presenting.

Jim Long who spearheads the Bio Char group had the first Bio Char exposition last year at the Discovery Garden. The group established stations in the Victory and Discovery Gardens, set up burners, actually made some bio char, and then had a technical discussion at the Pavilion. About 70 to 80 people came through in the course of the day. It was so successful they decided to do another, so the 2nd Bio Char exposition will be held this Saturday, Oct 20th from about 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Discovery Garden and HLC. You are encouraged to bring a sack lunch if you choose. They have invited several people from outside the area who have been doing research who will speak. **Steve** will be stationed in the Victory Garden, discussing how to use bio char in the garden. **Robyn Thompson** asked what the results were from last year's experiment. **Steve** said that bio char is not a quick fix. It may show a fairly quick response if your soil is very acidic, the char has a neutralizing effect. The purpose of bio char is, over the course of 4 to 5 years, to retain fertility. Using compost for example, most the nutrients have leached out in several years. The bio char will retain the fertility in the soil. This explains why the original sites in the Amazon which typically has very poor soil, were so fertile. The bio char will persist for hundreds of years. Adding char to your vegetable plots over time would be very positive.

Steve also brought basil and tomatoes for folks to take. Verona is a mild small leaf and the leaf of Mammoth basil can get as large as your hand. **Linda Thames** brought tomatoes. **Judy Mercer** brought crocosmia starts.

Betty Ison brought tiger lily seeds which can get 4 -5 feet tall. She has some that are 8 feet tall. They need to be planted in full sun.

Barbara Robinson reminded everyone that the Annual Bake Sale is November 17, 2012. She and **Sharon Hopkins** have secured Sherms for that day. You will be getting emails to remind you. Think about what you might want to bring,

Barbara distributed a Nursery and Garden Center Guide for the State of Oregon which were given to her by Heirloom Roses when she and **Gale** visited.

Bob Brindley mentioned that the Bio Char Group will have a booth at the Plant Sale.

Julie Stanbery introduced Paul's Mom visiting from Tucson. She also brought orange tiger Lilly bulbs which originally came from **Emil Johnson** who was a Master Gardner from years ago.

Steve Renquist gave away Russell's Wine Club gift certificate for 2 free tasting worth \$20 to **Dennis Moore**.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m., followed by a pot luck lunch and the Great Tomato Taste Off.

Treasurer's Report

Toni Rudolph

INCOME 08/29/12 - 09/25/12

Donation – contribution	\$5.00
Bank Interest	\$2.44
Soil Testing	\$110.00
Post Plant Sale	\$133.00
Compost Tea	\$230.00

TOTAL INCOME \$480.44

EXPENSES 08/29/12 - 09/25/12

Mgmt & Gen - Banquet	\$202.00
Mgmt & Gen - Officer gifts/supplies)	\$19.60
DG - Butterfly Garden	\$228.34
DG - Childrens/Japanese/Raised Beds/Signage	\$104.48
DG – Irrigation	\$310.58
DG – Maintenance	\$220.59
HLC - Greenhouse Supplies/Maintenance	\$116.64
HLC - Toilet Repairs & Supplies	\$214.99
HLC - Victory Garden	\$108.72
Plant Sale - Propane/Supplies	\$1,697.22

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,223.16

Breakdown of our accounts

Checking	\$1,468.06
Money Market - Reserves	\$6,659.10
Money Market	\$22,568.72

Ending Balance 09/25/12 \$30,695.88

Spotted Wing Drosophila 2012 Update

Steve Renquist

If you recall in 2009 OSU Extension joined with WSU and UC Berkeley to get a major grant from USDA to study the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD), and develop effective controls. Amy Dreves and Vaughn Walton from OSU have been heading up the research effort in Oregon. Amy and Vaughn have met with a large number of growers and gardeners advising them about their ongoing research findings and hearing back what farmers are seeing in the field.

In 2010 the SWD was present in most crop producing areas of the state, however the insect pest did not cause much crop damage. In 2011 the SWD started to do some serious damage to commercial berry and cherry crops that were not protected. In 2012 the SWD threat is being taken more seriously by commercial producers who are doing a better job of controlling the pest. However, many of the small farmers and homeowners who have not attended educational programs or read about the pest are suffering large losses this year.

In 2012 SWD trap counts started out high from late winter into spring because of the mild winter we had with very few hard freezes. Because the SWD caused crop damage in 2011 to commercial growers, they have been focused on good control methods and have been well prepared to protect their crops. Most commercial growers now understand that these insects are relatively easy to control but you have to be prepared by monitoring your crop areas with vinegar traps and applying controls in a timely manner.

The controls for SWD are readily available at local stores and include low toxicity products like Spinosad, and Malathion. Monitoring the pests continue to be done with plastic cups, vinegar, wine or baking yeast mixtures. Small farmers and homeowners just need to learn the control routine and use these locally available products.

To help reduce the number of small farm and homeowner losses let's all continue to share this information with friends, family, neighbors and anyone else who is gardening in our county. Ask them if they have lost fruit crops to spoilage that is accelerated by rot entering little holes in their fruit. If they have lost fruit to crop deterioration, have them look for little white larvae in the softening fruit. If crop loss has been a problem this year have them come by our OSU Extension office to get a

flier on SWD. This will inform them about the pest and how to deal with the pest.

What else have we learned about these pests this year? Additional tests have reinforced when the most effective time to apply controls is. Once again that key time is when your fruit crop gets full sized and starts to color. Don't wait until the crop is ripe and ready to harvest or the insect will have already laid eggs in the fruit. This year on my berry crops I applied controls when fruit was full sized and coloring and since the fruit crops had not finished ripening within 7-10 days I needed to apply a second application to allow the fruit time to fully ripen. I noticed with the higher overwintering population of SWD it is very important to apply at least one spray on all your berry crops and cherries.

The early crops in the previous two years made it to harvest without damage since we had cool springs. This year our spring was milder and the SWD population increased much more rapidly. Early season crops like strawberries, cherries, and early blueberries were all under pressure by early June. We are also recommending that when you are done harvesting fruit, if there are residual fruit still in the trees or bushes or on the ground you should either clean them up by hand or apply a second spray. This can be especially important if you have other fruit crops developing in the same yard or vicinity.

Another discovery from areas around the state is that when your fruit crop is mature the traps do not compete well to attract the pests. So again, monitor crops when the fruit is starting to color since the traps are still effective at that point. And use controls at that time if you are catching SWD. More work is being done on developing better attractants for the traps. Some early results show the possible link of a certain strain of yeast that seems to be ever present with the SWD. A better trap will be very helpful for all parties trying to enjoy the fine fruits of Oregon.

Follow the links below for more info on the SWD:

Protecting Garden Fruits from Spotted Wing Drosophila
<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/20883/em9026.pdf>

Recognize Fruit Damage from Spotted Wing Drosophila
<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/19525/em9021.pdf>

Meet Irene Thomason

Eileen Kelley



I remember the day I met Irene. It was a cold, foggy, rainy February morning when I first visited the Discovery Garden. I was still a trainee because I hadn't finished taking the class. But, eager to begin my journey and take my place in the annals of Douglas County Master Gardener history, out I went with my brand new garden gloves, two new clippers and a little white bucket with my initials printed on the side. Unfortunately, when I arrived I didn't know where to go or what to do. Luckily, Maureen Benice finally found me wandering aimlessly around the Garden, told me to follow her and took me to the Shade House where two ladies were busily working. Maureen introduced me to Gloria Amorde who was warm, kind and welcomed me to the green house. My attention then turned to the other lady in the green house as Maureen introduced me to Irene Thomason, who was sitting on a stool, repotting plants. When Irene looked at me, unsmiling, over the top of her glasses with her eyebrows slightly raised, two thoughts went through my mind. Firstly, the stone faces on Mt. Rushmore and secondly, "Yea though I walk through the valley of death". She was a tuff nut to crack. I worked hard to win her over and it was so worth my while; what a pleasure it is to know her.

Irene Thomason is a warm, dedicated, fun loving, knowledgeable individual who has been involved with this

organization since 2003. Every Tuesday, she can be found working in the shade house, repotting, watering, feeding the plants and imparting her special knowledge and wisdom to all the Newbies. She is an important member of the Plant Sale floor crew and can be found talking to customers and making sure the tables are kept full and looking professional. That green house would have a hard time without Irene. She is one of the main cogs in the Shade House wheel.

Irene was born in Lancaster, New York which is a suburb of Buffalo. She is the middle child, with one brother and one sister. Her Dad was a baker and Mom was Rosie the Riveter. According to her, she was not a good student, mostly B's and C's, her favorite subject was English. She got her nursing degree right out of high school, while living at home in Lancaster, then decided it was time for her to strike out on her own. Although she was invited to join her friends who were headed for Hollywood, California, she didn't want to go anyplace as common as Hollywood. So at the ripe old age of twenty three, Irene Thomason went to the wilds of Alaska which wasn't even a State yet. What an exceptionally brave thing to do, the determination and boldness to leave home and go so far away, all by herself. She knew what she wanted to do and she did it. She is amazing. Irene spent twenty years in Alaska where she met Jim, her husband of fifty one years and raised seven children, four daughters and three sons. During that time, she worked as a nurse in places like Anchorage, Sitka and Bethel. She also worked for the Alaska Native Service. Irene moved to John Day in 1978 where she continued her nursing career, moving to Roseburg in the early 1980's where she went to work for and retired from the VA in 2001. She has traveled throughout the USA and had the good fortune to visit Poland which is her ancestral home. This past February she and Jim revisited Lake Louise, Canada, where they honeymooned. Irene is a TV news junkie and her favorite flowers are tuberous begonias.

Irene is just as excited about the Master Gardener Program today as she was nine years. She says the very best thing about the Master Gardener's is the friendships. She wonders why some folks don't stay committed to the organization. She wonders what we can do as individuals to help them stay connected. Irene says, everything isn't about gardening, it's learning about the people and the friendships that make this organization great.

We appreciate your hard work, dedication and warm and giving spirit. Thank you, Irene Thomason.

Douglas County
Master Gardeners
Newsletter

1134 SE Douglas Avenue
Roseburg OR 97470

541-672-4461
1-800-883-7568

Articles for the November 2012
Newsletter are due by Noon on
Friday, October 26th, 2012

Send to:
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DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Executive Committee Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month. 9:00 AM Annex Kitchen. No December meeting

Chapter Meetings: Last Thursday of the month. January thru May: 10:00 AM, Annex Auditorium (following the continuing education session at 9:00 AM). June through August: 10:00 AM, members' gardens. September: 10:00 AM, Discovery Garden Pavilion. October and November: 10:00 AM, Annex Auditorium. No December meeting.

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

Douglas County Master Gardeners
PO BOX 1165
Roseburg OR 97470
Ph: 541-672-4461