



# Douglas County Master Gardeners

## January 2013 Newsletter

### Volume 28, Number 1

### Welcome, Class of 2013!

This January issue of our newsletter is intended primarily for you. It features contributions from the Officers and Committee Heads of our organization, describing our responsibilities and the opportunities you have to get involved yourself.

### Welcome Back, Veterans!

But first, a few notes for our veterans... Our annual potluck is on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, the first day of the Winter Training program. Bring a dish and join us at noon to meet the trainees and re-connect with fellow veterans.

Please submit your 2012 volunteer hours by January 18<sup>th</sup>, at the latest. Drop them off at the Plant Clinic, or mail to Pamela Barrows (her address is in the roster).

Steve Renquist is seeking Master Gardeners interested in teaching pruning classes to community groups. He is holding a special review session on Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the Discovery Garden

Steve has revised the Master Gardener curriculum with new topics and instructors. You are welcome to join us at the Annex on Tuesdays for any of these sessions.

Jan 8, 9 AM – Botany I – John Panches

Jan 8, 1 PM -- Climate & Weather of Douglas Co – Steve R

Jan 15, 9 AM – Botany II (Physiology) – John Panches

Jan 22, 9 AM – Pruning Trees, Shrubs & Vines – Steve R

Jan 29, 9 AM – Insects – Gail Langellotto

Feb 5, 9 AM – Pesticide Safety – Steve R

Feb 5, 1 PM – Vegetable Gardening – Marjorie Neal

Feb 12, 9 AM – Plant Disease and Diagnosis – Steve R

Feb 12, 1 PM – Plant ID – Raini Rippy

Feb 19, 9 AM – Care of Urban Trees – Tal Blankenship

Feb 19, 1 PM – Plant ID – Raini Rippy

Feb 26, 9 AM – Soils -- Elizabeth Murphy

Feb 26, 1 PM – Weed ID and Control – Shelby Filley

Mar 5, 9 AM – Garden Problem Solving – MG Team

Mar 5, 1 PM – Composting/Cover Crops – Joe Yetter, Steve R

Mar 12, 9 AM – Vertebrate Pests/Horticulture Myths – Leo Grass, Steve R

Mar 12, 1 PM – Integrated Pest Management – Steve R

### Calendar of Events

Mon, Jan 7, 9 AM, Plant Clinic – Insect Committee

Wed, Jan 9, 9 AM, Annex kitchen – Executive Board

Thu, Jan 10, 1 - 3 PM, Discovery Garden – Training for community pruning classes

Mon, Jan 21, 9 AM, Plant Clinic – Insect Committee

Thu, Jan 24, 9 AM, Annex – Continuing Education

Thu, Jan 24, 10 AM, Annex – Chapter meeting

Thu, Jan 24, 1 - 4 PM, Discovery Garden – Pruning fruit trees

Mon, Feb 4, 9 AM, Plant Clinic – Insect Committee

Fri, Feb 8, 1 – 4 PM, Discovery Garden – Pruning ornamental trees

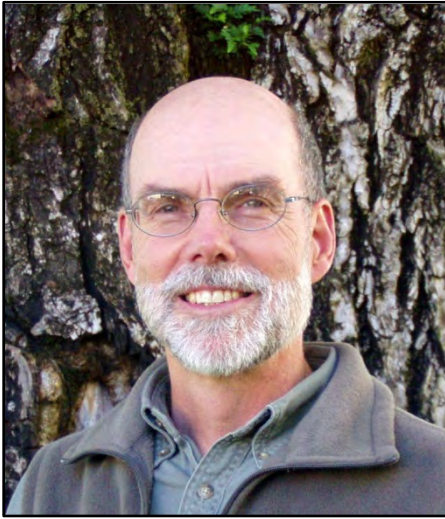
Fri, Feb 15, 1 – 4 PM, Discovery Garden – Pruning ornamental shrubs

Mon, Feb 18, 9 AM, Plant Clinic – Insect Committee

Sat, Feb 23, 8:30 AM, UCC – Spring Into Gardening

## OSU Horticultural Agent

Steve Renquist



Welcome to the class of Master Gardeners™ 2013. 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.

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. We encourage the class of 2013 to 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 twenty five 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 into Gardening" seminars, organizational committees, and mini-college.

## President

Larry Sutton



Welcome to all our new and Veteran Master Gardeners. This, the start of a new and great year, has the promise of being one of our best. As you look through the newsletter take the time to note the articles that catch your attention. Each officer and committee head has taken the time to outline what happens in their area of responsibility. One or more of these might well be the area where you will want to devote your volunteer efforts during the next twelve months.

This is an overview of how we accomplish our reason for being, the structure that provides you with the opportunity to help educate the people in Douglas County in healthy and sustainable gardening procedures. Please take the time to read the newsletter carefully and do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

As new master gardeners you are a member of the Douglas County Master Gardener's Association. We meet monthly on the last Thursday of the month. Our meetings help provide the direction for our group and you are all encouraged to attend. Veteran Masters Gardeners each have a vote in determining where we go. As soon as you complete your 60 hours of volunteer work you too will be eligible to vote. However, in the interim you are invited to participate in our meetings and contribute your ideas. Attending our meetings and training sessions gets you a step further in meeting all the other excited and adventurous Master Gardeners in Douglas County.

If you are truly adventurous you may want to consider the international conference this fall. The international arm of the Master Gardeners sponsors a conference every two years. This year it will be on a cruise ship leaving Seattle and sailing the Inland Passage to Alaska. Classes will be held when at sea and special gardening tours have been arranged while in port. So far, there are twenty-three signed up from Oregon and there are still a few berths available. If you are interested please contact Rosemary Brinkley, your state representative or myself for more detailed information.

Now as far as my job goes I am the one that presides at our meetings. As president it is my responsibility to appoint the committee heads and like a good juggler keep all the balls in the air. We owe our existence to volunteers and are fortunate to have the best volunteers that I have ever had the privilege of working with. Think about what you want to accomplish during the next twelve months and then join that group to make your goals a reality.

Once again everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. Thank you for your membership.

You can reach me at 541.459.7834 or [groofan@hotmail.com](mailto:groofan@hotmail.com).

## Vice President

Fred Alley



As the Vice President, 2011 Class member and Class Mentor, I welcome, you, the 2013 Master Gardeners. Each of you has embarked upon a new venture, one that I believe you will find very rewarding and enjoyable for years to come. The Douglas County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA) truly has a place for everyone. The Master Garden veterans are always willing to talk to you, answer your questions and help you find your place within the organization. During my first two years I found several different fits and in fact have had to turn some down. I have completed several interesting projects at the Discovery Garden, have gotten to know some incredible people and have broadened my horticulture knowledge tremendously. I genuinely believe you will have this same experience.

The Vice President's job includes a number of responsibilities: assisting the President in conducting meetings, act as Program Chairperson, serve as parliamentarian for the chapter and presiding at chapter meetings in the absence of the President.

Interestingly, the most exciting responsibility is to "Provide the home horticulture continual education program for the Chapter". We have had a variety of educational program in the past, including fungi/mushrooms, food dehydration, drip irrigation, bee pollen projection, and most recently "How to put the garden to bed for the Winter" and How to properly put your garden tools away to the winter". I'm always seeking ideas from our member, including the new members. You have "new eyes" and most importantly we want to make sure we address your questions, thoughts and ideas. Just keep in mind the programs need to relate to our Master Gardener Program. The Continuing Education Program is provided at 9:00am before our monthly chapter meeting. Both are held in the Auditorium, unless specified otherwise.

If you have any questions or suggested topics/programs, please feel free to contact me at 541.733.6232 or [fhasla@msn.com](mailto:fhasla@msn.com)

## Secretary

Jen Bailey



As Secretary, I publish the minutes of the Board and Chapter meetings, and maintain documentation of our official policies. I am also Co-Editor of this newsletter (with Clay Morrow), and Webmaster of our group web site.

I can be reached at 541.391.2130 or [jen@skylondaranch.com](mailto:jen@skylondaranch.com).

## Treasurer

Toni Rudolph



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 executive 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: [1ToniRudolph@gmail.com](mailto:1ToniRudolph@gmail.com) or 541.673.7803.

## Membership Director

Vickie McAlister



Welcome to the class of 2013! A year ago, I was sitting where you are. This is a great organization with many

opportunities and wonderful people to work with. The primary duties of the membership director are collecting our annual dues and maintaining a current roster of Douglas County Master Gardeners. As trainees, you won't pay dues until we collect for 2014. Our membership roster is a living document stored in spreadsheet format with all of our contact information. This includes name, address, telephone, and email address. Each spring we use the roster information to produce a hard copy version that each active and trainee master gardener receive. In addition to the above duties, the membership director also serves as a member on the Executive Board and attends the monthly board and chapter meetings. If you have any membership questions, changes to your contact information, or an interest in serving as membership director for the coming term, please see me at any chapter meeting or email me at [vmcalist@csulb.edu](mailto:vmcalist@csulb.edu).

## OMGA Representatives

Rosemary Brinkley  
Michelle Harding-Olson



As the Oregon Master Gardener Association Representative and Alternate Representative, Michelle and I meet quarterly with the other representatives from Master Gardener Chapters across the state and the OMGA Executive Board. We help make decisions that will set

OMGA policies and to develop goals and objectives for OMGA. We have the opportunity to share what Douglas County MG is doing with the rest of the state and to hear what projects the other chapters are participating in at their local area. We also provide verbal and written information to our local chapter on the activities of OMGA.

So what is OMGA??

OMGA and the county chapters were created in 1983 to support and supplement O.S.U's Master Gardener Program. OMGA is tax-exempt, and serves to unify and support Chapter programs and horticultural education. When you complete the Master Gardener Program, membership in OMGA is automatic the first year. After that, membership requires annual dues.

Services that OMGA provide are:

1. Educational outreach Gardeners Mini -College. This year it will be held in Corvallis on Aug. 7-9, 2013.
2. The Gardener's Pen a newsletter that will be published quarterly
3. Each Chapter receives the PNW Handbooks to be used in the plant clinic
4. Scholarships to an OSU horticultural student and scholarships to help send attendees to Mini-college
5. Grants to assist Chapters fund special projects
6. Search for Excellence Award - Recognizes outstanding projects by Chapters that can be adapted by other Chapters. Douglas County won the Search for Excellence last year.
7. Select and honor the Oregon State Master Gardener of the Year. Larry Sutton received this award last year. Other Douglas

County Master Gardeners who have received this award were Karl Carlson, Clint and Emogen Atherton, Betty Ison, Julie Stanberry, and Jack Wright.

8. Select and Honor the "Behind the Scenes" Master Gardener of the Year. Leo Grass received this award last year. Others from Douglas County who have received this award were Robert Modenhauer, Dorothy Roberts, Stew Avery, and Richard Johnstone.

Michelle and I look forward to getting to know the Master Gardener Winter Training Class the rest of the membership. If you have any questions about OMGA please ask us. Our next quarterly meeting will be held in Astoria on March 2, 2013. Would you like to go with us? You are more than welcome to join us.

## Community Outreach

Leo Grass



As you learn more about planting, growing, and harvesting, it's easy to overlook the real reason that we exist: to teach the people of our community efficient and sustainable gardening skills. We have a well-stocked tool box to help us do our work. The simplest and most direct is teaching gardening techniques to a wide variety of our friends and neighbors. Our 'Speaker's Bureau' is

a group of us that enjoy giving presentations to various groups. We teach all ages, from preschool to senior citizens. We have a library of Power Point presentations; we do live classes on a wide variety of gardening skills.

If you would like to join our Speakers Bureau, contact me: Leo Grass, Community Outreach.

## Plant Clinic

Judy Mercer



Welcome to the Plant Clinic.

My job is to coordinate all Plant Clinic and satellite clinic activities. I also consult with our librarians on the resource materials; keep our resource files, office forms and time sheets replenished as needed. I coordinate our Clinic training program.

The Plant Clinic is where the objective of the Master Gardener Program really comes to life. We are able to take the knowledge that we have gained and pass it along to the home gardener. We diagnose plant diseases, identify insects, answer general gardening questions and give information on controlling vertebrate pests. At the same time, we are continuing to learn. It's exciting and

fun and I hope you will enjoy it as much as I do. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

## Insect Committee

Bob Brindley

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 for more information.

## Communications

Shirley Purcell

As the 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](mailto: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. My phone number is 541.673.3818. Thank you for helping spread Master Gardener news to all.

## Trash to Treasures Sale

Deb Haynes  
Cindy Rich



Spring brings our Trash to Treasure Sale - this year it is March 23. We'll be setting up the 22nd. More on all that, with SIGN-UPS later.....Cindy Rich and Deb Haynes are heading up the team this year and are looking forward to this fund raising event.

Please save items in CLEAN AND GOOD REPAIR for the sale! We like to collect almost anything except clothing/shoes/handbags/ hats. We just don't have the room to manage those things. We do accept costume jewelry, toys, games, dvd's, cd's, housewares, furniture, garden and yard items, tools, decorations, yarn and craft items, art supplies, household remodel pass-it-ons....but no live plants or animals.

This year, we'll have a place to store larger items. If you have furniture, carts, tools or large boxes of items, you may call Deb Haynes - 541-677-0900 for instructions on where to deliver your donations. As with any donation please make sure they are usable. Dusty is fine, but no moldy, smelly, rodent inhabited/poop/peed on, or obviously really dirty items of any kind will be accepted! No exceptions.

Please be saving your plastic bags for us, or paper ones. Remember, those multiple items you get for Christmas might just have a home at our sale! We'll have more information in the February newsletter on how YOU can help make this sale fun and successful. Thanks for now!

## Plant and Garden Expo

Barbara Robinson  
Sharon Hopkins



Have you got your 2013 calendar close by? If not, track it down and

turn to the month of May. Now circle Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, the date for our 2013 Plant and Garden Expo at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. The annual event is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Monies raised help finance our plant clinic, community outreach programs, winter training program, etc.



*Tasha King and Gloria Amorde,  
Greenhouse Coordinators*

Preparation for the Expo is a year-round endeavor. Greenhouse crews can be found working every Tuesday morning from 9-12. Tender loving care is given to various plants, shrubs, trees, and seedlings preparing them for relocation to their new homes. As spring arrives, greenhouse crews go into fast forward mode and can be found working multiple days a week. We pride ourselves in producing a quality "product" at a competitive price. The community has grown to appreciate our efforts and, as a result, is extremely supportive of this event.

In the next few weeks you will have the opportunity to view the various functions of our greenhouses and try your hand at seed starting, propagating, root pruning, etc. Do not be intimidated by these terms..... No experience necessary! We are an equal opportunity on the job training organization!

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

## Victory Garden

Mik Carlson

Lorreen Robinson



Greetings to the Master Gardener Class of 2013. The HLC's Victory Garden has had three great years, and we are already looking forward to a fourth. 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 is always plenty of jobs to be done...moving compost, planning, planting, fertilizing, mulching, pruning, harvesting, and, of course, weeding.

Second, by donating fresh, nutritious produce to UCAN, Master Gardeners are promoting and contributing to a healthier community. Last year we grew 3,412 pounds of vegetables to be distributed to local pantries and community kitchens. We, also, collected 800 pounds of produce from home gardens.

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.

## Discovery Garden

Julie Stanbery



**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, xeriscape, 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 15 & 22.** 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 lay-out 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.

During MG training class, we have scheduled one work day each month: Fri, Jan. 18, Fri, Feb.1 and Fri, Mar. 8 each day from 9am to noon.

Starting March 26, 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 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 672-7175.**

## Rock Garden

Tasha King

For those of you interested in participating in the development of the new garden space in the Discovery Garden, we have plans to create a Rock Garden with alpine plants. We received a grant from the North American Rock Garden Society to cover the materials. Construction will begin this spring. This winter we

can work on the garden design, collect local rock and other materials needed as well as propagating alpine plants. We will also need ideas for the plant labels and informational signs. All are welcome to be involved in any part of the process. Contact me at [tashaking1234@gmail.com](mailto:tashaking1234@gmail.com) or 541.391.3303

## Xeris What??

Eileen Kelley

Debbie Hesseltine

I knew from working with Gloria Amorde and her team in the Shade House that she was ready to turn over the Xeriscape Garden to someone who had more time and wasn't quite as busy as she, but I was just not brave enough to take it on by myself. Last month I happen to mention it to Debbie who was also looking for something new and different to do. As two heads are always better than one and there is safety in numbers, we decided to give it a go. With Gloria's blessing, we jumped in with both feet pruning, cleaning and planning for our Xeriscape garden's future.

The first thing we had to do was to determine what Xeriscape was exactly and research plants that fit the definition. On an outing to a local nursery, we told the nurseryman that we wanted colorful, fragrant flowers that were also drought tolerant. He said he'd be back in a minute...but he must have gotten really busy, because he never did come back! Guess that told us everything we needed to know, so we changed the way we viewed Xeriscape gardening and hit the books again. As we begin to familiarize ourselves with water conserving drought tolerant plants and under Gloria's tutelage, we are really excited to get started.

We already have plans for vertical gardening, a trellis and perhaps an arbor. I love walking under things. Gloria and her team have created a beautiful garden area that we can build on to reflect our own ideas and personalities.

It's a learning process for us but one which we are looking forward to. We invite and hope that new MGs will join us, as we can use all the help we can get and we can all learn together. Debbie and I can use your expertise and energy as well as your ideas and suggestions...not to mention your backs. And, we hope our Veteran MG friends will join us for a morning of hard work, fun and laughter. See you in the garden.

## Dahlia Garden

Elva Sellens

The goal of the dahlia bed is to show the various forms and colors to the public and to discover the joy of growing dahlias. Dahlias are a member of the Composite family. Dahlias originated from highlands of Mexico, Guatemala and Colombia. The genus 'Dahlia' consists of 35 species. Majority of the species were a single row of petals. The dahlia arrived in Europe in 1789. Abbe Cavanilles, the curator of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Madrid Spain, first attempt to grow the dahlia from tubers and seeds was not successful because the botanist treated the dahlia as a tropical flower and it soon died. Cavanilles tried again, this time with more success, and he was assisted by Dr Andreas Dahl, a Swedish Botanist and a former student of Linnaeus (famous for developing the system of classifying plants). The Abbe allowed Dr Dahl the honor of giving his name to the new flower thus the name Dahlia. The



Abbe sent dahlia seeds and tubers all over Europe where the modern dahlia has evolved. The British developed the ball dahlia, Germany the pompon, French the collarette, and Dutch the cactus type. The Pacific Northwest is known worldwide for their dahlia originations. From the single row of petals, the dahlia has evolved to a double ray flower (multiple rows of petals). The American Dahlias Society (ADS) recognizes the following forms: formal decorative, informal decorative, semi-cactus, incurved cactus, straight cactus, lacinated, ball, miniature ball, pompon, waterlily, stellar and double novelty; and the open centered dahlias are peony-flowering, single, mignon single, orchid-flowering, collarette, anemone, and open center novelty. Since the dahlia is still evolving, the ADS recognizes a novelty section in both the double ray flowers and the open centered flowers. The most recent form recognized by ADS is the Stellar form where the petals are long and thin. ADS now has 16 color classes: white, yellow, orange, pink, dark pink, red, dark red, lavender, purple, bronze, variegated, bi-color, flame, light blend, dark blend, and the newest black. The dahlia does not have the color gene for blue or green. Sizes range from miniature which is under 4" to giant which is over 10" in diameter. Dahlias are shown by size, type and color.

I have grown and shown dahlias for the past 25 years and belong to the Douglas County Dahlia Society. I grow about 500 dahlias each year in my yard between my show flowers and my seedlings. Dahlias in this area are planted in Mid-May and will start blooming, depending on the variety, late July to August and will continue to bloom until frost. It is important to dead head spent blooms

to keep your plant vigorous enough to continue blooming through the Fall months. I hope you will stop and see the dahlias in the Discovery Gardens, and to learn to enjoy growing dahlias in your own garden.

## Japanese Garden

Chris Rusch

The Japanese Garden began in 1998 when Roseburg's sister city Shobu, Japan brought visitors to Roseburg that connected with the Master Gardner Program volunteers and came up with the plan to have a Japanese Garden at the Discovery Gardens at River Forks Park.

The Japanese garden is intended as a place for quiet reflection. To achieve this impression of quiet, all brilliant colors are renounced and preference is given to the various kinds of predominately evergreen plants.

Through the use of evergreen plants, the garden can be viewed anytime of year, but spring and early summer are the best.

Many trees and shrubs are represented in the Japanese Garden among these are: rhododendrons and azaleas, flowering cherry, wisteria, plum, maples, dogwood, pines, cedars, camellia, hawthorns, bayberry, andromeda, winterberry, and others.

Some of the highlights of the garden are: the walking paths, stone lake, stepping stones, and arched bridge. Japanese ornaments and a tea house are all interwoven into the garden along with beautiful trees and shrubs. The garden creates a special beauty to the beholder from any point as you walk throughout the garden.

## Vermicomposting Bins & Compost Tea

Shirley Purcell

Barbara Robinson

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. If you are interested in starting your own worm bin, start-up worms are available to you at no cost

The 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 lbs 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.

# Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: Deadline for February 2013 newsletter is January 25<sup>th</sup>. Mail submissions to [dcmgnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:dcmgnewsletter@gmail.com).

Web Site: [extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/douglas-county-oregon-master-gardeners](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/douglas-county-oregon-master-gardeners)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487)

Horticulture Agent: [extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture), e-mail: [steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu](mailto:steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu)

OSU Douglas County Extension Service: [extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas)

OSU Gardening – web site: [extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening), monthly gardening calendar: [extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/calendar](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/calendar), monthly newsletter: [extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/enews](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/enews)

OSU Master Gardeners – web site: [extension.oregonstate.edu/mg](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg), Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/OSUMG](http://www.facebook.com/OSUMG)

Oregon Master Gardeners Association – web site: [www.oregonmastergardeners.org](http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org), newsletter: [www.oregonmastergardeners.org/GardenersPen.htm](http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org/GardenersPen.htm)



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