



Douglas County Master Gardeners

February 2013 Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 2

Bonnie Courter, 2012 Behind-the-Scenes Master Gardener



contributed by Clay Morrow

"I think it's thrilling to plant a seed and watch it grown into something completely different", said Bonnie Courter. "It still amazes me."

Although Bonnie had no previous Extension experience, she has always liked gardening. Her parents were gardeners and set an example for her. After her husband retired, gardening became a more important part of her life. Like many people at such a point, Bonnie decided to join the Master Gardeners in 2007 and attended classes alongside Maureen Benice.

"When I first took the course, I wanted to just learn for myself, but the more involved that I became, the more my horizons have expanded. The payback has a lot of unexpected personal value." Bonnie can often be found at Discovery Garden work days. Considering the intrinsic value to these mundane chores, she stated: "I've made some great friendships while hauling wheelbarrows full of wood chips. I think it's a great thing."

Calendar of Events

- Mon, Feb 4, 9 AM, Annex – Insect Committee
- Mon, Feb 4, 9 AM, DG – Greenhouse Crew
- Tue, Feb 5, 9 AM, Annex – Pesticide Safety
- Tue, Feb 5, 1 PM, Annex – Vegetable Gardening
- Fri, Feb 8, 1 PM, DG – Pruning Ornamental Trees
- Mon, Feb 11, 9 AM, DG – Greenhouse Crew
- Tue, Feb 12, 9 AM, Annex – Plant Disease/Diagnosis
- Tue, Feb 12, 1 PM, Annex – Plant ID
- Tue, Feb 12, 1 PM, DG – Greenhouse Seeding
- Wed, Feb 13, 9 AM, Annex – Executive Committee
- Fri, Feb 15, 1 PM, DG – Pruning Ornamental Shrubs
- Mon, Feb 18, 9 AM, Annex – Insect Committee
- Mon, Feb 18, 9 AM, DG – Greenhouse Crew
- Tue, Feb 19, 9 AM, Annex – Care of Urban Trees
- Tue Feb 19, 1 PM, Annex – Plant ID
- Tue, Feb 19, 1 PM, Annex – Greenhouse Seeding
- Wed, Feb 20, 10 AM, Annex – Diagnostics Committee
- Sat, Feb 23, 8:30 AM, UCC – Spring Into Gardening
- Mon, Feb 25, 9 AM, DG – Greenhouse Crew
- Tue, Feb 26, 9 AM, Annex – Soils
- Tue, Feb 26, 1 PM, Annex – Weed ID and Control
- Thu, Feb 28, 9 AM, Annex – Discovery Garden Opportunities, Hours Reporting
- Thu, Feb 28, 10 AM – Chapter meeting
- Mon, Mar 4, 9 AM, DG – Greenhouse Crew
- Mon, Mar 4, 1 PM, DG – Rose & Hydrangea Pruning
- Fri, Mar 8, 9 AM, DG – Japanese Garden Pruning

Bonnie and her husband live on 1.5 acres in Dixonville where they maintain two large plots for vegetables and supplement their vegetables with fruit from their old apple and pear trees.

When asked about her favorite thing to grow, she informed me that "cucumbers for pickles" are her current pick.

Like many of us should, Bonnie keeps a journal. Ever since 1996, she has diligently written down her successes and failures. This has allowed her to learn from her mistakes and improve upon her techniques. I, for one, intend to follow her example starting this year.

When asked about her time with the organization, Bonnie was quick to respond. "I see a big change into evolving to the digital age." She went on to cite the increasing accessibility to information thanks to emails, calendars and web sites for information. Like many of us, she primarily uses the computer when in the plant clinic...while underscoring the value of our reference library. Concerning the future of the Master Gardeners, she views it as a natural process. Getting the organization onto Facebook, for example, increases our visibility in the community and provides even more access to the nature of our group.

Bonnie is a great example of what it means to be a Master Gardener. She works hard and intelligently. This characteristic extends from the garden into every facet of her efforts on behalf of the organization. She has a genuine passion for growing things. Most of all, however, Bonnie embodies the friendly, welcoming nature of the Master Gardeners. We thank you Bonnie, for all of your hard work and your friendly, thoughtful nature.

Among Bonnie's many contributions, she is currently our Publicity Chair. She writes,

Welcome to the Class of 2012! As Publicity Chair for the Douglas County Master Gardeners, my job is to inform our local communities about upcoming events and fundraisers we sponsor throughout the year by working with the media. That entails writing Public Service Announcements (PSA's) to newspapers, radio and TV. I may also write news stories highlighting special events, awards, projects, or anything that may showcase our organization and its value to the community. A large part of my job is centered on our biggest fundraiser, the Plant and Garden Expo, which is held the first Saturday in May. I coordinate and design paid advertising for the sale, as well as fliers and bookmarks to distribute around the community. I attend

Executive Board and Chapter meetings to keep up-to-date on what's happening. If you have a good idea for an article, or possibly a TV or radio spot, please let me know. You can reach me at rbcourter@gmail.com, or by phone at 541-672-3071. Enjoy your new adventure in gardening!

New Hour Swinger Bars for 2013

Betty Ison, Awards Chair

The following volunteers have earned new swinger bars for 2013. Come see Betty Ison to get your new swinger. You **must** turn in your old swinger to get a new one. Just as a reminder new swingers are only given out once a year in January, so if your name is not on this list you have not earned a new bar and will have to wait until January of next year should you earn the hours to get one during the year.

60 HRS: Carlyle Kirkendall, Clay Morrow, Jim Muno, Janet Parkerson, Mickie Schuyler, Edith Wilkison

200 HRS: Fred Alley, Janice Bartholomew, Betty Bean, Rosemary Brinkley, Beth Brown, Pat Dinsmore, Marty Katz, Vicki McAlister, Darlene Morey, Della Neavoll, Elva Sellens, Jon Thran

500 HRS: Mary Lou Davidson, Eileen Kelley, Chris Rusch, Robyn Thompson

750 HRS: Debbie Haynes, Debbie Hesseltine, Sharon Hopkins, Cindy Rich

1000 HRS: Jackie Carpenter, Dave Hopkins, Barbara Robinson, Gale Robinson, Toni Rudolph

1500 HRS: Patricia Gilbert, Judith Mercer

2000 HRS: Maureen Benice, Linda Thames

3000 HRS: Karolyn Riecks, Irene Thomason

4000 HRS: Barbara MacPherson

4500 HRS: Shirley Purcell

5000 HRS: Philece Humphrey

5500 HRS: Gloria Amorde, Larry Sutton

7000 HRS: Tasha King

12,000 HRS: Betty Ison

President's Report

Larry Sutton

This week Gail Langellotto published her 2012 Annual Report and then visited us to be a guest lecturer for the winter class. The two are related in that she shared some of the Master Gardener accomplishments with the new class.

	Oregon	Douglas County
Master Gardeners	4,160	278
Public Contacts	186,494	4,611
Hours Contributed	194,898	16,250
Dollar Value of Hours*	\$4,200,000	\$354,087.50

*Dollar value of hours calculated by multiplying hours donated by \$21.79, the dollar estimate per volunteer hour in 2011.

This dollar value is just one of the ways that the Master Gardener service hours are used to justify the budget allocated by the State to Extension. This is just one more reason why it is important to report your hours and in a timely manner.

That was the good news. There are also areas where Douglas County did not fare so well on a state wide comparison.

	Oregon	Douglas County
Mean Hours Service/MG	71	58
Mean Contacts/MG	68	17

From this it is fairly obvious that we have a small number of Master Gardeners doing a large share of the work. Other chapters get around this by requiring members to recertify each year to retain their membership. We have not done this and I would hate to see us start. Personally I value the members that have served us over the years and now want to show support by retaining their membership. It is a real good feeling to run into these people when in town and hear them talk about how proud they are to still be considered a Master Gardener. Maybe we could do something in the future to include our less active members in our activities.

Now that is the past. We are a month into a new year and things are moving along rapidly. Cindy and Deb have plans for an outstanding Trash to Treasures Sale this year. Updated flyers are available for the Spring into Gardening, so pick some up and give them to your friends. Not only

will they learn the latest in gardening techniques but it is also good marketing for the Master Gardener Association. Signups started at the last monthly meeting for this year's Plant Expo. If you missed the first opportunity, sign-up sheets will be available at each Tuesday's winter training and in the plant clinic.

We all need to start thinking about who we want to lead us next year. I know it seems early but our by-laws require us to present the nominations for office in May, publish the nominations in the June Newsletter and hold the election in July. Time it is a flying.

Rosemary Brinkley is chairing the Nominating Committee. If you would like to serve on the committee to help set the direction for our chapter next year, please let her know. Please start thinking about who you would like to see leading us next year in all the elected positions as we want to pick the very best forward thinking people possible.

In closing I would like to remind everyone that we need to continue learning in order to best represent the Master Gardener program in Douglas County. One of the best ways to do this is by attending Mini-College and taking part in the wonderful classes offered there. We are also fortunate this year to have the International Master Gardener Conference being offered on the west coast. If you would like to enjoy the good life onboard a cruise ship, see Alaska and meet and learn with Master Gardeners from all over the world this is the opportunity for you. Eighty per cent of the cabins set aside for us have already been reserved so there is still time for you. Of course if you want to get a particular cabin or deck you had better hurry. Go to www.uaex.edu/imgc2013/default.htm for all the details about classes and costs.

Vice President's Report

Fred Alley

It appears we have a full Continuing Education calendar through May. We have had excellent presentations this far starting with "Identification of apples by taste and appearance", by our OSU Horticultural Agent Steve Renquist in October. November's presentations were "How to put the garden to bed for the winter" by Leo Grass and "How to properly put your garden tools away for the winter" by Fred Alley.

This January's program will be a presentation by Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver, Rayma Davis on the "Douglas County Master Food Preserver's and Food Safety

Program". Rayma will share with us just what the Master Food Preserver Program is, what the Master Food Preserves do, how we (you) can become a Master Food Preserver and what the benefits of participating in the program. Since Rayma is both a Master Food Preserver (MFP) and a Master Gardener, (MG) she will be able to more easily illustrate the linkages between the two programs. More and more of us are focusing on maximizing our gardening opportunities from finding ways to maximize our growing seasons, to preserving our garden products. We are recognizing the importance of sustainable gardening practices and utilizing self-reliance practices, such as food preservation, at the same time.

Our February Continuing Education Program will be two fold: 1) The Discovery Garden, what are the opportunities and how you can become involved, by MG Julie Stanbery and 2) The proper use of the Master Gardeners Time Sheet, by MG Pam Barrows. This particular program will be valuable for the 2013 MG Trainees.

While it is only February, we are already thinking about the upcoming spring gardening. As both Leo and I discussed, we really never "put the garden to bed" nor "do we ever but our garden tools away for the winter". Today, as I was browsing my way through Farmer's Coop and Lowes, I noticed I was not the only early bird. Even the store clerks were putting out new garden hand tools. What a temptation.

Oh yes, a reminder that the "Spring into Gardening" classes will be held at UCC on February 28th. I encourage the new 2013 MG Trainees to participate in this educational opportunity. Sign up for all the classes. You will be amazed how much you will learn in this one-day event. Additionally you will get an opportunity to meet your fellow trainees as well as a number of veteran Master Gardeners.

Secretary's Report

Jen Bailey

The OSU Douglas County Master Gardeners chapter meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM on January 31, 2013 by President **Larry Sutton**. Fifty three members were in attendance. The agenda was accepted as written. The minutes of the November 2012 chapter meeting were approved as written.

HORTICULTURE AGENT – **Steve Renquist** has a sign-up sheet for helping with Spring Into Gardening on February

23rd. Please distribute flyers for Spring Into Gardening around the community.

Steve is teaching a class on pruning ornamental trees on Friday, February 8th and one on pruning ornamental shrubs on Friday, February 15th.

Steve summarized Gail Langellotto's 2012 annual report on Oregon Master Gardeners. See the OMGA Report on page 6 for more details.

Steve shared that a Japanese research study found that spending time in outdoor gardens reduced blood pressure and had other positive health effects. Also, the death of millions of ash trees in the eastern half of the US by the Emerald Ash Borer has been correlated to a decrease in human life expectancy in these areas. To quote Steve, "When trees die, people die."

Steve is seeking a replacement speaker for the session on Mushroom Identification at Spring Into Gardening.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – **Vicki McAlister** is still collecting dues. We had 268 members in 2012. So far, only 176 have paid their 2013 dues. Vicki circulated a list of members who have not yet paid.

OMGA REPRESENTATIVE – **Rosemary Brinkley's** report is on page 6.

TREASURER – **Toni Rudolph** reported that we are in good financial shape. We have \$5,500 not yet committed in the 2013 budget. Once we know how much we made at the Plant Sale in May, we may allocate funds for greenhouse capital investment, the Extension endowment fund or other projects.

IRS reporting requirements have changed for non-profits making less than \$50,000. Consequently, it only took Toni a few hours to complete the 2012 taxes, as opposed to multiple days as in the past.

VICE PRESIDENT – **Fred Alley** was not present

PAST PRESIDENT -- **Judy Huntley** had nothing to report.

PRESIDENT – **Larry Sutton** reported that we are waiting to hear if the proposal to hold the 2017 International Master Gardeners Conference in Portland, Oregon, has been accepted. We're also waiting on the results of the Search for Excellence competition.

Rosemary Brinkley is Chair of the Nominating Committee, to identify people interested in becoming officers.

Ann Swaggerty is the 2013 Class Representative to our Board.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – **Leo Grass** reported that **Shirley Purcell** gave a class on Vermiculture to the Sutherlin Garden Club. **Maureen Benice** and **LaVerne Bailey** gave classes on roses to the Sutherlin and Lookingglass Garden Clubs. **Leo Grass** and **Jen Bailey** helped the Yoncalla kindergarten class transplant broccoli.

PLANT CLINIC – **Judy Mercer's** report is on page 6.

DISCOVERY GARDEN – **Julie Stanbery's** report is on page 7. She also noted that **Maureen Benice** and **LaVerne Bailey** are teaching rose pruning on Monday, March 4th, from 1 to 4 at the Discovery Garden.

Twelve to fifteen members of the 2013 class expressed interest in working with **Jen Bailey** on signage for the Discovery Garden.

The raised bed closest to the Children's Garden is now part of the Children's Garden. The two Dahlia raised beds are swapping space with the picnic tables. The Lilies raised bed is remaining where it is.

Thanks to John Punches, the two trees in the Butterfly Garden have been removed, increasing the amount of sunshine.

Eileen Kelley created an awesome map of the Discovery Garden, with explanations of each area. **Julie** is making arrangements to get this map to all Master Gardeners.

AWARDS – **Betty Ison's** report is on page 2.

PUBLICITY – **Bonnie Courter** had nothing to report.

PLANT SALE – **Barbara Robinon, Sharon Hopkins**

Sign-up sheets for the Plant Sale are available, and will be at all MG meetings for the next three months. **Janet Parkerson** volunteered to chair the Cleanup Committee. **Rosemary Brinkley** and **Deb Haynes** are soliciting donations from the membership for raffle prizes. The Hat contest will be held again, with a new process to handle the voting. **Sharon Hopkins** mentioned that many of the 2013 trainees expressed interest in helping with the Plant Sale.

TRASH-TO-TREASURES – **Cindy Rich** and **Debbie Haynes's** report is on page 6.

WINTER TRAINING / SPRING INTO GARDENING – **Maureen Benice** reported that the concurrent sessions

were held this past Tuesday at the Winter Training class. Next week is **Steve Renquist** on Pesticide Safety, and **Marjory Neal** on Vegetable Gardening.

Help is needed for Spring Into Gardening for registration and room monitors.

HALLMARK – **Linda Thames** sent a card to the family of Dwayne Hatch, founder of the Hatch Patch radio show. **Margory Milroy** is living in Arizona, and appreciates cards. **Mike Bunyard** was sent a card. Many thanks to John Punches for removing the two trees in the Butterfly Garden.

NEWSLETTER – **Larry Sutton** reported that **Jen Bailey** has taken over from **Clay Morrow** as Newsletter Editor. Clay will be writing articles for the newsletter. Jen reminded everyone that the February newsletter deadline is tomorrow, February 1st.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

SHOW-AND-TELL – None

ANNOUNCEMENT – See the Calendar on page 1.

Treasurer's Report

Toni Rudolph

INCOME 1/1/13 – 1/29/13

Donations	\$20.00
Dues - membership	\$1,690.00
Dues – hardcopy newsletter	\$165.00

TOTAL INCOME **\$1,875.00**

EXPENSES 1/1/13 – 1/29/13

Mgmt & Gen – Hospitality	\$125.82
PSP – Winter Program - Speakers	\$150.00

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$275.82**

Breakdown of our accounts

Checking	\$1,656.19
Money Market – Reserves	\$6,659.10
Money Market	\$15,573.09

Ending Balance 1/29/13 **\$23,888.38**

OMGA has resumed publishing its quarterly newsletter. The December 2012 issue is at <http://www.omga.org/docs/GardenersPen/December2012Gardeners%20Pen%20pdf.pdf>

OMGA Report

Rosemary Brinkley

I am pleased to announce that OMGA has a Secretary. Mary Drew from Marion County has volunteered to serve in that capacity. There is also a newer and shorter web site address for OMGA. It is <http://www.omga.org>.

Gail Langellotto, the Statewide Coordinator for Master Gardeners, indicated in her end of the report that we have 4,160 active MG volunteers. 845 of those volunteers having been trained in 2012, and 68% of them have completed their volunteer obligation. Master Gardeners have made over 186,500 public contacts and have contributed over 195,000 volunteer hours. This translates into a dollar value of \$4.2 million. MG Chapters have donated over 135,000 pounds of food to their local food banks. What an amazing group of folks we are.

So how is Douglas County doing? We had 240 active members and trained 38 last year. 74% of last year's trainees have completed their volunteer service obligation. We gave 16,500 hours of service and had 4,611 public contacts. Our victory Garden donated 3,300 pounds of food. Well done Douglas County Master Gardeners.

There is still room for YOU if you would like to attend the 2013 International MG Conference being held Sept. 7-14 on an Alaskan Cruise. Rooms range in price from \$899 to \$2,749, depending on their location on the ship. The cost for 8 seminars is \$195. At this time there are 850 MG and friends attending, 23 of them from Oregon. If you would like to be # 24 from Oregon, go to <http://www.uaex.edu> and register.

Next OMGA Board meeting will be held in Gleneden Beach on March 2. Want to come along. Call Rosemary at 673-8814.

Notes from the Plant Clinic

Judy Mercer

Good news from the Plant Clinic! Our Clinic training for the Class of 2013 will begin on Monday February 4th. All of the open slots in the Clinic will be held for the students and their Mentors until they have completed their first two training sessions. When that is complete I will send out an email and signups will be open to all comers. Our Teaching staff; consisting of Leo Grass, Chris Rush, Larry Sutton, Karolyn Riecks and Judy Mercer, have all returned

this year and I want to thank them all. It is a big commitment and they do a great job.

One of our Librarians, Marilyn Klingbeil, has reorganized our Subject notebooks so that the categories coincide with our Code system. This should make it much easier to find the books we need on a particular subject. Thank you Marilyn for all you hours of hard work.

If you have any gardening questions, or plants or insects to be identified I would encourage you to bring them by and give the students some practice. We will be open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday until the completion of class and then we will add Tuesday.

See you in the Clinic.

Trash to Treasures Sale

Deb Haynes, Cindy Rich

Save the date! We need your help and donations for our annual fund raiser Trash to Treasure Sale on Saturday, March 23rd. We will setup and take donations on Friday, March 22rd, from 9am to 4pm in the annex auditorium.

Start saving your CLEAN and WORKING items to donate. We do accept jewelry, toys, games, books, electronics, furniture, garden and yard items, housewares, tools, craft items, decorations, holiday items, and ... As you can see, we take almost anything, except no clothes, shoes, or live plants.

The signup sheets will be available later in February, So, please sign up to help. You can work half a day, all day, or whatever works for you. We need helpers taking in the donations, pricing, displaying the items on the tables, helping customers take their purchases to their cars, greeters, cashiers, and other jobs.

This year we have a place to store larger items. Please call Deb Haynes to make arrangements to bring them to her house.

If you have any grocery plastic or paper bags to spare, please bring them on Friday or Saturday. We always need a lot of them for the sale.

If you have any questions, please call or email either of us. Deb Haynes; 541-677-0900; thedebhay@gmail.com Cindy Rich; 541-677-1882; csneal2@yahoo.com

The sale is Saturday, March 23rd from 9am to 4pm. Invite your friends to come.

Discovery Garden

Julie Stanbery

January was a very busy month in the garden. Thanks to our new students, their mentors and our devoted veterans, we have hauled dozens of loads of broken limbs, weeds and pruned limbs to the burn pile. The Helleck Hall garden has been spruced up for spring, we have started mulching fence lines and whacked (love the imagery) the tall grasses.

Our biggest news is that Noel, his gang of digging Daves and Gale and Leo have stopped the leak!! Five new valves have been installed, some repaired, all mapped out and secured by really big concrete curbs. Good job all.

The 2nd most exciting news is the lock on the ladies bathroom has been repaired. Yeah!!

Our next two pruning sessions are payback opportunities. Garden areas will be flowering trees and ornamental shrubs. These are common topics of interest for the home gardener and a great hands-on learning experience. Our next work day will be Friday, March 8 when Steve will help us prune the Japanese Garden. This is always an interesting day and you will learn methods that conform to the special trees and shrubs used in the Japanese Garden.

We have also scheduled the rose and hydrangea pruning session for Monday, March 4 from 1-4.

Finally, these are the guidelines for using the pavilion.

1. Available for educational purposes at no charge to 3 groups: DCMG, Extension Staff & DC Recycling Manager.
2. One named person from the above list will assume responsibility for each reservation.
 1. Duties include: unlock/lock supply room, put up/ take down any chairs or tables, clean floor and close all gates, remove any signs/posters and IMMEDIATE removal of all garbage from the site.
 2. No projects or classes of any sort that use chemicals, glue or paint may be done in the pavilion. These should be setup outside the garden area.
 3. Reservation calendar is in the MG plant clinic. List the name of group, name & phone number of responsible person and time of use on the calendar.
 4. Remember that the garden is open to the public at all times. Pavilion users may post a "reserved" sign for day of use.
 5. Extension staff may make their own reservations.

Groups may contact Julie Stanbery or Leo Grass for further info.

6. MGs may use the pavilion for non-educational events such as family gatherings or club meetings. The MG assumes all the above responsibilities and must attend said event. We would appreciate a donation for use of the pavilion under these circumstances.

See you in the garden!

Butterfly Garden

Gayle Ward

Our purpose is to attract butterflies and other pollinators with colors and scents. The plants for butterflies attract humming birds as well.

Our flowers and shrubs start blooming in February and last through November. We plant bulbs for show all year. Our continuing challenge is lack of sunshine in the garden as butterflies love sunshine. We have a few special features for the public to enjoy: our butterfly house and bird baths with san and rock for butterflies to drink.

As a committee for the garden, we experiment with a combination of plants, texture, colors and smells. We are looking forward to the new and veteran Master Gardeners sharing their ideas and questions with us and becoming part of our garden team, the "Busy Bees". Our fun activities include visiting nurseries and discussing future plans of the garden over lunch.

Come join us for a day at the garden and try it out! If you have questions, contact me at doylegaylew@gmail.com or 541.672.5815. See you soon!

Last summer, my college roommate/and her spouse, stopped by for a visit in route from California to Washington. They wanted to meet for breakfast, and instead of coming to my home, or meeting at a restaurant, I suggested we go to Kruse's and choose some goodies. Well...we picked a razzleberry pie, turnovers, cinnamon buns, a loaf of Lighthouse Bread, a cookie and we each had a Coffee. We then went to the Discovery Garden(late June), and ate our scrumptious banquet at a table amidst the Butterfly Garden. And we took a quick tour of the Gardens before they had to head out for Seattle. What a memorable occasion! And one that we will repeat whenever we have out-of-town guests. Highly recommended!

Contributed by Camille Simon

Using Manures to Fertilize Gardens

Steve Renquist

Many gardeners in Douglas County may have access to manure from local livestock farms or they may be raising their own livestock. Livestock manure can be an excellent addition to any garden fertilization program if used properly. However, there are a few issues to be aware of before you begin applying manures to your garden.

The most important issue is to understand that despite manure being a widely used organic fertilizer, there are a few potential dangers when using it on a vegetable garden. Most livestock manure, whether chicken, cattle, horse, goat, sheep, rabbit, or pig, contains some salmonella or e-coli. When applying manure to your food garden soil it is important to evaluate the conditions to know the risk of contamination to your food crop. In a wintery climate freezing and thawing for 30-60 days goes a long way toward killing off the harmful bacteria spread on the surface of the soil. In our climate with minimal freezing, the manure should be spread on the soil at least 90 days before you plant your garden. Incorporating the manure into the soil and having soil and air temperatures above 60 degrees will actually prolong the life of these harmful bacteria. So make sure you don't apply fresh manure to your garden close to planting season. And don't side-dress plants in your garden with manure teas from fresh manure.

If you hot compost manure with other organic materials, the process will eliminate the harmful bacteria if you allow the process to run at least 60 days. If you just pile manure and let it sit during winter for 60 days, especially when the pile is still dry in the center, and the air temperature is below 50 degrees, the harmful bacteria will still remain. If you have access to a manure pile that has been sitting for a long time (more than 1 year) and no one has been adding fresh manure to it periodically, then it will be safe from harmful bacteria, especially if it has been turned.

Since most types of manure have their highest nitrogen content when they are fresh, gardeners are often encouraged to use them rapidly. We know not to spread them on the surface of the soil where further nitrogen loss to the air will occur. You can see we have a serious conflict here. I would encourage a couple of gardening practices to get both fertilizer value and safety when using fresh manure. Incorporate the manure into the soil 90 days before planting if possible. (Sometimes it will be too wet in our climate and you will have to surface apply and lose some nitrogen.) This can be done when you are cutting

down your cover crop to allow it to decompose before the gardening season. Another time that you could use fresh manure is when your garden is finished in September or October and you are chopping up the remaining plant material before planting your cover crop. In both cases the manure would be helpful to the microbial process of decomposition in the soil and the nutrients would soon be captured by the new crop.

Manures have a pretty wide NPK range depending on the diet and animal, however in general poultry manure will be the hottest with an NPK content of about 4-3-2. Sheep and goat manure will be about 3-1-2. Rabbit manure about 3-2-1. Horse manure about 1-1-1 and cow manure about .5-.5-1. As you can see none of the livestock manures offer a very high NPK content so manure should be looked at as a soil microbial stimulant and organic matter addition to the soil as much as a fertilizer. That is why I usually like to compost any manure I get or use it to stimulate my cover crop in the fall. That way I am getting the positive effects of manure while maintaining a safe growing environment.

One last little warning when bringing manure from a corral or feedlot pile to your garden, inspect the manure pile for symphylans, the tiny white centipede like insects before loading the manure on your truck. These pests are often in manure piles and once in your garden they are nearly impossible to eliminate. If you find them in the manure, just leave them and walk away.

Plant Sale

Barbara Robinson, Sharon Hopkins

Mark your calendars for our 2013 Plant and Garden Expo on Saturday, May 4th at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Set up will be the day before on Friday, May 3rd. Your Plant Sale committee chairs have already met to discuss and implement new ideas for this year's sale. Signup sheets for the various jobs/committees will available in the Plant Clinic, at the weekly MG classes, and at our monthly chapter meetings. If you have any questions or would like us to sign you up, please feel free to call either Barbara Robinson or Sharon Hopkins or email barbararob@gmail.com.

WANTED

Items for the Raffle at our Plant Sale held in May.
If you would be willing to donate a raffle item,
contact Rosemary Brinkley or Deb Haynes.

Hallmark Linda Thames

When a member needs a little note of cheer or condolence, that's where Hallmark comes in. If I'm notified of a situation where a card would be welcome, I see to it that one is sent. It might be a Congratulations, a Get-Well, Sincerest Sympathy, a Thank You, or perhaps just a Thinking of You. The key thing to keep in mind is that I need to be notified. Please do not assume that I already know. No crystal balls come with this position. If possible, I also like to know if the information is for publication or is to be kept private.

I send out cards, usually hand-made, in the name of the Master Gardeners and sometimes I receive a reply, which I then share with the membership.

It's a joyful job, and with your help, I will continue sharing and keeping the membership informed as best I can. You can reach me at linbill2@charter.net or 541-673-3978



Inch by Inch, Row by Row, Gonna Make This Garden Grow...



Contributed by Jen Bailey

Thanks to grants and contributions from community members, the Yoncalla Elementary/Middle School now has a fenced garden area, greenhouse, equipment and supplies. They are seeking the help of Douglas County Master Gardeners to make the best use of these facilities. The Principal and teachers are very committed to incorporating the concept of sustainable gardening into their curriculum.

Leo Grass and I recently visited the Kindergarten class. Leo entranced the kids with his rendition of Pete Seeger's classic "Garden Song". He introduced the concept of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle", and explained the cycle of plant development from seed to plant to compost. We then helped the kids transplant their broccoli plants into larger containers. Here is my favorite of the thank you cards we received, as it shows a broccoli plant in its pot and in the process of being transplanted.

While you may consider Yoncalla to be waaaaay up north, I can assure you that it's really not all that far. Please consider joining us for a couple hours every month or two, to work with the kids. You can reach me at jen@skylondaranch.com.

Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: Deadline for March 2013 newsletter is March 1st. Mail submissions to jen@skylondaranch.com.

Web Site: extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/douglas-county-oregon-master-gardeners

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487

Horticulture Agent: extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture, e-mail: steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu

OSU Douglas County Extension Service: extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas

OSU Gardening – web site: extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening, monthly gardening calendar: extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/calendar, monthly newsletter: extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/enews

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

Oregon Master Gardeners Association – web site: www.omga.org, newsletter: www.omga.org/GardenersPen.htm, Mini-College: www.omga.org/MiniCollege.htm



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