



# Douglas County Master Gardeners

March 2013 Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 3

## Our Main Man – Steve Renquist, OSU Horticultural Agent



contributed by Clay Morrow

"My family always had small vegetable gardens, introducing me to gardening at an early age", said Steve Renquist. "I started to see the potential for a career around eighteen or nineteen."

Raised primarily in Minnesota, Steve spent his summers in California, where his mother and stepfather had land in the Santa Ynez Valley. In the late 1960's, Steve's mother was "really into gardening," and his stepfather encouraged him

### Calendar of Events

- Mon, Mar 4, 9 AM, Annex – Insect Committee
- Mon, Mar 4, 9 AM – 12 PM – Victory Garden Crew
- Mon, Mar 4, 9 AM – 12 PM – Greenhouse Crew
- Mon, Mar 4, 1 PM, DG – Rose/Hydrangea Pruning
- Tue, Mar 5, 9 AM, Annex – Garden Problem Solving
- Tue, Mar 5, 1 PM, Annex – Composting/Cover Crops
- Fri, Mar 8, 9 AM, DG – Japanese Garden Pruning
- Mon, Mar 11, 9 AM – 12 PM – Greenhouse Crew
- Mon, Mar 11, 9 AM – 12 PM – Victory Garden Crew
- Tue, Mar 12, 9 AM, Annex – Pests/Horticultural Myths
- Tue, Mar 12, 1 PM, Annex – IPM
- Wed, Mar 13, 9 AM, Annex – Executive Committee
- Wed, Mar 13, 10 AM, Annex – Disc. Garden Signage
- Mon, Mar 18, 9 AM, Annex – Insect Committee
- Mon, Mar 18, 9 AM – 12 PM – Greenhouse Crew
- Mon, Mar 18, 9 AM – 12 PM – Victory Garden Crew
- Tue, Mar 19, 9 AM, DG – Discovery Garden Final
- Tue, Mar 19, 1 PM, Annex – Final Exam Review
- Web, Mar 20, 10 AM, Annex – Diagnostics Committee
- Fri, Mar 22, 9 AM – 4 PM – Trash to Treasures Setup
- Sat, Mar 23, 9 AM – 4 PM – Trash to Treasures Sale
- Tue, Mar 26, 9 AM – 12 PM – Greenhouse Crew
- Tue, Mar 26, 9 AM – 12 PM – Victory Garden Crew
- Tue, Mar 26, 9 AM – 12 PM – Discovery Garden Crew
- Thu, Mar 28, 9 AM – Extending your Growing Season
- Thu, Mar 28, 10 AM – Chapter meeting

to start a crop of his own: wine grapes. At that time, there were few vineyards in the area and little knowledge, but “we had fun learning together while we established the vineyard.”

After visiting Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, Steve decided to transfer from a college in Minnesota after his sophomore year. “I was really happy to be out of the deep freeze”, quipped Steve. He later received his BA in fruit science and MA in IPM there. After graduating, he interviewed with a few big agri-business companies, but, fortunately for us, Steve became the extension agent at Cornell. “I was kind of surprised when I got [the job] fresh out of college. I was working in the largest apple growing region in New York, and the Geneva experimental station was only one hour away. It was a great place to begin my career.”

This job was short lived, however, as, in 1977, Steve had the good fortune to be interviewed, and selected for, a team of extension agents who went to the USSR as part of detente between President Ford and Brezhnev. Along with the rest of his twelve member team, Steve would spend the next six months split between training for the mission and then heading to the USSR. Once there, he was tapped for two more years working with the Soviet ministry of Ag to be part of a USAID tour of the USSR. Perhaps understating his role, Steve said “It was really an interesting experience.”

When he returned to the USA, Steve found that he had been replaced in his role as extension agent. Having made contact with commodity traders from Cargill in the USSR, Steve found work as a commodity trader in 1980. In 1982, Cargill decided to make him the crop forecaster because of his ag background. This line of work had him travel extensively. Over the next 20 years, he would travel to no less than 52 countries. “I really enjoyed the travel. I was single during most of those years, so there was nothing to tie me down.”

After meeting his future wife in Brazil while working with Cargill, and wanting to return to the west coast, Steve became an extension agent for OSU in 2000. After spending so much time traveling, Steve found great pleasure in the diversity and friendliness of Oregon's agricultural industry. “One of the big challenges of OSU has been the element of state funding, which changes every two years”, said Steve. Continuing, he stated “One of the biggest disappointments in America, when it comes to education is that the voters and politicians don't value education anymore...especially at the college level. Our society contributed significantly to educating the baby-

boomer generation. Now the millennial generation is being abandoned and it will eventually diminish this country”

When asked about his favorite elements of working with the MG's, Steve said, “One of the nice things that you know about teaching a relevant subject such as sustainability, is that you're having a direct impact on the quality of life. Educating 40 or 50 people a year over a decade or two allows you to have a tremendous impact on the health of our county.” Looking back at his time in Douglas County, Steve concluded “One of the things that I enjoy about the program is that, as an extension agent, you are more of an educator than a researcher. At the college or experiment station, you are often just focused on research. I love to work with the public and people in our community. It is very fulfilling work.”

## President's Report

Larry Sutton

It has been said by some that “the curse is to live in interesting times.” These appear to be one of those interesting times. For the past several years we have seen the Extension service consolidating the services of its statewide offices (consolidation being a euphemism for cutting back on employees without admitting to cutting back on product). The remaining employees get to spend more and more time on the road traveling between more and more offices.

The end result is less time to do the things the Extension is expected to provide. Recently the governor proposed a budget for higher education that would fund higher education but in doing so has proposed that the Oregon State University Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, and Forest Research Laboratory be flat funded. Operating in future years with the same dollar amount in income with a smaller purchasing power can only mean further consolidation. It is estimated that by “flat funding” the afore mentioned services, they will be seven million dollars behind what is needed to continue present services. An “interesting” conjecture might be that the consolidations in Salem are the source of a ripple effect that produces fewer enrollments across the state in our programs. Naw, that couldn't be.

In spite of the interesting times we live in, Douglas County Master Gardeners continue to produce a high quality product. Our Spring into Gardening received rave reviews from a diminished attendance. The attendees were met by cheerful volunteers and our instructors provided classes

worth infinitely more than the few dollars paid for the training. The closest thing to a negative comment was that we should have charged for the refreshments. Note to self: Do not consolidate refreshments. Our winter class is filled with quality students. Unfortunately like most of the rest of the state our total enrollment is down. Interesting, eh?

So what can we do about it? As far as the state budget is concerned follow your conscience and decide whether or not you let your representatives know how you feel about extension funding. As far as the "ripple" effect in Douglas County we can take personal responsibility for making the ripple go in our direction. Advertising works but only to a certain extent. People buy based on trust and relationships. If we all share these things with everyone we know: who the Master Gardeners are, what we do in the community, and how the public can take advantage of what we offer; participation cannot help but go up. In the next few months we have two big fund raisers coming up. Take the time to invite your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to both the Trash to Treasures and the Plant Expo. In doing so we will not only fund next year's operations but attract other people that will want to join us in providing the services that extension offers through the Master Gardeners

## Vice President's Report

Fred Alley

March 1st. The daffodils are popping through the mulch and a few drooping yellow heads are just ready to bloom and we are anxious for spring planting. We like to think we can get an early start in our planting schedules, whether it is in the garden, our favorite flowers and yes, even our new tree we have thought about all winter long.

We got even more spirited after the "Spring into Gardening" Series at UCC last weekend. Our topic for the March 28th Continuing Education Program is perfectly timed. The topic: "Extending your Growing Season" by Master Gardener Jim Leet. Of course we always enjoy listening to Jim, and his vast knowledge of Gardening, here in Oregon and in Alaska. His vegetable garden class at the Spring into Gardening Series was again well attended.

Most Master Gardeners have practiced extended growing techniques for a number of years. Just knowing your plant and its specific characteristics, let you know which plants to plant first, second and etc. Yes, that's Succession planting, something we teach in our Sustainable Gardening Class. Other techniques include, but are not limited to quick hoop tunnels, low tunnels, row covers, mulches, cold frames,

cloches, and floating row covers. Sometimes we refer to the plant protectors as Styrofoam cups, detergent bottles, Pepsi bottles, and rolls of clear plastic draped over the woven wire fence; you know those common techniques. Regardless what we call the techniques, they all "Extend our Growing Season".

The last fifteen minutes of the March 28th Continuing Session will be a presentation by Master Garden Pam Barrows. Yes, we all know Pam Barrows; she is the person who reminds us how important it is to report our volunteer hours. Yes, we know some of us do a better job on our time cards, and even prepare them on a more timely basis. Some may need some reminders and assistance in completing their monthly time sheets. In all seriousness, the keeping of our hours is very important to our local OSU Extension Master Gardeners Program.

Just to pique your interest, our April 25th Continuing Education Program will be "Prevention of Injury in the Garden" by Jeff Giulietti, a Physical Therapist, Certified Athletic Trainer from Eugene Physical Therapy, LLC in Eugene. This will be a very interesting program. How many times have we strained our back, arm, and wrist, while gardening? Our "weekend Warrior" experiences can take their toll. Come and listen to Jeff Giulietti and lessen those garden injuries and enjoy your gardening more. Gardening, as we all know, has great physical and therapeutic benefits, but they can create long-standing problems if we are not careful.

Anyone wanting to be an officer next year at the local level should call Leo Grass, 541-679-5971, Mik Carlson, 541-464-0634, or Rosemary Brinkley, 541-673-8814.

## Secretary's Report

Jen Bailey

The OSU Douglas County Master Gardeners chapter meeting was called to order at 10:12 AM on February 28, 2013 by President **Larry Sutton**. Fifty eight members were in attendance. The agenda was accepted as written. The minutes of the January 2013 chapter meeting were approved as written.

**HORTICULTURE AGENT** – **Steve Renquist** will hold a Diagnostics Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM, focused on herbicide damage and damage prevention. Replacement name badges are \$5.00. Plant Sale flyers and bookmarks are available for distribution to the community. Spring into Gardening went

very well, with 55-60 attendees and ~18 Master Gardener helpers.

**WINTER TRAINING / SPRING INTO GARDENING** – **Maureen Benice** mentioned we'd received good feedback on Spring into Gardening. The 2013 Winter Training graduation ceremony will be Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, around 2:00-2:30 PM.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR** – **Vicki McAlister** reported that, in 2012, we had 231 returning members and 37 trainees, for a total of 268. So far for 2013, we have 232 returning members and 26 trainees, for a total of 258. There are still 29 members who have not submitted their 2013 dues.

**OMGA REPRESENTATIVE** – **Rosemary Brinkley** reported that she and **Michelle Harding-Olson** are attending the OMGA quarterly meeting next week. She is still soliciting donations for the Plant Sale Raffle. **Judy Huntley** showed off two hand-painted plates that had been donated for the raffle.

**TREASURER** – **Toni Rudolph** reviewed the Treasurer's Report. **Jackie Carpenter** is reading the water meter every week. Toni received and paid the first monthly invoice from Douglas County, based on these readings.

**VICE PRESIDENT** – **Fred Alley** will send out more information on **Geoffrey Niles**, who gave a very well-attended Continuing Education program on mushrooms. The March program will be **Jim Leet** on "Extending your Growing Season", and **Pam Barrows** reviewing the time sheet reporting process. The April program will be "Prevention of Injury in the Garden".

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

**PRESIDENT** – **Larry Sutton** announced the annual Glide Wildflower Show on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. He read a thank you letter from the Josephine County Master Gardeners, who thanked **Tasha King**, **Linda Thames** and **Elva Sellens** for hosting their visit to the Discovery Garden. The Nominating Committee consists of **Rosemary Brinkley**, **Leo Grass** and **Mik Carlson**. The 2017 International Master Gardeners Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon. The 2012 Audit Report was approved by the Executive Committee.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** – **Leo Grass** reported that we will not be participating in the Douglas County Home Show this year, as they would charge us \$350-400 for a booth. **Maureen Benice** and **LaVerne Bailey** gave a presentation

on roses to the Sutherlin Garden Club. There is a "FEAST" (Food – Education – Agriculture – Solutions – Together) program on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Riddle Community Center, about growing and eating locally produced food. The Lookingglass Garden Club has asked for a presentation on pH. The Fullerton IV elementary school has asked for help with their new garden. **Jen Bailey** and **Judy Metz-Bridges** continue to help the Yoncalla Elementary/Middle Schools' efforts.

**PLANT CLINIC** – **Judy Mercer** thanked **Maureen Benice** for coordinating the Kruse Farm Plant Clinic. Maureen and other long-term regulars will continue volunteering at Kruse Farms, but they are seeking a new coordinator. Judy passed around the Plant Clinic calendar – we need veterans, trainees and alternates for April and May.

**DISCOVERY GARDEN** – **Julie Stanbery** reported that the Discovery Garden Signage meeting has been postponed until Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, directly after the Executive Committee meeting. She announced upcoming events at the garden. Gary Groth of Douglas County Public Works, and Kerwin Doughton of the Festival of Lights have committed to re-grading the entire road, later this year.

**VICTORY GARDEN** – **Mik Carlson** announced that they're starting this season's work on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged everyone to grow extra food in their own gardens, to donate to UCAN and the food pantries. When you drop off food, let them know that you are a Master Gardener, so that we get credit for it. You can also drop food off at the Victory Garden.

**AWARDS** – **Betty Ison** announced that **Dave Clark** received his 60-hour swinger bar, **Jen Bailey** received her 200-hour bar, and **Barbara Robinson** received her 1500-hour bar.

**PUBLICITY** – **Bonnie Courter** has placed ads and public service announcements for both the Plant Sale and Trash-to-Treasures. She is getting 20 lawn signs to publicize the Plant Sale. Flyers and bookmarks for the Plant Sale are available for distribution in the community

**PLANT SALE** – **Barbara Robinson** and **Sharon Hopkins** were not present.

**TRASH-TO-TREASURES** – **Cindy Rich** and **Debbie Haynes** have flyers to distribute to the community, and will be getting some lawn signs as well. Sign-up sheets were circulated. They ask for you to bring snacks, to help fuel the volunteers, and will have bottled water available.

**HALLMARK** – Linda Thames received a thank you card from John and Ruth Denny for the condolence card she sent for the death of his father. Linda circulated a card to be signed for Marjorie Orr, who would also appreciate phone calls.

**T-SHIRTS** – Valerie Call announced that the first order of the flowered T-shirts (with artwork by Sharon Hopkins) will be available next week. The cut-off for the second order will be in a couple weeks.

**NEWSLETTER** – Jen Bailey reminded everyone that the March newsletter deadline is tomorrow.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – Steve Renquist announced that we will have a booth at Earth Day, on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Fairgrounds. A couple who are in the 2013 Winter Training Class will be running a Plant Clinic booth at the Canyonville Farmer’s Market this summer, with the support of Chris Rusch.

**SHOW-AND-TELL** – Della Neavoll has self-published her fourth children’s book, entitled “Emma’s Colored Egg”. She is having a book signing at Whileaway Books on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

## Treasurer’s Report

Toni Rudolph

### INCOME 1/30/13 – 2/28/13

Dues – membership, hardcopy newsletter, interest	\$285.94
Soil Testing	\$35.00
T-shirt Sales	\$118.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$439.44</b>

### EXPENSES 1/30/13 – 2/28/13

4-H Donation for Fair	\$60.00
Greenhouse Plumbing/Irrigation & DC Water	\$6.69
HLC Greenhouse Supplies & Maintenance	\$273.64
Winter Program - Speakers	\$200.00
Plant Sale – Advertising, Exhibit Fees, Water & Supplies	\$1,437.90
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,978.23</b>

### Breakdown of our accounts

Checking	\$116.46
Money Market – Reserves	\$6,659.10
Money Market	\$15,574.03
<b>Ending Balance 1/29/13</b>	<b>\$22,349.59</b>

## Community Outreach

Leo Grass

One of my most pleasant surprises about being a Master Gardener; was how much fun I could have working, (and I use that word in its most pleasant definition), in any one of our public information booths. Setting up some kind of gardening theme, and proudly displaying that beautiful big orange sign, was an opening for many enjoyable interactions with folks that I had never met, as well as old friends not seen for many years. This year will be the first, in my MG experience, that we will not have a presence at the Douglas County Home Show. I know that many of you will miss the Home Show as much as I.

We still have an abundance of ways to reach out and shake the hands of our neighbors in this beautiful community in which we live. Maureen Benice and LaVerne Bailey have just this month shown the good people of the Sutherlin Garden Club, how to tend to their roses. Jen Bailey and Judy Metz-Bridges, are shepherding the children of Yoncalla Elementary in the art of Zen vegetables. Ken Hayes is learning the fine art of soil testing. Nan Sieck has volunteered to teach the kids at the YMCA about growing and transplanting tomatoes. Trash to Treasure, Earth Day, Plant Sale, Douglas County Fair. What a great time and place to have the title: Master Gardener.

## Discovery Garden

Julie Stanbery, Discovery Garden Coordinator

We have almost completed the winter pruning! Thanks to our new class and their mentors, and a few valiant veterans we are way ahead of previous years. We have one more important work/class in the Japanese Garden on Friday March 8 from 9 to noon. Steve will be joining us to review pruning techniques for Japanese style gardens. Please come to learn and to work if you can.

Our signage project will have its first planning meeting on Wed., Mar 13 to follow the exec meeting. Jen Bailey is heading the project and would appreciate your attendance. Contact Jen to get on her email list for this project.

Tuesday March 26 is the first of our regular Tuesday work days in the Discovery Garden. We work 9 to noon, rain or shine. Come as often and as long as your schedule allows. We will be moving the raised beds across the pathway and refilling them with compost/soil so we can use all the help we can get!! ---- See you in the garden!

## New Climate Issues Impact Gardening Decisions

Steve Renquist, Horticultural Agent

During the past few months climatologist Dr. Greg Jones, from Southern Oregon University, and I have been invited to a variety of venues to discuss a number of issues facing the agricultural industry in Southern Oregon. The issues primarily center-around climate change and global warming. I want to share a few thoughts about our presentations and how they might impact all of us in the years ahead.

Since Dr. Jones is the climate specialist he weighed in on weather records and trends in the data to show what our area has been experiencing over the past thirty years. The weather data clearly shows the warming trend, primarily in ever warmer low temperatures, especially during winter. High temperatures have not shown the same consistent trends in our region since we are located next to the Pacific Ocean, a giant temperature moderator. However across much of North America and other continental areas away from coastal zones, high temperatures have spiked significantly during the past 20-30 years. Other trends being driven by our gradual warming is for more rainfall during our winters at higher elevations and less snowfall. If this trend continues it could cause some late summer problems for irrigation water supplies, especially in those areas away from the coast where higher temperatures during the growing season will increase evapotranspiration and water demand of plants. Dr. Jones also commented that the water temperature of the northern Pacific Ocean off North America has been especially cold the past few years. If these waters start to warm more like equatorial oceans, we will all see much higher temperatures, even coastal areas.

So how will these climate trends impact our ability to raise crops or gardens? When raising tree fruit we have already seen our warmer winters encourage low chill requirement trees like apricot, peach, Japanese Plum, and fig to break bud and leaf out or bloom during the winter when the probability of killing frost is high. In the future a gardener may want to grow fruit that is late blooming (higher chill requirement) or site your orchard on a north facing slope that is slower to warm up in the late winter or spring. The same problem of breaking dormancy early exists with blueberry, raspberry, and blackberry crops. To delay bud break look for late blooming varieties and site your berry crops on north or east facing slopes.

Monitoring for insect, weed, and disease pests will be more critical as milder winters have allowed more invasive species to move into our region. Monitoring for insects will need to be done with pheromone traps, vinegar traps, sticky cards and visual inspection of plants while you regularly work in the garden. The Spotted Wing Drosophila, mealybugs, and the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug are examples of new invasive pests to monitor. Native pests that have in the past been controlled by freezing temperatures may now become more of a problem. Many borers of fruit trees and pines have not been a problem in the past because trees were not stressed from warmer and drier conditions. Providing occasional irrigation to trees in your landscape may help ward off the stress of higher temperatures and longer dry spells.

Monitoring for new disease and weed invaders will need to be done through visual inspections and visits to the plant clinic where you can get help identifying pests you may not know. In the past two decades Southern Oregon has seen a number of new weeds get established that are very difficult to control. Purple starthistle, Yellow starthistle, Distaff thistle, Russian knapweed, Spotted knapweed, Diffuse knapweed, Leafy spurge, Gorse, and Portuguese broom are all considered to be A list noxious weeds in Douglas County that require eradication if they are found on your property. These weeds are moving north across North America as the climate gets warmer and slightly drier. As gardeners it is important to know these weeds as they invade our region because they are very difficult to control once they are established.

Not all the impacts of climate change will be negative. Our growing season over the past twenty years has continued to lengthen from 180 frost free days to 205. The winter of 2010 was so mild we never did have a killing freeze below 32F. Milder winters will allow vegetable growers to produce cold hardy crops from fall to spring, especially if they are using plastic hoops or cold frames to keep excess rain from damaging their plants. The milder winters will cause some decrease in summer irrigation supplies by reducing mountain snow pack, so longer growing seasons without more irrigation water will require the use of more water conservation when irrigating.

These topics I touched on are just a few of the potential impacts in our region by climate change. We will all be challenged in the years ahead to adapt to this warming cycle. We can do this sustainably by using our knowledge as Master Gardeners to deal with new pests, and growing season challenges.

## COME ONE, COME ALL! BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Master Gardener Graduation is March 19th!

Please come and congratulate the new Master Gardener  
Friends, Students, Workers.

About 2:30 PM in the Annex/classroom upstairs.

Cake and coffee served after.

## Uses of a Rock

Maureen Benice



A rock can be a doorstop, part of a wall, a projectile or a PLANT ID TAG.

Early in the 2012 season of work in the Discovery Garden, I had the 'opportunity' (couldn't find a man to do it!) to dig up the two "Fourth of July" roses on either side of the Entry Garden gate. I found 20, yes 20, rocks with plant names which had been painted by brush work. They were surrounding the roses about 6" underground. Bud Cruger, one of the founding fathers of the Discovery Garden (he started the Entry Garden and the raised beds of dahlias and lilies) had apparently used them and "planted" them by the "Fourth of July" roses when he had no use for them. So, using painted rocks for plant IDs was his idea, I guess. I thought, "Why not use rocks with modern paint and see what happens". The modern method worked.

Here's how to make rock plant ID's that look like the ones in the Entry Garden:

1. Find a rock - fairly smooth on the side you want to paint. Not too big as rocks are heavy and one you're happy with.
2. Scrub the rock with a brush.
3. Let it dry for 24 hours at least - rocks are porous with little crevices and paint sure won't stick to damp places.

4. Paint with Scribbles, iridescent Gold, right from the little bottle with a tip on it. I found that painting in capitals case is easier to read and just looks better.
5. Let it dry 24 hours.
6. Spray rock everywhere except the bottom (you can do that, but it will take longer) with "Spar" or "Marine" varnish.
7. Wait 24 hours.
8. Spray again
9. Wait 24 hours
10. Put it in the garden!

If you make a mistake painting, wipe/scrape the paint off, use paint remover, blot and start at item #2 above. If the paint is dry and you find a mistake, scrape the paint off, and use a solvent like lacquer thinner to get the remainder of the paint off, then branch back to #2 above.

Have fun beautifying your garden.

## Plant Sale

Barbara Robinson, Sharon Hopkins

Less than two months left until Cinco de Mayo!!! It is sneaking up on us rather quickly and what better place to gear up for the occasion than our annual Plant & Garden Expo on May 4th?!

Many of you have already signed up to help and we thank you! If you have not signed up, please take the time to do so soon so that our committee heads are able to contact and organize their group. There are available slots on most all the committees and many more hands are needed

Of course, we can always use more covered/enclosed trucks, vans, SUV's, and trailers for transporting plants to and from the fairgrounds. The more rigs we have, the fewer trips each will need to make. It is a requirement for rigs to be covered and/or enclosed to prevent damage to our tender merchandise while in transport.

Don't forget your potluck sign-ups for both Friday and Saturday. You know the kitchen is the pulse of the building on both days for our crew!!

Clipboards with committee signups will be available this month during MG classes and in the Plant Clinic. They will also be available @ our March 28th chapter meeting. If neither of these options work for you please email me at [barbararob@gmail.com](mailto:barbararob@gmail.com), or call me, at 541-677-8226 or Sharon Hopkins at 541-459-1782 with your information. Thank you in advance for your support.

## Western Oregon Garden Hints for March 2013 from OSU Extension

Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Preventative pest management is emphasized over reactive pest control. Identify and monitor problems before acting, and opt for the least toxic approach that will remedy the problem.

First consider cultural, and then physical controls. The conservation of biological control agents (predators, parasitoids) should be favored over the purchase and release of biological controls. Use chemical controls only when necessary, only after identifying a pest problem, and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. Least-toxic choices include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, organic and synthetic pesticides — when used judiciously.

### Planning

- Plan the vegetable garden carefully for spring, summer, and fall vegetables that can be eaten
- fresh or preserved. If you lack in-ground gardening space, plan an outdoor container garden.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. Some cool season crops (onions, kale, lettuce, spinach) can be planted when the soil is consistently at or above 40 F.

### Maintenance and Clean Up

- Lawn mowing: set blade at 0.75 to 1 inch for bent-grass lawns; 1.5 to 2.5 inches for bluegrasses, fine fescues, and ryegrasses.
- Compost grass clippings and yard waste, except for clippings from lawns where weed-and-feed products or herbicides (weed killers) have been used.
- Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.
- Prune gooseberries and currants; fertilize with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees, only if needed. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- If needed, fertilize rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas with acid-type fertilizer. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blossoms fade.
- Fertilize caneberries (broadcast or band a complete fertilizer or manure).

### Planting/Propagation

- Divide hosta, daylilies, and mums.
- Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
- Plant insectary plants (e.g. Alyssum, Phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow, dill) to attract beneficial insects to the garden. See PNW550 (Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden) online for more information.
- If soil is dry enough, prepare vegetable garden and plant early cool-season crops (carrots, beets, broccoli, leeks, parsley, chives, rhubarb, peas, radish). Plant onions outdoors as soon as the soil is dry enough to work.
- Plant berry crops (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, and other berry-producing crop plants). See OSU Extension publications for varieties.

### Pest Monitoring and Management

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Spray trees and shrubs for webworms and leafrollers, if present.
- Protect new plant growth from slugs. Least toxic management options include barriers and traps. Baits are also available for slug control; iron phosphate baits are safe to use around pets. Read and follow all label directions prior to using baits, or any other chemical control.
- Learn to identify the predatory insects that can help to keep aphids and other pests under control.
- Spray to control leaf and twig fungus diseases in dogwood, sycamore, hawthorn, and willow trees.
- Prune ornamentals for air circulation and to help prevent fungus diseases.
- Monitor for European crane fly and treat lawns if damage has been verified.
- Start rose blackspot control tactics at bud break. Control rose diseases such as black spot. Remove infected leaves. Spray as necessary with registered fungicide.

### Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Trim or shear heather when bloom period is finished.
- Start tuberous begonias indoors.
- Take geraniums, begonias, and fuchsias from storage. Water and fertilize. Cutback if necessary. Move outdoors next month.



## Hats and Shirts and Aprons, Oh My!

Barbara Robinson

Once again this year we are giving the membership the opportunity to purchase these at our cost, with prices the same as last year. All items are black with orange lettering and are being purchased here locally at Prints Charming.

Aprons are \$15/each; hats \$10/each; shirts S-XL \$11, 2XL \$13, 3XL \$14.

Although not a requirement, if you are working the Plant Sale wearing MG apparel certainly is a plus. Items will be available by mid-April for distribution. Please look for a separate email with further details on ordering.



## Last Call for Ordering the Flowered T-Shirts!



Contact Valerie Call to order these t-shirts by March 15th

### 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.

# Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: Deadline for April 2013 newsletter is March 29th. Mail submissions to [jen@skylondaranch.com](mailto:jen@skylondaranch.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.omga.org](http://www.omga.org), newsletter: [www.omga.org/GardenersPen.htm](http://www.omga.org/GardenersPen.htm), Mini-College: [www.omga.org/MiniCollege.htm](http://www.omga.org/MiniCollege.htm)



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