



Douglas County Master Gardeners

September 2013 Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 9

Our New President, Michelle Harding-Olson



Photo by Tasha King, of Michelle in her garden during the Open House tour

Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 11
9:00 AM, Annex Kitchen

Insect Committee
Monday, September 16
10:00 AM, Plant Clinic

Diagnostics Group
Wednesday, September 18
10:00 AM, TBA

Chapter Meeting
Thursday, September 26
9:40 AM, Discovery Garden

Awards Banquet
Saturday, September 28
5:30 PM, Methodist Church

Victory Garden Crew
Discovery Garden Crew
Greenhouse Crew
Tuesdays, 9:00 – 12:00

Welcome to the beginning of another Master Gardener Calendar Year! I know I speak for all of us when I gratefully THANK those of you who have served to administer our program in one capacity or another over the past year. Our program would not be so successful without the many sacrifices you have made and we appreciate it. I also want to thank the Master Gardeners who have accepted new responsibilities and duties this coming year, and look forward to working with you all.

I have often found change to be a good thing, but the transition gives me grief. It is with this in mind that I ask for your patience and assistance as I move into the role of Chapter President. Larry has done a tremendous job and it will be difficult to emulate his seemingly effortless leadership. Please don't hesitate to email or telephone me if I somehow miss a beat.

Thanks to the efforts of so many people we have some wonderful resources available online. Our newsletter, policy and procedures, and website provide a comprehensive overview of all aspects of our program, and provide links to other relevant information. And if you need live connection, our contact information is wonderfully current and up to date.

August was a busy month for us, and September provides an opportunity to publically acknowledge individual accomplishments. Please attend the Awards Banquet on September 28th to celebrate how great Douglas County Master Gardeners really are, and to collectively usher in the start of another year to 'master the art of gardening!'

Be fruitful

Vice President's Report

Fred Alley

The August 29, 2013 Master Gardeners monthly meeting was the last of the three summer meetings hosted by our fellow Master Gardeners. We had the pleasure of enjoying three distinctly different homes. Thank you to Barbara and Gilbert Horst, Bonnie and Rick Courter and Renee and Rick Coen.

Barbara and Gilbert Horst hosted the August meeting at their home at 22638 Tiller Trail Highway in Days Creek. Their home is 18 miles west of Canyonville. The home is nestled in the valley, providing a unique rural setting. The Horst land has a large home site filled with younger pines. Gilbert has taken years in carving out the surrounding home site and has constructed a raised garden that Barbara has developed into a nice showcase raised garden. The garden, of course is fenced to protect it from the deer, and even an occasional bear. Of special note, they have a wonderful natural creek with waterfalls at the entrance to their home site.

Bonnie and Rick Courter hosted the July meeting at their home at 15476 Dixonville Road, Dixonville. Their home is nestled in the historic Deer Creek Valley. Their home site was the site of the former historic Deer Creek School. Unlike the Horst residence, the Courter home is an older historic home perfectly situated in the rural Deer Creek historic setting. The garden and grounds reflect the same historic setting of the home. Again the garden and landscaping needs to be protected from the deer. One can sense the history of the valley in visiting the Courter residence.

Renee and Rick Coen hosted the June meeting at their home at 222 West Riverside Drive in the Laurelwood Historic District in Roseburg. Renee and Rick have taken many years in redeveloping their historic home and grounds. The home has been expanded several times to reflect a modern interior, but keeping the historical features of the home. The home backs onto the South Umpqua River, providing a showcase setting. It has a large finely developed yard and wonderful garden. Again, it is fenced from the deer. The Laurelwood Historic District is on the National Register of Historic Places, which gives it a special designation and recognition.

We look forward to next year in visiting three more wonderful homes. Each of the homes and settings reflect something different and each offers ideas for our own home and garden. As someone said, "A master gardener is always willing to share their ideas

and knowledge." Our challenge: Find three more equally distinctive homes.

Our next monthly meeting will be September 26th, 2013 at the Discovery Garden. Our Continuing Education Series begins with our October 31, 2013 meeting. We were fortunate to have some excellent presentations last year:

- "Prevention of Injury in the Garden" by Physical Therapist, Jeff Giuliette,
- "The Master Food Preserver/Family Food Education Volunteers Program" by Rayma Davis
- "All You Want to Know About Oregon Mushrooms" by Geoff Niles
- "Identification of Apples by Taste and Appearance" by Steve Renquist
- "Extended Growing Season Techniques for Gardening" by Jim Leet
- "Attracting the Native Bee to Your Garden" by Cindy K. Bright-Pierre.

If you have ideas for the Continuing Education Program series, please give me a call or email. I have received a number of ideas including but not limited to: Biomass production and the garden, Bonsai tree development, Control of bittergrass, How to attract birds to your garden and yard, Dietary benefits of the garden, and Art features for the garden and yard.



Lastly, Betty Ison shared a "Show and Tell" item with us at the August 29, 2013 meeting. Yes, it is a photograph of four on-the-vine tomatoes purchased at a local store. The tomatoes were left accidentally on the counter for an extended period of time. AND, new tomatoes are starting to grow out of each tomato. Betty shared the experience with Steve Renquist and he confirmed that, while uncommon, a ripe tomato, if left in a perfect environment, will develop new tomato plants. Now that's a Continuing Education item.

Volunteer Hours

With the Awards Banquet coming up very shortly, it is important that people get their volunteer hours turned in and up to date. There are a number of people who have turned in very few hours to no hours at all. Steve Renquist will need these numbers shortly as well, to justify and show the importance of our program in his report to OSU.

Please turn in your hours as soon as possible. Remember to tally the numbers across the row and put the totals in the final column. Pam Barrows will not deal with sheets that the rows haven't been tallied; she will return them to the box until you do it.

If you have questions about your hours, or are not sure whether you turned hours in for a certain month, you should contact Pam Barrows, who records all the volunteer time.

Also, a note to this year's trainees, you can have all the hours in the world, but until you have finished the 36 hours required in the Plant Clinic, you have not fulfilled your original payback commitment.

Awards Banquet

- Who: All Master Gardeners
- What: Annual Awards Celebration and Banquet
- Where: First United Methodist Church
1771 W. Harvard Avenue
Roseburg, OR
- When: September 28, 2013
Social 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:00 pm
Awards 7:00 pm
- Why: Great Food
Fantastic Friendship
Awesome Door Prizes

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

Please sign up by September 20th in the Plant Clinic, or call Judy Huntley at 541-459-2550.

Victory Garden Update

Vicki McAlister



This squash is a Tromboncino [*Cucurbita moschata*] and can be harvested anytime, from a few inches to up to three feet. If you trellis Tromboncinos, you can grow them with the ball portion hanging down and get a straighter squash. You can enjoy them steamed, grilled, or sliced raw in salads. We like to keep things interesting in the Victory Garden and this squash definitely fits that bill. The folks at UCAN are always appreciative of whatever we bring them, although I think these squash probably got a giggle out of them. *Pictured above: Mik Carlson, Ed Stoll and Bill Fuller, Ruth Stafford*

OMGA Report

Rosemary Brinkley, OMGA Representative

Mini-College was very well organized. The classes received high marks from the participants. Those of us who attended from Douglas County had a great time. We learned how to shovel and hoe correctly. No more sore backs and aches and pains for us. Ask us, we would be glad to demonstrate.

I would like you to save the date for next year's Mini-College. It will be by July 11-12-13 at OSU. This is a Friday, Saturday, Sunday event. The OMGA executive board is hoping that more can come if it is on a weekend.

Douglas County received \$250 from the Karl Carlson Memorial Fund and \$500 from the Extension Educator Grant. Both checks will be used to develop the signage at the Discovery Garden. Betty Ison received her 20 year service certificate and swinger bar at Mini-College. Jack Wright and Julie Stanbery received their 20 year awards at the last chapter meeting.

The OMGA quarterly board meeting had lively discussion regarding exploring the possibility of hiring a professional company to manage the total membership (3697) database. This was discussed at the last Douglas County MG meeting. The chapter members voted to continue notifying members as we have been doing rather than spending additional dollars to hire a company.

Alan Wenner from Yamhill suggested the local chapters discuss his suggestion of hiring an Executive Director for OMGA rather than having a volunteer board. We did that at the last meeting and the consensus from Douglas County members was to veto that proposal and have OMGA explore the possibility of putting money towards a program assistant for Gail Langellotto. Gail is the state Leader for Master Gardeners. OMGA used to provide funds toward that position and we would like that to happen once again.

OMGA 20 Years of Service

Nicolette Abrahamson – Valerie Beckenhauer
Janice Bunyard – Betty Ison – Carolyn Lee
Sam Lee – Marjorie Orr – Roger Sawyer
Julie Stanbery – Jack Wright – Diana Young



Betty Ison (Master Gardener since 1989) presents Julie Stanbery (Master Gardener since 1992) with OMGA's new 20 Years of Service Award.

Mini-College Tour

Larry Sutton



Each year as part of the Mini College, package tours are offered to participants. This year I choose to take the Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture Tour with 24 other master gardeners from around the state. The Center serves as a learning laboratory and demonstration site for sustainable gardening practices for both rural and peri-urban environments. The six acre site has a mushroom log fence, annual trial plots, a student organic garden, permaculture projects and a streamside stabilization which includes the restoration of Oak Creek.

Our chapter created the table decorations for the Awards Banquet at Mini-College. Decorations committee members were Sharon Hopkins, Rosemary Brinkley, Valerie Call, Michelle Harding-Olson and Larry Sutton.



Tasha's Tips

This is a new monthly column by Tasha King

For those of you interested in a new garden experience, visit Kathy Allen's Rock Garden/Plant Sale in Central Point. She sells unusual natives from all over the world, which she starts from seed. She has her own beautiful rock garden and hypertufa trough collection. The plants have descriptions and photos along with growing tips. They are generally in 2" pots. She is open to the public September 18 - 21 (Wed - Sat) from 10 am - 6 pm. No restrooms available. No credit cards. For best selection, go early.



Directions: I-5 south, take exit 33. Turn right off the exit onto Pine St. Travel through the downtown area. Just after crossing the railroad tracks, turn right onto N. Haskell. Turn left on Taylor Road and drive a mile or two looking for green "Plant sale" sign. Turn right at 2850 Taylor Road and drive to end. Kathy Allen, 2850 Taylor Road, Central Point.

Got Tomatoes?

Bob Brindley

Bring them to the tomato taste-off that will occur at our general meeting at the Discovery Garden on Thursday, September 26th. Winners will get gift certificates to spend at our greenhouse. Please read about the new procedures for submission below.

We will be judging 4 categories -- red slicing, non-red slicing, cherry (including pear and grape), and paste tomatoes. In order to have enough for everyone, we may need several of your precious beauties.

Prizes will be given to the three favorites in each category and you will be hailed far and wide. First prize is \$15 gift certificate for plants in our greenhouse; second prize \$10 gift certificate and 3rd prize \$5 gift certificate. You have 12 chances to win!

This year we want to start the tasting before the meeting, so the following changes are being made in procedures. The tasting will start at 9:40, so please bring your tomatoes to us by 9:30. Please bring them already cut on a plate with your name, tomato name, and category (see above) provided on a separate piece of paper.

We need enough tomatoes for 30 tasters based on previous results (this is our sixth year). Cut cherry tomatoes in half and all other tomatoes should be cut into pieces that approximate the size of a half of a cherry tomato.

A number of people felt overwhelmed by the total number of different varieties available and expressed a desire to have the names of the tomato visible while tasting, in order to selectively taste only those they have a curiosity about. So this year, each of the varieties will have their names visible but we will still hide the names of the Master Gardener who supplied the tomato to keep the competition aspect alive.

If you miss the tasting before the meeting, the tomatoes will still be there for tasting after the meeting but I would like to give the gift certificates to the winners before they leave, so voting will remain open for 30 minutes after the end of the meeting. I will make a last call announcement at that time. You will have an additional 10 minutes to vote and then the winners will be given their certificates and plates will be returned to their owners.

Good luck! If you have any questions, please call me at 541-459-7897.

August 2013 Chapter Meeting

The OSU Douglas County Master Gardeners chapter meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM on August 29, 2013 by President **Larry Sutton**. Thirty nine members were in attendance. The agenda was accepted as written. The minutes of the July 2013 chapter meeting were approved as written.

HORTICULTURE AGENT – Steve Renquist was not present.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – Vicki McAlister reminded members who need replacement badges to contact the new Membership Director.

OMGA REPRESENTATIVE – Rosemary Brinkley reported that Mini-College attendance was disappointing. OMGA had hoped for 350 participants, but only got 250 (and 300 was the break-even point). They blame poor communication with individual Master Gardeners, and propose hiring someone to maintain a database of all Oregon Master Gardeners to contact them directly about Mini-College. Our chapter objects to this expense, as there is already a process in place for the OMGA State Representatives to act as a liaison between OMGA and their chapters. There's also a proposal to hire an Executive Director for OMGA, which our chapter opposes. We recommend instead that OMGA resume funding for Gail Langellotto's program.

TREASURER – Representing Toni Rudolph, Vicki McAlister reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Budget requests for 2014 are due by September 23rd. Final reimbursement requests for 2013 are due by December 15th. While we have not yet received the most recent water bills, we expect to be over-budget, due to recent water leaks.

VICE-PRESIDENT – Fred Alley reported that the September chapter meeting will be at the Discovery Garden.

PAST-PRESIDENT – Judy Huntley reminded members that the Awards Banquet will be September 28th, and circulated a sign-up sheet for food contributions. The theme is soups and salads.

PRESIDENT – Larry Sutton displayed a thank you card created by Cobb Street school kids, whom Beth Brown hosted at the Discovery Garden. John Panches confirmed that the Douglas County OSU Extension Endowment Fund has hit \$50,000. As **Michelle Harding-Olson** is out of town, Vice

President **Fred Alley** will be Acting President until the Executive Board meeting in mid-September.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Leo Grass thanked **Bob Brindley** and **Pat Dinsmore** for contributing pictures of native pollinators and plants to our display at the Douglas County Fair. **Jim Leet** gave a class on winter gardening to the Westside Community Garden.

PLANT CLINIC – Chris Rusch reported for **Judy Mercer**, thanking volunteers and noting that there are many openings in September. The Plant Clinic has received almost 100 calls in August – mainly vegetable problems and lots of insect ID/advice.

KRUSE MARKET – Maureen Benice said there's one opening on September 21st to work at Kruse Farms.

DISCOVERY GARDEN – Julie Stanbery reported on a recent meeting of the Discovery Garden garden heads, where **Steve Renquist** gave a review of sustainable gardening principles and educating the public. The water leak has been fixed. Bats are back in the green shed. A lot of cleanup has been doing on in the shed – old garbage cans with lids are needed to store peat moss and perlite. All chemicals should be stored in the chemical room, not the green shed. Please drive slowly, as the driveway gets very dusty. Many thanks to **Karen Glatz** and **Janet Parkerson** for doing the watering. The garden heads need to get budget information to Julie by Friday, September 13th.

DISCOVERY GARDEN SIGNAGE – Jen Bailey reported that the garden heads met to select a color for their garden, which will be used for the map on the entry sign and for the gardens' signs. Each garden will have its own logo as well. The meeting went well, but we'll need to adjust some of the color selections, so that the map as a whole looks all right. **Karen Glatz** and **Nathan Baily** had a very productive meeting with the sign manufacturer, Sign Xpress, who addressed Nathan's questions about constructing the signs.

VICTORY GARDEN – Mik Carlson reported that the Victory Garden has donated 1,661 lbs of food to UCAN thus far this year. Members' and the Easy Access garden's donations total \$700.

AWARDS – Betty Ison reported that **Nathan Baily, Carol Bolt, Alixe Dancer, Neal Evans, Jill Garvin** and **Judy Murphy** have earned their 60-hour swinger bars. The County Master Gardener of the Year was announced at Mini-College, but we're keeping it secret until the Awards Banquet. OMGA

awarded new swinger bars for twenty years of service. Four of our members are still active after twenty years: **Betty Ison, Julie Stanbery, Jack Wright** and **Roger Sawyer**.

GARDEN TOUR – **Betty Ison** thanked the hosts of the Open House gardens, and read a thank you note from the Rainbow Garden Club, who visited all but one of the gardens that day.

PUBLICITY – **Bonnie Courter** reported that the Chamber of Commerce is updating their web site, including the section mentioning the Discovery Garden, and would like pictures of the garden.

HALLMARK – **Linda Thames** reported that today is **Marjorie Orr's** birthday. Marjorie appreciates calls and visitors. **Toni Rudolph's** husband Jim is having heart problems. She appreciates prayers, good vibes and humor.

NEWSLETTER – **Jen Bailey** reminded everyone that the deadline for submission is Friday.

TOMATO TASTE-OFF – **Bob Brindley** has found the results of last year's Taste Off, and they'll be published in the newsletter. The group discussed changes in the format for this year's tasting.

BAKE SALE – The Bake Sale will be on November 23rd this year.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – **Jen Bailey** presented the new Policies and Procedures Manual, and thanked all the contributors. A motion was made to adopt the Policies and Procedures Manual. The motion passed unanimously.

Ruth Stafford presented the Audit Committee's report. She, **Karolyn Riecks, Vicki McAlister** and **Toni Rudolph** met on July 22nd to review receipts, records and reports. All was in good order.

Jack Wright administered the oath of office to the new officers: **Ruth Stafford** (Membership Director), **Vicki McAlister** (Treasurer), **Janet Parkerson** (Secretary), **Rosemary Brinkley** (OMGA Representative) and **Fred Alley** (Vice President).

Julie Stanbery presented gifts of appreciation to outgoing officers **Larry Sutton, Jen Bailey** and **Vicki McAlister**.

SHOW-AND-TELL – **Betty Ison** showed off four on-the-vine tomatoes that had been left on a countertop, and begun to sprout new tomatoes.

Treasurer's Report

Toni Rudolph

INCOME 7/24/13 – 8/26/13

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Grants/Pavilion/Interest | \$851.80 |
| Soil Testing | \$75.00 |
| Post-Plant Sale | \$82.00 |
| Compost Tea | \$223.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$1,231.80 |

EXPENSES 7/24/13 – 8/26/13

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Mini-College Scholarships | \$615.00 |
| Liability Insurance | \$636.00 |
| Display for Intl MG Conference | \$102.50 |
| CE – Greenhouse | \$199.00 |
| DG – Childrens, Electric, Rock, Water | \$576.75 |
| HLC – Greenhouse, Victory Garden | \$156.52 |
| Plant Sale – Electric, NY Seeds, Plants, Water | \$641.01 |
| Compost Tea | \$31.50 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$2,958.28 |

BREAKDOWN OF OUR ACCOUNTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Checking | \$2,829.13 |
| Money Market – Reserves | \$6,659.10 |
| Money Market | \$31,081.27 |
| Ending Balance 4/23/13 | \$40,569.50 |

Japanese Garden Update



Fred Alley installs the new commemorative sign in the Japanese Garden.

Western Oregon Gardening Hints for September 2013 from OSU Extension

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Recycle disease-free plant material and kitchen vegetable and fruit scraps into compost. Don't compost diseased plants unless you are using the "hot compost" method (120° to 150°F).
- Harvest winter squash when the "ground spot" changes from white to a cream or gold color.
- Pick and store winter squash; mulch carrot, parsnip, and beets for winter harvesting.
- Protect tomatoes and/or pick green tomatoes and ripen indoors if frost threatens.
- Reduce water on trees, shrubs, and vines east of Cascades to harden them off for winter.
- Stake tall flowers to keep them from blowing over in fall winds.
- Dig, clean, and store tuberous begonias if frost threatens.
- Harvest potatoes when the tops die down. Store them in a dark location.
- Optimal time for establishing a new lawn is August through Mid-September.
- Aerate lawns.
- (Early-September): Apply 1 lb. nitrogen per 1,000 sq.ft. to lawns. Reduce risks of run-off into local waterways by not fertilizing just prior to rain, and not over-irrigating so that water runs off of lawn and onto sidewalk or street.
- Willamette Valley: Stop irrigating your lawn after Labor Day to suppress European crane fly populations.

Planting/Propagation

- Divide peonies and iris.
- Plant or transplant woody ornamentals and mature herbaceous perennials. Fall planting of trees, shrubs and perennials can encourage healthy root growth over the winter.
- Plant daffodils, tulips, and crocus for spring bloom. Work calcium and phosphorus into the soil below the bulbs at planting time. Remember when purchasing bulbs, the size of the bulb is directly correlated to the size of the flower yet to come in spring.
- Western Oregon: Plant winter cover of annual rye or winter peas in vegetable garden.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Continue monitoring late-season soft fruits and berries for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). If SWD are present, use an integrated and least toxic approach to manage the pests. To learn how to monitor for SWD flies and larval infestations in fruit, visit <http://swd.hort.oregonstate.edu/gardeners>.
- Apply parasitic nematodes to moist soil beneath rhododendrons and azaleas that show root weevil damage (notched leaves).
- Control slugs as necessary. Least toxic management options for slugs 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.
- Monitor trailing berries for leaf and cane spot. Treat if necessary.
- As necessary, apply copper spray for peach and cherry trees.
- Spray for juniper twig blight, as necessary, after pruning away dead and infected twigs.
- Coastal and western valleys: Spray susceptible varieties of potatoes and tomatoes for early and late blight.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Clean houseplants, check for insects, and repot and fertilize if necessary; then bring them indoors.

Open House Garden Tour 2013

Photos by
Maureen Benice
and Tasha King

Clockwise from top: Marty Katz's back yard; Bob Brindley points out his reservoir system for raised beds; Bob's front entry, Michelle Haring-Olson's garden; Bob Brindley shows Philece Humphrey his back yard.



More pictures coming next month!



Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: Deadline for October 2013 newsletter is September 27th. 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.oregonmastergardeners.org, newsletter: www.oregonmastergardeners.org/GardenersPen.htm



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