



# Douglas County Master Gardeners

October 2013 Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 10

## **Executive Board Meeting**

Wednesday, October 9  
9:00 AM, Annex Kitchen

## **Insect Committee**

Monday, October 21  
10:00 AM, Plant Clinic

## **Diagnostics Group**

Wednesday, September 23  
10:00 AM, TBA

## **What Is Mentoring?**

Wednesday, October 30  
10:00 AM, Annex Kitchen

## **Continuing Education**

Thursday, October 31  
9:00 AM, Annex

## **Chapter Meeting**

Thursday, October 31  
10:00 AM, Annex

## **Winter Training Registration**

Tuesday, November 12  
11:00 AM, Annex

## Judy Mercer – 2013 Douglas County Master Gardener of the Year



*Judy Mercer accepts the Search for Excellence Award in Innovation at the International Master Gardeners Conference. See page 6 for article.*

First in the new series "Master Gardeners of the Month" by President Michelle Harding-Olson

Introducing Judy Mercer is such a pleasure. And, by the way, I've decided to share with you each month, my excitement about what interesting people our fellow Master Gardeners are! Judy is the recipient of our Douglas County Master Gardener of the Year Award for 2013 and it is quite fitting I should feature her as my first Master Gardener of the Month.

Judy and I are native Californians (a rare species). Judy was born in West Covina, raised in Montebello, and moved to Azusa at the age of 17. She has always loved animals and had all the requisite domestic ones, as well as the more exotic pets like tarantulas and hummingbirds. While in high school, she rescued a pair of baby hummingbirds who had become motherless (I feel she does something similar with our trainees in the Plant Clinic). Figuring they needed more than sugar water, Judy captured fruit flies, much to her grandmother's chagrin (because she dropped a jar of them in the kitchen one day), and created a fruit fly formula for her babies. Judy nursed them so successfully that the male, named Gigolo, would escape from his cage and dive at her mother's houseguests! As often happens, a man changed Judy's life, in this case, it was Judy's high

school biology teacher. His passion for Biology sent Judy on to Cal Poly Pomona where she studied Biology...and where she met her first husband...funny thing about that biology.

Once graduated, Judy and her husband moved to Northern California and opened Anderson Valley Nursery, a wholesale nursery specializing in drought tolerant and Mediterranean plants. Now, Judy's mother loved to garden and was quite creative, but Judy was never interested as a child? Apparently, some genetics were transferred though, because Judy now holds the title of Douglas County Master Gardener of the Year, and provides all of us with hope that our deeds will not go unnoticed. Although the nursery remains, Judy left it in 1986 and began working for Edmeades Vineyards as a saleswoman. Ever the biologist, Judy married Deron Edmeades and moved to Arizona, where she lived for the next 8 years. She then found herself in Portland, Oregon. Knowing Judy to be a resourceful, mover and shaker (you cannot staff the Plant Clinic without being so) I was not surprised to find she has worked as a School Librarian, Bartender and Taxidermist. At some point during all this transporting Judy returned to Rancho Cucamonga to help her aging parents. Her parents had kept in touch with Charlie, her childhood sweetheart...and the childhood sweethearts were reunited...once again, that darn biology got the best of Judy, and they married in 2004. After Charlie retired, they began to look for a retirement community and chose Roseburg, well, because it just felt like home. They fell in love with their downtown Roseburg home, and although it had many of the features they said they didn't want, they bought it anyway and never looked back.



Judy joined the Douglas County Master Gardener Program in 2008. It was Charlie, who while they were attending the Fair, saw our booth and suggested, then convinced her, she should join. She signed on the dotted line and the rest is history. Judy told me she was asked at some point to "fill in for Mildred," who had become ill and unable to manage the Plant Clinic. She has been filling in for Mildred ever since. Judy loves to learn and help others, and the Plant Clinic is a good fit for someone like that. She has developed curriculum, and consistency, and brought our Plant Clinic to its current level of expertise. We are grateful for her dedication to our Program and hope she continues to grace us with her knowledge and good humor. Gardeners, meet Judy Mercer!

## President's Report – Michelle Harding-Olson

Wow! Fall is living up to its name, and the rain is falling and falling and falling. And while I was really tired of 90 degree weather, I didn't mean I wanted all this rain, so sorry I mentioned anything. Along with the diminished daylight come diminished hours in the garden, both our own and the Discovery Garden, freeing us up to participate in lots of indoor activities. We have Winter Training and our Bake Sale on the horizon, and I encourage you to consider mentoring a trainee or refreshing your knowledge by attending any of the sessions in the training schedule. Trash to Treasure 2014 will be upon us before we know it, so now is the time to begin collecting items you'd like to donate. We need another volunteer to join Della, who has agreed to shadow Cindy and Debbie before they step down. If you are a successful rummage sale organizer, we need you! Spring into Gardening will also happen in February and Steve is busy organizing this event. So many ways for us to spend our time productively while having some fun.

When employees are asked by their employers why they go above and beyond their job duties, studies show it is because they are recognized for their efforts. Last night's Award Banquet was fabulous and fun, not really an award ceremony, as much as a celebration of remarkable people and their accomplishments. Even the centerpieces were award worthy and the food too. Betty Ison, Judy Huntley, and their crew outdid themselves. The Master Gardener Program of Douglas County has been recognized in so many ways this year and the following are but a few:

Steve Renquist – College of Agricultural Sciences Excellence in Extension Education Award 2013

Judy Mercer – Douglas County Master Gardener of the Year 2013

Douglas County Plant Clinic – International Search for Excellence Award 2013

Shirley Purcell – Douglas County Horticultural Agent's Award 2013

Jackie Carpenter and Pam Barrows – “Behind the Scenes” Master Gardeners of the Year 2013

Karen Glatz – Outstanding New Apprentice Master Gardeners of the Year 2013

Feel free to recognize these people especially, or anyone else you see doing a terrific job. Bob Brindley comes to mind as someone whose efforts on behalf of the recent “Tomato Taste-Off” is deserving of our praise. We ended our summer season in style.

Be fruitful and dry.

*Editor's Note: Stay tuned for more news and pictures from the Awards Banquet in the November newsletter.*

## Tribute to a Former Master Gardener

Quite a few of you might remember Caroline and Ray Link who were very active during their years at Master Gardeners. Caroline passed away in August from lung cancer.

I have had a couple of conversations with their neighbors in the Littlebrook Park in Green as there were several of them who were part of the Master Gardener family.

Ray has survived her; however, he has been quite ill for a number of years and has a care giver helping him with everyday life. Sadly, he is not cognizant with people he does not come in contact with on a daily basis. However, I did send him a card knowing he may not remember me. His address is 363 Jacob Hale Way, Roseburg, OR 97471.

Caroline made her last decorative gourd just a few days before she died and those of us who knew her feisty spirit will not be surprised to hear this news.

Both of them were active in the office manning the hot line and Caroline had a booth at the Plant Sale for several years selling her beautiful creative gourds.

She became an active volunteer at Wildlife Safari and loved working there. If you so desire, you may make a contribution to them in Caroline's name.

Elaine Moriarty  
Master Gardener President, 2006-09



Due to the generosity of the *Basin of the Umpqua Guild “BUG,”* we have a beautiful handmade quilt to raffle off. Proceeds from the raffle will go into the DCMG general fund to help support our various programs. The quilt depicts the state flower of every state, lovingly embroidered by members of the Guild. The picture included with this article shows only ¼ of the quilt.

If you have not already purchased tickets at one of our previous events, the quilt and raffle tickets will be available at our October and November chapter meetings as well as our Bake Sale on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Price for the tickets are \$1 each or 3 for \$5. A winner will be drawn the first week of December. What a wonderful Christmas present to find under the tree, whether wrapped for yourself or a loved one!



## Fall is Planting Time

Steve Renquist, OSU Horticultural Agent

Many of us love fall because it is the time of the year when we can slow down from our hectic summer schedules. We don't need to water as much with shorter, cooler days. Gardens begin to wane with crops already harvested and annuals gradually going to seed. However, before you put your feet up and get too comfortable you may want to do a little more gardening before the rainy season really kicks in.

Remember that September is a great time in Western Oregon to plant a new lawn or renovate a lawn that suffered during our summer heat wave. Just make sure you have prepared your new site by adding some compost or top soil if needed, leveling the site, lime the site, till or rake the lime in, seed with a locally recommended mix, roll a new site, tamp a small patch job, then water to keep the top 2-3 inches of soil moist. Watering in the fall is much easier with the cooler days. The grass seed should germinate within 5-7 days since the soil is still nice and warm. Go to watering about every third day once the grass is up depending on the temperature. Keep the top 3 inches of soil moist not wet. After about three weeks you should be able to cut your new grass. Careful to allow the surface to dry a little the first few times you mow so you don't create ruts in the new site.

Fall is an excellent time to plant balled and burlap trees or shrubs. The warm soil will help the plants root system get established before the wettest winter months. And by planting in the fall you don't have to dig planting holes in wet soggy soil which can be difficult and damaging to the soil. Plants that have established in the fall will also have greater resistance to freeze damage or root rots.

Researchers at several universities in the upper Midwest were wondering why so many balled and burlap ornamental shade trees used in the urban landscape were not living as long as the same species of trees in native woodland sites. They have discovered that one of the major contributing factors was the depth the trees were being placed in the soil. Landscapers and homeowners were placing the balled trees in holes large enough to take the whole ball. Most people lay a shovel handle across the top of the root ball and if it is touching the soil on both sides of the hole that will be the proper depth. However, what the researchers found is the trees are often planted too deeply in the nursery so you cannot put the whole root ball underground. You should remove the burlap and wire, and gently find the portion of the lower trunk referred to as the root flare. This is the point where the trunk flares outward just above the primary roots. If a tree was planted too deeply in the nursery you can often have adventitious roots coming out from the trunk or root flare. These should be trimmed off if they are not too large. You want to place the root ball into the hole with the root flare above the soil line and the primary roots just below the soil line. You may have to leave as much as 6-8 inches of the original root ball above the soil line. This root ball can be modified by scraping off some soil and cutting a few adventitious roots, angling down to the ground level. Cover the root ball after planting with mulch to keep the tree ball moist.

Over time you will notice a properly planted tree appears to be rising out of the ground. There will be a slightly raised area of soil around the tree that is often the maturing or expanding root flare. You will also notice no circling roots around the trunk at the soil line. These circling roots are often the adventitious roots of a tree planted too deeply. Trees planted too deeply often die prematurely from crown rots, circling roots, or lack of vigor from weak root systems struggling for oxygen. Give the gift of (long) life to your tree by keeping the root flare above the ground the next time you plant a tree.

September-October is also great time to plant a cover crop in your vegetable garden. It is a good time because the soil is still warm so seeds will germinate quickly. To plant a cover crop, first remove and shred or mow the remaining vegetation in the garden. If the soil is not too wet, lightly till the top few inches of the soil so the seeds can be raked into the soil for good contact. Choose a cover crop that includes both a legume (clover, winter peas, vetch) and a grass like annual rye, wheat, triticale, or barley. The legume will provide nitrogen to the soil and the grass will provide a vigorous mass of roots to loosen the ground and provide humus when the cover crop is chopped down next spring. Farm stores in our area will have a good supply of cover crop seeds. 1-2 lbs. of legume seed, and 3-4 lbs. of grass seed will cover the average garden that is 20 by 20 ft.

## Bake Sale

Barbara Robinson, Sharon Hopkins

Before you know it, we will be frantically measuring, mixing, and baking for our annual bake sale at Sherm's Thunderbird Market. As in past years, we will be selling our divine creations the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This year the date will be November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 to 3pm. Please highlight this date on your calendar and begin thinking about what you would like to contribute. Next month will bring more information and sign-up sheets for the various working committees, baked goods needed, etc. If you have any questions please feel free to call Barbara Robinson at 541 677-8226 or email [barbararob@gmail.com](mailto:barbararob@gmail.com).



## Winter Training 2014 Is Around the Corner

### TIME TO SIGN UP TO MENTOR

Yep, it's that time again and if you want to help a new member learn about our group of Master Gardeners AND learn something new...or just get refreshed on Master Gardener stuff ....sign up to be a Mentor. Winter Training 2014 starts the first Tuesday of January, January 7<sup>th</sup>, and goes through the second week of March. There are some new subjects and teachers along with a review of what we should/could know as Master Gardeners.

Two Mentor "classes" are scheduled:

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM in the Annex Kitchen, "What's Mentoring About?"

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM in the Annex Kitchen, "The Nitty Gritty of it all"

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

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

And even if you don't sign up to mentor, come greet the new people as they get their books and go through an orientation on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM in the Annex.

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

Maureen Benice, [mberice@douglasfast.net](mailto:mberice@douglasfast.net) ... 541 673 4671

## Monthly MG Lunch

Diane De Micco

A group of MG's met for lunch in September. We would like to open this monthly luncheon to all Master Gardeners. The next luncheon will be on October 14 at 12 noon at the Blac 'n Blue on Kline Street. This is where the old Sandy's Place was before moving to Green a few months ago.

We need to limit the number of people to 12-15 due to restaurant capabilities. Therefore please sign up ASAP by sending an email to me at [caddemd@yahoo.com](mailto:caddemd@yahoo.com). You guys out there, this is for you too!

## Community Outreach

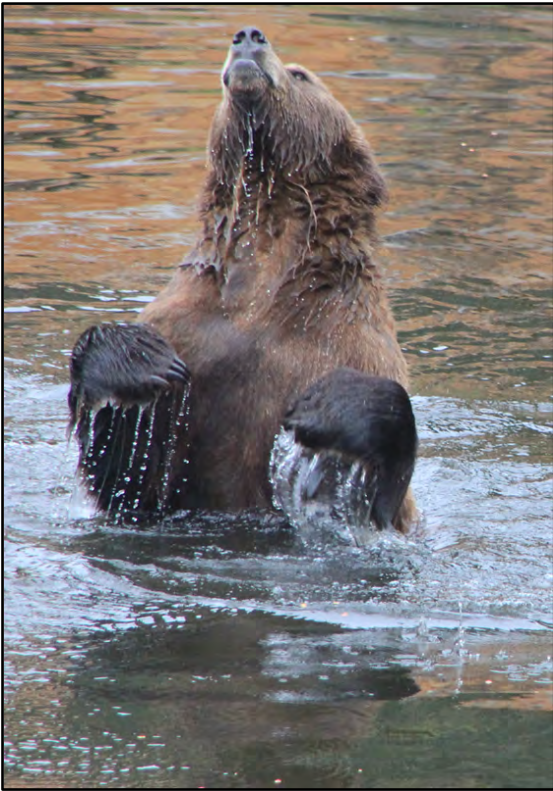
Leo Grass

Master Gardeners Julie Stanbery, Barbara Robinson Jill Garvin, and I had the good fortune to lead the students, parents and teachers from Cobb Street school through our garden, this month. What a Hoot! Cobb Street is tearing up a paved parking lot in order to build a contoured, grassy playground, complete with a learning garden.

# International Master Gardeners Conference

Larry Sutton

It was like coming downstairs on Christmas morning and finding a tree full of gifts. An embarrassment of riches that begged "open me" first. The choices were so many, the time was so short and we wanted to do it all.



At about 10:30 in the morning Master Gardeners from all over the world started to congregate in the Holland America Lines waiting room anticipating the time they would be told it was their turn to board. When our group was called we entered the queue, had the first of many pictures taken by the shipboard photographer, and walked across the long gangway to board the huge MS Westerdam. The ship that was to be our home for the next week. For the next few hours we rushed around finding our room, eating, registering for the conference, eating, doing lifeboat drills, eating and then going to the main show lounge for a keynote speaker and the 2013 Search for Excellence presentations and awards.

Awards were given to the top three places in each of the seven categories. Each of the first place winners were asked to give a three minute presentation on their projects. It may have been that some of the speakers came from different time zones so their three minutes seemed longer than the ones in our time zones. Most were politely listened to and then we moved on to the next one. Finally the award for Innovation was announced and Judy Mercer made her way to the podium to give a precise three minute presentation. The Douglas County presentation was the only one that was interrupted by spontaneous applause. Judy had put together a hit and the crowd responded accordingly.

Following the awards came the first of many keynote speakers for the week. Subjects ranged from Entomology and Hollywood: History of the 1950's Science Fiction to container gardening to salmon trees of Alaska. All topics were interesting and presented by talented speakers. While underway, day times hours were filled with one hour lectures on a variety of subjects around gardening, plant problem diagnosis, and solutions to many of the problems facing Master Gardener leadership. There was something for every MG interest and not enough time to take them all. We soon learned that if there was a class being offered that we had not registered for that we could go to the classroom, wait in line and then be seated in one of the extra seats.

Of course the ship offered activities designed to fill the underway time. I managed to fit in two art auctions and lectures and three hours of an introductory class in windows 8. Food was plentiful, from all appearances, the drinks flowed generously, and the onboard entertainment was available in venues to please almost any palate. One night we watched a magician do stage illusions but most nights we were content with enjoying the jazz musicians or singing along in the piano bar. My wife noted that we never stayed up that late at home. Of course at home we are not that close to the varieties of entertainment offered on board ship.

In each of the four ports we visited tours were offered by both the Master Gardeners and the cruise line. Knowing the almost half of the passengers (987) were Master Gardeners or guests, many of the ship sponsored tours were augmented by items designed to attract MGs. It worked out well for us as each tour turned out to be longer than what was advertised in order to include the added sights.

One week after we left Seattle we returned to the same pier. Sadly we left the ship, picked up our bags and headed for the shuttle bus to get back to our car. We were tired yet energized and anxious to get home and apply what we had learned.



# OMGA Report

Rosemary Brinkley, OMGA State Representative

The OMGA executive Board is asking for input on where to have the 2015 Mini-college for Gardeners. They are looking for a facility that has meeting rooms, housing, and dining for a reasonable cost. If you have any suggestions please contact me or Roger Sawyer, (the new OMGA alt) with your ideas and suggestions. Remember Mini-College next year is July 12-13 at OSU.

The 2013 International MG Conference held in September was attended by about 1000 MGs. There were 9 Master Gardeners and friends from Douglas County, and 38 from Oregon. Our own Judy Mercer presented the award winning Search for Excellence for innovative practices talk on the first day of the cruise. She did an outstanding job. Please thank her for all her hard work in developing the plant clinic training sessions. She and loyal band of veterans, Leo Grass, Chris Rusch, Larry Sutton and Karolyn Riecks, have put Douglas County Master Gardeners on the map.

There were two other presenters from Oregon, Gail Langellotto, who presented a two hour class on An Objective Overview of GM Foods and Rose Marie Nichols McGee from Nichols Garden Nursery in Albany, OR. Rose Marie was a Keynote speaker, speaking on The Bountiful Container. The sessions I attended were informative and enjoyable. I would encourage you to consider attending the international conference in Nebraska in 2015 or Portland, Oregon in 2017.



## Notes from the Clinic

Judy Mercer

Hi everyone. Welcome to Fall. It looks like we're in for another interesting season.

This summer there were a lot of heat and drought stress plants and our Fall is starting out unseasonably cool and wet. Our local Gardeners are going to have a lot of challenges.

As of September 26<sup>th</sup>, we had helped 77 clients. Starting in October we will be cutting days for the Clinic to Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and in November to Monday and Wednesday. December we will be open on Mondays. Any of you from the Class of 2013 who still need hours should sign up as soon as possible since there will be fewer slots open.

Stay dry and I'll see you in the Clinic.

## Kruse Farms News

Maureen Benice

The last day of the season for the Master Gardener/Master Food Preserver booth at Kruse Farms was September 28<sup>th</sup>. We had a lot of discussions about gardening and food safety/preservation with Kruse Farms customers. Rain or shine, heat or cold.

I want to thank all the workers who have volunteered their time to represent the OSU Extension.: Alixe Dancer, Renee McElhatton, Shirley Purcell, Diana Young, Diane Twete, Dianne Billings, Janet Parkerson, Barbara Robinson, Sharon and Dave Hopkins, Loreen Robinson, Ray Warren, Rusdee Chastain AND my husband, Ted (who helped set up many times along with being a Master Gardener representative). .... What a great group!

## Treasurer's Report

Vicki McAlister

We are in the midst of our 2014 budget cycle. The budget will be discussed at our October board meeting and presented to the general membership for consideration at our October meeting. We will be voting on the budget at our November general meeting.

Thanks to all of the officers and committee chairs for submitting their requests in a timely manner!

**2013 requests for reimbursement due to the Treasurer by December 15, 2013.**

### INCOME 8/24/13 - 9/25/13

Pavilion/Interest	\$76.59
Soil Testing	\$85.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$161.59</b>

### EXPENSES 8/24/13 - 9/25/13

Mgmt/General - Scholarship/Officer Gifts	\$1,821.54
CE - Greenhouse/Irrigation	\$282.71
Clinic - Soil Testing	\$42.64
DG - Easy Access/Maint/Rock/Xeriscape	\$446.20
HLC - Greenhouse/Maint/Victory Garden	\$208.18
Plant Sale - NY Seeds/Plants	\$254.98
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,056.25</b>

### BREAKDOWN OF OUR ACCOUNTS

Checking	\$2,281.36
Money Market – Reserves	\$6,659.10
Money Market	\$29,082.86
<b>Ending Balance 9/25/13</b>	<b>\$38,023.32</b>

## September 2013 Chapter Minutes

Janet Parkerson

The OSU Douglas County Master Gardeners chapter meeting was called to order at 9:05 on August 29, 2013 by President **Michelle Harding-Olson**. Forty-nine members were in attendance. The Agenda was amended to include **Barbara Robinson** and accepted as amended. The minutes of the August 2013 chapter meeting were approved as written.

**HORTICULTURE AGENT – Steve Renquist** reported registration for the winter training class is down. Only nine people have signed up so far, even though we had 210 leads, more than in past years. Steve has arranged for the owner of Red Pig Garden Tools to speak at our Spring Into Gardening conference next February 22nd on the "Ergonomics of Gardening" and "Care and Feeding of Tools". There will be Bio-char demonstrations at the Discovery Garden on Saturday, November 9th from 10:00-2:00. New research indicates Bio-char's value is in its longevity. It assists soil in the retention of nutrients over time. While the Diagnostics Group is scheduled to meet on the third Wednesday of the month, Steve may need to reschedule specific meetings. Steve described a recent exchange with a local wine grape grower, who sprayed his vineyard with Sevin to get rid of honeybees, upon the recommendation of DC Coop. Honeybees are a protected species, and this was illegal.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – Ruth Stafford** reported that the new membership list is available.

**OMGA REPRESENTATIVE – Rosemary Brinkley** reported OMGA is looking for a venue for the 2014 Conference. Also, Rosemary said the OMGA International Conference Cruise had Master Gardeners from all over the world, including four from Korea and two from the United Kingdom. The classes were amazing and so were the sights.

**TREASURER – Vicki McAlister** reviewed the Treasurer's Report. The 2014 Budget process has begun. All 2013 Budget requests are due by December 15, 2013. The water bill has still not been received for last period.

**VICE-PRESIDENT – Fred Alley** had nothing to report.

**PAST-PRESIDENT – Larry Sutton** reported Continuing Education will resume on October 31, 2013 at 9:00 am. The subject has yet to be determined.



**PRESIDENT – Michelle Harding-Olson** appointed **Roger Sawyer** to the position of OMGA Alternate Representative and he has accepted. Michelle submitted this appointment to the Chapter for a vote. A show of hands indicated 100% approval. Michelle also reported a new Kruse Farms Director will be needed for next year.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Leo Grass** reported he conducted a tour of the Discovery Garden for students from the Cobb Street School, along with parents and teachers. He said it was "a joy to do." He said the reason they were interested in seeing the Garden was because they are removing a generous section of asphalt at the school to put in a Learning Garden. He asked for volunteers to assist them with that project.

**WINTER TRAINING PROGRAM – Maureen Benice** announced Winter Training is right around the corner. They still need Mentors. There are two mentor classes scheduled: October 30th, 10:00 am in the Annex Kitchen titled "What's Mentoring About?" and December 4th, 10 AM in the Annex Kitchen titled "The Nitty Gritty of It All". The classes are designed to help volunteers be good mentors and learn the procedures for helping students through the Master Gardening class. Volunteers can sign up to full time or substitute mentor or share the duty with someone else. Maureen encouraged everyone to greet the new students as they get their books and go through orientation on November 12th at 11:00 am in the Annex. The sign-up sheet is in the Plant Clinic.

**PLANT CLINIC – Judy Mercer** reported the Plant Clinic has serviced 77 clients so far this month. She also announced the change in hours for the Plant Clinic: October the clinic will be open Monday, Wednesdays and Thursdays; November the clinic will be open Monday and Wednesdays; and December it will be open only on Mondays. Judy announced the "**Search for Excellence Award**" was presented to the Chapter at the International Conference. She credited **Larry Sutton's** excellent presentation for the reason we received the award. Larry chimed in by saying **Judy Mercer's** presentation was the only one to receive a standing ovation! Judy presented the "**Search for Excellence Award**" to the Chapter via **Michelle Harding-Olson**.

**KRUSE FARMS – Maureen Benice** said we are done for the year. She also expressed her appreciation for all of those that volunteered. She expressed a special thanks to **Alix Dancer** who volunteered six times this summer.

**DISCOVERY GARDEN – Julie Stanbery** reported that cleanup has been ongoing. Last Thursday was the official last day at the Discovery Garden. However, next Tuesday she asked for help to clean up and load mulch at the Entry Garden. She also asked for a truck for the day. She expressed thanks to **Karen Glatz** and **Janet Parkerson** for doing the watering, and **Jackie Carpenter** for reading the meters weekly. Jackie does this all year round, which assists in monitoring for any leaks. **Bill Decker** is retiring and so Julie is looking for a new Easy Access Garden head. She reminded the attendees that this can be done with a buddy system and does not have to be done by just one person. Julie also expressed thanks to **Ken Hayes** and **Sue Scott** for weeding last week.

**DISCOVERY GARDEN SIGNAGE – Karen Glatz** hopes to unveil signs for the entry and Xeriscape garden in October. She extended thanks to everyone working on the Signage Project: herself, **Jen Bailey**, **Betty Ison**, **Nathan Baily**, **Julie Stanbery**, **Sharon Hopkins** - who did the initial design, **Tasha King** and many others. Members requested an article be written for the Newsletter w/pictures once the signs are installed.

**VICTORY GARDEN – Mik Carlson** reported the Victory Garden is still growing and they are still donating food to UCAN. She also said UCAN does not mind getting the almost ripe tomatoes, as they know how to get them to ripen. They also have no problem finding ways to use the unusual Tromboni Zucchini. They put them in soups, stews and whatever else they can think of.

**AWARDS – Betty Ison** reported **Joanne Pico** and **Ray Warren** have completed 60 hours and have earned their swing badges. Betty also requested volunteers for Saturday's Awards Banquet to help set up. She passed around a sign up sheet. The Banquet will feature homemade soups, salads, breads and desserts, along with "awesome prizes."

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

**HALLMARK** – **Linda Thames** reported **Toni Rudolph's** husband Jim's tests revealed no blockage and his heart issues should be able to be managed with medication. Linda reported **Carolyn Link** passed away due to cancer. TJ Vaughn, **Marjorie Vaughn's** husband also passed away. **Marjorie Orr** is recovering and doing very well. Linda asked if anyone knows of someone who is in need of a card, let her know.

**Trash to Treasures** – **Cindy Rich** announced she and **Debbie Haynes** will step down after the 2014 T to T Sale. They would like a MG to shadow them in 2014 and assume the responsibility beginning 2015. **Della Neavoll** volunteered.

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

**BAKE SALE** – **Barbara Robinson** announced the Bake Sale will be held on November 23rd at Sherms.

As a fund raiser we are raffling off a beautiful quilt, embroidered by **Judy Huntley**, and donated by her Quilt Guild. Judy hand embroidered the state flowers then had a professional sew them together to make the quilt. Raffle tickets cost \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The Quilt will be on display at the Awards Banquet and the Bake Sale. The winner will be announced the first week of December.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS** – A motion was made by **Jen Bailey** to increase the current charge for mailed copies of the newsletter from \$5.00 to \$7.25. This allows additional pages to be published, beyond the current 10-page limit. **Julie Stanbery** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

**SHOW-AND-TELL** – **Betty Ison** also announced that she brought with her to the meeting, Tiger Lily babies for anyone who wanted them. She also stated that she will be clearing out a sizeable amount of Shasta Daisies from her garden soon and if anyone is interested, give her a call. Betty also showed off her very straight Tromboni Zucchini that she grew in her own garden.



## Western Oregon Gardening Hints for October 2013 from OSU Extension

### Planning

- If needed, improve soil drainage needs of lawns before rain begins.

### Maintenance and Clean Up

- Drain or blow out your irrigation system, insulate valve mechanisms, in preparation of winter.
- 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).

- Use newspaper or cardboard covered by mulch to discourage winter and spring annual weeds or remove a lawn area for conversion to garden beds. For conversion, work in the paper and mulch as organic matter once the lawn grass has died.
- Clean and paint greenhouses and cold frames for plant storage and winter growth.
- Harvest sunflower heads; use seed for birdseed or roast for personal use.
- Dig and store potatoes; keep in darkness, moderate humidity, temperature about 40°F. Discard unused potatoes if they sprout. Don't use as seed potatoes for next year.
- Harvest and immediately dry filberts and walnuts; dry at 95° to 100°F.
- Ripen green tomatoes indoors. Check often and discard rotting fruit.
- Harvest and store apples; keep at about 40°F, moderate humidity.
- Place mulch over roots of roses, azaleas, rhododendrons and berries for winter protection.
- Trim or stake bushy herbaceous perennials to prevent wind damage.
- To suppress future pest problems, clean up annual flowerbeds by removing diseased plant materials, overwintering areas for insect pests; mulch with manure or garden compost to feed the soil and suppress weeds.
- Cover asparagus and rhubarb beds with a mulch of manure or compost.
- Clean, sharpen and oil tools and equipment before storing for winter.
- Store garden supplies and fertilizers in a safe, dry place out of reach of children.
- Prune out dead fruiting canes in raspberries.
- Harvest squash and pumpkins; keep in dry area at 55° to 60°F.
- If necessary (as indicated by soil test results) and if weather permits, spade organic material and lime into garden soil.

### **Planting/Propagation**

- Dig and divide rhubarb. (Should be done about every 4 years.)
- Plant garlic for harvesting next summer.
- Propagate chrysanthemums, fuchsias, geraniums by stem cuttings.
- Save seeds from the vegetable and flower garden. Dry, date, label, and store in a cool and dry location.
- Plant ground covers and shrubs.
- Dig and store geraniums, tuberous begonias, dahlias, gladiolas.
- Pot and store tulips and daffodils to force into early bloom, indoors, in December and January.

### **Pest Monitoring and Management**

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Remove and dispose of windfall apples that might be harboring apple maggot or codling moth larvae.
- Rake and destroy diseased leaves (apple, cherry, rose, etc.), or hot compost diseased leaves.
- Spray apple and stone fruit trees at leaf fall to prevent various fungal and bacterial diseases. Obtain a copy of "Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards (EC631)" from your local Extension office or online. If moles and gophers are a problem, consider traps.
- Control fall-germinating lawn weeds while they are small. Hand weeding and weeding tools are particularly effective at this stage.

### **Houseplants and Indoor Gardening**

- Early October: reduce water, place in cool area (50-55 F) and increase time in shade or darkness (12-14 hours) to force Christmas cactus to bloom in late December.
- Place hanging pots of fuchsias where they won't freeze. Don't cutback until spring.
- Check/treat houseplants for disease and insects before bringing indoors.



# Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: Deadline for November 2013 newsletter is November 1st. 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)

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

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

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

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



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