



Douglas County Master Gardeners

December 2013 Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 12



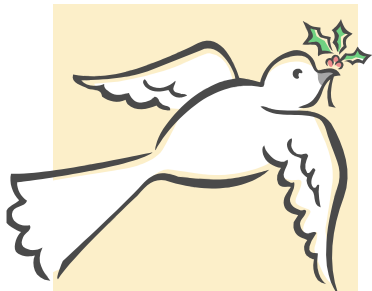
Reimbursement requests
are due by
December 15, 2013

Membership dues
are due by
January 1, 2014

Volunteer Hour Reports
are due by
January 15, 2014

Winter Training Program
begins
January 7, 2014

Please bring a potluck or
snack contribution and
meet our 2014 trainees



Rosemary Brinkley OMGA Representative



Master Gardener of the Month, by Michelle Harding-Olson

Rosemary Brinkley and I have been partners in OMGA crime for some time, but I never had the opportunity to sit and chat with her about herself and how she became a gardener. This interview allowed me that opportunity and I am pleased to share my new-found knowledge with you this month.

Rosemary is a 4th generation Oregonian baby-boomer from Portland, Oregon. Her father's father was quite the gardener and a

truck farmer by trade. Rosemary recalls early days of shelling peas for her grandmother and I'm quite certain these are the influences that caught up with her later in life. Her father was transferred to the Roseburg VA when she was eleven, and other than her college years, she has called Roseburg home. Rosemary's mother was a teacher and nutritionist and taught Home Ec at Roseburg High School. Her mother also had an allergy to the sun, but undaunted, she gardened at night and Rosemary's father took care of the daytime gardening. They canned as a family and Rosemary and her sister and brother ate nutritious food.

Always interested in science, Rosemary became convinced when she attended a Junior Science Program one summer. She left Roseburg in 1965 to pursue a Biology Degree at Willamette University in Salem, never thinking she'd get hooked on Cultural Anthropology instead. Always a person who wanted to "do it her own way," she ultimately changed her major to Social Psychology (perfect for OMGA business) and finished her Bachelor's Degree in 1969 at OSU. She met her husband Mike during a high school Chemistry class and although they attended the prom together, they ultimately went their separate ways. When Rosemary transferred to OSU she remembered Mike was at OSU too. They reunited in her sophomore year, and began arranging dates with their respective friends for each other. That chemistry thing FINALLY had its way and they FINALLY realized it was OK to date each other! Mike graduated with a degree in Pharmacy and accepted a position in Roseburg, they married, and moved back home in 1970. Rosemary, however, was having difficulty finding suitable employment. Her friends kept encouraging her to apply to the police department as a dispatcher; she finally did, and worked approximately two years for the Roseburg Police Department. During this time, Rosemary was exposed to the horrific

details of crimes against women and children, and would later become a formidable advocate for the abused. First, however, she became the mother of two and a stay-at-home mom. During these twelve years Rosemary also did volunteer work for Rape Victim Advocacy, Child Protective Services, and the League of Women Voters, finally returning to work as a Case Worker for the Children Services Division. One sunny afternoon Rosemary received a telephone call from a former teacher saying he had created the perfect job for her, a job she couldn't refuse—which she didn't, and so became the first Child Development Specialist at Green Elementary School. Rosemary spent the next twenty-four years as an advocate for change. Among other things, she taught parenting classes, conducted group therapy sessions for 21–60 year old victims of rape and abuse, and acted as liaison between parents and children, and government agencies and services.

In 2007, Rosemary quit working in order to care for her mother who had developed Alzheimer's disease. She and Mike had lived in their Melrose area home for about thirty-eight years when her mother passed away, and Rosemary decided to build a beautiful pond to honor her, the pond also became a means of processing her loss. She worked with Susan Putman and Jacob Lunder to create the most peaceful space on her property. Once built, however, Rosemary began to think about how to maintain it and how little she knew about that. Mike's mother was a Master Gardener and Mike noticed a newspaper ad about our Training Program. He urged Rosemary to apply, and she did. The year was 2010 and Debbie Hesseltine was her mentor; once again Rosemary was hooked on science! She spent years nurturing people, now she nurtures plants, and we couldn't be more happy about it. Thank you Rosemary for all that you do.

Bake Sale 2013

Barbara Robinson and Sharon Hopkins

Mother Nature blessed us with wonderful weather for our annual bake sale at Sherm's Thunderbird Market this past Saturday. Compared to last year's rain, wind, and cold, this year's frigid temperature was a welcome reprieve. Although the high in Roseburg for that day was only 37 degrees, a dedicated group of Master Gardeners did not let that stop them from manning the tables and luring in unsuspecting customers.



Our tables and racks were full with a wide variety of delectable delights for snacking while on the way home or perhaps putting back for Thanksgiving dinner. Sherm's employees stopped by to pick up break and lunchtime goodies. Other shoppers looked for a particular item, remembering from a previous year how wonderful it was! We are most certainly developing a cult following from year to year.

We brought in a whopping \$1,330 which will be a nice little sum to add to our general fund. This would not have been possible without the dedication of so many of our members. Our thanks go out to everyone who baked, donated baking supplies or donated money toward purchasing baking ingredients. We also give kudos to the work crew, some of which showed up before daylight in 28 degree weather to set up. Others spent the entire day, right through to clean up.

By the end of the sale we were left with only 2 small boxes of goodies. These were donated to *Casa de Belen*, a local runaway and homeless youth shelter, with transitional housing.

We are looking forward to yet another successful bake sale next year. In the meantime, this next summer when you are picking berries, peaches, etc. pick a few extra for the freezer earmarked for the 2014 MG bake sale. And, don't forget to save those sturdy pie tins you get from Kruse Market and Shari's for our pie bakers!



Our blessings go out to all of you for a joyful Christmas and a New Year full of wonderful memories in the making.

Tomato Taste-Off Winners 2013

Bob Brindley

We only had 11 tomatoes to taste this year compared to our typical year where we get two to three times that. So either people didn't have tomatoes available in September to share or this event has run its course. In addition we had a much smaller number of tasters than previous years. We will need to discuss this next summer; no use to continue the event if there is no interest. We could drop the entire event or taste another vegetable or salsas (which we did once before). I'm open for suggestions. One change we did this year that did work out was making the names of the tomatoes available as people tasted. That meant people that didn't want to taste all the tomatoes, could just taste the ones they liked and/or new ones that they were curious about.

Red Slicing

- 1st – Parks Whopper – Betty Ison
- 2nd – Ace – Bob Brindley
- 3rd – Big Beef – Betty Ison
- Also tasted – Bush Early Girl

Cherry

- 1st – Sungold – Elva Sellens
- 2nd – Sweet Million – Elva Sellens

Paste

- 1st – Juliet – Betty Ison
- 2nd – Viva Italia – Betty Ison
- 3rd – Oregon Star – Bob Brindley

Non-red slicing

- 1st – Aunt Ruby's German Green – Bob Brindley
- Also tasted – Japanese Black

Digging and Dividing Dahlias with Elva Sellens

Photos by Maureen Benice



OMGA Report

Rosemary Brinkley

Happy Holidays to all you wonderful Master Gardeners. Roger Sawyer and I attended the OMGA quarterly Board meeting in Newberg. Here are the highlights of the meeting.

Budget

With guidance from Roger, some strategic reductions were made and a balanced budget was achieved.

Leadership Forum

This last year there were 4 leadership forums held prior to the OMGA Board meeting. This year there will 2 held, one at Mini-College and another at a time to be determines. The Executive Board would like suggestions from chapters as to the type of forums they would like relating to leadership. Any suggestions? Let Roger or me know.

Mini-College

Mini-college for 2014 is July 12-13, It will be held at OSU . The tentative schedule is to hold Leadership Forum and tours on Friday the 11, and the Banquet on Sunday the 13th. This year 2013, 250 attended Mini-college. In order to break even 300 registered participants were needed. OMGA is hoping by moving the Mini-College to the weekend they will be able to increase the participation.

New Executive Officers

The following were elected to the OMGA Executive Board for 2014.

President: Jim Liskey; Pres. Elect: Alan Cook; 1st VP: Mary Mellard, 2nd VP: Lynn Trimpe; 3rd VP: Jo Ann Bones; Secretary: Judy Zettergren; and Treasurer: Katherine Johnson.

Data Base Management

With the input from 20 chapters it was decided that OMGA should not go forward with a third

party database manager. The recommendation is to continue working to improve communications between OMGA and chapter members through the system now in place.

Gail Langellotto's report

Recommendations have been made to the Extension Master Garden National Committee for national standards and a national mission for Extension Master Gardener Programs in the United States. You can read them at <http://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/national-emg-volunteer-and-leadership-task-force/task-force-report-to-emgnc>. Or you can find a copy in the Plant Clinic in the OMGA rep box.

Gail is heading the committee to plan the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference to be held In Portland. Larry Sutton is also working on this endeavor. She will be looking for other MG's to help out as the time gets closer to the event.

Winter Training 2014

Maureen Benice

Winter Training 2014 preparation is moving right along. There has been one Mentor class/meeting and another is coming up on December 4th, in the Extension Kitchen at 10 AM.

New student Orientation went well and we have a bunch of enthusiastic new students. The mentors are attending to their required jobs without much nagging from the Chief Nag (me). We are looking forward to January 7th, 2014 and the start of training. Mentors will bring snacks and a potluck dish. All other Master Gardeners should bring a potluck dish to go along with the chicken since the DCMGs provide lunch for the first day of class.

Please feel free to attend any class and get some new and up to date information.



A Riddle Riddle

Phil Nessel

What is more than four thousand years old, comes in many different forms and materials, and no one knows how they work? Labyrinths of course.

In a few months the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Riddle will have a seven circuit traditional labyrinth to enjoy with local folks and anyone who wanders by. Phil and Nancy Nessel are both Master Gardeners, love labyrinths and are leading this project. It is a labor of love.

Located next to the sanctuary, the garden will be the main feature of a city lot. It will be made of pavers to outline the paths. The paths will be grass and we will be experimenting with Steppables and other ground covers and plants. Visit us from dawn to dusk in the days ahead and cheer us on. The design is by Stephen Shibley at Fertile Grounds in Estacada, Oregon.

If you would like to practice walking a labyrinth the Roseburg Methodist Church, Tri City Presbyterian, Rogue River Hospital in Grants Pass and the Ashland Episcopal Church have completed labyrinths open to the public.

Volunteer Hour Reporting Guidelines

Payback Hours

You are obligated to pay back a total of 60 hours by December 31st.

For Master Gardener Trainees

Of those 60 hours –

- 36 hours in the Plant Clinic, satellite clinic, Soil testing, Insect committee
- 10 hours in the Discovery Garden or Victory Garden
- 14 hours in the activity/activities of your choice other than Continuing Education

Continuing Education counts as volunteer time, BUT NOT as payback of the 60 hours

Important Notes

No credit is given for gardening related activities done for private or public organizations when not working on behalf of the Master Gardener organization.

Travel Time – No credit is given for travel time

PLEASE record ALL of your volunteer time. Our chapter is evaluated at the State level based on how many volunteer hours we can report. So, ALL hours are important even those that don't count toward your payback hours. All hours are recorded on the time sheets provided using the codes listed below.

Please turn time sheets in as soon after the end of the month as is possible

<i>Time Sheet Activity (Code)</i>	<i>Activity Description</i>
<i>Plant Clinic (CL)</i>	Working in the Plant Clinic or staffing Satellite Clinic locations, i.e. Kruse Farms and Farmers Market Working on the Insect Committee Preparing or maintaining educational displays, i.e., display case in hall Assisting in ongoing operation of Soil Sampling Lab, including responses to clients Office management of plant clinic
<i>Discovery Garden (DG)</i>	All activities benefiting the Discovery Garden including meetings, fund raising, design, construction, and maintenance
<i>Community Outreach (CO)</i>	Assisting with Extension Programs and tours All activities for the Winter Training Program including mentoring Gardening demonstrations, presentations to the general public including garden groups, civic groups, seminars, hosting or leading tours for garden clubs or other civic groups Class preparation and presentation (includes workshops, seminars) Douglas County Fair Booth, Home Show, Spring Fair, Earth Day, River Appreciation Day or any other similar community events
<i>Plant Sale (PS)</i>	Any and every thing you do for the Plant Sale
<i>Fund Raising (FR)</i>	Participating in all other fund raising activities outside the Plant Sale including the Bake Sale and Trash to Treasures
<i>Chapter Duties (CD)</i>	Maintaining Plant Clinic library, equipment, computer and records Editing or contributing to the MG newsletter Attending DCMG monthly general meetings (1.5 hrs.) Attending DCMG Executive Committee meetings (actual hrs.) Attending OMGA Business or Executive meetings for OMGA Business (actual hrs.) Attending OMGA Executive meetings by MGs who are not state officers (actual hrs.)
<i>Learning Center (HLC)</i>	Assisting with research and demonstration training projects Horticultural Learning Center (HLC) open house Working around the HLC and sometimes within the Greenhouse operations; water/plumbing, mowing, research plots
<i>Continuing Education (C-Ed)</i>	Chapter continuing education (1 hr.) (not counted towards payback) Winter Program lectures attended by Veteran MGs (actual hrs.) OMGA Mini-college lectures only (actual hrs.) Other approved seminars (actual hrs.)
<i>Other (OT) with explanation</i>	OMGA Executive meetings attendance by State Officers (actual hrs.)

Western Oregon Gardening Hints for December 2013 from OSU Extension

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Spread wood ashes evenly on vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 lb/100 sq ft/year. Don't use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.
- Protect new landscape plants from wind. Use stakes, guy wires and/or windbreaks as needed.
- Yard sanitation: rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds, hoe or pull winter weeds.
- Turn the compost pile and protect from heavy rains, if necessary.
- During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tilling, ditching, and French drains are possible short-term solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales as a longer term solution.
- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow or ice breakage.
- Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.
- Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water regularly during the winter.

Planting/Propagation

- Good time of year to plant trees, landscape shrubs.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. Remove weeds to prevent rodents from using them as hiding places. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Avoid mounding mulching materials around the bases of trees and shrubs. The mulch might provide cover for rodents.
- Monitor spruce trees for spruce aphids. Treat if present in large numbers. Read and follow pesticide label directions.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Protect poinsettias from cold, place in sunlight, don't let leaves touch cold windows; fertilize with houseplant fertilizer to maintain leaf color.
- Monitor houseplants for adequate water and fertilizer. Water and fertilizer requirements generally are less in winter.

Our congratulations go out to Carol Stewart of Sutherlin who was the lucky winner of our quilt raffle. The beautiful quilt blocks, depicting the state flower of each state, were embroidered by the members of the Basin of the Umpqua Guild quilting group. Judy Huntley then put the blocks together and had it professionally quilted. It turned out absolutely stunning and the raffle raised \$327 to be deposited into our general fund. Be sure to thank Judy Huntley for her generosity when you see her.

November 2013 Chapter Meeting Minutes

The OSU Douglas County Master Gardeners chapter meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM on November 21, 2013 by President **Michelle Harding-Olson**. Forty seven members were in attendance. The agenda was accepted as written. The minutes of the October 2013 chapter meeting were approved as written.

HORTICULTURE AGENT - Steve Renquist presented certificates to **Karolyn Riecks, Judy Mercer, Maureen Benice, Leo Grass, Larry Sutton** (and **Chris Rusch**, not present) for their contribution to the 2013 International Search for Excellence award.



Steve emphasized the importance of reporting volunteer hours, sharing some preliminary statistics: year to date, we've had 4,282 contacts and over 14,000 volunteer hours reported.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR - Ruth Stafford reminded everyone that dues are owed by January 1st. The membership form is available in the newsletter and at the Plant Clinic.

OMGA REPRESENTATIVE - Rosemary Brinkley thanked **Roger Sawyer** for his participation at the last OMGA meeting, insisting that OMGA adopt a balanced budget. OMGA has elected a new board of officers. Rosemary encouraged Douglas County Master Gardeners to consider participating at the OMGA board level. OMGA would like to award more grants for special projects. OMGA is not pursuing the proposal of

hiring someone to handle database administration. The latest issue of the OMGA newsletter, the Gardeners' Pen, will be published tomorrow.

TREASURER - Vicki McAlister reminded everyone that requests for reimbursement are due by December 15th. She reviewed the Treasurer's Report (see attached).

VICE PRESIDENT - Fred Alley noted that donations for refreshments at the Continuing Education and chapter meetings are much appreciated. He is soliciting topics for future Continuing Education sessions.

PAST PRESIDENT - Larry Sutton reminded everyone that the 2017 International Master Gardeners Conference will be held in Portland. The committee is deciding on the conference location, expecting 1,200 participants from around the world. The conference will be held in the middle of a week sometime during the summer, with 2-3 days of tours before and after the conference itself.

PRESIDENT - Michelle Harding-Olson covered the topics in her report under "New Business".

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Leo Grass reported that Oakland's Lincoln Middle School would still like a Master Gardener to help with their garden. Fifty people participated in the Bio-char demonstration at the Discovery Garden two weeks ago. Leo is passing off the soil testing job to **Judy Mercer**, who is looking for a couple of people to help.

WINTER TRAINING - Maureen Benice reported that 27 people have signed up for the Winter Training program. The mentoring class and orientation session went well. There will be a mentor training session on December 4th at 10:00 AM. The first day of class will be the usual potluck.

Thanks to **Vicki McAlister**, there are revised instructions for reporting volunteer hours. They will be available at the Plant Clinic and published in the newsletter.

PLANT CLINIC - Judy Mercer circulated the sign-up calendar, though most of the slots have

been filled. The 2014 sign-up calendar will be available next month.

DISCOVERY GARDEN – **Julie Stanbery** reported that **Dave Hopkins** turned off the water to the pavilion. There is a trailer filled with old hoses available to anyone interested. Many thanks to John Panches, who paid for 100 cubic yards of gravel, and to the Public Works Department, who graded and rolled the road. Julie is still looking for help in removing the Doug fir by the Butterfly Garden – a bucket truck is required. There will be a work session tomorrow at 10:00 AM to re-stack irrigation pipe and organize the yellow shed. **Bill Decker** has retired as head of the Easy Access Garden, which he's been working on since 2001. **Renee McElhatton** will be taking over for Bill.

AWARDS – **Betty Ison** reminded everyone that volunteer hours need to be reported to get new swinger bars in January.

PUBLICITY – **Bonnie Courter** submitted PSAs for the Bake Sale. **Barbara Robinson** thanked Bonnie for her article in the News-Review on the Winter Training program.

HALLMARK – **Linda Thames** reported that **Steve Renquist** recently had cataract surgery. **Toni Rudolph's** husband is improving. **Della Niehart** is recovering from recent surgery. **Shirley Purcell** spotted **Paula Yingst** in town. **Neal Evans** recently had knee replacement surgery.

BAKE SALE – **Barbara Robinson** reviewed details of the upcoming bake sale

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – The membership unanimously approved the 2014 budget, as published in the November newsletter.

Michelle Harding-Olson reported that John Panches will build us a wooden plaque outside of the Plant Clinic, to display awards and other information. **Larry Sutton** and **Fred Alley** suggested displaying a picture of the current Board members. Michelle has researched the cost of award plaques with brass name plates, to recognize Master Gardeners of the Year and other award recipients.

Michelle submitted a grant application to the Three Rivers Foundation for \$4,300, to cover the cost of new Discovery Garden signage and brochure.

Steve Renquist is holding a meeting directly after this meeting, to brainstorm ideas and dates for more fun social activities. He is shooting for six to eight established activities a year, expanding upon the existing beer and wine summer events and the new monthly lunches.

Michelle reminded everyone that the Annex Auditorium needs to be closed up after use. The room is not managed by OSU Extension.

Barbara Robinson reminded everyone that we need sturdy pie tins for the Bake Sale – it's not too soon to be collecting them for next year.

Liz Zamba-Payne is giving away crocosmia bulbs after the meeting.

Steve Renquist reminded everyone of the Spring Into Gardening program in February, where the Red Pig Tool owner will be a feature speaker for the afternoon.

Treasurer's Report

Vicki McAlister

INCOME 10/31/13- 11/21/13

Interest	\$1.44
Plant Sale/Compost Tea/Quilt Raffle	\$899.80
TOTAL INCOME	\$901.24

EXPENSES 10/31/13- 11/21/13

Mgmt/General - Awards/Scholarships/OMGA S4E	\$36.05
Newsletter Postage	\$8.80
DG - Easy Access/Irrig/Mulch/Raised Beds/Water	\$540.03
HLC - Greenhouse Supplies	-\$17.50
Plant Sale – Water	\$36.92
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$604.30

BREAKDOWN OF OUR ACCOUNTS

Checking	\$2,759.17
Money Market – Reserves	\$6,659.10
Money Market	\$27,085.88
Ending Balance 11/21/13	\$36,504.15

MEMBERSHIP – Dues & Replacement Name Tags

Ruth Stafford, Membership Director

Don't forget to pay your **2014 membership dues** before January 1, 2014. Dues are \$10 per person and include the on-line newsletter. Please fill out a separate form for each master gardener in your family. If you choose to have the newsletter mailed, you will need to pay an extra \$7.25 to cover postage. Please make checks out to DCMG and include the form found at the bottom of this page. You can drop off your completed form and payment in the dues drawer at the plant clinic or mail it to me. Checks may not be deposited until after January 1, 2014.

Those needing a **replacement name tag** should contact me before mid-January. I will be making a list to add to the order for the trainee class members. Please provide your name as you want it to appear on the name tag, your class year, and your contact info (either email or phone number). You will be contacted with the cost once the name tags are in.

* * * * *

DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2014 DUES

(Due **BEFORE** January 1, 2014)

PLEASE complete ALL information below EVEN if nothing has changed:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

DATE: _____ CHECK # _____ AMOUNT \$ _____

*You will be receiving the Master Gardener Newsletter online. If you choose to have it mailed to you through the post office, you will need to check the line below **AND PAY AN ADDITIONAL \$7.25 TO COVER POSTAGE.***

*___ Please mail my newsletter. I have included an **EXTRA \$7.25 to cover postage.***

The 2014 dues are **\$10 PER PERSON**. Checks should be made payable to **DCMG**. Drop your payment **AND** completed form in the **dues drawer** at the plant clinic **OR** mail to:

Ruth Stafford, P.O. Box 38, Days Creek, OR 97429.

Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: Deadline for January 2014 newsletter is December 15th.. 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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