



Douglas County Master Gardeners

February 2014 Newsletter

Volume 29, Number 2

Bill Utter Master Gardener of the Month by Michelle Harding-Olson



Our February Gardener of the Month is Bill Utter. Bill is the Garden Head for the Discovery Garden's Herb Garden and partners with Viviane Pulis to bring all things herbal to fruition. He is one of the most generous gardeners I have ever met and always willing to share his knowledge of gardening and other philosophical perspectives. Bill has been a Master Gardener for over 13 years, the first 7 of those years in San Diego County.

An only child, Bill spent his first five years on a dairy farm in Upstate New York in a small town with a population of 300. His father considered 300 too

Upcoming Events

February

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 3 | 10-12 | Insect Committee |
| 4 | 9-12 | Pesticide Safety |
| | 1-4 | Vegetable Gardening |
| 7 | 9-12 | DG Work Day CANCELLED |
| 11 | 9-12 | Plant Disease and Diagnosis |
| | 1-4 | Plant Identification |
| 12 | 9-10 | Executive Board Meeting |
| 17 | 10-12 | Insect Committee |
| 18 | 9-12 | Soil/Fertilization |
| | 1-4 | Plant Identification |
| 19 | 10-12 | Diagnostics Group |
| 20 | 1-4 | Pruning Shade/ and Ornamental Trees (@ Discovery Garden) |
| 22 | 9-4 | Spring Into Gardening (@ UCC) |
| 24 | 1-3 | Pruning Roses (@ Discovery Garden) |
| 25 | 9-12 | Care of Urban Trees/Seed Saving |
| | 1-4 | Weed Identification |
| 27 | 9-10 | Continuing Education Program |
| | 10-11 | Chapter meeting |

March

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 3 | 10-12 | Insect Committee |
| 4 | 9-12 | Berry Crops |
| | 1-4 | Composting/Cover Crops |
| 7 | 1-4 | Pruning Shrubs (@ Discovery Garden) |
| 11 | 9-12 | Vertebrate Pests/
Waterwise Gardening |
| | 1-4 | Integrated Pest Management |
| 12 | 9-10 | Executive Board meeting |
| | 10:30 | Plant Sale Committee Heads meeting |
| 14 | 9-12 | Work Day (@ Discovery Garden) |
| 17 | 10-12 | Insect Committee |
| 18 | 2:30 | WT14 Class Graduation |
| 20 | 1-3 | Trash to Treasures Setup |
| 21 | 9-4 | Trash to Treasures Drop-off |
| 22 | 9-4 | Trash to Treasures Sale |

crowded so they lived outside of town. Both his parents loved nature and taught and encouraged Bill to explore and understand it...Bill has spent most of his 67 years doing so. His mother Dorcas was the gardener of the family, and Bill recalls many years of digging in the dirt and absorbing all the knowledge she was eager to impart to her young pupil. The family finally moved to the West Coast, spending two years in Phoenix before moving to San Diego County. In College Bill took a Wildlife Conservation class and was introduced to "A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold. It has become his holy grail ever since (and frankly Bill should have been a book salesman, he could have made a fortune selling this book!). He graduated from San Diego State with a degree in Psychology and Cultural Anthropology, and put his degree to good use as a civil servant for the County of San Diego. Bill's first job out of college, however, was Director of a Half-way House for the mentally ill and one could say his next job at a Garden Shop served to expose him to the retail side of the plant world. He retired as a Budget Manager after 23 years working as a civil servant for the County of San Diego. He also met his lovely wife of 24 years Deborah while working there.

As a young adult Bill grew flowers and his interest in herbs is primarily the result of his wife's gourmet cooking. Bill describes his mother Dorcas Utter, as a Nature Super Woman (as well as a markswoman and also a retired Budget Manager); and they remained quite close throughout her lifetime. Sadly, she passed away in 2007, after spending a lifetime dedicated to enriching the lives of San Diego residents. Dorcas had an affinity for native plants; and Bill has followed in her footsteps and is a member of the Douglas County Native Plant Society. Bill and Deborah will travel to San Diego in March for a ceremony at the El Cajon Water Conservation Garden, where a Butterfly Garden will be dedicated in his mother's name. It was an honor for me to hear Bill talk about his mother and how much she influenced and continues to influence him today. Thank you for that Bill.

Bill spent his adult life in the backcountry of San Diego County and was a competitive marksman. He has an impressive display of his mother's shooting trophies in his garage, along with his vintage, black 1965 half-ton Chevy pickup. He is an avid fisherman

and before retiring began to explore Douglas County as a possible retirement destination. He searched the internet for possible homes. He then traveled to Roseburg, sending pictures back to Deborah for final approval. They finally found and fell in love with their "Wilbur Heights" home. His 3 1/2 acres more than meets his needs and he and Deborah remodeled the house in the craftsman style I love so much. After a lifetime in suburbia, a home in the forest seemed like heaven. Bill always loved lilacs, peonies and hydrangeas; so the Oregon climate (and Sunset Gardening Zone 6) seemed like a good fit for his gardening interests, but I believe it was really Graffiti Weekend that sealed the deal! Bill is truly a renaissance man: Art Collector, Marksman, Herb Garden enthusiast, and Graffiti Weekend participant, and married to a wonderful woman. He's a pretty nice guy too. Gardeners, meet Bill Utter.

Reduce Water Use in Your Landscape

Steve Renquist

Rainfall in 2013 and 2014 has been so scarce that our current outlook for the growing season of 2014 is bleak. Without a dramatic shift in rainfall patterns for spring, there will not be enough snowpack or river flow to maintain normal irrigation patterns for summer. It is very important to start planning now how to manage your landscape.

The following article gives you some ideas on how to implement your plan.

- Manage your lawn
 - ✓ Let it go dormant, most deep rooted grass will come back
 - ✓ Survival watering, one half inch/week
 - ✓ Prioritize areas, water a small area near the house for kids and pets
 - ✓ Redesign landscape, remove some areas of lawn
 - ✓ Plug or core your lawn to improve moisture infiltration
 - ✓ Mow with a sharp blade to reduce water loss from torn grass blades

- ✓ Raise mowing height of lawnmower, tall grass has deeper roots
- ✓ Reduce traffic on lawn to prevent compaction and wear
- Prioritize plants or redesign landscape
 - ✓ Save trees
 - ✓ Leave annuals out if water restrictions apply
 - ✓ Save rare or expensive plants
 - ✓ Water drought tolerant plants less
 - ✓ Take out heavy water use plants
 - ✓ Save water for food crops
 - ✓ Grow more spring planted veggies, fewer summer veggies
- Reduce cultivation or bare areas of soil in your landscape
 - ✓ Reduces soil surface evaporation
 - ✓ Reduces soil temperature
 - ✓ Reduces weed competition
 - ✓ Mulch, but no more than 2-3 inches thick
- Raised beds dry out quickly
 - ✓ Plant in the ground to reduce soil drying rate
 - ✓ Water beds with soakers
- Cut back on fertilizer use
 - ✓ Stimulated new growth has a higher moisture demand
 - ✓ Minimize salt based fertilizers
 - ✓ Use decomposed compost, will fertilize and mulch
- Improve the efficiency of watering
 - ✓ Measure the quantity of water applied by placing cups near sprinklers
 - ✓ Know how much water is needed by each plant given age and soil type
 - ✓ Apply in morning or non-windy days
- ✓ Use lower pressure, lower volume systems
- ✓ Check soil moisture level before watering
- ✓ Water the plants root zone, minimize water to above ground areas
- ✓ Repair leaks in faucets and connectors
- Put plants in the right place to keep them healthy
- Sweep driveways, patios and walks
- Catch rainfall with barrels under spouts
 - ✓ 1 inch rain on a 2,000 sq. ft. house can yield 1,250 gallons of water
- Use drought hardy plants
 - ✓ Xeric plant lists can be gotten from the Extension office
 - ✓ Use low maintenance turf
 - ✓ Native plants are accustomed to dry summers
- Reduce water use in your home to offset water use in your landscape
 - ✓ Showers, washing machines, toilets and dishwashers are the big consumers. Go with newer models to use less water.

Plant Sale

Barbara Robinson, Sharon Hopkins

Mark your calendars for our 2014 Plant and Garden Expo on Saturday, **May 3rd** at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Set up will be the day before on Friday, **May 2nd**. Your Plant Sale committee chairs will be meeting to discuss and implement new ideas for this year's sale. Signup sheets for the various jobs/committees will available in the Plant Clinic, at the weekly MG classes, and at our monthly chapter meetings. If you have any questions or would like us to sign you up, please feel free to call either Barbara Robinson or Sharon Hopkins or email barbararob@gmail.com. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who make this endeavor a yearly success!

New Hour Swinger Bars for 2014

Betty Ison, Awards Chairman

The following volunteers have earned new swinger bars for 2014. Come see Betty Ison to get your new swinger. You **must** turn in your old swinger to get a new one. Just as a reminder new swingers are only given out once a year in January, so if your name is not on this list you have not earned a new bar and will have to wait until January of next year should you earn the hours to get one during the year.

60 Hours: Renee Coen, Mike Heidinger, Carl Hildebrand, Patricia Hildebrand, Ronald LaRose, Tim Rich, Sue Scott, Martha Sinkula, Ed Stoll, Diana Williams

200 Hours: Carol Bolt, Valerie Call, David Clark, Diane DeMicco, Bill Fuller, Karen Glatz, Paulette Roberts, Kay Rogers, Pam Sadler, Terry Noonkester, Jon Thran, Michelle Harding-Olson

500 Hours: Fred Alley, Jen Bailey, Rosemary Brinkley, Beth Brown, Mary Lou Davidson, Doug Holloway, Jim Leet, Vicki McAlister, Elva Sellens, Ruth Stafford

750 Hours: Noel Groshong, Eileen Kelley, Chris Rusch

1000 Hours: Bonnie Courter, John Denny, Debbie Hesseltine, Sharon Hopkins

1500 Hours: Mik Carlson, Kenneth Hays, Marianne Major, Gale Robinson

2500 Hours: Maureen Benice, Leo Grass

4000 Hours: Barbara MacPherson

6500 Hours: Gloria Amorde, Larry Sutton

8000 Hours: Tasha King, Julie Stanbery

12,500 Hours: Betty Ison

Vice President Fred Alley

January is a busy month for Master Gardeners. Many of my friends and neighbors are anxious for spring. They are busy making plans for spring, buying the seeds for the garden/yards, cleaning up the die back from their plants, thinking about some light pruning. I, on the other hand, am sitting at the PC, looking out the window at the sun and blue sky with no clouds. I can see one of my cats basking in the sun in my front rock garden, under the Japanese Maple. I have to remind my friends and neighbors that they are too anxious in their efforts, and remind them they should be monitoring the watering needs of some of the vegetation. We should not be sitting on our decks getting the sought after vitamin D, we should be looking out the window watching it rain.

As Vice President, January for me is the time to focus on the Continuing Education Program, act as a mentor, and to assist President Michelle Harding-Olson to establish two new photographic groups to assisting in better documenting our organizational history by photographs.

You may have wondered where I was as Larry Sutton introduced Teri and John Bay, of Teri Bay Photography at the January 30th Continuing Education Session. I was basking in the Arizona sun outside Phoenix. I'm confident Teri and John did an excellent job. I spent an hour with them at their home in Sutherlin before I left. I'm anxious in receiving your feedback on their presentation. It's certainly one that I wanted to hear. They are truly Master Photographers and were excited with the prospect of making a presentation to the DC Master Gardeners. They are always seeking outdoor shooting sites and have used the Discovery Garden on many occasions. They have offered to give a half-day workshop at the DG later this summer. This will be a more hands-on experience, at which time you can bring your own camera and they will offer tips on how to better use your camera. What a gift. I look forward to setting up that workshop. I will give you plenty of notice, so you can add it to your summer calendar.



More about the new photographic program: Maureen Benice is our official Photographer. She has an impossible task of photographing all MG events, particularly during the Sustaining Gardening Class. After visiting with a number of MGs, we recognized we needed to establish two groups: the Master Gardener Photography Team and the Master Gardener Camera Club. The MG Photography Team (structured) would be responsible for taking any photos of the Exec Board and new class members, ensuring all MG events are photographed and establishing and maintaining a Photographic Repository where all photographs from both groups and MGs in general can be deposited. The program we may use, "Flickr," would be accessible to all. It will be a good way to have an ongoing photographic history of our organization. The MG Camera Club would be an unstructured club of MG's who simply like to take photographs. They will be shared by placing them on Flickr. If you're interested in participating in either the Team or Club, please feel free to contact me.

Lastly, I have not yet scheduled a February Continuing Education Program. I have several ideas, but have not selected a final topic. I'm always open for ideas or topics you would like to know more about, so please contact me: 541 733 6232, fhasla@msn.com

Just 50% of us have paid our 2014 dues so far, one month after the deadline. Please be aware that the longer you delay, the more time your fellow Master Gardeners have to spend on reminding you. Drop off your \$10 dues at the Plant Clinic, or mail them to Membership Director Ruth Stafford, PO Box 38, Days Creek, OR 97429. Add \$7.25 if you need a black-and-white printed copy of this newsletter mailed to you each month via USPS. Include any changes to your contact information with your payment. Thank you!

Trash to Treasures Sale

Deb Haynes and Cindy Rich

It's almost Spring cleaning time and that means our MG Trash to Treasures is coming up! Mark your calendars for MARCH 20, 21 & 22nd! We'll be setting up tables on that Thursday afternoon, checking in items on Friday, and SELLING on Saturday!

Cindy Rich and I, Deb Haynes, will have sign-up sheets out at the monthly meeting in February. We will need all sorts of help, from setting up tables, labeling areas, checking in and pricing items, displaying, customer service to cleaning up! We will have more information for you next month and you can find a perfect spot and time to volunteer.

Start saving your good, clean, useable items for the sale. But remember, we cannot accept clothing or shoes of any kind, and we don't sell plants. Also, remember to save your grocery bags - hang on to these until the sale. We don't have storage this year, but March isn't that far away, so save what you can!

For the new class working with us, all hours spent helping with this sale go toward your payback hours! We always have a lot of fun, find a few bargains, and make new friends. Looking forward to the Sale. For questions, email either Cindy or Deb. (you will find our emails in the MG Roster)

January 2014

Chapter Meeting Minutes

The OSU Douglas County Master Gardeners chapter meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM on January 30, 2014 by President Michelle Harding-Olson. Sixty one members were in attendance. The agenda was adopted as distributed.

INTRODUCTIONS – Michelle introduced Julie Roth, the new office manager for Douglas County OSU Extension. She is working with the MFP program and office staff. Michelle also welcomed the many trainees in attendance.

HORTICULTURE AGENT – Steve Renquist reminded everyone about Spring Into Gardening on Saturday, February 22nd. The afternoon speaker is Bob Denman of Red Pig Garden Tools. Brochures are available for distribution.

Chaki Koyama has passed away. He was a horticulturalist from Roseburg's sister city Shobu, Japan. He will be fondly remembered for his pruning demonstrations at the Discovery Garden. Appropriately, he was recently honored with our new sculpture in the Japanese garden.

Steve warned of upcoming drought conditions (rainfall is at a 150-year low) and the need to adapt our gardening practices accordingly. Consider leaving more areas un-irrigated. Plant early cold-hardy vegetables like broccoli, spinach and beets to take advantage of existing moisture (remember to protect them from frost). Downsize your vegetable garden – skip planting commonly-available potatoes, squash and corn in favor of more specialty crops like tomatoes and peppers.

Steve encourages Master Gardeners to hold pruning classes throughout the county. Roger Sawyer has volunteered to teach a class. Steve can hold a "training the trainers" class if there is interest. Steve also encouraged veterans to attend upcoming classes by invited speakers Margery Neal, Tal Blankenship and Bernadine Strik. Bernadine is one of the top 2 -3 berry specialists.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – Ruth Stafford reported that 50% of members have paid their dues thus far. She will be sending out an e-mail reminder,

followed up by phone calls. The quarterly updates to the membership roster were distributed.

OMGA REPRESENTATIVE – Rosemary Brinkley had nothing to report.

TREASURER – Vicki McAlister thanked everyone for getting their 2013 expenditure requests submitted on time. This enabled her to get the tax information to OMGA on January 14th. Vicki then reviewed the Treasurer's Report (*see page 8*).

VICE PRESIDENT – Fred Alley was not present.

PAST PRESIDENT – Larry Sutton announced that the Annex Auditorium has a new audio system, with the speakers permanently mounted on the wall. The furnace is operational. Many thanks to John Panches for these improvements.

SECRETARY – Janet Parkerson was not present. Jen Bailey announced that tomorrow is the deadline for the newsletter. Articles about the Discovery Garden gardens are planned for the next few months.

PRESIDENT – Michelle Harding-Olson explained that the Policies and Procedures Manual is going through its annual review cycle. She has asked the officers and committee heads to get any updates to her by February 1st.

Michelle reviewed how formal decisions are made. A motion is made, seconded, discussed and then voted upon. A voice vote is taken, with a second hand count vote taken if the first vote is close.

Michelle made, and Betty Ison seconded, the motion to accept the 2013 Audit Report, as originally presented at the August 2013 Chapter meeting. The motion passed.

Michelle thanked Debbie Haynes for her work on our Facebook page. Barbara Horst is our new Facebook Administrator. There is an ongoing discussion about what kind of material to post on our page. Barbara reported that she is maintaining a calendar of events on the page. If you are a Facebook member, please "like" the Douglas County Master Gardeners page.

Michelle announced that Camille Simon is our new Field Trip Coordinator. Camille explained that she has set up a committee to help, including Barbara Horst, Carol Bolt and Michelle Harding-Olson. Field

trips will be informal, with carpooling and everyone covering their own costs and meals. Possible trips include the Oregon Garden, Shore Acres, Medford-area nurseries, the Village Green and Territorial Seed Company in Cottage Grove. Let Camille know if you have suggestions.

Michelle read a thank you note from John Panches for our \$10,000 donation to the Douglas County OSU Extension Endowment Fund.

Michelle distributed a Photo Release form. Please sign and return.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Leo Grass reported that Wayne Johnson requested a pruning class for a community group. Jean Wall, Roger Sawyer and Ted Mickowski have volunteered to help. Bob Brindley will give a talk about beneficial and non-beneficial insects to the Sutherlin garden group. The North Douglas garden group has requested an introduction to the Master Gardeners program. The Cobb Street and Eastwood schools are both building new gardens.

WINTER TRAINING – Maureen Benice reported that the 36 trainees are already very active. The recent Discovery Garden work day was mostly trainees.

PLANT CLINIC – Judy Mercer thanked everyone for their support during her tenure as Plant Clinic Manager, especially the core teaching team of Leo Grass, Larry Sutton, Chris Rusch and Karolyn Riecks. Kay Rogers will be taking over for Larry. Chris Rusch is taking over for Judy as the new Plant Clinic Manager. Judy is taking over the soil testing formerly done by Leo. She's set up a committee of people to help, including Bill Howitt, Carol Bolt and Vicki McAlister.

Chris Rush reported that the Plant Clinic received 950 visits in 2013, down 100 from the prior year. More promotion of the Plant Clinic is planned. Veterans are asked to hold off on signing up for Plant Clinic duty until the trainees and their mentors have had a chance to schedule their two training sessions.

DISCOVERY GARDEN – Julie Stanbery reported that the big fir tree was removed yesterday. Randy Briggs of Cowboy Tree Service donated this service to us. Helpers included Jim Rogers, Ivor Chapman, Kish Doyle, Sandy Grindle, Denise Fennell, Rachel

Billings, Leo Grass, Bonnie Courter (and her husband Rick), Elva Sellens and Doug Johnson. The space is much more open than even expected.

The next work day is Friday, February 7th from 9 AM to noon, to do pruning, raking and cleanup in the entry garden and hedgerow.

Master Gardeners Kathy Schayler and Jeff Havener were featured in a recent News-Review article. Jeff's work on the Discovery Garden sign was mentioned. Julie stressed the importance of keeping our presence known in the community.

Julie mentioned she had great success last year growing tomatoes in straw bales (as Philice Humphry does in the Straw Bale garden), with 50% less water use.

Karen Glatz reported that the first two signs in the Xeriscape garden have been installed, thanks to the contributions of Geoff Puryear, Debbie Hesseltine and Eileen Kelley. Work is starting on signs for the butterfly and ornamental shrub gardens, along with finishing the main entry sign.

AWARDS – Betty Ison announced the recipients of new hour swinger bars. *[See page 4]*

PUBLICITY – Bonnie Courter has been submitting PSAs for the Plant Clinic, and will include visitor statistics in the announcements. She has added the Plant Sale and Trash to Treasures to the community calendars of local television and radio stations.

HALLMARK – Linda Thames reported that Toni Rudolf's husband Jim's health is improving. Chaki Koyama passed away in Japan. Reed Abrahamson's wife Nicolette passed away after a long illness. Rusdee Chastain lost her step-mother. Dave Hopkins slipped on ice, injuring his back. Martha Sikula had a knee replacement.

TRASH TO TREASURES SALE – Cindy Rich and Debbie Haynes asked for help with the sale. Setup is on the afternoon of Thursday, March 20th. Items can be dropped off between 9 AM and 4 PM on Friday the 21st. The sale itself is on Saturday the 22nd from 9 AM to 4 PM. The sign-up sheet will be at Tuesday's class. Early drop-off of items is not available this year.

PLANT SALE – Barbara Robinson reminded everyone that Friday, May 2nd is setup for the Plant

Sale, which will be on Saturday, May 3rd. There will be no potluck on Friday for either breakfast or lunch. Signup sheets will be at Tuesday's class. The black aprons, t-shirts and hats will be for sale in March. Barbara also reported that Sharon Hopkins appreciates the cards (she has three more chemo treatments). Michelle thanked all the participants at the concurrent sessions on Tuesday. Maureen Benice mentioned that trainee Jan Kirchner is already volunteering at the greenhouse.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – Michelle Harding-Olson announced that grant money is available from the American Penstamon Society.

SHOW-AND-TELL – Steve Renquist warned that conditions in the Discovery Garden will be very different with the fir tree gone and drought conditions. Make sure the watering system is working.

Treasurer's Report Vicki McAlister

INCOME 1/1/14 - 1/29/14

Donations	\$0.50
Dues-membership	\$1,360.00
Dues-hardcopy newsletter	\$181.25
Discovery Garden – Recycling	\$294.50
	\$1,836.25

EXPENSES 1/1/14 - 1/29/14

Mgmt&Gen Hospitality/Postage	\$90.20
PSP Expense - Newsletter Postage	
Xeriscape	\$33.80
Plant Sale – Propane	\$1,103.82
	\$1,227.82

Breakdown of our accounts

Checking	\$2,998.04
Money Market – Reserves	\$7,659.10
Money Market	\$18,088.58
Ending Balance 1/29/14	\$28,745.72

The Discovery Garden Gets a Whole New Light



Many thanks to Randy Briggs of Cowboy Tree Service, who donated his professional services to remove the Douglas fir by the Butterfly Garden. [Photo by Kish Doyle.]

Plant Clinic Chris Rusch

The Plant Clinic is gearing up for the upcoming training of our new students from the 2014 class. The requirement for students is to complete 36 volunteer hours in the plant clinic. The calendar will be available at the Tuesday classes for students to sign up with their mentor for their first two sessions. The 2014 training team this year is Leo Grass, Kay Rogers, Karolyn Riecks, Judy Mercer and Chris Rusch.

Veterans can begin signing up to volunteer at the clinic after all the students have completed their initial training.

The statistics for 2013 showed a total of 925 visitors to the plant clinic. Questions were mostly about general gardening and insects. We are hoping to increase our visitor participation for 2014. The plant clinic is a great way to promote our Master Gardener Program and encourage sustainable gardening in Douglas County.

If you are in town, stop by the clinic and say hi to our new students.

Raised Beds – Dahlias and Lilies Elva Sellens

Welcome to the wonderful world of dahlias and lilies. My specialty is dahlias. I have grown and shown dahlias for over 25 years. What first attracted me to dahlias was the color, mainly bi-colors and variegated. Dahlias are easy to grow and only need to be watered twice a week. So if you put dahlias in your landscape, place them in a sunny area where they will get 6 hours or more of sunlight and where they do not get over watered. Depending on the variety, dahlias will bloom from late July-August until frost and will provide a lot of color in your garden. Just keep deadheading the spent blooms and the dahlia plant will keep blooming for you.

A little history of the dahlias: They are native to Mexico and Central America and were introduced to Europe when three species plant parts were sent to Antonio Jose Cavilles at the Royal Gardens of Madrid, Spain in the late 1780's. Cavanilles named the genus after Andreas Dahl, a Swedish botanist

and student of Linnaeus. From these species plants, they were able to cross Dahlia Coccineda with D. Pinnata resulting in the first modern dahlia hybrid. In Europe, the dahlia evolved from a single row of petals to various forms – anemone, collerette, double rayed, cactus.

The dahlia form is constantly evolving and the American Dahlia Society recognizes a novelty form classification. The two most recent novelty forms to become a recognized form are the Stellar where the petals are long and thin, and the Orchette which is a combination of a collerette and orchid forms. The bloom size can range from a mignon single under 2" to double rayed blooms up over 10" in diameter. There are 16 color classes and 19 different dahlia forms. Dahlias do not have the gene for the color blue or green so you will not see any of these colors in dahlias. We show dahlias by their size, form and color.

I am a member of the Douglas County Dahlia Society, Pacific NW Dahlia Conference, and the American Dahlia Society. If anyone is interested in joining the local dahlia society and has any questions on how to grow dahlias, please feel free to contact me. In November, I will conduct several sessions on how to divide dahlias. You can practice on the dahlias we grow in the Discovery Garden or you can bring your own dahlia clump. If you are interested in working in the dahlia and/or lily raised beds, please contact me. I hope you will try to grow a dahlia or two. Let me warn you though, you can become very addicted to dahlias.



Xeriscape Garden

Eileen Kelley, Debbie Hesseltine, Neal Meyer, Cameron Hill, Geoff Puryear



Holy Succulent Batman!!! Have you seen the Xeriscape Garden lately? Well, if not, maybe you should take a gander. There have been some obvious changes over the last year. First of all, we have signs...Yay!!! Although not yet finished, our Xeriscape informational sign and mulch sign are up. Thank you Geoff Puryear for the time, energy and all your hard work, without which, there would be no signs. The doghouse has been moved to the front of the garden and has been fitted with a living roof. By summer, it will be alive with color and texture. Once painted and surrounded by plants, it should be a focal point of the garden. The front area of the garden has been mounded, rocked and planted with an experimental variety of tender succulents. Geoff and Cameron also planted a plethora of spring and summer flowering bulbs, and recently planted a selection of primroses. The snapdragons were donated by our own Neal Meyer. We will be creating and moving paths, adding a water collection display and have great ideas for garden art. We plan on changing every area of the garden to truly reflect a Xeriscape environment. The water in the garden was turned off last year and we don't plan on turning it back on, much to the dismay of many of the MG members, who thought we were crazy...of course many of them thought we were strange before turning off the water...guess we just confirmed their suspicions!!!

The Xeriscape garden has been extended back out to the fence separating the Discovery Garden from River Forks Park and we are already working on

ideas for that area. The team is planning to create quiet meeting nook. A great picnic table was donated to our garden by Barbara Robinson, thank you Barb. We plan to while away the summer afternoons sipping wine and reading seed packets.

Our garden is a work in progress. Geoff and Cameron have all the knowledge. Neal is our builder and handyman extraordinaire. Debbie is our financial guru as well as keeping us focused on short and long terms goals. Eileen is our garden artist and all around grunt. Together we make a great team but there is a lot to do and we are always looking for helpers, workers and partners in crime.

We can be found in the garden on Tuesdays and quite often on Thursdays, digging or moving dirt and plants, pruning or building something and the never ending battle with the weeds. Debbie and Eileen can usually be found in or around the doghouse for a variety of reasons, none of which will be mentioned here.

If you are interested in learning about Xeriscaping, already know something about Xeriscaping or just like to grovel in the dirt and have a good time, I invite you all to come out and play. See you there!!



Did you know?

Bats consume 3000 or more mosquitoes and insects nightly.

Bats are less likely to be rabid than dogs.

Bats are responsible for up to 95% of the seed dispersal essential to the regeneration of forests.

Western Oregon Gardening Hints for January 2014 from OSU Extension

Planning

- Tune up lawn mower and garden equipment before the busy season begins.
- Have soil test performed on garden plot to determine nutrient needs. Contact your local Extension office for a list of testing laboratories or view EM 8677 online.
- Select and store healthy scion wood for grafting fruit and nut trees. Wrap in damp cloth or peat moss and place in plastic bag. Store in cool place.
- Plan an herb bed, for cooking and for interest in the landscape. Among the choices are parsley, sage, chives, lavender. Choose a sunny spot for the herb bed, and plant seeds or transplants after danger of frost has passed (late April-early May in the Willamette Valley and Central Coast; June-July in Eastern and Central Oregon).
- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers to your flowering landscape this spring. Examples include candytuft, peony, penstemon, and coneflower.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Repair winter damage to trees and shrubs.
- Make a cold frame or hotbed to start early vegetables or flowers.
- Fertilize rhubarb with manure or a complete fertilizer,
- Incorporate cover crops or other organic matter into soil.
- Prune and train grapes; make cuttings.
- Prune fruit trees and blueberries.
- Prune deciduous summer blooming shrubs and trees.
- Prune and train trailing blackberries (if not done prior late August); prune back raspberries.
- Prune fall-bearing raspberries (late in Feb or early March).
- Prune clematis, Virginia creeper, and other vining ornamentals.

Planting/Propagation

- Plant windowsill container gardens of carrots, lettuce, or parsley.
- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers to your flowering landscape this spring: astilbe, candytuft, peony, and anemone.
- Good time to plant fruit trees and deciduous shrubs. Replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with resistant cultivars.
- Plant asparagus if the ground is warm enough.
- Plant seed flats of cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts), indoors or in greenhouse.
- Where soil is dry enough and workable, plant garden peas and sweet peas. Suggested varieties of garden peas include: Corvallis, Dark Green Perfection, Green Arrow, Oregon Sugar Pod, Snappy, Knight, Sugar Snap, Oregon Trail, and Oregon Sugar Pod II.
- Good time to plant new roses.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Use delayed-dormant sprays of lime sulfur for fruit and deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose, bacterial canker of stone fruit and eastern filbert blight. Sterilize tools before each new cut.
- Control moles and gophers with traps.
- Elm leaf beetles and box-elder bugs are emerging from hibernation and may be seen indoors. They are not harmful, but can be a nuisance. Remove them with a vacuum or broom and dustpan.
- Monitor for European crane fly and treat lawns if damage has been verified.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Pasteurize soil for starting seedlings in pots or flats, or use clean, sterile commercial mixes.

Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: Deadline for March 2014 newsletter is February 28th. Mail submissions to jen@skylondaranch.com.

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

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

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