



# Douglas County Master Gardeners

April 2014 Newsletter

Volume 29, Number 4

## All Hands on Deck!

The greenhouse crews need help with final prep for the Plant Sale. Check your e-mail or contact Tasha King for specific times.

## MG Lunch Group

12:30 PM, April 14, 2014  
Splitz Restaurant  
Ten Down Bowling  
Diamond Lake Blvd  
RSVP to Diane De Micco

## Plant Sale Raffle

Rosemary Brinkley is asking for your help to gather donations for the Plant Sale Raffle.

## April Calendar

Insect Committee  
Mon, Apr 7, 10:00  
Mon, Apr 21, 10 :00  
Diagnostics Group  
Wed, Apr 16, 10:00  
Executive Board  
Wed, Apr 9, 9:00  
Plant Sale Committee  
Wed, Apr 9, 10:30  
Cont. Ed: Composting  
Thu, Apr 24, 9:00  
Chapter Meeting  
Thu, Apr 24, 10:00  
Plant Sale Pre-Sale  
Thu, Apr 24, 1:00- 4:00  
Plant Sale Pre-Sale  
Sun, Apr 27, 1:00- 4:00

## Beth Brown – Master Gardener of the Month Michelle Harding-Olson



Beth Brown is a woman of few words, and this article provides only a glimpse into what I believe is a person of great substance; a woman who is, and has been, dedicated to the lives of “others” including our winged friends. A fellow Victory Gardener and avid Birder, Beth is originally from the East Coast, a rural area outside Syracuse, New York. She has three sisters, all of whom are still East Coasters. Beth’s father was an Electrical Engineer and her mother a Bookkeeper, they worked together at the small business they owned in Syracuse. Beth’s father believed in work, and work as play, so the four girls became deeply involved as he constructed a hobby golf course on their rural property. The family also built a big garden and a tennis court behind the house. Beth played often and developed a love of physical activity and the outdoors. These things helped shape her later as she fashioned her life-work and vocation. Although not the norm, her depression era parents steered their four girls toward college (and the fact that Beth was smart and Valedictorian of her High School class probably influenced this direction too), and it wasn’t long before the girls left rural New York for the big city. Beth began her education at a Catholic women’s college in Washington, D.C. but transferred to Columbia University to pursue, and receive, a degree in Physical Therapy.

After graduating from college Beth began working in a residential facility performing Pediatric Physical Therapy. Eventually she was introduced to the pacifism of Quakers and the Buddhist teaching of a Vietnamese monk, Thich Nhat Hanh. At the age of 24 she participated in a Quaker project in Quang Ngai, V.N. where she learned much more about Buddhist thinking. Beth was lured to Roseburg by a Physical Therapy job at the ESD and for 28 years worked professionally with the children of Douglas County. Although retired, Beth continues that work today as a volunteer advocate for CASA. She has held a weekly Meditation Group in her home for 18 years and is active with the Audubon Society and volunteers at OR Fish & Wildlife as well as the Master Gardener Program. She will readily admit that hanging out with Master Gardeners is the best volunteer job of all.

At the ESD Beth worked with Leo Grass and knew he was active in the Master Gardener Program. Eventually Leo lured her to us with his consistent affirmation that this was the best organization in Douglas County, so she joined and completed her program in 2009. Beth has worked in the Greenhouse and Rock Garden, but her personal passion is vegetables and the Victory Garden has had her heart and kept her happy. We are fortunate to be included in Beth's tireless advocacy of others, and thank her for it. Gardeners meet Beth Brown.

## **Home Site Visit Helps Resolve a Puzzle**

Steve Renquist, OSU Horticultural Agent

I have had a number of calls from a polite but frustrated homeowner couple during the past few months. They have had no success in their gardening venture that started a little over a year ago. They have discussed their gardening problems with the Master Gardeners, and with me, but their gardening woes continue. I don't usually make home visits but I needed to make a couple of other farm visits in their area, so I called them and dropped by for a landscape walk about.

This couple bought a property near Del Rio Road and started planting ornamental gardens all around their home. They felt as though they were doing things the right way, but nothing has grown very well. They had several soil tests done by our Master Gardener crew, they purchased what they felt was a good soil additive from the DC Coop, they tilled the soil where they wanted to plant and worked in the soil additive, and they water regularly during the summer. They also bought high quality plants.

Sometimes when we have visitors to our plant clinic we listen to their problems and make some recommendations without really understanding or seeing the whole problem. When I drove up to their site I realized they lived on a ridge above the river bottom ground. The soil depth at this site was surely no more than a foot or two, and probably leached, eroded, and with a high clay content. I could tell that there wasn't a good supply of soil nutrients by looking at the trees and plants on the site, most were quite stunted. I asked to see the soil test results. The pH of their soil tests ranged from 4.8-5.5, the soil was old weathered clay, and the soil was low in calcium, nitrogen, and potassium.

I asked them what they had added to the soil to provide the nutrients the soil lacked. They said they went to the DC Coop and bought a mix with fertilizer and compost. We know from our analysis of those materials that most only tie up nitrogen because of the woody nature of the mulch. I also know that soils with a low pH near 5 will tie up nearly all of the macronutrients including calcium, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, and sulfur. We had probably told these folks to add various nutrients to their soil including lime but to them getting an all-purpose blend from the coop looked to be a good solution.

By visiting their site I could put many pieces to the problem puzzle together, something that doesn't always happen when we depend on the clients to tell us about their site. The homeowners are now going to lime most of their garden to bring the pH back to a little over 6. This will help make the macronutrients more available. In the future they will use compost with less woody product in it, like mint compost, which is mostly decomposed, this won't tie-up the nitrogen so severely while microbes break it down further.

I made a number of gardening suggestions to this couple too. Try to group the plants that like an acid soil, and do the same with plants that like a more alkaline or neutral soil. This makes soil management easier. Group plants that like lots of water and those that are drought hardy. This makes your irrigation system more efficient and makes for healthier plants. I also reminded them that plants under the eaves of the house needed water during the winter. Most of their gardens were around the foundation of the house. And there was one last issue that they never talked about in their visits to our plant clinic and no one would have considered part of the problem. They have no deer fencing and all the tasty plants showed signs of browsing. No wonder these folks couldn't get anything to grow. Lousy soil, lousy compost, low pH, low nutrient availability, no moisture during winter for many plants, and deer make it difficult to be a successful gardener.

My visit to this landscape definitely helped me solve the puzzle of why these folks have not been successful. The lesson I want to pass along to all of you is to have a thorough conversation with clients who visit our clinic. They often don't share enough information with us on their own. And if you are having gardening issues in your own landscape, look at your landscape as a whole entity, know your micro climate, know if your neighbors have similar issues, get a soil test, and understand the interactive issues of diagnostics. Be the best gardener you can by really learning how all these complex issues work together. Become an expert for your area of the city or countryside. That is when you can really help others when they ask you questions as a Master Gardener.

## Vice President's Report

### Fred Alley

For me the most significant item to report is the completion of the 2014 Sustainable Gardening Class. This year was my third year as a mentor and I continue to be amazed with the talent, enthusiasm, and knowledge of our new Sustainable Gardening Trainees. This year was certainly not the exception.



For those who attended the March 27th Continuing Education Program, Bonsai Training by Mike Winters, missed a great presentation. If you missed the presentation, you can always stop in at the Wintergreen Nursery in Winston to see some of his Bonsai. We were quickly corrected on how to properly pronounce "Bonsai". A commonly mispronounced word. As Mike warned us, I think most of us, Master Gardeners were in fact shocked as Mike continued to aggressively prune his oldest and largest Bonsai. It was amazing to see such an old and large plant in such a small container and learn of the wide variety of plants that are good for Bonsai. Mike suggested the small needled spruces and also the Jade Plant. Oh yes, for those who correctly guessed the ages of Mike's Bonsai, and

received a Dwarf est spruce, we expect to see your individual results this time next year. We greatly appreciated Mike's presentation. Mike has a "Mike Winters Lawn & Garden Show" on KQEN 1240 AM radio every Wednesday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:00pm. He also writes a Gardening Section for the Beacon.

Our April 24th Continuing Education Program will be Composting by Master Gardener Joe Yetter. Most of you will remember Joe either as a fellow Master Gardener, or when you were a Sustainable Gardening Trainee, and Joe gave the Composting Class. Obviously, with the arrive of Spring on March 20th, it is time to think about starting up your compost pile or whatever technique you might use. Join your fellow Master Gardeners for Joe's Composting Class. I guarantee you will find it entertaining and valuable in enhancing your composting successes.



At the Chapter meeting I reminded those attending that in June, July and August, we hold our Monthly Chapter meeting at selected homes of our Master Gardener Members. I have two individuals approach me thus far, for June and July. If you are interested in hosting the August Meeting, please contact me. I like to pre-screen each home site before making the final selection.

Lastly, the Discovery Garden is starting to show its spring colors. I can't resist those close-up photos of the large variety of plants we have at the Garden. The spring colors reminded me to call for a meeting in early April of our Master Gardeners Photographic Team. I have sixteen member interested in participating in the Photographic Team. At our first

meeting we will review/discuss the propose/role/responsibilities of the Team and hopefully select a chair and assign some responsibilities. If you would like to serve on Team, please contact me. The meetings are also open to all/any of our members. Once I select a date, time, and place I will e-mail those on my MG Photographic Team member list.

## Douglas County Master Gardeners, Class of 2014



# Trash To Treasure Sale



Our Trash to Treasure Sale was a huge success again this year. We made \$2711.55.

We appreciate all the MG's that helped with the sale, your donations, and those that bought things to make this a successful sale.

Happy Retirement, Debbie and Cindy!

# Worker Bees Needed! No Experience Necessary!

## Plant & Garden Expo May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Setup May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Barbara Robinson, Sharon Hopkins

*For so work the honey-bees, creatures that by a rule in nature teach the act of order to a peopled kingdom.*

*~ William Shakespeare*

And teaching the 'act of order' is a mighty tall order as we head into the final weeks leading up to our annual Plant & Garden Expo. Seemingly unending duties and chores lie ahead with many worker bees needed to achieve the sweet prize lying ahead.

Greenhouse crews are working multiple days each week readying the "merchandise" to produce the quality product our loyal customers have come to expect. Faithful master gardeners work year round in the greenhouses. Especially important at this point is making sure all the plants are weed-free, manicured, soil freshened, and looking their best to present at our sale. Seedlings are being nurtured, repotted, and fussed over. Pricing and labeling of each plant/pack is the final touch. Please join us on Tuesdays or other workdays, as scheduled by Tasha and Gloria, from 9 to noon. Watch your email for weekly updates on days crews will be working. We are an equal opportunity employer and on the job training is provided!

We will be offering two pre-Plant Sale opportunities for Master Gardeners ONLY at the greenhouses. These will be held on Thursday, April 24 and Sunday, April 27. Both sales will run from 1-4pm. To qualify for the pre-sale, dues need to be current and your MG name tag proudly displayed. Remember, MG purchases are not allowed the day of the sale until after 3 pm so be sure and take advantage of the special presales offered to you.

We have pulled the committee sign-up clipboards from the Plant Clinic. We still need many workers to fill out our work areas. If you have not had a chance to sign up please call or email Barbara at [barbararob@gmail.com](mailto:barbararob@gmail.com) to be added or for questions you may have. Many, many thanks go out to all of you who have already signed up to work the sale. The chairperson for the area you chose will be contacting you in the next two weeks to touch bases, give any direction necessary, and answer any questions you may have.

Have you thought about participating in our garden-themed hat contest this year? We will be awarding two prizes with the winners selected by those MG's attending the sale. The public loves our hats and we love seeing them as well!

Now onto some important details for the sale itself:

- Time: Workers need to be at the fairgrounds exhibit building @ 8 a.m. on both Friday and Saturday. It is especially important to be on time Saturday as vendor presales in our area start at 8:30a.m. You will also be gathering with your group for direction from your committee chair.
- Saturday Potluck: Don't forget your dish for either breakfast or lunch on Saturday. Any master gardener who brings a dish to share and is wearing their name tag is welcome to join us. We are NOT having potluck on Friday. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and water will be provided. You may want to bring a sack lunch or snack.
- Floor etiquette: Potluck meals are to be eaten in the designated dining area, not out on the floor.
- Parking: Do not park in front of the building except to drop off potluck items, supplies, etc. Be brief. Vendors will be unloading there.

- Purses: Ladies, there is no secure location to leave your purse. We suggest you leave them in the trunk of your vehicle and perhaps wear a fanny pack. If you purchased one of our aprons, their handy dandy pockets are perfect for secure storage of your keys, cellphone, wallet, etc.
- Wear your name badges. If you forget, go home and get it. It's a must.
- Dues must be paid to work. If you are a 2014 graduate, yours have been paid.
- Wear your MG apron/t-shirt/cap if you have purchased one.
- Master Gardener Purchases: No purchases or "hoarding" until 3pm unless announced otherwise.
- UCAN food collection: We are once again partnering with UCAN to collect food items. There will be a collection bin in front of the exhibit building. Non-perishable canned goods, dried foods (in sealed packages), peanut butter, pasta, etc. are all good choices. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors who are coming.

This is a fun, rewarding event. Be prepared to have a great time while working with a great group of volunteers!

## OMGA Report

### Rosemary Brinkley

Larry Sutton and I attended The OMGA board Meeting in Portland on March 1, 2014. The following are highlights from the meeting.

#### **MINI-College July 12-13.** (This is a Saturday- Sunday event)

Theme is "We Grow Gardeners". LaSalle Center on OSU campus. The mission: Recertification, Connection, Recognition and FUN. The Awards Banquet will be held July 11 (Friday night) at the Corvallis Country Club.

There will be 24 classes in four strands (ornamentals, edibles, problem solving and general interest). Each class will be 1 hour and 15 minutes long. There will also be 5 hands-on workshops. These classes will be 2.5 hours long and will have an additional cost. All of the classes and instructors are listed on the OMGA website. It is very easy to navigate. Here is the site address: [www.oregonmastergardeners.org](http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org) and/ or <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/minicollege>

Optional round table discussions will occur at meal times on a range of topics. There will be facilitators who will help keep the discussion on track.

What OMGA needs from the local chapters:

1. Publicity for Mini-College
2. Volunteers to help ( i.e.: tour coordinator, banquet décor, dorm social organizer, etc. )
3. Silent Auction items ( 10 from each chapter at a value of \$25.00 or more)
4. Get out the word and talk it up

#### **OMGA Historian**

OMGA is also looking for a Historian to serve on the board. Anyone interested in maintaining the history? Let me know.

## Grant Deadlines

May 15 is the deadline to apply for Send-A-Friend Scholarship, the Karl Carlson Grant, Search for Excellence and the Extension Educator Grant. Douglas County received a Karl Carlson and the Extension Educator Grant last year to help with signage in the Discovery Garden.

## Gail Langellotto's Report

The National OMGA has adopted standards and a mission for Master Gardeners. The Standards are 20 hours of volunteer hours a year and 10 hours of continuing education a year to maintain MG status. This will take a few years before it is implemented in all states.

International Conference for 2017 will be held in Portland, Oregon. The Theme is "Follow the Oregon Trail to Great Gardening". The committee needs help in developing a logo. Is there any artist who would like to submit a design? Let me know and I will put you in touch with the correct person.

The organizing committee has narrowed the sites down to the Marriott Water Front and Oregon Conference Center. 1200 MGs and guests are expected. There will be lots of opportunity to help out with this wonderful event as the time gets closer.

## Additional Info

All chapter events can be placed on the OMGA calendar by e-mailing Katherine Johnson at [omgatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:omgatreasurer@gmail.com). Please include time, dates and location. Check out the calendar to see what other counties have going this spring. One that many of you have attended in the past is the Josephine County Plant Sale. It is April 26<sup>th</sup> from 8-4 at the extension office. There are no vendors this year. Remember our Plant Sale is May 3,

Douglas County will be hosting the OMGA executive Board on Oct. 5, 2015 and the OMGA Board on Nov. 1, 2014. I appreciate the chapters support in this undertaking.

## News from the Plant Clinic Chris Rusch, Plant Clinic Manager

The Plant Clinic has been busy this month with the training of our new students from the 2014 class. So far 16 students have completed the 2 days of required training and now are on their way to completing the requirement for 36 volunteer hours in the plant clinic. 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 now!

We have had 140 visitors to the plant clinic so far this year. Questions have been diverse, ranging from orchard maintenance to crane flies. 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.

# Entry Garden

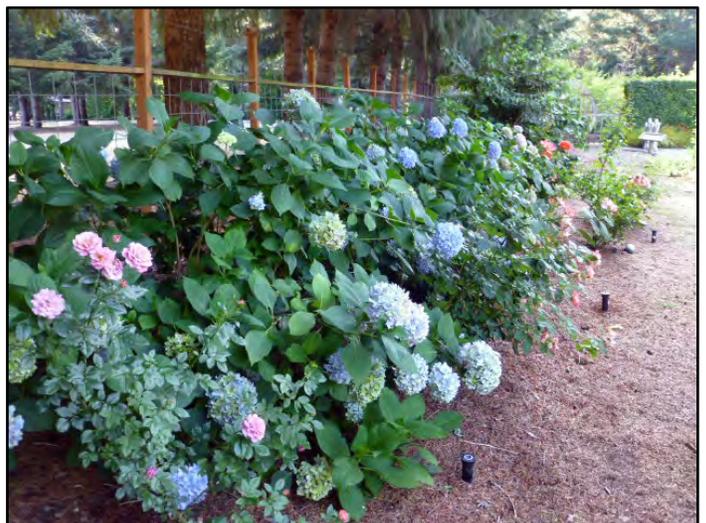
## LaVerne Bailey, Entry Garden Chair

The Entry Garden was the first garden planted. The roses were planted by Bud Cruger, a long time Master Gardener.

As you come into the garden to your right are mostly Hybrid Tea Roses. These were planted for their fragrance and color as you enter the garden. Other varieties of roses are multiflora, grandiflora, English, miniatures, shrub and one climber.

Gradually other plants have been added. For color in the Spring are Azaleas and Rhododendrons. One Oakleaf Hydrangea has great Fall color. Other plants include several other Hydrangeas, Daylilies and Viburnum. Two years ago we planted a shade ground cover, Pachysandra to fill in an area under the Fir trees.

Long and short range plans for the garden are better labels, replacing some of the older roses and dividing the Daylilies.



Photos by Maureen Benice

# Children's Garden

## Judy Dake, Children's Garden Chair

The Children's Garden has been designed to help children and parents learn more about plants and ways to enjoy gardens.



The plans for the original garden were put on paper in 2000 by Beth Spooner, Judy Dake and Kathy McIntyre. The rebar art work was provided by member Bill Town. The biggest problem at first was getting water to the plants and, of course, weeding. Most ideas were inspired by the author, Molly Dannenmairer in her book *A Children's Garden*.

The alphabet stepping stones lead to the Yellow Brick Road in the Oz Garden with Oriental Poppies and other flowering annuals and biennials. Plans for a clay pot scarecrow are in the making.

The sand box area has a resting bench under a trellis which is used for the Wisteria and nearby is Honeysuckle.

At the entrance to the garden are the native plants, a dwarf weeping fruitless Mulberry tree and succulents. Greeting visitors are the cement children created by Fred Alley.

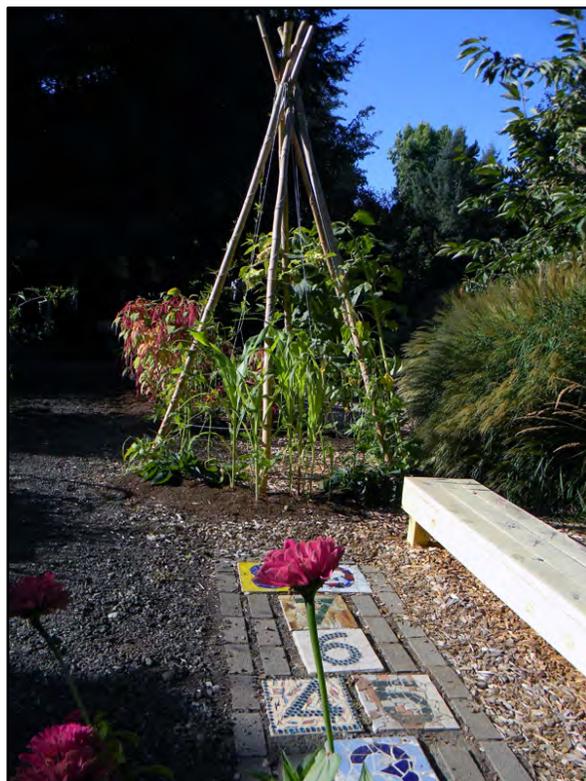
Facing north is the Human Sun Dial Clock. Stepping stones of Roman numerals show the time of day. Varieties of thyme are around the clock.

The cement turtle and rabbit sculptures were made by artist Rusty Neilson.

Betty Bean and Sharon Hopkins have been responsible for the garden's design the past few years. They have added art work, signage, plantings and hours of work to what you see today. Jack Wright has been a faithful helper in this garden.

Renee McElhatton and Judy Dake have repaired some of the broken stepping stones. There will be a workshop to repair more stones this summer.

We welcome anyone who would like to work in the Children's Garden. Working on this garden has been educational and a labor of love.



# March 2014

## Chapter Meeting Minutes

Michelle Harding-Olson

The OSU Douglas County Master Gardeners chapter meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM on March 27, 2014 by President **Michelle Harding-Olson**. The minutes of the February 2014 chapter meeting were approved as written. The agenda was adopted.

**HORTICULTURE AGENT – Steve Renquist** announced the Apple Grafting class to be held April 2<sup>th</sup>. Earth Day volunteers are needed to staff a booth. Hours are 9:30-10:00 for set up, 10-4 booth staffing. Attend for as long as you like, credit will be given. This event is at the Fairgrounds in the Douglas Hall building.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – Ruth Stafford** was not in attendance. **Michelle** reported that new Rosters will be mailed and are also available in the Plant Clinic.

**OMGA REPRESENTATIVE – Rosemary Brinkley** reported on the last Quarterly Meeting. Grants are available now with deadlines in May. Mini College is July 11-12, a weekend event this year. Twenty-four classes will be offered and some additional workshops, the workshops will charge a small fee for materials. The website is up and registration available in April. There is a small fee for parking. They need volunteers for decorations, housing and tours. A OMGA Historian is needed. Gail reported that Statewide Standards have now been determined and will slowly be implemented. The new standards required for recertification are 20 volunteer hours and 10 CE hours per year. Volunteers are needed for the International Conference. OMGA has a calendar on their website for Chapter use.

**TREASURER – Vicki McAlister** was not in attendance.

**VICE PRESIDENT – Fred Alley** thanked Mike Winters for teaching our CE Bonsai class. **Joe Yetter** will be teaching about Composting at the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. We need volunteers for our summer home-site meetings. There will be a meeting of the

Photography Team in early April. An email will be sent out to the membership once scheduled.

**SECRETARY – Janet Parkerson** had nothing to report.

**PAST PRESIDENT – Larry Sutton** had nothing to report.

**PRESIDENT – Michelle Harding-Olson** solicited participants for the nomination of 2015 officers. She thanked **Debbie Haynes** and **Cindy Rich** and everyone connected with the successful Trash to Treasure event.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Leo Grass** reported he needs a volunteer for the Blooms & Butterfly Event in Elkton June 21<sup>st</sup>. **Leo** is still seeking a volunteer to speak at the UCC Extraordinary Living Conference on September 11<sup>th</sup> the topics are gardening under drought conditions and natural pest control. **Leo** reported Mary printed and mailed out the new roster to those on the mailing list. He worked with Neighborworks on presentations in Myrtle Creek, Eagles Landing, Princeton and Brookside Retirement Homes. A possible theme for the Douglas County Fair booth is FLOUT (flooding and drought).

**Kruse Farms: Maureen Benice** announced **Ann Beacon** as the new scheduler/coordinator. She will work with Ann this summer. The schedule begins May 17 thru the end of September.

**PLANT CLINIC – Chris Rusch** reported on a busy March with 16 trainees completing both days of their training. She distributed the calendar for signups. In January, the Plant Clinic had 72 contacts, and thanked **Bonnie Courter** for her PC publicity.

**DISCOVERY GARDEN – Julie Stanbery** was not in attendance.

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

**HALLMARK – Linda Thames** was not in attendance.

**PLANT SALE – Barbara Robinson** is accepting black T-shirt, caps and apron orders after the meeting. The plant sale is May 2 (setup) and May 3 (actual sale). Pre-sale will be held April 24 and April 27 at the Greenhouse from 1-4. Greenhouse crews

are working several times each week until the sale. Please take flyers and bookmarks and distribute them throughout the community. New signs have been made by Innervshen. Admission to the Plant Sale is \$2.00 and canned good donations will be accepted for UCAN.

**Victory Garden:** Mik Carlson reported workdays begin April 1<sup>st</sup>, 9-12. Dave Clark and Vicki McAlister are currently working on a new irrigation design. Betty Ison is working on increasing our pollinator attraction. Please consider donating your surplus produce to UCAN, we will deliver for you.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Trash to Treasure earned \$2,711.55 yipee!

**NEW BUSINESS** – Peggy Yoder announced the colored T-shirt drive. She distributed order forms and will accept them until April 11<sup>th</sup>. You can drop them in the Plant Clinic or mail them to her. Michelle Harding-Olson announced a field trip to Bob's Red Mill in June. Jo Ann Pico will facilitate and requests members email her with their preferred date of either June 5 or 12 both Thursdays. Please also email Michelle if you are interested. Larry Sutton is hoping to organize a field trip to Red Pig Tools.

**SHOW-AND-TELL** – Fred Alley

## Treasurer's Report Vicki McAlister

### INCOME 2/27/14 – 3/19/14

Dues-membership	\$460.00
Dues-hardcopy newsletter	\$43.50
Soil Testing/Interest	\$115.99
Plant Sale – Vendor Booth	\$1,435.44
Trash to Treasures - Change	-\$200.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,854.93</b>

### EXPENSES 2/27/14 – 3/19/14

Mgmt&Gen Bank Charge/Hospitality	-\$14.60
PSP Expense - Soil Test/WT14/HLC	\$494.50
Plant Sale – Adv/Exh Fees/Propane/ Vendor/H2O	\$5,435.12
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,915.02</b>

### Breakdown of our accounts

Checking	\$2,960.76
Money Market – Reserves	\$7,659.10
Money Market	\$14,090.66

**Ending Balance 3/19/14**

**\$24,710.52**



**Design 2013**

Artist: Sharon Hopkins



**Design 2014**

# Western Oregon Gardening Hints for April 2014 from OSU Extension

## Planning

- Write in your garden journal throughout the growing season.
- Prepare garden soil for spring planting. Incorporate generous amounts of organic materials and other amendments, using the results of a soil analysis as a guide.
- Prepare raised beds in areas where cold soils and poor drainage are a continuing problem.
- Incorporate generous amounts (at least 2 inches) of organic materials.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. When the soil is consistently above 60 degrees Fahrenheit, some warm season vegetables (beans, sweet corn) can be planted.

## Maintenance and Clean Up

- Allow foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to brown and die down before removing.
- Apply commercial fertilizers, manure or compost to cane, bush (gooseberries, currants and blueberries), and trailing berries.
- Place compost or well decomposed manure around perennial vegetables, such as asparagus and rhubarb.
- Cut back ornamental grasses to a few inches above the ground, in early spring.
- Cover transplants to protect against late spring frosts.
- Optimum time to fertilize lawns. Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn.
- Reduce risks of run-off into local waterways by not fertilizing just prior to rain, and not overirrigating so that water runs off of lawn and onto sidewalk or street.
- Optimum time of year to dethatch and renovate lawns. If moss was a problem, scratch surface prior to seeding with perennial ryegrass.
- Prune and shape or thin spring-blooming shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.

## Planting/Propagation

- Plant gladioli, hardy transplants of alyssum, phlox and marigolds, if weather and soil conditions permit.
- It's a great time to start a vegetable garden. Among the vegetables you can plant, consider: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, endive, leeks, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, spinach and turnips.

## Pest Monitoring and Management

- Clean up hiding places for slugs, sowbugs and millipedes. Least toxic management options for slugs include barriers and traps. Baits are also available for slug control; use with caution around pets. Read and follow all label directions prior to using baits or any other chemical control.
- Monitor strawberries for spittlebugs and aphids; if present, wash off with water or use insecticidal soap as a contact spray. Follow label directions.
- If necessary, spray apples and pears when buds appear for scab. See *Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards (PDF - EC 631)*.
- Cut and remove weeds near the garden to remove potential sources of plant disease.
- Use floating row covers to keep insects such as beet leaf miners, cabbage maggot adult flies and carrot rust flies away from susceptible crops.
- Help prevent damping off of seedlings by providing adequate ventilation.
- Place pheromone traps in apple or pear trees in late April to monitor codling moth activity.
- Manage weeds while they are small and actively growing with light cultivation or herbicides. Once the weed has gone to bud, herbicides are less effective.
- Spray stone fruits, such as cherries, plums, peaches and apricots for brown rot blossom blight, if necessary.

# Douglas County Master Gardeners

**Newsletter:** Deadline for May 2014 newsletter is April 25th. Mail submissions to [jen@skylondaranch.com](mailto:jen@skylondaranch.com).

**Web Site:** [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/douglas-county-oregon-master-gardeners](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/douglas-county-oregon-master-gardeners)

**Facebook Page:** [www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487)

**Horticulture Agent:** [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture),  
[steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu](mailto:steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu)

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

**OSU Gardening Information –** [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening)

**OSU Master Gardeners Program –** [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg),  
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