



# Douglas County Master Gardeners

July 2014 Newsletter

Volume 29, Number 7



## The Discovery Garden Worm Bins

Nathan Baily

Like many other Master Gardeners, I learned gardening from a grandparent. I was younger than 5 when I became my grandmother's gardening apprentice. She taught me the basics – the difference between plain old dirt and her garden's "soil," how to tell good plants from weeds, and which critters were her "little garden buddies" and which were enemies. Earthworms, bees, and ladybugs were her lifelong garden friends -- pests like aphids, cut worms, most caterpillars, and chickweed were on her hit list.

She admired worms for their many contributions to productive gardens and wanted to make sure I understood and appreciated their value, too. She told me they were critical to the garden in a number of ways, but two of the most important were for their burrows and their manure. She said they helped aerate and irrigate the ground with their tunneling and helped turn dirt into good garden soil with the "best fertilizer in the world" -- worm manure, or castings.

## July 2014 Calendar

- Tue, July 1, 9:00 - noon  
Discovery Garden crew  
Victory Garden crew  
Greenhouse crew & sale
- Wed, July 2, 10:00 - noon  
Herb Garden crew
- Mon, July 7, 10:00 - noon  
Insect Committee
- Tue, July 8, 9:00 - noon  
Victory Garden crew  
Greenhouse crew & sale  
Discovery Garden crew
- Wed, July 9, 9:00 – 10:30  
Executive Board
- Tue, July 15, 9:00 - noon  
Greenhouse crew & sale  
Discovery Garden crew  
Victory Garden crew
- Wed, July 16, 10:00 - noon  
Advanced Diagnostics
- Wed, July 16, 10:00 - noon  
Herb Garden crew
- Mon, July 21, 10:00 - noon  
Insect Committee
- Tue, July 22, 9:00 - noon  
Discovery Garden crew  
Victory Garden crew  
Greenhouse crew & sale
- Tue, July 29, 9:00 - noon  
Victory Garden crew  
Greenhouse crew & sale  
Discovery Garden crew
- Thu, July 31, 10:00 – noon  
Chapter Meeting  
Janet Bitter's home

Grandma helped the worms transform dirt into soil by adding compost from her huge pile and spreading leaves on top of her beds for mulch, which lured even more earthworms to her beds and, as they ate their way through the compost, they left their manure -- or castings. In time, that plot of dirt became one of her magnificent gardens.

To grandma, there were two basic kinds of worms: earthworms and night crawlers. She liked the former, but didn't like how night crawlers made the lawn lumpy. Grandma was very wise, but I don't think she knew about worm bins, composting worms. There were people back in grandma's day who sold worms as bait for fishermen, but I don't remember castings being available like they are today. I didn't hear about "worm farming" for the home gardener until grandma was long gone.

Home worm farming in bins or tubs began to gain popularity in the 1970's with the "back to the earth" movements of gardening, composting, and recycling. By the end of the 1980's, "Mother Earth News" readers were learning how to build worm bins to recycle kitchen waste into worm castings. Current-day vermicomposting really took off with the publication of Applehof's "Worms Eat My Garbage" in the late '90's, but systems for turning table scraps into vermicompost had been appearing on the market for over a decade.

Home vermicomposting systems like the Can-O-Worms made it much easier for homeowners to successfully harvest castings from their own worm farms and helped to popularize vermicomposting and spread the good word about worms.

Worm bins are generally pretty easy to maintain, but smaller systems have to be monitored closely for anaerobic activity. A Rubbermaid tub with shredded paper for bedding material served as my worm bin in the early 1990's and the tub system remains popular today -- there are many web sites showing how to build and use them. Over the years I've also had a couple of the round-tray, stacking Can-O-Worms systems, as well as a square-tray, stacking system. The latter did not work very well, but the Can-O-Worms was pretty good; I now am

using one of the "Darth-Vader" black plastic composters for home worm composting.

The wood bins at the Discovery Garden are pretty easy to maintain, having enough surface area and ventilation to keep everything working smoothly. Whatever system is used, by layering bedding and food scraps, maintaining proper moisture and air content, they will stay fresh-smelling and productive.



There currently are two working bins in the Garden, and one for tools and supplies (the one on the left). As most master gardeners know, during the growing season the castings are used to make compost tea. To make the tea, castings are put into an 18" high, 6" wide cartridge and placed in the center of a Growing Solutions™ 25-gallon tea system. A "microbial catalyst" is added and oxygenated water pumps through the cartridge for 24 to 48 hours. The tea is drained off into 1-gallon jugs and sold to master gardeners for \$2/gallon on Tuesday mornings.

In order to more easily separate the worms from their castings, the bins have been divided in half with barriers made from wire fencing. When one side has run for six months or so, no more kitchen scraps are added and, as the worms finish off everything eatable on the "old side," scraps placed on the "new side" lure them through the barriers, leaving the castings on the old side somewhat worm-free.



The castings are then placed on square, plant-growing trays with holes in the bottoms and put on top of the bedding with the new kitchen scrap offerings. When the bin lids are propped open, the worms' natural "photophobia" makes them dive down through the holes in the bottoms of the trays and into the new scraps. Eventually they all head to the new food source, leaving only castings in the trays. By repeating this process several times, a bucket can be filled with worm-free castings for filling the compost tea cartridge.



Layering an inch or two of kitchen scraps with 2" to 3" of bedding seems to work well to maintain the worms' living space. Dairy or meat scraps should not be used. Dampened newsprint placed on top of the bedding keeps the worms' environment dark, cool, and moist during the hot summer months. Pulverized egg shells added to the scraps will provide both grit for worm gizzards and calcium for healthy worm growth and castings.

Of course not just any worm will work for compost. We use special composting worms in the bins from the species *Eisenia fetida*, commonly referred to as "red wigglers." Space does not permit a complete discussion of red wigglers and other worm varieties, but in another column we'll discuss those topics as well as explore some of the fascinating history and little-known facts about worms.

During July, the Discovery Garden Composting Center can always use more kitchen scraps for both compost and vermicompost. You can leave scraps inside or outside the bins. Worm composting can provide many hours of engaging activity, conversation material, as well as an excellent soil amendment and fertilizer. Douglas County Master Gardeners are welcome to visit the bins at the Discovery Garden, and encouraged to start home bins. If you need worms or advice, or want to help out, send me an email.

## Vice President's Report

Fred Alley

The June 26, 2014, Chapter meeting was hosted by Ivor and Hellene Chapman, 2018 Del Rio Road in Roseburg. The Chapmans have a wonderful residence/property that backs onto the South Umpqua, which they purchased in 1996. They have developed a lush large yard down to the river. All of us admired Ivor's large enclosed garden. I did not measure it but I suspect it is at least 200ft by 200ft, fully enclosed with chicken wire. Ivor shared with us that he was not a flower person, until they purchased their residence. However he certainly has a great display of flowers. In speaking with Hellene, she said it was hard to go on vacation when they have such a beautiful setting. I certainly occur. She told me that she loves to swim, and swims in the river every day in the summer. What a wonderful setting for our first summer Chapter meeting. Thank you, Ivor and Hellene.



Our next Chapter meeting (July 31) will be hosted by Master Gardener Janet Bitter, 581 Quail Lane, Roseburg. I will be visiting Janet's place prior to the meeting, so I will have an opportunity to include any special features Janet might have at her residence, in my advance meeting notice. While we suspend our Continuing Education Series in June, July and August, the Host Sites serve as learning opportunities. Just as each Continuing Education Series offers something different, our Host Site visits also provide a completely different learning opportunity. The host site meetings also provide the social setting that our Educational Series do not. Today, for example, I overheard other Master Gardeners asking Ivor about specific plants from his garden. Another person was asking Hellene about a specific plant, and a guest was asking one of our veterans how to trim a particular tree. Lastly, the potluck is always great. I heard several comments, like, well this is one time I can eat a little more than I usually do.

At the May Chapter Meeting and in the May Newsletter, I announced Kish Doyle had volunteered to be the Master Gardener Photography Team Administrator. Kish is developing the program, including the actual program guidelines. We have chosen "Dropbox" as the depository site, primarily because it provides the largest photo capacity, provides more capacity when new members sign up, and it is a program familiar to many of our members. Kish will be setting a Master Gardener Photography Team meeting in the next several weeks to share with us

the program details. At the July 31 meeting, I will have Kish give us an updated report.

Related to the MG Photography Team, you will recall that our January 30, 2014, Continuing Education Program was "Tips on how to enhance your photographs" by Teri and John Bay of Teri Bay Photography, Sutherlin. Teri and John had volunteered to provide an afternoon workshop at the Discovery Garden on "How to use your camera to maximize the quality of your photographs." During the Jan 30th Continuing Education Program, many of you wanted to know more practical/effective ways you could use your own camera. I will be in touch with Teri and John to set that morning/afternoon photograph work session. I suspect the session will occur in July/August. It is surprising how many of us don't know how to properly/fully use our cameras, so this will be an excellent opportunity to improve your photography skills, therefore enhancing the quality of your photographs.



Lastly, I'm already looking at the 2014-15 Continuing Educations Program Series. Our first program will be in October. We had some excellent presentations last year, and I'm anxious to equal or surpass last year's program series. This goal is not easy to achieve. In September, we have a Chapter Meeting at the Discovery Garden. If you have any special ideas/suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

# Managing Irrigation in Late Summer

## Steve Renquist, OSU Extension Horticultural Agent

The recent rain event in Southwest Oregon was a pleasant way to end June. The air was cleaned of dust and pollen for a few days and we lowered the fire danger a little. Despite the unusually heavy rain for summer we know that July heat is just around the corner. And with the July heat will be an increase in the water demand from our landscape and food garden plants.

To be an efficient irrigator you need to know how much water your plants are using and transpiring each day. Since each plant functions a little differently and adapts a little differently to the heat there isn't one easy answer. However you can get a pretty accurate estimate from a website source called Agrimet. This Agricultural Meteorology site is located at [www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet](http://www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet). At that site you can look up the closest Agrimet location (Medford), unfortunately Douglas County doesn't have a site. This site will follow temperature, wind, humidity and other factors and come up with an evapo-transpiration estimate for the day. They refer to this factor as ET on their chart. During a run of 100-degree days the ET will be listed as .3-.4 inches of water per day for Medford. Knowing that the Roseburg area is milder than Medford would make you estimate that our ET will probably be in the .25-.3 inch per day range when temperatures are in the 90's here. During the growing season of summer Roseburg will almost always be 5-10 degrees cooler than Medford, so don't assume the ET for both cities are the same on a given day.

The web site also has a list of crop plants with their historical daily average ET by month of the year. If you are wondering how much water your vegetables, fruit trees or pastures are using in August, you can check the numbers. Averaging your current ET with the historical use by a specific plant will get you very close to your watering needs. In general your food plants are using about .25 inches of water per day when the temperature is in the low 90's. When the temperature hits 100 degrees our plants are using about .35 inches. Knowing those differences means you would water a day or two sooner with the higher temperatures and you will apply a little more water. To satisfy your plants needs when temperatures are around 100 degrees you would need to apply 2.45 inches of water for that week. When temperatures are around 90 your plant would need about 1.75 inches of water during the week.

Now that you know how to figure out approximately how much water your plants will be using you need to know how much water your irrigation system is delivering. The easiest way to know how much water you are applying is to put a rain gauge in your garden or lawn before you turn on your sprinkler system. Make sure it is empty before you start watering. You can get simple stick in the ground rain gauges at most garden or farm centers. If you can't find a rain gauge, then just put a tuna can out in your sprinkler pattern and measure the amount of water that was captured in a given time, say thirty minutes. If you captured half an inch of water in 30 minutes you know you need to water an hour for each inch of water your garden needs. Some irrigators suggest you set your sprinkler system to match the daily ET. However if you are applying just a quarter inch each day it will be difficult for the water to penetrate deeply enough to feed the roots of trees and other deeply rooted plants. Most plants will prefer to have a longer deeper irrigation that is made two to three times per week.

Remember when you are watering, keep the spray of water off the foliage of the plants when possible. We get a very large number of calls each week from homeowners who have leaf diseases on shrubs and trees that would not exist if they kept the water lower to the ground. When you are setting up your lawn sprinklers make a survey of plants around the perimeter of your turf that get leaf diseases or that are susceptible to root rots. Try to minimize the spray pattern into those areas. Plants like our native oaks, junipers, ceanothus and cotoneaster can get root rots when over watered. Plants like dogwood, sycamore, maple, apple and cherry are all susceptible to leaf disease and don't like wet leaves. You will be more confident that your plants are getting the moisture they need if you know the daily ET rates for many of your plants.

## OMGA Report

Rosemary Brinkley

Roger Sawyer attended the OMGA Board meeting in June. Here are a few of the highlights from the meeting.

The International Master Gardener Convention will be held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland in the month of July 2017. The tentative cost will be \$350.00 for the convention. Give feedback on logo designs by going to <http://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV> and taking the survey. Anyone interested in helping on the convention contact Rosemary Brinkley or Roger Sawyer. The OMGA Board voted to put \$5,000 aside for both 2015 and 2016 (\$10,000 total) for the IMGIC conference sponsorship.



Remember this year's Mini-College is only a few days away: July 12 and 13<sup>th</sup>. Anyone donating Silent Auction items need to get them to Rosemary by July 8<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see several of you there.

Next year's Mini-college will be held at Linfield College the first weekend in August of 2015. Linfield has beautiful facilities and the costs are a little more than half of the OSU costs.

The next OMGA board meeting will be held at Corvallis during Mini-college. Roger Sawyer and Larry Sutton will be representing Douglas County at that meeting. Thanks gentlemen.

## Plant Clinic News

Chris Rusch

The Plant Clinic has been busy this month training our new students from the 2014 class and answering lots of questions from our clients as they begin planting their gardens for the summer. The 2014 training team this year is Leo Grass, Larry Sutton, Kay Rogers, Karolyn Riecks, Judy Mercer and Chris Rusch. Kay and Karolyn have moved on to new assignments. Thanks to both for your terrific contribution to the clinic's training program. Any veterans interested in assisting in the training team should contact Chris Rusch.

Veterans are needed to volunteer at the clinic as the summer months approach! July has lots of openings. Please consider signing up.

The statistics so far for 2014 are 490 visitors to the plant clinic. Questions for June were diverse, including orchard maintenance, lawn problems, weed identification and lots of damage by 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.

## Plant Sale Raffle

Rosemary Brinkley

I would like to thank the Raffle Helpers at this year's plant sale. What a joy it was to work with the following ladies: Rebecca Drew, Debbie Haynes, Marilyn Klingbeil, Barbara Leeb, Charity Hayes and Iva Greywolf. Hope to see you all next year.

The Raffle at the plant sale was successful because the following members brought items in to be raffled: Neal Evans and Judy Murphy, Dave and Sharon Hopkins, Barb and Gale Robinson, Jim and Joan Leet, Barb McPherson, Toni Rudolph, Vicki McAlister, Karolyn Riecks, and the greenhouse crews. Thank you so very, very much. I would also like to thank the vendors for their donations. They were truly generous in the items they provided.

# Treasurer's Report

Vicki McAlister

## INCOME 5/29/14 – 6/25/14

Contributions/Interest	\$5.91
Soil Testing	\$125.00
Plant Sale – All categories	\$327.25
Compost Tea	\$291.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$749.16</b>

## EXPENSES 5/29/14 – 6/25/14

PSP Expense – Soil Testing	\$173.88
Discovery Garden – Various	\$252.77
HLC – Greenhouse Supplies/Maint/ Victory Garden	\$423.51
Plant Sale – Exhibit Fees/Plants/ Supplies/Water	\$610.98
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,461.14</b>

## Breakdown of our accounts

Checking	\$6,675.28
Money Market – Reserves	\$7,659.10
Money Market	\$39,093.40
<b>Ending Balance 6/25/14</b>	<b>\$53,427.78</b>

## June 2014

### Chapter Meeting Minutes

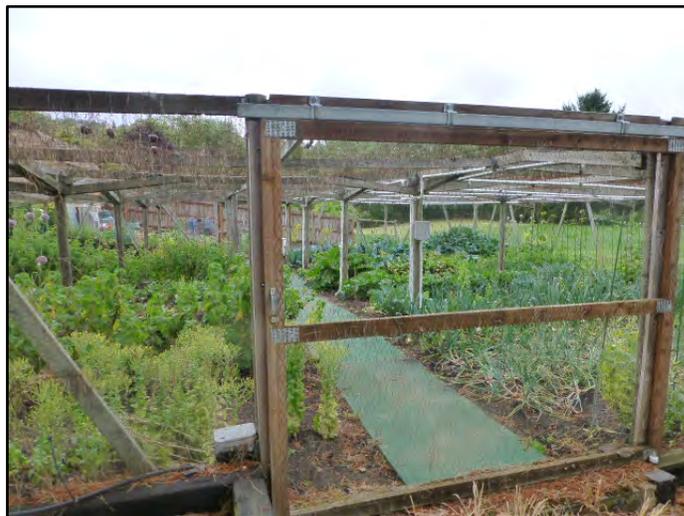
Janet Parkerson

The OSU Douglas County Master Gardeners Chapter Meeting by President **Fred Alley** at 10:15 AM on June 26, 2015. The Minutes of the May 2014 Chapter Meeting were corrected to state that Sue Bundren (not Sue Scott) was stepping down from her role in the Butterfly Garden, and then approved.

**PRESIDENT FRED ALLEY** opened the meeting by inviting 2 guests from the Lookingglass Garden Club to introduce themselves. He also announced two additions to the Meeting Agenda. The Greenhouse and Plant Sale will be reporting monthly at the Executive and Chapter meetings.

**Fred** expressed his appreciation to **Ivor** and Hellena **Chapman** for hosting the meeting at their home, and invited **Ivor** to give the members some history that led to him becoming a Master Gardener. **Ivor** gave a brief overview starting with meeting his wife in Flagstaff, AZ in 1988, moving back to England for

8 years, and finally making their home in Roseburg in 1996. They spent several years terracing and landscaping the property, which now features an impressive caged vegetable garden, dahlia beds and many varieties of plants.



**HORTICULTURAL AGENT - Steve Renquist** discussed the river levels and flow at the bridge today and in the past. Currently, the downstream of the bridge, the North Umpqua is at 2.4 feet and running at 1276 cubic feet/second. The river is 85% lower than average. The South Umpqua depth is 3.5 feet. In Roseburg, the cubic feet/second is at 166, while at Winston it is at 224 cubic feet/second. The river is 90% lower than average at these points.

**Steve** reported that there has been an explosion of Spotted Wing Drosophila in the last two weeks. These are affecting the berry crops. He recommended the use of Malathion and Spinosyn. Some berry growers are using traps with vinegar, but his experience has shown this method to be not as effective. The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug has also impacted Oregon; however, Douglas County is not as hard hit as other counties. Traps need to be set up and maintained. These pests affect apples, pears, peaches and some berries.

**Steve** reported that the local weather has been much warmer than last year and if the trend continues we may see the warmest year ever reported. The heat has caused many crops to mature early.

**Steve** has a couple of community projects for DCMG. The Douglas County Fairgrounds has requested assistance with landscaping two small

areas. They would like Master Gardeners to create the design and assist with the purchase of the plants for the design. **Steve** has arranged for labor to be provided by students from the Phoenix School. He invited any Master Gardener who is interested in helping with the project to contact him. The Fairgrounds will pay for all the plants, fertilizer, mulch, etc. and install sprinklers as needed. The Library has also requested assistance in selecting a few trees to replace trees that were removed.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – Ruth Stafford** reported membership totals of 232 with 29 trainees for a total of 261. The new roster is published and is available in the Plant Clinic. **Ruth** also announced that she had orange membership cards available at the meeting and they will also be available at the Plant Clinic.

**OMGA REPRESENTATIVE – Roger Sawyer** attended the **OMGA** meeting. A concern for insurance for the computers and miscellaneous electronics was needed. The research had been done and the plan presented would have a \$150 annual premium with a \$500 deductible **Roger** felt this was a budget item and should be saved for that time. The Executive Committee has the authority to buy insurance. They voted and they will fund it with \$500 plus the \$150 premium.

The **OMGA** Quarterly meeting focused mainly on the International Conference which will be held in Portland in 2017 at the Oregon Conference Center. The last International Conference held in Oregon was in 1989 and provided a profit of over \$100,000. It is expensive to host the conference, therefore, **OMGA** is asking for sponsors. Besides corporate sponsors, **OMGA** is asking each **OMGA** Chapter to be sponsors.. The funds are being set aside for this event.

Mini-College sign up time is running out. Classes are filling up. **Roger** will provide a report on his experience at Mini-College. Next year, Mini-College will be held at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon. This year, it is being held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. If this proves to be a better schedule, it will be repeated next year.

**TREASURER – Vicki McAlister** reviewed the Treasurer's Report. The Fairgrounds wanted to

charge **DCMG** overtime since we have asked for early entry for setup. **Barbara Robinson** negotiated it down to one hour since we are providing landscaping for them.

**VICE-PRESIDENT – Fred Alley** announced the locations for the summer Chapter meetings. July's meeting will be at the home of **Janet Bitter** and the August meeting will be at the home of **Dave and Sharon Hopkins**.

**Fred** thanked **Larry Sutton** for chairing the Executive Board Meeting on June 11 while **Fred** was out of town.

**PAST PRESIDENT - Larry Sutton** was not present.

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

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Leo Grass** was not present.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Bonnie Courter** thanked the Nominating Committee members for their efforts. The Nominating Committee has provided a list of individuals to nominate to office for next year. They are:

President - **Chris Rusch**  
Vice-President - **Fred Alley**  
Secretary - **Gayle Ward**  
Treasurer - **Vicki McAlister**  
Membership Director - **Denise Fennell**  
OMGA Representative - **Rosemary Brinkley and Anne Bacon**  
Past President - **Larry Sutton**

**PLANT CLINIC - Chris Rusch** stated that the Plant Clinic has been very busy. All of the days are covered for June, however there are a lot of "opportunities" available in July.

**KRUSE FARMS – Anne Bacon** said the information table at Kruse Farms has been keeping busy. They have an urgent need for at least one veteran Master Gardener for July 5 and for several of the Saturdays in July, August and September. They are desperate for veteran Master Gardeners. **Anne** reminded everyone how pleasant it is to get hours in the fresh outdoors. The Sign-up Calendar has been combined with the Plant Clinic's calendar and can be found in the Plant Clinic.

**VICTORY GARDEN - Beth Brown** reported 214 pounds of vegetables have been donated from the Victory Garden and 26 pounds of produce has been donated by members.

A new sign has been posted that will provide the tally of produce donated to UCAN. This will be updated weekly. If any Master Gardener has produce to donate, please bring it to the Victory Garden on Tuesday mornings. All donations must be properly prepared/packaged for donation. Beth reported that Dave Clark is helping with the drip irrigation system, as the Victory Garden is committed to low water use.



**DISCOVERY GARDEN - Julie Stanbery** said that there has been someone every week working on the Children's Garden and it really shows. **Julie** reported **Laverne Bailey** and **Maureen Benice** have really made the Entry Garden shine. **Betty Ison** and **Denise Fennell** have made many changes in the Easy Access Garden, making it a lot less labor intensive yet, still educational. The Rock Garden had a few new trees go in this week and it really has made a big difference. And the Xeriscape Garden is beautiful this year. **Sandy Grindle** has been weed eating the Garden and its borders this year and is doing an outstanding job. **Gale Robinson** laid down chips all around the perimeter of the Garden, saving a lot of time and effort of weeding. **Julie** encouraged everyone to visit it to see all the changes.

Mrs. Koyeyami visited this week. She and her son had not seen the plaque in the Japanese Garden recognizing her husband for his help. **Maureen Benice** helped **Julie** put together a photo album which was presented to Mrs. Koyeyami. She was very impressed with the symmetry and beauty of the Garden.

**Noel Groshong** is almost done with the irrigation improvements being done in the Japanese Garden, with help from **Dave Clark** and **Dave Hopkins**

**Julie** asked for a volunteer to sand and paint the two picnic tables. She will provide the paint and **Gale Robinson** will provide the sander. **Sharon Hopkins** volunteered to do this.

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

**HALLMARK - Linda Thames** reported **Covie Quick**, our second President and charter member, fell at home and broke her hip. **Linda** sent her a card. **Betty Fretwell** has passed away. **Linda** would like to send a card, but she cannot get an address. If anyone knows of an address, please contact **Linda**.

**NEWSLETTER - Jen Bailey** reminded members that deadline for the Newsletter is June 27th. **Jen** is stepping down as editor of the Newsletter after the September issue, and asked for help in recruiting a new editor.

**SIGNAGE - Karen Glatz** was not present. She is working with the Entry Garden on a new sign.

**PLANT SALE/GREENHOUSES - Barbara Robinson** announced there will be Plant Sales for members only on selected Tuesdays from 9:30 to noon. All plants are for sale. They will have work crew this week. Also, she needs a crew to help weed the patio.

**OLD BUSINESS - None.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Judy Huntley** announced that the **Awards Banquet** will be held October 4, 2014, at the First Methodist Church.

# Western Oregon Gardening Hints for July 2014 from OSU Extension

## Maintenance and Clean Up

- Mound soil up around base of potatoes. Gather and eat a few “new” potatoes from each hill, when plants begin to flower.
- Early morning is the best time to water vegetable and flower gardens to reduce evaporation. Water the soil, rather than leaves, to reduce disease. Water deeply and infrequently to encourage root growth.
- Hanging baskets of flowers or vegetable plantings need careful attention to watering and feeding during extended periods of hot weather.
- Weed and fertilize rhubarb and asparagus beds. A mulch of compost or rotted cow manure works well as fertilizer. Water deeply to develop crowns for next year.
- Mulch to conserve soil moisture with paper, plastic, sawdust, etc.
- Stake tall-growing flowering plants such as delphinium, hollyhocks, and lupine. Stake tomatoes, as necessary.
- If a green lawn is desired, make sure lawn areas are receiving adequate water (approximately 0.5 to 1.5 inches per week from June through August). Deep watering less often is more effective than frequent shallow watering. Measure your water use by placing an empty tuna can where your irrigation water lands.
- Make compost of lawn clippings and garden plants that are ready to be recycled. Do not use clippings if lawn has been treated with herbicide, including “weed-and-feed” products. Do not compost diseased plants unless you are using the “hot compost” method (120 degrees to 150 degrees Fahrenheit).

## Planting/Propagation

- Midsummer plantings of beets, bush beans, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce, kale, and peas will provide fall and winter crops.
- Dig spring bulbs when tops have died down; divide and store or replant.

## Pest Monitoring and Management

- Continue monitoring raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, cherry and other plants that produce soft fruits and berries for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). If SWD are present, use an integrated and least toxic approach to manage the pests. To learn how to monitor for SWD flies and larval infestations in fruit, visit: <http://bit.ly/SWDmonitor>
- Control hollyhock rust by sanitation, picking affected leaves, or spraying with a registered fungicide. Read and follow label directions.
- Watch for cutworm damage in garden. In July, climbing cutworms become a problem and large portions of foliage will begin to disappear on established plants. Use barriers, remove by hand, use beneficial nematodes when soil temperature is above 55 degrees Fahrenheit or spray with *Bt-k* according to label directions.
- Place traps to catch adult apple maggot flies. You can use pheromone traps to monitor presence of pests.
- July 10: Spray filbert trees for filbertworm, as necessary.
- July 10-15: Spray peach and prune trees for peach tree borer, and peach twig borer, as necessary.
- July 17-23: Third spray for codling moth in apple and pear trees, as necessary.
- Late July: Begin to monitor for early and late blight on tomatoes.

- Cover blueberry bushes with netting to keep birds from eating the entire crop.
- Watch for early and late blight on tomatoes. Correct by pruning for air circulation, picking off affected leaves and/or treat with approved fungicide.
- Monitor camellias, holly, maple trees for scale insects. Treat if necessary.
- Monitor rhododendrons for adult root weevils. Look for fresh evidence of feeding (notching). Try sticky trap products on plant trunks to trap adult weevils. Manage root weevils with beneficial nematodes (if soil temperature is above 55 degrees Fahrenheit). If root weevils are a consistent problem, consider removing plants and choosing resistant varieties, see: <http://bit.ly/oDOScK>
- Check leafy vegetables for caterpillars. Pick off caterpillars as they appear. Use *Bt-k*, if necessary.
- Spider mites can become a problem on ornamental plants, vegetables, and fruit plants during hot, dry weather. Watch for dusty-looking foliage, loss of color, presence of tiny mites. Wash infested areas with water or spray with appropriate pesticides.
- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose and bacterial canker of stone fruit. Sterilize tools before each new cut.



*Photos by Kish Doyle*



# Douglas County Master Gardeners

**Newsletter:** The deadline for the August 2014 newsletter is August 1st. 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),  
[www.facebook.com/OSUMG](http://www.facebook.com/OSUMG)

**Oregon Master Gardeners Association –** [www.oregonmastergardeners.org](http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org)



Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer. OSU Extension programs will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with physical or mental disabilities. If you need particular accommodations, call our Extension Office at 541-672-4461 at least two weeks prior to the event.

Douglas County Master Gardeners  
PO BOX 1165  
Roseburg OR 97470  
Ph: 541-672-4461