



DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 30, Issue 2

February 2015

Feb. 2015 Calendar

Mon., Feb. 2, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Mon., Feb. 2, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Tues., Feb. 3, 9:00-4:00

Winter Training Class

Friday, Feb. 6, 9-Noon

Pruning Japanese Garden

Mon., Feb. 9, 10:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Tues., Feb. 10, 9:00-4:00

Winter Training Class

Wed., Feb. 11, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting

Mon., Feb. 16, 1:00-4:00

Pruning Roses, Entry Garden

Mon., Feb. 16, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Mon., Feb. 16, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Tues., Feb. 17, 9:00-4:00

Winter Training Class

Fri., Feb. 20, 1:00-4:00

Ornamental/Shade Tree pruning

Sun., Feb. 22, Noon-2:00

Composting Seminar, DG

Mon., Feb. 23, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Tues., Feb. 24, 9:00-4:00

Winter Training Class

Thurs., Feb. 26, 9:00-10:00

Continuing Education

Thurs., Feb. 26, 10:00-Noon

Chapter Meeting at Extension

Plant Sale Meeting (afterwards)

Sat., Feb. 28, 9:00-4:00

Spring Into Gardening, UCC



The President's Post

Chris Rusch

Gardening makes my heart sing! I was instantly hooked by my first garden many years ago. So I was extremely happy to receive my first 2015 seed order in the mail this week. I like to start my own flower and vegetable plants in a small greenhouse in my backyard. My order was for all those things that must be started early.

Onions for example, must be started in mid-February in our mountain environment in Tiller. I like to start plants from seed in the greenhouse and then out-plant them in late April. I prefer onion plants versus sets mostly for their storability and better selection of varieties. I like to grow 4-5 varieties. My favorites are Walla Walla, Copra, Milestone, Talon and Borettana. The Copra I have stored for up to 10 months and it still keeps its firmness and sweet flavor.



Petunia seeds were also in my early seed order. I like petunias because they are highly adaptable, doing well in rich or poor soils, under moist or dry conditions, in full sun or partial shade. They can be used for edging, containers, hanging baskets, or spotting wherever a bright accent is needed. They come in single or double forms in almost any color, including bicolor. Hummingbirds love them! I usually start the petunias in the first part of February in the greenhouse in very light seeding soil. The seed is very fine and needs warmth to germinate. After they get a few leaves I transplant them into flats. This way I can grow lots of plants rather than having to buy plants from a nursery.

Sugar Snap Peas were part of my order. Peas are a rare treasure in the early garden. I will be planting these on February 15, a tradition in my family for many generations.

I hope you too are getting your seeds ordered or shopping for them at your local garden shop! After all, our gardening season is just around the corner.

Vice-President's Report

Fred Alley



The January 29, 2015 Continuing Education Program was great! Cindy Bright-Pierre, Wildlife Biologist for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

gave another excellent presentation on "Landscaping Your Backyard for Birds". She focused on the native Oregon birds, and ways we can provide food, water and shelter for the native bird population. Because our Master Gardeners reside all over Douglas County, which include both urban and rural settings,

Cindy's presentation covered those differing settings. Cindy has already forwarded the Web sites she mentioned at the end of her presentation, so I will forward them to Shirley Purcell, for distribution to all our members.

Before the presentation, I was sharing with Cindy some of the past continuing education program presentations including the number of Master Gardeners and guests who attended the sessions. I was surprised she was



very familiar with Beaver Relocation Advocacy Committee located in Tiller, and that she is friends of Leonard and Lois Houston, who administer that beaver relocation program. Cindy, as well as our President, Chris Rush, volunteer their time in seeking grant funds for that program. Secondly, I shared with Cindy that our highest attendance was when Geoff Niles gave his presentation on "All You Want to Know About Oregon Mushrooms". Well, Congratulations, Cindy, you now have the honor of having the most attendees for a Master Gardener Continuing Education Program Series!

As I introduced Cindy and her topic, I commented on and welcomed a number of trainees from the 2015 Sustainable Gardening Class. The Continuing Education Program is open to the public. It is always rewarding when new students attend and a large number of Master Gardeners attend. It says a lot about the quality of our program series. It also demonstrates to the presenters our interest and enthusiasm for the particular presentation.

With the arrival of birds, so is the arrival of our "favorite" weed, the bittercress. I have already removed enough to fill several five gallon buckets. On the other hand, the daffodils are

popping their heads up, some on the verge of blooming, and the flowering pears are starting to show their buds. My favorite Spring shrub which I have planted next to my front door is the *Weigela florida 'variegata'*. I keep it trimmed to a three foot mound. It looks fantastic, and provides a great fresh Spring smell as you enter the front door. Maybe a presentation on local favorite spring-time plants would be in order? Any ideas or suggested presenters? I know we have several local nurseries that might be willing to give us a presentation. I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Winter Training Class Maureen Benice



WTC15 class started on January 6th with a bang - Botany I and Climate and Weather of Douglas County. Of course there was wonderful Master Gardener-provided food for lunch. Since



then the students have had more Botany, plus Pruning (lecture and hands-on), classes in Plant Propagation, info on Plant Clinic, Soil Testing, Bug Committee, PNW usage, and other committees they MUST know about. Oh, and a great lecture by Megan Woltz on Insects!

Feb. 3rd and 17th, they will get seeding classes, so they will be able to do everything we do in the Greenhouses in preparation for the

Plant Sale. Last week a lot of new students helped out at the greenhouses. Many of them have worked in the Discovery Garden and at pruning classes. This is a class that is ready to pitch in and work!



An interesting thing: we have five MGs who took their training in the past and now they are auditing the class, and another who is to start auditing this Tuesday. Three of them are doing the homework and the review with the students! There are two other MGs from other locations who are auditing and one, possibly two, students are MGs from elsewhere. What a great information base we have!



Exciting things are going on in WT15. Come and visit, get to know some of the new people and say 'Hi!' to us. Sit in on a class and learn the new stuff. Get excited!



Westside Greenhouse

Maureen Benice

For the next few months the Westside Greenhouse will have crews working on seeding, transplanting and cleaning plants. The intention is to have great plants to send to the Plant Sale the first Saturday in May...that's May 2nd.

So far cuttings are being transplanted, many veggies and annuals have been seeded (more to come), and the cleanup of perennials is on-going.

The Vegetative Propagation (cuttings and divisions) classes have been held. The 5th and 7th week of training, the students have seeding classes.

So far the new students have been helping with everything except seeding, and after classes in seeding, they will help with that.

So all can come out and play soon! See you there.

Plant Sale

Barbara Robinson & Sharon Hopkins

Mark your calendars for our 2015 Plant and Garden Expo on Saturday, May 2nd at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Set up will be the day before on Friday, May 1st. These are both full day events, so plan to work whenever you're willing and able! Your Plant Sale committee chairs will be meeting soon to discuss and implement new ideas for this year's sale. Sign-up sheets for the various jobs/committees will be 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!



Here's the Dirt!

by Denise Fennell

I like to think we all would prefer to enjoy more organic vegetables. But let's face it, they cost a small fortune in the grocery stores. Seems the minute they put the label of "organic" on something it, for whatever reason, gives them the right to double the cost.

But eating good food doesn't have to cost a lot money. If you invest some time you can have a fully organic garden. I mean chemical free fertilizers, efficient use of water, proper preparation of soil and even composting. Sounds tiring doesn't it? But once properly established your garden can produce an abundance of fruits and vegetables.

One book that helped get me started was *Growing Vegetables West of the Cascades* by Steve Solomon.

Now I know you're thinking...where do I know that name from? Well Steve Solomon was the founder of **Territorial Seed Company**. He was also one of the early proponents of organic gardening.

What's really nice about this book is that it really delves into the various components of gardening! He breaks it down based on the order you need to start. Soil, Composting, Planning, Water, Seeds, Transplants, Predators and How to Grow it. He hooked me in the second paragraph "...that fresh, homegrown, vegetables will become a major part of your family's food supply." And he gets specific in his extensive advice on how to grow crops in our gentle maritime Northwest climate.

Food, and where it has come from, is becoming a larger concern than ever before. Is it GMO, was it exposed to pesticides, heck some countries use pesticides that not even legal here due to their toxicity.

So pick up that spade, set up our beds, nurture our seeds and make our gardens all that they can be.

I give it a 5 out of 5 wheelbarrows!



New Swinger Bars **Betty Ison, Awards Chair**

The following volunteers have earned new swinger bars for 2015. Come see me 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: Rachel Billings, June Taylor, Roger Dejmaj, Beckie Thaler, Linda Forbes, Peggy Yoder, Rocky Stevenson

200 Hours: Anne Bacon, Bonnie Durick, John Jasper, Janet Parkerson, Nathan Baily, Neal Evans, Jan Kirchner, Ed Stoll, Ivor Chapman, Denise Fennell, Joni Leet, Ray Warren, Kish Doyle, Colette Hestbeck, Judy Murphy

500 Hours: Betty Bean, Darlene Morey, Diane Billings, Carol Bolt, Valerie Call

750 Hours: Jen Bailey, Janet Wicka, Rosemary Brinkley, Elva Sellens, Ruth Stafford

1000 Hours: Fred Alley, Ted Benice, Vicki McAlister, Chris Rusch

1500 Hours: Pam Barrows, Jackie Carpenter, Dave Hopkins

2000 Hours: Judith Mercer, Barbara Robinson, Anne Waddington

3000 Hours: Maureen Benice

3500 Hours: Karolyn Ricks

7000 Hours: Gloria Amorde, Larry Sutton

8500 Hours: Tasha King, Julie Stanbery

13,500 Hours: Betty Ison



Trash to Treasure Sale **Cindy Rich & Toni Rudolph**

Save the day, **Saturday March 21**, for our Trash to Treasure Sale at the Extension Office Auditorium.

Please set aside your CLEAN, useable items to donate for the sale. We take gardening/outdoor items, books, tools, jewelry, furniture, toys, kitchen, glassware, holiday, crafts and whatever you can find at a garage sale. We DON'T take clothes, shoes, live plants, food, old computers or TV's.

We will set up the tables on Thursday, March 19th from 1-3pm or until done. Donations accepted on Friday, March 20th from 9am-4pm. The sale is Saturday, March 21st from 9am-4pm.

Sign-up sheets will be available soon and will be kept in the Plant Clinic. If you want to help and aren't able to come to the clinic, you can call or email one of us to sign up.

Please save plastic and paper bags for the sale. These can be dropped off on Friday March 20. We will be sending more information later. If you have questions, please call.

Thanks!

Cindy Rich 541-677-1882
csneal2@yahoo.com

Toni Rudolph 541-673-7803
1ToniRudolph@gmail.com

Co-Chairs Trash to Treasure

Plant Clinic

Chris Rusch



Plant Clinic Data 2014

Contacts

Month	Call-in	Walk-in	email	Totals
January	20	8		28
February	26	21	1	48
March	48	37	1	86
April	47	55	1	103
May	61	74	1	136
June	66	75	2	143
July	61	59	2	122
August	43	57		100
September	48	49		97
October	32	31	3	66
November	13	18		31
December	4	10		14
Totals	469	494	11	974

The Plant Clinic will be busy in February as we begin the training of the Class of 2015. Our training team this year is Leo Grass, Larry Sutton, Anne Bacon, Bonnie Courter and Chris Rusch.

We are hoping to increase our visitor participation for 2015. The Plant Clinic is a great way to promote our Master Gardener Program and encourage sustainable gardening in Douglas County.

If you're in town, stop by the clinic and say, "Hi."

Question categories

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Disease	1	1	3	7	16	11	16	14	6	6	2		83
Insects	3	8	20	11	21	36	24	8	15	12	7	3	168
Pesticides	1	1	2		1	3	2	4				2	16
Lawn	1	4	7	8	3	1	1	6	11	8	3	1	54
Orchard	6	10	8	12	26	11	14	14	15	7		4	127
Plant ID	3	2	8	10	16	12	14	7	8	9	2	2	93
Wildlife		1	3			4	4	2	3			1	18
House plants													
Gardening	8	6	12	14	18	25	13	19	17	10	6		148
Weeds	2	4	3	6	1	7	8	7	5		1		44
Pruning		2	1			1	2		1		1		8
Trees/Shrubs	3	3	13	20	24	27	14	11	12	11	6		144
Water		1					2	2					5
Misc.		5	6	15	10	5	8	6	4	3	3	1	66

Top five most cited references:

1. Extension Search website
2. Sustainable Gardening Handbook
3. PNW Disease Management Handbook
4. PNW Insect Management Handbook
5. Steve Renquist/Master Gardener knowledge

Treasurer's Report Vicki McAlister

INCOME 1/1/15 - 1/28/15

Donations	\$100.00
Dues - Hardcopy Newsletter	\$238.00
Dues - Membership	\$2,180.00

TOTAL INCOME **\$2,518.00**

EXPENSES 1/1/15-1/28/15

Mgmt/General - Hospitality	\$55.96
Newsletter Postage	\$28.00
HLC - Pump Repair	\$479.40
HLC - Supplies/Maintenance	-\$10.46
Plant Sale - Supplies	\$36.45

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$589.35**

Breakdown of our accounts

Checking	\$3,788.03
Money Market - Reserves	\$8,659.10
Money Market	\$27,101.23

Ending Balance 11/20/14 **\$39,548.36**



Douglas County Master Gardener Chapter Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2015

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 10:10am by President, Chris Rusch. There were 56 in attendance.

Agenda Approval - Bob Brindley requested t-shirts be added to the agenda.

Minutes - Minutes were approved as distributed.

Agent's Report - Steve Renquist was not available for report.

OFFICER REPORTS

Membership: Denise Fennell - Denise reported 252 active members including 29 new students and four members who have returned to the organization. There are 36 unpaid members who have been dropped from the roster.

OMGA Representative: Rosemary Brinkley – Nothing to report

Treasurer: Vicki McAlister - Vicki was out of town but left financial reports for distribution

Vice President: Fred Alley - Fred thanked Cindy Bright-Pierre for her outstanding continuing education program on backyard plantings to attract

birds and wildlife. March Continuing Ed not yet confirmed.

Past President: Larry Sutton – Nothing to report.

Secretary: Barbara Robinson – Nothing to report.

President: Chris Rusch - The Executive Board is reviewing the Policy and Procedures Manual, purging obsolete sections and updating others. Chris has sent requests to officers and committee chairs requesting updates to their position duties and procedures. If you have not returned these to Chris, please do so as soon as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Outreach: Leo Grass - Master Gardeners will be staffing a booth at the “Celebration of Literacy” event being held at the Fairgrounds on Saturday, Feb. 21st, from 10-4. This is primarily a children’s venue. Anyone willing to help, please give Leo a call and offer your support at this event for a fun project.... dissecting lima beans!

Douglas County Library is starting up a monthly lunch program, bringing in various speakers. They have asked us to present on March 18th, noon to 1pm. This presentation will be “Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring.” Call Leo if you are willing to help with this program or future programs in this series. Also needed are ideas for future programs.

Roger Sawyer will be conducting a pruning and composting class at Glide Elementary School on Jan. 31st at 1pm. Feel free to come participate.

Plant Clinic: Chris Rusch - February and March clinic slots are filled up while training the 2015 class. The April calendar is open for veterans to begin signing up. Chris shared Plant Clinic data she has compiled for 2014.

Plant Sale/Black MG Apparel: Barbara Robinson -

Plant Sale: Clipboards with committee sign-ups will be available starting at next week’s winter training class. They will be located at the back of the room each Tuesday until classes are finished and will be in the Plant Clinic for walk-in signups. You may also call the Plant Clinic and ask to have your name added to a committee. Barbara will be available at classes during the morning to answer questions. Mentors should help their students sign up as it can be confusing.

Black T-Shirts: Barbara will once again be organizing the purchase of black t-shirts, baseball caps, & aprons for Master Gardeners. Order forms were made available. Deadline for ordering is February 26th. Call or email Barbara with questions.



Westside Greenhouse/Winter Training: Maureen Benice - Westside Greenhouse is busy seeding, propagating and cleaning up plants in preparation for Plant Sale. Work

parties are every Monday 9am to noon. Work days will go back to our normal Tuesdays once classes are over. Look for emails from Maureen with notice of work parties.

Winter training is going well with 29 students. Many students have begun working in the greenhouses. This next Tuesday will expose the students to seeding in the greenhouses.

Eastside Greenhouse: Bruce Gravens -

Workers have been busy cleaning up plants, readying them for Plant Sale. Next month crews will be focusing on cleaning up grasses which will then be moved into the greenhouse to encourage growth. Will need about 6 workers to help out with this task. Normal work crews meet on Monday from 9 to noon unless otherwise notified by email.

Bruce thanked Ivor Chapman and his devoted crew of workers who have transformed the outside Eastside work area. The surface has been leveled and gravel laid, making it a much safer work area. The plant pallets have been raised, alleviating much of the back pain experienced in the past.

Awards: Betty Ison - Betty read off a long list of names of dedicated Master Gardeners who received new swinger bars. The list will be published in February's newsletter.

Members who complete their 60 hours payback will be given their swinger bars when they earn it. Other bars are only given out once a year in January.

Betty announced she had made cupcakes to honor Roger Sawyer who is moving to Florida. Chris Rusch presented Roger with a plaque for Twenty-One Years of

Exemplary Service. Roger, you will be missed! Roger currently heads up the



Discovery Garden orchard and also keeps the Plant Clinic computer updated with membership information. If you are interested in taking on either of these tasks, please contact Julie Stanbery or Chris Rusch.



Discovery Garden: Julie Stanbery - Julie thanked the many veterans who participated in the garden tour for the new class. A special thanks to Bonnie Courter who has been a tour guide for many years.

Kudos went to five new students participating in the last Discovery Garden workday. Elva Sellens shows up to all workdays and provides an invaluable service by helping and directing students.

See announcements for a list of upcoming instructional pruning sessions by Steve Renquist in the Discovery Garden.

Publicity/Newsletter: Bonnie Courter - PSA's have been sent to the radio and T.V. for posting on their community calendars.

The Saturday immediately following the chapter meeting is the deadline for newsletter submissions.

Trash to Treasure: Cindy Rich & Toni Rudolph - Cindy Rich has agreed to step up and chair the Trash to Treasure sale and Toni Rudolph will assist.

Sale will be held on Saturday, March 21st, 9am to 4pm in the Extension Annex. Set up will be on Thursday, March 19th, 1-3pm. Donations will be received and priced on Friday, March 20th, 9am to 4pm.

Do not bring: clothes, shoes, magazines, bulky outdated electronics, encyclopedia sets. Items should be clean.

Storage of sale items not available. Keep at your house until sale.

Grocery bags are needed.

Facebook: Barbara Horst - Douglas County Master Gardener Facebook page has grown to 327 followers. The site has a Calendar of Events page. Send MG events to Barbara if you would like them advertised.

Hallmark: Linda Thames -

- Irene Thomason broke her hip. Her health is declining and she has been placed on Hospice.
- Rayma Davis' mother passed.
- Judy Dake's husband, Charlie, passed after a long illness.
- Diana Circle had heart valve replacement in early January.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all these fellow MGs.

Victory Garden: Mik Carlson - There will be no official VG crew until the beginning of March. Westside Greenhouse and some individual

Master Gardeners have been starting seed for VG. Victory Garden is going to be expanded by 45 feet to the north to take advantage of more sun. Anyone who is interested in creating garden space from scratch is encouraged to contact Mik. Needed are big pieces of cardboard (kitchen appliance size pieces) and straw bales. Either can be dropped off at the Victory Garden. Irrigation system is being revamped to make it more efficient.

T-Shirts/Photography Team: Bob Brindley - Bob polled those present for interest in colored t-shirts. Many expressed an interest. Sharon Hopkins will design artwork for the shirts. Diana Circle volunteered head this project.

Photography Team will meet every 2 months. Next meeting will be on Wed., March 25, 10am to noon in the Annex kitchen.

Old Business: None to report

New Business: None to report

Show and Tell:

- Ivor Chapman showed a furrowing tool he had designed and made by Red Pig Tools.
- Julie Stanbery found a 1976 coloring book depicting common weeds. It was noted that several of the weeds shown are plants we grow in our Discovery Garden and home gardens. Julie will place the book in the Plant Clinic.

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:10pm



Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: The deadline for the March 2015 Newsletter is February 28th. E-mail submissions to Bonnie Courter: rbcourter@gmail.com

Website: www.douglascountymg.org

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

Horticulture Agent: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture,
steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu

OSU Douglas County Extension Service: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas

OSU Gardening Information: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening

OSU Master Gardeners Program: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg

Oregon Master Gardeners Association (OMGA): www.oregonmastergardeners.org



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