



DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 30, Issue 8

August 2015

August Calendar

Mon., Aug. 3, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Tues., Aug. 4, 8:00-11:00

Greenhouse Crews & Sale

Victory Garden Crew

Discovery Garden work day

August 5-9

Douglas County Fair

Thurs., Aug. 6, 10:00-Noon

Herb Garden Crew

August 7-8

OMGA Mini-College, Linfield

College, McMinnville

Tues., Aug. 11, 8:00-11:00

Greenhouse Crews & Sale

Victory Garden Crew

Discovery Garden workday

Wed., Aug. 12, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting

Mon., Aug. 17, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Tues., Aug. 18, 8:00-11:00

Greenhouse Crews & Sale

Victory Garden Crew

Discovery Garden work day

Thurs., Aug. 20, 10:00-Noon

Herb Garden Crew

Tues., Aug. 25, 8:00-11:00

Greenhouse Crews & Sale

Victory Garden Crew

Discovery Garden work day

Thurs., Aug. 27, 10:00

Chapter Meeting & potluck at

Jean Wall's, 4900 Hubbard Creek

Rd., Umpqua



The President's Post

Chris Rusch

Thank you to Tim and Georgia Richards for being such gracious hosts for our July chapter meeting. The Richard's yard, orchard and garden were a lovely space for our July meeting that was followed by a delicious potluck. I love these summer meetings! We can explore new neighborhoods while allowing us to visit with each other in a relaxing setting. I encourage all of you to come out and enjoy our summer meetings. Bring a spouse, friend and enjoy terrific food and friendships. Maybe you'll meet a new best friend. A large part of the Master Gardener experience is the friendships we've made. This group has some of the most fun-loving, hardworking individuals I've had the pleasure of knowing.

Our slate of officers for the 2015-16 Executive Board was voted on at this meeting. The line-up is Chris Rusch, Fred Alley, Denise Fennell, Patrice Sipos, Anne Bacon, and Nancy Fuller. I want to thank both Rosemary Brinkley and Vickie McAlister for their long service on the Executive Board. They will both be missed.



We also discussed the upcoming 2015 Master Gardeners Mini College and Leadership Forum to be held at Linfield College, August 6-8. The DCMG's are offering scholarships for the OSU Mini College. If you are considering going and want a bit of financial help, please contact me.

As I was driving home from the meeting Thursday afternoon my car thermometer said 105. I drove around a bend and saw the most incredible column of smoke I have ever seen! It was billowing out of an area where many of my friends live. Yikes! It has since been named the Stouts Fire. The weirdest thing is, as I was driving home I was thinking about what to write for the newsletter and had decided on discussing fire resistant landscapes. Douglas County has many wildfire-prone areas. In these places, fire is a part of the changing landscape. As homes are built in these areas, special precautions must be taken by the homeowner to protect their property. We try to maintain a fire-resistant landscape on our property. Annuals can be part of fire-resistant landscapes if they are well watered and maintained. An irrigated lawn around the house serves as an effective fuel break. If you landscape with bark mulch up against your home, make sure it remains moist. Fire-resistant plants have leaves that are moist and supple, plants should have little dead material within the plant, and the sap should be water-like and not have a strong odor. Most deciduous trees and shrubs are fire-resistant if they are maintained in a healthy condition. In areas where you cannot irrigate, plant native plants.

Here are some fire prevention tips:

- Clean your chimney.
- Check your smoke alarms. Your house should be equipped with at least one in every bedroom. Batteries need to be replaced annually.
- Install fire-resistive roofing. Keep your roof top and gutters clear of buildup of fir needles and leaves.
- Stack firewood away from your house.

- Always make year-around efforts to create "defensible space" around your home, and plant a fire-resistant landscape. Well thank goodness, as I write this, no one has lost their home or been injured in this horrible conflagration. Pray for rain!



Vice-President's Report Fred Alley

Our July 30th Chapter Meeting was hosted by Master Gardeners Tim and Georgia Richards at their home at 157 Lee Love Lane located off



Del Rio Road, not far from the convergence of the North and South Umpqua Rivers. The Richards residence, build in the

early 1960's, is located on 3 acres not including a 1.5 acre pasture

in back of the residence. They acquired the property in 2008. After a significant remodel of the original house and several additions to the house, they



moved from Ashland in 2013. Tim and Georgia

completely re-landscaped, planted 8-10 varieties of apple trees, transplanted 12 rows of blackberries



h o u s e d under a wire m e s h enclosure, and planted a large vegetable and herb garden. All of the area

was covered in grass when they purchased the property. Tim became a Master Gardener in 2013 and Georgia became a Master Gardener in 2007 while they lived in Ashland. One of the first things Tim and Georgia had to do was to install a chain link fence all around the property in order to protect the property from the deer population. Both Tim and Georgia continue to be active members of the DCMG Program. Thanks, Tim and Georgia, for hosting the July 30th DCMG Chapter Meeting.



Unfortunately, the day started with an extended heat forecast for the next five days, further complicated by smoke from the forest fire east of Glide. When I got home from the chapter

meeting, I checked the weather forecast, which was "Alert-Excessive Heat – Warning from 7/30/25 9:27 AM to 8/1/15 11:00 PM". Steve announced in his report that he had prepared a "SpotLight" article on agricultural heat stress. The News-Review will likely print the article in the August 1 paper. All of us should read the article carefully to learn more about how we can cope with excess heat in our gardens and yards. Thanks to Bonnie Courter, our Newsletter editor and Publicity Chair, she now automatically forwards all News-Review Master Gardeners articles and Steve's "SpotLight" articles to our members. If you see interesting/timely Master Gardener articles, please forward them to Bonnie and she can evaluate them for inclusion in the DCMG monthly Newsletter. Thanks to Steve Renquist, Bonnie Courter and Chris Rusch for regularly preparing articles for the News-Review.

Our next monthly chapter meeting, August 27th, will be hosted by Jean Wall, 4900 Hubbard Creek Road, Umpqua. The September 24th chapter meeting will be held at the Discovery Garden Pavilion. The September 24th meeting will be the last of the summer meetings, and we will return to the OSU Extension Service Auditorium in October.

Every month, I ask any Master Gardener to contact me should they have a subject for our



Continuing Education Program series. I have most of the monthly programs filled already. However, I'm always open for new programs and ideas. The continuing education series is offered October through May.

Diagnosing and Caring for Heat-Damaged Plants

Steve Renquist

The summer of 2015 will go down as one of the hottest years in Oregon in the last century. The stubborn high pressure ridge that has been fixed over the Pacific Northwest for much of the summer has been responsible for several week-long heat waves. Temperatures have reached as high as 109 degrees. By the end of July we have had 29 days above 90 degrees, and of these, 11 days have been at or above 100 degrees. The fact that we still have historically, our two hottest months to go, make it pretty likely this will be the hottest year on record by the end of summer.



Despite your best effort to keep plants hydrated, with so much heat there is bound to be damage to at least some of your plants. The most likely kind of heat damage will be sunburn. Most sunburn is pretty easy to spot. Sunburn to fruit like apples, plums, pears, and vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and pumpkins stands out as it discolors and is on the exposed side of the fruit. Damage to these soft tissues will often start to decay and be invaded by secondary pathogens like fungi or bacteria.

Not all sunburn is easy to see when it happens. Sunburn on the trunks of thin-barked trees will often take weeks or a month to discolor or peel. Sometimes the bark on young trees will crack and be invaded by other organisms, making you think this is a biotic disease. Many plants in your landscape, both trees and shrubs, will suffer from the extreme heat by having a large percentage of their leaves burn along the leaf margins or completely desiccate. This is very common with Japanese maples that are planted

where they are exposed to the intense afternoon sunlight of a southwest or westerly exposure. When a plant loses nearly all of its leaves to desiccation, it is not necessarily dead. So keep watering these plants until it cools off in the fall. Most of these plants will be fine - they just go dormant early.

So how do you prevent sunburn to your ornamental plants and food crops? The best way is to know how sensitive they are to sunburn, and put the right plant in the right place. Rhododendron and dogwood plants, as

an example, are understory plants and do best with eastern exposures or in the shade of larger trees. If you want tough plants, remember to stay with natives and introduced plants from Mediterranean climates that are used to long, dry summers. There are shade cloths and reflective sprays that can help plants during short periods of

extreme weather. But these steps should not be necessary very often if you located your plants properly. This summer I have stretched a shade cloth over the top of my tomato plants to reduce the fruit sunburn, and it is working well so far. I also tried planting sunflowers to the west of my tomato and pepper plants. The sunflowers provide filtered shade to the more sensitive plants. If you are having trouble with sunburned fruit, try using a product called Surround. It is made from Kaolin clay and goes on as a spray. The residue from the non-toxic spray leaves a white reflective surface on the fruit. It will need to be washed off before eating the fruit. This product also works very well on fruit crops to deter codling moths and other fruit pests.

If you are volunteering in the Plant Clinic, be ready to help diagnose sunburn on plants during the next few months. We will see a lot of damaged plant material.

Garden Tours



Lori & Mark Salars
~off the grid living, Dixonville~



Beautiful mountain views from their front porch



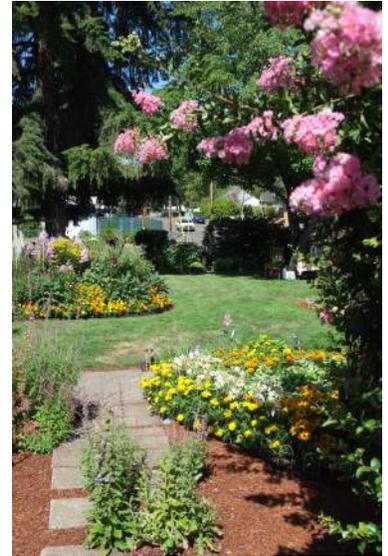
Summer outdoor bath/shower heated by solar



Photos: Bonnie Courter



Betty Ison's Garden
~Roseburg~



Photos: Bonnie Courter



Ivor Chapman

~Del Rio Road~



Fred's Fav's



Cannas in Butterfly Garden



Visitors to the Discovery Garden



Info Box in Children's Garden



Flower in Westside Greenhouse

Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch

It's been a busy month in the Plant Clinic. We had over 120 visitors in July. Questions included problems with powdery mildew, cucumber beetles, and aphids. In addition, we have been helping clients with water management and drought damage to plants, particularly trees and shrubs. The 2015 Plant Clinic training team has been Leo Grass, Larry Sutton, Anne Bacon, Bonnie Courter, and Chris Rusch. A BIG thank you to all of those who regularly work at the Plant Clinic!

As we get into the summer, we need veterans to help in the Plant Clinic, both in training our new volunteers and keeping up with the work load of assisting our visitors. I realize we all have very busy lives, but I encourage each of you to take the time to look at your calendar and pick just one afternoon to volunteer. The Plant Clinic is where we give service as part of our Master Gardener obligation to our community. Please try to volunteer your expertise at least once a month to help out in this important outreach program.

Here's the Dirt!

by Denise Fennell



I must do a gadget review.

It's great to have a lot of information at your finger tips, but if you don't have the right tools for the job, all that knowledge goes to waste. When I'm out in the garden working the raised beds, large standard tools are not as user friendly. My solution? The Hori Knife. (Hori - ホリ is Japanese meaning 'to dig') Now you might be thinking, why on earth would I need a knife to do gardening work? Simple - because it's so much more! (said she in her best infomercial voice) Mr. Trowel, I'm sorry but you will have to take a back seat.

This knife has an 8-10" blade. It is serrated on one side and the blade is curved. Put the blade down in the soil convex side towards you, wiggle and pull the knife towards you and you have a perfect hole for your transplants. The blade even has a ruler stamped onto the metal so you'll know you're planting your bulbs at the right depth. The concave part of the blade is great to pack soil around plants. The serrated edge works really well to cut tender shoots off trees, or to trim the bottom stems from your tomato plants to get the foliage off the ground. Why, even weeds, small and large, just do not stand a chance! And with the smooth surface of the blade it slices through even compacted clay soil easily. The long straight edge makes it really easy to draw lines for planting greens, carrot, peas and all those little row crops. And harvesting is easier for those root crops. Most might use a digging fork, but when you want to pull up just one or two for dinner, grab the Hori.

I think what makes this tool so functional is it's simplicity.

Being lightweight is a bonus because there is less stress on your wrist. I do recommend the stainless steel one over the carbon steel one for two reasons: 1 - it's easier to sharpen the stainless steel one, and 2 - the stainless steel one is lighter.

Bottom line, if you're a professional landscaper, serious gardener or just want to ensure you have the right tools to get started, then next time you see one of these tools, be sure to snap one up.

This gets 5 out of 5 Shopping Carts!



A Schizophrenic Tomato

by Fred Alley

From time to time we read about people finding a particular image of a person or animal in an everyday item or phenomenon. Last week my



wife Sandy and I found an unusual heirloom tomato growing in our garden that looks like a **Happy Tomato** and from another angle it



appears as a **Devil Tomato**. When it grows up, we thought we would donate it to Bob Brindley for the annual Tomato Taste-Off. We are convinced the Happy Tomato side will have a nice sweet delicious taste, while the Devil Tomato side will taste terrible. What do our readers think?

Rock Garden News

Kish Doyle

News from the Rock Garden is our new shady seating area. It has been a popular spot for visitors and Master Gardeners. Thank you to Steve Hart for pouring a small cement pier to anchor the table and chairs.



Tasha King, Kish Doyle, & Nancy Fuller



Sandy Grindle:

“Weed-Eating Wonder Woman”

She hand-weeded this entire area as well as weed-eated every inch of the entire perimeter of the HLC. Thank you, thank you, Sandy!

Treasurer's Report

Vicki McAlister

INCOME 6/25/15 - 7/30/15

Interest	\$2.42
Soil Testing	\$30.00
Compost Tea	<u>\$252.05</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$284.47

EXPENSES 6/25/15 - 7/30/15

Bank Charge Reversal	-\$70.23
4-H Donation	\$70.00
DG - Various	\$490.07
HLC - Various	\$591.84
Plant Sale - Various	<u>\$683.41</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,765.09

Breakdown of our account

Checking	\$2,311.06
Money Market - Reserves	\$8,659.10
Money Market	<u>\$48,108.98</u>
Ending Balance 7/30/15	\$59,079.14

Awards Banquet

To celebrate the year's achievements

For all Master Gardeners

October 3, 2015

First Methodist Church, Harvard Avenue, Roseburg

5:30 pm

Potluck sign up in August

Questions:

Contact Judith Huntley

541-459-2550

OSU DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS Chapter Meeting

at home of **Tim & Georgia
Richards**
July 30, 2015

Fred Alley introduced Tim and Georgia Richards, our hosts for the morning. Tim gave a brief history and description of their property.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President, Chris Rusch. There were 37 in attendance.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as distributed.

Agent's Report - Steve Renquist:

- Steve recently returned from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents meeting which was held in Sioux Falls South Dakota. Garden journals were a topic of conversation between Steve and other agents. Although our chapter has not had great success with selling these, Steve indicated they can be a very valuable tool. He uses one himself.
- Steve talked about the impact the smoke from the wildfires can have on crops, including flavoring. An example would be grapes which can produce a smokey-flavored wine.
- Protecting your crops from predators, i.e. deer, birds, squirrels, etc., can be challenging. Bird netting can be used on cherry or plum trees by placing the netting just above the lower canopy and extend down to cover the trunk. Animals do not want to become entangled in the net. Another tool for protecting your grape clusters is bagging the clusters with plastic or paper bags.

- Steve went on to encourage attendance at Mini College Aug. 7 and 8.

OFFICER REPORTS

Membership - Denise Fennell: No Report

OMGA – Rosemary Brinkley: Mini College will be held in McMinnville August 6-8. Leadership classes, including one on member retention, will take place on the 6th. Housing is extremely limited so get your reservations in right away.

Treasurer - Vicki McAlister: Financials were distributed. Updates on budget are available on the web via chapter minutes which have the current figures attached.

Vice President - Fred Alley: Thank you to Georgia and Tim Richards for hosting today's meeting. Jean Wall will be hosting our August meeting. The September meeting will be held in the pavilion at the Discovery Garden.

Past President - Larry Sutton: While working the Plant Clinic, Larry noticed there were numerous questions coming in via email from the same address. After some sleuthing it was determined a commercial site, which charges their customers, was submitting questions to the Douglas County Plant Clinic. Gail Langaletto advised against answering these emails. Instead it was suggested to respond to the person asking the question and advise they contact their local county extension office who will answer their question for free. These emails are being sent by *Customer Service My Garden Questions*.

Secretary - Barbara Robinson: No report

President – Chris Rusch: We received a \$250 Karl Carlson Grant for signage thanks to Jen Bailey and Nathan Baily. OMGA has also given us a \$200 grant for Mini College. Contact Chris if you are interested in a Mini College grant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Plant Clinic – Chris Rusch: There are quite a few openings on the August Plant Clinic calendar. A veteran is specifically needed for August 6th as well as some other dates. There were 120 visitors in July in addition to many email inquiries. Most of the 2015 class has completed their required PC hours. Thanks to all the trainers who have committed to one day a week in the clinic.

Bonnie Courter wrote another article for the News-Review which will run this Saturday. We are committed to providing two articles a month. Anyone interested in providing an article, please contact Chris. Steve Renquist sent in a Spotlight article which may run this Saturday as well.



Community Outreach - Leo Grass: The Douglas County Fair will begin next Wednesday. Volunteers are still needed to man our exhibit. Please contact Leo if you can help out. Those volunteering will receive a free pass to the fair which can be picked up in the front office at Extension. The Douglas County Bee Association will once again be part of our exhibit with a live working hive of bees. This was very popular last year.

Westside Greenhouse - Maureen Benice: New inventory has been purchased to begin stocking for Plant Sale. Workers have been repotting, root pruning and dividing these plants. Crews have been kept small to fit underneath the shade cloth in the hot weather.

Eastside Greenhouse – Georgia Richards:

The Eastside has been busy root pruning and cleaning up inventory. They are also getting in donated plant material. She requested that anyone dropping off plants provide a full description including not only the name of the plant, but variety and size. Also please provide your name so you can be contacted with any questions.

Awards – Betty Ison: Seven new trainees have earned their 60 hour swinger bars: Nancy Fuller, Patrice Sipos, Iva Greywolf, Terry Grove, Barbara Hamby, Ann Severson, and Jayne Strader. Betty encouraged people to turn in hours soon so they are updated for the Awards Banquet in October. (If you need a form to record your hours, it is available on the web under forms.)

Vicki McAlister has developed a spreadsheet showing the total number of volunteer hours each volunteer has accrued through 2014. This will be posted on the web. Thank you Vicki!

Discovery Garden – Julie Stanbery:

- There was a big break in the main pipeline to the Discovery Garden which was repaired by Terry Tinker. A second leak occurred while fixing the first, so both were repaired.
- Sandy Grindle weed-eated the entire vineyard area. What a great job she does! Thanks to Sandy for keeping us looking so well-manicured!
- To keep plants hydrated, the Butterfly Garden has been attacking the hot weather with milk jugs! Alongside more delicate plantings you may see a gallon milk jug filled with water. The secret is punching a pinhole at the bottom to allow it to drip irrigate.
- The Rock Garden has had issues with the back side not getting enough water. Come fall they are going to collaborate with the Xeriscape Garden in planting xeriscape plants in the area.
- Julie is pleased with the efforts workers are making to conserve water.

- Chips are once again being delivered, and Gale Robinson has been spreading them. Eventually excess chips will be offered to Master Gardeners for their own use.

Victory Garden - Ruth Stafford: Watering system is working really well. To date a total of 998 lbs. has been turned into UCAN. New signage has been temporarily hung on the fence, but will be moved once the garden is expanded. This garden could use more help on Tuesday mornings.

Publicity/Newsletter - Bonnie Courter: Newsletter articles are due Saturday.

Facebook – Denise Fennell: We hit over 4,000 contacts on one of our posts. Please “like” our page (currently have 568 people) and hit “share” whenever there is a posting to spread the word.

Awards Banquet – Judy Huntley: October 3rd at the First Methodist Church on Harvard Avenue. Judy Dake has advised there will not be a conflict with Farmer’s Market so we will be able to set up at our normal time. The main entree for our potluck will be soups. Mark your calendars for an evening of excellent food, camaraderie and door prizes!

Old Business:

- **Betty Ison - Garden /Tour:** Betty thanked everyone who participated in the garden tours and to those who hosted. The tours were well attended.
- **Steve Renquist:** Steve had parking passes available for the Discovery Garden. He also asked, on behalf of Coleen Keedah, that all OSU tablecloths (from farmers markets, etc.) be returned to Coleen at Extension for cleaning and use at the Fair.

New Business:

- Nomination of officers - Julie Stanbery presented the following slate of officers as recommended by the Nominating

Committee: President Chris Rusch, Vice-President Fred Alley, Secretary Barbara Robinson, Treasurer Patrice Sipos, Membership Chairman Denise Fennell, OMGA Representative Anne Bacon, and OMGA Alternate Representative Nancy Fuller. Larry Sutton moved we accept the slate of officers. Motion was seconded. No nominations were received from the floor. Motion passed.

- Chris Rusch read the following revision to the OMGA Travel Reimbursement Policy as recommended by the DC Executive Board: *Travel expenses are reimbursed for the State Representative and Alternate State Representative to attend the quarterly OMGA meetings: Mileage for one vehicle at OMGA's reimbursement rate (currently 30 cents a mile). For meetings held over 150 miles away, up to \$100 for meals and one night's lodging per person for the State Representative and Alternate State Representative.* Motion made by Larry Sutton to approve this change. Motion seconded and passed.

Show and Tell: Julie Stanbery brought in a *hyalophora cecropia* moth, the largest native moth in North America. Valerie Call brought in a vine from her *Sweet Pea* tomato with fruits the size of a large pea.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. by President, Chris Rusch.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Robinson
DCMG Secretary



Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: The deadline for the September 2015 Newsletter is August 29th. 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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