



DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 31, Issue 3

March 2016

March 2016 Calendar

Tues., Mar. 1, 8:30-4:00

Winter Training Class



Thurs., Mar. 3, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse crew

Thurs., Mar. 3, 1:00-4:00

Pruning ornamental shrubs, DG

Mon., Mar. 7, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Mon., Mar. 7, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Tues., Mar. 8, 8:30-4:00

Winter Training Class

Wed., Mar. 9, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting, Annex

Thurs., Mar. 10, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Fri., Mar. 11, 9:00-Noon

Discovery Garden Work Day

Mon., Mar. 14, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Mar. 15, 10:00-2:00

WTC LAST DAY & GRADUATION

Fri., Mar. 18, 9:00-4:00

Drop off items for T-T Sale

Sat. Mar. 19, 9:00-4:00

TRASH TO TREASURE SALE, Annex

Mon., Mar. 21, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Tues., Mar. 22, 9:00-Noon

Discovery Garden Workday

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Thurs., Mar. 24, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Mar. 29, 9:00-Noon

Discovery Garden Workday

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Thurs., Mar. 31, 9:00-10:00

Continuing Education

Thurs., Mar. 31, 10:00

Chapter Meeting



The President's Post

Chris Rusch

I am feeling springtime just around the corner! Spring seems to come earlier every year. According to folklore, if it's cloudy when the groundhog emerges Feb. 2, the critter will leave his burrow, meaning winter will soon end. If it's a sunny day, the groundhog will see his shadow and, frightened, retreat back into his burrow, meaning winter will continue for six more weeks.

I have a better predictor. One of my very favorite flowers, the daffodil...and it is blooming everywhere now! Daffodil-ightful! A sure sign that spring is around the corner.

A little daffodil history: *Narcissus* is a genus of predominantly spring perennial plants in the *Amaryllis* family. Various common names include daffodil, daffadowndilly (my favorite!), narcissus, and jonquil.

Narcissus has conspicuous flowers with six petal-like tepals surmounted by a cup or trumpet-shaped corona. The flowers are generally white or yellow (orange or pink in garden varieties), with either uniform or contrasting colored tepals or corona. *Narcissus* was well known in ancient civilization, both medicinally and botanically. It was formally described by Linnaeus in his *Species Plantarum* (1753). Due to a long history of breeding, the genus is generally considered to have about ten sections with approximately 50 species and hundreds of cultivars. Wow! The exact origin of the name *Narcissus* is unknown, but it is often linked to a Greek word for intoxicated (narcotic) and the myth of the youth of that name who fell in

love with his own reflection. The English word "daffodil" appears to be derived from "asphodel", with which it was commonly compared.

The genus arose sometime in the Late Oligocene to Early Miocene epochs. The species are native to meadows and woods in southwest Europe and North Africa with a center of diversity in the Western Mediterranean, particularly the Iberian Peninsula. Both wild and cultivated plants have naturalized widely, and were introduced into the Far East prior to the tenth century. Narcissi tend to be long-lived bulbs, which propagate by division, but are also insect-pollinated. Known pests, diseases and disorders include viruses, fungi, the larvae of flies, mites and nematodes. Some Narcissus species have become extinct, while others are threatened by increasing urbanization and tourism.



When I see this glorious beauty, I know it's time to plant my peas! Enjoy the season!

Vice-President's Report

Fred Alley

"How to Prepare Your Soil for Spring". As expected, the presentation by Mike Winters from Wintergreen Nursery Landscaping and Florist at our February 25, 2016 Continuing Education Program was excellent. When I asked Mike to make a presentation to our group, he expressed a reluctance by saying "What can I tell seasoned Master Gardeners?". Recognizing Mike's two degrees in Forestry, his nursery and landscaping experience, his overall knowledge of gardening and his commitment to excellence in customer service, I think we can safely say his presentation was point-on to all of us. I liked his comments, "his roots go deep", "a little knowledge is not sufficient for success" and "we need to educate ourselves". I suspect this is why the Wintergreen Nursery Landscaping and Florist has been voted the best nursery in Douglas County for the last

straight 15 years by the News-Review's annual customer survey.

He focused on three areas: 1)How to prepare your garden soil, 2)How to prepare your yard and 3) How to prepare your soil for planting a tree. In doing so, he touched upon just about any soil preparation we might encounter in our yard and gardens. Not surprisingly, he shared ways to combat our nasty clay and black mud soil, primarily by adding compost, nutrients and sometimes chemical fertilizers combined with good watering and drainage practices. He suggested a number of different ways, like creating raised beds and mounting landscape designs, as means to provide the optimum growing environment.



Our March 24, 2016 Continuing Education Program will be a presentation on "Food Safety - From the Garden to the Table" by Sara Runkel, Small Farms Food Systems Coordinator. Sara just recently joined the staff at the Douglas County OSU Extension Service Office. I invited her to give us a presentation for basically two reasons. One, it will provide her an opportunity to introduce herself to us and two, food safety is always on our minds as we grow and prepare our garden produce for the table. We have many Master Gardeners that are Master Food Preservers as well, so Sara's presentation might encourage more dual memberships.

Remember, the Continuing Education Program is open to the public, so please feel free to invite/bring a friend. If you have an idea for a program, please feel free to contact me: 541-733 -6232 or e-mail at fhasla@msn.com.

Birthday Wishes for George McIntyre

by Betty Ison

The Master Gardener's would like to send a big shout out to our dear friend, George McIntyre, and wish him a very **Happy 90th Birthday** on March 26, 2016.

George and his wife, Kathy are no longer active in Master Gardeners, but still maintain their dues and get the newsletter to keep tabs on their MG family and friends.

George and Kathy became Master Gardeners in 1997. George was involved in a number of activities and projects, and while active, recorded over 2000 hours of volunteer service. He spent a lot of time working at the Demo Farm (now the Horticultural Learning Center). He helped build both the storage building and one of our greenhouses, and was always doing greenhouse improvements like helping to construct the heat beds. George helped clean the gold shed multiple times, and could be found pruning and helping to maintain the filbert orchard. He was often behind the wheel of his truck helping to move and haul things, being called upon quite frequently. Offering his time freely, George was often answering the call for help with whatever might needed to be done.

Though most of our newer Master Gardeners won't know George, our older members worked with him quite often. George was in on the ground breaking of the Discovery Garden when there was nothing more than weeds and a grand idea. He was as active in the garden as he was the Demo Farm, helping in the development of the Herb Garden, Children's Garden, and the Japanese Garden. In later years, he helped build the Japanese Tea House and construct some of the raised beds like those used for the dahlias. He was quite active in the garden for 11 years, and a lot of work was done in that time.

George helped with some of our Outreach Projects like working in the Plant Clinic, the Fair Booth, and helping to plant our Fair Garden Plot. He also helped with the Japanese Cultural Workshop, and to gather information to put out our first Discovery Garden brochure. George also helped with a number of our fundraising activities. He hauled plants and helped set up for the Plant Sale (11 yrs), worked the Auction and Japanese Maple Tree Sales (3 yrs), and hauled, hauled, and hauled numerous items to our Rummage Sales (now the Trash to Treasure Sale).

In other projects, George helped with the Extension Plantings and the Helleck Hall Beautification Project. He and Kathy were Garden Tour Hosts twice at two different homes. George served us well as a volunteer (Kathy too), and we miss them.

Through Master Gardener classes, George was able to hone his botanical skills - skills that he learned growing up in what was then rural country outside Oregon City. Living on a farm with only the barest of necessities and schooled in a one room schoolhouse during the Depression gave him the drive, after returning from WWII, to seek his fortune elsewhere. He got a taste of the California dream after a brief stay in San Diego while in the service and returned to spend 30 years in the furniture industry. George also met

and married Kathy, a California girl. After he retired they decided to relocate to Oregon, choosing Roseburg over several other communities. Retirement not only gave him time to join Master Gardeners, but also gave him an opportunity to indulge in the pleasure of travel. Wanderlust has taken George and Kathy to many countries and all seven continents with the hope of many more trips in the future. These days you'll find George at the gym, staying in shape, or working on the home landscape and planning the next adventurous trip.

Once again, Happy Birthday, George, and Best Wishes to both you and Kathy from your Master Gardener family.





Chris Rusch

The Plant Clinic was really busy in February as we began our winter training program. It is always so enjoyable to get to know the new Master Gardener volunteers and introduce them to our Plant Clinic.

We are lucky to have a great training team with Leo Grass, Bonnie Courter, Anne Bacon, Larry Sutton, and Chris Rusch. Our team of alternates includes Gary Dubois, Jan Kirchner, and Maureen Benice. A BIG thank you to all of you who regularly work at the Plant Clinic.

We had over 50 visitors in the Plant Clinic this month!

The clinic will be open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in February and March. We will be devoting our efforts training the new class. As we get into April, we will need veterans to help in the Plant Clinic both in continuing to help our new volunteers and keeping up with the work load of assisting our visitors to the Plant Clinic. I realize we all have very busy lives, but, I encourage each of you to take time, look at your calendar and pick just one afternoon each month and give the office a call and sign up. 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. 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 and say hi!



Saturday **March 19th**, 9:00-4:00
Extension Office Auditorium

This is our first fundraiser of the year. We need your donations of CLEAN, useable items! We cannot accept clothes, shoes, food items, living plants, old-style computer monitors or TV's.

Drop off items on Friday, March 18th, 9:00-4:00. If you work 1/2 day on Friday, you can purchase early with cash or check.

Ann Severson has volunteered to chair this fundraiser next year, and will be learning the ropes. Thanks so much, Ann!

Cindy Rich 541-677-1882
csneal2@yahoo.com
Toni Rudolph 541-673-7803
1ToniRudolph@gmail.com

Raffle Items Needed!!!

We are looking for raffle items provided by chapter members for the Raffle tables at the **Plant Sale** in May. In the past, members have given books, tools, plants, kneeling pads, art work, chocolates, pet items, a basket of goodies for the grandkids. As you can see, we have had a variety of items. If you would be willing to provide an item or two, please contact Rosemary Brinkley, the Raffle Chair, at 541-673-8814 or mikeandrb@gmail.com

Extending the Spring Harvest

Ed Hoffmann



First let me state that I grow a range of crucifers over winter (some that were planted last spring and nursed through the summer), 5 varieties of kale, a couple of different broccolis, purple-sprouting broccoli and plenty of collards. They keep us in fresh greens and vegetables most of the winter and well into spring. So when I wandered out into my garden this morning

(Feb. 9th) after an absence of a few days, I was surprised and delighted to see all my over-wintering Tuscan kale beginning to bolt. It's definitely earlier than

in previous winters and the start of a bounty that I look forward to every spring. Rather than feel dismayed when the kales begin to



bolt, I've learned that it's a golden opportunity to enjoy those bolting flower heads as a new and different form of fresh vegetable.

I've been growing purple-sprouting broccoli for many years. It's a regular springtime treat that produces after overwintering. The initial harvests are small individual heads, but as the harvest progresses, the inflorescences get smaller and smaller and the

harvesting time gets longer and longer - but still worth it! At some point I realized the kales that were bolting looked very much like the broccoli I was harvesting so I ate some right then and there and I've never looked back. As the kale plants begin bolting, the first inflorescences are fairly large and I harvest them with a few inches of the main stem and leaves (always before the flowers open). The secondary stems then begin to grow and they are harvested - again with a few leaves. As with the sprouting broccoli, the flower heads get smaller - and much more prolific - until I say "enough!" and let the bees feast for a while before my compost heap gets a workout.



The same progression happens with the collards so it's easy to end up with a mixed batch of delicious and nutritious greens that continues over a several week interval. About the only thing I've had to pay close attention to is, as the weather warms, the aphids become active and they are rather fond of the flower heads also.

So much for the growing and harvesting. What about the preserving? Well, to be honest, most of our preservation is via memories of the feasting, but I will occasionally





Harvested Kale & Collard Flowers

blanch and freeze serving-sized portions for leaner times. The tender greens would probably not survive canning even if we had a procedure (canned broccoli anyone?) but I could see pickling or fermenting to a kraut-like state as

options – in fact I'll have to try fermenting up a batch this spring! As to the eating part, raw in salads is always an option as with any tender green and any other technique that you might use to prepare those same greens. Steaming, a quick sauté with EVOO and garlic, added to a soup or pot of cooked lentils as you would spinach, the options are only limited by your imagination. I'm very fond of enjoying them as I am harvesting and partial to the sauté.



Collards Bolting

I hope you are able to take advantage of this bounty – if not this spring, plan on overwintering some kales and collards next fall.

Treasurer's Report Patrice Sipos

INCOME 1/28/16 - 2/24/16

Donations/Interest	\$7.42
Soil Testing	\$100.00
Dues - hardcopy Newsletter	\$8.75
Dues - membership	<u>\$240.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$356.17

EXPENSES 1/28/16 - 2/24/16

Postage	\$17.75
Soil Testing	\$233.88
Discovery Garden - Various	\$145.83
HLC - Various	\$1,496.53
Winter Program - Speakers	\$300.00
Plant Sale Expenses	\$47.93
Electrical	\$576.82
Propane	<u>\$288.17</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,105.71

Breakdown of our accounts

Checking	\$1,689.14
Money Market - Reserves	\$8,659.10
Money Market	<u>\$37,122.44</u>
Ending Balance 2/24/16	\$47,470.68



(Discovered in the Rock Garden - Photo: Bonnie Courter)

Plant Sale

Barbara Robinson & Sharon Hopkins

When the trees start blooming, and the spring bulbs begin to show their illustrious colors, we know the time has come to think seriously about our annual Plant & Garden Expo. Those of you who work in the greenhouses know the seed-starting process began weeks ago. You veterans understand preparation never shuts down at our greenhouses, with year-round crews maintaining our inventory.



We will be setting up at the Douglas County Fairgrounds for our sale on Friday, May 6th, with the sale on Saturday, May 7th. This year our sale falls on Mother's Day weekend. Between Master Gardener and vendor inventory, there will be no shortage of amazing gifts to choose from for that special someone.

Clipboards with committee signup opportunities have been and will continue to be available during our winter classes in the Plant Clinic and at our monthly meetings. There are 200+ jobs and time slots we need to fill. Many of you have already signed up to help, and we thank you! If you have not signed up, please take the time to do so soon so our committee heads are able to contact and organize their groups. Please consider signing up for both days if you are available.

If you have a covered truck, enclosed or covered trailer, or any other covered vehicle, please consider signing up for transportation of our plants. We are especially in need of some larger trailers, i.e., enclosed utility trailers, stock trailers, etc. It is a requirement (no exceptions) for rigs to be covered or enclosed to prevent damage to our tender merchandise while in transport. The more



transport vehicles we have, the fewer trips each will need to make. If you sign up for this commitment, you will still be available to work other positions on Friday and Saturday.

We also need people to show up at the greenhouses immediately following the sale on Saturday to help unload unsold inventory. Please consider signing up for this job (Loading/Unloading At Greenhouse - PM slot). By the end of the sale, we are all tired. The more people who stay or come back to help, the earlier we can all go home and kick back. If you are working the Plant Sale on Saturday, but are available Friday morning, your help would be appreciated out at the greenhouse to load plants. Remember the plants at the Fairgrounds do not magically appear or disappear. It takes a dedicated crew to load and unload our inventory, and a lot of people are needed to make it run smoothly and efficiently.



If you cannot make it into the Extension to sign up, please feel free to call the Plant Clinic at 541-236-3052 and ask them to sign you up. You may also call Barbara Robinson or Sharon Hopkins to sign up or with any questions you may have. We look forward to working with all of you, and we thank you for any time you can volunteer.

"ZOMBIE BEES"



by **Laura Frazier**

The Oregonian/OregonLive, Feb. 25, 201
(Contributed by Bonnie Courter)

So-called "zombie bees" have been found in Oregon.

A parasite that takes over a honeybee's body has been infecting pollinators along the west coast and beyond, according to researchers. The fly causes a bee to leave its home at night and walk around unbalanced and disoriented, like a zombie might, before it dies.

The fly parasite called *Apocephalus borealis* lays its eggs in a living bee, turning the insect into a host for its offspring. The eggs hatch and the maggots start to feed on the inside of the bee. Within a week, they emerge from the bee and ultimately, the bee dies. The parasite is also known to infect bumblebees.

An entomologist at San Francisco State University first noticed the zombie bees on campus in 2008, [according to the New York Times](#). The bees would oddly leave their hives at night, head toward a light fixture, drop to the ground and and stumble around before dying.

To see if the bees were infected beyond the San Francisco area, researchers put [out a call for "citizen scientists"](#) to collect bees in jars, watch for parasitic flies to emerge from the bee and then submit photos. The [ZomBee Watch](#) site is a hub for the project, and shows where zombie bees have been registered nationwide.

Zombie bees have been discovered in a handful of Oregon locations, according to an infection map on ZomBee Watch. Roughly four infected bees were found in both Aloha and Tigard. Two were found in Portland and one in Corvallis. Bee sampling is in progress in other cities, and in some cases collected bees were not found to be infected.

Infected bees have also been registered in states including Washington and California, along with Vermont, New York and Pennsylvania on the east coast.

Understanding bee infection and parasites may shed light on the causes of [Colony Collapse Disorder](#), scientists say. With the syndrome, adult bees abandon hives, leaving behind the queen bee, honey and and immature bees. Beekeepers started reporting unusually high losses of hives in 2006, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.

Information on how to get involved with the zombie bee research is [available here](#).

Fred's Fav's



Achillea tomentosa



Crocus



DG Garden Highlights

Julie Stanbery, DC Coordinator

NEW redwood raised beds for lilies; project led by student Mark Schmoll with assistance from Steve Hart and Ray Warren.



MORE sunshine thanks to Cowboy Tree Service and 5 hard-working volunteers (Gale, Ray, Patrice, Noel & Julie) who limbed up the fir trees and chipped and raked and made it all beautiful!



GOOD START with veteran Geoff Puryear and the great participation from the new class on the Herb Garden Transfiguration Project. Lots of new ideas and lots of weeding and cleanup ... good job!!

COMING UP:

- Thursday, March 3, 1 to 4 pm rain or shine. Pruning class ornamental shrubs - bring pruners, loppers,



saws. Will be payback for students who work all 3 hours.

- Tuesday, March 8 Winter Program: Not in the garden but of garden interest. I encourage veterans to attend the morning session presented by Leo Grass on vertebrate pests and Geoff Puyear on xeriscape gardening. Both excellent presenters and it will count towards continuing ed.
- Friday, March 11, 9am to noon: DG work day. Japanese Garden pruning day. Steve will lead/teach us in proper pruning technique for the Japanese garden.
- Every TUESDAY beginning March 22 are DG work days; mornings 9 to noon. Rain or shine. Bring hand tools, water, hats and join the fun.

See you in the garden!



By-Laws and Policies

Jen Bailey

Our Executive Board reviews the Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures Manual every year. The board is recommending some changes, which require approval by the membership at the March 31st chapter meeting.

The Bylaws amendments require approval by 2/3rd of the members present at the meeting. There are two proposed changes:

1. Cleaning up the language about membership, by eliminating the Associate membership class. This was for “persons who further the objectives of the Master Gardener program”, who do not have voting privileges and are not eligible to hold office.
2. Adding specific references to the Policies and Procedures Manual in the duties of the President and the Secretary.

The specific changes to the wording are included in this issue of the newsletter. The full text of the Bylaws is at <http://douglascountymg.org/docs/other/bylaws2009.pdf>.

There are five new policy changes which require approval by a majority of the members present at the meeting:

1. E-Mail to Membership (amended)

Members may ask the E-mail Communications Coordinator to forward e-mail messages to the membership. Only members in good standing who have paid their dues may have e-mail forwarded. Items may be posted for sale if the proceeds are donated to the chapter. Items related to gardening (plants, bulbs, supplies, etc.) may be given away to other Master Gardeners. Announcements of external events are allowed only if they relate to gardening and are of general interest to Master Gardeners. Questions about appropriate e-mail messages are referred to the President.

2. Membership Dues Deadline (new)

Annual dues must be paid by January 1st of the year. Members are notified of this deadline via biweekly e-mails starting in November of the prior year, as well as

announcements in the November and December newsletters of the prior year. Members who do not pay their dues by the deadline will be removed from the membership roster and the e-mail distribution list.

While membership may be reinstated at any time by the payment of dues, members should be aware of the additional burden this imposes upon their fellow volunteer Master Gardeners.

3. Volunteer Hours Recording (new)

Members are responsible for verifying that their volunteer hours are recorded accurately. The hours are reported on the web site and in the binders at the Plant Clinic. Any corrections must be made before the end of January for the prior year. Changes to earlier years are not possible.

4. Document Retention and Disposition (amended):

Per the recommendation of our Treasurer, Patrice Sipos, the chapter will retain annual tax records permanently, not just for seven years.

5. Notification of Changes to Committee Heads (amended):

Whenever there is a change in committee heads, the President lets the Membership Director, Treasurer, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor and E-mail Communications Coordinator, to get the word out to the membership.

There is also a new policy about Master Gardener re-certification. The national and state Master Gardeners organizations are phasing in the requirement of Master Gardeners re-certifying their membership every year. Steve Renquist, our Horticultural Agent, sets the requirements for re-certification. At this point, he is asking members who volunteer at the Plant Clinic and its satellites (Kruse Farms) to put in ten hours of classroom training and ten hours of volunteer time each year. We will be hearing more about this from Steve soon.

The full Policies and Procedures Manual can be found at <http://douglascountymg.org/docs/other/dcmgpolicies.pdf>. The bulk of the document is the job descriptions of all the officers and committee heads. These job descriptions are reviewed annually and updated throughout the year as needed. They do not require approval by the membership.

BY-LAWS: DOUGLAS COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE OREGON MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Classes. There shall be ~~four~~three classes of membership: Active, Honorary, ~~and~~ Emeritus, ~~and Associate~~ as defined below.

Section 2. Active Membership. Any one completing Master Gardener formal training or Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener certification training is qualified to be a member upon payment of dues. An active member is eligible to vote as provided in these By-Laws. Trainees become active members once they have successfully completed Master Gardener formal classroom training and payback hours. Their dues will be payable on January 1 the following year.

~~Section 5. Associate Membership. Persons who further the objectives of the Master Gardener program may be elected associate members of the Chapter. Such associate members shall not have voting privileges nor be eligible to hold office.~~

~~Section 6. Trainee Membership. All new enrollees in the Master Gardener training program are automatically Associate Members without voting privileges. Trainees who have successfully completed Master Gardener formal classroom training will be considered Apprentice Master Gardeners. Apprentice Master Gardeners, upon completion of payback hours, will become Master Gardener members with voting privileges. Dues will be payable on January 1 the following year.~~

ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION

Section 9. Attendance. Meetings will be open to all ~~Master Gardeners, Associate Members, and Honorary Members~~members. All are encouraged to attend and participate in discussions. Visitors are welcome at all meetings.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1. President. The President shall preside at meetings of the Chapter. The President shall have the authority to appoint committee chairpersons and committee members as necessary. The President shall cause a detailed job description of each elected position and chairperson be maintained in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Section 4. Secretary. The Secretary shall record and maintain Executive Board and Chapter meeting minutes, assist the President in correspondence preparation as necessary, and maintain ~~a current Chapter policy and motion file~~the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Spring Into Gardening

Photos by Kish Doyle



OSU DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

Chapter Meeting

February 25, 2016

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM by President, Chris Rusch. There were 52 present.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as distributed.

OFFICER REPORTS

Membership - Denise Fennell: The new roster will be coming out tomorrow. Members who have not paid their dues have been dropped from the roster.

OMGA - Nancy Fuller: The OMGA quarterly meeting will be held next week on Friday and Saturday in Central Point. Friday will be the Executive Committee meeting with the afternoon Leadership Forum discussing mentoring and membership retention. Contact Nancy if you would like to go. Upcoming quarterly meetings will also include discussion on retention.

There will not be a Mini College in 2017 since the International Master Gardener Conference will be held in Portland. Discussion will be held on budgeting for 2017 as there will not be any income from Mini College that year.

Treasurer - Patrice Sipos: Financials were distributed. Updates on the budget are available on the web.

Vice-President - Fred Alley: Fred thanked Mike Winters of Wintergreen Nursery for his informative continuing education program. Fred received several loads of leaves from the City of Roseburg this past fall. They will deliver them for free if you call.

President - Chris Rusch: Christ Palenshus of NeighborWorks Umpqua presented a proposal to the MG Executive Board on the Kitchen Garden Project. The primary goal of the KGP is to support a network of gardeners in order to increase accessibility to sufficient, safe, and nutritious foods. NeighborWorks is partnering to build backyard vegetable gardens through the KGP, and applications are currently being accepted.

Applicants are eligible to receive up to 3 raised beds, seeds, a planting guide, and nutrition and garden education. Cost to approved applicants is based on a sliding scale according to income. Those below the income limit may receive the service for free. NeighborWorks Umpqua would like to partner with DCMG with Master Gardener volunteers participating as mentors and workshop presenters. Those interested should contact Chris Rusch.

The Job Corps has requested our assistance in helping them set up a kitchen garden and placing houseplants in their dormitories. They have partnered with us on numerous occasions, providing a valuable labor force for many of our projects, i.e., building the Discovery Garden Pavilion. Judy Stanbery and Chris Rusch will go out and assess the job site, and report back. If you have houseplants you would be willing to part with, please keep this project in mind.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch: Training for the new class has been ongoing for the last month. February has been a busy month with 52 contacts so far. It is encouraging to see more emails coming in as well.

Winter Program - Denise Fennell: There are two classroom sessions left before the final exam. Graduation will be on March 15th. Veterans are invited to come at 2:00 PM to congratulate the new class and visit with them over a piece of cake.



Spring Into Gardening - Maureen Benice: Spring Into Gardening will be held this Saturday, February 27th, at UCC in Crooch Hall. Workers should arrive no later than 8:00 AM, and are asked to bring a snack to share. If you are not leaving the campus for lunch, please bring a sack lunch. Please wear your MG badge. Fifty-four people have signed up so far.

Westside Greenhouse - Maureen Benice: Crews are doing a lot of seeding, transplanting, cuttings and weeding. A good size crew is needed this Monday from 9:00-noon. We will be seeding 17 trays plus transplanting seedlings.

We have had rat issues in and around the greenhouse. Bait has been set out and seems to be getting the desired results. Master Gardeners shared issues at home with rats getting into the insulation in their car motor and thousands of dollars worth of damage to their house. Members were advised to be vigilant for signs of rat infestation.

Eastside Greenhouse - Bruce Gravens: The Eastside is in the process of moving much of their greenhouse stock outside. A new area has been developed outside to allow inventory to be further spread apart. Thanks to Ivor Chapman and his crew for making this possible. Eastside work days are Thursdays from 9:00 to noon with a good crew showing up.

Awards - Betty Ison: The Awards Committee met and made their selection for Master Gardener of the Year and Behind the Scenes Master Gardener. Betty has sent these into the State.

Discovery Garden - Julie Stanbery: Jeanie Owen thanked Bob Brindley for his donation of 8 ollas which will be used for hydration in the Easy Access garden.

Julie praised the new class for their excellent participation in work parties in the Discovery Garden. As part of the Class of 2016 work project, several have been working with Geoff Puryear to give the Herb Garden a new look.

Adjoining fields surrounding the HLC are being maintained by a local farm. He will be spraying the fields with Round-Up and will be posting them as such. Julie asked people to be on the lookout for dogs being exercised in the area and to advise the dog owners the

fields have been recently sprayed. Julie asked that everyone to be aware of the need to lock up the bathrooms before leaving the HLC.



Steve Renquist will be teaching the last pruning class on March 3rd from 1:00-4:00 PM at the Discovery Garden. Trainees participating will be able to claim payback hours. Bring appropriate tools. Another DG work day will be on March 11th, from 9:00 to noon.

Geoff Puryear and Leo Grass will be teaching the new class on March 8th. Veterans are encouraged to attend.

Julie asked about the contents of the locked room in the gold shed closest to where the tractor is parked. No one has stepped up to claim them, so Julie is going to clean the room out.

Victory Garden - Mik Carlson: The new fence is going up around the newly expanded area of the garden. Thanks to Steve Hart, Ray Warren and others who have made this possible! Many things are yet to be done before crops can be planted. The VG crew is focusing on buying resistant varieties of see to cut back on issues such as powdery mildew.



Publicity/Newsletter - Bonnie Courter: Bonnie has submitted PSA's for the change in Plant Clinic hours. She has been working with the News-Review on

developing our paid ads for the Plant Sale. Mock-up ads were passed around. They look great. Deadline for the Newsletter articles is Saturday.

Trash to Treasure Sale - Bonnie Courter for Cindy Rich and Toni Rudolph: This year's sale is on Saturday, March 19th, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Room setup will be on Thursday, the 17th. Donations will be accepted on Friday, the 18th, 9:00-4:00. Volunteers working at least half a day on Friday will be eligible to shop that day. Payment on Friday is exact change or personal check only. Flyers are available for placement around town.



Black Master Gardener Apparel - Barbara Robinson: Today is the last day to order these items. Items should be available next month for pick up. Those who have placed orders will be contacted by email when they are in.

Plant Sale - Barbara Robinson: Barbara reminded people to take charge of locking up the Westside Greenhouse area. It has been found unlocked on numerous occasions with the gate left wide open. If you have unlocked the area, you are in charge of locking it back up unless you have specifically asked someone else to take care of it. Please do not assume another will lock up. Remember the greenhouse areas contain our "bread and butter". If inventory is stolen or vandalized, our bottom line is jeopardized. The Plant Sale is our main income for the year, and those dollars are supporting our programs.

Plant Sale committee sign-up clipboards are available for attendees to sign at the meeting. If at all possible, volunteers are asked to sign up to work both Friday (set-up day) and Saturday. There are many positions

and time slots needing workers (200+). Clipboards are available in the Plant Clinic during the week and in the back of the auditorium during winter classes. If you have questions, please ask your mentor or contact Barbara Robinson or Sharon Hopkins.

DCMG 2016 Class Representative: Jennifer Russell has stepped up to represent the 2016 class. There were four 2016 class members in attendance.

Hallmark - Linda Thames: Linda sent out several of her beautiful cards on behalf of Master Gardeners this month. Merrill McFarland has been in the hospital and is now at home recovering. Ed Stoll's partner, Jesse, fell off a roof and suffered severe injuries. He was transferred from Mercy Hospital up to a Portland hospital. Judy Mercer will be having back surgery in a couple of weeks. Sharon Hopkins's father passed away in southern California.

OLD BUSINESS

The Historian position is still open. Contact Chris if interested.

NEW BUSINESS

Updates to DCMG Bylaws and Policies and Procedures Manual - Chris Rusch: Changes were discussed and will be published in the March Newsletter. A vote on the changes will be taken at the March chapter meeting.

News email list for discussing gardening topics - Bruce Gravens: For those Master Gardeners who are interested in participating in a more in-depth gardening discussion groups, there will be an opportunity to sign up. An email explaining the process will be sent out shortly.

SHOW AND TELL

Ruth Stafford brought in a limb from a sweet bay to share the leaves with others. They have a culinary use.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM by President Chris Rusch.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Robinson, DCMG Secretary

Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: The deadline for the April 2016 Newsletter is April 1st. 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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