



DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 32, Issue 8

August 2017

Aug. 2017 Calendar

Tues, Aug. 1, 8:30-11:30

Greenhouse Crews

DG & Victory Garden Crews

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

Insect Committee

Tues., Aug. 8, 8:30-11:30

Greenhouse Crews

DG & Victory Garden Crews

Wed., Aug. 9, 10:00

Executive Board Mtg, Rm. 310,
Courthouse

Wed., Aug. 9-12

Douglas County Fair

Thurs., Aug. 10, 6:00

Wine Tasting Class, DG Pavilion

Tues., Aug. 15, 8:30-11:30

Greenhouse Crews

DG & Victory Garden Crews

Wed., Aug. 16, 10:00-Noon

Executive Board Meeting

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

Insect Committee

Tues., Aug. 22, 8:30-11:30

Greenhouse Crews

DG & Victory Garden Crews

Tues., Aug. 29, 8:30-11:30

Greenhouse Crews

DG & Victory Garden Crews

Thurs., Aug. 31, 10:00-Noon

Chapter Meeting & Potluck @
home of Tracey Berry, 15417 North
Bank Rd., Roseburg

Sat., Oct. 7, 5:30-8:00

**Annual Awards Banquet @ First
United Methodist Church**



The President's Post

Chris Rusch

Thank you to Connie Page and Rick Kreofsky for being such gracious hosts for our July Chapter meeting. Connie and Rick's yard and garden were a lovely space for our July meeting that was followed by a delicious potluck. Thanks to all of you that attended the meeting. A good turnout is the nicest way to say thank you to our members who volunteer their homes for our summer meetings.

The August Chapter meeting will be at Tracey Berry's home at 15417 North Bank Road. I would like to encourage all of you to make that special effort to come to the August meeting. It is significant that August is the month we install new our DCMG officers. And just as importantly, we say thank-you to the ones that have faithfully served our Douglas County Chapter during the past several years. Come on out and say thank-you to your retiring Executive Board members: Barbara Robinson, our Secretary and Larry Sutton, our Past-President. Then congratulate the new and returning board members: Chris Rusch, Anne Bacon, Sharon Bordeaux, Patrice Sipos, Diana Circle, Nancy Fuller, Kish Doyle, and Judy Huntley.



July has a busy month for our Chapter. We were privileged enough to host a tour of visitors from the Master Gardener International Conference at our Discovery Garden on July 9. Julie Stanbery did a fantastic job of organizing the event. Over 40 visitors showed up and were provided a very nice lunch. Betty Ison provided some beautiful table decorations of fresh-cut flowers from her garden and Larry Sutton and Rosemary Brinkley added swag bags for everyone, including a bottle of Umpqua Valley wine. Thank you to all the garden heads who worked extra hard to get their gardens ready for this event. And thank you for participating in the tour!! From all accounts, we made a good lasting impression. Thank you, everyone, for making this a truly wonderful place to be proud of.

Since we are in the beginning of Fire Season I want to remind everyone that 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. Trees and shrubs should have minimal dead material within the plant. 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.

Summertime and the living is easy... Have a fantastic summer!

Vice President's Report

Anne Bacon

What a nice venue we had for our July Chapter meeting! Thank you, Rick Kreofsky and Connie Page, for opening your lovely home to us. The river view was amazing and we all enjoyed exploring the gardens.



Our August DCMG Chapter

Meeting will be at Tracey Berry's place on N. Bank Road. It's really just a little more than a stone's throw from Rick and Connie's place, but on the other side of the river.

Tracey's home is at 15417 N. Bank Rd. in Roseburg. (And yes, it also feels like Glide.)

Directions to Tracey's home:

Take Diamond Lake Blvd. (Hwy. 138E) about 15 miles east towards Glide.

Turn left onto N. Bank Rd.

Continue on N. Bank for 2.7 miles.

Turn left at the mailboxes by the driveway marked private drive and proceed straight down to the house with the carport. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

Reminders for the Class of 2017

Steve Renquist

I want to take this time to thank many of the new Master Gardeners™ and veterans for the fine work you have done this year. We continue to make hundreds of helpful contacts with the public in the Clinic and at the Saturday Farmer's Market. We have also seen many of you at the Discovery Garden, greenhouses, and Victory Garden on a regular basis. I have enjoyed getting to know the new MG's and sharing gardening stories with you. Keep up the good work into the new year.

This is the time of year that I start looking over the hours that you new MG's have reported. Many of you still need to get a few more hours in at the clinic to reach your 36 hour Clinic total, and those other projects you enjoy for the other 24 hour block. Two new MG's have gotten in their 60 hours of payback - congratulations! We still have a few months of clinic and activities remaining, so I encourage the rest of the Class of 2017 to stay active. I have heard from the Saturday Farmer's Market that they could use a few more people to help answer gardening questions there. The folks at the Victory Garden are saying harvest is really kicking in on Tuesdays and they could use your help picking and packing food crops for UCAN.

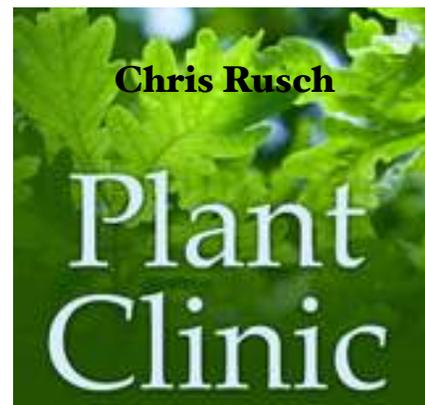
There may be a few of you that have put in some hours and have just not filled out a time card yet. Get that card filled out so Vicki can keep the hours up-to-date for you. We still have a lot of time and activities before our October 7 Awards Banquet. I would like to see a lot of you get your hours completed before our banquet so we can recognize your contribution at the evening dinner.

Mary Hoffmann and I have begun to organize for the new Winter Training Class. We will not have a formal registration day this year at the Extension Office because of the ongoing construction project. Instead, we will send out registration forms to prospects and will schedule interviews for everyone in October. At the completion of our longer interviews we will hand out books and materials to those people who are prepared to pay the program fee. Help us advertise our program to your friends and acquaintances.

We are also looking for mentors for the 2018 Winter Training program. Contact Denise Fennell, our Winter

Training Program Coordinator if you would like to help the next class of MG's. Being a mentor in the program the year following your training is a great opportunity to review the course material. You also have the most recent experience with the flow of the class and can be a lot of help to the new students. If you would like to be a mentor but cannot commit to the whole schedule, that's okay. You can be a mentor substitute or partner with another person to cover the classes you can't make.

We have a great group of Master Gardeners in Douglas County and we are blessed with incomparable facilities that few other MG programs have. So, new class members of 2017, stay active and you will have great opportunities to continue your gardening education and to help our community.



Summer is upon us, and this is our busiest time of year! The Plant Clinic is one of our DCMG programs that reach out to our community to help people solve a wide range of gardening and landscape questions. This includes diagnosing plant problems and identifying insects. The Plant Clinic training program is a great opportunity for our new members to put their knowledge of Sustainable Gardening to work. Our newest volunteers from the class of 2017 are signing up at the Clinic on a regular basis and working to get their 36-hour requirement out of the way. It is a pleasure to working with all of our new volunteers. They are all very focused on obtaining the correct diagnosis for the plant questions that come our way. We are lucky to have a great training team this year with Leo Grass, Bonnie Courter, Larry Sutton, Chris Rusch, and Karolyn Riecks.

We had close to 100 visitors in July, a bit less than last year.

We have lots of openings for August and September. Trainees and Veterans please consider signing up to volunteer at the clinic now. It is a great way to serve our community and get to know our new volunteers.

We received many questions about tomatoes this month. The taste and fragrance of homegrown tomatoes make them one of the most popular plants to tend in home gardens. But summer heat can bring problems.

Early blight: One problem we have seen is early blight. Early blight is a fungal disease, usually caused by warm weather. Look for irregular, greenish water-soaked spots turning to brown on lower leaves and pick them off. Under moist conditions, the spots rapidly enlarge killing the foliage. Water your tomatoes around the base and not from above to avoid prolonged wetting of leaves. Make sure to give plants space. Stake and prune to keep air circulating and plants dry.

Blossom drop: Dry soil and dry winds can cause blossoms to fall off the plant, but a sudden cold spell, heavy rains or too much nitrogen can also be the problem. Usually not all blossoms will fall off, and another set of flowers will appear.

Blossom end rot: The end of the fruit furthest away from the stem turns black, usually caused by irregular watering and calcium deficiency. Water deeply and regularly. Add lime to soil in the fall to increase the calcium level for next year's crop. Blossom end rot is most common in western Oregon.

Leaf rolling: This problem is most often the result of heavy pruning or root injury. Plants may lose leaves but will recover.

Sun scald: Green tomatoes can get sunburned, especially those with leaf spot diseases or recently pruned. Remove damaged tissue or discard the fruit.

The Plant Clinic is a great way to promote our Master Gardener Program and encourage sustainable gardening in Douglas County.

If you are in town, stop by the clinic and say hi to our new students.

Ugliest Tomato Contest



You know you have them in your garden - those misshapen, bizarre-looking tomatoes with grotesque faces. So we're starting a contest - the "Ugliest Tomato Contest" - where the winner of the ugliest tomato is awarded a refurbished shovel donated by Fred Alley. Here's how to enter the contest:

- Take a photo of your ugly tomato up close and email it to me at rbcourter@gmail.com. It must be a tomato from this year's garden. Let me know the variety as well. Submit as many as you like.
- I will then post them in the September Newsletter to be voted on. Simply pick the tomato you think is the ugliest and cast your vote by emailing Fred at fhasla@msn.com or call him at 541-733-6232.
- The winner will be announced in the October Newsletter and the prize shovel awarded.

So all you tomatoes, get your "ugly" on and make your gardener proud!

Treasurer's Report

Patrice Sipos

INCOME 6/29/2017 - 7/26/2017

Bank Interest	\$2.80
Soil Testing	\$20.00
Compost Tea	<u>\$100.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$122.80

EXPENSES 6/29/17 - 7/26/17

Bank Charges	\$19.74
OMGA Conference	\$372.30
Plant Clinic & Office Supplies	\$18.99
Discovery Garden	\$617.41
HLC	\$344.51
Plant Sale	<u>\$1,197.40</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,570.35

Breakdown of our accounts at 7/26/2017

Umpqua Checking	\$780.80
Umpqua MMK	\$962.91
NWCC - Checking	\$1,471.93
NWCC - Member Account	\$100.00
NWCC - Savings	<u>\$45,001.85</u>
Ending Balance 7/26/17	\$48,317.49

Awards Banquet



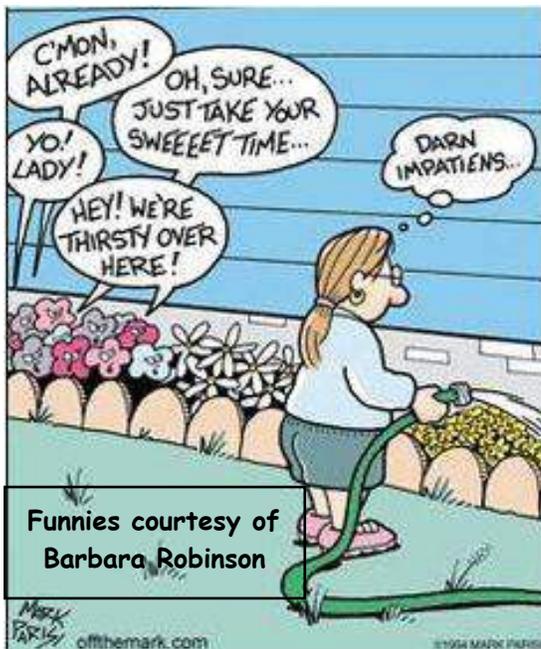
Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Annual Awards Banquet to be held on **Saturday, October 7, 5:30-8:00** at

the First United Methodist Church in Roseburg. It's a time to celebrate with your other MG's all the accomplishments DCMG volunteers have succeeded in throughout the year, eat great food and take away some great door prizes. Bring your spouse, partner, or friend.

Betty Ison, who does an outstanding job of documenting everyone's hours and events they've participated in, needs to be given enough time to write up certificates, plan special acknowledgments and prizes. So please get your time sheets in right away each month.

Also Judy Huntley, who coordinates our annual banquet, needs to know if you are planning to attend. Please sign up in the Plant Clinic or call Judy at 541-459-2550, email: jhuntley@teleport.com by **Friday, September 22**. If you are not signed up by that date, you will not be presented with an award or certificate at the dinner.

Fred's Fav's



Funnies courtesy of
Barbara Robinson



Evergreen Hebes Perform Colorfully in the Garden

Kym Pokorny, OSU Extension with Neil Bell



Hebe 'La Seduisant' is not cold hardy in most areas of Oregon, but is great for pots that can be protected. Photo by Neil Bell.

If you like to prolong color in your landscapes through the summer and into the fall, consider planting evergreen shrubs called Hebes for vivid color in both flowers and foliage.

"Most Hebes flower in the summer, but others bloom in late fall," said Neil Bell, consumer horticulturalist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. "Some have colorful foliage that lasts through autumn. They provide an interesting change from the usual asters and maples we customarily rely on for autumn interest."

Native to New Zealand, Hebes (pronounced HEE-bees) have hundreds of cultivars, but only a few are familiar to American gardeners.

"The plants may have acquired a reputation for lack of hardiness because some of the most popular cultivars introduced here are not hardy in very cold winters," Bell said. "However, many Hebes do well in the Pacific Northwest if grown in a sheltered spot."

Large-leaved Hebes can be injured by temperatures below 25 degrees and are less hardy than those with small leaves. Rather than avoid buying large-leaved shrubs, consider putting them in a sheltered spot or in a container you can move indoors temporarily if it gets

cold. For showy purple flowers in the fall, Bell suggests cultivars "Amy" and "Alicia Amherst." "Purple Picture" blooms in June but flowers profusely again in October and November. Some red-flowering Hebes, such as "Hobby," provide color through November and even through December in a mild year. "Bowles Hybrid" produces lavender flowers in summer, but will bloom again in the fall, even into January.

"Except for 'Bowles Hybrid,' which is hardier, all these hybrids are susceptible to cold," Bell said. Plant them against a sheltered wall or tucked between other shrubs. Be prepared to give them a little extra cover if the temperature threatens to drop suddenly."

Several small-leaved Hebe cultivars that are hardy west of the Cascades have beautiful and unusual foliage. Some are commonly sold in the Pacific Northwest. "Quicksilver," as the name suggests, has small silvery leaves. "Boughton Dome" has grayish foliage. "James Stirling" has ochre leaves and resembles a small conifer.

Another unusual characteristic of some Hebes is a noticeable change in foliage color from summer to winter. Some cultivars take on a purplish or reddish cast during winter. Perhaps the best known is "Caledonia," which turns purple. "Sapphire" has shoots that turn bright red at the tips in the winter.



Several of the variegated cultivars are beautiful and unusual, but are large-leaved and require a protected spot if you want them to survive the winter. They include Hebe speciosa "Variegata," "Tricolor" and "Andersonii Variegata."

In addition to a protected location, Hebes need at least partial sun, well-drained soil and water during the summer months. Most do well without much pruning, and annual moderate pruning after they bloom works well.



Diagnostics Class by Bonnie Courter

In July Steve Renquist held two Diagnostics Classes - one was at his residence and the other at mine. These classes are a must for those of you MG's who want to get some field experience in diagnosing plant and pest problems in a hands-on environment.

Here's what we discovered in my yard:

* Disfigured corn caused by a virus in the seed itself



* Pear blister mite and caterpillar damage on a Bartlett pear



* Early blight on tomatoes



Consider offering to host the class next time one is offered. You learn SO MUCH.

Master Gardeners,

I would like to invite you to an evening educational activity at the Discovery Garden Pavilion. We will set our Wine Tasting Class for Thursday, August 10 at 6:00 PM. We will structure the evening activity like we have done in the past. Please invite your partner or friend to join us. Each person should bring one bottle of wine. A couple can bring two if they would like, one red one white. This will create a pool of wines that we will be able to compare.

The wine varieties that we will evaluate and learn about this year will be white wines, Riesling, Albarino, and Chardonnay. The red wines will be Pinot noir, Syrah, and Grenache (Garnacha). These wines are all grown locally, but don't hesitate to get one from Spain, France, Germany, or California that might have a little different style. I will bring along materials that describe these wines to help you identify them since our evening format will be to blind taste the wines. If you have an ice chest, bring it to keep the white wines nicely chilled. I imagine the evening will be warm on August 10. If you have paper bags that can fit around a wine bottle please bring them for our blind tasting event.

As in the past please bring an hors d'oeuvre to accompany the wine tasting. This makes the evening experience more enjoyable as food paired with wine often elevates wines. I hope you can join me and your fellow Master Gardeners.

Cheers! - Steve



* High pH on blueberry plants

International Master Gardeners Tour Our Discovery Garden



MG's line up to the chow line



Sunny greeters



Late lunch under the firs



Geoff leads the group through the xeriscape



Julie's Toad



Elva shares her dahlia knowledge



Meet "Steve the Caterpillar"



Maureen entertains at the Entry Garden



Sharon Bordeaux's restful oasis

Photos: K. Doyle, B. Courter

OSU DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

Chapter Meeting at Rick Kreofsky & Connie Page's Residence July 27, 2017



Photo: K. Doyle

Call-To-Order: The meeting was called to order at 10.15 by President, Chris Rusch, with 25 members in attendance (approximated). Chris thanked Rick Kreofsky and Connie Page for hosting the meeting.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as published online.

Agent Report by Steve Renquist:

- Keep the noise down in the Plant Clinic
- Steve reported that younger Master Gardener Extension leaders are opting to lecture less and have more hands-on training. We may want to review how we are conducting our classes. Group discussion followed.
- Steve indicated that he is considering revisiting the Master Gardener survey.
- OSU Extension is still working on an updated Master Gardener Sustainable Gardening Handbook. Kish asked if they are going to have an online version. Steve did not know the status of an online handbook.
- The Federal Lifetime Pass for Senior Citizens is going from \$10 to \$80 soon. The price increase will take effect September 1st. Passes can be purchased at the BLM office.

- Parking passes are available from Colleen at the OSU Extension Office for busses and individuals on organized Discovery Garden tours.
- Steve indicated that he is planning Diagnostic Training Classes in August and September.
- A Wine Appreciation evening at the Discovery Garden is planned for August 10th. An email was sent to all members.

OFFICER REPORTS

Membership - Diana Circle: Diana was unable to attend. Chris reported that membership remains at 269 members.

OMGA Representative – Nancy Fuller: The next meeting will be held in Jackson County the 2nd week in September. They are looking for individuals to fill the state officer positions. Seamus would like people to send him Haiku poems. Send them to Nancy at nmfuller2000@gmail.com.

Treasurer – Patrice Sipos: It is time to think about the 2018 budget. The reserves were used for the new paths and we may want to consider setting aside reserves for a new tractor. 2018 budgets from the garden heads should be given to Julie. The financials are posted on the DCMG website.



Vice President – Anne

Bacon: The August meeting will be hosted by Tracey Berry.

President – Chris Rusch: Kudos to Julie for organizing the tour and to Larry Sutton and Rosemary Brinkley for putting together the gift bags. Chris thanked Steve for the July diagnostic group tours/clinics (Steve and Bonnie hosted).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

International Master Gardener Conference Report:

- Larry: Discovery Garden Tour was a highpoint to participants who attended. Larry recommended that we invite OSU Turfgrass Specialist Dr. Alec Kowalewski to speak at a meeting on maintenance of turfgrass. The next conference will be in 2 years in Valley Forge, PA.



Photo: K. Doyle

- Kish: Had a great time. Toured Iseli Conifer Nursery and Red Pig Tools.
- Kay: Worked for 2 hours at registration and met participants from all over. Learned a lot and happy that she went.
- Betty: Her favorite speakers were Dan Hinkley on "Landscape Design" and Dan Maxwell on "Birds in Suburbia".
- Nancy: Arborists recommended leaving enough of a tree to provide future wildlife habitat. Enjoyed decorating the bicycle and thanked everyone who contributed to the project.
- Elva: Found the tomato grafting session by Marion County the most interesting: grafting multiple species on one plant such as grafting an eggplant on a tomato.



Photo: K. Doyle

Community Outreach – Jude Stensland:

- July 15th – Jean Wall gave a great talk on irrigation of the garden at the Westside Community Garden. She focused on drip irrigation. She is willing to do the talk again.



Photo: B. Robinson

Lorreen Robinson & Jean DeCato ready to go!

- July 22nd – The Brownies returned with their worm buckets. There was mixed success but they had fun doing it. They enjoyed another garden tour and snacking of veggies in the demo garden at the Victory Garden.
- July 29th – Food forest concepts – A talk is planned at the Westside Garden to discuss the concepts of the "food forest".

There are still a few volunteers needed at the Fair. The sign-up sheet is circulating. Please sign up if you can.

Plant Clinic – Chris Rusch: Brought the calendar as sign-ups are needed for many days in August. Calls & walk-ins are down from last year but the clinic was closed 2 days and there are 4 days left in July.

Westside Greenhouse – Barbara Robinson: Patrice read the report for Barbara Robinson. Barbara thanked all those helping in the West Side Greenhouse: repotting, trimming roots, & watering. She thanked those who built the new shade structure over the outdoor work area and those who hung the new shade cloth to protect the plants from the sun.



Awards – Betty Ison: Two class members have earned their 60 hour swinger bar: Tony Follett and Sharon Bordeaux

Discovery Garden – Julie Stansbery: Kudos to everyone who has made the garden as beautiful as it is. Water system is down so we are using the Umpqua Basin Water. It may be a week before the river water is available.

Victory Garden – Beth: The garden is going into the busiest part of the season and all pickers are welcome.

Facebook/Publicity & Canyonville Farmer’s Market – Barbara Horst: We now have 861 followers on Facebook. We have a booth at the Canyonville Farmers Market every other Wednesday and average 15 contacts each week. Kudos to Mike and Madeline Dixon who are there every week and keep the supplies at their home in Canyonville.



Photo: K. Doyle

Newsletter – Bonnie Courter: Articles for the newsletter are due this Saturday. Fred has started a photo contest for “Ugly Tomatoes.”

Submit your photos for the September newsletter; award will be given in October.

Umpqua Valley Farmer’s Market – Barbara Anderson: Barbara did not attend the meeting.

Awards Banquet – Judy Huntley: The banquet is scheduled for October 7, 2017.

Hallmark – Linda Thames: We received a thank you from Gloria McCrea for the Get Well Card we sent to her, sent cards to Judy Huntley, Ruth Stafford, and

Barbara Robinson, and sent a thank you to Lowe’s Home Improvement for the lumber they donated for the shade cover constructed in the West Side Greenhouse outdoor work area.

NEW BUSINESS

Chris Rusch called for a vote to elect the 2018 slate of officers: Chris Rusch as President, Anne Bacon as VP, Judy Huntley as Past VP, Patrice Sipos as Treasurer, Sharon Bordeaux as Secretary, Diana Circle as Membership, Nancy Fuller as OMGA Representative, and Kish Doyle as Alternate OMGA Representative.



Fred Alley moved to approve the slate of officers as presented, Leo Grass seconded the motion and the members were in favor.

SHOW AND TELL



Photo: K. Doyle

Betty brought a immature Brown Marmorated Stink Bug for the members to view. She also brought brochures provided by USDA to hand out to members.

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by President, Chris Rusch.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Bordeaux, Acting Secretary

Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: The deadline for the September 2017 Newsletter is Sept. 2nd. 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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