



Oct. 2021 Calendar

Mon., Oct. 4, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Tues., Oct. 5, 8:30-4:00

Fall Training Class

Thurs., Oct. 7, 1:00-3:00

Class Workshop @ HLC

Mon., Oct. 11, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Tues., Oct. 12, 8:30-4:00

Fall Training Class

Wed., Oct. 13, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting, HLC

Thurs., Oct. 14, 1:00-3:00

Class Workshop @ HLC

Mon., Oct. 18, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Tues., Oct. 19, 8:30-4:00

Fall Training Class

Thurs., Oct. 21, 1:00-3:00

Class Workshop @ HLC

Mon., Oct. 25, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Tues., Oct. 26, 8:30-4:00

Fall Training Class

Thurs., Oct. 28

Chapter Meeting, location TBA,
(10:00)

Class Workshop @ HLC (1:00-3:00)

The Prez Sez...

Julie Stanbery

Fall training classes are off to a great start. Our veteran volunteers are so excited with the new class, and we heartily welcome you all to your new garden adventure!

My topic for this month is "Four Guys in the Garden". Sounds catchy, doesn't it? I wanted to learn more about the volunteers who are helping teach some of the fall training classes. **Jim Leet** (MG 2002) is the vegetable guy, **Nathan Baily** (MG 2013) is the worm guy, **Ken Hays** (MG 2003) is the compost guy and **Geoff Puryear** (MG 2012) is the xeriscape/herb guy. They have lots of life experience and expertise to share.

These 4 have been my garden friends for many years and yet I knew little of their life stories. It seems that early childhood (ages 5 & 8) and gardening grandmas are a common link.

At the age of 8, **Jim** was the only boy in his grade school garden club. From there he went on to grow produce on 2 continents and three states; his home state of Minnesota, his career state of Alaska and his best and last, Oregon. He credits his Norwegian/German ancestors for his love of the land and farming.

Jim has grown every fruit and vegetable except pineapples and is known around town as "the pepper guy". Jim enjoys hunting and wood carving and has several unusual skills. At the age of 16 he won the Minnesota State Tobacco Spitting Contest and he recently won 2nd place in the First International Lefse Limerick Contest. Here it is:

*The lefse was taken by Sue
Who tucked it inside her shoe
Her ultimate goal was patching her sole
But now she had lunch with her too!*

Nathan's initiation to gardening came at age 5 when his grandmother smacked him in the nose while shoveling manure! Is it any wonder he loves working in dirt? Nathan grew up in Denver and practiced psychotherapy in Alaska before moving to Oregon. His avocation is using waste materials to make compost and improve soils, a commendable aspiration and truly one of the basics of sustainable gardening. He has cared for our worms for eight years and is a great mentor for composting and vermiculture.



At the age of 8, **Geoff** attended his first DCMG plant sale with his grandma in the days when we held the sale in the Annex! He chose yellow snapdragons and thus began his love of gardening. In 2012 his grandma gifted him our Winter Training Class, and the rest is history. Geoff has taken on the xeriscape and herb areas in the Discovery Garden. A self-described "plant nerd", his special interests are succulents, native plants and tomatoes. Thanks to his interest in nature photography that can be found on Instagram, he has contacts all over the world who have seen and enjoyed our Discovery Garden. Geoff's next venture is a plant boutique he hopes to open by year's end. Can't wait to see what he has to offer!

Ken is a generous volunteer with our chapter who also spends time with veterans and other community volunteer groups. Ken has a special relationship with his grandchildren and attends most of their events. In fact he's so busy, I couldn't pin him down for his gardening history! I do know he has given more than a decade of his time in developing our outdoor compost classroom into one of the most interesting and educational areas of the garden.

I'm looking forward to developing new friendships and learning more about the wonderful folks who make this organization so special. I'll see you in the garden!



Treasurer's Report

08/26/2021-09/29/2021
Dawnetta Loomis

INCOME	
Donation	\$50.00
Soil Testing	\$80.00
Interest	\$16.59
Compost Tea	<u>\$246.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$598.34
EXPENSES	
Management & General	\$761.39
Fair Booth	\$45.31
Clinic & Office	\$116.40
HLC	\$275.68
Propane	\$683.73
Utilities	<u>\$155.36</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,038.87
Breakdown of our accounts at 08/25/21	
NWCC - Checking	\$176.45
NWCC - Reserve	\$5,008.44
NWCC - MMK Savings	\$40,914.50
NWCC - Waddington Fund	<u>\$89,485.51</u>
Ending Balance	\$135,584.90

Awards: Swinger Bars

Kay Livermore

Members eligible for swinger bars for the month of August are:

- 60 hours: Kathleen Donovan, Chuck Goodin, Marla Hallmark, Terry Hallmark
- 200 hours: Bobbi Schneider
- 4000 hours: Chris Rusch

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.
Phone: 541-496-4111; text: 541-430-2887; email: kay.livmr@gmail.com

Membership

Kay Livermore

We currently have 229 members.

In June, the Board unanimously approved a change in the dues. The proposed change is as follows:

Beginning in 2022, DCMG dues will increase to \$20. Members who pay their dues before January 1st will pay \$10 (a 50% discount). Members who pay their dues after January 1st will pay the full \$20.

The membership will vote on this proposed change at the October chapter meeting.

OMGA

Kish Doyle

Notes from Executive Board Meeting via Zoom,
Sept. 10, 2021:

1. Program Coordinator Report – Gail Langellotto:
Covid safety update – subject to changes based on Oregon Health Authority (OHA) guidelines.

All programs involving the public will have a sign-in roster with a name and contact number in case contact tracing is necessary. This includes garden tours and any classes.

Serving food during meetings or events – per OHA guidelines, potlucks are not allowed unless the food is “pre-packaged, pre-plated or pre-assembled.” The sharing of serving utensils is not allowed.

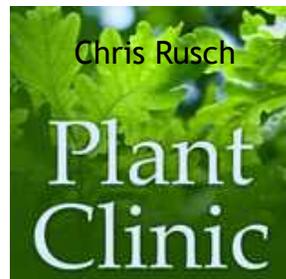
Face coverings are required at all indoor events and outdoors when social distancing is not possible.

No vaccination verification is required (at this time) for Extension events.

2. Master Gardener Awards for 2022: The state Master Gardener awards will be on the agenda in February 2022, discussed in March, written up in April and must be submitted by May 15, 2022.
3. 2022 MG Training classes: In 2022, most counties will be doing a hybrid version of online and in-person classes, based on the needs and guidelines of each county and the status of Covid in their area.
4. Master Gardener Photo Contest: Photos will be accepted until September 30.
5. Coordinator Retirements and Replacements: Numerous coordinators have retired or left to take other positions in other areas. It is easier to

hire and replace these individuals if the counties have funding available to pay their salaries. State funding has to go through more scrutiny and roadblocks.

6. 2021 Mini College: Mini College was a success thanks to all the committees and participating members. The final numbers are: 236 registrants @ \$49 each, Income-\$11,564, Expenses-\$10,095, Profit-\$1469. A post-survey: 43% of participants said they would prefer an in-person event.
7. Historian Report: Updating is in progress for the years 2011, 2012 and 2014.
8. Gardener’s Pen Newsletter – The OMGA reps will receive it and then send it out to the members or make it available as necessary.



First of all, I want to thank everyone who worked in September at our Plant Clinic!!

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. During the month of September we had over 50 calls or emails and even some visits to the clinic. Questions for September were diverse, including questions regarding lawns, plant and weed identification and lots of insects. In addition, we have been helping clients with landscaping and fruit tree questions.

The Plant Clinic will be moving into our fall hours beginning in October. We will staff the clinic on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1-4 PM.



Plant Sale 2022

Bonnie Durick

Even though our Plant Sale is over 7 months away, there are many things we need to do before it all comes together. We are planning on our Plant Sale to be back at the Fairgrounds with all the bells and whistles that come with having it there.

One of the things we are looking forward to returning to our sale is our vendors. Jen Bailey is the person on our Plant Sale Team who contacts and deals with the vendors and she is asking for your help. If anyone knows of someone or some business that would be a great vendor for our sale, please let her know. The vendor needs to provide plant and/or garden related items. If you do know of someone who would be great for our sale, please email Jen at jenskylonda@gmail.com with their name and contact information, and she will take it from there.

MG Volunteer Appreciation Week

Anita Clark, Extension Office



I have been working on a MG Volunteer Appreciation Week for the week of **October 25th -29th**. Much like I did last year, MG's will come into the office and pick up a small treat and then be entered into a raffle drawing for a larger gift. It is a small insulated tote, bento box and small cutting board.

At the same time I will also be having a drawing for any new clients that come into the office and ask a question. For the same gift.



The Blue Chalk Stick or Fingers (*Senecio serpens*) is native to South Africa. It has fat, plump, bluish, finger-like leaves. The outer leaves have a powder-like texture to them. This powder-like texture

protects them from being burned by the sun. (Many succulents have this to protect them.) In the summer it will have a small white flower. This flower is not that cute. But the Blue Chalk Stick has many other wonderful things about it.

Many people pass this plant up because it is not showy or has beautiful flowers. Maybe after what you read here you will decide to get one of these as they are just a great addition to any yard.

Depending where you live, the Blue Chalk Stick can be planted in the ground. It can take some colder temperatures and usually dies back in the late fall/winter months. In the early spring it will come back bigger and more beautiful each year that you have this succulent. This is one of easiest succulents to grow. Plant it and it will grow. Give it some space and cut it back as needed. It makes a great ground cover that will grow into a matted format. It takes little or no care. Water when dry to the touch. It's considered to be one of many succulents that is drought tolerant. Compost tea is a great fertilizer for this succulent. It grows best in the sun.



One of the best things about the Blue Chalk Stick is that it's considered fire-resistant. The leaves of this succulent are plump with water in each leaf, thus making this plant a great plant for those who live in outer areas where fire breaks are needed. Plant many and give them room to grow. You can take starts of this plant by just cutting off a branch section.

It is also deer and rabbit resistant. I didn't say "proof". Those silly critters will try to eat just about anything



when they are hungry. Hopefully they only try it once.

If you are like me and love to see the bees, butterflies and hummingbirds in your yard, then this succulent is one you will just have to add to your garden.

All succulents have special things that can either add beauty to your garden or will

help the environment. Don't let them fool you as they might not look so pretty in that silly 4" garden pot. They will look better in your yard. Until then when I see you in the garden.



OCTOBER GARDEN CALENDAR

- Recycle disease-free plant material and kitchen vegetable and fruit scraps into compost.

Don't compost diseased plants unless you are using the "hot compost" method (120 degrees to 150 degrees Fahrenheit).

- Drain or blow out your irrigation system, insulate valve mechanisms, in preparation of winter.
- Use newspaper or cardboard covered by mulch to discourage winter and spring annual weeds or remove a lawn area for conversion to garden beds. For conversion, work in the paper and mulch as organic matter once the lawn grass has died.
- Clean and paint greenhouses and cold frames for plant storage and winter growth.
- Harvest sunflower heads; use seed for birdseed or roast for personal use.
- Dig and store potatoes; keep in darkness, moderate humidity, temperature about 40°F. Discard unused potatoes if they sprout. Don't use as seed potatoes for next year.
- Harvest and immediately dry filberts and walnuts; dry at 95 degrees to 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Ripen green tomatoes indoors. Check often and discard rotting fruit.
- Harvest and store apples; keep at about 40°F, moderate humidity.
- Place mulch over roots of roses, azaleas, rhododendrons and berries for winter protection.
- Trim or stake bushy herbaceous perennials to prevent wind damage.
- To suppress future pest problems, clean up annual flower beds by removing diseased plant materials, overwintering areas for insect pests; mulch with manure or garden compost to feed the soil and suppress weeds.
- Cover asparagus and rhubarb beds with a mulch of manure or compost. Dig and divide rhubarb. (Should be done about every 4 years.)
- Clean, sharpen and oil tools and equipment before storing for winter.
- Prune out dead fruiting canes in raspberries.
- Harvest squash and pumpkins; keep in dry area at 55 degrees to 60 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Plant garlic for harvesting next summer.
- Propagate chrysanthemums, fuchsias, Save seeds from the vegetable and flower garden. Dry, date, label, and store in a cool and dry location.

Crabby Road

11-9-11



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Shared by Barb Robinson

The Discovery Garden Worm Bins

By: Nathan Baily

The worm bins have been an integral part of the Discovery Garden Composting Section almost since the beginning. There are three bins, and two are currently used for worms. The third holds the tools of the trade: a shovel and buckets.

The worm “castings” (worm poop) are used during the summer months to make compost tea for use by Master Gardeners. The tea is made with worm castings placed into an 18” X 6” “tea basket” submerged in a Growing Solutions™ “brewer” in 30 gallons of water infused with a “microbial catalyst.” Oxygenated water is bubbled up through the basket and, after 24-48 hours, the tea is drained off into one-gallon, plastic jugs.

For hundreds of years, gardeners have appreciated earthworms for the aerating tunnels they burrow in gardens and for the rich castings that fertilize the soil. Home vermicomposting -- growing worms to recycle kitchen scraps into valuable castings -- is a relatively recent trend, gaining popularity after Mary Applehof’s little how-to book, Worms Eat My Garbage, was published in 1982.

Commercially produced small and large vermicomposting systems make it very easy for home gardeners and even municipalities to successfully reduce landfill waste and harvest the soil-enriching amendments of worm castings.

In the Discovery Garden, our wooden bins are efficient and easy to maintain because they have enough mass, surface area, and ventilation to maintain an ideal worm environment. Over time the worms will separate themselves from their castings by moving from one side to the other. Each bin is divided in half with galvanized wire fencing. On the first side, we start off with a 3” layer of shredded white office paper (bedding), layering kitchen scraps and bedding until the pile has almost reached the top of the bin, at which point we begin another pile on the other side of the fencing.

When the maximum height is reached on the first side, the second side will have grown several layers high and the subtle scent of the decomposing scraps will have “ripened” enough to draw the worms over from the first

side. When conditions are optimal, the bins won’t smell, be too wet or too dry, and the worms will be healthy and happy, eating the kitchen scraps and leaving castings behind.

Layering an inch or two of kitchen scraps with 2” to 3” of bedding seems to work well to maintain the worms’ living space at the correct temperature and dampness. To insure the bins stay damp, but not wet in spite of extreme outside temperatures, each side is covered with a thin foam mat. Yoga mats are cheap and readily available for this purpose. By using a pink mat on the working side and a green mat on the finished side, we can tell which side is which. Dampened newsprint or burlap can work well as a covering, too, but unlike foam, worms love to eat them!

It’s important to introduce scraps that don’t attract vermin or decompose quickly and effectively: meat, fats, or dairy products should never be used in worm bins. Using only vegetable scraps layered with dry, shredded paper ensures a good overall moisture content without added water; however, during the summer months, a little extra water may have to be added to keep the environment stable.

Egg shells pulverized in a coffee bean grinder or blender and added to the scraps will provide worms with grit for their gizzard digestion and calcium for healthy growth and castings.

We use composting worms of the species *Eisenia fetida*. These worms are commonly called “red wigglers.” For a complete discussion of worm varieties, explore the internet for resources on the fascinating history and little-known facts about worms.

Worm composting is an interesting and engaging activity, as well as an excellent soil amendment and fertilizer. Douglas County Master Gardeners are welcome to visit the bins at the Discovery Garden, and encouraged to start home bins. Worms are also a great way to meet people and everyone with a bin always has an interesting conversation starter! Just turn to a stranger and say, “By the way, I have worms!” It’s guaranteed to get their attention!

More material on vermicomposting is available at the DCMG website: http://douglascountymg.org/docs/other/discovery_garden/Worm_Bin_Composting_101.pdf



Why Compost?

Composting speeds up the natural decay process, turning kitchen scraps and yard debris into nutrient-rich fertilizer. Compost improves all soils – especially clay. It's easy, reduces garbage volume, saves money, and plants love it!

Bins and containers make composting easier by providing an ideal environment for maintaining the right levels of moisture, air, and warmth. Our composting demonstration area shows several systems for making compost: One-Bin; Two- and Three-Bin; Tumbler; Retail Composters; and Worm Composting (Vermicomposting). Just pick the methods best suited to your home, school, or workplace!

For more tips and resources, visit the Discovery Garden's Composting page:

http://douglasscountymg.org/dg_composting.html

Or use the QR symbol below with your smart phone!



Composting Basics

Combine "brown" (carbon-rich) materials with "green" (nitrogen-rich) materials

<p>50% Brown</p> <p>Dead leaves Paper Soil Hay Straw</p>	<p>50% Green</p> <p>Grass clippings Kitchen scraps Manure</p>	<p>ADD</p>	<p>Water Air</p>
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This mixture encourages friendly bacteria and decomposers to multiply rapidly and causes the pile to heat up and break down faster. The pile should be about as moist as a wrung-out sponge; if too wet, the composting process will slow down and the pile will smell bad.

This process should be monitored and periodically adjusted. If the pile dries out, gets too wet or too hot, the friendly decomposers will die off until the pile is remoistened and/or turned. Cover the pile to keep rain out and to slow evaporation in dry weather. Turn the pile regularly to add air.

Other Considerations

1. Never put meats, dairy products, pet feces, fats, noxious weeds, diseased plants, or material treated with pesticides into the pile.
2. Smaller is better! Cut materials for composting into small pieces with a chipper, chop them up in a wheelbarrow or bucket with a shovel, or run them over with a lawn mower!
3. The pile should be at least 3' – 5' (1m – 1.5m) high to generate adequate heat. If necessary, take a week or two to gather material and make it big enough.
4. Try to maintain temperatures between 140°F – 160°F (60°C – 70°C). This will kill weed seeds and pathogens and hasten decomposition. If the pile gets too hot, it will use up oxygen too quickly and kill helpful microorganisms.
5. Bury new clippings and scraps in the hot center of the pile, or put on top before adding more materials.
6. To speed up heating in cool or cloudy weather -- and to keep out rain -- cover pile with clear plastic sheeting.

For more tips and resources, visit the Discovery Garden's Composting page

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Biochar Demonstration Beds

Nathan Bailly

The Master Gardener Biochar Demonstration Beds compare plant growth between raised beds prepared with and without biochar (agricultural charcoal). The project was started in spring of 2015.

Biochar is a fine-grained, carbonized product similar in appearance to common charcoal. It is made by heating a "biomass" such



as scrap wood, chips, garden debris, forest slash, etc. to near-combustion using little to no oxygen in a process called "pyrolysis," or "gasification."

As a soil amendment, the structure of biochar adds porosity, as well as water and nutrient retention. It also stimulates the activity of agriculturally important microorganisms, increases CEC (cation exchange capacity), and raises soil pH.

Biochar production and use has potential for helping to slow climate change by reducing CO₂ and other potent greenhouse gases, and by locking carbon into the soil for many centuries through the process of "sequestration."

The demonstration beds contain a nearly identical mixture of topsoil, compost, amendments, and plants. Biochar with a known chemical profile was mixed with half the compost and "charged" for several months before being added to one bed; the other half of the compost -- without biochar -- was added to the second bed.

From 2015 to 2018 the pH and soil chemistry of both beds were monitored and adjusted as necessary, and plant growth documented. Biochar was added to the test site nearly every year, and every year identical crops have been planted in both sides. Each crop on the Biochar side slightly out-performed the control side, also retaining better moisture and soil structure. The experiment continues.



Ask the Tool Man Alley

I have pondered for a number of months on whether or not to prepare this tool tip article, because the article is rather long, it includes a number of visual aids and, mostly, because making this wood-holding device requires a number of wood working tools. I finally came to the conclusion that the "Tool Holding Device" I'm writing about is a device that every Master Gardener must have. It's a simple wood device I developed a number of years ago, that provides the means to safely and securely hold almost any garden tool from shovels, hand clippers, hoes, to axes while cleaning and sharpening them. I keep the device readily available on the shop table and use in regularly.

One may ask, "What does a bottle of Elmer's wood glue, four wood screws and four pieces of oak wood 2-1/2" wide by 5" long have to do with gardening?" See **Photo #1**. After a few tasks, you will end up with a wood-holding device that looks like the three



shown in **Photo #2**. The middle is one my devices and the one on the left shows the top side and the one on the right shows the bottom side of two devices I made for this article. These will give you some idea what the device looks like and how it works.

You can purchase the stock 2-1/2" wide x two 48" long oak hardwood at Home Depot, Lowes or any lumber yard. Cut the stock into four, 5" pieces. Unfortunately the stock oak only comes in 48" lengths. Don't be surprised at the cost of lumber! **Photo #3** shows how to glue the four pieces together. It is important that you alternate the grain of the wood in opposite directions, two running one way and two running the opposite way. This is important to maintain the maximum clamping power when using the device. If



you use a soft wood like pine, the device will most likely break under pressure. **Photo #3**. Leave the clamps on the wood for two or three days. After that, square off the 5" block on your table saw and sand down the entire block with a sander. I know now I have lost some of our Master Gardeners, because you don't have a table saw or sander. In this case, please feel free to call me for help, or between you and I we can make other arrangements.



Photo #4.

To make the 2" wide curved tunnel across the bottom side of the device you will need to run the device through a table saw several times at differing heights, starting in the center and working outward to 2".



Photo #5. The next step is to remove the remaining pieces of wood with a small hand wood chisel. **Photo #6.**



The next step is to sand out the tunnel area with a 2" round sander that fits in your power hand drill. **Photo #7.** Try to leave as many ridges left by the table saw cuts as you can. You can see the remaining edges in the tunnel on **Photo #2**. These remaining edges will help secure the garden tool you are sharpening. **Photo #8.**



The last two steps are: 1) install one wood screw in each of the four corners of the top side of the device. You will need to pre-drill the hole and countersink the screw holes for the wood screws. 2) drill a 1-1/2" hole in the center right of the device opposite side of the curve on



the back side. Drill only an 3/8" deep hole. **Photo #9.** This shallow hole provides an anchor pivot hole for the Berger 12'x4-3/4 welding clamp used to clamp the device and the garden tool you are working on to your work

bench top. I identified the welding clamp in the September Newsletter used to secure a bench grinder to a work bench. It is helpful to place some type of cloth or rubber mat material between your workbench top and the device. This will further reduce any tool movement while working on your tool.

It is absolutely amazing how many different tools that can be securely held in place with this simple device. It's well worth it to build this device or pursue other avenues to have one built for you. If you have questions, or just need help, please feel free to contact me.

Happy Gardening. Keep those garden tools clean, sharp and properly stored. Stay safe.

"YARD CLIPPINGS" GATHERINGS OF THIS AND THAT

FRED ALLEY

Bob Brindley was delivering a number of ollas to the Easy Access Garden. I haven't seen him for a long time. His ollas are so interesting. I talked him out of two for my tall concrete pot in the aster patch. It's so hard to water the pot, so hopefully two of his ollas will do the job. I'm anxious to see the results.



JULIE STANBERY



What's up in the green shed? Thanks to Becky Carlson's clever husband, Rod, we have a new winter storage system for the compost tea jugs. Rod "MacGyver'ed" a pulley system to hoist the jugs up to the rafters out of reach of the

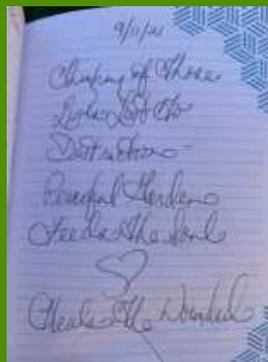
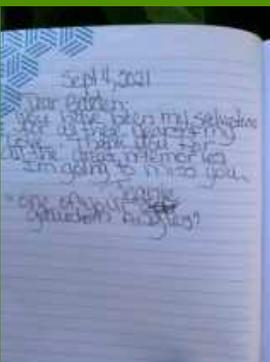
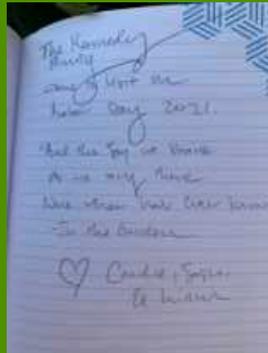
rats. No more climbing ladders, feet firmly on the ground! *Brilliant!*

DIANE SMITH-LEWSADDER

My visiting daughter gave me the idea! Partially cook beets, cube and flash freeze for smoothies. Decided to also freeze small bags of greens for smoothies. Then... of course the skins go to compost! No waste!



Scribblings from the Little Free Library



KISH DOYLE



A good friend of mine is traveling in Switzerland. While on one of her many walks, she came upon this flower bed and this beautiful snail. When she looked closer, she was amazed to see a baby snail riding piggy-back.

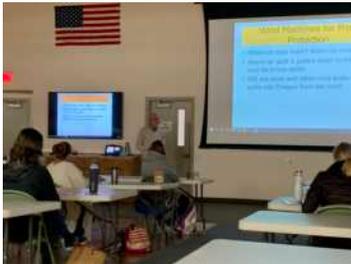


She also found these unusual grapes which resemble candy you see sold around Easter. The owner of the grapes said the vine produces all different colors and each color has its own flavor.

Also, you know there's a drought when Jeff Puryear is actually watering the Xeriscape Garden!!!



First Day of Fall Training Class



Our youngest new student ever! Four-week old Bethy is "auditing" the class along with her mom, new student Abigail Hotovec. She mostly sleeps through Steve's presentations, though. :)



DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Chapter Meeting at Pavilion
September 30, 2021

Continuing Education: Discussion of LevelUp Series on "Gardening with Native Plants for Pollinators"

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM. There were 52 in attendance including President Julie Stanbery, Past President Nancy



Fuller, Treasurer Dawnetta Loomis, Membership Kay Livermore, OMGA Rep Kish Doyle, and Secretary Bonnie Courter. There were also 17 new students who attended.

Agenda Approval: Facebook to be added.

Minutes Approval: The minutes were approved as published.

Agent's Report - Steve Renquist:

Fall Training Class started this week with a great group of 19 students. Steve asked veterans to help with Plant Clinic training once we start this for the new students in February. Steve may have winter pruning classes at the HLC after he's retired next year. It may take a year to get a replacement agent. A Small Farms agent is going to be hired soon who might be able to offer instruction as well. Another possibility is to hire someone locally for a year.

Every Thursday in October he will have workshops from 1:00-3:00, offered as an option for new students as well as veterans, and covering topics not addressed in class.

OFFICER REPORTS

Membership - Kay Livermore: 2022 dues forms will come out the first of November. Students don't pay

dues for 2022, but will need to sign the OSU DocuSign forms for 2022.

OMGA - Kish Doyle: Notes from Executive Board Meeting via Zoom, Sept. 10, 2021:

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3. 2022 MG Training classes: In 2022, most counties will be doing a hybrid version of online and in-person classes, based on the needs and guidelines of each county and the status of Covid in their area.
4. Master Gardener Photo Contest: Photos will be accepted until September 30.
5. Coordinator Retirements and Replacements: Numerous coordinators have retired or left to take other positions in other areas. It is easier to hire and replace these individuals if the counties have funding available to pay their salaries. State funding has to go through more scrutiny and roadblocks.
6. 2021 Mini College: Mini College was a success thanks to all the committees and participating members. The final numbers are: 236

registrants @ \$49 each, Income - \$11,564, Expenses - \$10,095, Profit - \$1469. A post-survey: 43% of participants said they would prefer an in-person event.

7. Historian Report: Updating is in progress for the years 2011, 2012 and 2014.
8. Gardener’s Pen Newsletter – The OMGA reps will receive it and then send it out to the members or make it available as necessary.

Treasurer - Dawnetta Loomis: Financials are posted on the website. We received a \$50 donation from Pat Dinsmore in appreciation for Fred Alley’s tool articles and the Newsletter. Insurance went up in price from \$600 to \$720.

Vice-President - Diana Woodward: Not present. The next LevelUp Series presentation is on “Adapting Your Garden and Landscape for Climate Change”. The presenter is Weston Miller, a community and urban horticulturalist for OSU Extension. LevelUp Series presentations can be found at this link: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series>

Past President - Nancy Fuller: Nancy attended the International OMGA Conference online and felt it was extremely well done. Presentations were done in July, so they were able to edit out any snafu’s. There were a lot of climate change questions, and ideas for growing drought-tolerant, native plants.

President - Julie Stanbery: Julie received a nice “Thank You” card from the pre-kindergarten class at Cobb School for giving them a tour of the garden August 25.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards Team - Ann Severson: The traditional October Awards Banquet will be moved to January, possibly mid-afternoon instead of evening, and have finger foods instead of the main potluck. Ann is also putting together a committee to select “MG of the Year” and “Behind the Scenes MG of the Year”.

Trash to Treasure: Donations are being accepted now - contact Ann if you have donations. These items will be stored until the sale, all pre-priced.

Community Outreach - Leo Grass: Leo gave two garden tours this month to the Rainbow Garden Club and Glide Garden Club.

Discovery Garden - Julie Stanbery:

Garden crews have been very active this month. Terrill Lowe embroidered name labels for plants for the shade and herb garden. Labeling projects are almost completed. Betty Ison is repairing the cobblestone path. Easy Access repaired one planting bed due to rot. Sharon Hopkins found a bench for Anne Waddington's memorial area, and she and Dave said they are donating it themselves instead of taking the money out of Anne's gift. Watering is on Sundays, but we will be cutting off water soon.

Facebook - Barbara Horst: Not present - her report:

As of September 29, there are 1,587 people that are following our page. That includes 7 new page "likes" in the last month. Last month, 1,279 people were reached by our posts. Facebook provides free publicity for the Master Gardeners. We can advertise our events as well as provide information from reliable sources on sustainable gardening practices.

The posts with the most "likes" are the "Ask a Master Gardener" articles from the News-Review and "Fred's Fav's" (photos from the Discovery Garden). 85% of the people that follow our page are women.

Fundraising - Nathan Baily:

Nathan explained our Bottle Drop blue bags used to fill with recycle cans and bottles, and brought some to pass out. Amazon Smiles is also a way to raise money for DCMG.

Greenhouse West - Joy Keeling: Crews are cleaning plants, weeding, repotting and dividing on Monday mornings.

Greenhouse East - Bonnie Durick: Crews are dividing and propagating plants for the Plant Sale. If you have flowering shrubs, bring cuts from them and they can be propagated. Just be sure you know the name of the plant or variety.

Plant Sale: We are looking for vendors for the sale who sell plant-related items. Contact Jen Bailey if interested or if you know of someone who would like to be a vendor at our sale.

Hallmark - Linda Thames: Not present - no report.

Newsletter - Bonnie Courter: Articles are due this Saturday, October 2. New students can access the Newsletter when it's posted on our DCMG website. She will send out an email with the link to the students this time until they are on the DCMG email chain.

Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch: Not present. Her report:

Welcome to our new class!! Our Plant Clinic had over 40 visitors/callers/emails the month of September. We had lots of great questions from plant ID to fruit tree management.

We will begin our Fall hours in October, open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Publicity - Cheryl Caplan: Not present - her report: Cheryl is working on an article about Steve's retirement for the News-Review.

Spring Into Gardening - Chris Rusch: Not present - her report:

Spring into Gardening is set for March 12, 2022. We will have it again at the Phoenix School. If you are interested in helping with this event or want to teach a class, send Chris an email.

Swinger Bars - Kay Livermore: Members eligible for swinger bars for the month of August are:

60 hours: Kathleen Donovan, Chuck Goodin, Marla Hallmark, Terry Hallmark
200 hours: Bobbi Schneider
4000 hours: Chris Rusch

Victory Garden - Dave Campbell: They passed the 8000 pound mark of produce for UCAN. They are working Tuesdays at 9:00.

Waddington Fund - Team: There will be a meeting this Monday, October 4.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget Review: Dawnetta Loomis

The proposed 2022 Budget was discussed at length and changes made. The amended budget will be presented at the Executive Board meeting October 13, then presented to the membership October 28 as well as be included in the November Newsletter.

Dues: Kay Livermore

In June, the Board unanimously approved a change in the dues. The proposed change is as follows:

Beginning in 2022, DCMG dues will increase to \$20. Members who pay their dues before January 1st will pay \$10 (a 50% discount). Members who pay their dues after January 1st will pay the full \$20.

After some discussion, a motion was made to approve the dues change by Bonnie Durick. Toni Rudolph seconded the motion. The membership voted and it was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

SHOW AND TELL:

- Julie Stanbery passed around a tree branch to see if we could determine disease present. It is actually showing normal growth of a Liquid Amber. Julie brought 2 lanyards from Anne Waddington to give away and also tiger lily bulblets and plants.
- Kay Livermore: This year Kay used “feather meal” as a fertilizer on her tomatoes with spectacular results. Feather meal is ground up and processed poultry waste.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Courter, Secretary



Julie and Bonnie take the new class on a garden tour before the meeting.



Photos: Fred Alley & B. Courter



Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: 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



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you to attend an event, please notify the office at 541-672-4461 no later than 2 weeks prior to event date. This publication will be made available in an accessible alternative format upon request. Please contact Bonnie Courter, rbcourter@gmail.com.

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