



Douglas County Master Gardeners

Oregon State **OSU** Extension Service
UNIVERSITY Douglas County

October 2008

Volume 23, Number 10

YOUR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Elaine Moriarty
President

October 2008

We capped off the summer, meeting in our beautiful garden on a lovely Fall day. These September meetings give us a chance to enjoy the garden, without a shovel or spade, before winter dormancy sets in. What a treat!

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I never realized tomatoes had such a broad taste range....from salty and tangy to sweet and spicy...and how altitude, fertilizer and water efforts affect their flavor. Our First Annual Tomato Taste-off was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of Bob Brindley and his "dice and slice" crew. Thanks, Bob, for this fun and educational event and congratulations to all the winners.

Our gratitude to all those hosts and hostesses who opened their gardens for our gatherings this past summer....and to Bill Howitt for making them possible. I look forward every year to them.

We return to the annex building in October to resume our chapter business and to enjoy some diversified Continuing Education. CE begins at 9 am, meeting at 10 am.

The Executive Board would appreciate input from you all in trying to make a decision on continuing fundraisers, other than our plant sale, of course, and other events, such as those held at the fairgrounds (Home Show, etc.). We need to determine if we are asking too much of our members by "overloading" them with participation in all these events. If you have thoughts on this, please contact any board member, or drop a note in our respective mail slots in the Plant Clinic office, signed or unsigned, would be welcomed.

Our Publicity Chair, Patti Langille, much to our regrets, is seeking a replacement for this position. She also oversees our website which she will continue

Continued on Page 3

OUR MISSION

- EDUCATE HOME GARDENERS IN THE DOUGLAS COUNTY AREA WITH THE MOST PRACTICAL AND SAFE HOME
- HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES BASED ON A PROGRAM OF KNOWLEDGE UPDATE AND REGENERATION, AND,
- CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF ENJOYMENT FOR ALL

Agent's Report by Steve Renquist



Educational Meetings for the Fall

In last months newsletter I talked about classes I was organizing for the fall. I have a little more information to share with you about

the schedule.

I am in the process of meeting with each theme garden team from the Discovery Garden. We are meeting on Tuesdays at 9am and going through the garden together. At each meeting we answer my three main questions. What are we trying to demonstrate? What should we do to make our demonstration clearer to the public? Are we teaching sustainable practices, and what are they? So far we have gone through the Entry Garden and the Butterfly Garden. Both meetings were very beneficial as we recommended some changes and additions. I am recapping all the meetings and we will discuss our findings at Discovery Garden meetings in the future to help take our gardens to the next level. One thing that is already evident from our first two meetings is the need for better signage at each garden. We are scheduled to do a walk through with the Herb Garden on October 7, and the Xeriscape Garden on October 21.

The next two classes I am going to offer are Advanced Plant Diagnostics classes. These classes are being offered to improve volunteer's skills for working in the plant clinic. Any Master Gardeners will be welcome to attend but their will be a charge of \$10 for people who have not worked in the clinic this year. The first of two classes will focus on plant diagnostic methods and a review of best resource material and how to use it from our library. That class will be on October 23 from 9am until about noon. The second class will be a problems diagnostics class. The class will work in teams. I have prepared pictures and questions on a number of problems common to our area that you

will be asked to diagnose. We will have plenty of time to discuss methods and we will be using our reference material again. The second class will be on October 29 from 9am until about noon. Upon the successful completion of this class you will be given an advanced diagnostics certificate.

Another class I would like to offer to all Master Gardeners is "How to Certify an Oregon Landscape". This class will take you through the process of evaluating a landscape that has applied to be an Oregon Certified Landscape. We will begin this process working with Master Gardener properties who have applied for certification. I will take the class to several locations to go through the process of evaluating a property. I will give you a list of questions to ask individuals and we will discuss how to give guidance back to homeowners to help them meet our standards. This will be a very hands-on class. To become a certified landscape evaluator you will need to take this class, and you should have taken the pesticide safety training, waterwise, and composting classes during our winter training program within the past year. Landscape evaluators will be working with me to certify local landscapes on request. This class will be offered on November 6 from 9am until noon. I will announce the sites where we will do the training in the future.

To sign up for any of these classes please call the Extension Office at 672-4461.

I hope to see new class Master Gardeners and veterans at our classes. Cheers, Steve

Call for Mentors

It's time to begin thinking about mentoring the 2009 Winter Class. We have planned a very short organizational meeting just after the October general meeting to quickly review what was in place last year and make any changes to improve for 2009. There will be a few changes in the 2009 curriculum and we will discuss everyone's ideas. This year's class is specially invited to participate. If you are interested, please sign up in the Plant Clinic or contact me at 659-9835 (email: hjbohm1966@aol.com). You may also contact Steve Renquist. We are looking forward to a good class and a great learning experience. Thank you, Joanne Bohm

Your President's Column

Continued from Page 1

to do. Thank you, Patti, for the wonderful work you have done for us in advertising and promoting our organization. She will be happy to mentor the next Publicity Chair so please contact her or me if this is something you think you would enjoy.

The Awards Banquet committee has held their first meeting and is busy in preparation for this annual celebration. Mark your calendars for Saturday evening, November 1st (the day after Halloween) and sign up on the sheet provided which will be located in the Plant Clinic office. We need to know how many of you plan to attend so we don't run out of the main entrée. If you are unable to come into town, phone in your reservation. You don't want to miss this exciting event when we take time to celebrate each other, our work, and our organization. It is a fun evening, so come, bring a spouse, friend, guest, or just yourself. Be there or be.....

Till next month,

Elaine Moriarty
President



Karolyn Riecks
Treasurer

Treasurer's Report As of 9/26/2008

| <u>Account</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Bank Accounts</u> | |
| CD - Expires 2-26-09 | \$12,020.24 |
| CD - Expires 2-26-09 - Reserves | \$3,700.00 |
| Checking | \$5,894.91 |
| Money Market | \$15,998.43 |
| Money Market - Grants | \$43,154.00 |
| Money Market - Reserves | \$1,000.00 |
| Reserves | \$300.00 |
| TOTAL Bank Accounts | \$82,067.58 |
| <u>Cash Accounts</u> | |
| Newsletter USPS Bulk Mail | \$230.17 |
| TOTAL Cash Accounts | \$230.17 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | <u>\$82,297.75</u> |

The major activity for the month of September was the receipt of a \$9,999 grant from the Ford Family Foundation to be used towards the Discovery Garden restroom. The monies were deposited in the Money Market - Grants account.

The 2009 budget will be discussed at the October 8th Executive Board meeting.



Master Gardener Booth
at the Harvest Festival
September 13, 2008



General Meeting at the Pavilion
September 25, 2008

Master Gardener Announcements, News, and Notes

2008 Master Gardener Awards Banquet

Saturday, November 1, 2008 at 5:00 pm

First United Methodist Church
1771 Harvard Ave., Roseburg



All Master Gardeners are invited to attend our 11th annual awards banquet. This is when we celebrate the achievements of all Master Gardeners and recognize all of the hard work performed throughout the year.

The menu will be pasta with various sauces, salads, garlic bread and dessert. Look for the sign-up sheet is in the Plant Clinic. Please let us know how many will be in your party and whether you would like to bring a salad or dessert. If you have questions or can't make it to the office, call Philece Humphrey at 957-5526.

Deadline for sign-up is October 24th.



Awards and great door prizes throughout the evening.



Remembering Lillian Lockwood



Elaine reads a poem written by Lynn Cathcart for her mother

A metal garden cat, made and contributed by **Theresa Godard** was displayed and placed by the pink petunias in the Butterfly Garden in **Lillian's** memory.



Photo by Bud Cruger

Master Gardener Announcements, News, and Notes

Continued..

Rebuild garden soil

Applying lime or gypsum.

If home garden production seemed a bit off this year, your garden soil may need help. Rebuild it with an application of lime or gypsum.

Liming garden soils west of the Cascades helps the soil in many ways, said Jan McNeilan, Oregon State University Extension Service consumer horticulture agent.

Adding lime neutralizes soil acidity; supplies calcium and magnesium; promotes root growth; creates an excellent environment for soil organisms that break down organic matter; and improves soil structure, McNeilan said.

Lime is recommended for western Oregon gardens because many soils west of the Cascades have high acidity ratings. Soils in the eastern part of the state are not high in acidity, and so will get more benefit from an application of gypsum. Gypsum adds the nutrients sulfur and calcium to garden soils.

Lime can do a lot for soil but it can't alter a heavy clay or compacted soil, said McNeilan. Gypsum can modify a clay soil, but only over a long period of time. The addition of organic matter is the best way to improve heavy clay soils.

Useful organic materials include compost, sawdust, barkdust, leaf mold, and peat moss. Barnyard manures are good, but must be free of symphyllans, insect pests that are difficult to get rid of once they become established in garden soil.

Fresh manure is more likely to be free of symphyllans than older, rotted manures, said McNeilan.

Apply organic matter in a layer of two to four inches or deeper. Mix this layer with the top six inches of soil.

By Bob Rost

*Find this article and more on the web at:
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/>*

Contributed by Mory Hoffmann

COMPOST TEA / WORM CASTINGS TEA ----- SUMMATION FOR 2008.

Joanne Bohm and I do want to express our thanks to the Master Gardeners for their great support during this season. The success of this fund raiser could not take place without you.

The tea brewer has been put to rest for the winter months but will begin brewing in the very early spring/late winter months.

We will let you know as many folks want to apply the tea during the late winter months, as a soil drench, especially for their rhododendron, azaleas, fruit trees and fruit bearing shrubs ie: blueberries. It will also been used on the greenhouse plants to assist them to get ready for the big plant sale in May.

The worms will continue to be cared for during the winter with Bill Decker bringing the vegetable discards from a grocery outlet and Ken Hays bringing the shredded paper from his volunteer job as the paper shredder at Mercy Hospital.

This year the idea of worm composting has been well accepted by the community, which is great for the landfill. Many folks have been referred by some of the MGs, Chris McCullough, Do.Co.Recycler plus our own Steve Renquist. Recently three new very large places establishments have been involved with the training and developing of their staff to develop their own worm compost bins. Two will eventually use Tea Castings to fertilize their organic gardens.

In 2008 Compost Tea income totaled \$1151.00.

Thank you for all your support.

JoAnne and Shirley



Tomato Taste-Off

Winners of the first annual Douglas County Master Gardeners tomato taste-off

After the September general meeting, we had a tasting of tomatoes brought from home by eleven of our members. Fifty one members participated in the tasting and only found out what the varieties were after the tasting was over. Jim Leet brought 14 different varieties of those he sells at the Roseburg Farmer's Market! All these varieties are still available, so visit Jim when you can. Next year I would like to encourage even more of our members to enter their favorite tomato, so start planning now.

Thirty six tomatoes were entered with little duplication of varieties. Master Gardeners were asked to vote for their favorites. Certificates to spend on Master Gardener plants at the greenhouse were given to the winners in each of four categories--\$15 for first, \$10 for second, and \$5 for third.

The most popular tomatoes were:

Red slicing (18 entrees)

R2 Peron Sprayless (Lori Salars)--22 votes
R15 Ace (Jim Leet)--9 votes
Tie vote for third:
R8 Brandy Boy (Ed Hoffmann)--5 votes
R13 Celebrity (Jim Leet)--5 votes
R17 Stupice (Karolyn Riecks)--5 votes
all other varieties had 2 votes or less

Cherry (10 entries)

C1 Brown Berry (Lori Salars)--15 votes
C8 Sweet Baby Girl (Jim Leet)--11 votes
Tie vote for third:
C5 Sun Gold (Linda Thames)--3 votes
C10 Sweet Million (Jim Leet)--3 votes
all other varieties had 2 votes or less

Paste (5 entrees)

P5 Health Kick (Jim Leet)--11 votes

P3 Opalaca (Linda Thames)--10 votes
P4 Laroma (Jim Leet)--6 votes
all other varieties had two votes or less

Non-red slicing (3 entrees)

N2 Lemon Boy (Jim Leet)--25 votes
N3 Purple Cherokee (Karolyn Riecks)--3 votes
N1 ?winner? Nebraska Wedding (Bob Brindley)--0 votes
no other varieties were entered in this category

I would like to thank all the people who helped pull this off and all the Master Gardener guinea pigs who helped make this a fun event.

I don't know if I can get a list of all of the varieties we tasted in this issue of the newsletter because of possible space limitations, but if I can't I will e-mail the list to everyone and try to publish them in the November newsletter along with some advise from our winners about their tomatoes and growing hints.

Continued on next page



Photo by Bud Cruger

Tomato Taste-Off

If you have any suggestions for next year, please let me know. Maybe we also could have a pumpkin carving contest next year in October. What do you think?

Bob Brindley
 oregongeezer@yahoo.com
 459-7897



Photo by Bud Cruger



Photo by Bud Cruger

Tomato Taste-Off Varieties

Red Slicing

- R1 Fantastic
- R2 Peron Sprayless--1st place
- R3 Big Beef
- R4 "LS Slicing"
- R5 Tiffen Mennonite
- R6 Early Girl
- R7 Empire
- R8 Brandy Boy--tie for 3rd
- R9 "Shirley"
- R10 Big Boy
- R11 Momotaro
- R12 Geronimo
- R13 Celebrity--tie for 3rd

- R14 Shady Lady
- R15 Ace--2nd place
- R16 Legend
- R17 Stupice-- tie for 3rd
- R18 Big Beef

Cherry

- C1 Brown Berry--1st place
- C2 Juliet
- C3 Yellow Pear
- C4 Gold Nugget
- C5 Sun Gold--3rd place
- C6 Juliet
- C7 Marcelino
- C8 Sweet Baby Girl--2nd place
- C9 Sun Gold

C10 Sweet Million

Paste

- P1 Blocky
- P2 Health Kick
- P3 Opalaca--2nd place
- P4 Laroma--3rd place
- P5 Health Kick--1st place

Non-red slicing

- N1 Nebraska Wedding--3rd place
- N2 Lemon Boy--1st place
- N3 Purple Cherokee--2nd place

DCMG GENERAL MEETING

September 25, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by **President Elaine Moriarty**. Approximately 57 members were in attendance.

Reports

Treasurer: Karolyn Riecks reported overall total balances as of 9/24/08 of \$83,179.09. She said we received the grant from The Ford Family Foundation in the amount of \$9999.99. The 2009 budget figures need to be forwarded to her by October 1, 2008.

Vice President: Roger Sawyer said he would like ideas for the Continuing Education programs that are held at 9:00 AM before the General Meetings. The October 30th General Meeting will be held at the Annex.

State Representative: Carolyn Register had no report, but she explained why she took the position of State Representative.

Membership: Mik Carlson said that there are 254 active members.

Plant Clinic: Leo Grass said that there are blank veteran slots on the October calendar. The Plant Clinic will be every other day in October. The Farmer's Market ends October 25th. **Judy Huntley** told about a Plant Clinic call.

Outreach: Leo Grass asked for presentation ideas.

Discovery Garden: Shirley Purcell reported that September 16th. DG Meeting had 20 people in attendance. The topics covered were: **Philece** will water Fridays only; the budget will no longer be carried over from year to year, a requirement of the state, and to focus on item cost and need; being in the garden will be part of the 2009 class work; the garden heads came up with the questions for the continuing education tour of the DG; the decision was made to have an electrician to do the pavilion lighting; each garden head is to be responsible for the design of the underground watering system in their theme garden and to please turn that design in to Julie quickly; the DG meetings will be the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM and the next meeting is October 14th. in the DG.

Awards: Betty Ison said three more members earned their 60 hour swinger bars: **Eloise Aguirre, Joanne Hancock, and Bill Van Steinburg**.

Publicity/Website: Patti Langille announced she will be phasing out of her position as Publicity Chair and is seeking a replacement. Please contact her or **Elaine Moriarty** if you are interested in this position. She will continue as Website Chair. She said she found the problem in the handling the Website and there are new items on it now.

Hallmark: Linda Thames reported that she had a card for **Marj Milroy** and that anyone who wants to can sign it.

Newsletter: Ted Benice said that newsletter articles are due September 26th, but that in October, if everything works well, the deadline will be Saturday noon. He said it had been suggested that the committee meeting schedules be a regular item in the newsletter. If the committee heads think this is a good idea please send the meeting schedules to him and he will include them starting with the November newsletter. Any other suggestions are welcome.

Agent's Report: Steve Renquist said that he would like some suggestions for good speakers for the Spring Into Gardening conference, held at UCC in February. Mr. Koyama from Roseburg's sister city in Japan will be

here and will teach a class on bonsai and his wife will teach Japanese flower arranging for the conference. **Steve Renquist** said he would pay Mr. Koyama for the classes from his fund and perhaps ask for donations. Mr. Koyama will prune twice in the DG Japanese the last week of February or the first week of March. More details to come. The permits are done and the company is fabricating our restroom and hopefully it will be installed late November or early December. The restroom will not be open all the time and the key will be kept with the other keys. We will maintain the restroom. He thinks it will be under budget. He mentioned the concert at UCC and that the funds received will be for the UCC Viticulture Center.

Old Business

Awards Banquet: **Philece Humphrey** said that the banquet will be held November 1st at 5:00 PM. at the First United Methodist Church, 1771 Harvard, Roseburg. Main course is pasta with various sauces. The salads, desserts, and garlic bread are potluck items...please sign up. There are to be lots of good door prizes!

Officer Installation: **Jack Wright** installed **Chuck Aiello** as Past President.

New Business

Tomato Taste-Off: **Bob Brindley** thanked his helpers. He said there were 36 tomatoes to taste. There were 4 categories: 18 slicing types, 3 non-red slicing types, 10 cherry types, and 5 paste types. He explained the tasting procedure and said the winners would receive Greenhouse Gift certificates.

In Memory of Lillian Lockwood: **Elaine Moriarty** read a poem written by **Lynn Cathcart**, **Lillian Lockwood's** daughter. A metal garden cat, made and contributed by **Theresa Godard** was displayed and placed by the pink petunias in the Butterfly Garden in **Lillian's** memory.

Future Fundraisers: **Elaine Moriarty** brought up the subject of reconsidering the fundraiser. Are there too many, etc. Please contact **Elaine Moriarty** and/or the members of the Exec. Board if anyone has suggestions/ideas/preferences.

Class of 2009 Mentors: **Joanne Bohm** announced that it was time to sign up as mentors for the 2009 class and the Sign-up Sheet was on the front table. She said there would be class informational meetings at the end of the October General Meeting.

Garden Judging Participation: **Judy Huntley** held a drawing for participating in the garden judging. **Mary Lou Davidson** and **Rustee Chastain** were the winners. This was a result of the Continuing Ed prior to the meeting.

Good Of the Order

Bud Cruger said the DG lily bulbs were dug up and the big ones were for sale in the Greenhouse for \$1. He was purchasing 12 new bulbs for \$95.

Elaine Moriarty announced that Bob Mallory's honey was for sale.

Carolyn Register displayed a deformed squash.

Linda Thames had tomatoes to give away.

Elaine Moriarty reminded everyone about the plant sale in the Greenhouse area today.

Betty Ison said to look at the examples of tomato mosaic at the tomato taste-off area. She had been on a Medford nursery trip where she picked up an application for the Winter Dreams, Summer Garden Symposium for us to look at.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Benice
Secretary



Master Gardener Officers and Committees

OFFICERS

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Elaine Moriarty | President: |
| Roger Sawyer | Vice-President: |
| Karolyn Riecks | Treasurer: |
| Maureen Benice | Secretary: |
| Carolyn Register | State Representative: |
| Larry Sutton | Alternate State Representative: |
| Mik Carlson | Membership Director: |
| Chuck Aiello | Past President |

COMMITTEES

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Awards | Betty Ison |
| Awards Banquet | Philece Humphrey |
| Plant Clinic | Mildred Gum & Leo Grass |
| Computer Support | Roger Sawyer |
| Compost Tea | Shirley Purcell |
| Discovery Garden | Julie Stanbery |
| Farmer's Market's | Mildred Gum & Ed Hoffman |
| Greenhouse | Tasha King & Philece Humphrey |
| Hallmark | Linda Thames |
| Historian | Marge Orr |
| Horticultural Learning Center | Roger Sawyer |
| Insects | Bob Brindley & Wayne F. Johnston |
| Library | Carol Gray |
| Community Outreach | Leo Grass |
| Plant Sale | Gloria Amorde, Chuck Aiello, Bob Brindley |
| Publicity | Patti Langille |
| Soil Testing | Leo Grass |
| Field Trip Coordinator | Barbara Leeb |
| Website | Patti Langille |
| Winter Program | Geneva Croft |
| Newsletter Editor | Ted Benice |

Key Intra-Activity Support Persons

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Communications | Shirley Purcell |
| Hours | Pamela Barrows |
| Beverages | Lorena Remington |

Committee Meeting Schedules:

Discovery Garden: Tuesday, October 14 at the Discovery Garden Pavilion

Insect: First and Third Mondays, 10 to 12AM at the Plant Clinic

Plant Clinic Calendar

October 2008

Plant Clinic Coordinator: Mildred Gum 673-3112 OR
Leo Grass 679-5971

Clinic Hours: 1:00 to 4:00 pm .. Mon-Wed-Fri
Saturday's Farmer's Mkt. 8:30-1:00 (through 10/25/08)
(** = VACANT & VOLUNTEER NEEDED.)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|---|
| | | | 1 C. Link, ** L. Oaks T. Upton | 2 | 3 J. Mercer, ** J. Agee J. Yetter | 4 **, ** J. Carpenter L. Robinson |
| 5 | 6 L. Grass M. Gum E. Aguirre J. Ivy | 7 | 8 C. Link, ** L. Campbell L. Robinson | 9 | 10 J. Mercer, J. Agee S. Haacke | 11 |
| 12 | 13 L. Grass M. Gum E. Aguirre, ** | 14 | 15 E. Moriarty, ** L. Oakes T. Upton | 16 | 17 J. Mercer, ** M. Curry, ** | 18 C. Link, M. Miles ** |
| 19 | 20 L. Grass, M. Gum V. Boler E. Aguirre | 21 | 22 **, ** L. Robinson M. Curry | 23 | 24 J. Mercer, ** M. Curry, ** | 25 M. Benice C. Register ** |
| 26 | 27 L. Grass M. Gum V. Boler C. Gomes | 28 | 29 **, ** M. Curry J. Carpenter | 30 | 31 J. Mercer, ** M. Curry L. Robinson | |

Updated as of September 19, 2008

PLANT CLINIC NEWS: by Mildred Gum

Plant clinic days will change in October and for the rest of the year. Two days in November and one day a week in December and January. If you need clinic hours, now is the time to sign up.

The Clinic has been fairly busy on recent Mondays, questions about preparing the garden for winter and spring and other timely topics.

Carol Gray has volunteered to prepare our statistical records for Steve to report. This is much appreciated. Volunteer hours are reported to OSU annually, this is why it is important to record all your hours, preferably early in the following month. You can check your total hours in the notebook in the Clinic office.

Good news, my treatments were successful. Thanks for all your cards, calls, thoughts and prayers, they worked!

**Douglas County
Master Gardeners
Newsletter**

1134 SE Douglas Ave.
Roseburg OR 97470
541 672 4461
1 800 883 7568

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE

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Executive meetings: second Wednesday, 9am, kitchen conference room; Chapter meetings: last Thursday, Jan thru May: 10am, annex auditorium; June, July, August: member's gardens, 10am; Sept:Pavilion, Discovery Garden, 10am; Oct, Nov: 10am, annex auditorium; (no December meetings)

**Douglas County Master Gardeners of
OSU Extension Service**

Important internet links:

Website: <http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/mg>

Discovery Garden: www.douglasmg.org

MG Plant Clinic Email: douglasmg@oregonstate.edu

Steve Renquist Email: steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu

Articles for the November
Newsletter are due Noon
Saturday, November 1st.
Please email articles to
Ted Benice
((tbenice@douglasfast.net)

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
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PERMIT 57

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