



Douglas County Master Gardeners

May 2013 Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 5

Calendar of Events

Tuesdays, 9 AM–12 PM
Discovery Garden Crew
Victory Garden Crew

Fri, May 3, 8 AM, Fairgrounds
Plant Sale Setup

Sat, May 4, 8 AM, Fairgrounds
Plant Sale

Mon, May 6, 10 AM, Annex
Insect Committee

Wed, May 8, 9 AM, Annex
Executive Board Meeting

Wed, May 15, TBA
Diagnostics Group

Mon, May 20, 10 AM, Annex
Insect Committee

Thu, May 30, 9 AM, Annex
Continuing Education –
Bee Pollination

Thu, May 30, 10 AM, Annex
Chapter Meeting

Gardening Ideas as a Dry Season Begins

Steve Renquist, OSU Horticultural Agent

It seems odd to say I have never seen my landscape and gardens look so good coming out of winter given the fact that we are about 15 inches behind our normal rainfall since January 1. However, if you think about the fact that most years in late April our yards are a soggy mess, then it makes sense. What we have seen is frankly ideal growing weather, not good moisture recharge weather. Mountain snowpack in the Southern Cascades is about 70% of normal for this time of year thanks to a wet fall. Recent temperatures have been downright glorious even though they have been about 10-15 degrees above normal. The long range forecast for the Pacific Northwest from the National Weather Service is calling for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation over the next 90 days. This potpourri of information is leading me to advise gardeners that the coming summer gardening season is most probably going to be a hot dry challenge.

Since most of us will continue to garden despite the potential for a tough growing season, I would like to get you thinking about things you can start planning on doing to be more efficient with your water. The first big water user is always the lawn. If your lawn is large plan to let some areas either go dormant or only get a minimum of water just to keep the roots alive while the leaf blades dry out. Giving turf an inch of water a month versus the normal 4 inches plus will allow it to come back faster in the fall with less dieback. You may decide to keep a smaller area green near your patio or home entry for aesthetics.

Prioritize the various zones in your landscape. You may have some areas with native or xeric plants that really don't need as much water as you normally supply. Those areas can be cut back to one watering per month as long as they are older established plants. It is important to continue your normal watering for rare or very expensive plants if they are not drought hardy. Most trees in the landscape really don't like frequent light irrigation so give them a good soak once or twice a month depending on the temperature.

Throughout your landscape minimize cultivation of the soil, especially with vegetable and fruit crops to keep soil moisture from being depleted more rapidly through evaporation. Then increase the use of mulch to help retain moisture in the soil. Most mulch long term is good for the soil but in the short term it keeps soil cool, and reduces weed competition. In vegetable and fruit gardens light colored straw mulches and some reflective synthetic mulch deter some insect pests.

If you garden with raised beds be prepared to water a little extra. In hot dry years raised beds dry out much faster than gardens in the ground. Gardening in containers in hot dry years will also be a little more challenging. When managing your fertilization throughout the landscape, remember that over fertilized vigorous plants tend to need more water than moderately fertilized plants.

When you are applying water around your landscape remember to water in the morning when evaporation will be less. Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses when possible, especially with food crops to lessen disease pressure and improve delivery efficiency. Don't use sprinkler systems that shoot water high into the air. Don't water too frequently you may actually be inducing root rot disease in many plants like oak trees and junipers. If you water out of our local streams and rivers be aware of stream levels and work to reduce your water use. If you have an in-ground irrigation system with a timer make sure you are not over watering. Surveys indicate that people with timers use 47% more water than those without timers. And households that need to drag hoses around (like me) use 33% less water than households with in-ground systems. Being thrifty with your water is good for our stream flows and your budget.

Plant Sale Cliff Notes....

Barbara Robinson, Sharon Hopkins

As you read this, the countdown to our Plant and Garden Expo has dwindled to less than a week. Master Gardener pre-sales have been held. Greenhouse workers are feverishly working to have all ready to ship to the fairgrounds on Friday morning.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, here are a few last minute reminders:

- ✓ Workers arrive @ fairgrounds 8 a.m. sharp Friday AND Saturday unless your committee chair has designated otherwise.
- ✓ Wear your name tag. You CANNOT work without it.
- ✓ Bring a potluck item both days.
- ✓ Remember our garden-themed hat contest. Customers love them!
- ✓ Wear your biggest smile AND comfortable shoes!
- ✓ Questions? Contact your committee chair or Barbara Robinson.

Lastly, thanks to everyone for your hard work and dedication. See you at the fairgrounds!



Your Chance to Win!

Our chapter has received a beautiful quilt donated by our own Master Gardener, Judy Huntley. The quilt squares denote the official flower of each state. After much discussion and thought, we have decided to hold an ongoing raffle with tickets being sold over the next several months. We will be selling raffle tickets at \$2 each or 3/\$5. Funds raised will go into the DCMG general fund and used to support our various programs. Look for your chance to enter this raffle at our various chapter activities including, the Plant and Garden Expo, chapter meetings, awards banquet, and bake sale. (You need not be a master gardener to enter.) The winner will be announced in December. What a wonderful Christmas present for some lucky person! THANK YOU Judy!



President's Report

Larry Sutton

Growing up in the 40's we developed a strong sense of community. I do not feel that my children got the same thing in the 70's and while part of that was being in a military family, part of it might have been California, but it felt more a movement away from the community feeling.

In the 40's everyone was a neighbor and everyone pulled together. Halloween was a community holiday with art contests, parades, and huge show in the city auditorium for everyone. Another community activity was May Day. This was before the communists had taken it over for their parades of military might. No, this was an outgrowth of the old saying, "April showers bring May flowers." In school we all learned to make baskets from construction paper and hanging cones from old newspapers. Cones and baskets were filled with a few pieces of candy and fresh cut flowers. As soon as the sun started to set (it actually happened earlier than without daylight savings time) the neighborhood children would run through the neighborhood, hanging baskets on door knobs, ringing doorbells, and retreating to the street to see the happy looks on the neighbors faces. Neighbors were helping to bring joy into the lives of neighbors.

I see the Master Gardeners doing much the same thing today. While we don't put cut flowers on doorknobs we do create a Discovery Garden that has become a community icon. Regularly we have mothers bring their children out to enjoy the sights, we have families bring their out of town guests and of course we see a parade of buses from the retirement homes pulling into our parking lot. Our garden has become an integral part of the Douglas County community.

Another and possibly our biggest community contribution will be occurring on the first weekend in May. We don't fill our baskets and cones with cut flowers but we do deliver the bounty of our greenhouses and yards to the fairgrounds to benefit the health and beauty of our community. Our annual plant sale is not only our biggest fund raiser of the year but it is also our biggest community outreach project. If you haven't signed up yet please do so. There are still a few areas that need volunteers and you could be the one we are looking for. Besides, this may just be your big chance to deliver a May basket.

Lastly, we are looking for someone to take over the supervision of the Umpqua Valley Farmers Market on Diamond Lake this summer. The position is supervisory and does not require you to spend four hours there every weekend. It will, however, require someone to insure that all slots are covered each week and that the needed materials are available for the MGs on duty. You don't have to be an expert in the plant clinic or know all the answers. Having a bit of organizational ability and being willing to see a job done right would sure help. If interested contact Judy Mercer. She is already lining up people to train you.

Vice President's Report

Fred Alley

Prior to our regular Master Gardeners' monthly meeting, as part of our Continuing Education program, we had a great and entertaining presentation by Jeff Giulietti, a Physical Therapist and Certified Athletic Trainer from Eugene Physical Therapy, LLC, on "Prevention of Injury in the Garden". He shared with us some enlightening and interactive facts on the strengths/weakness of our body and how we can more effectively and correctly use our body in performing many of our routine garden and yard activities. I think a number of us came away a more awareness of our physical capabilities and most importantly that we all need to continue exercising and building our muscle mass. As the saying goes: "use it or lose it"

This month's Continuing Education Program, May 30, 2013 9:00 to 10:00 AM will be a presentation by Cindy K. Bright-Pierre, Restoration Biologist, US Fish & Wildlife, Roseburg Field Office and the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District on "Attracting the Native Bee to Your Garden": gardening and farming for them and how to create bee boxes and other nesting habitat areas.



Most of us recognize the huge importance the bee is to our garden and yard and are very careful not to kill or injure bees. Without the native

bee, our garden, yard and world would be vastly different. These busy little creatures are responsible for pollinating a large variety of fruits, flowers, and vegetable. They are an important and vital part of our

ecosystem. Gardens and yards with the greatest diversity attract more bees. Come and join us for this presentation and learn how to make your garden and yard a veritable bee Mecca.

I just got back from my morning trip to several stores to purchase potting soil, steer manure and of course a few plants on sale. Not surprisingly I met a number of fellow Master Gardeners, so my morning spilled past lunchtime. The garden shops are all full of the latest and best of our favorite plants. As I walk through the garden displays, I think of my 92 year old Mother back in northern Wyoming, where it is raining and snowing. It reminds me very quickly that our Douglas County area is so perfect for year around gardening.



Here are my Mother's sprinklers deep in snow, waiting for their summer chore of watering the huge garden. Yes, even though my Mother is 92, she still enjoys

her green house and her garden. She is an excellent example of the person Jeff Giulietti described as keeping active and strong through the proper use of our body in performing our routine gardening tasks. We all hope to have this wonderful and rewarding life through gardening.

Lastly, just as a reminder, in June, July and August the Continuing Education Program is suspended; replaced by our monthly meeting been hosted by our selected Master Gardener home sites. June and July dates are committed and the August host is pending final selection.

Secretary's Report

Jen Bailey

The OSU Douglas County Master Gardeners chapter meeting was called to order at 10:22 AM on April 25, 2013 by President **Larry Sutton**. Fifty two members were in attendance. The agenda was accepted as written. The minutes of the March 2013 chapter meeting were approved as written.

HORTICULTURE AGENT – Steve Renquist solicited input on a gardening knee pad that the OSU Extension Master Gardeners program may offer to Master Gardeners. He has received 20-30 calls recently about trees (of all species) less than five years old “suddenly” dying. He believes that, due to

our mild winter, the trees haven't had a chance to “harden off”, and are especially susceptible to *Pseudomonas*, given the early-morning spring frosts.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – Vicki McAlister announced that OMGA membership cards are available for everyone who has paid their dues. **Larry Sutton** explained that nurseries north of Eugene may offer discounts to Master Gardeners showing membership cards.

OMGA REPRESENTATIVE – Rosemary Brinkley reported that she and **Michelle Harding-Olson** have volunteered to make the table decorations for the banquet at Mini-College in August. There will be sixteen presentations offered at Mini-College, including one by **Steve Renquist** on growing wine grapes. The OMGA web site still hasn't been updated with last year's Mini-College presentations and this year's speaker and registration information. **Jen Bailey** has updated our web site with information on this year's Mini-College, and Master Gardeners from across the state are now accessing our site. The latest issue of the OMGA newsletter is on the OMGA web site.

TREASURER – Toni Rudolph reviewed the Treasurer's Report.

VICE PRESIDENT – Fred Alley thanked **Barbara Robinson** for recommending Jeff Guilietti of Eugene Physical Therapy as today's presenter at the Continuing Education session. Fred explained that our Continuing Education sessions are now open to the public. On March 16th, he was interviewed on KPIC's Spotlight on Douglas County segment, announcing the Continuing Education program. **Bonnie Courter** also discussed the upcoming Plant Sale. Fred is scheduled for another interview on May 10th, to announce the May 30th Continuing Education session on native pollinators by Cindy Bright of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

PAST PRESIDENT -- Judy Huntley is on a cruise through the Panama Canal, but **Larry Sutton** reported that she has scheduled the annual Awards Banquet for September 28, 2013.

PRESIDENT – Larry Sutton read a thank you note from the Lane County Master Gardeners, for their recent visit with Larry, **Maureen Benice** and **Karolyn Riecks**. They are following our model for their Plant Clinic. Larry also announced that there will be a special evening program at the Discovery Garden in June, when **Steve Renquist** will teach us about wine.

PLANT SALE – Barbara Robinson distributed Plant Sale flyers to be posted around town. She had several flower-themed ties for guys to wear at the Plant Sale. The Plant Sale pre-sale for Master Gardeners only is today from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Discovery Garden, and again this Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Due to a crop failure, tomatoes will not be available at the pre-sale. **Bonnie Courter** has a sign-up sheet for those who take a lawn sign announcing the Plant Sale. Barbara thanked Bonnie for all her work on publicity for the Plant Sale. **Leo Grass** will set up the “Plant Sale Today” signs on the morning of the Plant Sale. If you want to participate in the potluck on Friday and/or Saturday, bring a dish to share. Please contribute a non-perishable food item to UCAN on the day of the sale, so we can double last year’s contribution of 570 lbs.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Leo Grass reported that **Diane Twete** will represent us at Bi-Mart’s upcoming Plant Day. **Pat Dinsmore** is helping with the Umpqua Community Center’s plant sale, the week after our sale. **Larry Sutton** will represent us at this event. **Nan Sieck** and **Leo Grass** will hold a session on tomatoes and seeding at the YMCA. Leo recently visited with Oak Park Senior Center.

PLANT CLINIC – Judy Mercer reported that all but two of the 2013 trainees have completed their two Plant Clinic training sessions, and are well on their way to completing their required 36 hours of Plant Clinic duty. She is impressed at the quality of these trainees. As of April 24th, there have been 101 contacts made in April. Judy reminded everyone to be aware of the marmorated stink bug. Encourage clients to bring in a sample, so we can confirm the presence of this insect in Douglas County. The best control is natural predators.

Judy received a thank you letter from the Deschutes County Master Gardeners, who have adopted our Plant Clinic system. Seventy five veterans and 30 new students have been through their new training program.

We still need a coordinator for the Umpqua Valley Farmers Market. **Maureen Benice** announced the Kruse Farms begins on May 18th. She has been in contact with the Lincoln County Master Gardeners, who are interested in our mentoring program.

DISCOVERY GARDEN – Jen Bailey gave **Julie Stanbery’s** report. Spring cleaning is going on, with changes and additions being made to the xeriscape and butterfly gardens. Next week, we will move wood chips around the new dahlia beds. We’ll have

an estimated date to begin irrigation soon. Please turn off lights in all the buildings, if you find them left on.

PUBLICITY – Bonnie Courter had nothing to report.

HALLMARK – Linda Thames reported that **Richard Johnstone’s** wife is home from the hospital. His Master Gardener activities will be somewhat limited for a while as he can only be away for short periods of time. **Philece Humphrey** and **Diana Young** recently had foot surgery (Diana’s second). **Paula Yingst** is making progress in rehab up in Eugene. The Greenhouse crew sent a card to **Marj Milroy**. Linda will send a card to Don Kruse, who recently had back surgery.

NEWSLETTER – Jen Bailey asked for more photographs for the May newsletter. The deadline is tomorrow.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – Vicki McAlister made the motion that “In March, the membership roster is available for pick up at the Plant Clinic. The Membership Director will distribute an updated roster via e-mail on a monthly basis.” The motion passed unanimously.

SHOW-AND-TELL – Della Neavoll presented **Judy Mercer** with a handcrafted “window” for the Plant Clinic. **Fred Alley** showed off a calendar produced by the Parker County, Texas, Master Gardeners, specifying gardening activities throughout the year.



Treasurer's Report

Toni Rudolph

INCOME 3/27/13 – 4/23/13

Dues-membership/hardcopy NL/interest/donation	\$40.82
Soil Testing	\$100.00
Pre-Sale – change	-\$100.00
T-shirt – payment to vendor	-\$584.00

TOTAL INCOME - \$543.18

EXPENSES 3/27/13 – 4/23/13

OMGA dues/hospitality	\$1,692.00
Soil Testing	\$76.29
DG -- Maintenance	\$44.66
Plant Sale – Advertising	\$235.00
Plant Sale – Electrical	\$897.22
Plant Sale – Plants, Supplies, Water	\$296.35
Trash to Treasures	\$63.19

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,304.71

Breakdown of our accounts

Checking	\$1,043.29
Money Market – Reserves	\$6,659.10
Money Market	\$11,075.70

Ending Balance 4/23/13 \$18,778.09

OMGA Report

Rosemary Brinkley, Michelle Harding-Olson

Interested in attending OMGA Mini-College this summer? The dates are August 7, 8, 9. Mini-College will be held on the campus of OSU at the LaSalle Stewart Center. Names of presenters and their topics can be found on the Douglas County Master Gardener web-site, thanks to Jen Bailey. Go extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/douglas-county-oregon-master-gardeners. There will be an Early Bird Discount if you register before July 7, 2013. Let's have a good representation from Douglas County Master Gardeners this year. For the new members of MG, Mini-College is open to the public, so bring along your other gardening friends for an educational, informative, and fun conference.

The latest OMGA newsletter, *The Gardener's Pen* is on line at www.oregonmastergardeners.org/GardenersPenNewsletter.html

Marcia Sherry and her crew are creating a very readable and enjoyable newsletter. Please take the time to take a look at it.

News from the Clinic

Judy Mercer, Plant Clinic Manager

Welcome to spring. The pace is really picking up in the Clinic; as of 4/24 we have seen 101 clients.

All but two of our new students have completed their two initial training sessions and many are well on their way to completing their 36 hours. The class of 2013 is already making a significant contribution.

To all of you who are uncomfortable about working in a windowless room; that will no longer be a problem in the Plant Clinic. Della Neavoll has made us a window. Drop by and see this lovely new addition. Thank you, Della.

We are still looking for a new point person for the Umpqua Valley Farmers Market. This is a very important venue for us and it would be a shame to lose it. It is a supervisory position; you are not required to be there every Saturday. If you are interested please contact me for more information. We have experienced people who will help you get started.

Western Oregon Garden Hints for May 2013 from OSU Extension

Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Preventative pest management is emphasized over reactive pest control. Identify and monitor problems before acting, and opt for the least toxic approach that will remedy the problem.

First consider cultural, and then physical controls. The conservation of biological control agents (predators, parasitoids) should be favored over the purchase and release of biological controls. Use chemical controls only when necessary, only after identifying a pest problem, and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. Least-toxic choices include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, organic and synthetic pesticides - when used judiciously.

Planning

- Prepare and prime irrigation system for summer.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. Wait until the soil is consistently above 70 F to plant tomatoes, squash, melons, peppers and eggplant.
- Place pheromone traps in apple trees to detect presence of codling moth. Plan a control program

of sprays, baits, or predators when moths are found.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- If needed, fertilize rhododendrons and azaleas with acid-type fertilizer. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal. Remove spent blossoms.
- When selecting new roses, choose plants labeled for resistance to diseases. Fertilize roses and control rose diseases such as mildew with a registered fungicide.

Planting/Propagation

- Plant dahlias, gladioli, and tuberous begonias in mid-May.
- Plant chrysanthemums for fall color.
- Plant these vegetables (dates vary locally; check with local gardeners):
Western Oregon: mid-May, transplant tomato and pepper seedlings.
Western valleys, Portland, Roseburg, Medford: snap and lima beans, Brussels sprouts, cantaloupes, slicing and pickling cucumbers, dill, eggplant, kale, peppers, pumpkins, summer and winter squash, onions, potatoes, tomatoes, watermelon.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- If an unknown plant problem occurs, contact your local Master Gardener hotline or plant clinic, for Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening
- Monitor blueberry, raspberry, strawberry and other plants that produce soft fruits and berries for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). To learn how to monitor for SWD flies and larval infestations in fruit, visit horticulture.oregonstate.edu/group/spotted-wing-drosophila.
- Manage weeds while they are small and actively growing with light cultivation or herbicides. Once the weed has gone to bud, herbicides are less effective.
- Trap moles and gophers as new mounds appear.
- Leafrolling worms may affect apples and blueberries. Prune off and destroy affected leaves.

- Monitor aphids on strawberries and ornamentals. If present, control options include washing off with water, hand removal, or using registered insecticides labeled for the problem plant. Read and follow all label directions prior to using insecticides. Promoting natural enemies (predators and parasitoids that eat or kill insects) is a longer-term solution for insect control in gardens.
- Spittle bugs may appear on ornamental plants as foam on stems. In most cases, they don't require management. If desired, wash off with water or use insecticidal soap as a contact spray. Read and follow label directions when using insecticides, including insecticidal soap.
- Control cabbage worms in cabbage and cauliflower, 12-spotted cucumber beetle in beans and lettuce, maggot in radishes. Control can involve hand removal, placing barrier screen over newly planted rows, or spraying or dusting with registered pesticides, labeled for use on the problem plant. Read and follow label directions when using insecticides.
- Tiny holes in foliage and shiny, black beetles on tomato, beets, radishes, and potato indicate flea beetle attack. Treat with Neem, *Bt-s*, or use nematodes for larvae. Read and follow label directions when using insecticides.
- Prevent root maggots when planting cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, collards, and kale) by covering with row covers or screens, or by applying appropriate insecticides.
- Monitor rhododendrons, azaleas, primroses and other broadleaf ornamentals for adult root weevils. Look for fresh evidence of feeding (notching at leaf edges). Try sticky trap products on plant trunks to trap adult weevils. Protect against damaging the bark by applying the sticky material on a 4-inch wide band of poly sheeting or burlap wrapped around the trunk. Mark plants now and manage with beneficial nematodes when soil temperatures are above 55°F. If root weevils are a consistent problem, consider removing plants and choosing resistant varieties. (See <http://bit.ly/oDOScK> for list of rhododendrons exhibiting resistance to adult root weevil feeding.)
- Control slugs with bait or traps and by removing or mowing vegetation near garden plots.

Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: Deadline for June 2013 newsletter is May 31th. Mail submissions to jen@skylondaranch.com.

Web Site: extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/douglas-county-oregon-master-gardeners

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487

Horticulture Agent: extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture, e-mail: steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu

OSU Douglas County Extension Service: extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas

OSU Gardening – web site: extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening, monthly gardening calendar: extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/calendar, monthly newsletter: extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/enews

OSU Master Gardeners – web site: extension.oregonstate.edu/mg, Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OSUMG

Oregon Master Gardeners Association – web site: www.omga.org, newsletter: www.omga.org/GardenersPen.htm, Mini-College: www.omga.org/MiniCollege.htm



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