



# DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 30, Issue 12

December 2015

## Dec. 2015 Calendar

Tues., Dec. 1, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Wed., Dec. 2, 10:00-Noon

Mentor Training, Annex Kitchen

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

Insect Committee

Tues., Dec. 8, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Wed., Dec. 9, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting

Tues., Dec. 15, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Dec. 15

Reimbursement receipts due to

Patrice

Sat., Dec. 19

Newsletter articles due to Bonnie

Friday, Dec. 25

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

**REMEMBER: MEMBERSHIP**

**DUES ARE DUE BY JAN. 1ST**

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

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Jan. 5, 9:00-4:00

Winter Training Class starts,

Potluck at noon



## The President's Post

**Chris Rusch**

### 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE THANKFUL!

As you read this, our Thanksgiving Holiday has passed. I hope yours was most enjoyable, and spent with friends and family!

What a terrific year our organization had due to the hard work of many of our DCMG volunteers! First, we hosted an outstanding winter program for our new members thanks to Steve Renquist, Maureen Benice and our awesome crew of mentor volunteers.

We also had three terrific summer meetings at the homes of Bonnie Courter, Tim and Georgia Richards, and Jean Wall. Thank you for opening your homes to us!

Next, thanks to greenhouses East and West, we had an extremely successful Plant Sale, our most important fundraising event of the year. Thank you, Sharon Hopkins, Barbara Robinson, Maureen Benice, Carol Bolt, Tasha King, Jackie Carpenter, Bruce Gravens, Gloria Amorde, Georgia Richards, Karolyn Riecks, Anne Waddington, Betty Ison and many others for your leadership in making this a successful event for us.

In addition we are thankful for the amazing work of all our volunteers at the Discovery Garden under the direction of Julie Stanbery. Our Discovery Garden is an amazing place that is enjoyed by our community. We are thankful for the important work of Mik and Ruth and their crew in the Victory Garden, growing tons of vegetables that help support the outstanding work of UCAN in our community. We also have many behind-the-scene operators that keep us ticking like Dave, Gale, Ken, LaVerne, Nathan, Pamela, Carol, Bob, Betty, Judy, Karen, Jan, Jeanie, Viviane, Jack, Debbie, Philese, Barbara, Marilyn, Elva, Gayle, Bill, Kish, Ivor and many others.

Oh, and we can't forget another successful fundraiser, dubbed "Trash-to-Treasure", with Cindy, Toni, and Debbie. And then there is still another amazing fundraiser, our annual Bake Sale that was

supported by Janet and JoAnn and many incredible volunteers.

Lastly, we all enjoyed another terrific annual Awards Banquet in October. Thanks to Judy Huntley and Betty Ison for the incredible work they did to organize this wonderful annual event. It is a great tradition.

Our Plant Clinic continues to be a great way to reach out to our community and train our new members. Thank you to our dedicated training core: Larry, Leo, Anne, and Bonnie. Our Hallmark program, under Linda's guidance, continues to keep our members in need supplied with our thoughts and prayers. We are so thankful for our messenger, Shirley, who keeps those emails coming. Bonnie has done a great job of making our newsletters something we all look forward to each month. Our Executive Board, past and present, keeps us organized, thanks to the efforts of Larry, Denise, Rosemary and Anne, Vicki and Patrice, Fred, and Barbara. And especially a big "thank you" to Steve Renquist for his terrific leadership and guidance. Wow! Thank you, EVERYONE, for making our DCMG organization so successful.

### **AND NOW 'TIS THE SEASON TO DECK THE HALLS!**

Now that the Christmas Holidays are upon us, you are probably looking for that perfect Christmas tree! Did you know that Oregon is the Christmas tree capital of the Nation? Yes we are! Oregon supports 63,000 acres in Christmas trees and sells over 6 million trees annually.

There are many vendors throughout the County selling trees. For more adventure and fun, you can get a permit to cut your own tree from the Forest Service or BLM. Just visit their offices in Roseburg, pay a small fee of five dollars and they will issue a permit along with a map of areas set aside for this purpose. It is really fun to venture out into the mountains to select and cut your own tree. You can also gather all kinds of beautiful evergreen boughs for decorating and wreath making.

Enjoy the Holidays!



## 2015 Bake Sale

### Janet Parkerson & JoAnn Pico



Master Gardeners, you went above and beyond the call of duty, baking up a storm and donating an amazing amount of pies, cookies, breads, muffins - you name it, we had it. Because of your efforts, we are proud to announce that we cleared \$1686.12, the best the Bake Sale has ever grossed. We would like to thank all of those who baked, worked the



sale or donated ingredients or money. The contribution of time, talent and donations made the Sale a great success.

Although it was pretty cold early in the day, later it warmed up and the sun even made an appearance. Heaps of volunteers, the best of the bakers and a spoonful of great weather

made a great recipe for a fantastic and profitable event.

The baked goods we received were beautiful, making it easy to sell. The volunteers who assisted customers did a great job interacting with the customers and helping them find items they were looking for. We had quite a few customers that had purchased in the past and knew just what they wanted.

This year we stayed open an extra hour. This allowed the Sherm's employees to shop at shift change. This made a big impact on our sales figures. Many of the employees had "window



shopped" during their breaks, so they were hungry and ready to buy at quitting time. The managers were fantastic, putting out hourly announcements promoting the Bake Sale. We even had Big O Tires telling all of their customers about the sale and putting up the flyer.

The bakers used a lot of local fruits and berries. This summer, keep us in mind by picking extra berries, peaches, cherries and apples and saving them for next year's Bake Sale. If you are not a baker, you can always contact us and we will get them to those who will transform them into magical delicacies. Please remember to hang on to your sturdy pie pans for next year.



This was our first year co-chairing this event and we wish to express our sincere thanks to Barbara Robinson and Sharon Hopkins. Without their advice and help, we certainly would have not been so successful.

Thank you again, Master Gardeners, and we wish you the Merriest of Christmases and a healthy, happy and plentiful New Year.

*Janet Parkerson & Jo Ann Pico*



## A Little “Housekeeping” Bonnie Courter

It's become a tradition in our special edition January Newsletter to highlight our various Board and Chairpersons for the benefit of the new Winter Training Class. The Newsletter will post articles written by MG's who are involved in leadership roles in the organization, introducing themselves and including a short summary of their various duties. I also like to include a photo of each so new members can recognize you, so if you have a photo of yourself, please send that as well, though I do have most of your photos on file.

If you would like to use what you wrote in last year's January edition, I'm fine with that - just **let me know!** You can refer to last year's Newsletter at <http://douglascountymg.org/docs/newsletter/dcmg201501.pdf>.

Please send me your write-ups by **Saturday, December 19**. Email: [rbcourter@gmail.com](mailto:rbcourter@gmail.com). I so appreciate everyone who contributes to the Newsletter - makes my job a breeze!

## Vice-President's Report

### Fred Alley

In listening to my fellow Master Gardeners, I know most of the members who garden will understand the principles, basics and techniques for gardening organically. When I called Bruce Gordon of Commonwealth Garden Shoppe in Canyonville, to ask him if he would consider making a "Organic Gardening" presentation to the DC Masters Gardeners on November 19th, he asked, "Isn't that like speaking to the choir"? If I had made that call 18 years ago, when Bruce and his wife, Joanne, started their Farmer's Market business, the response would have been, "Organic gardening? What is that?" I enjoyed Bruce's presentation, and could not help but think of gardening in my past, compared to my practices and experiences today.

Many, like me, grew up with large family gardens. My past, in rural northwest Wyoming, included my grandparents having a large garden, raising chickens, pheasants, sheep, a few cows and a fruit orchard. Across the five acres, on the other corner, were my aunt and uncle who had a large garden. Across the other way, was our longtime neighbors who raised, corn, potatoes, tomatoes, strawberries, and radishes for the small local grocery store. They also had chickens, geese and milk cows. Our place had a large vegetable garden as well, and each year my brother and I raised one Hereford, which was butchered each fall. We were totally a micro-sustainable community. We traded goods and services. And we all used TOTALLY ORGANIC products and practices: no chemicals, and no synthetic products, including pesticides and fertilizers. Well, not totally. One of my roles (which I gladly undertook) was to keep the family supplied with fresh trout from the creek that flowed through the properties. I say "not totally" because sometimes I would leave the organic worms home and fish with an "artificial lure". It was irresistible to the trout population.

B r u c e emphasized the basic tenet of organic gardening is to "feed the soil" and the soil will feed the plants. Plants get water, air and nutrients from the soil. The more organic matter that is regularly introduced will continue to



increase the produce yields. In our Sustainable Gardening Class, we stress the importance of feeding depleted soil with composted plants, or planting legumes to add nitrogen to an area that had been planted with heavy feeders.

I especially like two important and key comments made by Bruce.

1. "Don't wear out our soil, keep adding organic material." Good additions include compost, grass clippings, dried leaves, and kitchen scraps to chicken manure. I remember as a young boy bringing home a bag of twelve large rainbow and brown trout. After Mom and I cleaned them, she would direct me to the garden, where I would dig the remains into the soil, particularly in the areas where the garden was planted. One of the soil amendments, Bruce recommended, was the Down-to-Earth Pro-Organic mix. The Pro-Organic growing medium is specially formulated for organic gardeners and growers. It is a lightweight, ready to use mix with exceptional water retention and optimum air capacity, enhanced with organic worm compost, mycorrhizal fungi and organic fertilizers to encourage expansive root development and efficient nutrient uptake.

2. "Be open to new ideas." Bruce gave a number of ideas or products suggested by his wife that he resisted, only to find out later that she was right. We need to be open to experimenting in our gardening practices. His use of alyssum, in his hanging baskets to fend off aphids was a great example. The aphids avoid alyssum, and alyssum is one of the best trailing flowers for hanging baskets. Over the years, Bruce developed quite a knowledge and interest in beneficial insects. Many insects and animals are considered beneficials, preying on the pests. Simply spraying chemicals many times kill all insects, beneficial or not. Ladybugs and parasitic wasps enjoy an aphid banquet. Birds will munch on grubs. Frogs, lizards and even snakes all contribute to the balance in your garden (I sort of freak out on the arrival of snakes).



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541-677-1882

Toni Rudolph: [1tonirudolph@gmail.com](mailto:1tonirudolph@gmail.com)  
541-673-7803

Having said all this, yes, making a presentation on "Organic Gardening" to a bunch of Master Gardeners may have been "preaching to the choir". On the other hand, Organic Gardening and Sustainable Gardening are fast becoming a way of life for much of the American population. Who else but the Master Gardeners are more prepared and qualified to carry this message.

If you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions for more Continuing Education Programs, please free feel to contact Fred Alley 541-733-6232 or email me at [fhasla@msn.com](mailto:fhasla@msn.com).

## Trash to Treasure Sale

### Cindy Rich & Toni Rudolph

The 2016 Trash to Treasure Sale will be in March - date to be announced soon. This will be our last year to co-chair this event. We are looking for a couple of people to take over. If you are interested or have questions, please feel free to contact either of us.

Start saving your clean, useable items now to donate to this fundraiser. More information to come in January.

## Treasurer's Report

### Patrice Sipos

#### INCOME 10/27/15 - 11/27/15

Donations/Interest	\$2.19
Soil Testing	\$0.00
Plant Sale - Post	\$0.00
Bake Sale	<u>\$1,686.12</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,688.31</b>

#### EXPENSES 10/27/15 - 11/27/15

Banquet & Awards	\$0.00
Plant Clinic (Library)	\$34.00
Special Events (Bake Sale)	\$57.01
Newsletter Postage	\$19.88
Website Development	\$0.00
DG - Various	\$260.20
HLC - Various	\$159.47
Plant Sale - Various	<u>\$906.30</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,436.86</b>

#### Breakdown of our accounts

Checking	\$3,118.31
Money Market - Reserves	\$8,659.10
Money Market	<u>\$41,118.18</u>
<b>Ending Balance 11/27/15</b>	<b>\$52,895.59</b>

## Holiday Cactus

### Bonnie Courter

As we enter the holiday season, it's hard not to notice some colorfully-flowered houseplants sporting odd-shaped leaves popping up on store shelves. The Holiday Cactus is a native of Brazil, and popular as a fall and winter flowering houseplant because of its flamboyant, colorful blooms that can be found in red, rose, purple, lavender, peach, orange, cream and white.

There are actually three kinds: the Thanksgiving cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*), the Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*) - both native to the tropics - and the Easter cactus (*Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri*). These are named according to their respective time of bloom. Because of its long bloom time (7-8 weeks), the Thanksgiving cactus is the one most seen for sale during the winter holidays.



Thanksgiving and Christmas cacti should be left outdoors in light shade until night temperatures dip into the 40's. At this time, they do best at temperatures between 50 and 65 degrees, so bring them indoors in a cool area, away from all light between 5 PM and 8 AM, watering weekly. They should begin to set bud sometime in November through January.

Easter cactus requires a dry period since it is not a tropical plant but is native to the natural forests of Brazil. So from October to November, very little water is required for flower bud initiation, and should be placed in the same cool area under shorter light period

during this time. In December, water sparingly and raise the temperature to about 65 degrees. Flowering should occur around March.



Regardless of which type of cactus you may have, avoid high temperatures and heat fluctuations when the plant is flowering. Lack of flowering is directly related to the cool temp/short day treatment.

Holiday cacti flower best when kept somewhat pot bound. Repot only about once every three years, in the spring, if necessary. Water only when the soil is dry to the touch - don't let the soil become waterlogged, especially during the dark days of winter, as root rot is one of its major diseases. However, following bud set in the fall, the potting soil must be kept evenly moist to prevent flower bud abscission. Fertilize plants monthly from the time new growth starts in late winter or early spring, and throughout the summer using a one-half strength soluble fertilizer such as 20-10-20 or 20-20-20. Holiday cacti require a higher amount of magnesium than many plants, so alternate this with Epsom salts mixed at 1 t./gallon of water during the

To distinguish between the two *Schlumbergera* species, the anthers of the Thanksgiving cactus are yellow, whereas the anthers on the Christmas cactus

are purplish-brown. These "leaf cacti" have flattened stems instead of leaves and flowers are produced from notches in these stems, at the tips. On the Thanksgiving cactus, these stem segments each have 2-4 saw-toothed serrations or projections along the margins. Stem margins on the Christmas cactus are more rounded.

Flower bud initiation responds to cool temperatures and shortened day length.



growing season. Stop fertilization using the late summer for greater flower bud production in the fall.

With a little care and attention, your holiday cactus should last for many years (easy to propagate too!), bringing lots of color to your home during the dark days of winter.



**Don't Forget!**  
**Winter Training Class**  
**Potluck**  
**Tuesday, January 5th, Noon**  
Bring your favorite lunch entree,  
salad or bread  
Also will need to provide snacks for  
the day.  
Contact Barbie Hamby  
for more information  
559-355-4199

## **Plant Clinic** **Chris Rusch**

We had only 40 visitors to the Plant Clinic in November. The questions were still challenging and wide-ranging in scope. We heard about all kinds of lawn problems from crane flies to weeds. The hot summer was tough on lawns. In addition, we continue to hear from clients about drought damage to trees and shrubs showing up after our long hot summer. We always get the occasional weed or insect to identify, which is challenging and fun.

In December and January, the Plant Clinic will only be open on Mondays, but we still need volunteers to help out. So come on by and sign up for a fun-filled afternoon with fellow MG's, and a chance to not only learn something new, but also assist our neighbors with their gardening conundrums (which, after all, is part of our mission).

## **Community Outreach** **Leo Grass**



**Sutherlin Garden Club enjoys a tour of  
the Discovery Garden.**

## Innovate!

### Bob Brindley

As I mentioned in the October newsletter, this column is about what I learned during the last five years with regards to container gardening, soil, watering, tomatoes, and other miscellaneous vegetable and herb crops.

Remember this is not scientific research, but is based on a limited sample size, research by others, and manipulation of various factors at the same time. As a former research scientist, I know what I would have to do to make this a scientific study, and I don't have the time, land, money or desire to make it so. In other words, this works for me, but I have no idea if it is the best solution to the challenges of container gardening. I will continue to experiment with changes, probably for as long as I grow vegetables and herbs. At the end of the article, I will tell you about some of the things I will be working on next year.

Lets start with containers. I have used all kinds of containers. For the purpose of this discussion, I am including raised beds as containers, which I have used both as a open-bottom raised bed in contact with the natural soil and a plastic-lined closed bed that can be visualized as a plastic swimming pool inside a raised bed. More about those later.

In addition, I have used ceramic, fiberglass, and plastic containers. But currently I am shifting all my container plants (except the raised beds) to fabric pots. Here is my reasoning. First, I don't care what they look like, but I do care what I spend. The reason I don't care what they look like is because they are located in one part of the garden, nicknamed "in the lab", which is a production and experimental area. It doesn't have to be pretty for me. As far as cost, fabric

bags cost less then other types of containers of the same size. Currently I use 5, 10, 15, and 20 gallon containers. Next year I will be using more of the 15 and 20 gallon bags plus some 30 gallon bags for potatoes. Plus, I might be using one that measures 6 foot across for an aquaculture system! I'm still exploring how that might work.

Second, the roots of plants don't become root-bound in fabric pots. Instead, when they get to the fabric, they break up into smaller roots which is known as root pruning. It is said that this happens automatically because the roots see light coming through the fabric, and do the same thing they would do if they were coming up to the ground surface beneath the plant.



Third, it's easy to cut little pockets into the sides of the fabric pots for plants such as strawberries. It is easy to get 30 or more strawberry plants into a 10 gallon fabric pot using the pockets and the top surface of the pot. I have one pot that has been in production for 4 years. If one of the plants dies, I just replace it in the spring. It's easy to turn on a regular basis to make sure all the plants get sun, and also easy to move if you think there is a better area for sun during the production season. Or in August or September you can move it to

the shade where production will continue, but the leaves will not burn nor will you need to water as often.

Fourth, you can easily put them away for the winter, but not because they will break down outside during the winter. The pot that is 4 years old has never been put away or emptied, yet it shows no defects in the material. Yes, there is moss growing on it, but that has not interfered with strawberry production. You don't have to put them away at all, but if you do put them away, you could move them to a central location where you could even stack them until

next spring (assuming they had contained annuals which you have pulled and disposed of). What I did with some of my bags last year was empty the soil into garbage cans, mixed them well, and then in spring, after I got a MG soil test, add the appropriate amount of organic fertilizers, trace ingredients and biochar before I refilled each of the pots which already contained new compost to fill the pot up to approximately 25% of the total volume. These



were also mixed together, watered, and allowed to sit for 7 days before plants were added. The advantage to this method is that you churn up the compacted soil. I find it easier, plus more pleasant and tidier to do, than to do the process in the pot itself. However, so far, I have not noted any production difference between the two methods. If you plan to put the soil in garbage cans without the lid on, make sure to punch some small holes in the bottom of the can for water drainage. I have not tried putting the lid on the can and keeping it dry all winter. It might work, but I would consult with Steve about whether it makes sense first. This will make it to my project list for the coming year.

Well, apparently I have either learned more than I thought I did, or I'm not able to express it in a concise manner! So this column will be continued in the February Newsletter and maybe April also.

Thank you to those that encouraged me to continue to write this column. As you see, it is to be continued.

## Fred's Fav's



**Oregon State University**  
**Master Gardener™**  
**2016 Winter Training Program**

Douglas County- Roseburg Tuesday 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM

<b>January 5</b>	AM	Botany I	John Punches
	PM	Climate and Weather of Douglas County	Steve Renquist
<b>January 12</b>	AM	Botany II (Physiology)	John Punches
	PM	Veg Propagation*/Tree Fruit*	Team/Steve Renquist
		Discovery Garden orientation	
<b>January 19</b>	AM	Pruning Trees, Shrubs, and Vines	Steve Renquist
	PM	Veg Propagation*/ Tree Fruit*	Team/Steve Renquist
		Discovery Garden orientation	
<b>January 26</b>	AM	Insects	Megan Woltz
	PM	Concurrent Sessions	Master Gardeners
<b>February 2</b>	AM	Pesticide Safety	Steve Renquist
	PM	Plant ID/Greenhouse Seeding	Bryan Benz / MG's
<b>February 9</b>	AM	Plant Disease and Diagnosis	Steve Renquist
		Vegetable Gardening	Marjorie Neal
<b>February 16</b>	AM	Soils/Fertilization	Steve Renquist
	PM	Plant ID/ Greenhouse Seeding*	Bryan Benz / MG's
<b>February 23</b>	AM	Care of Urban Trees/Seed Saving	Tal Blankenship
	PM	Weed ID and Control	Shelby Filley
<b>March 1</b>	AM	Berry Crops	
	PM	Composting/Cover crops	Joe Yetter/ Steve Renquist
<b>March 8</b>	AM	Vert. Pests/Landscape with natives	Leo Grass/ Tal Blankenship
	PM	IPM	Steve Renquist
<b>March 15</b>	AM	Discovery Garden Final*	Master Gardener Team
	PM	Final Exam Review	Steve Renquist

Locations: Douglas County Extension Office-Roseburg  
1134 S.E. Douglas Ave. Phone 672-4461

**DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2015 DUES**  
**and REPLACEMENT NAME TAG**

(Please pay **BEFORE** January 1, 2015)

***PRINT ALL information below EVEN if nothing has changed:***

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ ***Here is \$10 for my dues which includes the online MG Newsletter.***

\_\_\_\_ ***Please mail my newsletter. I have included an EXTRA \$8.50 to cover postage.***

Please make checks out to **DCMG** and include the above form. You can drop off your completed form and payment in the dues drawer at the plant clinic or mail it to me. Checks may not be deposited until after January 1, 2015.

Those needing a **replacement name tag** should contact me before mid-January. I will be keeping a list to add to the trainee class member's order. Please provide your name as you want it to appear on the name tag, your class year, and your contact info (either email or phone number). You will be contacted with the cost once the name tags have arrived.

Denise Fennell  
Membership Director

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# OSU DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER Chapter Meeting November 19, 2015

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by President, Chris Rusch. There were 47 in attendance.

**Minutes:** The minutes were approved as distributed.

**Agent's Report - Steve Renquist:** Steve has been involved in the interviewing process for the hiring of a new Provost for Extension Service. This person represents the Extension to the Oregon State University system.



Temperatures in the mid-20's are forecast for next week. Steve advised everyone to make sure everything is winterized by covering faucets, protecting your pipes, etc.

Steve shared his thoughts on how we can be more proactive in reaching the public with our various programs, workshops, etc. Contact numbers have been consistently going down as

the younger generation chooses to connect electronically. He would like to see us focus and put more energy in trying to be more outward-reaching. Steve encouraged the chapter to think about educational classes throughout the year. Members should continue to think about how they can do a class in their area of expertise, aimed at educating the public. Steve praised the many proactive things we already do such as: outreach blogs (biochar), Ask An Expert (online), Ask a Master Gardener (in the News-Review), Discovery Garden signage, and Spring Into Gardening.

Steve believes the signage project to be one of our best forward-thinking outreach programs and has received a lot of positive feedback. Spring Into Gardening will be moving to April, closer to gardening season, and will be a shared endeavor with the Master Food Preservers teaching a session.

There have been a total of 4300 contacts this year, including the Plant Clinic and the many other venues we staff. Kudos to Larry Sutton for his participation in the Ask An Expert program. His work was recently recognized in an email sent out by the University.

The County has been removing liquid amber trees from the park for safety concerns. Danger trees have been identified and will be removed. There is a plan for replanting.

## OFFICER REPORTS

**Membership - Denise Fennell:** Membership fees are due January 1. Denise encouraged members to complete the dues form and get their dues in as soon as possible. Forms are attached to the Newsletter and are available in the Plant Clinic.

**OMGA – Anne Bacon:** The quarterly OMGA meeting was held at Linn County Extension in Tangent on November 7th. An audit of the financial records was held in July. The records were approved and found to be in compliance with GAP.

Gail Langellotto discussed the following:  
She now has 100% state funding for her position. She is working on the online Master Gardener Course and on finalizing the new Master Gardener Handbook. She will be taking a six month sabbatical to complete the handbook.

Gail received funding to add staff to help her with the National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture (NICH). They are hoping to get attention from the USDA for consumer and community horticulture and urban agriculture for research and extension.

OSU received a grant to hire a professor for pollinator health and one dedicated to slug research.

NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture) Project will study community landscapes to create places conducive to healthy lifestyles, such as walking trails.

The Master Gardener International Conference will be held July 10-14, 2017 in Portland. There will be over 72 session choices. Keynote speakers include Dan Hinkley of Heronswood Nursery, John Marsloff, University of Washington Wildlife Professor, and Renee Shepherd of Renee's Garden Seeds in Portland. Master of Ceremonies for the week will be Ciscoe Morris. More information may be found at [blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017IMGC/](http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017IMGC/)

The following items were also discussed:  
Input from chapters on how to improve the OMG website by the new web manager has been requested. Articles and suggestions for topics/themes are also needed for The Gardener's Pen Newsletter.

Mini college will be held at Linfield College August 4-6. PayPal registration will once again be available.

Josephine County will host the March OMGA meeting.

Amendments to the bylaws were approved as posted on the OMGA website.

The new slate of officers was approved as follows: President Al Cook, President Elect Marilyn Scheffler, Treasurer Katherine Johnson, Secretary Sue Nesbitt, 1st VP Marcia Sherry, 2nd VP (open)

Someone is needed to take over the Search for Excellence Program.

Condolences to Douglas County in light of the UCC tragedy.

The 2016 budget was approved.

**Treasurer** – Chris Rusch reported for Patrice Sipos: Financials were distributed. Updates on the budget are available on the web at [http://douglascountymg.org/mg\\_documents\\_forms.html](http://douglascountymg.org/mg_documents_forms.html) Outstanding bills should be submitted soon for payment before the end of the year.



**Vice President** - Fred Alley: Fred thanked Bruce Gordon of Commonwealth Garden Shoppe in Canyonville for his excellent presentation. He also reminded everyone there will not be a December chapter meeting.

**Past President** - Larry Sutton: No report

**Secretary** - Barbara Robinson: No report

**President** – Chris Rusch: Chris advised the 2016 budget is being presented with a deficit due to the need for greenhouse renovations

and tree trimming in the Discovery Garden. There is sufficient money in our reserves to cover this deficit. Chris reminded everyone there will not be a chapter meeting in December but there will be an Executive Board meeting on December 9.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch:** The clinic is now open on Monday and Wednesday. December and January will go to Mondays only. Clientele has slowed down considerably. Chris will compile statistics to include the end of the year. Current Plant Clinic trainers will be returning to train the 2016 class.

**Winter Training – Denise Fennell:** There are 32 signed up for the new class. Barbie Hamby volunteered to coordinate the new class potluck, filling in for Valerie Call. Mentors will soon find out names of their students. A final mentor meeting is scheduled for December 2nd, 10 A.M. in the Extension kitchen.



**Westside Greenhouse – M a u r e e n Benice:** The Westside core group continues to work on Tuesdays. Although big crews are no longer needed, anyone willing to help is welcome. There has been an issue with

the front gate being left unlocked. If you go through this gate, other than during our normal crew work days (Tues. 9-12), please make sure you lock the gate when you leave. Seed and greenhouse supplies have been ordered for 2016.

**Eastside Greenhouse – Bruce Gravens:** Bruce reported all has been buttoned up for the

winter on the Eastside. Although they did not officially request crews the last couple weeks, they were surprised with some of the biggest crews they've experienced. Regular crews will once again be needed after the first of the year.

**Discovery Garden – Janet Parkerson for Julie Stanbery:**

The Festival of Lights begins Nov 22nd. Please let Julie know if you see any signs of damage, anything out of place, or litter piling up around Helleck Hall.

The electricity will be on at the pavilion for the horse carriage people. The door will be unlocked so they can reboot the breaker if they overload the circuit.

Umpqua Basin water has been turned off in the Discovery Garden. The pipes will be wrapped and left that way until spring. The hyper tufa leaf in the sun garden will be turned upside down on purpose. It will freeze if it gets full of water.

Due to the cold weather forecast, the lights will be on in the closet of the bathrooms. Water will be turned off in them if the temperature goes below 30 degrees and a sign will be placed on the doors. There are two porta potties there through the holidays.

Noel and Julie will be winterizing the compost tea pump. Please leave it wrapped until spring.

All the field pipes have been disconnected so do not turn on the river water for ANY reason.

There are a lot of wood chips at the HLC. MG's are welcome to take a load or two. If you need your vehicle filled, tractor man will be available on TUESDAYS 9-noon. It would be best to call to confirm he can help you. Please don't ask for special service any other day.

**Publicity/Newsletter – Bonnie Courter:** Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, deadline for the December newsletter is the end of November. We all have busy schedules so the sooner you

can it to Bonnie the better. PSA's have been sent out for the Bake Sale.

**Facebook** – Barbara Horst: Our Facebook page has 628 followers. Please “like” our page if you haven’t already and be sure to check back frequently to boost our “viewed” numbers.



**Bake Sale** - Janet Parkerson and Jo Ann Pico: Our annual Bake Sale will be this Saturday in front of Sherm’s Thunderbird Market. Janet and Jo Ann expressed their thanks to all who have signed up to help.

**Hallmark** – Linda Thames: Marianne Majors is back at home undergoing physical therapy after surgery. Aaron Williams had surgery.

**Trash to Treasure** – Cindy Rich and Toni Rudolph: Cindy and Toni are looking for someone to step up and shadow them this year in order to take over the sale in 2017. This is the LAST year they are heading up this money maker. Please call Cindy or Toni if you are interested. This year’s sale will be in March, with a firm date to follow. Please save all your treasures and GOOD, clean trash. Donors will need to keep their items until the sale as there is no place to store merchandise.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Copies of the proposed 2016 budget were made available at last month’s chapter meeting, today’s meeting, in the newsletter, and online. Betty Ison moved the 2016 budget be approved as proposed. The motion was seconded and passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

A new historian is needed for the chapter. In the past scrapbooks have been kept, however the chapter is open to suggestions for changing the dynamic i.e. a digital format, etc. Contact Chris if you are interested or have questions.

## **SHOW AND TELL**

Linda Thames showed off her 5+ lb. Red Garnet sweet potato. She has harvested over 90 pounds from four plants.

Betty Ison brought in Toad Lilies, a shade perennial, to share with Master Gardeners.

Toni Rudolph reminded people open enrollment for changing your Medicare advantage plan ends December 7th.

Bob Brindley presented “Holiday Food Tasting” with pumpkin and sweet potatoes showcased. Several members have brought their favorite dishes for sampling after the meeting.



**Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 A.M. by President, Chris Rusch.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Robinson  
DCMG Secretary

# Garden hints from your OSU Extension Faculty

## December Calendar

The Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices.

Preventative pest management is emphasized over reactive pest control. Always identify and monitor problems before acting and opt for the least toxic approach that will remedy the problem. The conservation of biological control agents (predators, parasitoids) should be favored over chemical controls.

Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. First consider cultural, then physical and biological controls. Choose the least-toxic options (insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides — when used judiciously).

### Maintenance and Clean Up

- Spread wood ashes evenly on vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 pounds/100 square feet/ year. Don't use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.
- Protect new landscape plants from wind. Use stakes, guy wires and/or windbreaks as needed.
- Yard sanitation: rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds and hoe or pull winter weeds.
- Turn the compost pile and protect from heavy rains, if necessary.
- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, and fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow or ice breakage.
- Western Oregon: Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.

- Western Oregon: Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water regularly during the winter.
- During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tilling, ditching and French drains are possible short-term solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales as a longer-term solution.

### Planting/Propagation

- Western Oregon: Good time of year to plant trees and landscape shrubs.

### Pest Monitoring and Management

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. Remove weeds to prevent rodents from using them as hiding places. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Avoid mounding mulching materials around the bases of trees and shrubs. The mulch might provide cover for rodents.
- Monitor spruce trees for spruce aphids. Treat if present in large numbers. Read and follow pesticide label directions.

### Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Protect poinsettias from cold, place in sunlight, don't let leaves touch cold windows; fertilize with houseplant fertilizer to maintain leaf color.
- Monitor houseplants for adequate water and fertilizer. Water and fertilizer requirements generally are less in winter.



# Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: The deadline for the January 2016 Newsletter is December 19th. E-mail submissions to Bonnie Courter: [rbcourter@gmail.com](mailto:rbcourter@gmail.com)

Website: [www.douglascountymg.org](http://www.douglascountymg.org)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487)

Horticulture Agent: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture),  
[steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu](mailto:steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu)

OSU Douglas County Extension Service: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas)

OSU Gardening Information: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening)

OSU Master Gardeners Program: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg)

Oregon Master Gardeners Association (OMGA): [www.oregonmastergardeners.org](http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org)



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