



DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 31, Issue 2

February 2016

Feb. 2016 Calendar

Mon., Feb. 1, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Mon., Feb. 1, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Feb. 2, 8:30-4:00

Winter Training Class

Thurs., Feb. 4, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Mon., Feb. 8, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Feb. 9, 8:30-4:00

Winter Training Class

Wed., Feb. 10, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting

Thurs., Feb. 11, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Thurs., Feb. 11, 1:00-4:00

Pruning flowering trees, DG

Mon., Feb. 15, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Mon., Feb. 15, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Feb. 16, 8:30-4:00

Winter Training Class

Thurs., Feb. 18, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Mon., Feb. 22, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Mon., Feb. 22, 1:00-4:00

Pruning roses, hydrangeas -DG

Tues., Feb. 23, 8:30-4:00

Winter Training Class

Thurs., Feb. 25, 9:00-10:00

Continuing Education, Ext. Annex

Thurs., Feb. 25, 10:00

Chapter Meeting, Ext. Annex

Sat., Feb. 27, 8:30-4:00

Spring Into Gardening Seminars

Mon., Feb. 29, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew



The President's Post

Chris Rusch

Greetings, Everyone, and welcome to the new class of Master Gardeners for 2016! They are now learning about all the great programs and projects DCMG's are involved in.

It's hard to get excited about gardening with the weather being so cold and gray, but all it takes for me is to get out my seed catalogues and make up my wish list. I like to start most of my vegetable plants from seed in my small greenhouse. I was instantly hooked by my first attempt many years ago. My order is now in and I hope to receive it in the mail soon.

Some of the plants I like to get started in February include tomatoes, peppers, and onions (I like to grow onions from seed). By mid-February I always try to get in a row of sugar snap peas. A new tomato variety I tried last year and ordered again is Katana. It is a robust plant and has excellent disease resistance. The tomato has a rich flavor and is a great slicer. I also like to grow the classic heirlooms, Brandywine and San Marzano. I prefer onion plants versus sets mostly for their storability and a better selection of varieties. I like to grow 4-5 varieties. My favorites are Walla Walla, Copra, Milestone, Talon and Borettana. The Copra I have stored for up to 10 months and it still keeps its firmness and great flavor.

Happy garden dreaming!

Our social networking is paying off! If you are a Facebook person, please come to our DCMG page and "like us". <https://www.facebook.com/douglascountymastergardeners>

Vice-President's Report

Fred Alley



"Geology 101" by Larry Broker. What a wonderful and informative presentation at the January 28, 2016 Continuing Education Program! Geology is so complex and broad, it is difficult to know where to start and where to end. Larry, a retired Forest Service Geologist, started his presentation at the global perspective and finished with

local Douglas County geology. As evident in the auditorium photo, Larry's presentation was attended by 72 members, the largest audience during the last five years. The second highest attendance (68) was at a March 26, 2013 presentation by Geoff Niles on "All you want to know about Oregon mushrooms". Interestingly, Larry conducts occasional field trips for Umpqua Community College and other special groups and he offered to keep me posted when those trips might occur.

It was obvious that Larry has a significant knowledge of geology, and in particular Oregon and Douglas County geology. The slide presentation included specific geological sites in Douglas County that certainly peaked my interest in a personal visit. Several other members expressed an interest as well in participating in the field trips. Chris Rusch will also keep us posted.



I suspect our high attendance happened for a number of reasons. 1) It's the first 2016 meeting and we had no chapter meeting in December. 2) The topic "Geology 101" generated a lot of interest, and 3) we simply have more members who want to attend our Continuing Education and Chapter Meetings. We were pleased, as well, at the attendance of a good number of our 2016 Master Gardener Trainees.

It's difficult to realize the world with basically one continent, and over millions of years, splitting into the separate continents we know today. When you google "Geology 101" or "Douglas County Oregon Geology" you may be overwhelmed with information, much of it highly technical. As expressed by Larry, not only is the world's geology continually changing, so is the understanding of geology itself. I was surprised with Larry's comment that the geological land mass movements continue to move in different directions, depending



on specific location and circumstances at the "rate of the growth of our fingernails." Oregon and Douglas County is full of geological formations, many of them identified by Larry during his presentation. I chuckled when Larry asked "How do you dig black mud?" Answer: "With two shovels, one to dig with and the second to clean the shovel you dig with". I'm confident most of us have had the experience.

Our February 25, 2016 Continuing Education Program presentation will be "How to Build/Prepare Your Soil for Spring" by Mike Winters of Wintergreen Nursery in Winston. Mike also has a local radio Talk Show program on KQEN, called the Mike Winters Lawn & Garden Show. His presentation will have a great tie into Geology 101, focusing on the soil in our lawns and gardens. Mike has a broad knowledge of gardening, lawn, landscaping, maintenance, watering, trees, pruning, etc., so I very confident you will enjoy his presentation. In discussing possible topics with Mike, he asked what he could present to "highly knowledgeable Master Gardeners" and of course I re-affirmed we all continue to learn something new every day. I also reminded him of his past presentation on March 28, 2014 on "Training Bonsai Trees" - certainly not a subject many of us "Master Gardeners" knew much about.

With that being said, remember the Continuing Education Program is open to the public, so please feel free to bring/invite a friend. Also, if you have an idea for a topic, please contact me by phone (541-733-6232) or email (phasla@msn.com).

New Swinger Bars

Betty Ison, Awards Chair

The following volunteers have earned new swinger bars for 2016. Come see Betty Ison to get your new swinger. You must turn in your old swinger to get a new one. Just as a reminder new swingers are only given out once a year in January, so if your name is not on this list you have not earned a new bar and will have to wait until January of next year should you earn the hours to get one during the year.

60 Hours: Jill Beverlin, Marry Black, Iva Greywolf, Terry Grove, Charlotte Hennessy, Linda Kerl, Julie Mann, Bill Saily, Stormy Speaker, Jayne Strader, Nancy Thompson, Carene Villegas

200 Hours: Nancy Fuller, Sandy Grindle, Kathy Hart, Steve Hart, Barbara Horst, John Jasper, Les Karcher, Jeanie Owen, JoAnn Pico, Georgia Richards, Jim Rogers, Ruth Saily, Ann Severson, Martha Sinkula, Ed Stoll

500 Hours: Anne Bacon, Ivor Chapman, David Clark, Kish Doyle, Bruce Gravens, Jan Kirchner, Merrill McFarland, Darlene Morey

750 Hours: Betty Bean, Carol Bolt, Beth Brown, Denise Fennell

1000 Hours: Jen Bailey, Rosemary Brinkley, Cindy Rich, Elva Sellens

1500 Hours: Bonnie Courter, John Denny, Dave Hopkins, Sharon Hopkins, Vicki McAlister, Chris Rusch

2000 Hours: Mik Carlson, Ken Hayes, Jack Machulies, Gale Robinson

2500 Hours: Barbara Robinson

3000 Hours: Leo Grass

3500 Hours: Maureen Benice

4000 Hours: Karolyn Riecks

5000 Hours: Shirley Purcell

7500 Hours: Gloria Amorde, Larry Sutton

9000 Hours: Tasha King, Julie Stanbery

14,500 Hours: Betty Ison



Save the day, **Saturday March 19th** for our Trash to Treasure Sale at the Extension Office Auditorium.

Please set aside your **CLEAN, useable** items to donate for the sale. We take gardening/outdoor items, books, tools, jewelry, furniture, toys, kitchen, glassware, holiday, crafts and whatever you can find at a garage sale. We **DON'T** take clothes, shoes, live plants, food, old computers or analog TV's – flat screen TV's are OK.

We will set up the tables on Thursday, March 17th from 1-3pm or until done. Donations accepted on Friday, March 18th from 9am-4pm. The sale is Saturday, March 19th from 9am-4pm.

Sign-up sheets are available in the Plant Clinic. If you want to help and aren't able to come to the clinic, you can call or email one of us to sign up.

Please save plastic and paper bags for the sale. These can be dropped off on Friday March 18.

Thanks!

Cindy Rich: 541-677-1882, csneal2@yahoo.com
Toni Rudolph: 541-673-7803, 1ToniRudolph@gmail.com
Co-Chairs Trash to Treasure

Treasurer's Report

Patrice Sipos

INCOME 1/1/16-1/27/16

Donations/Interest	\$2.00
Soil Testing	\$60.00
Dues-hardcopy newsletter	\$159.25
Dues-membership	<u>\$2,059.25</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,280.50

EXPENSES 1/1/16-1/27/16

Mgmt/General - Hospitality	\$86.99
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$86.99

Breakdown of our accounts

Checking	\$4,429.85
Money Market - Reserves	\$8,659.10
Money Market	<u>\$37,121.27</u>
Ending Balance 1/27/16	\$50,210.22

2016 Winter Training Class



Kudos to our new Hospitality Chair, Barbie Hamby, for a fantastic job coordinating snacks and the first day potluck.

Barbie Hamby & Denise Fennel (WTCoordinator)



DG Tour

Nathan Baily introduces the class to our red wiggler friends.



Elva Sellens dissertates about her delightful dahlias.



Chris Rusch shows off our amazing Japanese Garden.

Jan Kirchner boasts about the Butterfly Garden while Geoff Puryear showcases the Xeriscape Garden.



Ken Hays hard at work.



In the Garden

Julie Stanbery

This had been a most productive January! We had a tremendous turn-out for our first DG work day. Many loads of gravel and wood chips were spread, many, many lovely bittercress were plucked, all of the blackberries in the hedgerow were taken out, and a good start was made in the Herb Garden. All these tasks were lead by a great group of veterans, Steve and Kathy Hart, Ray Warren, Jeanie Owen, Barbara MacPherson, Elva Sellens, Dave Hopkins and Gale Robinson. Thanks to our new class members Alan and Ian James, Alan Huffstutter, Jude Stensland, Maria Quero, Gwen Graham and Ed Cole for all their hard work. It was a great opportunity to share stories and learn more about our fellow volunteers.

The Herb Garden is the focus for the 2016 class project. New garden leader Geoff Puryear has lots of exciting ideas. All students and veterans interested in sharing their expertise or in learning more about herbs are invited to the planning meeting Geoff is having on Tuesday, February 9 at noon in the auditorium. Bring a sack lunch and your enthusiasm. After graduation, work days will be Tuesdays from 9 to noon.

Our next DG work day is Wed., Feb 17, 9 to noon. We will be building new raised beds for the lily garden and helping replenish soil in the Easy Access garden.

Listed below are the leaders of the gardens for 2016. Please refer to this roster anytime you'd like to contact a garden chairperson. We are always happy to answer garden questions, and would like to speak with any of you who would be interested in joining our garden groups.

Thanks again for an outstanding start to the new year!
See you in the garden,

Julie Stanbery, DG Coordinator

Xeriscape Garden: Debbie Hesselstine, Geoff Puryear
Lillies and Dahlias: Elva Sellens
Entry Rose Garden: LaVerne Bailey, Maureen Benice, Patrice Sipos
Children's Garden: Judy Dake, Betty Bean, Sharon Hopkins

E-Z Access Garden: Jeanie Owen, Gloria Waller
Perennial Border: Betty Ison
Pavilion Sun Garden: Dave Hopkins
Pavilion Shade Garden: Julie Stanbery
Compost Area : Ken Hays
Butterfly Garden: Jan Kirchner
Hedgerow Area: Barbara MacPherson
Hummingbird Garden: Tasha King
Worm Compost Tea & Bio-Char Demo: Nathan Baily
Ornamental Shrubs: Steve Renquist
Herb Garden: 2016 class project led by Geoff Puryear
Orchard: Roger Dejmal
Japanese Garden: Chris Rusch
Rock Garden: Tasha King
Equipment Guru: Dave Hopkins
Iris Garden & Irrigation Project: Noel Groshong
Straw Bale Garden: Philece Humphrey
Tractor Guy: Gale Robinson
Compost Tea Sales: Elva Sellens

Kathy Hart noticed some harbingers of Spring in the Discovery Garden recently.



Discovery Garden Work Days

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 9:00–12:00

Friday, March 11, 9:00–12:00

Pruning Workshops

Thurs., Feb. 11, 1:00–4:00

(shade & flowering trees)

Mon., Feb. 22, 1:00–4:00

(roses & hydrangeas)

Thurs., Mar. 3, 1:00–4:00

(ornamental shrubs)



Your Chapter Needs You!

Barbara Robinson & Sharon Hopkins
Plant Sale Co-Chairs

Before we know it, our main fundraiser of the year will be upon us. Get out your calendars and mark the date for our 2016 Plant and Garden Expo on Saturday, May 7th at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Set up will be the day before on Friday, the 6th. These are both full day events, so please plan to work whenever you are willing and able!

Sign-up sheets for the various jobs/committees will soon be available at Winter Training Classes, in the Plant Clinic, and at our monthly chapter meetings. If you have any questions or would like us to sign you up, please feel free to call Barbara or Sharon, or email Barbara at barbararob@gmail.com. New students, the signup process can be confusing, so please grab your mentor and have them help you navigate through the process. After all, guiding you is what they get paid the big bucks for!





Westside Greenhouse News

Maureen Benice

What goes on at the Westside Greenhouses on Mondays? Lots of cleaning up of plants, transplanting of cuttings, and seeding!



Work day is 9:00 AM to lunch, and we tend to go to lunch together often. When Winter Training is over, the workday will be back to Tuesdays, same



time. There may be an additional day added some weeks if work didn't get done on the regularly scheduled workday. Watch for emails.



Lately, lots of seeding has taken place, and the baby plants are coming up and looking great. There have been three propagation classes for the new students held in greenhouses #1 and #3. Two have been on cuttings and divisions and one on seeding. The last class will be seeding on Feb. 2nd. Our new students have done a fantastic job of hands-on propagation.



Thanks a bunch from the CORE of Westside Greenhouses!

Photos: Bonnie Courter

Innovate!

Bob Brindley

This is a continuation of my article from December on what I've learned "in the lab". For new trainees, first, welcome! I'm glad you have chosen to be part of the MG program. "In the lab" is the area of my garden that is devoted to experimenting with old and new technology with regard to my favorite vegetables and herbs to achieve the best tasting, easiest to grow, disease free, and best yield varieties for my wife and myself. Now, your tastes may differ from ours, but hopefully the techniques that I talk about may spur you to explore your own palate and garden practices.

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's the best solution to the challenges of gardening you face. I will continue to experiment with changes, probably for as long as I grow vegetables and herbs.

The first article talked about containers. It is available at our website (December 2015 newsletter). The bottom line is that "in the lab" I basically garden in containers and my containers of choice have become fabric pots and raised beds. Please see the article for more information if you are interested.

Today I'm going to talk about tomatoes since they are the vegetable that started me on this experimental path seven years ago, and because if you want to start them from seed, now is the time to buy the seed.

I love tomatoes! I describe myself as a tomaholic and I have no desire to quit. Above all else, I like the different tastes, colors, shapes, and sizes available. So I typically plant between 18 and 30 tomato plants each year just for us. All leftovers are shared with others. In any one year, I plant ten to fifteen varieties and the rest are duplicates of my favorites. Now you don't have to start with seeds to get variety, but it opens up a wider

spectrum of choices than what you can find locally. In addition, the choices in plants will be even more limited if you want to grow organically. If you want to start with organic plants, I would suggest you start with varieties grown in our greenhouse, Jim Leet (MG) who sells at the Roseburg Saturday Market, Hayhurst Nursery, Territorial Seed, and some of the vendors that sell at our Plant & Garden Expo on May 7. There are many other locations throughout the county that sell tomato plants starting in April, but in general, most stores get their plants from the same distributor, so variety is more limited than the above sources. I do recommend you look around whenever you are shopping, because sometimes you will find a rare gem or new variety in the most unusual place.



My plan this year is to start all my plants from seed. My ambitious goal for 2016 is to have my first tomato in May and my last one December 1 without the use of a greenhouse. This may not be possible given that conventional wisdom for our area is to not plant tomatoes in the ground until after the last freeze which traditionally means it is best to plant around Mother's Day!

Here is my detailed plan; any feedback would be helpful. The first batches of seed will be started in February on a heat mat in a dome-covered starter tray. High intensity LED and/or fluorescent lights will be positioned above the dome. I will be growing my two favorite somewhat early varieties, Sungold cherry and Early Girl slicer plus four miniature tomato.

varieties. I grew my first miniature variety last year and it produced tomatoes for eating two weeks before the two above varieties. When you are waiting for the taste of your first tomato of the year, two weeks early seems like a lifetime. It takes the edge off, as you wait for the better varieties to come. See, I told you I was an addict!

The variety of miniature tomato I grew last year was Forestfire or Forest Fire depending on who is selling it. I didn't think it was that good but it fed the need; other people liked it better than I did at our annual tomato tasting in September. The reason it grows so fast is that it spends very little time growing leaves and roots; it actually looks like a sick tomato because it grows very

few leaves which don't look entirely healthy. It only grows to about two feet in height. You can actually end up with a plant that has ripe tomatoes and no leaves! In addition, I will be growing three other miniatures to explore whether I can find one that tastes better to me. Last year I let Forestfire grow the entire season, but got little production beyond the the first flurry of tomatoes, so this year, I will tear them out after my better tomatoes are edible and plant new varieties of tomatoes in the same pots.

In addition, I will plant my two favorite paste tomatoes, Amish and Oregon Spring, along with a variety or two of what are called early slicing tomatoes on regular sized plants that should ripen before Sungold and Early Girl, but I still have not found a variety I am very fond of, so I will continue to explore. Do you have any suggestions that you think I should try?

The paste tomatoes don't ripen early, but I would like to get them earlier than I have in the past. I will also be trying a couple of other varieties of paste tomatoes in May. In my opinion, paste tomatoes with their more solid body are the perfect tomato for sandwiches and, of course, are the preferred tomato for sauce.

I will be seeding all of these first tomatoes in numbers that are above my needs in anticipation that I may lose them to frost when I plant them in April. The soil will be pre-warmed in the black fiber bags where the plants will end up during the next step. First I will put half of the new start out to harden off around April 1. These will be put out for a few hours at a time to start until they are ready to remain outside. They will be in a cold frame surrounded by a wall-of-water warmer device for each plant. Later when the cold frame is removed, the wall-of-water will remain and red plastic film will be used on the ground and a tomato cage to surround the plants with preferable red filtered light. Any plants lost during this time will be replaced with the remaining starts. All remaining starts will be planted out in May, along with new starts began in March. New starts will be started in May for late season replacement.

Some of my favorite tomatoes that will be planted this year in addition to what I already mentioned will be Aunt Ruby's German Green, Ace, Chocolate Cherry, Pineapple, Cherokee Purple, and another relative of the Sungold cherry (to be determined). Plus I will plant a long keeper tomato for my Thanksgiving dinner.

If you want to try any miniature tomatoes or the Oregon Star paste tomatoes, seed is available from Adaptive Seeds in Sweet Home, Oregon (adaptiveseeds.com).

Other good places on the west coast for mail order seeds are:

Territorialseed.com (Cottage Grove)

Sustainableseedco.com (Chico, CA)

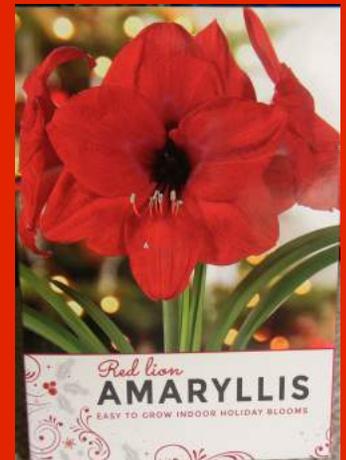
Nicholsgardennursery.com (Albany, Oregon)

Fred's Fav's (Fred Alley)

In selecting my favorite photographs for this edition of the Newsletter, I decided to focus on one of my favorite January, February, March-blooming plants – **the amaryllis**.

Wikipedia states, "Amaryllis is a small genus of flowering bulbs, with two species. The better known of the two, *Amaryllis belladonna*, is a native of the Western Cape region of South Africa. For many years there was confusion among botanists over the generic names *Amaryllis* and *Hippeastrum*. The common name, "Amaryllis", is mainly used to cultivars of the genus *Hippeastrum*, widely sold in the winter months for their ability to bloom indoors. Plants of the genus *Amaryllis* are known as belladonna lily, Jersey lily, naked lady, Amarillo, easter lily, or the March lily due to its propensity to flower around March."

I have several Amaryllis pink belladonna in the garden, but my favorite is the Amaryllis Ferrari Red which is pictured below. I also favor the Amaryllis Red Lion. I place the Amaryllis in the kitchen window that faces east. It does not have direct afternoon sun. There are a significant number of colors available in a variety of colors. The best introductory information is simply to go online. Unfortunately, amaryllis bulbs are usually only available locally during the Christmas season, so you might want to purchase online as well.



Coffee Grounds & Composting

OSU/Lane County Extension
(Submitted by Bonnie Courter)



Coffee grounds are a great addition to the garden and compost pile. Help to recycle this great organic resource and reduce the amount of organics going to the landfill! Inquire at local coffee shop locations - they may be happy to share spent grounds with you. Offer to bring a clean 5-gallon bucket to put them in.

Some information about coffee grounds:

- Coffee grounds are about 2% nitrogen by volume
- Grounds are **not** acidic; the acid in coffee is water-soluble so the acid is mostly in the coffee.
- Coffee grounds are close to pH neutral (between 6.5-6.8 pH).
- Coffee grounds improve soil tilth or structure
- Coffee grounds are an excellent nitrogen source for composting. they have a C/N ratio of 20/1. In informal trials with OSU/Lane County Extension Service, Compost Specialists sustained temperatures of 140-160 degrees F for up to two weeks (when coffee grounds were 25% of the material in the compost pile by volume).
- Anecdotal evidence suggests coffee grounds repel slugs and snails in the garden.

How do I use coffee grounds?

- Spread the coffee grounds directly on the soil. Cultivate into the soil. If left to dry out, they can repel

water in much the same way as peat moss that becomes dry.

- Spread on the soil and cover with leaves or compost or bark mulch.
- Incorporate directly into the soil, rising in well, or lightly cultivating into the soil.
- Add to the compost pile by layering the ingredients using 1/3 leaves, 1/3 fresh grass clippings and 1/3 coffee grounds.
- Add coffee grounds as part of a static compost pile, being sure to always add an equivalent amount of a carbon source such as shredded paper or dry leaves. Mix together well.
- Coffee grounds are not a nitrogen fertilizer. In a germination test at the GrassRoots Garden in Eugene, coffee grounds were mixed with potting soil at a ratio of 25% by volume. Lettuce seeds showed poor rates of germination and stunted growth compared to lettuce seeds planted in potting mix with coffee grounds.
- If incorporating coffee grounds directly into the soil, add a nitrogen fertilizer at the same time. Coffee grounds encourage the growth of microorganisms in the soil, which use nitrogen for their growth and reproduction. While the grounds are being broken down by the microorganisms the additional nitrogen in the fertilizer will provide a source of nutrients for your plants.



- Paper coffee filters may be added to the compost pile as a carbon source. Shred or tear to speed decomposition.
- Coffee grounds do not “go bad”. For future use, store in 32-gallon trash container near compost bin or pile.

Plant Clinic

Chris Rusch

Plant Clinic Data 2015

Contacts

Month	Call-in	Walk-in	email	Totals
January	8	7		15
February	26	18	1	45
March	54	36	2	92
April	56	45	3	104
May	55	59	1	115
June	67	67	3	137
July	73	48	4	125
August	53	65	5	123
September	44	36		80
October	31	17		48
November	13	14		27
December	5	6	1	12
Totals	485	418	20	923

The Plant Clinic will be busy in February as we begin our winter training program. It is always so enjoyable to get to know the new Master Gardener volunteers and introduce them to our Plant Clinic. We are lucky to have a great training team with Leo Grass, Bonnie Courter, Anne Bacon, Larry Sutton, and Chris Rusch. Our team of alternates includes Gary Dubois, Jan Kirchner, and Maureen Benice. A BIG thank you to all of you who regularly work at the Plant Clinic.

I have compiled some interesting data about the Plant Clinic for 2015. We had a total of 923 visitors, with half coming into the clinic with their questions and the other half calling in on the phone. Nearly 20% of the questions were about insects, 20% were general gardening, followed by orchard management and trees and shrubs. It was a terrific year, both challenging and fun!

The clinic will be open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in February and March. We will be devoting our efforts to training the new class. As we get into April, we will need veterans to help in the Plant Clinic both in continuing to help our new volunteers and keeping up with the work load of assisting our visitors to the Plant Clinic. I realize we all have very busy lives, but, I encourage each of you to take time, look at your calendar and pick just one afternoon each month and give the office a call and sign up. The Plant Clinic is where we give service as part of our Master Gardener obligation to our community. Please try to volunteer your expertise at least once a month to help out in this important outreach program. The Plant Clinic is a great way to promote our Master Gardener Program and encourage sustainable gardening in Douglas County.

Question categories

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Disease	1	1	7	7	8	11	14	12	4	1		*	66
Insects	3	9	13	15	24	41	27	17	14	8	4	1	176
Pesticides			3		2		1	4	1	1			12
Lawn	1	3	7	5	9	2		2	6	4	3	1	43
Orchard	2	9	19	14	17	13	8	12	8	1	3	3	109
Plant ID	1	3	5	6	6	12	10	23	9	3	4		82
Wildlife		2	1	3		2	2	1	3				14
House plants		1						2		2			5
Gardening	1	7	18	24	19	21	20	23	18	9	7	3	170
Weeds		2	4	8	9	7	4	7	2	3		1	46
Pruning	1			1			2		2	1		1	8
Trees/Shrubs	4	5	11	14	14	21	24	10	7	9	2	1	122
Water						1	2	1	1				5
Misc.	1	2	4	7	7	6	11	9	5	6	4	1	63

Top Five most cited references:

- 1) Ext. Search website
- 2) Sustainable Gardening Handbook
- 3) PNW Disease Management Handbook
- 4) PNW Insect Management Handbook
- 5) Steve Renquist/Master gardener knowledge



Registration deadline: Thursday, February 25, 2016.
 Pre-registration is required. Seating is limited.

8:30am: Check-in for your room assignments

Session 1: 9:00am-10:30am

- A. Advanced Home Orchards by Steve Renquist
- B. Firewise Landscapes by Kara Baylog
- C. Introduction to Canning by Bruce Gravens

Session 2: 10:30am-12:00pm

- D. All About Dahlias by Elva Sellens
- E. Monarchs and Milkweed by Tom Landis
- F. Dehydrating and Freezing by Giuli Sutton, Pam Sadler



12:00pm-12:55pm
 Brown Bag Lunch—Bring Your Own



Session 3: 1:00pm-2:30pm

- G. Vegetable Varieties for Douglas County by Andrea Mull of Territorial Seed Co.
- H. Urban Tree Care by Tal Blankenship
- I. Fermenting Foods by Dave Helsley

Session 4: 2:30pm-4:00pm

- J. Mistakes to Avoid in Your Garden by Steve Renquist
- K. Landscaping with Native Plants by Tal Blankenship
- L. Food Safety from the Garden to the Table by Sara Runkel

GARDENING. Get good at it.

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Spring Into Gardening

February 27, 2016

✂ Cut and return this form to:

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE
 Attn: Spring
 PO Box 1165
 Roseburg OR 97470

Registration deadline: Thursday February 25

16

Make checks payable to: OSU EXTENSION

Last Name First Name Phone

Mailing Address City Zip

Email (Please PRINT clearly)

Class Selections ~ Please select 1 choice in each time block with :

Time Block #1: 9:00am-10:30am * (Pick only 1 class)*****

- A. Advanced Home Orchards
- B. Firewise Landscapes
- C. Introduction to Canning

Time Block #2: 10:30am-12:00pm * (Pick only 1 class)*****

- D. All About Dahlias
- E. Monarchs and Milkweed
- F. Dehydrating and Freezing

Time Block #3: 1:00pm-2:30pm * (Pick only 1 class)*****

- G. Vegetable Varieties for Douglas County
- H. Urban Tree Care
- I. Fermenting Foods

Time Block #4: 2:30pm-4:00pm * (Pick only 1 class)*****

- J. Mistakes to Avoid in Your Garden
- K. Landscaping with Native Plants
- L. Food Safety from the Garden to the Table

FEE:
 \$ 25.00 for 1 or more classes \$ 25.00

Total Paid: \$ _____

Enclosed: Check (Check # _____) Cash

Registrations due by Thursday, February 25, 2016
Seating is limited . . . register early.

OSU DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER Chapter Meeting January 28, 2016

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:23 a.m. by President, Chris Rusch. There were 72 in attendance.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as distributed.

Agent's Report - Steve Renquist: Class offerings for Spring into Gardening have been determined. It will be held at UCC on February 27th. A number of out-of-county speakers, who received good ratings from Jackson County's Winter Dreams Symposium, will be presenting along with Tal Blankenship and Steve Renquist. Master Food Preservers will also offer a class each session. Posters are available for distribution throughout the community to advertise the event. For more information refer to the registration form at <http://douglascountymg.org/docs/other/2016SIG.pdf>.

Volunteers are needed to staff Spring into Gardening. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Plant Clinic. Volunteers may be able to sit in on some classes on a space available basis. Volunteer time goes toward your payback hours. Master Gardeners also have the option to register and pay as an attendee (\$25).

Steve reminded new class members to divide their payback hours between the Discovery Garden, greenhouses, plant clinic, Plant Sale, Trash to Treasure Sale, etc. This will provide a broad range of experiences from which a long term focus area can be chosen.

Steve will be conducting an orchard pruning session at the Discovery Garden on Friday, January 29th from 1-4pm.

Many volunteers were involved in concurrent sessions for winter class. Steve gave kudos to all that helped. Over 19,000 hours were put in by DC Master Gardeners in 2015!

Douglas County Weed Day is scheduled for February 3rd at the fairgrounds. Admission is \$5 or bring a freshly dug weed. For more information contact Steve or go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/calendar/2016-02-03/douglas-county-weed-day>.

Steve wrote two grants which were approved to fund an Agrimet weather station which will be located at the HLC. Having a system here locally will be a great asset to local growers.

For more information on Agrimet, refer to <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet/wxdata.html>.



Photos: Fred Alley

OFFICER REPORTS

Membership - Denise Fennell: Membership fees were due on

January 1st. Those who have not paid were dropped from the roster, but will be reinstated as they pay. Discount cards are available for use at participating garden centers.

OMGA – Anne Bacon: The next OMGA quarterly meeting will be held in Central Point on March 5th at 10 a.m. They are looking for presentations from chapters on membership recruitment, retention and diversity. Contact Anne if you have any ideas.

Treasurer – Patrice Sipos: Financials were distributed. Updates on the budget are available on the web at http://douglascountymg.org/mg_documents_forms.html.

Vice President - Fred Alley: Fred thanked Larry Broker for his informative continuing education presentation which had 72 in attendance. Mike Winters of Wintergreen Nursery will be presenting in February on how to build and prepare your soil for spring. Fred also thanked Leo Grass and Larry Sutton for their faithfulness in helping to set up for meetings.

Past President - Larry Sutton: No report

Secretary - Barbara Robinson: No report

President – Chris Rusch:

The Executive Board has begun their yearly task of reviewing our bylaws and updating the Policies and Procedures



Manual. Committee heads or those with a lead position (having a job description) are tasked with reviewing their description to insure its accuracy. Bylaws will be discussed at the next Executive Board meeting, including classes of Master Gardener membership. Also to be discussed will be the offering of an optional certification program. All Master Gardeners are invited to attend.

The League of Woman Voters is looking for anyone interested in participating in their June Garden Tour. Contact Chris if you are interested.

Kudos to Shirley Purcell for her role in keeping our chapter informed. Last year she sent out 460+ emails!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Outreach – Leo: Nathan Baily presented a composting class for a garden club. We will be participating in the YMCA's annual Healthy Kids' Day on April 30, with 700+ kids anticipated. Please contact Leo if you have any ideas for an activity Master Gardeners can offer.

Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch: Chris shared data compiled for 2015 for the Plant Clinic. There were a

total of 923 clients, with the number split evenly among walk-ins and callers plus 20 emails. Insects were at the top of the subject list with orchards and gardens to follow. The Plant Clinic calendar is filled with new class training sessions to April. Signups are needed beginning in April.

Winter Training – Denise Fennell: Training is going well with 32 students. Thank you to all the mentors and volunteers who are helping to make it go smoothly.

Westside Greenhouse – Maureen Benice: Work hours are Mondays 9 to noon while winter training is in session. Training sessions have been conducted with new students on cuttings, divisions, and seeding. Ongoing cleaning and dividing of plants is being done.

Eastside Greenhouse – Bruce Gravens: Work hours are Thursdays 9 to noon while Winter Training is in session. Grasses are done with general clean up - divisions and root pruning yet to be done.

Discovery Garden – Julie Stanbery: We received 5 yards of gravel from the Festival of Lights. Tractor man, Gale Robinson, has spread it.

There will be a pruning class on January 29th in the Discovery Garden orchard at 1p.m. Dress appropriately and bring your pruning equipment.

Geoff Puryear has stepped up to take on the position of lead person in the herb garden. Revamping this garden will be the 2016 class project. Geoff will meet with class members on Tuesday, Feb. 9th during their lunch break. Please bring a sack lunch.

February 17th will be the next Discovery Garden workday. Building raised beds and pruning pathways toward the Japanese Garden are on the agenda.

Signage - Karen Glass: Karen asked garden heads to stay after the chapter meeting for a signage meeting.

Publicity/Newsletter – Bonnie Courter: Newsletter articles are due on Saturday. Bonnie asked members to submit any interesting subjects, articles, pictures, etc. to Bonnie. The newsletter can be found online at http://douglascountymg.org/mg_newsletter.html.

Changes in Plant Clinic hours have been submitted as well as Plant Sale advertising for online calendars.

Facebook – Denise Fennell for Barbara Horst: If you are a Facebook member and have not yet joined our Master Gardener Facebook page, please do so at <https://www.facebook.com/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners-251882398200487/?fref=ts>. Trash to Treasure and Spring into Gardening notices will soon be posted. Please “share” posts to your page to spread the word!

Hallmark – Linda Thames: Linda has sent out many cards this past month. She asked members to remember Robyn Thompson who is no longer able to participate in activities. Linda sent a sympathy card to the family of Richard Swartzlender, a former Master Gardener who passed away a few months ago. A “thinking of you” card was sent to Merrill McFarland. On a happy note Linda welcomed Marianne Major back to the fold after a rough 5 months. Marianne gave kudos to Linda for all the handmade cards she received from the chapter. She also thanked all the Master Gardeners who remembered her during her recovery.

Awards – Betty Ison: There will be an Awards Committee meeting on February 10th. She will be sending out packets to committee members prior to the meeting.

Vicki McAlister is taking over the task of compiling hours data from Pam Barrows. Hours will continue to be posted on the Master Gardener website at http://douglascountymg.org/docs/other/DCMG_Hours_Through_2015.pdf.

Betty read off the list of people who qualified for new swinger bars. If you have earned a new bar, please see Betty to turn in your old swinger bar for a new one.

Trash to Treasure – Cindy Rich and Toni Rudolph: Our annual Trash to Treasure Sale has been scheduled for Saturday, March 29th at the Annex. Room set up will be on Thursday, the 27th. Items will be received and priced on Friday, the 28th. Signup sheets are in the Plant Clinic. Please save your plastic and/or paper grocery bags for the sale. Cindy and Toni reiterated this will be the last year they will be heading up the sale. If you are interested in heading up this important event, please contact Cindy, Toni, or Chris Rusch.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave Hopkins heads up security for our Plant Sale. He will be out of state at the time of this year’s sale so needs someone to work with him. Gary Dubois volunteered for the position. Thank you Gary!!

Ivor Chapman expressed concern for the lighting in the green shed at the HLC. He was asked to bring his concerns to the next Executive Board meeting for discussion.

Bob Brindley is heading up a committee to explore different avenues for advertising our Plant Sale with an eye on bringing in more customers. He is looking for someone with experience in social media marketing or someone with advertising experience to join their group. It is a short term commitment with only a few meetings leading up to the sale. He is also looking for leads/suggestions for vendors who fit within our garden show venue, including products from the garden. Please contact Bob if you have ideas or would like to join his committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Historian position remains unfilled. In the past hard copy scrapbooks have been maintained. We are, however, open to change if someone would like to create an electronic version. Please contact Chris if you are interested.

SHOW AND TELL:

Bob Brindley shared a “toy” new to the Plant Clinic, a digital microscope, which comes with software. Bob indicated there is a bit of a learning curve involved before using it.

Julie Stanbery is looking for Joy Weed (*Alternanthera*) to take cuttings.

M e e t i n g A d j o u r n m e n t :

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m. by President, Chris Rusch.

R e s p e c t f u l l y
submitted,
Barbara Robinson
DCMG Secretary



Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: The deadline for the March 2016 Newsletter is Feb. 27th. E-mail submissions to Bonnie Courter: rbcourter@gmail.com

Website: www.douglascountymg.org

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

Horticulture Agent: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture,
steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu

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

OSU Gardening Information: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening

OSU Master Gardeners Program: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg

Oregon Master Gardeners Association (OMGA): www.oregonmastergardeners.org



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