



# DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 31, Issue 4

April 2016

## April 2016 Calendar

Mon., Apr. 4, 10:00-Noon  
Insect Committee

Tues., Apr. 5, 9:00-Noon  
Discovery Garden Workday  
Greenhouse Crews

Thurs., Apr. 7, 9:00-Noon  
Butterfly Garden Crew

Tues., Apr. 12, 9:00-Noon  
Discovery Garden Workday  
Greenhouse Crews

Wed., Apr. 13, 10:00  
Executive Board Meeting

Thurs., Apr. 14, 9:00-Noon  
Butterfly Garden Crew

Sat., Apr. 16 10:00-4:00  
Earth Day, DC Fairgrounds

Mon., Apr. 18, 10:00-Noon  
Insect Committee

Tues., Apr. 19, 9:00-Noon  
Discovery Garden Workday  
Greenhouse Crews

Thurs., Apr. 21, 9:00-Noon  
Butterfly Garden Crew

Tues., Apr. 26, 9:00-Noon  
Discovery Garden Workday  
Greenhouse Crews

Wed., Apr. 27, 10:30-Noon  
Photography Team, Annex

Thurs., Apr. 28, 9:00-10:00  
Continuing Education, HLC

Thurs., Apr. 28, 10:00  
Chapter Meeting, HLC

Thurs., Apr. 28, Noon-3:00  
Plant Pre-Sale for MG's, HLC

Sun., May 1, 1:00-4:00  
Plant Pre-Sale for MG's, HLC

Sat., May 7

**Plant & Garden Expo**



## The President's Post

**Chris Rusch**

Greetings Everyone!

The DCMG's have been really busy this month. Thirty-two new students graduated from our Sustainable Gardening Winter Training Class March 15th. They are now learning about all the programs and projects DGMG's are involved in. Thanks so much to Denise Fennell and her team for making this another successful Winter Training.

Our Trash to Treasure Fundraiser was a great success. So many volunteers helped with the set-up, operations and take down. Also all the wonderful contributions from our membership made for a fantastic turn-out! Thanks so much to Cindy Rich and Toni Rudolph and all the hard working volunteers that helped to make this another successful Trash to Treasure!

Preparations are being made for the May 7th Plant Sale. Barbara Robinson is heading up this event with the help of many volunteers. We will once again be at the Fairgrounds. Please mark it on your calendars and share with friends. The Plant Sale group is so ORGANIZED, and it should be a great sale of a huge variety of plants. Bob Brindley has assured us many vendors will be returning, and more spaces are going to be available.

We were reminded of several vacancies both current and upcoming at our March 31 Chapter Meeting. We continue to try to fill our **Historian** position. Leo Grass told us that he would like to step down from the **Outreach Coordinator** position after this year. He will be greatly missed. Executive positions that will be vacant at the end of the year are **Membership** and **Vice-President**. Denise and Fred will be hard shoes to fill as they were both dedicated and outstanding in serving the membership in their positions. If you are interested in serving in these important positions, please contact Chris.

The Discovery Garden, Greenhouses and the Victory Garden are all popular places to work on Tuesday mornings from 9-12. These are terrific opportunities for our new volunteers to attain their “pay-back” hours commitment.

The Plant Clinic is also in need of volunteers, both veterans and trainees are needed. It helps us spread the word about all the things we are doing and promotes community awareness.

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> Happy Spring!

## Agent's Report

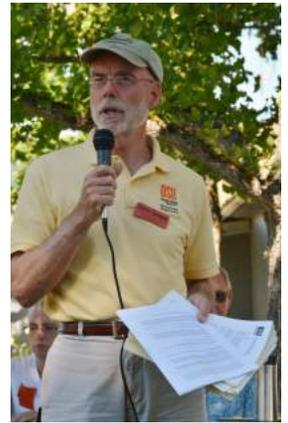
### Steve Renquist

#### With Winter Training Behind You, More Fun Lies Ahead!

I congratulate all of the new Master Gardener class of 2016 on a fine job in our winter training program. It is such a pleasure as a teacher to have a group of students who are connected and enthusiastic learners. Whether it was a lecture in our classroom or a hands-on class in the Discovery Garden, you worked hard, asked good questions, and accomplished a lot. Thanks for your effort.

With the winter training program complete, we have fewer regular opportunities to get back together. Let me remind you of some of the activities that will keep you

connected with the group and having fun. Every week on Tuesdays we have a group that meets at the Discovery Garden from 9am until noon, or 8am to 11am once we hit the heat of summer. If you remember which garden theme appealed to you, just show up and join that team as they continue to develop our teaching garden. The garden coordinators will probably give you a call to join them if you indicated an interest in their garden during our early season tours. You can also come by my office and let me help you connect with the garden coordinators.



The Victory Garden team led by Mik Carlson is a great activity for those of you who love to vegetable garden or want to learn more about growing vegetables. This crew is actively working with early season crops already, so don't hesitate to contact the leaders now. This group usually works on Tuesdays like the Discovery Garden crew. With the Victory Garden expansion and the educational project in the entry area, there will be a need for more helpers than ever.

If you want to help with the Master Gardener Plant Expo by working with the greenhouse crew or in our plant holding yard, you should visit the crews on a Tuesday or look for the emails advising helpers on other days. Talk with Maureen Benice to help on the West Side greenhouse crew and with Bruce Gravens on the East Side greenhouse crew to see how and when they can use your help. Our Plant Expo director, Barbara Robinson, will also want to hear from all of you to get assignments for setup Friday, May 6, and the Expo on Saturday, May 7. This is our primary fundraiser, so please step up and help.

Since most of you are working on your two training sessions in the Plant Clinic, you are on your way to getting your 36 hours in the clinic. The feedback I get from most volunteers after they have finished their Plant Clinic sessions is that the clinic was where they learned the most about gardening. Every time you help someone in the clinic, you diagnose a problem, research issues, read documents, check references,

and as a group share your thoughts. This clinic process is often when the information you heard in the classroom for the first time really makes sense.

Don't forget that every month we have a chapter meeting on the last Thursday at 10am, and we have an educational program at 9am. We also have an Executive Board meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 10am. These meetings are open for any Master Gardener to attend, and we encourage all of you to participate in the planning and organization of our chapter.

If you have an area of gardening expertise that you would like to share with the public, please let Leo Grass, our community outreach leader, know. Some of you may be ex-teachers, and as your gardening expertise grows, may want to try leading a class. We can always use your help with a Spring Into Gardening Seminar class or an outreach class in the community. Leo has advised me that he would like to work with and train a new outreach coordinator. If you love to teach and would like to consider this position, give me a call. I will be happy to work with you as you learn the process.

New volunteers, as you can see, there is no shortage of things to do in our Master Gardener program. I encourage all of you to stay connected, and have fun getting to know each other and the veterans in our group. And I want to thank all you mentors from the class of 2016 on making our program such an inviting place to learn about gardening.

## Vice Presidents' Report

### Fred Alley

What a nice, thorough, professional presentation by Sara Runkel, Small Farms and Food Systems Coordinator, Douglas County OSU Extension Service, on "Garden to Table – Food and Produce Safety"! From the beginning to the end, (preparing the soil, to planting the produce, harvesting the produce, cleaning the produce, preparing the produce for the



table and finally storing the produce/food), Sara covered it all. There are so many important things to consider in keeping our edible plants/food safe to eat and share. A food safety plan should be available and practiced in every home. We all think about food safety practices and utilize them every day. However, we take some things for granted and miss many other important safety practices. Sara emphasized the importance of food safety with a "hands-on practical experience". When was the last time you thoroughly washed your hands, while singing the Happy Birthday song - twice? That's the time one should take in washing your hands. Just common sense? One of our members asked how she could convince her spouse to wash the melon before eating the produce. The spouse's past comment was, "Well I only eat the inside of the melon, so why waste time washing the outside?" Obviously many of our fruits and vegetables have natural barriers, such as skins and rinds like the melon, which help protect the interior part of the product from contamination by pathogens. Think of the "barrier" one is cutting through. Now the pathogen is coming in contact with the interior of the melon. Washing hands and washing the product are two of the most important practices in preventing microbial contamination.

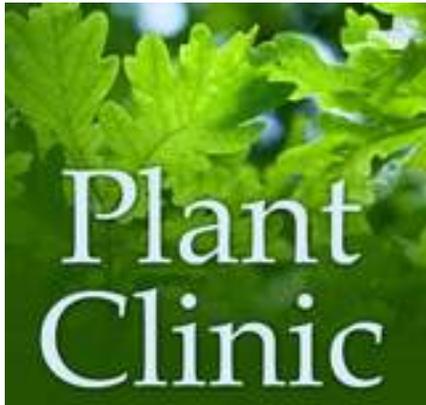
We need to be aware of the potential risks and develop practices that will minimize the chance of contamination. Water is one source of contamination. Your water source will dictate, to a large degree, the practice you should use in the garden. Most of us use potable water sources. However, in rural Douglas County, water may come from different sources which will require different water safety practices. Using clean garden tools are important, particularly at harvest time. I chuckled several times as I listened to Sara. What - use a different pair of garden gloves for different tasks! I can't give up my favorite fine-fitting garden gloves! And yes, I suspect many of us have our favorite family pet alongside us while we garden.

While it may sound simple to practice food safety – "from the garden to the table", we really need to develop and practice a food safety plan. Much of it is common sense. However, in our busy lives we forget and miss some important steps/practices. I was not surprised when Leo Grass shared with us his friend's story of having the best tomatoes on the back side of the outhouse and Bruce Gravens's comment that while growing up they had a lot more stomach flu than he now

experiences. After Sara's presentation, Chris Rusch and I mutually agreed that our lack of home garden safety practices, were significantly lacking and we should not be here today!

Great presentation, Sara Runkel. If you have any questions regarding food safety for your home garden and gardening practices, stop by and visit with Sara in her office on the first floor of the OSU Extension Service Office.

Our April 28, 2016 Master Gardener Chapter meeting will be held at the HLC, which means our April Continuing Education Program at 9:00 am will be held in the Victory Garden. One of our fellow Master Gardeners, Bruce Gravens, will be giving a demonstration on "Other Uses For Row Cover". As usual, I will send a notice of Bruce's presentation several weeks before the April 28, 2016 meeting. Just as a reminder, watch the weather reports and wear the appropriate apparel.



### **Chris Rusch**

The Plant Clinic was really busy in March as we continue with 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, Gary DuBois, Larry Sutton, and Chris Rusch. Our team of alternates includes Jan Kirchner, and Maureen Benice. Anne will be concentrating on Kruse Farms this spring and summer, so Gary Dubois has stepped up to take her place as part of our Training Team. A BIG thank you to all of you who regularly work at the Plant Clinic.

We had over 100 visitors in the Plant Clinic this month!

The clinic will be open Monday through Friday in April through September. We will be devoting our efforts to training the new class. Starting this month, we will need

veterans to help in the Plant Clinic both in continuing to help our new volunteers and keeping up with the workload of assisting our visitors to the Plant Clinic. We have plenty of openings. I encourage each of you to look at your calendar and pick just one afternoon each month to volunteer. The Plant Clinic is a great way to promote our Master Gardener Program and encourage sustainable gardening in Douglas County.

## **Volunteer Hours Reporting**

### **Vicki McAlister**

Time reporting can be a real chore but it is an important part of being a Master Gardener. Our chapter is evaluated at the state level in part based on how many volunteer hours we report. So all of the hard work we volunteers do is important, but it only gets noticed higher up if it shows up on our time sheets! The other reason to report your time is to qualify for updated swinger bars for your name badge.

One of the confusing things about time reporting for both our newly-minted Master Gardeners and our veterans is how to categorize your time on the timesheet. On the back of the forms you pick up in the Plant Clinic, there are brief definitions of what you should be reporting in each of the categories. If you are printing your timesheet to fill in from the website, the backside of the form is available there as a separate PDF on the next line following the Timesheet – see Timesheet (back side) Code Descriptions.

If you are still not sure what category to enter your time under, you can ask another veteran, an officer, or send an email to me ([Vicki.McAlister@csulb.edu](mailto:Vicki.McAlister@csulb.edu)). One of us will be able to help you.

There are two places you can submit your completed time sheets – the Plant Clinic and the Westside Greenhouse. Please do not report in anything under half hour increments. Make sure that you total your hours for each category as I will not post your time without totals. It's great if you can submit your time sheets monthly as that spreads my work out over the year, but you can submit your time up to the end of the December for each year.

There are reports of your time on the website and in the Plant Clinic so you can verify what has been entered. Generally the reports on the website are a little more current. There are two reports on the website – current year and historical. I usually will pick up time sheets after the Chapter meeting each month and post and update the web report within a couple of days.

# Trash to Treasure Sale

## Toni Rudolph & Cindy Rich



This was our last year to Co-Chair the Trash to Treasure Sale. WOW, what a year - \$2,980.29 was the net amount we made! We appreciate your involvement with this sale, including donating clean, quality items, working on Thursday, Friday, and/or Saturday, advertising, putting up fliers, hauling tables from the DG to the auditorium, setting up the room, pricing and setting everything out for our customers, assisting with selling the items and of course cleanup. It was a great time for all shoppers and Master Gardeners alike. Ann Severson will be chairing this fundraiser in 2017.



Ann Severson



Tracey Berry sorts through houseware items.



Joni Leet ponders where to display mini baseball helmets.



Barbara Robinson, Nancy Fuller & Elva Sellens

Below: Mad dash to great bargains.



## Plant Sale

### Barbara Robinson & Sharon Hopkins

Our Plant and Garden Expo on May 7th shares billing with Mother's Day weekend this year. Vendors will offer a plethora of garden-related gift items for that special someone.

Master Gardeners have been busy in many different areas preparing for our main fund raiser of the year. Greenhouse crews are working multiple days each week readying the "merchandise" to produce the quality product our loyal customers have come to expect. Especially important at this point is making sure all the plants are weed-free, manicured, soil-freshened, and looking their best to present at our sale. Seedlings are being nurtured, repotted, and fussed over. Pricing and labeling of plants is being finalized. Please join us on Tuesdays, or other workdays as announced, in the Westside or Eastside greenhouses, from 9 a.m. to noon. Watch your email for weekly updates on days our crews will be working, and when you join us, prepare to have fun!

Sign-up clipboards have been removed from the Plant Clinic and turned over to the appropriate committee heads. Many areas are in need of help with the ones listed below having the most unfilled slots. If you have not had a chance to sign up, please contact one of the committee heads listed below or email or call Barbara Robinson. We will be glad to find just the right task for you.

**Loading/Unloading at Greenhouses:** Contact Carol Bolt at [caroljeanbolt@msn.com](mailto:caroljeanbolt@msn.com)

**Holding Area:** Morning workers needed on Saturday. Contact Karen Glatz at [karen-g@charter.net](mailto:karen-g@charter.net)

**Checkers:** Adding up customer purchase with a calculator. Contact Mik Carlson at [mjjjc@q.com](mailto:mjjjc@q.com).

**Fairground Customer Service:** Contact Anne Bacon at [anne.wickersham@gmail.com](mailto:anne.wickersham@gmail.com)

Many, many thanks go out to all of you who have already signed up to work the sale. The chairperson for the area you chose will be contacting you in the near future to touch bases, give any direction necessary, and answer any questions you may have.

Now onto some important details for the sale itself:

**TIME:** Workers need to be at the Fairgrounds Exhibit Building at **8 a.m.** on both Friday and Saturday, UNLESS otherwise directed by your committee chairperson. It is especially important to be prompt on Saturday. Vendor pre-sales in our area begin at 8:30 a.m. and you will also be gathering with your group for direction from your committee chair.

**POTLUCK:** We will be having potluck lunch beginning at 11:30 on both Friday and Saturday. We will not be having breakfast potluck. If you plan to eat lunch with us, please bring a potluck dish to share and wear your MG badge. When you arrive at the Fairgrounds, please deliver your dish to the kitchen into the hands of a worker who will in turn have you fill out an ingredient card. This will help those with allergies. No need to bring a serving spoon or eating utensils as they are provided.

**PARKING:** Do not park in front of the building except to drop off food items, supplies, etc. Be brief. Vendors will need the space to unload as well. Please park in the lot across the street if you are not handicapped.

**ATTIRE/PURSES:** Wear your Master Gardener apparel or apron if you have purchased one. Ladies, there is no secure location to leave your purse. Leave them in the locked trunk of your vehicle. Keys, cell phones, wallets, etc. fit nicely into your apron pockets.

**WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE.** If you forget, go home and get it. You cannot work without it.

**DUES:** Veterans your dues must be paid to work.

**PURCHASES:** Master Gardeners are not allowed to shop/purchase in our area until after 3 p.m. Take advantage of our MG Pre-Sales the week before Plant Sale.

**UCAN DONATIONS:** We are once again partnering with UCAN to collect food items. There will be a collection bin in front of the building. There is NOT a discount to the public for bringing an item.

We are looking forward to yet another successful sale. This is a fun, rewarding event. Be prepared to have a great time while working with a wonderful group of volunteers!

## Master Gardener Plant Sale Pre-Sales Because YOU Are Special!

Barbara Robinson



Master Gardeners are definitely a special breed. ☺ Just to show how special YOU are, we are giving you first dibs on our Plant Sale merchandise before it hits the tables at the Fairgrounds.

You will have two opportunities to shop the greenhouses at the HLC. The first sale will be held immediately following our April 28th chapter meeting at the HLC and will last until 3 p.m. Your second opportunity to purchase will be the following Sunday, May 1st, from 1 to 4 p.m.



Cash or personal checks are accepted – no plastic. Only Master Gardeners are allowed to shop at the pre-sales and you must wear your name badge. Greenhouse crews have worked hard to make these sales available to you, so please take advantage of this opportunity. Remember,

Master Gardeners are not allowed to shop the Plant Sale until AFTER 3 p.m., whether you are working the sale or not.

## Attention Class of 2016 and Veterans New and Improved Prizes for Hat Contest!

We will once again conduct our garden-themed Hat Contest at our Plant and Garden Expo on May 7th. Let your imagination go wild and design your one-of-a-kind creation. We will be awarding two prizes to the top two contestants, as chosen by their Master Gardener peers at the sale. The public loves our hats and we love the sense of camaraderie and good-natured competition it brings to the group. Put your thinking caps on and start creating!



# OMGA - First Quarter Board Meeting Report

## Nancy Fuller

Anne Bacon was unable to attend the meeting so Patrice Sipos and I represented Douglas County. The meeting was held in Central Point and was hosted by the Jackson County chapter.

Marilyn Scheffler was installed as the President secondary to the resignation of Al Cook earlier this year. The two vice-president positions are currently vacant.

The Executive Committee decided to meet one month prior to each quarterly board meeting. This was decided so that the latest information would be available for review by the various county chapters prior to the quarterly meeting.

This year's Mini College was discussed. It will again be held at Linfield College, August 4-6. The theme is "Heroes for Horticulture". There will be lodging in the dorms. Rooms have been reserved at the Red Lion Inn and Guesthouse International Inn.

Classes for Mini College will cover such topics as container gardening, hardy succulents, Oregon spiders, improving soils, and many others. Most classes will count toward continuing education except for the workshops. Volunteers are needed to assist in many areas. Registration will begin on May 1, 2016.

There will be no Mini College in 2017 since OMGA will be hosting the International Master Gardener Convention in Portland next July. All the keynote speakers for the international conference have been confirmed as have many of the other speakers. Chapters are being asked to volunteer to assist with the many tasks needed to prepare and host such a large gathering. Chapters are also being asked for ideas on how best to showcase Oregon gardening.

Gail Langellotto reported that in 2015 Oregon was honored with two International Master Gardener Search for Excellence awards. Seeds to Supper and Plant Problem Scenarios teaching modules were the winners.



Chapters are being asked to review the current OMGA budget and vote on one of three options for the best course of action for how to fund Mini College in 2018 since there will be no Mini College in 2017. One year's Mini College provides funds for the next and for the operating budget for OMGA. Our DCMG chapter's Executive Board is reviewing the information and will update everyone next month.

A Leadership Forum discussion on retention and recruitment was held the day before the OMGA board meeting. All the chapters participated in round table discussions, sharing ideas and challenges faced. DCMG seems to have the best mentor program. Many chapters have one mentor for 6-8 trainees or no mentors at all. Information will be collected and presented at the next forum. The forums will continue at each quarterly board meeting throughout 2016.

The next board meeting will be on June 4, 2016 at the Discovery Center in The Dalles. The next Leadership Forum will be held June 3, 2016 also in The Dalles.

## Treasurer's Report

### Patrice Sipos

**INCOME 2/25/16 - 3/30/16**

Interest Income	\$1.09
Soil Testing	\$45.00
Dues-Hardcopy Newsletter	\$8.75
Dues-Membership	\$30.00
Special Events - Other	\$643.00
Trash To Treasure	<u>\$2,980.29</u>

**TOTAL INCOME \$3,708.13**

**EXPENSES 2/25/16-3/30/16**

Management & General	\$1,705.17
Discovery Garden - Various	\$420.91
HLC - Various	\$1,048.94
Plant Sale Expenses	\$1,650.75
Electrical	\$622.51
Special Events - Other	<u>\$25.49</u>

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$5,473.77**

**Breakdown of our accounts**

Checking	\$4,842.41
Money Market - Reserves	\$8,659.10
Money Market	<u>\$32,123.53</u>

**Ending Balance 3/30/16 \$45,625.04**

## Vermicompost Project At Boys and Girls Club

**Amy Staats**

Amy Staats and Jude Stensland, both Master Gardeners from the 2016 class, recently collaborated on creating a vermicompost for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Umpqua Valley as part of their after-school Garden Club program.

Amy is working with the Boys & Girls Clubs through AmeriCorps as their Garden and Healthy Lifestyles program



facilitator and manages the Green Thumb Garden Club on the campus in Roseburg. The program encourages healthy habits for the students through activities relating to gardening, nutrition, art, science, and physical activity.



Club members of all ages are getting a hands-on composting and recycling experience with vermicomposting by using food scraps left over from



the Club's lunch program, feeding them to the worms, allowing it to decompose into a nutrient-rich fertilizer, and finally adding it to the on-site learning garden. Club kids will be enjoying the fruits and vegetables they grew and nurtured while getting their hands dirty and becoming more educated on living a healthy lifestyle.

## Community Outreach Leo Grass

Spring has sprung, the grass "haz riz", there's lots to do in the "outreach biz"!

A few of our new class members have taken on a project with the Boys and Girls Club. Amy Staats is heading up a team to teach basic gardening skills to young folks. Jennifer Russell, Jude Stensland, and Kim Allen, are helping.

Earth Day is just around the corner, and Steve has invited new class members to help him with that project. Check with him for details.

We have our first group of youngsters touring the Discovery garden on April 22nd - first grade class from Winchester elementary. Barbara Hamby has stepped up to assist.

I will be meeting with the Rainbow Garden Club on April 5th. They want to learn more about garden soils and amendments.

April 30th is Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA. Jennifer Russell and Barbara Hamby have agreed to assist. Chris Rusch, and myself will be meeting with the West Side Community gardeners to get them off to a good start for this spring.



## Did You Know? Vicki McAlister



If you haven't yet visited our chapter website, take a minute to visit it at <http://douglascountymg.org/>. While the primary purpose of the website is to showcase our Discovery Garden, the hope is that we're providing information that is of interest to our local area gardeners as well as Master Gardeners. One of the sections off of the main navigation panel on the left hand side of the page links to Gardening Resources ([http://douglascountymg.org/gardening\\_resources.html](http://douglascountymg.org/gardening_resources.html)). This page has links to the online PNW (Pacific Northwest) handbooks, monthly gardening tips, and much more.

At the bottom of the main navigation panel, there is a link For Master Gardeners ([http://douglascountymg.org/for\\_mgs.html](http://douglascountymg.org/for_mgs.html)). This link will take you to the pages that are the Chapter business portion of the website. Here you'll find our great chapter newsletters back to 2008 so you can take a look back at our chapter over time. There is a calendar of events for our chapter. There are minutes for both chapter and executive board meetings back through 2012. There are pages listing our current officers, committee heads, chapter and OMGA awards, and chapter history.

One of the most useful pages is Documents and Forms ([http://douglascountymg.org/mg\\_documents\\_forms.html](http://douglascountymg.org/mg_documents_forms.html)). This page contains various reports along with some of our chapter's more frequently used forms. You can find out here what books are in our Clinic library. If you'd like to brush up on Plant Clinic procedures, you'll find the documents to do that in the Clinic Guidelines and Forms section. If

you need an expenditure authorization form to submit receipts for reimbursement to our Treasurer, you'll find that form along with instructions. If you are considering throwing your hat into the ring for being a chapter officer and wonder what the job duties are, you can review those in our Policies and Procedures Manual. If you want to review your hours posted to our timekeeping system for the year or historically, reports for both are available. Do you need a timesheet to fill out? The form is available here.

A PDF of the latest version of the [Vermicomposting 101](#) presentation given to the 2016 class on March 1, is linked from the [Worm Bins page](#). Those who want to learn about biochar should check out the [Biochar Demonstration Beds project](#). There is a link on that page that will take them to a [blog](#) where, from time to time, we post photos about the beds and about the yearly Biochar Expo.

Finally, a little history on our site: Our site went live in September 2014. How useful a site is depends on input from those who use it and constant care and feeding – much like a garden! If you take the Discovery Garden Tour via the website, you may notice that the pictures and descriptions are a little stale. Most of the garden information was put together before 2013 when I started work on the site. I am always open to considering new and updated content for both the public and the Chapter sides of the site. I hope that you find our website a useful tool.



## Japanese Garden Chris Rusch

The Japanese garden is intended as a place for quiet reflection. On March 11 it was anything but quiet!

Fifteen Master Gardener volunteers under the direction of Steve Renquist descended on the garden for its annual pruning and clean-up. By noon it was transformed. We started with the Japanese maples. It is a bit different than pruning other trees and shrubs as the objective is to control the size of the plant, open up

the plant to light and air, and expose the beauty of the plant in its branching habits.

Many trees and shrubs are represented in the Japanese Garden among these are: rhododendrons and azaleas, maples, dogwood, pines, cedars, viburnum, crape myrtle, bayberry, andromeda, winterberry, and others. We pruned and cut and shaped them all.

Some of the highlights of the garden are: the walking paths, stone lake, stepping stones, and arched bridge. Volunteers jumped in with cleaning up these important features by raking leaves, pulling weeds and scraping off moss.

Jon Thran made some awesome wood-burned inscribed signs to identify some of our major trees and shrubs. We installed them at the end of the day. They look great and add to the educational features of the garden.



The Japanese Garden began in 1998 when Roseburg's sister city Shobu, Japan brought visitors to Roseburg that connected with the Master Gardener Program volunteers, and came up with the plan to have a Japanese Garden at the Discovery Gardens at River Forks Park.



(Photos: Fred Alley)

Thank you to all the volunteers who made this a really terrific work day!!

## Westside Greenhouse Crew (Photos by Barbara Robinson)

Had enough dedicated workers that we got 2 days of work done in one, and we were able to cancel the Wednesday work day! Don Pearson, our soil sifter extraordinaire, has been such a tremendous asset to our group!



## **Innovate!**

### **Bob Brindley**

Early sprouting! Fast growth! Lush plants! Early flowering! Yes, the weeds are back AGAIN. Time to try something different.

My main problem is in my pea gravel paths. Eight years ago when I put them in, they were weed free and remained so for three additional years. I started with a base of wet newspapers to smother the seed that was there, covered that with a commercial grade weed barrier, and then put in a two-inch layer of gravel. I replenished the gravel each year as needed. After three years I saw my first weeds and they were easy to handpick because most were growing above the barrier and pulled up easily, but each subsequent year got worse as more soil from the garden accumulated in the paths. In addition, some of the newer weeds were able to penetrate the barrier, resulting in much too much work during the last three years.

I confess to using Roundup in the past, but I no longer am willing to do that. I have had a bottle of concentrated Roundup that has lasted me for five years, because I now only use it on blackberry bushes and a persistent trumpet vine that I removed around six years ago that appears to sprout up all over the front yard. I cut these plants to about three inches of stem and some leaves, if available at that height. I paint these with the concentrated Roundup and put a zip lock bag over them, secured to the stem with a rubber band and leave it in this “incubator” for one month. The bag helps the stem heat up and also prevents the Roundup from spreading during hot weather.

But Roundup is no longer an option for the paths and was never an option for the garden. So two weeks ago I began my new program with Phase One—the paths. I used a flamethrower! Well, technically it is a modified garden version that a friend bought at a yard sale. There are no brand names on it, but the one I see promoted most often is the Weed Dragon.

It works off a propane tank. You light the flame and JUDICIOUSLY spot weed the area. It works!



Two weeks ago, I did my front yard paths. It took me two hours, peppered with breaks (the tank is on the heavy side when full and only has about a four foot hose, so you must move it around the yard) and the gas smell can give you a headache. My estimate is that hand weeding the same area takes six to eight hours spread over two days and is boring and exhausting. Flame throwing is not boring, nor should it be, since you are working with an open flame and I had no sense of fatigue afterwards. Plus never once did I have to either get down on the ground nor get back up! If you younger people don't understand that last sentence, ask an experienced bodied person what it all means and be prepared for a shock.

Ten days after that initial session, the green was back, but upon further review what I saw was that very little of that green was from the weeds that I previously zapped; it was new weeds where I didn't treat except for some grasses that re-sprouted. Now I suppose you could, during the initial treatment, zap the entire path in a very systematic way, but in my opinion that would be a waste of time and propane. My second round of throwing took 30 minutes to cover the same amount of area and I may have to do a third round in another 10 days. After that, hand weeding should take care of it, especially considering the drier the area gets, the less this technique is safe. I am reserving my opinion so far on its effectiveness on grasses, especially crab grass.

Phase Two of the weed abatement program begins this week in the garden itself. Actually all the beds were hand weeded around three weeks ago and I will be doing that again. In some areas of the garden I have more problems then others; those are the areas I will concentrate on this year. I will be adding corn gluten and biochar to the top four inches of the soil. The corn gluten is proposed to inhibit weed growth and the biochar is added to make it a better soil. The corn gluten has not always yielded measurable results in scientific studies, but I have tried it in a couple of areas in the past where it appeared to reduce weed growth including crab grass. I will be adding it in a higher volume than I have in the past. What I don't know is if the corn gluten will prohibit desirable seeds to sprout or whether it will inhibit plant growth of the established plants or new starts.

Watch this space for an update in June.

## Spring in the Rock Garden

Kish Doyle



Winter seemed like it was never going to end, and then one day we found the first flower. Because we have small plants from all over the world and we planted several hundred bulbs last fall, our flowers seem to magically appear around the beginning of March. We have some very interesting tulips which are pink, white and very slender. Many of our more worldly flowers are in shades of yellow.

Last fall, we covered several of our smaller pathways with leaves and in

the last few weeks we have added some soil and rocks and planted a number of oregano and other small "steppable" ground covers along the edges of the paths. In the next few months, they should fill in and provide a nice aroma as they are stepped on by visitors.

Some of our new plants include a "pixie dust" ultra dwarf Alberta spruce which is on the top of the mountain along the path. It is about 7" tall now and will grow to about a foot. It has lots of new growth and is my new favorite tree.

The seating area has been cleaned off and is ready for visitors to sit and enjoy the shade. Come down to the Rock Garden and check us out.



(Photos by Kish Doyle)

## OSU DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

### Chapter Meeting

March 31, 2016

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by President, Chris Rusch. There were 38 in attendance.

**Minutes:** The minutes were approved as published online.

#### Agent's Report - Steve Renquist:

The County has requested we not hang signs in the auditorium. (We had posted our Plant Sale flyers for Trash to Treasure and they had not been removed at the end of the sale.)

Volunteers are needed to help staff our table at the Fairgrounds for Earth Day on Saturday, April 16th. There are two shifts available, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Please contact Steve if you are willing to help.

Steve received a request from Gary Groth of the Douglas County Parks Department. He would like Master Gardeners to design and plant an area adjacent to the fee payment box at River Forks Park. The County would provide the plants and materials and maintain the area once planted. Anyone interested should contact Steve.

*Ask a Master Gardener* articles will be appearing in the News-Review the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month, May to September. Several Douglas County Master Gardeners write on timely gardening topics which are of interest to the general public. If you are interested in participating, let Steve know.

#### OFFICER REPORTS

**OMGA – Anne Bacon:** Mini College will be held August 4th and 5th at Linfield College in McMinnville. Blocks of rooms have been set aside at two local hotels and dormitory rooms are also available. (The dorms do not have air conditioning.) OMGA has requested each chapter donate 15 items with a retail value of at least \$25 for the silent auction. These items do not have to

be garden related. Funds raised from the auction are used to purchase PNW's and to support the various scholarships and grants offered. These include:

- Karl Carlson Memorial Fund: To support chapters, struggling or starting new horticultural programs, with grants or 0% interest loans.
- Extension Educator Grants: To support chapters' educational projects with grants up to \$500.
- Search for Excellence: To recognize and honor exceptional chapter projects.
- Send a Friend Scholarships: To support chapter members' attendance at OMGA Mini-College.

Marilyn Scheffler was installed as OMGA President at the March 5, 2016 meeting in Jackson County. Two vice-president positions are vacant.

The 2017 International Master Gardener Conference will be held July 10-14 in Portland at the Oregon Convention Center. Volunteers are needed to help staff the event. Please contact Gail Langellotto at OSU if interested in helping. Gail reported there were two Oregon chapters being honored with Search for Excellence Awards at the International Master Gardener Conference.



**OMGA Alternate Representative – Nancy Fuller:** Nancy shared information discussed regarding budget and financial matters at the March 5th OMGA Quarterly Meeting. Our treasurer, Patrice Sipos, was also in attendance and had many questions not answered at the meeting. She has written to the Treasurer, Katherine

Johnson, and is waiting for a response.

There will not be a 2017 Mini College since the International MG Conference will be held in Oregon. As such, funds normally secured through Mini College will not be available. Three separate budget options were presented. Chapters were asked to choose an option and send their choice back to OMGA. We have questions about the budget options numbers as well. We are waiting to hear back from State Officers before

making our recommendation. A decision should be made by our next chapter meeting.

**Treasurer – 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).

**Vice President - Fred Alley:** Thanks to Sara Runkel for her professional and informative presentation. Our April 28th meeting will be held at HLC. Bruce Gravens will be demonstrating other uses for row cover. His presentation will begin in the Victory Garden at 9 a.m., with our chapter meeting following at 10 a.m.

**Past President - Larry Sutton:** The American Horticulture Society is having a membership drive to increase membership. Membership includes a beautiful magazine 6 times a year and various discounts. For more information go to: <https://americanhort.ahs.org/ahs-membership-form-join/-/renew--new--v2>.

**Secretary - Barbara Robinson:** Black apparel, including t-shirts, caps, and aprons will be available in approximately two weeks. Barbara will contact those who ordered when they arrive.

**President – Chris Rusch:** Leo and Chris will be doing a gardening presentation for NeighborWorks Umpqua at Westside Gardens on Saturday. Six Master Gardeners have volunteered to mentor new gardeners in conjunction with the NeighborWorks Umpqua Kitchen Garden Project.

Chris and Julie Stanbery will be going to the Job Corps to talk to Sherry Chambers on ideas on how DCMG's can partner with them to set up a kitchen garden. They will be taking house plants, donated by Master Gardener's, to be placed in the dormitories.

The Glide Wild Flower show is on April 24th. They would appreciate help on Wednesday, the 20th, to set up and identify wild flowers. Reference materials are provided for identification of plants. Contact Chris if you are interested.

Chris attended the OMGA Leadership Meeting in Jackson County where they talked about retention of members. The main focus was on mentoring. Chris said, from the discussion held, it was obvious Douglas

County has one of the best mentoring programs in the State. She gave kudos to Denise Fennell for pulling off a great winter program.

Our April 28th meeting will be held out at the HLC. She encouraged Master Gardeners to shop the MG Plant Pre-Sale directly after our chapter meeting.

It is once again time to think about officers for the next year. Vice-President, Fred Alley, and Membership Chair, Denise Fennell, are stepping down. A slate of officers needs to be developed by the end of April. Contact Maureen Benice if you are willing to fill a position or want to nominate someone.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Community Outreach – Leo:** There are many upcoming activities:  
Amy Staats, a new class member and Americorps volunteer is conducting a project on composting and gardening at the Boys and Girls club.

Leo and Barbara Hamby will be leading a 1st grade class through the Discovery Garden on April 22nd.

Leo will be giving a presentation on garden soils to the Rainbow Garden Club on April 5th.

April 30th is Healthy Kids Day at the Fairgrounds. Leo, Barbara Hamby and Jennifer Russell will be planting milkweed with the kids.

Leo is stepping down as Community Outreach Chair. Please give Leo a call if you have questions or are interested in taking on this important position.

**Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch:** The Plant Clinic has been busy with 100 contacts in March. Anne Bacon has stepped down as a trainer and Gary Dubois has been added to the team. There are a lot of veteran slots open on the calendar now that training is over. Please sign up on the calendar in the Plant Clinic.

**Westside Greenhouse – Maureen Benice:** Crews have been heavily into seeding annuals, especially vegetables, and transplanting. Perennials are being root pruned, cleaned up and fertilized. Labels are almost done. Mid-month they will be inserted into all the plants. Westside crews meet every Tuesday, 9 a.m.

to noon and other days as needed and advertised via email.

**Eastside Greenhouse – Bruce Gravens:** Eastside has been having great crews and are into the last big push before the Plant Sale. Next Tuesday they will be taking inventory and could use extra volunteers to help. Eastside crews meet every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon.

The online Master Gardener Gardening Forum has 45 participants. There are a lot of interesting discussions going on. Anyone interested in participating should contact Bruce.

## **Discovery Garden – Julie Stanbery:**

There have been several great work days so far. The Japanese Garden work day was well attended with Steve leading the group. New raised beds have been built. Easy access has new signage which looks great. Geoff Puryear has had a good turnout for the Herb Garden.

This is the time of year when workers are asked to lend their volunteer time to the greenhouses in preparation for the Plant Sale. Unless you have a special project elsewhere, please report to the Westside or Eastside greenhouses to work.

There has been a change of leadership in the entry garden. Due to health issues, LaVerne Bailey has stepped down. Patrice Sipos has stepped up to fill this position with Maureen Benice's support. Thank you Patrice!

A power washer was donated to Trash to Treasure. Dennis Moore purchased it and donated it to Master Gardeners for use at the HLC. Thank you Dennis!

A good amount of money has been spent on infrastructure costs. Please check with Julie about any new projects to make sure there is money available.

There is no longer a County burn pile for our use. We now have our own behind the Westside greenhouses. This pile is not shared with the parks and is for our use only. Please do not throw in any plastics or root wads. Gale Robinson has been burning our pile frequently so it does not get too big as it is adjacent to the greenhouses. We would like to develop a crew who

would take turns doing this job on days when greenhouse crews are not working. If you have experience with burning (legally) and would like to volunteer, please contact Julie.

When greenhouse crews are root pruning they should pull apart the roots being discarded and put them in the compost pile. They will NOT decompose if they are thrown in whole and they will not burn so do NOT put them in the burn pile.

Umpqua Basin water has been turned on.

Thanks to Jon Thran for the great signs he made for the Japanese and Butterfly Gardens.

**Publicity/Newsletter – Bonnie Courter:** Look for ads this month in the News-Review advertising our Plant Sale. Banners advertising the sale will be going up this next week. Lawn signs will be available for distribution at our April 28th meeting. PSA's have been sent in for the change in Plant Clinic hours to 5 days per week. The News-Review has also been placing Plant Clinic hours in their "What's Up" calendar of events.

Newsletter articles are due to Bonnie by Saturday, April 2nd. Newsletters may be viewed at: [http://douglascountymg.org/mg\\_newsletter.html](http://douglascountymg.org/mg_newsletter.html).

**Hallmark – Linda Thames:** Bud Cruger, a former Douglas County Master Gardener, passed away the end of February in Wisconsin. Linda sent out several cards to members who underwent surgery. These included Laverne Bailey, Debbie Hesseltine, Judy Mercer, and Anita Yaeger. Linda will be gone the month of April. Shirley Purcell will be filling in for her. Please contact Shirley with requests for cards.

**Trash to Treasure – Cindy Rich:** Thanks to everyone who helped make our sale a very successful one. Our net profit was \$2,980.29. Ann Severson will be taking over the sale next year. Thank you Ann!

**Plant Sale – Barbara Robinson:**

Dates: Plant Sale set-up: Friday, May 6th, and May 7th  
**PLANT SALE!**

**Master Gardener Pre-Sales:** Master Gardeners are not allowed to purchase, shop, or set aside any of our plants until after 3 p.m., the day of the sale, no exceptions. For this reason, we offer Master Gardeners two opportunities to purchase before the general public. The first pre-sale is on Thursday, April 28th, directly after our chapter meeting at the HLC, running until 3 p.m. Your second opportunity is on Sunday, May 1st, 1-4 p.m. Your dues must be paid to shop pre-sales and you need to wear your badge for entry. Your spouse, significant other, child, friend, enemy may not shop for you if they are not a Master Gardener.

Liability release forms are available for those helping who are not Master Gardeners. A form must be signed before working any part of the sale or set up. Forms will be available at our Vendor check in table at the Fairgrounds.

**Hat Contest:** There will be a garden-themed hat contest as we've had in the past. Use your imagination and create as elaborate or simple of a hat you want. Show up at the Plant Sale in your hat and prepare to be judged! Prizes will be awarded to the top two as voted by your fellow Master Gardeners.

**Potluck:** We will have potluck lunch both Friday and Saturday. Eat breakfast before you come as we will not be serving breakfast either day. You will need to bring a potluck item for each day you plan to partake. Barbara Hamby is coordinating our kitchen this year. She will be sending out more information via the newsletter and emails. If you have questions, please give her a call or email her.

**Flyers and Bookmarks:** Whole page and half page flyers, as well as bookmarks are available for distribution. They may be picked up in the Plant Clinic. Whole page flyers show up well in windows. Half page are sometimes better for bulletin boards which are limited in space. Bookmarks may be placed on a counter for the general public to pick up. Please help us advertise by taking a few and spreading them around your community. Any place with foot traffic is a good place i.e., stores, businesses, medical offices, restaurants, coffee shops, libraries, etc. Always ask for permission to post and determine if there is a time limit it will be left up. If they remove all posts after a week, return the following week with another.

Raffle: Master Gardeners are encouraged to donate new items for our Plant Sale Raffle. They may be brought to the Fairgrounds on set-up day, May 6th, or contact Rosemary Brinkley or Barbara Robinson for pickup ahead of time.

Things to remember: Dues MUST be paid to work. You CANNOT work without your Master Gardener Badge. No exceptions for either.

Committee heads in attendance were asked to stand and introduce themselves. Clipboards with sign-ups will no longer be available in the Plant Clinic. Please email or call Barbara Robinson for any questions or to sign up if you haven't already done so. Committee heads will be given their respective lists and will call, by April 15th, those on their list. If members have not received a call from their committee head by that date, they should call or email Barbara Robinson. Read your newsletter for more details.

Barbara is stepping down as Plant Sale Chair as of the 2018 sale. She would like to mentor someone for the next year leading up to the 2017 Plant Sale. That person would take over as chair effective June 2017. Please contact Barbara for more information if you are interested or have questions.

Barbara thanked Vicki McAlister for setting up a dues sheet deposit box in Westside Greenhouse #1. It has been received well and is very much appreciated by those who work at the HLC!

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The Historian position is open and in need of someone to bring it into the 21st century. Anyone interested should contact Chris Rusch.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Updates to the DCMG Bylaws and Policies and Procedures Manual: Updates were posted in the Newsletter and online. Elva Sellens made a motion to approve the updates as presented. The motion was seconded by Betty Ison. There was no discussion. Motion passed.

#### SHOW AND TELL:

Bob Brindley announced the Jackson County Master Gardener Plant Sale in Medford will be held on April 30 and May 1st. Their sale date usually conflicts with ours,

so this is a chance for us to attend. Bob announced he is giving up the Insect Committee. He is also stepping down as Vendor Coordinator for the Plant Sale effective the 2018 sale. He has decided to focus on his business.

Gary Dubois brought in a portion his drain system which the roots of a birch tree had invaded. The pipe was a solid mass of roots. A reminder to all to survey the area you are planting for future/possible hazards.

Steve Renquist received apple root stock he has not been able to use. Contact Steve if you would like some.

**Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. by President, Chris Rusch.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Robinson, DCMG Secretary



**WELCOME  
CLASS  
of  
2016**

# Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: The deadline for the May 2016 Newsletter is April 30th. 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)



Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. OSU Extension programs will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with physical or mental disabilities. If you need particular accommodations, call our Extension Office at

Douglas County Master Gardeners  
PO BOX 1165  
Roseburg OR 97470  
Ph: 541-672-4461