



DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 32, Issue 2

February 2017

Feb. 2017 Calendar

Thurs., Feb. 2, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Mon., Feb. 6, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Mon., Feb. 6, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Feb. 7, 8:30-4:00

Winter Training Class

Wed., Feb. 8, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting

Wed., Feb 8, 1:00-4:00

DG Workday - hedgerow

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

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Mon., Feb 13, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Feb. 14, 8:30-4:00

Winter Training Class

Thurs., Feb. 16, 10:00

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Fri., Feb. 17, 1:00-4:00

Pruning Class - roses, shrubs

Mon., Feb. 20, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Mon., Feb 20, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Feb. 21, 8:30-4:00

Winter Training Class

Thurs., Feb. 23, 9:00-10:00

Continuing Education, Annex

Thurs., Feb. 23, 10:00

Chapter Meeting, Annex

Sat., Feb. 25, 8:30-4:00

Spring Into Gardening, UCC

Mon., Feb. 27, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Feb. 28, 8:30-4:00

Winter Training Class



"We're all in our places with bright, shiny faces"

The President's Post

Chris Rusch

Greetings, Everyone!

Welcome to the new class of Master Gardeners for 2017! We are now 5 weeks into the class and our new volunteers are learning all about the great programs and projects DCMG's are involved in. So far the new volunteers have already had a Discovery Garden tour and been through the Concurrent Sessions. Many have already begun to volunteer in the garden and greenhouses. A special thank you to all the veterans who have stepped up to participate as mentors, in the Discovery Garden tours, concurrent sessions and workdays.

I encourage you to put the "Spring into Gardening" seminar, February 25th on your calendar. This is an annual event for our Douglas County Extension and is held at Umpqua Community College. We offer interesting workshops in gardening as well as food preservation. Also mark your calendars for our Trash to Treasure fundraiser, March 11. There will be opportunities to sign up to help at both events. Look for sign-up sheets in the Plant Clinic.

New Swinger Bars for 2017

Betty Ison

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 green house. I

was instantly hooked by my first attempt many years ago. My seed 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>



The following volunteers have earned new swinger bars for 2017. 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: Kimberly Allen, Evelina Amparo, A n d r e a Bertling, Ed Cole, Harry Gandy, Peggy Gilbertson, Gwen Graham, Elena Hicks, Allen Huffstutter, Alan James, Ian James, Sierra Lewis, Jacqui Richardson, Jennifer Russell, Greg Sofos, Amy Staats, Stephanie Thompson, Lynn Wagner, Sherri Williams

200 Hours: Barbara Anderson, Cari Becker, D i a n a Circle, Gary DuBois, Barbara Hamby, Barbara Zastrow

500 Hours: Nathan Baily, Jean Decato, Bonnie Durick, Bill Fuller, Nancy Fuller, Sandy Grindle, Kathy Hart, Steve Hart, Marilyn Klingbeil, Jeanie Owen, Lorreen Robinson, Jim Rogers, Ann Severson, Patrice Sipos, Ray Warren

750 Hours: Anne Bacon, Kish Doyle, Jan Kirchner

1000 Hours: Carol Bolt, Rosemary Brinkley, Beth Brown, Ivor Chapman, Denise Fennell, Bruce Gravens, Neal Meyer, Ruth Stafford

1500 Hours: Fred Alley, Toni Rudolph, Elva Sellens

2000 Hours: Bonnie Courter, Jackie Carpenter, Chris Rusch

2500 Hours: Gale Robinson, Anne Waddington

3500 Hours: Barbara Robinson

5000 Hours: Shirley Purcell

8000 Hours: Gloria Amorde, Larry Sutton

9500 Hours: Julie Stanbery

15,500 Hours: Betty Ison

Book Review

Joe Yetter

This is a lovely, entangled, bang of a book that I enthusiastically recommend to gardeners, scientists, writers, farmers, foresters, and virtually everyone who has any interest in carbon-based life forms.

Hope Jahren is a paleobiologist or a geochemist or a geobiologist or a botanist, depending on her current endeavor, and she is always a deeply creative thinker and skillful writer. She grows plants in her lab, digs through 40-million-year-old leaves in the Arctic, discovers opal in hackberry seeds, and delivers insights about biology and about society to a growing fan base.

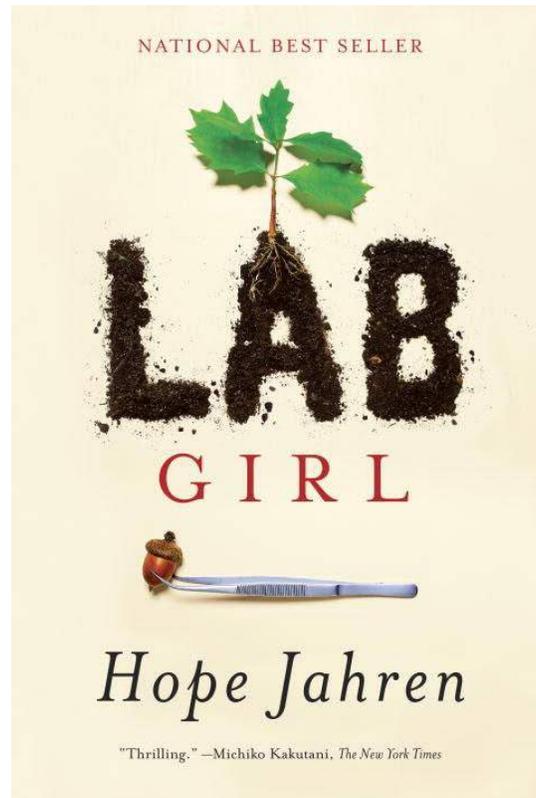
In Lab Girl, Jahren writes a memoir in which the story of her growth as a human being and as a scientist is intertwined with multiple stories of plant life, and she does it so skillfully that it takes the reader (well, this reader at least) awhile to understand that the close parallels between the life of the writer and the lives of the plants she studies are intentional analogies.

In the Midwest, in the summer, the corn grows so fast that you can hear it at night, squeaking and stretching, rattling as the stalks elongate; just so, the ideas, questions, answers, and more questions stretch out from the first page to the last, and you will hear the ideas, questions, answers, and so on every time you look at a plant while you are reading this book, and, I hope, for the rest of your life.

Case in Point #1: Jahren discovered that the hackberry tree (*Celtis occidentalis*) hardens its seeds by laying down opal—a semiprecious stone that makes the seeds tough to chew, and helps the embryo inside survive animal teeth and guts and other harsh environments. (This discovery marks the moment in Jahren's life in which she says she became a scientist: for a little while,

she was the only person in the history of the world who knew that one tiny fact.)

Case in Point #2: those 40 million-year-old tree leaves in the Arctic? Think about it for a moment: although the Arctic was warmer 40 million years ago, it was still the Arctic, and the forests there (with trees 6 feet in diameter) had to endure nights that lasted three months, as well as days that lasted three months. We do not know of forests today that could possibly endure such conditions. How did they do it? Are those abilities still available in the genomes of trees today?



Jahren grew up as something of a loner whose father was a science teacher at a community college. Her happiest memories were working in his laboratory, and she seemed destined to be a “lab girl” of some sort. Her personal story within the book is one of overcoming barriers to her academic achievements. Most of these barriers were related to institutional sexism, but she had to overcome the serious challenges of bipolar disorder, and her inability to relate to other people easily. In the book, Jahren describes the struggles of plants to overcome

their challenges, and sees these struggles and successes as metaphors for her own life. Her close relationship to the subjects of her studies and her understanding of them is inspirational, as is her uncompromising honesty.

There is a grandeur in this view of life. You should read it!

For an introduction video, check out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yht9LrYRxqg>

Available at the Douglas County Library (including a large-print version)

Available in electronic formats at Library2Go (<https://library2go.overdrive.com>)

Available at bookstores. Authors and scientists also need to eat. While Away Books will order it if they don't have it in stock.

Links:

https://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/29/books/review-lab-girl-hope-jahrens-road-map-to-the-secret-life-of-plants.html?_r=0

(A review in the New York Times—far better than my review, so if you are not yet sure whether to get this book, read this review!)

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v532/n7599/full/532312a.html> (A review in Nature)

<http://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/books/hope-jahrens-lab-girl-memoir-of-a-beautiful-scientific-mind/> (A review in Seattle Times)

<https://hopejahrensurecanwrite.com> (Hope Jahren's blog)

You can find many dozens of Jahren's scientific publications on Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com>).

Core Classes that Count Toward Continuing Education

Steve Renquist

When Master Gardeners attend the MG Winter Training program core classes they may enter on their time sheets those hours in the class as continuing education credits. You will enter those hours on your regular time sheets for the month, and don't forget to enter those same hours at the bottom of the time sheet in the continuing education box. Once you have reached **10 hours for continuing education** at the bottom of the page, you have met your annual requirement for that category. Attending 10 hours of core classes is not a requirement for all Master Gardeners. It is a requirement for Master Gardeners who want to volunteer in the plant clinic, teaching outreach classes in the community, or manage information tables at the Farmers Market and other event booths.

The classes in our Master Gardener program that qualify for continuing education credits are what we refer to as the core classes. The core classes include Botany I & II, Plant ID, Pesticide Safety, Plant Disease, Soils & Fertilization, Weed ID & Control, Insects, and IPM. These classes are considered science-based classes that give Master Gardeners the fundamental knowledge to be able to advise the public on basic plant development and nutrition, the proper use of gardening inputs that control pests, and at the same time keep people, pets, and the environment safe from degradation.

In the agriculture industry all personnel who work with agricultural inputs are required to take a number of classes each year to re-certify. At first it seems like an unnecessary bureaucratic process when needing to take these extra programs. However, over time I have learned to appreciate the process. It encourages learning and retention of important information. As I have gotten older I realize that refresher courses are a great help to me. I'm not saying that all Master Gardeners are old timers, but many of you preceded me here and those who have joined in the past 16 years were often already retired when you took the class. This recertification process is a bit complicated, but I do encourage all of you to keep current on the latest information we have to share from Extension. This will make you a better-informed Master Gardener no matter what you choose to do as a volunteer. Thanks for all you do for Douglas County.

Treasurer's Report as of 01/25/2017

Patrice Sipos

INCOME 1/01/17 - 1/25/17

Dues Membership	\$1,830.00
Soil Testing	\$20.00
Newsletter	<u>\$203.50</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,053.50

EXPENSES 1/01/17 - 1/25/17

Officer Gifts	\$44.99
Hospitality	\$86.99
Discovery Garden - Various	\$141.57
HLC - Various	<u>\$35.21</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$308.76

Breakdown of our accounts at 1/25/17

Checking	\$3,287.77
Money Market - Reserves	\$8,659.10
Money Market	<u>\$41,645.16</u>
Ending Balance 1/25/17	\$53,592.03

Plant Clinic Data 2016



Contacts

Month	Call-in	Walk-in	email	Totals
January	14	6		20
February	29	31	7	67
March	43	49	1	93
April	57	58	5	120
May	46	63	1	110
June	67	85	2	154
July	37	67	3	107
August	50	64		114
September	41	44	4	89
October	19	24	2	45
November	11	16		27
December	5	2		7
Totals	419	509	25	953

The Plant Clinic is one of our DCMG programs that reach out to our community to help people solve a wide range of gardening and landscape questions. This includes diagnosing plant problems and identifying insects. The Plant Clinic training program is a great opportunity for our new members to put their knowledge of sustainable gardening to work. The Plant Clinic will begin training our newest volunteers from the class of 2017 starting in February. We are lucky to have a great training team this year with Leo Grass, Bonnie Courter, Larry Sutton, Chris Rusch, and Karolyn Riecks.

During the months of February and March the Plant Clinic calendar will be devoted to training. Veterans can begin signing up to volunteer at the clinic in April, after all the students have completed their initial training.

The plant Clinic statistics for 2016 showed a total of 953 visitors. 30 more than we had last year! I have attached the data at the bottom of this report if you are interested in looking at the details.

We had 20 visitors in the Plant Clinic in January. This is about the same as last year this time.

The clinic will be open in February on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-4. We will be devoting our efforts towards the training of the new class. The Plant Clinic is a great way to promote our Master Gardener Program and encourage sustainable gardening in Douglas County.

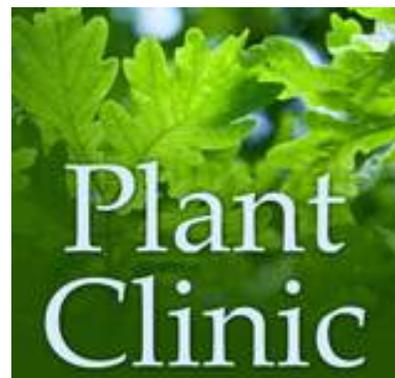
If you are in town, stop by the clinic and say hi to our new students.

Question categories

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Disease		2	10	12	16	17	6	8	6				77
Insects	1	14	20	21	20	46	28	19	17	3	6		195
Pesticides		1	2	2	4	5	2	2	1	1			20
Lawn		5	5	3	4	6	2	8	3	4	2	1	43
Orchard	2	12	10	16	6	15	8	12	11	6	1	2	101
Plant ID	1	2	3	11	9	11	12	8	15	3	4	1	80
Wildlife	1	2	1	2	2		1	7	2	2	1		21
House plants						1			2	1			4
Gardening	7	14	13	14	18	20	14	18	11	15	6	1	151
Weeds		1	5	6	4	10	10	12	3	2	2		55
Pruning	1	1	3			2			1	1	1		10
Trees/Shrubs	5	2	12	21	17	9	17	13	9	6	2	1	114
Water			1	1	2	4	2	1	2				13
Misc.	2	11	8	11	8	8	5	6	6	1	2	1	69

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



Trash to Treasure Sale Ann Severson



Julie Stanbery instructs on techniques of orchard pruning

Save the date, **Saturday, March 11th**, for our annual 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 (no plants), books, tools, jewelry, furniture, toys, kitchen items, glassware, holiday items, crafts and whatever you can find at a garage sale. However we DON'T take clothes, shoes, food, old computers or analog TV's.

We will set up tables on Thursday, March 9th, from 1-3 PM or until done. Donations accepted on Friday, March 10th from 9am-4pm. The sale is Saturday, March 11th 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 me to sign up. We will need helpers for all three days.

Please save plastic and paper bags for the sale. These can be dropped off on Friday, March 10.

Thank you for all your help!

Ann Severson, Chair, Trash to Treasure Sale
541-817-4983
grannieannie_56@yahoo.com

A poster for Discovery Garden Workdays. The background is a textured, brownish-orange color. The text is on a white, torn-edge paper background. It lists three workdays: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1:00-4:00 (Hedgerow pruning); Thursday, March 9, 1:00-4:00 (Ornamental Shrub pruning); and Tuesday, March 21, 9:00-Noon (Japanese Garden pruning). Below the text is an image of a pair of red-handled pruning shears. At the bottom, it says "Pruning Workshops" and lists two more workshops: Friday, Feb. 17, 1:00-4:00 (pruning roses & entry shrubs) and Thursday, March 2, 1:00-4:00 (pruning ornamentals).



The Grocery Store Tomato Blues

Bonnie Courter

Longing for the juicy, flavorful tomatoes fresh-picked from your garden? Sick of the tasteless, cardboard-like excuse for a tomato you find on your supermarket shelves during the off-season? Well, rejoice - Science is coming to the rescue!

Researchers at the University of Florida, after more than a decade of study, have identified the chemical compounds which give tomatoes their distinctive sweet taste. By determining the genes that code for these chemicals and where they can be found in the tomato genome, scientists can help breeders breed tomatoes hardy enough to survive field to store without sacrificing flavor.

Commercial tomatoes are consistently bred for traits such as shelf life, firmness and disease resistance to maximize their market value, but over time, the flavor was lost.

Harry Klee, professor in the horticulture department at the university, has been studying the chemical origins of tomato flavor for 25 years. His team analyzed 398 types of tomatoes, including modern, heirloom and wild species, to determine both the biochemistry and genetics of great tomato flavor. They then sequenced the complete genomes of the tomato varieties to determine which genes code for the flavor-enhancing aroma compounds that result in good tomato flavor.

Breeding for flavor is difficult as other factors enter into the equation. Tomatoes picked when green usually have less flavor than those picked when fully ripe. Tomatoes stop creating the all-important aroma compounds when chilled, and finally, location plays a role in developing a tomato flavor. Hopefully by reducing it to a set of genetic markers, this will give breeders tools for reliably selecting for the best genetics regardless of where or how they are grown.

With a genetic map for putting flavor back into the fruit, Klee's group has started to breed a few tomatoes that they hope will appeal to both growers and consumers. Hopefully coming to a supermarket near you!

reference: Deborah Netburn, [LA Times](#), 1/26/17, "Grocery Store tomatoes Taste Like Cardboard - Florida Researchers are Fixing That"



Spring Into Gardening Seminars

Saturday, February 25

8:30-4:00

Umpqua Community College

Online registration begins

February 6 and ends February 23

**See Extension Office for details and
upcoming brochure**

Winter Training Class Happenings

Class begins! Botany lectures and homework review



Discovery Garden tours and plant propagation



2017



Scrumptious potluck!



Photos: Kish Doyle & Bonnie Courter



Getting hands-on instruction on propagation

Over 40 showed up for Steve's orchard pruning class!

Busy "worker bees" laying gravel to create a new pathway in the Herb Garden



OSU DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER Chapter Meeting January 26, 2017

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by President, Chris Rusch. There were 49 people in attendance. Chris thanked Jeffrey Stone, professor of Botany and Plant Pathology from OSU for his great presentation on the economic, ecological and cultural importance of fungi.



Minutes: The minutes were approved as published online.

Horticulture Agent – Steve Renquist: Master Gardeners should be aware of the many classes and garden sessions being offered the next few weeks. This afternoon Steve will be leading a fruit tree pruning class at the Discovery Garden from 1 to 4 p.m. The class is open to the public for a \$5 fee and to Master Gardeners for free. A large group of non-members have inquired about the class so Steve is expecting a rather large class. Pruning sessions and Discovery Garden workdays are listed in Announcements.

If there is enough interest, Steve will be purchasing lime sulfur to divide up and distribute. This can be done legally if the product shared is decanted into containers with a copy of the original label affixed to each container. Please contact Steve if you are interested. Optimal application of lime sulfur to fruit trees is 3 times a year during the dormant season, before bud break. (Steve has since found out lime sulfur is no longer legal to sell to the public.)

For information on safe disposal of outdated sprays and hazardous household waste go to: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/hhw/index.html>. Although Douglas County does not accept hazardous waste,

Lane County does accept it from Douglas County. Receipt of waste is done by appointment only so be sure and call to secure your appointment.

Weed Day at the Douglas County Fairgrounds is being presented on February 1st. The noon pollinator event is full but attendance is still open for the afternoon. Bring in a weed and admission is free!

We will host Spring into Gardening at UCC on February 25th along with DC Master Food Preservers. Help is still needed in various capacities. A signup sheet will be posted in the Plant Clinic mid-February or contact Maureen Benice for more information. Master Gardeners are welcome to sit in on classes for free if they sign up to help with the event or they can register and pay to attend all sessions.

OFFICER REPORTS

Membership – Diana Circle: Most recent statistics for the 2017 membership drive include: 85% renewed, 2 transferred in, 32 new class members, and 11 dropped. Julie Stanbery helped Diana call all members who had not paid dues. Any non pays will be dropped as of Monday, and a new roster will be distributed on February 1st. Hard copies of the roster will be available in the Plant Clinic. Diana distributed orange OMGA 2017 Membership cards. Some nurseries i.e., Territorial Seed (Cottage Grove) and Garland Nursery (Corvallis) give a 10% discount to Master Gardeners with proof of membership. Cards will be available in the Plant Clinic.

OMGA – Nancy Fuller: Early registration deadline for the International Master Gardener Conference has been extended to February 28th. Registering by this date provides a \$50 discount. Registrations are up over 900 which could mean the event will sell out. If you are interested in attending, register soon at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/registration/>. Our chapter will be entering the Painted Bicycle contest. Patrice has donated a bicycle for our use. For details on the contest requirements refer to: <http://omga.org/painted-bicycle-chapter-display-2017-imgc/>. Contact Nancy if you are interested in participating on this fun project.

Kish Doyle announced there is a smartphone app for International Conference participants. The app allows

you to keep track of classes, contact other participants, find local restaurants, shopping, etc.

OMGA's next quarterly meeting will be in Clackamas County on March 3rd and 4th. The secretary position still needs to be filled. They are looking for information on mentor programs across the state, what works well and what doesn't work so well. If you have suggestions, send them to Nancy.

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 – Anne Bacon: Upcoming continuing education speakers are:

- February: Andrea Molt of Territorial Seed
- March: DC Coop, "Installing Drip Irrigation"
- April: Jeff Giulietti of Eugene Physical Therapy, "Preventing Injury in the Garden"

The County will be remodeling the Extension auditorium beginning in March. As such, **our March, April, and May meetings will be held at the First United Methodist Church on West Harvard.** This is the same location our Awards Banquets are held. Master Gardener homes/gardens are needed for our summer meetings. Contact Anne if you are interested.

President – Chris Rusch:

Shirley Purcell, our communications person, sent out 629 emails on our behalf in 2016! Please thank her when you see her!

Concurrent sessions for Winter Training turned out well. Chris thanked all the veterans who made it possible.

Chris addressed the remodeling to be done at Extension. This will require moving Chapter and Executive Board meetings. Chapter meetings have been taken care of but Board meeting location is still in limbo. Julie Stanbery will check on using Helleck Hall.

Jackson County Extension is presenting the workshop "Protecting Pollinators: Benefits for Ecosystems & Food Security in Oregon" on February 11th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/>.

Chris once again asked those working the Plant Clinic, attending meetings, etc. downstairs to NOT use their cellphones in the hallway and to please keep visiting and talking to a minimum so as not to disrupt those who are working.

Chris welcomed those from the 2017 Class in attendance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Outreach – Jude Stensland: The following outreach opportunities were fulfilled this past month:

- Leo Grass did a class on pest control for the Glide Garden Club
- Bruce Gravens and Jude met with two teachers at Camas Valley School to survey their needs. They have a large, old greenhouse needing rehabilitation. They also discussed a compost system and raised beds.
- Jude spoke with Master Gardener Abe Long of Glide, who is a special education teacher. Abe is interested in incorporating the gardening facility into a transitional program for special ed students. They have a greenhouse and active elementary education garden but the high school garden program is not yet off the ground. Abe will get back to me when he develops a more stable program and to see how we can help. I explained our outreach goals of teaching and guidance.
- February will be very busy with classes at Sutherlin and Glide Garden Clubs, as well as a tour of the Discovery Garden for the Camas School.

Plant Clinic – Chris Rusch: Plant Clinic training for the new class will begin on February 1st. Trainers are Leo Grass, Bonnie Courter, Chris Rusch, Larry Sutton, and Karolyn Riecks.

Total contacts for 2016 were 953, 30 more than 2015. Steve Renquist mentioned he responded personally to 108 Ask an Expert questions in addition to others in our Chapter who work Ask an Expert. These figures do not include contacts made at Farmers Market.

Westside Greenhouse – Barbara Robinson: The Westside has been hosting Tuesday afternoon Winter Training classes presented by Betty Ison on Propagation and Seeding. Participants were

encouraged to make cuttings to take home after the Propagation Workshop. Seeding involved actual planting for our May Plant Sale. Once trainees have participated in the Seeding Workshop, they are welcome to join our weekly seeding crews. We will



Gale Robinson picking up the Greenhouse order from Kruse Farms
(Photo: B. Robinson)

meet on Mondays for the duration of Winter Training from 9 to noon. Once training is over we will revert back to our normal Tuesday work days. In addition to regular work days we will be working some additional days as well. Please watch your emails (sent on the weekend) for upcoming workdays.

Eastside Greenhouse – Ann Severson: Crews are currently working Thursdays through Winter Training weeks. They will go back to Tuesdays once Winter Training is complete. Grasses have been the center of their attention with propagation close behind.

Awards – Betty Ison: Hours for 2016 are due by the end of January. Any received after that date are not counted. Betty explained the process of how payback hours and swinger bars are figured for the year. Swinger bars for total hours are given out the first of each year, not at the Awards Banquet in October. The only exception is for trainees who earn their 60-hour payback swinger bar. These are given out as they are earned. Betty read off a long list of Master Gardeners who donated an enormous number of hours in 2017. Please contact Betty if you were on the list or think you have earned a replacement swinger bar.

Discovery Garden – Julie Stanbery: The Discovery Garden is a stop on one of the pre-tours for the

International Master Gardeners Conference in July. This is a huge honor! (The tour is sold out!) We want our garden to be in top shape for the tour.

The Herb Garden is part of this year's class project. Work started this last Saturday with 9 new students and 8 veterans showing up. An 80-foot handicapped accessible pathway was built in 2 ¼ hours!

Repair to the bathrooms is done. The toilet is still an issue so, as in the past, do not leave the room until the toilet quits running.

Renovation of beds in Easy Access: Jeannie Owens explained briefly they will be installing a SIP (sub irrigation planter garden) which is similar to an Earthbox. Supplies are being donated by Bob Brindley. Carrots and tomatoes will be planted in it. An email will be sent out when it is being constructed for those interested.

Victory Garden – Ruth Stafford: Ruth said to watch for emails announcing work crew dates. Initially crews will not be working every week.

Newsletter – Bonnie Courter: Bonnie explained to trainees present the newsletter comes out monthly at the end of each month or first of the month. Included is a monthly calendar, plus articles from the executive board, co-chairs, plus interesting articles and pictures.

Bake Sale – Janet Parkerson: Thank you to Janet and her co-chair, Barbara Zastrow, for their leadership on this important fund raiser. Our 2016 Bake Sale was a tremendous success, netting \$1,772! We accepted debit and credit cards for the first year using the "Square." Twenty five percent of our income, or \$437, came from its use. Janet thanked the 52 Master Gardeners who volunteered, many who baked AND worked at the sale. We had 83 pies, with all gone by 2 p.m. All baked goods were purchased by 2:30 which allowed us to close 30 minutes early! Janet's daughter is getting married in Arizona a few weeks after our 2017 Bake Sale so she desperately needs a co-chair or two! Please give her a call or email her if you can help.

Trash to Treasure – Ann Severson: This event is less than 8 weeks away. Mark your calendar for the following dates: March 9 (table set up and emptying merchandise from trailer), March 10 (receiving sale

goods and pricing), March 11 (sale date and tear down). Ann has configured signup sheets in 4 hour increments but will accept any time you are willing to work. Signup sheets are in the Plant Clinic.

Needed are clean, usable donations of crafts, books, kitchen items, jewelry, linens, collectibles, tools, garden items, toys, furniture, sporting goods, electronics and holiday items. We will not accept the following: dirty or tattered furniture, baby furniture or equipment, clothing, shoes, exercise equipment (large items), old style – bulky T.V.'s (flat screens okay), items which are obviously inoperable, broken, dirty.

Master Gardeners working 4 hours or more on Thursday and/or Friday will have the opportunity to purchase Friday prior to the sale. Payment must be by check or exact cash as there will not be a cash box until Saturday. On Saturday, we will be accepting debit, credit, check, or cash.

New Business

DCMG Monthly Volunteer Time Sheet – Vicki McAlister: We have new time sheets for the new year. The blue time sheets can be picked up in the Plant Clinic or in Westside Greenhouse #1. A new line for tracking recertification hours has been added to the bottom of the time sheet. Recertification is not required unless you are volunteering in a position where you will be teaching/advising the public i.e., Plant Clinic, Farmers Market, Community Outreach, Douglas County

Fair, etc. An explanation by Vicki on how our time sheets, including recertification hours, should be completed can be found in our January 2017 Newsletter at http://douglascountymg.org/mg_newsletter.html. The 2017 class does not need to worry about tracking recertification hours for 2016.

Chapter Support for Statewide MG Leader – Steve Renquist: Sam Angima, a Dean with OSU, is asking Master Gardener Chapters to consider giving support to finance a position for an assistant to Gail Langellotto. Suggested is a cost sharing from MG Chapters statewide with \$20,000 being the goal from these state programs. OSU would share the cost of the position by contributing \$20,000. There is no requirement to participate. We will be discussing this at our Executive Board meeting.

Show and Tell

Julie Stanbery shared a newspaper article from Saturday's The Oregonian in their Homes and Gardens section. The article, written by Kym Pokorny, was titled 'Portland scores coup with conference' and was a great plug for the International Master Gardener Conference.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 by President, Chris Rusch.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Robinson, DCMG Secretary



Remember!

Due to remodel construction at the Annex,
Chapter Meetings for March, April, and May
will be held at the
First United Methodist Church
1771 W. Harvard, Roseburg

Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: The deadline for the March 2017 Newsletter is February 25th. 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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