



DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 32, Issue 7

July 2017

July 2017 Calendar

Mon., July 3, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Tues., July 4

Happy Birthday, America!



Wed., July 5, 10:00-Noon

Diagnostics Class @ Steve
Renquist's, 331 Thora Circle,
Winchester

Sun., July 9, 12:30-2:00

IMGC Tour @Discovery Garden

Tues., July 11, 8:30-11:30

DG & Victory Garden Work Crews
Greenhouse Crews

Mon., July 17, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Tues., July 18, 8:30-11:30

DG & Victory Garden Work Crews
Greenhouse Crews

Tues., July 20, 10:00-Noon

Diagnostics Class, location TBA

Tues., July 25, 8:30-11:30

DG & Victory Garden Work Crews
Greenhouse Crews

Thurs., July 27, 10:00

Chapter Meeting & Potluck @ Rick
Kreofsky & Connie Page's
residence:

190 Whistler's Lane, Roseburg

Sat., Oct. 7, 5:30-8:00

Annual Awards Banquet @ First
United Methodist Church,
Roseburg



The President's Post

Chris Rusch

Welcome to summer! One of the things I love about gardening is the change of seasons. There is always something new to enjoy. I can hardly wait to see those little green "staples" showing the beans are sprouting and the bright zucchini flowers saying, "you will get your fill of squash soon". Summertime also means the beginning of our summer meetings and the terrific adventure of visiting new neighborhoods. I love these summer meetings! It gives us a great opportunity to visit our Master Gardener friends at their homes and view different forms of gardening. It allows us to visit with each other in a relaxing setting. I encourage all of you to come out and enjoy our summer meetings. Bring a spouse, friend and enjoy terrific food and friendships. A large part of the Master Gardener experience is the friendships we've made. This group has some of the most fun-loving, hardworking individuals I've had the pleasure of knowing.

Thank you to Linda Brunanchon for being such a gracious host for our June chapter meeting. Linda's yard and garden were a lovely space for our June meeting that was followed by a delicious potluck.

Our slate of officers for 2017-18 was voted on at the general meeting and I want to thank the Nomination Committee - Fred Alley, Karolyn Riecks, and Rosemary Brinkley. Please remember that the slate of officers will be voted on again at the July Chapter Meeting, and nominations for any of the board positions will be accepted from the floor as well at that time.

Julie reminded us that the Douglas County Fair is just around the corner, August 9-12. The fair is a great time to show off our gardens' bounty to our neighbors and friends. Often, your flowers and vegetables, or canning project is a popular entry and you can do your share in educating the rest of us what can be grown here in Douglas County. You can find more information by checking out the "Exhibitors Contest Handbook and Entry Information". Here is the link: <http://www.co.douglas.or.us/dcfair/fair/img/forms/book.pdf>

Don't forget to mulch your garden this month! The goal during the warm to hot summer months with mulch is to help provide even moisture and cooler soil for the plant's roots. Summer mulches can be left on and never removed since they will decay over the months while providing nutrients and improving the soil at the same time. It's often said that you can't get too much of a good thing. Most gardeners would tell you that is true of mulch, and you'd get an earful about the virtues of the stuff. It is one of the easiest and least expensive things you can do in the garden that provides a plethora of benefits. By simply adding a layer of mulch to your garden right now, you can moderate soil temperature, reduce water consumption, add nutrients to the soil, reduce erosion, encourage earthworm activity, reduce weeds, and improve the garden's appearance.

Have a Happy Fourth of July with your family and friends! "Summertime and the living is easy". Have a fantastic summer!

Vice-President's Report

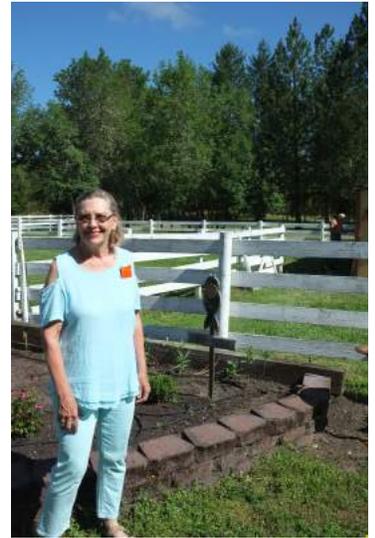
Anne Bacon

Our June Chapter Meeting and potluck lunch was held at the home of Linda Brunanchon. Linda is a transfer member from the Deschutes County chapter of Master Gardeners and relocated to Roseburg from Sisters Oregon. She remarked she's learning about new

and different weeds here in the warmer climate of the Umpqua Valley. THANK YOU, LINDA!

The July meeting will be at the home of Rick Kreofsky and Connie Page. Their place is at 190 Whistlers Lane in Roseburg. See you there on Thursday July 27th.

Directions: Go east on Hwy.138 (Diamond Lake Blvd.) out of Roseburg 11.5 miles. Turn left onto Whistler's Park Rd. Go 1.4 miles then turn right onto Whistler's Lane. Go 0.1 miles and you're there! Their address is 190 Whistler's Lane, Roseburg (though it's closer to Glide)



OMGA Nancy Fuller

Nancy Fuller and Kish Doyle attended the OMGA 2nd Quarter Meeting held in Oregon City on June 2nd & 3rd. "Mastering the Challenges of Excellent Customer Service" was the topic for the Leadership Forum. A community college teacher was invited and gave an excellent presentation. She stressed the importance of knowing how your customers learn, citing three methods: visual, auditory and kinesthetic. A copy of the handout will be placed in the Plant Clinic office.

There are 1,238 people registered for International Master Gardener Conference in Portland. Final preparations for the conference are underway. One of the offered conference tours will be stopping at our Discovery Garden on July 9th.

Deadlines for the Extension Educator and Search for Excellence grants were extended to July 31st due to lack of applicants. Sarah Runkel is applying for an Extension Educator grant. Chris Rusch will write a Search for Excellence grant proposal based on our Ask a Master Gardener articles written for the News-Review.

A motion was made to change the OMGA financial audits from quarterly to annually. After discussion, the motion was passed.

Master Gardeners are invited to write a Haiku poem for submission in a contest. There will be a drawing for a prize & entries will be published in the next edition of the Gardener's Pen newsletter. Entries should be submitted to the OMGA Executive Board. Contact Nancy Fuller for more information.

Every chapter has been asked to submit to the OMGA Executive Board the name and contact information of at least one continuing education presenter they would recommend to others. A list will be compiled and distributed to all chapters.

President-elect, Sue Nesbitt, is beginning the process of gathering nominations for next year's officers. Questions were raised to President Seamus Ramirez and Sue Nesbitt regarding the violation of bylaws by allowing officers to serve beyond a two year period. No explanation was given but a promise to look into the matter was made.

Chapters were surveyed with the result that Mini-College should continue. Sites for the 2018 Mini-College are being researched. Yamhill County is no longer able to organize Mini-College on its own, although they would accept help from another county. Central Oregon chapter also expressed interest in hosting in their area.

The next quarterly meeting will be held in Jackson County on September 15th & 16th.

ADVANCED DIAGNOSTICS CLASSES

Steve Renquist will be hosting two Advanced Diagnostics Classes in July. These are for MG's who are active in Plant Clinic & wish to hone their diagnostic skills. The first one is **Wed., July 5**, 10:00-Noon at his residence: 331 Thora Circle, Winchester. The second will be **Thurs., July 20**, 10:00-Noon, location to be announced.



Treasurer's Report

Patrice Sipos

INCOME 5/24/17 - 6/27/17

Bank Interest	\$1.03
Dues	\$10.00
Contribution	\$107.00
Soil Testing	\$140.00
Post Plant Sale	\$284.50
Special Events - Other	\$31.83
Compost Tea	<u>\$507.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,081.36

EXPENSES 5/24/17 - 6/27/17

Bank Charges	\$12.00
Banquet	\$162.40
Postage	\$47.60
Discovery Garden	\$788.61
HLC	\$585.92
Plant Sale	\$3,001.98
Compost Tea	<u>\$128.65</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,727.16

Breakdown of our accounts at 6/27/17

Umpqua Checking	\$3,791.63
Umpqua MMK	\$20,961.96
NWCC - Checking	\$1,287.33
NWCC - Member Account	\$100.00
NWCC - Savings	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
Ending Balance 6/27/17	\$51,140.92

What is a Victory Garden?



During World War II, Victory Gardens were planted by families in the United States (*the Home Front*) to help prevent a food shortage.



Planting Victory Gardens helped make sure that there was enough food for our soldiers fighting around the world. Because canned vegetables were rationed, Victory Gardens also helped people stretch their ration coupons (*the amount of certain foods they were allowed to buy at the store*).



Because trains and trucks had to be used to transport soldiers, vehicles, and weapons, most Americans ate local produce grown in their own communities.



Many different types of vegetables were grown—such as tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, beets, and peas. Victory Gardens were responsible for bringing Swiss chard and kohlrabi onto the American dinner table because they were easy to grow.



At their peak there were more than 20,000,000 Victory Gardens planted across the United States.



By 1944 Victory Gardens were responsible for producing 40% of all vegetables grown in the United States. More than one million tons of vegetables were grown in Victory Gardens during the war.



People with no yards planted small Victory Gardens in window boxes and watered them through their windows. Some city dwellers who lived in tall apartment buildings planted rooftop gardens and the whole building pitched in and helped.



Many schools across the country planted Victory Gardens on their school grounds and used their produce in their school lunches.



The U.S. government printed recipe books describing how to prepare home grown vegetables to make nutritional and tasty meals. Agricultural companies gave tips on how to make seedlings flourish in different climates.

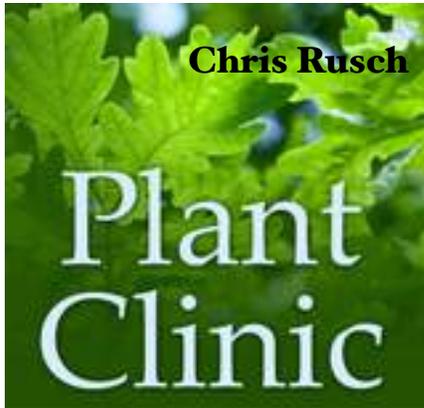


Excess food grown in Victory Gardens was canned and used during the winter months to help supplement the amount of food available.



Growing Victory Gardens gave Americans on the Home Front a feeling that they were doing something helpful to win the war (*and they were*)!

Learn more about the Home Front at www.nationalww2museum.org



Summer is upon us, and this is our busiest time of year! 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. Our newest volunteers from the class of 2017 are signing up at the Clinic on a regular basis and working to get their 36 hour requirement out of the way. It is a pleasure to work with all of our new volunteers. They are all very focused on obtaining the correct diagnosis for the plant questions that come our way. We are lucky to have a great training team this year with Leo Grass, Bonnie Courter, Larry Sutton, Chris Rusch, and Karolyn Riecks.

Veterans, please consider signing up to volunteer at the clinic now. It is a great way to serve our community and get to know our new volunteers.

We had over 130 visitors in the Plant Clinic in June. This is about the same as last year this time.

We are seeing a lot of insect damage. The most popular is damage from aphids. Probably the most common insect in gardens, aphids are small, usually light green (though there are black, gray or red aphids) and sometimes sport a fuzzy coat. They feed on plants by sucking the juice out of leaves and produce a sticky substance called honeydew. What we tell our clients to do is: to monitor plants often, being sure to check the underside of foliage where aphids like to congregate in large groups. To control mild populations, squish or wash off with spray from the hose. For more moderate infestations, use commercially available insecticidal soaps. The product must come in direct contact with the aphids for effective control. Encourage natural enemies like ladybug larvae, lacewings and hover flies (syrphid flies) by not using broad-spectrum pesticides and planting a diverse variety of plants.

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



Crop Rotations for Vegetable Gardens **Steve Renquist**

Most gardeners love to have a vegetable garden that includes a wide variety of food crops. And if you are like me, I love to plant a whole row of beets or carrots or beans no matter how many people are eating out of the garden. One of the reasons I do that is that I like to use the whole seed packet. Partial seed packets never seem to get used otherwise. The other reason I like planting whole rows is that it is easier for me to rotate between unlike plants in the coming year if just one vegetable crop was there. One other benefit of planting the whole row is that I have a little extra production to share with UCAN.

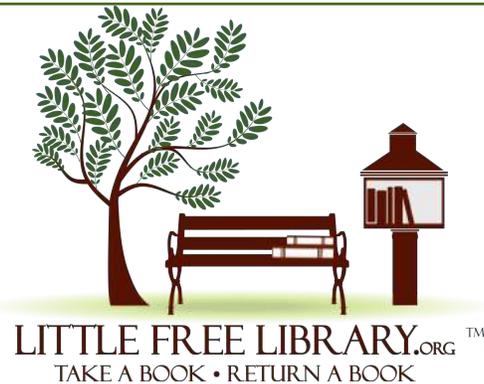
After planting my garden each spring I make a simple drawing of it, labeling where each crop is growing. This allows me to plan for the coming season. I have done this for years but often the crops I want to grow don't always work into a good rotation. For example I love growing tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, and eggplant but since they are all in the Solanaceae family it really makes it difficult to rotate that much space with other crops each year. Another group of veggies that I like to plant are the Cruciferae; broccoli, kale, collards, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, cauliflower, turnips, radish, and rutabaga. The third large group of vegetables that I like to plant are the Cucurbitaceae which include melons, squash, pumpkins, and cucumbers. Trying to keep from planting a crop from the same family in the same row of your garden the year after, can get to be a real challenge.

Because of the complexity of trying to manage rotations, especially if you have a relatively small space, you might want to try rotating certain crops out of your garden for a year. I have started doing that with crops that take a fair amount of space (potato, squash, cabbage) and that aren't particularly expensive. These commodity-like crops purchased in the store seem to have about the same quality as my homegrown versions while crops like tomato, pepper, kale, broccoli, and melons really seem to be much better when grown and harvested at the peak of maturity from our own gardens. So

give your favorite vegetables a place in the planting scheme each year.

Another option for crop rotations is to work closely with your friends planning your vegetable gardens each year. One year your garden could grow most of the Solanaceae family plants and the Cruciferae, while your friends are growing Cucurbitaceae and Leguminosae (peas, beans). What I like about this rotation is that it potentially builds friendships and your soil.

One last little bit of advice that I would like to share for this gardening season. Cover crops truly are an amazing part of a winter gardening scheme. This past winter my backyard received about 50 inches of rain. So much rain that a fountain of water started flowing from the base of a nearby power pole and running across my vegetable garden. This water flowed nonstop from November to early May. This excess water could have eroded or damaged my vegetable gardening area rather severely. Instead my ryegrass-vetch-Austrian Pea cover crop grew to 5 feet tall and held the soil amazingly well. When the soil finally dried out enough to chop the cover crop and cultivate in late May, the soil worked up wonderfully with masses of plant roots. Those plants not only held the soil and kept the nutrients from being lost but they added a tremendous amount of organic matter back to soil. Whatever crop rotation you use in your vegetable garden, make sure you include a cover crop to keep your soil healthy.



Kathy Hart

With the future of our own public library looking sadly questionable, I thought it timely to get a **Little Free Library** up and running at our own Discovery Garden. With the help of my husband, Steve Hart, we hope to have the library construction done in time to install it in the Children's Garden for the upcoming July garden tour. Our library will be registered and part of a worldwide non-profit organization that currently has over

50,000 Little Free Libraries. The concept is truly an honor system and our young garden visitors will be encouraged to leave a book in exchange for one they take. If you are intrigued with the idea and want to check it out, please go to www.littlefreelibrary.org. The goals of the organization are to inspire a love of reading, build community and spark creativity. I think our Discovery Garden will be a perfect setting for achieving those goals!

Our library will focus on children. It would be great to have donations of children's books from our members to get the project up and running. Mary Hoffman has placed a book collection box in the Plant Clinic and can steer you in the right direction.

I will be the caretaker of our Discovery Garden Little Free Library, so please feel free to contact me at kahart2452@aol.com if you have any questions about the project or book donations.

Thanks for helping inspire our young Douglas County readers!

Corral Tomatoes With These Tomato Cage Alternatives

By Patricia Oelze June 16, 2017
(reprinted from Dave's Garden Newsletter)
Contributed by Barbara Robinson

Summer is here, which means tomato growing season is in full swing. While the average backyard gardener is happy to harvest an abundance of fresh tomatoes for snacking, canning, and slicing, there's one thing that most tomato growers can't stand: using those pesky cages.

If you've had any experience trying to cultivate tomatoes, you probably know what I'm talking about. These cages, which have now been a gardening staple for three decades, are about two feet tall, made of simple wire, difficult to push into rocky soil, and can be a real pain to put away for the winter. While they've served their purpose in many gardens over the years, it's too often that tomato cages just don't do enough to keep quick-growing (and huge) plants in their place.

In many cases, standard tomato cages will work for you. They're easy to insert into *soft* soil, even easier to come by, and will last for several seasons. On the other hand, if you're looking for a little more control over your tomato plants, there are several alternatives to consider.

Swap Thin Cages for Wire Fencing

Instead of using those unreliable tomato cages this growing season, try making your own out of fencing wire! A five-foot by five-foot square of fencing can easily be rolled into a tube and secured by twisting baling wire between its two ends. Next, you'll want to use stakes to root this DIY cage to the ground to prevent it from blowing away in the next storm that hits your garden. When buying supplies for this project, remember to look for material with a large mesh. This will allow you to reach into the cage instead of having to remove it altogether when the time comes to harvest your ripe tomatoes.

While you'll still technically be using a tomato cage, it'll be a much stronger one than any of the single-wire versions you would find at the hardware store. Fencing wire can support more weight than standard cages and is one of the best materials you can use to create your own reusable enclosure.

Plant Upside Down

A few years back, hanging a few upside down tomato plants in your patio seemed like nothing more than a "made for TV" fad. However, if you only plant a few tomatoes each year, this trick can eliminate the need for cages and save you some valuable garden space. Hanging tomatoes will never need to be weeded and won't eat up a ton of your cash. In fact, you can easily turn a five-gallon bucket into a planter by cutting a four-inch hole in its bottom and putting a plant's root ball through that hole. You'll want to fill the bucket with a lightweight potting medium—garden soil can be too heavy for hanging baskets of this size, especially over porches or other areas where you'll be suspending multiple plants. For the same reason, you'll want to hang varieties that produce smaller fruit, like cherry, grape, or Roma tomatoes. This will allow your plants to thrive despite their defying gravity. It's also important to select healthy, robust plants that will be able to withstand this new growing direction and the weight of all their fruits. Leggy plants aren't a good option here.

Create a Tomato Trellis

Building a tomato trellis is no different than building one for any other garden variety. Trellises are much sturdier than simple wire cages and will particularly benefit any planters living in windy regions. Make your own tomato trellis by hammering dowel rods, wooden posts, or T-Posts into a row and stringing twine, rope, or another



strong material horizontally between them. As your plants get bigger, weave them between the wires to keep them growing upward and in place.

Tomato trellises can be constructed in many other ways, like in A-frame shapes or with vertical strings in place of horizontal ones. Based on your garden space, you'll want to determine the design that works best for you.

Stake 'Em Up

If you have some extra dowel rods or T-posts at your disposal, you can always try staking your bulky tomato plants up. Simply drive a post into the ground near a tomato plant and secure the two together in multiple areas. Gardeners who use this method tend to have their own preference of tie-down material, but twine, fabric strips, reusable twist ties, plastic clips, and hook-and-loop fasteners are all sturdy options. By growing tomato plants on stakes, you'll be able to keep securing them as they grow.

Everyone has their own go-to method for corralling their summertime tomatoes, but you might want to try something new if last year's cages left you feeling more frustrated than supported. You may just stumble upon your new favorite way of keeping your plants in check.



Annual Awards Banquet

When? Saturday, Oct. 7, 5:30-8:00

Where? First United Methodist Church,
Roseburg

Potluck dinner, Awards, Door Prizes

Sign up to attend in Plant Clinic or call
Judy Huntley, 541-459-2550 by **Friday,
September 22.**

New Policy for Awards Banquet Betty Ison, Awards Chairman

New policies and procedures have been implemented by the Executive Board regarding the Awards Banquet. Because so many people signed up after the two week deadline to sign up last year and created issues for the Awards Chairman, changes have been made so that won't happen again.

It has been directed that the signup sheet be out at the June Meeting and be available for the whole summer. This should give people plenty of time and opportunity to sign up. We know a lot of people travel and are gone during the summer months, and don't read or catch up on their Newsletters in a timely fashion.

In the future, anyone who signs up after the two week deadline (this year **Friday, September 22**), may attend the dinner and partake in the festivities, but **WILL NOT** be acknowledged or receive any awards during the evening. A lot of time is spent putting together and organizing the awards. Last-minute sign ups put the Awards Chairman in a bind and will no longer be accepted. Please sign up early, so if you are attending you will get the acknowledgement you deserve for your Master Gardener service.

Five Tips for Avoiding Squash Cross-Pollination

by Patricia Oelze, June 12, 2017
(reprinted from Dave's Garden Newsletter)
Contributed by Barbara Robinson

Squash is a common garden staple that is fun to grow and even more fun to eat. For gardeners, the varieties seem endless: summer squash for grilling, winter squash that keeps long after being harvested, and, of course, pumpkins for Halloween carving. Growing squash is typically an easy task for home gardeners, but sometimes, ready-to-harvest breeds don't quite look like their photos on seed packets and in catalogs. What went wrong? In most cases, it's a simple case of cross-pollination between different types.

One of the most common mistakes people make when growing squash is attempting to plant multiple varieties without first reviewing all of their traits. When it comes to squash, it's important to have a thorough understanding of breeding habits. Cucurbits (the scientific family to which squash belongs) produce both male and female blossoms that are most commonly pollinated by insects. In some accidental cases, even people can transport pollen from one bloom to another. Consequently, it's easy for cucurbits to produce some unideal, Frankenstein-like hybrids.

Of course, you won't be able to tell if these unsavory combinations have actually occurred until the following growing season, and even then you'll have to have saved your own seed. Only the offspring of your first-generation squash will bear signs of cross-pollination. If you don't save and plant your own seed, you may find that this problem isn't a particularly big deal. Nonetheless, gardeners who *do* shouldn't feel disheartened. There are several tips and tricks you can try to avoid nature-made squash combinations.

1. Research The Squash You're Planting

You've already learned that squash are members of the Cucurbita family. Within this family are several cultivars, each of which tends to cross better with a certain set of varieties. Most gardeners plant squash from the C. pepo, C. moschata, or C. maxima groups. Common squash types in these categories include:

C. pepo: Pattypan, Acorn, Straightneck, Zucchini, Gourds

C. moschata: Butternut, Crookneck, Long Island Cheese Pumpkin, Tromboncino

C. maxima: Hubbard, Buttercup, Arikara, Candy Roaster

It's important to research the different squash groups you'll be planting and find out which ones are safe to grow near one another. For instance, because *C. pepo* squash can only cross with other *C. pepo* squash, you'll have no problems planting them next to *C. moschata* or *C. maxima* types. If the varieties you're planting all belong to different groups, you'll generally be able to grow them together with little to no worries. If, however, you're planting more than one kind of squash from the same group, you'll have to do a little extra work.



2. Give Plants Some Space

Your first line of defense in preventing cross-pollination between cucurbits is simple: space. In most cases, you'll need to separate plants within the same cultivar by at least a half-mile to prevent accidental breeding. For gardeners with a lot of space, this may be an easy task. Those with limited gardening room, however, will find this distance a little daunting.

When thinking about spacing, you'll also have to consider how isolated you are from other gardeners. Remember that pollinators aren't on your side and that they often move from yard to yard without the slightest bit of concern for your gardening needs. Are your neighbors planting any kinds of squash? If they are, you'll have to take those varieties and their placement into account as well. If that seems impossible, you might try bagging your squash plants to reduce their chances of being fertilized.

3. Cover and Hand Pollinate

While it may seem like more work, bagging or covering your cucurbits is a good way to keep them safe from cross-pollination, especially if you've discovered that some of your squash belong to the same group long after planting them. It's best to cover different varieties

on different days so that all of your squash plants can still be pollinated by bees and other insects.

If you're looking to reduce the chances of cross-pollination even further, you might consider hand pollination. While this process can be a bit time-consuming, it's easy to do and will especially be worth the effort for those gardeners who save their seeds for future growing seasons. To hand pollinate, you'll need to identify your male blooms and gently rake their pollen onto the female's pistils. Afterward, you can choose to re-bag them for extra security.

4. Plant Squash Weeks Apart

It's also possible to isolate squash varieties by time. By creating a gap between each plant's flowering period, you're sure to reduce their chances of cross-pollinating. While this can be difficult to do in regions with relatively short growing seasons, it's a good option for anyone who isn't keen on bagging or hand pollinating their plants.

5. Watch For Abnormalities

If you planted some seeds from last year's garden and are worried about potential cross-pollination, you'll want to monitor your crops closely throughout the growing season. Observe the way each plant grows and vines and the fruit it begins to produce. If you encounter an oddball that doesn't match the rest of your plants, it may be wise to simply pull it from your garden to prevent unwanted cross-breeding. Until you can determine which of your homemade seeds will yield you quality squash, you'll want to give them all a chance to thrive.

Know that cross-pollination can happen anyway. Don't be discouraged if your squash end up cross-pollinating despite your best efforts. The fruit each plant bears will still be edible, and their seeds can still be planted the following year. Just remember that you have created a mixed strain that might yield some unusual results. If you're an avid saver, you'll be better off discarding your cross-pollinated plant seeds and buying fresh ones from a reputable company.

Everyone performs unsuccessful experiments from time to time. Besides, what is gardening if not a learning experience?

**OSU DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER
GARDENER
Chapter Meeting
at Linda Brunanchon's Residence
June 29, 2017**



Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President, Chris Rusch. There were 43 in attendance. Chris thanked Linda Brunanchon for allowing us to gather at her home and asked her to say a few words.

Linda took the Master Gardener class last year in Redmond before they moved from Sisters to Roseburg in November of 2016. They live on 5 acres which they open up for use by 4H kids needing a stall for their animals. Linda is appreciative of the climate here as it lends itself to gardening, much more so than Sisters.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as published online.

Agents Report – Steve Renquist: Steve is relieved to be done teaching the spring quarter at OSU in Corvallis. Although he loved teaching, the four hour drive was definitely not enjoyable.

- We are having a reverse season from last year which took us into the summer months with a very dry environment. Our wet winter this year has left us with a good subsoil moisture level.

Crops are looking good.

- Pests were early last season. This year the cooler spring has given them a late start, so much so Steve is having trouble catching them. Spotted wing drosophila are almost nonexistent in the commercial fields. Steve is monitoring in 25 spots around the county and only caught two in May and eight in June. In contrast, last year he caught hundreds in May and June. As the weather cools off a bit, some control measures may have to be taken.
- Brown marmorated stink bug traps are out in Douglas County, including at the HLC by the filbert trees. Steve has caught eight of these pests. Parasitic wasps are working well in our area. Codling moth levels are low.
- The vineyards are 3 ½ weeks behind the pace of last year. This will be the latest harvest for wine grapes in the last 4 or 5 years.

OFFICER REPORTS

Membership – Diana Circle: We currently have 269 members.



OMGA Alternate Representative – Kish Doyle: Nancy and Kish attended the state meeting on June 2nd in Oregon City.

- *Mastering the Challenges of an Excellent Customer Service Program* was the topic for Leadership. A community college teacher was



brought in and did an excellent presentation. She stressed the importance of knowing how your customers learn, citing three methods: visual, auditory and kinesthetic.

- Deadlines for the Extension Educator and Search for Excellence grants were extended to July 31st due to lack of applicants.

- Master Gardeners are invited to write a Haiku poem for submission in a poetry contest. There will be a drawing for a prize. Entries should be submitted to the OMGA Executive Board.
- Every chapter has been asked to submit the name and contact information of at least one continuing education presenter they would recommend to others. A list will be compiled and distributed to chapters.
- President elect Sue Nesbitt is beginning the process of nominations for next year's officers. Questions were raised to President Seamus Ramirez and Sue Nesbitt regarding the violation of bylaws by allowing officers to serve beyond a two year period. No explanation was given but a promise to look into the matter was made.
- Mini College sites are being researched for 2018. Yamhill does not have the manpower to put on the function by themselves. They would welcome more volunteer help. Bend also expressed an interest in hosting.
- Jackson County will host the next quarterly meeting on September 15 and 16.
- 1240 people have registered for the International Master Gardener Conference in Portland, the 2nd week in July.

- Kish has the forms available for t-shirts for those interested in ordering.

Treasurer – Chris Rusch for Patrice Sipos:

Financials were distributed. Updates on the budget are available on the web at http://douglascountymg.org/mg_documents_forms.html. Patrice has set up two new accounts at Northwest Credit Union and has made a partial transfer of funds. Checks will be delivered at the end of the month at which time she will transfer remaining funds from the Umpqua Bank accounts

Vice President – Anne Bacon: Anne thanked Linda for providing us with a beautiful venue for our meeting. She also thanked Janet Parkerson for transporting the tables and chairs. Janet volunteered to do so again for our July meeting which will be held at the home of Connie Page and Rick Kreofsky at 190 Whistlers Lane, Roseburg. Anne will be sending out location directions prior to the meeting.

President – Chris Rusch:

- Demolition and construction of the upstairs of the Extension will begin July 17th. There will be no Plant Clinic that week as construction crews will be doing asbestos abatement work. Anne Bacon asked if we should be looking for another location for meetings come October. Steve Renquist responded, from information he has been given, completion before October should be on track. We will play it by ear.

- Barbara Robinson is stepping down as secretary of our organization after 3 years. Chris thanked her for her service.





- There will not be an Executive Board meeting in July since many of our members will be at the International Conference that week.
- Our chapter received a \$100 donation in memory of Delores Simmons.
- Two busloads of IMGC participants will be touring the HLC on Sunday, June 9.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Outreach – Jude Stensland:

- The Tri-City Garden Club had a meeting at our pavilion on June 1st. There were 16 attendees. Jude and Maureen Benice led a tour of the garden, along with a question and answer period.
- On June 10th six, 8-year-old Girl Scout Brownies toured the gardens. They made worm bins with buckets, which they decorated with Sharpies, to compost kitchen scraps. They learned how to use a drill and wrote down the forbidden foods for composting. They will return on July 22nd with their worm farms.
- Leo Grass hosted six 12-year-olds in the garden on June 15th. They made seed tape, enjoyed a story and song session and had pots to color.
- On June 21st a group of 16 Lane County seniors were here for a garden tour. They received

information on how to become a Master Gardener (in Lane County) and lots of information on easy access gardening.

Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch: The Clinic has had 130 contacts so far for the month of June. This is about the same as last year. There have been many bug questions with a lot of bugs being frozen for identification by the Insect Committee. There are many time slots available for veterans to work. The sign up calendar is at the Plant Clinic. Please stop by or call the Plant Clinic to sign up.

Westside Greenhouse – Barbara Robinson: The Westside has a new patio cover for their crew to work under for sun protection. It is 14 feet square with a tarp



Photo: B. Robinson

for a roof. The tarp will be removed during the winter and spring months. Barbara expressed her excitement over this new structure which will make working outside much more comfortable. She profusely thanked Mark Schmoll, who came up with the design for the structure, and his carpentry crew which included Ivor Chapman, Steve Hart, and Ray Warren. They did a beautiful job! We will be putting this shade area to use immediately with our weekly Tuesday crews! Thank you Mark, Ivor, Steve, and Ray!

Awards – Betty Ison: Betty encouraged mentors to contact their trainees and encourage them to turn in their hours. As per current records, one trainee has finished Plant Clinic hours, but not volunteer hours. Others need to complete both. Normally by this time of year, trainees are beginning to receive their swinger bars for completion of hours. More information will be

coming later on date requirements for turning in hours to be counted and recognized at our October Awards Banquet. Betty makes all the certificates handed out at the banquet for those banquet participants who have signed up in advance to attend. She needs a good amount of lead time to accomplish this task. Anyone signing up less than 2 weeks prior to the banquet will not receive a certificate as per our Bylaws.

Discovery Garden – Julie Stanbery:

- Great things are going on in the garden with crews getting ready for the IMGC tour.
- Bonnie Durick and Janet Parkerson are watering on Mondays and Thursdays. A big thank you to them both for making sure our gardens are watered!
- Fred Alley has done a phenomenal job of purchasing tools at garage sales and refurbishing them for our use. Please let Fred know if there's a particular tool you would like to see out at the Discovery Garden and he will keep an eye out for one. He just added 8 lawn rakes to the tool inventory. Julie thanked everyone for keeping the tools clean and well organized in the updated tool storage area.
- We have found the leak in the Umpqua Basin waterline and it has been dug up. It is a slow leak and will be repaired after the IMGC tour.



- No one responded to Julie's email regarding the concrete piers in the green shed. She will

donate them to Heartwood.

- Julie met with Aric Fromdahl of the Department of Human Services and Commissioner Gary Leif at the HLC. They talked about the soon-to-be-developed Pitchford Youth Campus. Helleck Hall will be remodeled, with an addition, and will contain a commercial kitchen, dining room, and classrooms for its 6-12 year-old residents. North of Helleck Hall (out by the circular parking area) residence/dormitory facilities will be built. Various fences will be built to keep the facility more contained. There will no longer be public access on the driveway bordering the filbert trees. A gate will be installed across the driveway, adjacent to our bathrooms, and we will no longer have access to the circular drive.



- As part of the International Master Gardeners' Conference, we will host two tour buses on Sunday, July 9th at approximately 12:30 p.m. Participants will be divided into 4 groups and led through the Discovery Garden by Bonnie Courter, Larry Sutton, Chris Rusch, and Julie Stanbery. Garden heads will be available to present and answer questions regarding their specific garden. Tables will be set up under the trees adjacent to the Victory Garden for lunch. Lunch will be available for tour participants, but not for Master Gardeners. Betty Ison has generously volunteered to make flower arrangements for each table. A porta potty will be available. Larry and Rosemary are getting together goody bags for participants. Anyone

interested in setting up for this event should be at the garden at 11 a.m. on Sunday, the 9th.

- Sharon Hopkins said Don Larsen (from Graffiti Weekend) was in the Discovery Garden on Tuesday looking for Julie. He said all looked good for the upcoming Show and Shine on Saturday, July 8th and we “wouldn’t even know they were there” by Sunday.

Victory Garden – Mik Carlson: Mik thanked Steve Hart and his crew for building and installing the beautiful “Vegetable Garden” sign. The Victory Garden crew has been harvesting peas, onions, garlic, beets and cabbage. They have taken 205 pounds to UCAN so far. She encouraged Master Gardeners to donate their excess produce to UCAN. The FISH pantry alone is serving 1,000 families each month! Donations can be brought to the Victory Garden on Tuesdays and they will transport to UCAN or you can take to UCAN yourself. Be sure to mention you are a Master Gardener so we will get credit.

Newsletter – Bonnie Courter: Articles for the newsletter are due this Saturday.



Umpqua Valley Farmers Market – Barbara Anderson: The number of market visitors are picking up with over 1,000 coming through. This Saturday they are having a customer appreciation day with free ice-cream being distributed for as long as the supply lasts. There are 2 to 3 volunteers signed up to staff the



Master Gardener booth to August 12th. Barbara would like to see some new blood sign up to help. Please contact Barbara Anderson to volunteer. This is an excellent venue for promoting our organization.

Canyonville Farmers Market – Chris Rusch: Volunteers are needed to staff our booth at this market which takes place two times per month. A signup sheet is available in the Plant Clinic.

Awards Banquet – Judy Huntley: Our annual Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, October 7th, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church on Harvard. Mark the date on your calendar. This is a chance to have a wonderful time with great people, good food and numerous door prizes, while recognizing those who have contributed to the success of our organization. Judy passed around a signup sheet for those planning to attend. Further information will be



shared in the newsletter and via email. The signup sheet will be in the Plant Clinic or you can contact Judy to add your name to the list. The menu has not yet been determined. Suggestions are welcome and may be submitted to Judy.

Hallmark – Linda Thames: Linda, tap dancer extraordinaire, sent out several of her beautiful, handcrafted cards this month. Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Dolores Simmons and Judy Metz-Bridges. She also sent get well cards to Patrice Sipos and Anne Bacon.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations for office – Nominating Committee:

The nominating committee has developed a full slate of officers for the coming year. Included are Chris Rusch as President, Anne Bacon as V.P., Judy Huntley as past V.P., Patrice Sipos as Treasurer, Sharon Bordeaux as Secretary, Diana Circle as Membership, and Nancy Fuller as OMGA Representative. Julie Stanbery made a motion we accept the slate of officers as announced. Fred Alley seconded the motion. Roger Sawyer opposed as channeled by Sharon Hopkins. ☺ (We miss you Roger!) The motion was carried. Kish Doyle announced she would be continuing as Alternate OMGA Representative. Julie Stanbery moved we accept an amended slate of officers to include Kish Doyle as Alternate OMGA Representative. Fred Alley seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

SHOW AND TELL

- Julie Stanbery encouraged people to submit floral entries to the Douglas County Fair. More information may be found online in the DC Fair Premium Book at <http://www.co.douglas.or.us/dcfair/fair/img/forms/book.pdf>
- Doug Gissel has a large selection of garden pots (plastic) he would like to find a home for.
- Jon Thran brought in several bags of “forever onion” starts to share.
- Sharon Hopkins shared her encounter with Wiley Woods’ daughter in the Discovery Garden. She was very appreciative of the wonderful work

Master Gardeners have done to implement and carry out her father’s dream.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Robinson, Secretary



We now have a "stump garden" which was carved into a planter after a dying tree was cut down next to the green shed. It is planted with drought-tolerant sedums and will be maintained by the rock garden crew.



The carver is Ed Rosemeyer, who is a talented chain saw artist from Sutherlin. He donated his time to create the planter.
~ Kish Doyle

Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: The deadline for the August 2017 Newsletter is July 29th. 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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