



Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter



August 2019 Calendar

Mon., Aug. 5, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Tues., Aug. 6, 8:00-11:00

Greenhouse Crews

Discovery Garden Workday

Victory Garden Crew

Tues.-Sat., Aug. 6-10

Douglas County Fair

Thurs., Aug. 8, 8:00-11:00

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Aug. 13, 8:00-11:00

Greenhouse Crews

Victory Garden Crew

Discovery Garden Workday

Wed., Aug. 14, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting

Thurs., Aug. 15, 10:00

Advanced Diagnostics, (TBA)

Thurs., Aug. 15, 8:00-11:00

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Mon., Aug. 19, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Tues., Aug. 20, 8:00-11:00

Greenhouse Crews

Victory Garden Crew

Discovery Garden Workday

Thurs., Aug. 22, 8:00-11:00

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Aug. 27, 8:00-11:00

Greenhouse Crews

Victory Garden Crew

Discovery Garden Workday

Thurs., Aug. 29, 10:00

Chapter Meeting/Potluck at home of

Ron Owan, 1510 Gem Dr.,

Roseburg

Sat., Oct. 12, 5:30

Annual Awards Banquet

The President's Post

Nancy Fuller

Summer temperatures have caught up with us. I keep telling myself that the hotter temps will help all the fruits and vegetables ripen, and make the roses bloom. Then, I'm in the house with a fan by 11AM.

Due to circumstances beyond her control, Debby Finley was unable to host our July chapter meeting at her home. We hope to be able to visit her garden at another time. Many members received the short notice message to meet at the Discovery Garden pavilion instead, so we had a nice turnout. The potluck food was delicious.

At the July chapter meeting, new officers for 2020 were elected. The new officers will take their oaths of office at the August chapter meeting (8/29) and begin their terms of office with the September Executive Board meeting. Congratulations to President-elect Nancy Fuller, Vice President-elect Diana Woodward, Secretary-elect Bonnie Courter, Treasurer-elect Toni Rudolph, Membership Director-elect Kay Livermore, OMGA representative-elect Barbie Hamby, and OMGA alternate representative-elect Kish Doyle.

If you haven't yet heard, our chapter received a Karl Carlson grant of \$200 from OMGA for new signage in the Rock Garden. The Rock Garden crew (Tasha King, Kish Doyle, and Nancy Fuller) is planning what to put on the signs that will educate the public on the definition of rock garden, types of plants, and how to construct this kind of garden.

We will be looking for a new Publicity chairperson to start in September. Diana Circle will be ending her term with the August meeting. Please contact any of the officers if you are interested in this position.



I encourage you to read OMGA's July Gardener's Pen newsletter. There are pictures and reports from the International Master Gardener Conference held in June in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The PDF link was sent out through Shirley Purcell. Here is the website:

<https://omga.org/july-2019-gardeners-pen-newsletter/>



I also encourage you to come out and visit our Discovery Garden. It looks beautiful and colorful and there is shade if you want to sit and enjoy the views.

OMGA Report

Rosemary Brinkley

OMGA will be having a small version of the Silent Auction at the November Leadership Meeting on November 1 and 2, 2019.

Why? First, OMGA has only two sources of funds – the dues you pay to OMGA and the Silent Auction that is usually held during Mini-College. The funds earned from this auction will help OMGA continue to offer the various grants and awards that we give each year.

Second, it's fun!! This year to help create the atmosphere we have a theme: "Christmas For the Garden".

How would this work? Each chapter would donate 3 items with a minimum value of \$25. The OMGA Representatives will send a list of their chapter items with a short description and picture. All of these items will be compiled into a booklet and sent out to everyone by Oct. 1, 2019. Master Gardener members will be able to look at the items in the booklet and let their OMGA representative know which items they would like the representative to bid on for them.

Winners will be announced at the Nov. 2 meeting and the representatives will bring home the items that were won by their chapter members.

Douglas County Master Gardeners, if you have items that you would be willing to donate to the silent auction, please give me a call at 541-673-8814 or email me at mikeandrb@gmail.com.

I would like to thank the Douglas County Master Gardeners who attended the July meeting for their input in answering the questions OMGA had requested being discussed. Here is the info I will be sharing with the OMGA Board:

1. What type of educational program and activities would make Mini-College so compelling that members would not want to miss it?

- More hands on training, hands on demos, artistic craft projects, workshops to make items you can take home and put in your garden (mini garden, mason bee houses) Hyper-tufa planters, flower arranging
- Advance training with longer sessions
- Classes on Soil, composting, pruning, plant disease, pest control, invasive plant ID and how to manage them, how to survive with deer, rabbits, moles and gophers.
- Garden design, landscaping design, terracing, watering systems
- Free beer ☺

2. For a slight increase in cost, OMGA could hire an event coordinator who would take over the majority of the organizational arrangements and minutia that take so much of the Coordinators time and energy. Would members be willing to pay a slightly higher fee to attend Mini-College?

- Yes: Worth the money for their knowledge and expertise of the local area. It is getting harder to find

OMGA volunteers who can spend hours taking care of these details.

- No: Volunteers should be able to complete the assignments. Not really concerned about having an expert put it together.
3. Where in the state would you suggest holding Mini-College, and in what type of facility?
- Colleges such as Linfield, OSU
 - Community colleges such as Umpqua Community College, Bend Community College. Some members felt it is the best choice to have hands-on areas and is cheaper than hotels.
 - Casinos - Seven Feathers, or casinos at the coast
 - Any place that has A/C and is centrally located. Community facilities such as fairgrounds
 - Any place that have hands-on areas like OSU experiment gardens and stations.

Christmas for Your Garden



A Mini-Silent Auction

When: November 1 & 2, 2019

Where: OMGA Leadership Forum and Board of Directors Meeting

How: Each chapter brings 3 gardening related items with a minimum value of \$25 each to the November Leadership Forum. Top bidders announced at the Board Meeting.

Why: Have fun and Generate funds for OMGA projects.

Note: OMGA has only two sources of funds: dues and the Silent Auction that is normally held during Mini-College. The requests to OMGA for funds continues to increase. Without the Silent Auction in 2019 we may be short of funds for these requests in 2020.

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 is noticed higher up if it shows up on our timesheets! The other reason to report your time is to qualify for updated swinger bars for your name badge.



An important resource for you as a Master Gardener is our chapter [website](#). It has two components, information about the Discovery Garden directed to the public and chapter information that may be of use to you as a volunteer. On all of the website pages, the left hand column has the navigation information. At the bottom of the navigation area, below the Facebook logo, you will see a link [For Master Gardeners](#). Clicking on this will open navigation to chapter related information. Our [Documents and Forms](#) page is one you should bookmark so you can quickly access a variety of chapter information that is available via our website from this page. All things time are in the Volunteer Time Reporting section of the Documents and Forms page.

One of the confusing things about time reporting for both our new 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.

An overview of using the timesheet is [here](#). There are reports of your posted time on the website and in the Plant Clinic so you can verify what I have posted. Generally, the reports on the website are a little more current.

There are two places you can submit your completed timesheets – the Plant Clinic and the Westside

Greenhouse. I usually will pick up timesheets shortly before the Chapter meeting each month and post and update the web report within a couple of days.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Please **put your name on your timesheet.**
- Please **report your time in hour or half-hour increments only.**
- Make sure that you **total your hours for each category** as I will not post your time without these totals.

If you are still not sure what category to enter your time under or have other time questions, you can ask a veteran, an officer, your mentor, or send an email to me (Vicki.McAlister@csulb.edu). One of us will be happy to help you.



ATTENTION, CLASS OF 2019!

This is a wonderful opportunity for you new Master Gardeners to embark on the rewarding path of mentoring our new students for the upcoming Class of 2020. By mentoring, you will not only augment your extensive learning gleaned from taking the course last winter, but cultivate new friendships, use your experience to enrich your students’s participation in their endeavor to meet their goals and facilitate their becoming active members of DCMG.

And for you “old timers”, you bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table as well as the enthusiasm of learning new things to fresh, eager minds. Since Steve will most likely be retired by the time class begins, many of our speakers will be new to the program, offering new perspectives and new knowledge to their subjects.

Kish and Bonnie are recruiting mentors for the Class of 2020. So far, we only have 7 full-time and 7 alternates. We need 9 more full-time mentors. If you feel you cannot commit to a full-time mentorship, consider being an alternate (substitute) OR team up with a friend and be “co-mentors”, sharing the time and responsibilities between you both.

Please contact Bonnie or Kish if you are interested in being a mentor, or if you have questions. There’s a sign-up clipboard in the Plant Clinic. Bonnie: rbcourter@gmail.com; Kish: kdoyle1320@gmail.com

Treasurer’s Report

Toni Rudolph
6/27/19-7/23/19

INCOME

Donation	\$100.00
Interest	\$10.59
Soil Testing	\$10.00
Plant Sale	\$120.00
Compost Tea	<u>\$194.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$434.59

EXPENSES

Banquet	\$50.03
Newsletter Postage	\$65.50
Discovery Garden	\$329.22
HLC	\$75.18
Plant Sale	\$875.37
Compost Tea	\$128.65
Utilities - Electricity	<u>\$600.76</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$2,124.71

Breakdown of our accounts as of July 23, 2019

NWCC - CHECKING	\$1,342.64
NWCC - Reserves	\$5,002.18
NWCC - Savings	<u>\$39,290.84</u>

Ending Balance

\$45,635.66

Fred’s Fav’s





While observing booths around our MG booth at last year's Douglas County Fair, I was thinking we needed to do something to draw immediate attention to our booth. We had the beekeepers on one side with a great display of bees and equipment and we had the Master Food Preserver's booth giving out free samples of food! At first, I thought....there's a use for all the extra zucchini!!! (kidding aside). I thought a large sign over our table full of fruits, vegetables, flowers, etc. would be a good draw. Last fall, Chris Rusch and I set out to make our booth more recognizable and exciting to visit! Thus, I agreed to make the sign, along with Fred Alley constructing the stand. Chris and I ordered table runners with the new Master Gardener's OSU Beaver logo as a standout on the runners. We also thought a raffle for a basket would be a good draw to the booth as well.

I agreed to do the sign without really thinking it through. Yes, I have taught all grades of art over my career, but have been teaching art on an elementary level for the past 18 years. My own personal painting has been long put on a back burner!



Artist, Shirley Reade, adding last touches

In December, I met a woman at church, Shirley Reade, who had just moved back to Roseburg after years of living north. She was a master painter and has a fabulous website at shirleyreade.com. She was without a studio and the ability to paint at the time her home was being built, so she relished the idea of helping me with the sign! In January, we set to work. I showed her a sketch I had made, and a list of veggies, fruits, flowers, etc. that many of us grow in the area. We started researching pictures of all these items then rolled out 8' of paper and began to sketch it out in more detail. By May we had the master done and Fred brought the board and we drew the outline so he could cut it out. Fred went above and beyond. He sanded all the edges and then cut great little 6" squares for us to use to test on!! We then transferred the pencil copy onto the board and as soon as school was out (I still substitute teach), we set to work.

Our original intent was to paint both sides of the board. It didn't take long for us to realize there would be no way to paint both sides in time for the Fair, as each item was taking anywhere from 6-12 hours to paint...sometimes more! By the first of July, we started discussing a possible scan so that additional prints could be made....and in any size! We checked out costs and Nancy presented it to the Board. It was approved and we took the finished sign up to Eugene to be scanned....where it is now. Also, I decided to copyright the design, so **it cannot be shared on social media.**

We hope you are pleased with the results. Shirley and I each invested over 150 hours of volunteer time to bring this to fruition. We recognize that many of our fellow Gardeners devote much more time than this in your endeavors in our chapter as well. It has given Shirley and I much time to talk, laugh and enjoy each other's company in the process. I have learned much from her and we will continue to work together.



Are You A "Weed Wizard"?

Take the challenge! See how many weeds you can identify.
Check your answers in September's Newsletter.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



17



18



19



20



DCMG Audit Report

Patrice Sipos

For Period July 5, 2018 to July 16, 2019

The audit was performed on July 16, 2019. We met with our current treasurer, Toni Rudolph, in the DCMG Plant Clinic. The audit committee members were Patrice Sipos, Vicki McAlister and Karolyn Riecks.

The following items were reviewed during the audit:

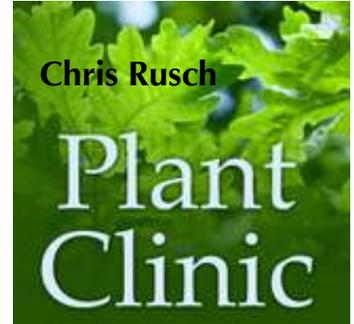
- Checked that financial documentation on the Plant Clinic computer regarding financial statements, bank statements, and reconciliation reports was up-to-date and complete.
- Verified that the current budget was being used to monitor income and expenses.
- Reviewed financial transactions to verify that they were properly documented and accurate.
- Reviewed bank statements and reconciliation reports to make sure they accurately reflect transactions in our bank accounts.
- Confirmed that our 2018 Tax Return was filed with the OMGA treasurer.
- Verified that chapter liability insurance is being maintained for the members.
- Reviewed the state of paper files and documentation, and verified that financial data is backed up and in multiple locations.

After the above review, we were satisfied that the Chapter's books are being maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards and are accurate.

Toni is using the new accounting software with great accuracy. Her reports are clear and easy for all to understand.

Respectfully submitted by: Patrice Sipos, Vicki McAlister and Karolyn Riecks, Audit Committee for 2019

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 that they learned in our Winter Training Program to work. We are lucky to have a great training team this year with Leo Grass, Bonnie Courter, Chris Rusch, Barbara Horst, Ernie Amabisca, Anne Bacon, and Karolyn Riecks.



During the month of July we had over 130 visits to the clinic. We always have an interesting assortment of questions from our visitors.

We need **veterans** to help in the Plant Clinic both in continuing to help our new volunteers and keeping up with the work load of assisting our visitors to the Plant Clinic. We have plenty of openings. I encourage each of you to take time, look at your calendar, pick just one afternoon each month, and give the office a call and sign up. Please try to volunteer your expertise at least once a month to help out in this important outreach program. The Plant Clinic is a great way to promote our Master Gardener Program and encourage sustainable gardening in Douglas County. And it's lots of FUN!!



Sylvia & Christian Andino manning our booth at the Umpqua Valley Farmer's Market - another Plant Clinic venue.

Diagnostics Class

Bonnie Courter

On Thursday, July 18, about 15 Master Gardeners descended on the spectacular, terraced gardens of Jack Finney (Class of 2019) in south Roseburg. Jack has been working on his landscape for almost 40 years, and we were amazed at the variety, color and innovation he lovingly nurtured into making his garden such a masterpiece.

Unfortunately, “Snowmageddon” wrecked havoc on his tall pines, toppling several, and taking out other trees and bushes as they fell. Steve walked us through some of the things Jack could do to mitigate the damage, re-think some areas that were now exposed to sunlight as well as addressing incidents of powdery mildew, pruning tips for grape vines, and advice in general. It was a very educational tour, enhanced deliciously by Jack’s generous snack table of homemade bread, cheeses and other treats. Thank you, Jack, for hosting the class!

Steve has scheduled two more Diagnostics Classes this summer. They are Thursday, **Aug. 15** and Thursday, **Sept. 12**, both starting at 10:00 AM. This may be your last opportunity to host such a class with Steve at the helm, so if you would like to take advantage of Steve’s vast horticultural knowledge to address any issues you may have in your garden, don’t hesitate to contact Steve and volunteer to be a host.



Jack Finney



Daylily by Fred Alley



Photos: Kish Doyle & Bonnie Courter



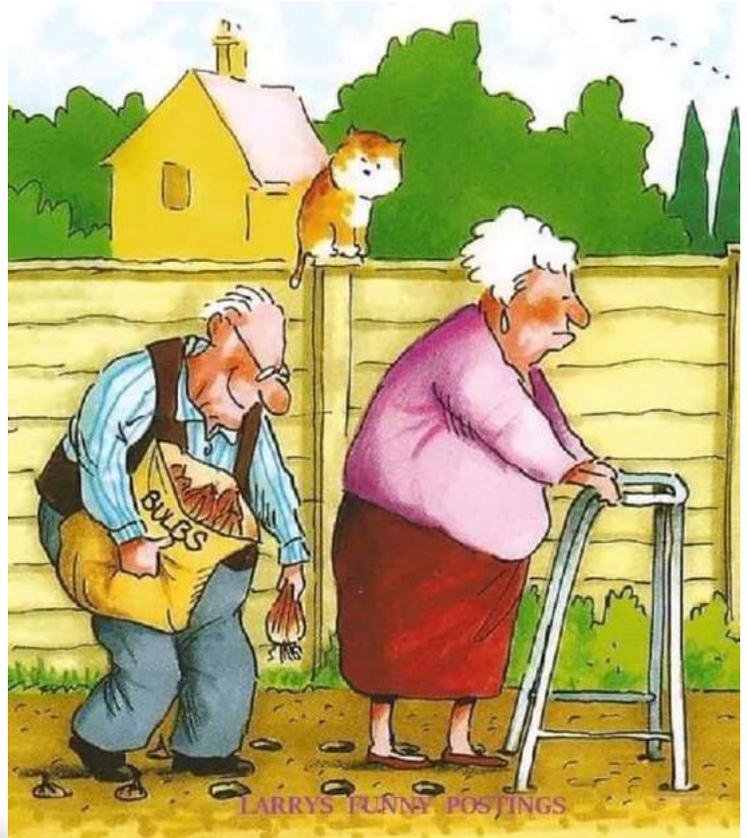
Bake Sale Reminder

Remember to save your summer fruit for making pies to sell at our Bake Sale fundraiser in November. We have a pie-making crew who yearly take donations of apples, cherries, berries, and other fruit, then bake scores of yummy pies to sell at our annual Bake Sale.

Contact Janet Parkerson if you have fruit to donate: 541-600-6586, shespricelss@yahoo.com



(All funnies shared by Barbara Robinson)



Bonnie's Corner

Thought I'd share some fun stuff since I'm the Editor and you can't tell me not to! :)

On the left is a weird fruit off my crookneck squash plant which is **fused** to the leaf! Being the curious duck I am, I just had to find out what the heck was happening here. So I asked Steve. Apparently this is "fasciation" caused by a virus spread by insects! The fruit was perfectly yummy, so no harm, no foul. Just weird!

If any of you have fruit trees or like to u-pick and don't have one of these - you **must** get one! My husband bought one for me last year and I finally got to try it out.



It's a basket on the end of a long pole. You simply shove it under the fruit, it grabs it with its prongs and gently deposits the fruit in the foam end of the basket. Easy peezy! I didn't even have to use a ladder this year to harvest my tall apple tree. You can find them on Amazon - just type in "fruit picker".



DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Chapter Meeting

July 25, 2019

Discovery Garden Pavilion

Call to Order: President Nancy Fuller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Six Executive Board officers and thirty-one members attended.

Agenda: The Agenda was approved with an addition to new business: How to access volunteer hours on DCMG website.

Minutes: The Minutes posted on the Douglas County Master Gardener website were approved as posted.

AGENT'S REPORT – Steve Renquist

- Retirement: Mary Hoffman is retiring. Please stop by and thank her for her years of service to DCMG's. The job has been posted.
- New Hire: Kayla Trout has been hired to support Shelby, Steve, and the Small Farms Program. She will be a liaison for the MG Winter Training Program. Kayla has a livestock degree.



OMGA Representative – Rosemary Brinkley

- Fund Raising: "Christmas for Your Garden" - a Mini-Silent Auction will be held Nov. 1 and 2, 2019, at the OMGA Leadership Forum and BOD Meeting. Each chapter brings three gardening-related items with a minimum value of \$25.00 each. Pictures and description of the items need to be turned in by Oct. 1, 2019, so they can be placed on the website. All MG's will be able to bid on the items. Top bidders will be announced at the OMGA Board meeting.
- OMGA Questionnaire: Rosemary asked members to complete a 3-question questionnaire on Mini-College.

She had the members/officers gather in small groups to answer the questions.

- Stepping Down: Marcia Sherry, OMGA Newsletter Editor for the past seven years, is stepping down from her position. Anyone interested in becoming the OMGA newsletter editor should contact Rosemary for details.

Treasurer – Toni Rudolph

- Financial Statements: The financial statement is available for members to review at meeting and online.
- Sign Up: Members are encouraged to sign up for the Amazon Smiles and Fred Meyer donation programs.
 - Utility Bills: Toni reminded everyone that the utility bills would be higher until the unpaid 2018 balances are cleared.
 - Budget: Please submit 2020 budget information to Toni as soon as possible.

Vice President – Vicki Barrett

The August meeting will be held at the home of Ron Owan, 1510 Gem Drive, Roseburg, on August 29, 2019.

President – Nancy Fuller:

Publicity Chair Diana Circle is retiring. Anyone interested in the position should contact Nancy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards – Betty Ison

- Swinger Bars: Julie Bell has obtained her 60-hour swinger bar.
- Awards Banquet: The theme for the Awards Banquet is "All American Picnic". The date is October 12, 5:30 Social Hour, 6:30 Dinner, awards after dinner. Sign-up is in the plant clinic.

Bake Sale – Janet Parkerson

- Bake Sale Date: The Bake Sale will be the weekend before Thanksgiving at Sherm's Thunderbird Market.

- Fresh Fruit Donations for Bake Sale: If you have fresh fruit to donate for the Bake Sale, Janet has room in her freezer to store it.

County Fair – Nancy Fuller reported for Diane Smith-Lewsadder:

Diane Smith-Lewsadder and her non-Master Gardener artist friend, Shirley Reade, created a sign for the Fair. They need an 8' truck bed or a trailer to move it to the Fairgrounds. The size of the sign is 8' long by 40" wide at the highest point. They are having a second sign made. The image will be copyrighted, but DCMG will always have use of the image.

Discovery Garden – Julie Stanbery

- Discovery Garden: Julie thanked everyone for their hard work in the Discovery Garden and complimented them on how beautiful the gardens look. The sunnier garden is attracting more butterflies.



•Pump: Julie reported the pump has been cleaned. Any additional cleanings will be donated so we will not exceed the amount budgeted.

•New Kiosk: Julie encouraged everyone to visit Betty Ison's new

kiosk in the Perennial Garden.

Hallmark – Linda Thames

- Mary Hoffman, OSU Extension Office, is retiring. A card was circulated at the meeting for everyone to sign.
- Barbara MacPherson fell and injured herself. She was in the Riverbend Hospital and then in rehab.
- Judy Wood forwarded a \$100 donation from Vinnie Biberdorf, Los Altos, California. Thank-you cards were sent to Judy and Vinnie.



Newsletter/Winter Program – Bonnie Courter/Kish Doyle

- Newsletter: Articles for Newsletter due on Monday, July 29, 2019.
- Winter Program: Bonnie passed the sign-up sheet for Winter Program mentors – full time, part time, or share with someone. Speakers on vertebrae pests, cover crops, and climate/weather are needed for the Winter Program. Steve will share his power point presentations with anyone interested.

Plant Clinic – Reported by Nancy Fuller

- Visitors: There have been 120+ information requests by visitors to the Plant Clinic so far in July.
- Thank-You: Chris asked Nancy to thank the Plant Clinic leaders; Leo Grass, Bonnie Courter, Karolyn Riecks, Ernie Amabisca, Barbara Horst, and Jude Stensland.
- Volunteers Needed: Veteran volunteers are needed in the Plant Clinic.

Victory Garden – Karolyn Ruzicka

- Produce Donations: This week 284# of produce were donated to UCAN. Home gardeners donated 32#.
- Gopher Population: The gopher population is down by three, thanks to Vicki's trapping expertise!

Old Business

- Audit Committee: Nancy reported the Audit Committee met and the report will be presented at the August Executive Board Meeting and in the Newsletter.
- Spring Into Gardening: Steve reported that Spring into Gardening would be held at the Phoenix School in the spring. Chris Rusch is heading that up.
- The Conference on Extraordinary Living asked him to have a wine tasting at their event.

- Lifetime Membership Award: Kay Livermore presented the proposed Lifetime Membership Award. President Nancy Fuller asked for discussion on the proposal prior to voting. After discussion of the pros and cons presented, the proposal was tabled for further research.



DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS AMENDMENT

Article II: Membership

Section 1. Membership Classes. There shall be three **four** classes of membership: Active, Honorary, Emeritus **and Life**, as defined below.

Section 3. Life Membership. Life Membership will recognize those members who have made a substantial contribution to the Chapter. Life Members must meet the following criteria: 1) Have completed 10 years of service. 2) Have a minimum of 2500 Volunteer Hours. The Membership Director will review the records each year and determine which members are eligible to receive a Life Membership. The Chapter will pay Chapter and OMGA Dues for Life Members.

The current Section 3 will now become Section 4.

The current Section 4 will now become Section 5.

The current Section 5 will now become Section 6.

The current Section 6 will now become Section 7.

(This section below will be added to the end of Policy and Procedures section on Membership Director).

Life Membership: You will review the records each year to determine if any members have earned Life Membership or deserve to be nominated for an Emeritus Membership.

New Business

- Accessing Volunteer Hours: Vicki McAlister explained to members how to access their volunteer hours. She will put the instructions in the Newsletter.
- Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for 2020:

President	Nancy Fuller
Vice President	Diana Woodward
Secretary	Bonnie Courter
Treasurer	Toni Rudolph
Membership	Kay Livermore
OMGA Representative	Barbara Hamby
OMGA Alternate Rep	Kish Doyle

Julie Stanbery moved to accept the slate of officers as presented. Rosemary Brinkley seconded the motion. The membership approved unanimously.



Show and Tell

- Julie brought Crocosmia plants to share.
- Julie encouraged all members to enter items in the Fair.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon J. Bordeaux, Secretary

Know When It's Time to Pick Pears & Apples

By: Kym Pokorny, OSU
Source: Steve Castagnoli, OSU



Photo courtesy of OSU Extension

Anticipation of ripe pears and apples peaks in fall as fruits hang heavily from branches and begin their gravity-aided trip to the ground.

But how do you know when it's prime picking time?

According to Steve Castagnoli, a horticulturist with Oregon State University's Extension Service, the signs are different for apples and pears.

"It's much easier to recognize ripeness in apples," he said. "Pears typically won't ripen to eating quality on the tree so you can't go out and taste one."

Still, there are signs. A mature pear will snap briskly and cleanly when tilted 90 degrees, according to Castagnoli.

With the most commonly grown varieties such as Comice, Bosc and D'Anjou, the fruit will typically change from green to a slightly paler color. The flesh will get lighter and have some juice on the surface when cut.

You can also go by maturity dates, which are included in OSU Extension's publication [Picking and Storing Apples and Pears](#). However, dates can vary.

"It depends on when the season starts," Castagnoli said. "We go by bloom time. In general, the earlier the bloom, the earlier the harvest dates."

Except for being a little smaller than perfectly ready-to-pick pears, there's no harm in taking them off the tree a few days too early, he said. The essential part of ripening pears is keeping them in cold storage for about a month, depending on the variety.

"Ideally, pears should be stored at below 40 degrees," Castagnoli said. "A refrigerator is good, but a freezer is too cold. An unheated garage usually will be too warm."

Determining ripeness in apples, which don't need cold storage, is much easier than for pears, he said. Color is a useful indication. Apples may be yellow, red, green or combinations of these colors at harvest. When the green has almost completely given way to yellow, a yellow variety is mature. With red blush or striped apples, the area where there is no red color usually changes from green to yellowish.

Ripe apples are easily separated from the tree, but don't pull the apple down to pick it. Rather, twist it upward with a rotating motion. Another sign is when a few sound apples drop to the ground, which means the apples on the tree are nearly mature.

"The best way to test an apple for ripeness," Castagnoli said, "is to cut it open and taste it."

Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: The deadline for the September 2019 Newsletter is August 31. 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



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener

Oregon State University Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials on this basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, familial/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, genetic information, veteran's status, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) If you have a physical disability that requires special considerations in order for

you to attend an event, please notify the office at 541-672-4461 no later than 2 weeks prior to event date. This publication will be made available in an accessible alternative format upon request. Please contact Bonnie Courter, 541-391-2890, rbcourter@gmail.com.

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