



Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

March 2021

March 2021 Calendar

Mon., March 1, 10:00

"Weed Management" (Zoom)

Thurs., March 4, 9:00-Noon

Victory Garden Workday

Mon., March 8, 10:00

"Turf Management" (Zoom)

Tues., March 9, 3:00

Level Up Series: "Dirt Gone Bad"

Wed., March 10, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting (Zoom)

Fri., March 12, 1:00-4:00

Pruning - Japanese Garden, DG

Mon., March 15, 10:00

"Xeriscaping" (Zoom)

Tues., March 16, 9:00-Noon

DG Workday

Mon., March 22, 10:00

"IPM" (Zoom)

Tues., March 23, 9:00-Noon

DG Workday

Thurs., March 25, 10:00

Chapter Meeting (Zoom)

Tues., March 30, 9:00-Noon

DG Workday



Ann also spearheaded the Juniper Project at the middle school where volunteers worked to clean up and re-landscape the school grounds.

Following her years at the school district, Ann worked for the newly-built Fred Meyer store in Roseburg.

Ann married and had 5 children (3 girls and 2 boys). As her first marriage ended, she met a fellow named Fred Severson over coffee at a local restaurant. Fred and Ann fell in love and eventually blended their two families; his 3 mostly grown children and her 5 still at home. Fred retired from the Navy and started a mining business in South County selling dredges and sluice boxes. His interest in mining provided much family fun with weekends spent looking for gems and minerals.

The Prez Sez...

Julie Stanbery

This rather dull, bleak winter has had one perpetual bright spot that reminds us of the power of a big smile and a happy heart. Ann Severson, with her beautiful red hair cascading down her back, is a whirling dervish of unending energy.

Ann has shared parts of her life story with me. I was mesmerized by all she has seen and done in 64 short years. An Oregon native and graduate of Douglas High School, she has lived most of her life in Winston.



As a work-study student, Ann worked as a draftsman at the Douglas County Planning Department. Assigning addresses to new houses and making maps was interesting work but too sedentary to hold her interest.

During her working years, Ann chose custodial/janitorial positions that kept her moving and involved with people in the workplace. Ann worked for 13 years in the Winston School District. Her love of kids led her to become a leader in the LightSpeed Program at the school. LightSpeed was aimed towards at-risk children who needed guidance and support to stay in school. Ann was the only non-faculty leader in the program. As school custodian, she had a great relationship with the student body. The program included after school activities that she paid for with multiple fund-raising ventures. She provided many students with clothing and school supplies and often went to their homes to personally escort them to school. Starting out with just 12 kids in her group, when Ann finished her time with the program, she was mentoring 250 students!

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Ann has an incredibly interesting and convoluted ancestry. Her French Canadian great-grandfather was a MD in Ohio, her paternal grandmother a Mohawk Indian with a lot of red-haired Irish in the mix. Ann and Fred have 17 grandchildren. Add to that her 2 dogs, 2 cats, fish pond and her succulent collection and she is still one busy 'grannieannie'.

Over the last 30 years, Ann has developed a love for Garfield (the cat!). Her 3 piece collection has evolved to include 7000 pieces! Her Garfields have their own orange room which was recently remodeled to better appreciate the menagerie.

Ann thought when she retired she would "sleep in late, beat up the mailman and eat all she wanted"! That probably lasted less than a day. In 2015, she was given the gift of attending the DCMG Winter Training class and we all know where that path has taken her!

Ann has been involved with Trash to Treasures for 6 years, the last four as our leader. While caring for her son Micheal and keeping hubby Fred in line, she collects sale items, cleans, refurbishes, prices, stores and often sells some of the more valuable items online. All this while working the Eastside Greenhouse every week of the year.

The only way to close this biography on our amazing friend Ann Severson is to quote her: "Life is always fun!!"

How to prepare for a Zoom meeting



Funnies shared by Barbara Robinson

Treasurer's Report

1/28/2021-2/24/2021

Diane Smith-Lewsadder

INCOME

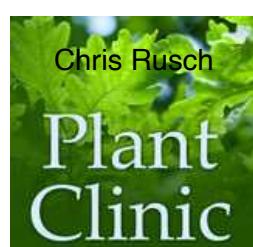
Contributions	\$476.00
Kroger Community Rewards	\$15.03
Membership Dues	\$245.00
Soil Testing	\$100.00
Interest	<u>\$5.23</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$841.26

EXPENSES

Administration	\$53.24
Plant Sale	\$119.34
Propane Tanks	\$291.70
Utilities - Electricity	\$228.53
2020 Cow Creek Grant	<u>\$506.45</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,199.26

Breakdown of our accounts at 2/24/2021

NWCC - Checking	\$2,293.60
NWCC - Reserve	\$5,006.99
NWCC - MMK Savings	<u>\$29,033.91</u>
Ending Balance	\$36,334.50



Unfortunately our Plant Clinic remains closed due to COVID restrictions imposed by OSU. The Plant Clinic continues to receive emails at our address douglasmg@oregonstate.edu. Interesting insect, orchard, pruning and garden questions continue to come in.

Let's continue to remain hopeful that our Clinic will be open by summer. Until then, make sure you take advantage of all the excellent classes and webinars available both through Steve and OSU.

A question I answered recently: **How do I control sow bugs? Here is my answer:**

Looking like tiny armadillos, sow bugs and pill bugs inhabit garden soil, dank basements and shady areas of the yard. They feast on decaying plant material and play a role in decomposing organic matter in the garden and compost pile. And most annoyingly, sow bugs and pill bugs feed on tender seedlings, young roots, flowers and fruits and vegetables laying directly on damp soil.



Sow bugs (*Porcellio* sp. and *Oniscus* sp.) and pill bugs (*Armadillidium* sp.) are not insects. They are crustaceans and as such are more closely related to crabs, shrimp, etc.

Sow bugs and pill bugs are often considered as pests by gardeners because they are sometimes associated with gardens, found under boards in gardens, and in a variety of damp places. In many cases, they are found in rotting damp wood such as stumps or in cedar shakes where there is a moisture problem. They are generally considered as beneficial creatures, due to their role in recycling nutrients.

Sow bugs are grayish in color and prefer quite damp habitats. Pill bugs are bluish-black. Unlike sow bugs, they can roll up into a ball like an armadillo when disturbed. They appear to tolerate dryer conditions than sow bugs. Both can measure from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in length when full-grown. To prevent damage to tender plants, eliminate garden debris, leaf piles, fallen fruit and weeds from gardens and growing areas. Use coarse mulch which will allow water to drain easily. Improve air circulation where possible. Raise fruits like strawberries and melons above the ground. Apply diatomaceous earth as a barrier; it will act as a desiccant and may protect plants. Place a small collar around young transplants such as peppers to discourage feeding on the tender stems.

Membership

Kay Livermore

We currently have 228 members. The badges have arrived and will be available in a couple of weeks. You will be notified as to when and where to get your badge when they are ready. The cost is \$4.50 + postage.

OMGA Membership cards are available for pickup from the green mailbox by the Eastside greenhouses.

Awards Diana Circle



The following members have earned a new swinger bar for longevity as a member of Douglas County Master Gardeners for year 2020. Congratulations to all for your dedication to serving our community.

5 Years -	Kimberly Allen, Evelina Amparo, Pamela Berman, Jacqui Bowers, Mert Brown, Robert Burns, Ed Cole, Gwen Graham, Marcy Gustafson, Allen Huffstutter, Kay Livermore, Mark Schmoll, Jude Stensland, Lynn Wagner
10 Years -	Fred Alley, Rosemary Brinkley, Patricia Dinsmore, Lisa Gosciejew, Sharon Hopkins, Darlene Morey,
15 Years -	Mik Carlson, Barb Cassidy, Karolyn Riecks, Ruth Saily
20 Years -	Eugene Fowler, Judith Huntley, Jack Machulies, Myra Weber,
25 Years -	Tasha King, Barbara MacPherson

Our Awards policy was created in 2020 to give members longevity swinger bars for five years of membership, and every five years thereafter. If you qualify now or from past years for a swinger bar based on this change, please contact Diana Circle to get your badge updated. Telephone 541-530-7123 or email dianalcircle@gmail.com to arrange to complete this task.





Save the Date

OMGA PRESENTS

Mini-College 2021

CONNECT - COLLABORATE - CULTIVATE

July 16 and 17, 2021

Experience and participate in a dynamic program
of
interactive educational classes and workshops

[Keynote presentations by:](#)

Robert Michael Pyle and **Gail Langellotto**

Watch for the exciting details when our website “[goes live](#)” at:

mastergardenerminicollege.org

Registration will open in March 2021

Master Gardener Mini College 2021 has a slate of outstanding speakers ready to present a wide range of educational and interesting topics. We're really excited about this program.

Everyone has been doing virtual meetings and webinars. One thing is certain: these events are much better when there is a moderator who can assist the speaker. To this end we are seeking volunteers to function in that capacity for each of the presenters scheduled to do the breakout sessions on Friday and Saturday at our virtual Mini College.

Here is a peek at the speakers, and their proposed topics, who are on tap for Mini College 2021.

Friday July 16th 11am to 1pm (est.)

Navnett Kaur, OSU Extension Entomologist – IPM with crops

Andony Melathopoulos, OSU Extension Asist. Professor of Pollinator Health – Oregon Bee Atlas

Jen Hayes, OSU Horticulture Dept. Graduate student - Native Garden Plant considerations for Pollinators

Dr. Gwynne Mhulreach, OSU Biology and Built Environment Center –soil health/human health

Rich Little, Entomologist & 2013 Linn County Master Gardener of the Year – Mason Bees

Saturday July 17th 11am to 1pm (est.)

Dr. Jessica Rendon, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture Japanese Beetle Eradication Specialist – Japanese Beetle

Mykl Nelson, OSU instructor of Urban Agriculture – urban soils

Kristin Trippe, USDA Research Soil Microbiologist - biochar research

Weston Miller, OSU Extension Community and Urban Horticulturalist—organic gardening

Janet Magedanz, Master Gardener and “Plant Nerd” – Year-Round Pollinator Plants

You'll recognize that each of the speakers is an expert in their topic and practiced at conducting an exciting and interesting presentation. We just need a couple of hours of your time to help with a class.

If you would like to join one of these fine educators and assist with facilitating their webinar, I urge you to contact me, Eric Bosler (ericbosler@hotmail.com). If you know of a prospective moderator just let me know and I'm happy to reach out and see if they are indeed interested and available to participate.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to our program. See you online in July!

- Eric Bosler, Past President OMGA

Fred's Fav's





Ask Fred "The tool Man" Alley

Question: I recently broke my wood handle on my long handle transfer shovel. Can I replace the long handle with a shorter D-Grip wood steel or D-grip Poly handle? Until I broke the handle, I had two long-handle transfer shovels.

Answer: Yes, absolutely, you can replace the handle with either a steel/wood D-Grip handle or a poly D-Grip handle. You have an opportunity to have two transfer shovels, each specifically designed and constructed to serve different functions. The shorter D-Grip transfer shovel is ideal for small garden use, like moving sand, gravel, top soil, mulch, bark and other materials, particularly when using a wheel barrow. The long handle transfer shovel is just too long for such uses. The long handle transfer shovel is used mostly to unload material from a truck or trailer. It is also designed to mix concrete, and is good for leveling off areas and scraping off smooth surfaces, such as concrete.

Interestingly, just last week, I refurbished Kish Doyle's favorite short D-Grip poly transfer shovel. She made a remark that "the longer handle, just gets in my way". On my way home from the Discovery Garden that day I purchased a perfect transfer shovel, with no handle for \$3.00. I'm putting on an older D-Grip handle and a steel/wood shaft someone gave me. A great beginning for a new sturdy transfer shovel, with little work and only \$3.00.



Before I go further, I have included a photograph which identifies the parts of a typical transfer shovel. While I suspect most of us are familiar with the transfer shovel, this photo helps me explain the different shovel parts and their functions.



There are two different types of handles. Both are

strong. Most choose the type simply by how they look and feel when using.

- The D-Grip handle made of steel and wood is stronger than the poly D-Grip handle. The handle grip is made of wood surrounded with steel. The handle is wood identical to the wood shaft. (See Photo - green steel handle)



- The black poly D-Grip (reinforced fiberglass) handle is most common today.
- The socket of the shovel is not a separate part of the shovel. In the photo it appears that the socket is separate.
- Measuring the length of a replacement handle is frequently a question. Most transfer shovels are between 20 to 24 inches. The length, again, is a personal choice, depending mostly on the size of the person using the shovel and the task to be undertaken. The question, as well, is how to measure the length of the replacement handle. If you place a steel tape into the replacement handle and measure half way into the socket, the measurement should be 20-24 inches.

After breaking the shovel handle is there at least 20-24 inches left? If yes, lucky you, because the fix is simple. I'm measuring the handle length halfway into the socket and back into the handle. Cut off the broken shovel handle at 20-24 inches in length and install a new plastic/poly D-Grip handle purchased at a local garden/hardware store. The shovel D-Grip plastic/poly handle will be held in place by one or two small thick nails or screws. If using screws, you need to pre-drill the holes. That's it! Go to work with your new short handle transfer shovel.

Did the shovel handle break at the top of the socket? That's the most common break location. It is the most difficult to fix, because you must remove the broken handle from the shovel socket. In the October 2020 Newsletter I wrote an article on "How do I replace

a broken wood handle on a shovel or hoe". You will need to follow the steps and mention in completing option A, B, and C below.

Once the broken handle is removed you have two options. Options A or B.

A. If you have an old shovel handle, simply cut it to your desired length (20-25 inches) and insert the old handle shaft into the socket. Then, install a new poly D-Grip handle as discussed above. When purchasing a new poly D-Grip handle, only purchase a higher quality handle. A lighter weight handle may bend while using and will most likely break during hard use. You can absolutely feel the difference. Remember to place a new handle pin through the socket and shovel. You will need to insert a screw into a preset location on the D-Grip handle. Pre-drill a hole for the screw. You are done and ready to go to work. When placing the new D-Grip handle, make sure the handle and the shovel blade are parallel to one another.

B. If you don't have an old handle, you can purchase a new D-handle at a local hardware store. This D-handle is steel and wood and the shaft obviously will be made of the same wood as the handle, generally oak, maple or ash. You may have to sand down the shaft portion that fits into the shovel socket. This is the most difficult task in installing the new D-handle and shaft. Once you have inserted the new D-handle loosely into the socket, grip the shovel, with the handle facing down and strike the handle down on a hard surface. Your garage floor will work just fine. This will firmly set the handle into the socket. It is important to keep the handle and shovel blade perfectly parallel with one another. Otherwise, your shovel blade and handle will be out of alignment. If this occurs, you need to reset the handle/shaft.

C. In my situation, I have refurbished a nice old transfer shovel head and I'm installing an older used steel/wood D-Handle someone gave me. This was an easy fix. I have placed the new short D-Grip transfer shovel in my tool shed for use early this spring. I'm done and ready for work. This transfer shovel will last for years.



As always, for some Master Gardeners this tool tip will be easy to accomplish, while for others it will not. Please don't hesitate to email or call me if you have questions or need assistance. I'm generally at the Discovery Garden on Tuesday morning as well. Sometimes a quick phone call is all one needs.

Happy gardening and keep those garden tools clean, sharp and properly stored.



MARCH GARDEN CALENDAR

- Practice preventive pest management. Apply horticultural oils now before bud burst.
- Plan your vegetable garden. Plant cool season crops such as peas, lettuce, spinach, and kale.
- Spread compost over the garden and landscape areas.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs after blossoms fade.
- Plant berry crops.
- Fertilize rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas with acid type fertilizer.
- Protect new plants from slugs.
- Start rose blackspot control beginning at bud break.

Spring is almost here!! Enjoy the season.

Planting New Fruit Trees

Steve Renquist

Western Oregon's climate is wonderful for growing all types of deciduous fruit trees. It is cold enough to allow our trees a healthy dormant period, and the growing season is long and warm enough to mature any fruit variety you choose. However, before you choose fruit varieties just based on taste, there are a few more points to consider.

Choosing fruit varieties based on resistance to local diseases can reduce the amount of sprays necessary during the year. A good example of disease resistance would be Liberty apples not getting apple scab, and Frost peaches not getting peach leaf curl. Other low input fruit trees would include fig and persimmon which seem to escape any serious disease issues in our county. Like these varieties or species there are many disease resistant trees that produce great fruit for both fresh eating and processing.

Another important point to consider is whether your backyard planting site is well drained or a flooded mess all winter and spring. If your site is very wet, you should think about improving the drainage by tiling or building berms in the yard that get much of the tree root zone above areas of standing water. If your yard is soggy but does not have standing water continuously all winter try planting pears, apples, or prunes that are all tolerant of wet sites. Peach, cherry, nectarine, plum, and apricot trees don't do well in soggy soils and usually die within a few years after planting.

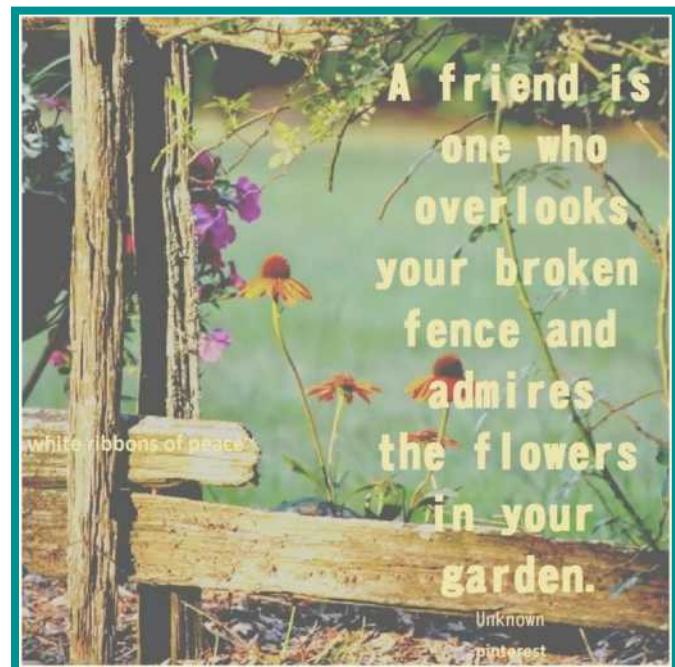
The hours of sunlight your site gets will also be critical to achieving a good yield and good quality fruit. If you have a shady site with fewer than 8 hours of direct sunlight you should not try to grow fruit trees. You will get tall leggy trees with poor flower bud production on fruit trees grown in the shade. The trees will also be more prone to plant disease. Ideally plant where your trees will get eight or more hours of sunlight over the whole canopy. Remember that healthy trees will make tastier and more nutritious fruit.

February is an excellent time to buy bare-root fruit trees at our local nurseries. Bare-root trees are more

affordable than potted trees, and this is the best time of year to plant fruit trees. Trees planted in January, February or March have several months to get their roots established before the warm season arrives. Before planting the tree, make sure to trim off any broken or dead roots. When placing a bare-root tree in the ground keep the graft union about 3-4 inches above the soil line. The graft union is where the fruiting variety was grafted to the rootstock. Planting any tree too deeply is the number one cause of young tree mortality. Normally you will be able to see on the trunk a darker color for the part of the tree that was in the ground in the nursery production field.



When digging a hole for your new tree, make it a little wider than the root system but not deeper, and do not put fertilizer in the hole. Fertilizer can burn the roots of new trees. You may remember me sharing a story about a large commercial orchard in Arizona that I visited when in graduate school. The trees were doing poorly, and the problem turned out to be fertilizer burn to the roots of hundreds of trees. Don't put fertilizer in the planting hole. It is okay to mix some well decomposed compost with the native soil and even a little lime if the soil pH is below 6, before backfilling the hole. Follow these tips and you should have a successful start to your fruit tree planting.



MG MUSINGS

The following are contributions from your fellow MG's:



LINDA ESTEP

We had a lot of stumps professionally ground down in our yard about six months ago, and wherever the stumps had been, the mushrooms are growing. Mushrooms are decomposers that break down

dead and decaying organic matter, like stumps. The important thing to understand is that they are simply the above-ground fruiting bodies of fungi that live in the soil. The vast majority of the fungal mass is below ground where it goes unseen and unnoticed until the mushrooms emerge. The mushrooms are a sign of healthy soil, and it is interesting to watch them grow.

KATHY HART

Book Review: Sunflower Houses - Garden Discoveries for Children of All Ages (1991) by Sharon Lovejoy

The Little Free Library is often the recipient of “unique” surprises! One of the most delightful ones to appear was a gift from Carolyn Dwyer who lives nearby on Old Garden Valley Rd. She left off a copy of Sharon Lovejoy’s gardening book for children, Sunflower Houses. It is a signed original and after talking to Carolyn about it, this charming book has found a special spot on my personal bookshelf. I was also able to purchase a 2001 edition on Amazon. The author’s intent was to ensure “that the memorable outdoor experiences of childhood be passed on from one generation to another”. She writes about the treasures of hollyhock dolls, clover chains, faerie tea parties and trumpet flower bubbles! Lovejoy has also included her own whimsical watercolor illustrations of these magical moments in the garden. A true treasure of a book for both children and their grown-ups!



TONY FOLLETT

Follett's Phenomenal Pheasant

I'd like for you to meet "Phrank the Pheasant." He showed up a couple of months ago and it looks like he is here to stay.

Each day he gets a little more friendly and will now approach within 3-4 feet when I have food for him. He also likes to chatter while he's eating. He is a fun addition to our little “zoo”.



FRED ALLEY



A month ago Ann Severson gave me a 5-prong 50 inch long hand cultivator. (one on the right) I have never seen one, however our neighbor, in the 50-60's raised vegetables for the town's local grocery store had a single steel wheel, two handled push cultivator. It had three individual attached cultivators. To earn money, I worked in the vegetable garden, and occasionally used their push cultivator. I suspect a number of our fellow Master Gardeners remember using similar push cultivator.

Surprisingly, shortly after Ann gave me this hand cultivator, I found an identical one. It too was painted green.

Anyway, I have not found the manufacturer. But maybe one of our members has an answer and remember using one.

ANN SEVERSON “The More Simple Life”

Have you ever had that moment in life that you want to make life easier and more simple?

After many years of having several dozen plants in my house, I decided to get rid of all of them and enjoy life without plants. Oh, this was so nice not having to spend hours in the summer months watering them and taking care of them. I was able to just enjoy life. And life was good. For awhile...

Well, then a close family friend gave me a Thanksgiving cactus. “Just great”, I thought to myself and smiled a big smile to them as I took the plant, thinking all along the time how am I going to kill this plant. I just won't water it - forget about it and leave it be. “That will surely kill it”, I thought.

Months went by and I looked in on it in the spare bedroom and it was still alive. Hardy little sucker!

Then something happened. I became a Master Gardener and I grew to love this plant that I once wanted to kill. This beautiful Thanksgiving cactus now hangs out in my kitchen window and bloomed for the first time this year and is still blooming. But I still don't water it much.

KISH DOYLE (Rock Garden crew - Tasha King & Kathleen Donovan)



BRUCE GRAVENS

Thought you might like to see this on growing sweet potatoes. Karen is a great gardener and teacher.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/933968877138965/?sfnsn=mo>

BONNIE COURTER

Big turnout for a pruning day with Steve.





BottleDrop Bags

Many of you have been wondering how to pick up your blue bags for our BottleDrop fundraising program. Nathan Baily hung a bag dispenser in the “tool room” of the Green Shed. You’ll find the dispenser on the wall on the right, just before you enter the

main room of the shed. Just sign your name on the tablet and note how many bags you’re taking so he can keep track. This is a great way to supplement our much-needed finances.



times to volunteer there. There will be no pruning class tomorrow.

Community Outreach: A Winston school teacher is wanting advice and assistance from MG's for their gardening class activities. They have a raised bed garden and greenhouse. Anyone living in or near Winston willing and able help a couple of mornings a week, contact Steve.

Monday Zoom lectures: OSU has been negative about Steve conducting his lectures, saying we can't do MG program training. He had reassured them that we don't have new students, and he is using a condensed version of his lectures, the purpose being recertification of present MG's. Steve feels we need to keep connectivity or our organization can fall apart. Steve will continue to give these. Next one is on weed management.

Steve wanted to thank Julie Stanbery and all the garden and greenhouse teams for all their hard work out there - everything is looking great.

OFFICER REPORTS

Membership - Kay Livermore: We gained 2 more members, bringing the total membership to 228. Six badges were ordered by Anita and they have arrived at the Extension office. The cost is \$4.50 each. Postage will be divided between 6 people, which will amount to about \$1 a badge. Holes will still need to be drilled in them, but Dave Clark won't be able to do that for a week or two. Kish Doyle said she could drill holes as well if Dave isn't able to. The badges can wait as they're not really needed right now. When they are available, Steve will notify people, and probably then drop them off at the greenhouse for pick up.

OMGA - Barbie Hamby: Not much to report. The next meeting will be March 5th. Flyers for Mini-College will be in the Newsletter and posted on our FaceBook page. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate the online Mini-College.

Treasurer - Diane Smith-Lewisadder: Diane put in a request to BottleDrop for our reimbursement check for \$139.90. Bags can be picked up in the dispenser located in the green shed on the right wall as you enter the tool section.

DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Chapter Meeting (Zoom)

February 25, 2021

Continuing Education: Discussion of “Multifunctional Hedgerows” from Level Up online series.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:06 by Past President Nancy Fuller. President Julie Stanbery was not able to attend. There were 24 in attendance including Past President Nancy Fuller, Vice-President Diana Woodward, Membership Kay Livermore, Treasurer Diane Smith-Lewisadder, OMGA Barbie Hamby and Alternate Kish Doyle, and Secretary Bonnie Courier.

Agenda Approval: The Agenda was approved.

Minutes Approval: The Minutes were approved as posted.

Agent's Report - Steve Renquist:

Our county is going back to Extreme Risk category starting Friday until at least two weeks, so work at the Discovery Garden and greenhouses will be more limited. Make sure to check with Julie as to days and

Vice-President - Diana Woodward: The next Level Up class will be March 9 at 3:00 if you want to watch it live, or it can be watched later after posting it on the website. The subject is "Dirt Gone Bad".

Past President - Nancy Fuller: Nothing to report.

President - Julie Stanbery:

- I received a nice update from Vicki Barrett regarding the Amazon purchase reward program. She says we have earned \$109.94 and of that she has contributed \$30.50!!! She says she misses us but feels she still needs to stay home, being extra careful but keeping busy and getting our mail that keeps her up to date with the group. It was really good to hear from her.
- Celinda Miller, the River Forks Park host this winter, is moving to Hermiston. She donated a great reference book on wildflowers to DCMG and thanked us for being good neighbors during her stay at the park. (I'll hold on to the book until the office re-opens).
- Judy Wood, wife of Wiley Wood, who, along with Chiaki Koyama, established most of the Japanese Garden, passed away February 2nd. Her daughters will be planning a memorial for her this summer at the Discovery Garden.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards - Diana Circle: Contact Diana if you are eligible for a new swinger bar. Awards Committee will be meeting soon to nominate MG's for the State awards. Selection isn't due until May 15.

Community Outreach - Leo Grass: No report. Kish Doyle and Diana Woodward went to the house of one of our new students and helped prune their fruit trees. They also got to hold their days-old baby goats!

Discovery Garden - Julie Stanbery:

- THERE WILL NOT BE A WORK DAY OR PRUNING THIS FRIDAY. The weather threatens to be wet. We have had such great support from veterans with the winter clean up and pruning sessions that we can take a well deserved break. Elva Sellens and Joy Keeling have not missed one day yet. We have couples

coming out on odd days to weed and deadhead and Gale Robinson is out every single day we are there, dumping the trailer, cleaning up limbs and working the compost pile. Leaders from each garden area have been out this month raking, pruning and doing winter clean-up. The garden looks great. Given the increased COVID risk criteria, we will go back to individuals working independently until March 11. At that time, we will go back to regular Tuesday DG work days.

- FRIDAY, MARCH 12 is the last scheduled pruning day. We will be in the Japanese Garden. Each year I tell you, "this is your last chance to learn these specialized pruning techniques from Steve". This *might* be that year so I encourage you to come for his last (?) Japanese pruning class.
- With the remaining funds from the Cow Creek grant, we are proceeding to improve the DG irrigation system and hopefully accomplish our goal of being more water-wise with river water. We have purchased a 500 gallon water storage tank that will be sited in the hedgerow along the fence line. Some of you may remember that during the big snowstorm, we found a "forgotten" water main coming from the river water system that had been capped and left for future use. We can easily tap into it, run a pipe to the storage tanks and have water available for the summer. Mark Schmoll, Ivor Chapman, Dave Hopkins and Ernie Amabisca will build a stand and run the pipe. This will accomplish two things:

1. We can take two standpipes off the river water, thus giving better pressure to the east end of the garden,
 2. The Childrens' garden and the raised beds (lily/dahlia/ iris) will have all the ancillary water they need without using Umpqua Basin Water.
- We also have consulted with Mark Christianson at the Coop. He is helping us with a better filter system for the Victory Garden and inexpensively improving the water output of the pop-up sprinklers. This may resolve the puddling issues in the pathways. Rainbirds are also being replaced with the same type heads the Eastside Greenhouse is using.
 - Regarding our water crew, we need one more recruit who would like to be part of the gang this summer.

It's independent work, about 2 hours a session. We will train and give 100% support to anyone interested. (contact Julie)

- Regular Tuesday DG work days will resume on March 16.

Fundraising - Nathan Baily: Nathan will send a photo of the BottleDrop bag dispenser to Bonnie Courier to include in the Newsletter so MG's will know how to access the bags.

Greenhouse East - Bonnie Durick: All outside plants have been cleaned and pruned. We are continuing to work singly, one person a day.

Greenhouse West - Barbara Robinson (Not present - her report): The Westside Greenhouse is operating with a very limited crew due to COVID restrictions. We are seeding vegetables and a few annuals as well as doing cleanup on our perennials.

Hallmark - Linda Thames: (Not present - her report)

- Fred Alley had a fractured hip, but will not require surgery as it is healing on its own.
- Roselle Benesh fell and fractured her hand, but is healing well.
- Ken Hays had knee replacement surgery February 18, and is home, doing well.

Newsletter - Bonnie Courier: Articles are due this Saturday, February 27. Bonnie thanked all the contributors who have responded to her call for Newsletter submissions.

Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch: Chris is checking emails twice a week, and they have picked up - 20 emails in February. Adding the email address at the end of our newspaper articles is helping. Steve gets 6-8 calls/day relayed to him from the clinic. Diana Woodward asked if there was any possibility of posting some of those questions and answers so other MG's could benefit? Steve that's possible as long as their names and addresses are kept anonymous. Maybe Chris and Steve could post one each week.

Plant Sale - Bonnie Durick: Bonnie has submitted our action plan to the County Parks Department. Rocky Hudson said it looks good, but they need to follow the

State health department and OSU guidelines. We won't need to pay for a special use permit. Steve sent it along also to OSU for their approval, but we have to wait for a lower category of infection rate. The problem rests with OSU guidelines which seem to reflect what works best for their campus situation, not the State guidelines.

Publicity - Cheryl Caplan: (Not present - her report): Bonnie Durick let me know that I need to arrange the paid advertising with the News-Review for the plant sale. She also reminded me that it's uncertain if or when it will be held. I'll move forward cautiously.

Carol Bolt performed 5 soil tests for a total of \$100.

Trash to Treasure - Ann Severson: The sale was cancelled due to COVID restrictions. The Winston Community Center will work with us to have this event any time we can open up. Ann is still receiving donations, but will cut off any further donations for now. Lenora Drake has been storing things as well, and the trailer is nearly full. Ann will send an email out to Shirley to ask MG's to cease donating for now. So far Ann has made \$527 on sales she's done personally.

Victory Garden - Ruth Stafford: Yesterday we had a workday - 7 MG's came out to move panels for crop rotation.

OLD BUSINESS - None.

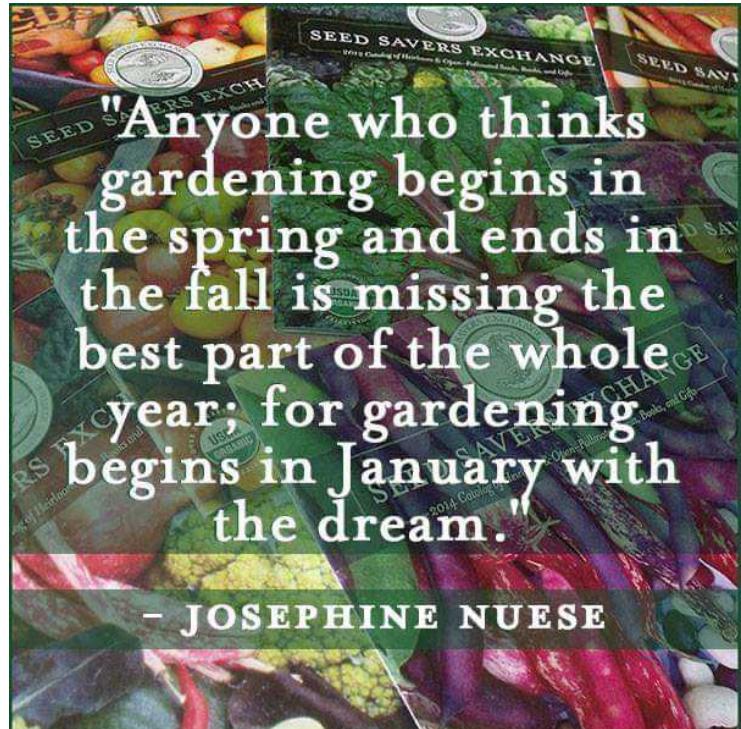
NEW BUSINESS - None.

SHOW AND TELL

- Julie Stanberry said she has the following flowers in bloom at her house: daphne, forsythia, bergenia, rosemary, crocus, daffodil, primrose, snapdragon, jade tree (in her garage in winter), hellebores, azalea (just one lonely blossom open). Does anyone have other plants in bloom?
- Diana Woodward reported she has two pink rhodies that have been blooming since January.
- Kay Livermore shared that she bought a new AT&T telephone system on Amazon. It comes with one base unit and you can add up to 12 more phones. She got a 4 phone system. It has Smart Call Blocking - it screens calls coming in, and holds up to 50 numbers.

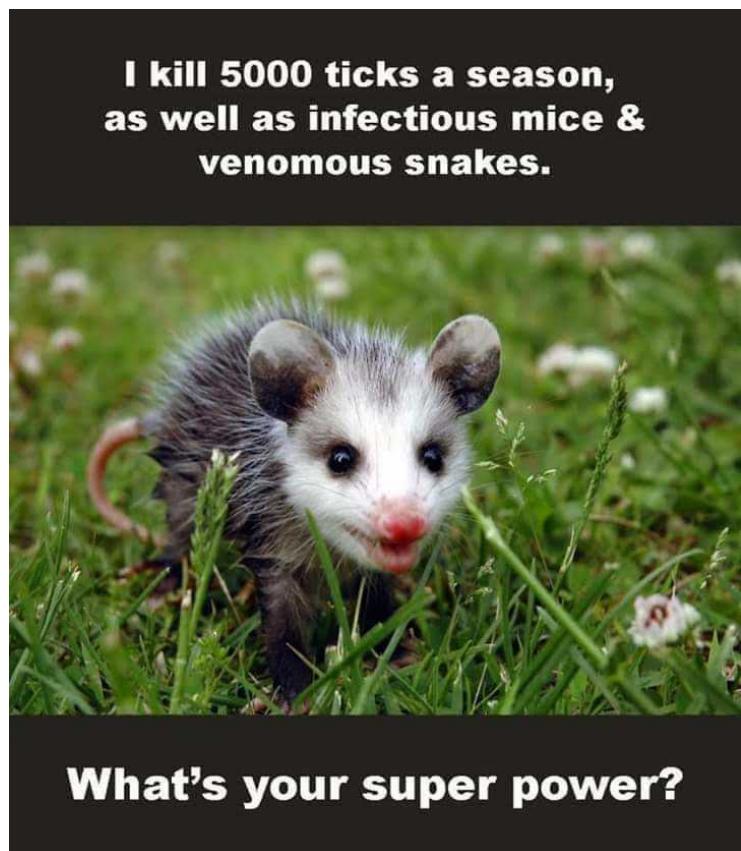
Since she got it, she has not had one robocall or telemarketer. It has blocked 17 calls so far. The cost was \$80 - well worth it!

- Steve said Bruce Gravens wanted him to talk about “beetle banks” or berms. Ground beetles are the best predator beetles. In order to provide habitat for them, you can create a beetle bank which consists of a grassy raised area (beetle bank), planted in pasture grass that grows to a foot tall. The berm should be 3-4 inches high for good drainage, and located in an area close to your veggie garden. You can also put a row right through the middle of your garden. At night, the beetles will emerge and feed on bad gardening bugs like earwigs, slugs and snails, and aphids. The key is to have a solid clean berm with tough grasses - don’t let it dry out completely. Don’t use weed whackers except once a year in the fall. Go online and find more information on the subject. Ground beetles are great biological controllers.



ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:02.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Courter, Secretary



Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: E-mail submissions to Bonnie Courier: 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,
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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



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