



## Dec. 2021 Calendar

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

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Dec. 7, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse & DG Crews

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

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

**Tues., Dec. 14, 2:00-5:00**

**STEVE'S RETIREMENT PARTY!!!**

**@ C.H. Bailey House, Dixonville**

Wednesday, Dec. 15

**Expense Forms Due to Dawnetta**

Thurs., Dec. 16, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Monday, December 20

**Newsletter Articles Due to Bonnie**

Tues., Dec. 21, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Saturday, December 25

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

Tues., Dec. 28, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Thurs., Dec. 30, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Friday, January 7

**Time Sheets Due to Vicki McAlister**



## My Interview with Steve Renquist

by Cheryl Caplan

I walked into Steve Renquist's office prepared with a half-dozen questions about his upcoming retirement from his position of Horticultural Extension Agent for Douglas County. More than an hour later, we'd made it through the first question, "Describe your work history, beginning with your first job." I didn't mind not getting to the other questions because anyone who knows Steve is aware of how well he tells a good story.

Turns out that while an agriculture student studying fruit science at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California, Steve managed to live out the school's motto of "Learn by Doing." His mom and stepdad owned a farm in Solvang where they asked Steve to plant a vineyard. Then they decided they liked the San Luis Obispo area so they asked him to find a farm. He enjoyed scouting the area for a likely farm and found a 120-acre site with 12-15 acres of nice farm land. His folks purchased the property and Steve covered the monthly payments through what the farm produced. The farm became an outdoor classroom where Steve applied what he learned at the university while working with apple and peach trees.

Anyone who knows Steve is aware of how much he enjoys working with people. He'd become friends with a neighbor – the farm's previous owner, an older man who kept back a small parcel of land for himself. While chatting one day, the neighbor alerted him to an adjacent 250-acre farm that was in foreclosure but not yet advertised for sale. His folks purchased that property, too. His twin sisters live there today.

Meanwhile, Steve's enjoyment of people led him to earn his Master's in Agriculture with a specialization in Integrated Pest Management. When he graduated, his stepdad bought out Steve's share of the smaller farm – a sizable chunk of money – a boon that he is grateful for to this day.

Anyone who knows Steve is aware that he likes a good opportunity. His years of learning and working the family farms paid off with enough experience to qualify him for a position as the Cornell University's Tree Fruit Extension Specialist in Wayne County, New York. Turns out Wayne County is the largest apple growing county in New England. When asked how long it would take him to move to New York, Steve surprised the interviewer by replying he could make the drive in his pickup the next week. That trip began two years with Cornell University.



Who else realizes that Steve is keenly observant? Not only about disease and pests but people, too. Young people in Wayne County were leaving the farm life for bigger cities because of the lack of opportunities in their hometowns. Steve successfully pitched the idea of teaching tree-fruit classes to young farmers and managed to offer three programs while in the East. He liked his students and enjoyed hiking and hunting with them.

Remember his appreciation for a good opportunity? In the late 1970s, Steve successfully applied for a position on an exchange program with the Soviet Union. Fortunately, while at Cal Poly, he took a few courses in Russian after finishing his language credits in Spanish. And to add to his Russian skills, he began three months of intensive Russian language training in Washington, DC, after Cornell University granted him a year's leave of absence.



He spent 1978 and 1979 in the Soviet Union, staying two to three months on each farm where he noticed disease and insects impacting the tree fruit in the temperate climate region. Steve observed that while farmers were scientific, they lacked products like fungicides and the ability to apply products to the trees.



If you know Steve, you know he likes a good challenge. He figured out how

to reach out to other European countries for the pesticide products desperately needed in the Soviet Union. He also shared his experience in thinning fruit trees with the Soviet farmers.

His next tour of duty in the Soviet Union lasted about a year as he participated in an American Farming

exhibition that traveled through three regions. Steve's specialty? Tractors and spray equipment. Unheard of for Americans, he made a personal visit to a research area in Siberia to look at winter hardiness of fruit trees. As he was finishing up this assignment, he spent a week in the old Metropol Hotel in Moscow where he eavesdropped on a Russian conversation between Americans and a local who, Steve knew, wasn't sharing accurate information on the amount of grain produced in the Soviet Union. He later approached the Americans to diffidently share what he'd observed during his time in the country. The breadth of his information blew them away. One of the men handed Steve his business card with a message scrawled on the back, "HR, interview this guy". That guy worked for Tradex, part of Cargill Corporation.

Anyone who knows Steve knows he's not a name dropper. It happened that the father of one of his high school friends was the president of Cargill. Although Steve chose to interview strictly on his own merits, his dad just may have chatted with Don, the Cargill president, about giving Steve an interview. That's where Steve learned, "Sometimes it isn't what you know but who you know."

When hired as a trader by the regular Cargill business, not Tradex, he started working in Iowa for the first year or so. Although disappointed not to be traveling overseas, Steve worked a deal where he visited farms all over Iowa one day per week. He used the information he gained to forecast crops in advance of USDA releasing their projections. That caught the attention of Cargill's head forecaster in Minneapolis who convinced the company to send Steve to the crop forecasting department where he focused on overseas grain crops.

Steve thrives on international travel. His Minneapolis job developed into looking at tropical commodities (cocoa, coffee, sugarcane) in Brazil, and soybeans, corn and wheat in Argentina, and in Paraguay for part of the year. Portuguese became his third foreign language. Three years later, he moved to Brazil full-time to ground truth data in the country's farms for the next five years. It's there he met his wife and her large family.

Cargill's policy is to repatriate people after five years. Because Steve's old forecasting job in Minneapolis was no longer available, he began trading again. Remember how he likes a challenge? The job wasn't a new challenge but an old one. In 2000, he read about the



position opening for a Horticultural Extension Agent for Oregon State University in Douglas County. He applied, got the job, and moved his family here.

When he arrived in Roseburg, the Douglas County Master Gardeners had operated for one to two years without a coordinating Extension agent. One of his oft-used comments became, "I'd like to do this a little differently." His consistent vision for the organization is to be a focused horticultural program – a gardening program. He'd like to see the emphasis on gardening to stay with DCMG.

Steve thoroughly enjoys teaching whether it be in the classroom, garden, or farm. Over the years his expertise has expanded to teaching about fruit trees, tree care, berries and fruit, vegetables, turfgrass, hazelnuts and nut crops, wine grapes, insects, Integrated Pest Management, pesticides, plant diseases, and weeds.



Hundreds of Master Gardeners have benefited from his caring approach to learning about gardening as have local county farmers. Now he's ready to spend more time in Brazil and warmer climates with his wife.



Wherever his love of travel takes him, he will surely start up new relationships to satisfy his curiosity. And he'll be sure to tell a good story, too.

Too bad I didn't get to ask another question!



A note from Julie: This edition of the DCMG newsletter is dedicated to our retiring agent and friend, Steve Renquist. The article written by Cheryl Caplan is an interesting compilation of the life of our favorite horticulturist. Thanks, Steve, for a great 21 years!

## CHANGE OF DATE!!!

**STEVE'S RETIREMENT PARTY** will be  
**Tuesday, December 14, 2:00-5:00**

at the C.H. Bailey House in Dixonville,  
121 Melton Road

- Parking is **very** limited, so we will carpool from the parking lot across from Roseburg Library. Meet at 1:35 and we will share rides out to the party. (at least 4 to a vehicle)
- Dress casual and wear **warm** layers (heating in the barn is limited also)
- Bring a finger food appetizer
- Bring a bottle of wine to share and/or a personal beverage

### **Directions from library:**

Travel east on Diamond Lake Hwy. about 8 miles.

Turn right at sign for Dixonville onto Buckhorn Rd., then sharp left.

At Dixonville Store, turn right onto Dixonville Rd. Continue about 3 miles, over the bridge, til you come to a "T" in the road.

Turn left onto Melton Rd., and you'll see C.H. Bailey House on your immediate right.

## Plant Sale 2022

Bonnie Durick

Plans are going forward to return to the Fairgrounds for our annual Plant Sale and Expo which will be May 7, 2022 (This is the first Saturday in May). Hopefully this year we will be able to continue our tradition of a fantastic sale. The workers in the greenhouses are hard at it with propagating and dividing and will soon start the huge task of all the seeding. Watch for Newsletter information and emails asking for help for when you can come out and help with this monumental task.

This year, I would like to do signups for the various jobs online. There are multiple areas that need workers. I will also have signup sheets after the first of the year in the Plant Clinic as in the past. What I'm looking for right now is someone who would be able to spearhead this project. Someone with experience with online signup programs available for free would be ideal but not required. If you are willing to take on this project, please contact me at [bonniedurick505@gmail.com](mailto:bonniedurick505@gmail.com) or call me at 541-671-8954. I have all the information you need as to what the positions are and the particulars such as which day, time and number of people needed.

I'm also looking for someone to step up to help lead the traffic control team. This person will work with team members making sure the public know where to go to get their plants after they are purchased and see that the traffic flow runs smoothly. The main day of work is the plant sale itself, but also some time will be spent on setup day to be sure the vendors know where to park to unload and setup. If you are willing to do this job, please email me or call me so I can let you know about the meetings once we start them and we can talk about all the job entails.

Last but not least, if you know of someone or a business that would like to be a vendor at our sale, please forward their information to Jen Bailey at [jenskylonda@gmail.com](mailto:jenskylonda@gmail.com). She will be sending out information around the first of the year as we offer a discount on the vendor fees if they sign up early.

I'm really looking forward to a REAL plant sale this coming year and having wonderful plants for the community to purchase.

## Treasurer's Report

Dawnetta Loomis  
10/26/21-11/18/21

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                                |                     |
| Soil Testing                                 | \$180.00            |
| Interest                                     | \$32.52             |
| Plant Sale post                              | <u>\$46.00</u>      |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                          | <b>\$258.52</b>     |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                              |                     |
| Management & General                         | \$115.12            |
| Plant Sale                                   | \$262.32            |
| Clinic & Office                              | \$16.48             |
| HLC  | \$194.26            |
| Discovery garden                             | \$217.28            |
| Utilities                                    | <u>\$367.05</u>     |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                        | <b>\$1,172.51</b>   |
| <b>Breakdown of our accounts at 08/25/21</b> |                     |
| NWCC - Checking                              | \$631.76            |
| NWCC - Reserve                               | \$5,008.65          |
| NWCC - MMK Savings                           | \$39,374.04         |
| NWCC - Waddington Fund                       | <u>\$89,508.28</u>  |
| <b>Ending Balance</b>                        | <b>\$134,522.73</b> |



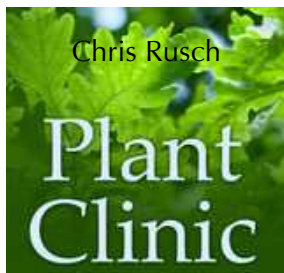
Deadline to turn in your  
expense forms is:  
**December 15**



Deadline to turn in your  
Time Sheets is:

**January 7**

Mail to Vicki McAlister or  
turn into Westside  
Greenhouse or Plant  
Clinic



The Plant Clinic was not very busy in November; however, interesting insect and garden questions continue to come in.

First of all, I want to thank everyone who worked this past year at our Plant Clinic!! 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. We are lucky to have a great team this year with Leo Grass, Bonnie Courter, Chris Rusch, and Karolyn Riecks. Other veterans that have helped us out on Thursdays this year include Linda Estep and Diane Smith-Lewsadder. Our training team is looking forward to begin training for our new volunteers in the clinic starting in February 2022.

We will begin our winter hours in December. The clinic will only be open on Mondays for the months of December and January.

## Swinger Bars & Membership

Kay Livermore

Members eligible for swinger bars for the month of October are:

- 100 hours - Gordon Fleig
- 1000 hours - Bill Fuller
- 2000 hours - Bonnie Durick
- 3000 hours - Elva Sellens
- 12,000 hours - Julie Stanbery

Dues have been arriving at my house daily. Thank you! Remember, I need to have your dues in my hands by January 1<sup>st</sup> for you to receive the 50% discount. Any received after that date need to be for the full price of \$20.00. Also, if you have not already done so, please sign your DocuSign OSU Forms. Your name cannot go on the 2022 roster until your dues are received and OSU Forms signed. 2022 dues for the class of 2021 were included in the cost of the course but **students still need to sign the 2022 OSU Forms.**

Have a happy and safe holiday season!

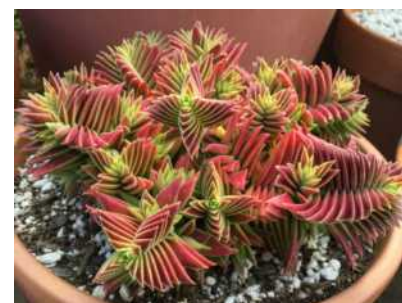


The Red Pagoda, *Crassula corymbulosa*, *Crassula capitella ssp thyrsoiflora*.

Around three years ago I brought this succulent to the Eastside gardens to propagate for the next year's Plant Expo. Sadly it became attacked by spider mites. I fought these for several years and nearly gave up on this succulent, until I found something that would rid the pests from this succulent. After many treatments it survived and is now thriving once again.

The Red Pagoda comes from South Africa and is considered to be deer resistant. We all know that the deer around here nibble and then spit it out leaving it on the ground for us to find. Silly deer. In South Africa it's a ground cover, as they do not have issues with cold or frost. There are many different varieties of stacked crassulas in the succulent world, but the Red Pagoda is the most stunning that I have seen, especially when it is in full bloom.

Each stacked part of this succulent has four triangular pointed edges. The top triangular edges are small and as they cascade down the plant they get bigger. Each leaf has a red burgundy coloring on



the edges and a light green coloring in the center of the leaf structure. These stacked marvels can grow from 6 to 8 inches high and then have runners that can grow to several feet long. I think this Red Pagoda would make a stunning hanging basket. During the summer months you can grow this plant in full sun. Water as needed. Just remember to bring it in during the winter months when the temperatures drop to freezing temps. They seem to get their best coloring in the later parts of fall to winter months. This is also when you will normally see it blooming. It will have cascading flowers blooming in pink clusters. (It's been blooming in the Eastside Greenhouse for several weeks now.)



If you plan on this plant as a house plant it is best not to put a saucer under it. Let it drain naturally as this plant is one that can get rot easily along with aphids and spider mites. It is not frost hardy. Make sure to place it in a sunny window. If you don't get much sunlight then you might get a grow light.

Fertilizing succulents is done in the spring to summer months. Do not fertilize in the winter months. Many of the plants are going dormant during this time or have died back until the early spring.

Because this succulent has a dense forming structure it is one of the plants that seem to have issues with pests. If you notice in between the leaves of this plant white coloring, then it is best to treat it before it is completely attacked. Sometimes you can cut the section out. But usually will need a treatment to rid the pests.

The Red Pagoda is easy to propagate by leaf cuttings. Take a cutting and take off a few of the bottom leaves, use your planting hormone, and in no time you will have another gem to enjoy.

If you are having issues with your succulents, contact me and I will tell you of the best treatment for your succulent.



## DECEMBER GARDEN CALENDAR

• Spread wood ashes evenly on your vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 pounds per 100 square feet per year. Don't use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.

- Protect new landscape plants from wind. Use stakes, guy wires or windbreaks as needed.
- Yard sanitation: rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds, and hoe or pull winter weeds.
- Turn the compost pile and protect from heavy rains, if necessary.

- During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tilling, ditching, and French drains are possible short-term solutions. Consider rain gardens and bio swales as a longer-term solution.
- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, and fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow or ice breakage.
- Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water regularly during the winter.
- Western Oregon: This is a good time to plant trees and landscape shrubs.
- Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. First consider cultural, then physical and biological controls. Choose the least-toxic options, and use them judiciously. Some examples include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. Remove weeds to prevent rodents from using them as hiding places. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Avoid mounding mulching materials around the bases of trees and shrubs. The mulch might provide cover for rodents.
- Monitor spruce trees for spruce aphids. Treat if present in large numbers. Read and follow pesticide label directions.
- Protect poinsettias from cold. Place them in sunlight; don't let the leaves touch cold windows. Fertilize with houseplant fertilizer to maintain leaf color.
- Monitor houseplants for adequate water and fertilizer. Water and fertilizer requirements generally are less in winter.



## Ask the Tool Man Alley

In my November tool tip article on how I get my garden tools so sharp and shiny, I mentioned the last step in sharpening garden tools is to **“apply several coats of polish”**. I included a photo illustrating two of my favorite, frequently used garden shovels. The one on the left is a small 6-inch round shovel and the

one on the right is a flat edging shovel. Both are small and short with D-Ring handles, making them ideal for small gardening projects. Note I have applied several coats of polish on both shovels. This polish provides: 1) an extra clean surface reducing the amount of soil accumulation on the shovel, 2) a clean/sharp cutting edge, 3) an extra layer of protection against rust and corrosion, 4) it helps with cleaning the shovels after use and 5) it makes using them a pleasure.



The last sentence in last month's tool tip was **“Maybe my next article will focus on the shovels. I do have a number of surprisingly easy steps in reconditioning garden shovels.”**

When reconditioning shovels of this type, after cleaning them with water/soap and brush, I start by cleaning the shovels with a power angle grinder with a heavy woven wire brush, followed with a second light woven wire brush. During the cleaning process, be sure the shovel is secured to your work bench or in a vise. This step will remove most of the dirt, grime, rust and corrosion. Always remember to wear eye protection, gloves, face mask and a heavy apron. After this step many would simply sharpen the shovel with a garden file and off to the garden they would go. While this is okay, to me, that was “yesterday”. In my 35-year community planning career, I was an agent of change, constantly considering all options and looking years ahead.



The next three steps are somewhat unusual, yet for me they are the three last most important steps. These are: 1) further removing rust/corrosion with sand paper, 2) sharpening the shovel edge with a hand-held grinder and 3) polishing the bottom part of the shovel blade and edge.

Step 1: Further removal of rust/corrosion with sand paper. In the paragraph above I focused on cleaning the shovel and grinding away the dirt, grime, rust and corrosion. While the shovel may look clean, you will be amazed how much surface rust remains. Using an orbiter sander and several grades of sand paper grit, you will immediately see more rust and corrosion appear. Start sanding with a 120-grit sandpaper and finish with a 220 grit. As you go through the two grades of sandpaper the shovel blade with continue to brighten. More clean metal will appear and the metal will start to shine. There is no need to sand the entire shovel, just concentrate on the bottom half of the shovel and in particular the shovel cutting edge.



Step 2: Sharpening the shovel edge with a hand-held grinder. This step is a little difficult to master. The recommended process to sharpen the shovel edge is with a garden file. If you don't have a hand-held grinder and little or no practice with a hand grinder, I recommend you use a nice ten-inch bastard file to a nicely sharpened edge. By using a hand angle grinder, you can achieve a very fine sharp cutting edge. Using a fine grit grinding wheel, move the grinder very carefully left to right, creating a high glossy cutting surface and cutting edge. All previous sandpaper finish scratches will disappear to a high gloss finish. Be very careful. Just this week I was restoring a rare Boy Scout hatchet. After using this process, I found I had sliced my index finger and had to run to my shop sink for soap and water, and a Band-Aid box in the work shop (upper right-hand cabinet).



I use these steps on shovels, loppers, hedge shears, hand clippers and other hand tools when I want a really clean and sharp edge. Last week, for example, I was digging up and dividing daylilies and geraniums with these two shovels. These shovels, with sharp edges, are better than using a large unwieldy knife when dividing the plants.



Step 3: The last step is the polishing of the bottom 2/3's of the shovel blade. I use a special polish I purchase at Oregon Tool. It is applied to a cloth polishing wheel which fits on

my 6-inch bench grinder. This is really a simple and final step, but it is well worth the little time it takes to produce a very clean and sharp cutting edge. Polish both the front and back side of the shovel.



The polish will remove any scratches left from the fine grit grinding wheel in process in step 2. The last step in this process is to take a few passes across the shovel edge with a fine file. Always making short strokes away from the shovel edge. You are now ready to do your fall garden chores. Yes, I recognize many of you are completed with those chores. Not me. Sandy and I are still going to estate sales, looking for those perfect garden tool finds. (Speaking for me only).

Happy Gardening. Keep those garden tools clean, sharp and properly stored. Stay Safe.



Mushrooms found in the Discovery Garden

Photos: Kish Doyle



Bald Eagle - Photo by Dave Campbell

## Donations Appreciated

Kathy Hart



Most of us would like to forget about the impact of "Snowmageddon" in 2019, but the Westside was able to reap some benefits from the historic storm. Tim and Georgia Richards lost a wooden trellis structure to the heavy snow accumulation and decided not to rebuild it. At around this same time, the stacks of wooden pallets at the Westside nursery area were deteriorating and needed to be replaced. Tim offered up his pile of wood to Steve Hart and Ivor Chapman for construction of new tables. As we all know, funds were in short supply at this time. Keller Lumber stepped up to the plate with their donation of additional cedar 2 X 4's for the table legs. Kathy and Steve Hart donated the galvanized wire fencing for the table tops and additional wood to finish off the project. The generous donations allowed for the construction of 12 new tables. The design of the tables allows for better air flow and discourages pesky slugs from taking up residence below. Ray Warren helped Steve out with positioning and leveling the new tables. Many thanks to everyone who donated material and time to make this improvement to the Westside.



## Guess My Age: Long-Lived Houseplants

By: Julia Silva, University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener of Tuolumne County  
Published in [MyMotherlode.com](http://MyMotherlode.com), November 7, 2021,  
(shared by Kendra North)



Photo: B. Courter

Imagine this scenario: The room smells rich, of dark mahogany wood and comforting, overstuffed chairs. The silver-headed gentleman at the head of the table is talking in calm tones about the Will and finances. The

first item to discuss is the 48-year-old Christmas cactus, the funds to continue its wellbeing and the person responsible for its care.

A 48-year-old Christmas cactus is not unusual and is actually very young compared to the oldest living houseplant. The Eastern Cape Cycad at the Conservatory at London's Kew Garden has that designation. It weighs more than a ton and has lived in a pot since 1775, when it was brought to England by plant hunter Francis Masson from South Africa, strapped to the deck of a wooden sailing ship. It was repotted in July 2009 by a team of nine determined caretakers, and is thriving today.

If you are interested in long-lived houseplants, it is surprisingly easy to locate these potential heirloom plants. You may already have a few.

Christmas cactus is a famous native in a legend from Brazil. The legend says a poor little boy prayed for a sign of Christmas. He discovered the plain little plant in the hot, humid jungle. Days passed without a sign. One morning he awoke to every branch ending with a brightly colored flower, an answer to his prayers.

Jade plants, snake plants, weeping figs, rubber plants, Boston ferns, cacti and succulents, cast iron plants, and palms all have the ability to join the generational houseplant list. They have no pre-determined lifespan. Their lives are limited by the care and growing conditions they receive.

For your houseplant to survive to a ripe old age, it will need attention. The environment must be consistent and compatible to your plant of choice.

Houseplants have preferred locations, with adequate light, but not scorching, burning sunlight. The perfect example is the *Ficus benjamina* or weeping fig. That plant will thrive in one spot but drop every leaf in another. In its happy place, it will live for decades.

Houseplants need to be watered in their pots, but not stand with their "feet" in water for days. Houseplants like humidity. A misting, or in some cases a shower, will keep them healthy and happy.

The soil in the pot has a long-term effect on plant longevity. There will be times when, like the Eastern Cape Cycad mentioned above, repotting will bring benefits. New potting soil offers an expanded area for roots, improved nutrition, and better water-holding capabilities. Since potting soil does have a life expectancy, it is best to purchase a good quality organic soil.

Longevity starts with good habits. These houseplants and more can live "forever". Pass your valuable heirloom plants on to the next generation. The plants will last longer than the inherited bank accounts. And, at the least, you will leave everyone in that mahogany-paneled office surprised.



*Scribbblings from the  
Little Free Library*

The best thing I did had been the highlight of our trip to Oregon. We really enjoyed a trip around the USA & decided to stop in Rockwood. This place was an inspiration to our trip. The place is an amazing learning opportunity to appreciate nature. We donated the first pair of pants underpants socks and the first of the 11 do books. They've been read and will be loved by us but are ready to be loved by a new family.

Love,  
The Schoenfelds

All we sat on the benches watching flowers and reading stories. Thank you for making someone like me see the kids to explore.

# Congratulations to the Class of 2021

Photos by Bonnie Courter & Kish Doyle



Above: John Punches delivers Botany I & II in 3 hours!



Left: Steve reviews the Final Exam for the last time.



Right & Below: Students solve problems during the DG Field Test.



Above: 3-month-old Bethany gets her first diploma shown with her proud mama, Abigail Hotovek.



## DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

### Chapter Meeting at Annex November 18, 2021

**Continuing Education:** Steve Renquist presented a slide show highlighting his worldwide career in horticulture in the 1970's and 80's including the Soviet Union, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Malaysia, South Africa and even Cedar City, Iowa! You can read about his stint in the Soviet Union in the June 1979 issue of National Geographic.



**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:28. There were 49 in attendance including 11 new students. Board members in attendance were President Julie Stanbery, Past President Nancy Fuller, Vice-President Diana Woodward, Treasurer Dawnetta Loomis, Membership Kay Livermore, OMGA Rep Kish Doyle and Secretary Bonnie Courter.

**Agenda Approval:** The agenda was approved.

**Minutes Approval:** The minutes were approved as posted.

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

"I'm done working!", Steve exclaimed. After a storied career of over 48 years, he's hanging up his spurs and retiring next month.

**FTC Class:** Bonnie Courter reported that Tuesday we graduated 19 eager students in what was a very successful class. She thanked Steve for postponing his retirement to give one more class and for standing up to OSU for us so we were able to have an in-person experience. She also thanked all the mentors who were so awesome and encouraged them to keep in touch with their students throughout the coming year.

Natalia Spencer gave a heart-felt thank you to Steve for his slide show which brought back so many memories of her native Russia, and expressed great appreciation for all he's done for her and DCMG. He will be greatly missed.

#### **OFFICER REPORTS**

**Membership - Kay Livermore:** DocuSign forms came out on Monday. Anita will send them out once a week until each member signs the form. All must sign including new students to remain on the roster. She is also collecting dues.

**OMGA - Kish Doyle:** The 4th Quarter OMGA meeting was November 5 via Zoom. Gail Langelotto gave her report on hiring agents and MG training. Most chapters are trending towards online classes this winter. Dues for OMGA will be \$5 from each chapter/member. 2022 Mini-College will be a 2 day in-person event at OSU the end of June (no exact date yet). OMGA still needs a Treasurer

and Vice-President. December 3 is the OMGA Executive Board retreat via Zoom, from 1:00-3:00, with the purpose to develop 2022 goals.

**Treasurer - Dawnetta Loomis:** 2021 is closing down, so give your expense forms to Dawnetta. The deadline to turn them in is December 15. Please cash any checks that still need to be cashed. Contact her if you have any concerns or questions - phone or text is best.

**Vice-President - Diana Woodward:** Continuing Education for January 27 at 9:00 will be Fred Alley on tools. Kendra North will do one sometime on bonsai.

**Past President - Nancy Fuller:** The cold weather finally knocked out the pesky BMSB. Nancy extended a welcome to the new students.

**President - Julie Stanbery:** Julie welcomed our new student graduates as well.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Awards Team - Ann Severson:** Her team is considering, instead of our traditional evening Awards Banquet, having an afternoon event like a pie social. Some interactive games are also a possibility. Please give her some feedback. No date has been set yet.

**Community Outreach - Leo Grass:** Not present. No report.

#### **Discovery Garden - Julie Stanbery:**

- Festival of Lights starts this weekend. If they open the "holiday house", our roadway becomes the continuous thoroughfare. The trailer was moved so it's out of the way.
- Julie turned the heater on in the bathrooms.
- We previously allocated \$1000 toward taking down the hanging fir limbs. Costs have increased, so we will be paying \$1800 instead, using funds from the 2022 budget. The job using Cowboy Tree Service is scheduled for the 3rd week in December.
- Ray Warren fixed the light in the green shed, replacing it with a LED light. Please remember to turn it off when you leave. Ray and Kathy Hart also hauled in the picnic tables under cover and made repairs. Ernie Amabisca repaired a fence.
- We welcome a transfer MG from California, Karin Seder, who sat in on our classes and graduated with the class. She's been working in the butterfly garden already.

**Fundraising - Nathan Baily:** As a reminder, BottleDrop will give a 20% bonus on returned bags from November 15 - December 1, so get them turned in. Nathan and Julie both brought blue bags to the meeting.



**Greenhouse West - Joy Keeling:** Crews have been cleaning up plants and bringing them inside, as well as propagation. Next week they start working on Tuesdays, 9-12.

**Greenhouse East - Ann Severson:** Succulents still need a lot of work. Many new students have been coming out to help. They will be working Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-12.

**Hallmark - Linda Thames:** Not present - her report: Ron LaRose died the day of our last membership meeting. She sent a card to his wife. She also sent a sympathy card to Julie Bell as her father died.

**Insect Committee - Richard Johnstone:** Not present. No report. They are coming in on Mondays to get things in order.

**Newsletter - Bonnie Courter:** Submissions for the December Newsletter are due November 29. Submissions for the January Newsletter are due December 20.

**Plant Clinic/Spring Into Gardening - Chris Rusch:**

Plant Clinic: First, I want to thank everyone who worked this past summer and fall at our Plant Clinic. The Plant Clinic is one our many DCMG programs that reach out to our community to help people solve a wide range of gardening and landscape questions. Our Plant Clinic team is looking forward to begin training our new volunteers starting in February 2022.

During the month of November, so far we have only had about 15 calls, visits or emails. Questions for November were diverse, including weed ID, fruit tree maintenance and even some rodent control. We are still receiving questions on sun scorch and drought damage on landscape trees.

The Plant Clinic hours for November are Monday and Wednesday, from 1-4. In December, we will only be open on Mondays.

Spring into Gardening: We are working with the Phoenix School in Roseburg for a Spring Into Gardening event on March 12, 2022. If you want to volunteer to help or be a speaker, send me an email.

**Publicity - Cheryl Caplan:** Not present. She's written a biographical story on Steve which will be published in the December Newsletter.

**Soils - Carol Bolt:** We put together a committee to see if we can improve our soil testing equipment to make it more efficient. We will report back in January.

**Swinger Bars - Kay Livermore:** Vicki McAlister sends Kay a report every month after getting stats which is so helpful to Kay. (Speaking of Vicki, the deadline to turn in your 2021 hours is January 7.)

Members eligible for swinger bars for the month of October are:

- 100 hours - Gordon Fleig
- 1000 hours - Bill Fuller
- 2000 hours - Bonnie Durick
- 3000 hours - Elva Sellens
- 12,000 hours - Julie Stanbery

**Trash to Treasure - Ann Severson:** Our presale brought in \$1163. If we meet Ann's \$5000 challenge we will see her jumping rope this time, instead of twirling the hula hoop. Donations are welcome starting in April, and can be dropped off at her house. Ann's husband has generously paid for the rent of the Winton Community Center. June 3 will be setup, and June 4th the sale.

**Waddington Fund - Team:** The team will give their full report in January. They are still doing exploratory work and looking for the best ways in which to invest the money. December 1 will be the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS - Budget Approval:** Dawnetta reviewed the proposed budget. **Toni Rudolph made a motion that we approve this proposed budget as printed in the November Newsletter. Fred Alley seconded the motion. The membership vote was unanimous and the motion passed.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**SHOW AND TELL:**

- Julie Stanbery: She brought some lanyards to give away as well as some seed dahlias.
- Fred Alley: He showed us a unique weed puller for dandelions that he found at an estate sale.
- Steve Renquist: When he shared with OSU about what a successful fall training class we just held with no outbreaks of COVID, their reaction was, "Well you were really lucky! We'll just keep to our online training program." He figures he's retiring at just the right time...

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:33.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Courter, Secretary



**DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2022 DUES**

**Print ALL information EVEN if nothing has changed:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street / PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Land Line: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsibilities/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$10.00 if paid before January 1, 2022 (50% early bird discount)

\_\_\_ \$20.00 if paid after January 1, 2022

\_\_\_ Please mail my newsletter: include \$17.50 to cover printing & postage.

\_\_\_ \$6.00 badge order. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
**Stop! Membership Director use only.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**2022 Dues: \$10.00 before January 1<sup>st</sup> or \$20.00 after January 1<sup>st</sup>**

Please mail dues to the Membership Director or put in the plant clinic locked drawer. Copies of the Dues Form are available in the plant clinic. Dues payment includes an E-mail copy of the Master Gardener monthly Newsletter.

**Replacement Badges:** Replacement badges need to be ordered by mid-January. Please provide your name as you want it to appear on the badge, class year, and include \$6.00 with your dues payment. You will be contacted when the badge arrives.

**Make checks payable to DCMG. Print this form and mail with dues to:**

Kay Livermore  
135 Indian Point Ln  
Glide, OR 97443

Kay Livermore, DCMG Membership Director  
*kay.livmr@gmail.com*

# Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: E-mail submissions to Bonnie Courter: [rbcourter@gmail.com](mailto:rbcourter@gmail.com)

Website: [www.douglascountymg.org](http://www.douglascountymg.org)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487)

Horticulture Agent: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture),  
[steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu](mailto:steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu)

OSU Douglas County Extension Service: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas)

OSU Gardening Information: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening)

OSU Master Gardeners Program: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg)



**Oregon 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, [rbcourter@gmail.com](mailto:rbcourter@gmail.com).

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