



Jan. 2022 Calendar

- Tues., Jan. 4, 9:00-Noon
Greenhouse Crews
- Tues., Jan. 11, 9:00-Noon
Greenhouse Crews
- Wed., Jan. 12, 10:00
Executive Board Meeting, Annex
- Tues., Jan. 18, 9:00-Noon
Greenhouse Crews
- Friday, Jan. 21, 1:00-3:00
Pruning Fruit Trees, DG workshop
- Tues., Jan. 25, 9:00-Noon
Greenhouse Crews
- Thurs., Jan. 27
9:00 Continuing Education, Annex
10:00 Chapter Meeting



Photo: F.Alley

The Prez Sez...

Julie Stanbery

Welcome to the challenge of 2022! My thesaurus shows synonyms to challenge include the terms question, object and throw down the gauntlet. More positive tones include stimulate and inspire. I suspect we will ride the rollercoaster of all the above before the year is up!

Our most positive assets are the 18 new volunteers who join us this year. They are a diverse and interesting group who are showing great enthusiasm for all aspects of our educational mission. They have already accumulated well over 100 volunteer payback hours.

The class of 2021 have some intriguing similarities. Exactly one-half of the members were born in the decade of the 50's. And more than one-third of the class listed bugs/insects as their least favorite subject. Botany and pruning were the most popular topics. Our time this year in the plant clinic and gardens will certainly bring out more great stories about our new friends!

Our honorary volunteer (Steve) has offered to help us with our winter pruning in the Discovery Garden. Each session will run from 1 pm to 3 pm. New MG's and their mentors are encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible. Our pruning projects are an extension of the training program where you learn through hands-on experience how to properly manage

trees, shrubs and flowers in our growing areas. By learning and actually doing the pruning techniques, you will be much better able to relate this information to gardeners who come to the Plant Clinic for help in their home gardens. Any student unable to physically do the work can still learn much through observation and discussion. So if you are able to help prune, it is payback time - if you observe, you gain knowledge. A Win-Win either way!

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January 21	(Fri.)	1-3 pm	Fruit trees, crab apples, misc. small trees
February 3	(Thurs.)	1-3 pm	Ornamental shrubs
February 21	(Mon.)	1-3 pm	Roses and hydrangeas
March 4	(Fri.)	1-3 pm	Hedges, pleaching, misc. clean-up
March 11	(Fri.)	1-3 pm	Japanese Garden

Bring your own favorite tools or use ours, dress for weather, wear your badge.

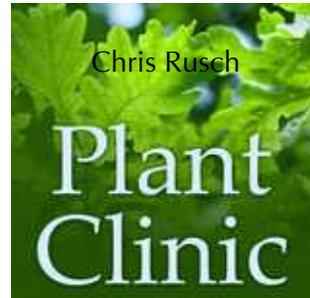


We have 2 important meetings in January, always open to all members. Wednesday, January 12, 10 am, Annex auditorium is the Executive Board meeting. This work session is a good way to learn more about our chapter activities, help plan new projects, and review our scheduled activities. All MG's are encouraged to attend and take part in the discussions.

Our general membership meetings are held the last Thursday of each month (January 27) at 10 am in the Annex auditorium. Continuing Education begins at 9 am. Our presenter this month is MG Fred Alley, the tool guy. Both meetings this month will have new projects and updates on the agenda.

The future of our chapter is largely dependent upon your continued support. Please join us as we chart our path for the new year.

See you in the garden & at our meetings!



The Plant Clinic was not very busy in December; however, interesting 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 had 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.

Karolyn Riecks has decided not to be a part of the training team for 2022. She has been a devoted and skilled volunteer and she will be missed by all of us. Thanks, Karolyn, for your many years of service to our Plant Clinic.

We will continue with our winter hours in January. The clinic will only be open on Mondays.

Our training team is looking forward to begin training our new volunteers in the clinic starting in February 2022.

## Treasurer's Report

Dawnetta Loomis  
11/19/21-12/20/21

### INCOME

Amazon Smiles	\$36.80
Interest	\$20.96
Plant Sale Post	<u>\$32.00</u>

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$89.76**

### EXPENSES

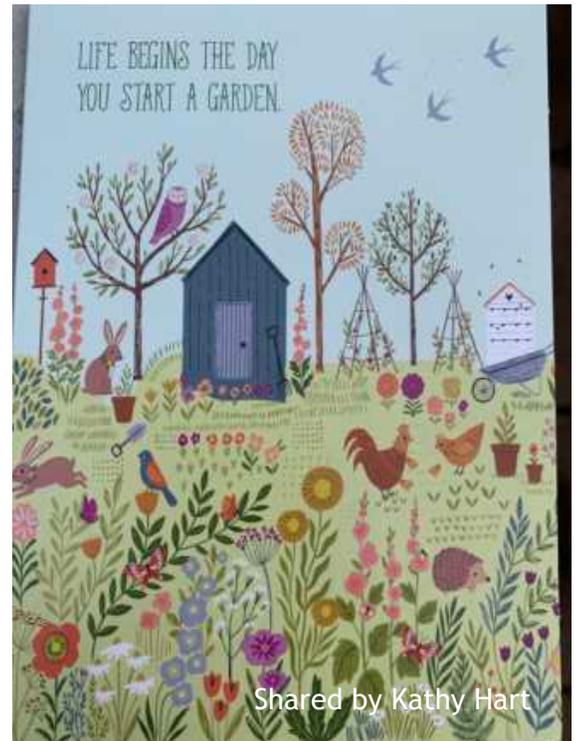
Management & General	\$55.12
Discovery Garden	\$182.99
Clinic & Office	\$43.99
HLC	<u>\$127.21</u>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$409.31**

### Breakdown of accounts at 12/20/21

NWCC - Checking	\$476.96
NWCC - Reserve	\$5,009.07
NWCC - MMK Savings	\$39,383.52
NWCC - Waddington Fund	<u>\$89,519.34</u>

**Ending Balance** **\$134,388.89**





The **Perle von Nurnburg** is probably the most common and recognizable Echeveria today. It was cultivated in Germany in the 1030's by Richard Graessner, who was

considered a succulent expert and is still regarded so today.

Echeveria's are one of the most sought after succulents because of their beauty. There are literally hundreds of varieties of them, and each year many new hybrids are created for us succulent lovers. Each echeveria has a round



rosette shape and vary in many different colors. The Perle von Nurnburg is one of many that have striking colors that radiate from pink to light purple on its leaves. To maintain this color it will need at least 8 hours of sunlight. You can grow it outside in a garden pot or indoors. But indoors it will need that morning or afternoon sunlight to keep its color.

With proper care you can keep it healthy by not over watering it and having it in a good pot with ample drainage. Do not use rocks or anything inside the pots as these really tend to cause them to die. The rocks tend to stay wet which will not let the soil properly dry out, which will cause root rot. A good trick is to place a small flat rock with your succulents and turn it over to see if it is still wet underneath. If it is, then it will not need any water yet.



As early spring starts to come, it's good to keep an eye on your succulents for mealybugs, aphids, spider mites and fungus. I start early in my greenhouses by spraying my organicide over all my succulents. Then if I see any of them in trouble, they get a good spraying. Another thing you can do is use 70% isopropyl alcohol on them. If you have a plant that

has been attacked badly, remove it from all other plants and treat as needed. I call this, "time out", for those plants that are now sick.

I purchased a Perle von Nurnburg 8 years ago. It lives on my front porch and has grown to be quite a giant. It is said in most books that they get to be 6 to 8 inches wide. Mine is over a foot wide. The one thing that I do to my Perle is...ignore it. Yep. It does best when you just leave it alone. As the winter months come and those of us who have indoor succulents, remember to not over-water them, or fertilize them. Many do not need or want any water in the winter months as they are going dormant. If the temperature dips down below 30 degrees, I might cover it with a cover cloth. Otherwise, it is on its own and thrives well.

As your Perle is growing, the leaves may become brown underneath. Remove all dead or brown leaves to your Perle and Echeveria's. Not doing so, you will most likely get some critters attacking it.

The Perle is one of many Echeveria's that can be either a house plant or outside. Not all echeveria's are both. When purchasing your succulent, make sure that you know that it's either indoor or outdoor.

Come summer your Perle will start to bloom with a long stalk coming out of the center of it. It many have more than one or more stalks that will bloom. At the end of the stalk pink bell-shaped flowers will bloom, and last for well over two weeks to enjoy. Once the flower has bloomed and the stalk is hard, you can give it a bit of a tug or just cut it back to the center of the rosette.



Your indoor house succulent plants will need watering at least once a month depending on your environment.

Enjoy the winter and see you in the garden.

## Membership

### Kay Livermore

Thank you to all members who have sent in their dues. For those of you who have not, 2022 dues need to be received by **January 1st** to qualify for the 50% discount. If you have not signed your 2022 OSU forms, it only takes a few minutes online. Look for an email from Anita Clark for the Docusign forms.

Merry Christmas!

## JANUARY GARDEN CALENDAR



### Planning

- Plan to replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with resistant cultivars in February.
- Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs and trees for propagation.
- Order a soil test to determine your garden's nutrient needs.
- Begin planning your 2022 vegetable garden. Check with local retail garden or nursery stores for seeds and seed catalogs.
- Keep a garden journal. Consult your journal in the winter, so you can better plan for the growing season.

### Maintenance and cleanup

- Clean pruners and other small garden tools with rubbing alcohol.
- Water landscape plants underneath wide eaves and in other sites shielded from rain.

### Pest monitoring and management

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.

- Scout cherry trees for signs and symptoms of bacterial canker. Remove infected branches with a clean pruner or saw. Sterilize tools before each new cut. Burn or send the branches to a landfill before bloom.
- Watch for field mice damage on lower trunks of trees and shrubs. Eliminate hiding places by removing weeds. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Use dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on roses for general disease control, or plan to replace susceptible varieties with resistant cultivars.
- **Western Oregon:** Moss in lawn may mean too much shade or poor drainage. Modify site conditions if moss is bothersome.
- **Mid-January:** Spray peach trees with approved fungicides to combat peach leaf curl and shot hole. Or plant curl-resistant cultivars such as 'Frost', 'Q1-8' or 'Creswell'.

### Houseplants and indoor gardening

- Monitor houseplants for correct water and fertilizer; guard against insect infestations; clean dust from leaves.

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## Ask the Tool Man Alley

### WHAT IS YOUR BEST OR FAVORITE GARDEN HOE?

I suspect many of us spent hours in the family garden hoeing those persistent weeds. My childhood “family” garden, a Danish tradition, was very large. My brother, sister and I had to spend at least one hour

every day in the garden hoeing when we arrived home from school. We all had our favorite hoe. Mine was the traditional goose neck hoe with a long 62-inch oak handle, perfectly smooth, soft to the touch and very sharp. No weed, regardless of the size, could escape that hoe. **(Photo 1)**. My brother’s favorite hoe



was the smaller Danish hoe, really made to more detailed hoeing like hoeing the beets, radishes and carrots. **(Photo 2)** My sister’s favorite was a very small, well used, goose neck hoe with an elongated blade, which was well sharpened over the years. We suspect it was her

Grandmother LaToush’s original hoe. **(Photo 3)**, All of these hoes were always clean, sharp and ready to use. All had long oak handles, which enabled us to reach out and cover more ground.



As the summer moved on, our hoeing chores changed, sometimes requiring us to choose a different hoe, based on the task at hand. This leads to the question of this article. **What is your best or favorite garden hoe?** The answer may be, the traditional goose neck hoe, the Danish hoe or the Warren triangle hoe. **(Photo 4)** One hoe does not fit the need for all gardening/hoeing chores. Perhaps you hated the old traditional goose neck hoe because your mom said you were cutting down too many plants with that big blade. Maybe

you should have been using the smaller Danish hoe, or the Swoe hoe.



In each of my articles I end with: “Keep your garden tools clean, sharp, and properly stored. Regardless of which is your best or favorite hoe, the most important task is keeping the hoe clean and sharp. A clean, sharp hoe, will lessen effort, maximizing the amount of work completed, plus the sharp blade will more easily and cleanly cut off the weed roots. Sharpening a hoe is very simple and it’s one of the easiest garden tools to sharpen. To sharpen, place the hoe in a bench vise with the cutting edge facing up. Using a file or sharpening stone, draw the file up along the outside edge of the blade towards the end of the blade, and down the blade edge towards the cutting edge. Using the cutting edge as a guide you should be filing at a 30-degree angle.

**(Photo 5)**. I have used a Warren triangle hoe as an example of this sharpening method. It will take five to six passes to sharpen. You will notice a nice shiny sharp cutting edge remaining. After sharpening the outside edge, turn the blade over to the flat edge side of the blade and remove any burrs left from the sharpening process. The triangle hoe is a good example because it is used commonly to trench before planting or used in irrigating the garden. Each task requires cutting through and breaking up the soil and making nice clean trenches for planting seeds.



As children, we sometimes found it trying to stay in the garden hoeing every summer. It was a family affair all summer and into the fall, when the fall harvest and canning season began. There was fun too, including lots of water fights with the water hose. Though we did not have a lot of garden tools, including hoes, they were well cared for and many were family heirlooms.

Today, there are many different types of hoes. The hardware store usually carries only a few basic hoes, but there are specialty gardening businesses that make almost any kind of hoe imaginable. Some will actually make them to your specifications. The Swoe, Stirrup and Scuffles hoes are some of the newer hoes. They



are quite different from traditional hoes. **(Photo 6)**. I have not mentioned any of the short-handled hoes, which are great in small raised gardens and crowded/compact flower gardens. You can go on-line

and browse for hours.

In this article I cover only the older, more basic hoes:

- The Traditional Goose Neck Hoe: (sometimes called the “draw” hoe). It’s the workhorse of hoes. Suitable for hard action in breaking up soil, removing rocks and heavy weeds. Usually it has a long, sturdy oak handle.
- Elongated Skip Hoe: This hoe is designed to perform fine hoeing, particularly around small plants. It’s delicate and precise while using it in a push/pull action. Some of these hoes have been worn by the years of use to now having a cutting edge on all three sides of the blade.
- The Danish Hoe: This is one of my favorites. Actually, my mother bought it for me when we lived in Nebraska. Many Danish immigrants settled in the east central part of Nebraska. This hoe works well for medium to light drawing action, usually having sharp edges on three sides of the blade.
- The Warren Triangle Hoe: Used primarily for trenching, irrigation, and seeding. The triangle (arrow head shape is usually on a 90-degree angle) is good for making small seed holes. The blade in sharp on all three sides, adding to the versatility of the hoe.
- The Swoe, Stirrup and Scuffle Hoes: These hoes are part of the newer hoes. They take little work to quickly remove small weeds. They skim just under the soil, shearing the weeds. They are best used in soft, moist soil. We have a number of Master Gardeners who like to use the stirrup hoe. This push/pull action hoe, makes it easy to use in both directions to disrupt a mass of small weeds like bittercress which is found throughout our Discovery Garden in late fall, early spring.

Lastly, no matter what your favorite hoe, please hang your hoe up. Do not leave it standing in the corner of your garden shed. You like a long, permanently bent hoe handle.

Now, for a surprise. A Contest!!!! I am offering a free garden tool restoration, cleaning and sharpening to the first individual who can identify who owns the hoe in **(Photo 7)**. Oh, the owner of the hoe doesn’t qualify! Over many years we have heard about this special hoe. I have not identified the type of hoe. Some of us have actually seen this individual using the hoe in the Discovery Garden. The hoe is an older generation hoe, not commonly seen anymore. All you need to do, is call or email me, identify the type of hoe and who the owner is.



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

*Smile Corner**

**Natalia Spencer** sent these by way of **Russia** where she is presently spending the holidays.



SCENES FROM STEVE'S RETIREMENT GALA  
 AT C.H. BAILEY HOUSE, DIXONVILLE  
 (Photos by B. Courter, K. Doyle & F. Alley)



**Farewell to Steve**  
 by Bonnie Courter

The time has come to say, "Farewell",  
 to our friend and mentor, Steve.  
 You've taught us the way  
 to plant, prune and spray  
 And diagnose pesky disease.

Anthracnose, phytophthora, fungus and blight,  
 stink bugs and weevils galore,  
 Weather and drought, to us there's no doubt  
 Your lectures were never a bore!

When stumped in the clinic, down the hall we would  
 go, seeking answers to suffice.  
 The stories you told, of bacteria, rust and mold -  
 Oh, how we'll miss your expert advice!

A loyal captain to this motley crew of MG's and  
 farming community.  
 You showed by display, science and knowledge is the way  
 Towards garden sustainability.

Our Garden, a wonder, born during your tenure. You  
 nurtured and watched it expand.  
 After 21 years, your legacy is clear -  
 A gem for posterity, thanks to your hand.

A leaf is turned, so on you go,  
 to seek out warmer climes.  
 Your gain, our loss, as the world you crisscross,  
 Tasting fine local wines.

So adios, Steve, may your travels be sweet, and  
 adventures await you each day.  
 When travel-weary your feet,  
 you return here for retreat  
 We'll gladly put you to work right away!



# 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)

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 Master Gardeners Association (OMGA): [www.oregonmastergardeners.org](http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org)



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