



Sept. 2022 Calendar

Thurs., Sept. 1, 8:00

Victory Garden Crew

Tues., Sept. 6

Fall Training Class (8:30-4:00)

Eastside Greenhouse Crew (9-12)

Thurs., Sept. 8, 8:00

Victory Garden Crew

Mon., Sept. 12

Westside Greenhouse Crew (9-12)

Victory Garden Crew (8:00)

Tues., Sept. 13

Fall Training Class (8:30-4:00)

Eastside Greenhouse Crew (9-12)

Wed., Sept. 14, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting, Annex

Thurs., Sept. 15, 8:00

Victory Garden Crew

Mon., Sept. 19

Westside Greenhouse Crew (9-12)

Victory Garden Crew (8:00)

Insect Committee (10:00-Noon)

Tues., Sept. 20

Fall Training Class (8:30-4:00)

Eastside Greenhouse Crew (9-12)

Thurs., Sept. 22

Fall Training Workshop, DG, (1-3)

Victory Crew (8:00)

Mon., Sept. 26

Westside Greenhouse Crew (9-12)

Victory Garden Crew (8:00)

Tues., Sept. 27

Fall Training Class (8:30-4:00)

Eastside Greenhouse Crew (9-12)

Thurs., Sept. 29

DG Tour for class (9:00)

Chapter Meeting/potluck (10:00)

Fall Plant Sale (12-2)

Fall Training Workshop (1-3)

Eastside Greenhouse Crew (9-12)

Victory Garden Crew (8:00)

Welcome to the Douglas County Master Gardeners

From Julie Stanbery, Chapter President

Greetings to the 2022 class of Master Gardeners. We are looking forward to our fall training of new volunteers. The program combines classroom and hands-on education in the classroom and out in the field. You are joining a group of 20 trainees, each of whom are paired with a veteran Master Gardener. Your mentor will introduce you to all that our program has to offer, including continuing education seminars, organizational meetings and many varied avenues of community outreach.



The most important component of our program consists of taking our *Sustainable Gardening* message to other groups in Douglas County. We give presentations and demonstrations wherever we can. Our Plant Clinic is open year-round in the Extension office where home gardeners can come for help with their garden problems or questions. We use our training to give OSU research-based advice that advocates sustainable practices such as wise use of water, options to chemicals or how to properly apply a chemical and how to build healthy soil. We have an excellent library and computer programs and dedicated veteran volunteers who will guide you during your first volunteer year.

Established in 2000, our chapter has developed an educational garden and training center at the Discovery Garden near River Forks Park. You may be familiar with our complex, called the Horticultural Learning Center (HLC). You will have many opportunities to work and attend classes at the HLC.

The last Thursday of each month is our DCMG membership meeting. In fact, **mark your calendar** for one full day of fun in the garden, **Thursday, September 29, beginning at 9AM.**

9AM Come to the Discovery Garden with your mentor for a tour and introduction to the 20 plus gardens and teaching areas.

10AM Join us in the pavilion for our monthly membership meeting and be our guest at the potluck to follow.

Noon Venture over to the West and Eastside Greenhouses for our fall plant sale. Cash, check, credit card all accepted.

1-3PM Attend your regularly scheduled outdoor classes in the Victory Garden and the Composting and Vermicomposting areas.

Beginning November 1, 2022, you have one year to complete your 60 hour payback obligation. There are many varied areas of service that apply to your volunteer service. Other than the Plant Clinic, they include the Discovery Garden, West and Eastside greenhouses and the Victory Garden; all at the HLC. Our chapter Newsletter is the primary source of information about monthly activities and updates about coming events. Peruse it monthly - it's worth the read!

We challenge you to study hard and to have fun learning. You will be representing Oregon State University when you volunteer as a Master Gardener, so we ask you to accept our gardening ideas and philosophy of *sustainability* when you reach out to the public. We look forward to sharing our gardening knowledge with you so you can in turn share your knowledge with others in our county. You will soon see that the energy and enthusiasm of our veteran Master Gardeners is infectious! See you in the garden, Julie.

Editor: [Here are the rest of the Executive Board](#)

Vice-President Diana Woodward



Welcome, new students, to the Master Gardener program. So excited for you all - this will change your life in the gardening department, that's for sure. It's an ever-learning program - you never stop learning about every aspect of gardening through the class, through the volunteer hours and beyond. If you choose to continue to volunteer (please

do), you will meet the nicest people in the garden!

The duties of Vice-President include attending the Executive Board and Chapter meetings, and being prepared to preside in the absence of the President. I ensure that proper procedures are followed for conducting meetings by serving as parliamentarian for the chapter and, my favorite duty, providing the Continuing Education program.

At our monthly Chapter meetings, the last Thursday of every month, January-May, October-November, we have an hour of education before the meeting begins. It is usually another Master Gardener expert who presents a topic in their field of gardening. I encourage you all to come - it is an easy way to keep in touch monthly of what's happening in our program and get your 10 hours of certified education for your next year's recertification as a Master Gardener.

Our next Chapter Meeting will be Thursday, September 29, at 10:00, under the pavilion at the Discovery Garden. Veteran MG's will provide a potluck lunch after the meeting, inviting all the new students to come and join us to celebrate the new 2022 class and get acquainted.

Past President Nancy Fuller

Per our chapter bylaws, the Past President acts "as a mentor to the current president and, as a member of the Executive Board, has voting privileges."

I would like to welcome you to our chapter. I hope you will enjoy learning about sustainable gardening and find your favorite area to volunteer in while out in the gardens.



I have been a member of the Douglas County Master Gardener chapter since 2015. In addition to being president of the chapter from August of 2018 until August of 2020, I have been the chapter's representative to the state Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA). I have been a mentor to new trainees, participated in the annual Plant Sale, Trash to Treasures Sale, and Bake Sale. I spend the majority of my time working in the Rock Garden section of the Discovery Garden.

Treasurer Dawnetta Loomis



The Treasurer's job is to maintain the financial records of the chapter. This includes assisting in the development of the chapter's budget, tracking income and expenditures, paying bills and depositing money, providing financial information to members at monthly board and general meetings and in the Newsletter, and providing a year-end report of the chapter's finances to the state OMGA Treasurer

to be used in our federal income tax filing. Any financial questions you may have should be directed to the Treasurer at: Gardeners.DC@gmail.com or 254-458-8838.

Membership

Kay Livermore

Becoming a Master Gardener in 2016 is one of the best things I have ever done. I only wish I had done it 20 years ago. I have learned so much and have met some of the most wonderful, caring people in the world!

I enjoy volunteering with the Master Gardeners, but being Membership Director for the past 4 years is my forever Dream Job! I have made it known that in order to get rid of me, the members will actually have to vote me out of this job!

As Membership Director, I collect annual dues and keep an updated roster of DCMG member's contact information: phone numbers, mailing and e-mail addresses. Send contact information changes to kay.livmr@gmail.com.

My hobbies include gardening, sewing, knitting, crocheting and genealogy. I look forward to getting to know the Master Gardener Class of 2022.



information to our local chapter about OMGA news and events.

OMGA and its county chapters were created in 1983 to support and supplement OSU's Master Gardener Program. OMGA is tax-exempt and serves to unify and support chapter programs and horticultural education. When one completes the Master Gardener Program, membership in OMGA is automatic the first year. After that, membership requires annual dues.

Services provided by OMGA include:

- Educational outreach via Mini-College.
- The quarterly-published newsletter "The Gardener's Pen."
- The PNW Handbooks, given annually to be used in the Plant Clinic.
- Scholarships to an OSU horticultural student and to help send attendees to Mini-College.
- Grants to assist chapters fund special programs.
- Search for Excellence Award, which recognizes outstanding projects by chapters that can be adapted by other chapters. Douglas County won this prestigious award in 2012.
- Select and honor the "Oregon Master Gardener of the Year".
- Select and honor "Behind the Scenes" Master Gardener of the Year.

OMGA Reps

Barbie Hamby & Patrice Sipos



Barbie

Patrice

As Douglas County's Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA) representative and alternate representative, we meet quarterly with other representatives from Master Gardener Chapters across the state and the OMGA Executive Board. We help to develop goals and objectives and make decisions that will set OMGA policies. We share what Douglas County Master Gardeners are doing with the rest of the state and learn about projects other chapters are participating in at their local area. As representatives, we also provide

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Secretary

Bonnie Courter

As Secretary, I record and maintain the minutes of the Executive Board and monthly Chapter Meetings. I also am charged with maintaining documentation of our official policies and job descriptions. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you can read the minutes as posted on our website and the chapter meeting minutes are always included in the monthly Newsletter.



Editor: Now, we'll introduce you to some of our committees and their chairpersons:

FTC Coordinators

Kish Doyle & Bonnie Courter



Kish



Bonnie

As FTC (Fall Training Class) Coordinators, we are responsible to help plan and execute the Fall Training Program. This entails recruiting presenters, creating a class schedule, and equipping mentors along

with their assigned students with the necessary information and procedures for a successful Master Gardener program. We strive to make the whole learning experience an excellent and rewarding one for each of you so that you will become active and enthusiastic Master Gardeners.

Should you have any concerns or issues during the course of the class program, please don't hesitate to share those with us so we can try and resolve them.

Kish: 909-855-0093, kdoyle1320@gmail.com
Bonnie: 541-391-2890, rbcourter@gmail.com

Plant Clinic

Chris Rusch



Welcome to the Plant Clinic. My name is Chris Rusch and I am the manager of our Plant Clinic Program. I am delighted to welcome all our new 2022 Master Gardeners. I look forward to getting to know you all throughout the coming year.

As Plant Clinic Manager, my job is to coordinate all our Plant Clinic activities.

The Plant Clinic is where the objectives of the Master Gardener Program really come to life. At the Plant Clinic we answer a wide range of questions about home gardening. This is where we are able to take the knowledge we gained in our Sustainable Gardening classes and pass it on to the home gardeners of our Douglas County community. We diagnose plant problems; identify insects and plants; and answer general garden and orchard management questions. During your training period you will be paired with experienced Master Gardeners to lead you through the protocols of our Plant Clinic. We have an excellent reference library and numerous scientifically-based online sources to help us. Our new members will be trained in the use of our

reference materials by our experienced group of trainers. It is exciting, challenging and rewarding work.

Once again, welcome and thanks for joining this great organization. Questions? You can reach me at: 541-825-3837 or crusch3837@gmail.com.

Insect Committee

Richard Johnstone & Roger Dejmaj



Roger

Richard

Nearly 25% of the calls to the Plant Clinic concern possible plant damage from or problems with insects and other arthropods. With over 1 million identified species of insects worldwide and an estimated 15 million possible species total, this would seem an

impossible task but an analysis of Plant Clinic data for Douglas County shows that 90% of the insect questions involve only about 50 insects and spiders.

While most Master Gardeners have no problem identifying the usual bugs brought into the clinic, the job of the Insect Committee is to supply aids and books to help with this task. The committee also identifies those uncommon insects that occasionally show up.

We welcome new members - no experience required. The committee meets on the first and third Monday of every month from 10:00-Noon if needed. And for those of you who are new to the Master Gardeners program, you can use Insect Committee time to help fulfill your Plant Clinic hours obligation. Please contact Richard Johnstone at 541-673-8024 for more information.

Hallmark

Linda Thames

As Hallmark Chair, my job is to promote our group's sense of community by sending a handmade greeting card with the best wishes of our group to members, their immediate families, and on occasion, to others, conveying the appropriate sentiments, such as a thank you, sympathy card, best wishes for recovery from sickness or an operation. Without violating their right to privacy, I share such information with the general membership at chapter meetings.



Communications

Shirley Purcell



As the person in charge of communications, I send out informational emails that relate to Master Gardener activities. If you have provided your email address to the organization, you will hear from me one or more times a week. Please add my email address, hopover@gmail.com, onto your accepted list so my emails are not routed into your spam box.

The MG Executive Board has given me permission to send out only those emails relating directly to MG activities. Therefore, please do not be offended if I cannot help you rent your house, advertise a garage sale, sell your craft items, etc.

If my emails are not getting to you in a timely manner, please let me know. Also, if you change your email address, call or email me as soon as possible. My phone number is 541-673-3818. Thank you for helping me spread Master Gardener news to all.

Publicity

Cheryl Caplan

As the Publicity chair for our group, I work on getting the word out about upcoming events, programs, and fundraisers to the newspaper, radio stations, and social media sites. But the best way to let people know about what we do is by each of us talking to people we know. You can get a handful of the colorful bookmarks in the Plant Clinic that lists many of our programs

– it makes a great tickler list during conversations. If you have an idea for an article or a TV/radio spot, let me know at cheryl_caplan1@msn.com or text at 541-430-5124.



It's important to lock your car doors especially now. Your friends and neighbors and even strangers will put free Zucchini in your car.

Shared by K.Doyle

Facebook

Barbara Horst

Welcome to the new Master Gardeners Class of 2022! As the Facebook Administrator for the Master Gardeners, I am responsible for updating our Facebook page. This involves publishing research-based articles that would be of interest to gardeners. It also involves advertising upcoming events, such as our fundraisers. We currently have 1,933 people following our page. If you haven't already done so, be sure to "like" us on Facebook!



Newsletter Editor & Writing Team

Bonnie Courter

I'm excited to welcome the Class of 2022! You'll be amazed at how much you will learn this year, and the learning never stops!

Each month I publish the DCMG Newsletter which is distributed online on our website: douglascountymg.org/mg_newsletter.html. Past issues can be accessed on our website as well. For an additional fee of \$18.50/year, you can also choose to have the Newsletter sent by "snail mail" should you prefer that route.

I accept monthly articles written by Executive Board members and chairpersons for the Newsletter, but also invite any Master Gardener to submit something of interest to our readers. I'm always looking for a good "scoop" and like to include educational articles pertaining to sustainable gardening as well as photo contributions from our membership. "Funnies" are also welcome!

I also coordinate a team of MG writers who submit weekly articles to [The News-Review](http://The-News-Review) for publication. Perhaps you've noticed our "Ask A Master Gardener" column in the Friday editions. It's just another way to share with Douglas County gardeners tips on sustainable gardening and help problem-solve horticultural issues found seasonally and locally. If you have a knack and desire to write, we could use you as part of our team!

You can reach me at rbcourter@gmail.com, or by phone at 541-391-2890. Enjoy your new adventure in gardening!

Westside Greenhouse

Carol Bolt

Westside Greenhouse crew would like to welcome all the new students to yet another fabulous year of learning, camaraderie and fun. We are charged with growing the perennial and annual flowers, herbs and vegetables which are sold at our annual Plant Sale in May. Your training will expose you briefly to what goes on at our greenhouses. We will work with you in the weeks following with hands-on work in seeding, transplanting, plant division etc. Please do not be intimidated if you are inexperienced. We all began where you are! We normally work on Tuesdays from 9 AM to noon with the exception being during your fall training when we work on Mondays from 9 AM to noon. We look forward to sharing our love of gardening with all of you.



Victory Garden

Carolyn Ruzicka

Greetings to the Master Gardener Class of 2022. The Victory Garden has increasing success each year following its opening in 2009. We hope some of you will join us in the spring as we plant, grow and harvest many different vegetables. The Victory Garden offers Master Gardeners an opportunity to put in practice many techniques taught in your fall training class such as succession planting, crop rotation, mulching, vertical gardening and water conservation.



Our demonstration plot is always open to the public and tasting is encouraged. The demonstration garden and new signage shows the sustainable practices home vegetable gardeners can use. Our main and demo gardens grew over 9,000 pounds of vegetables in 2021 to be distributed to local pantries and community kitchens.

By donating all this fresh nutritious produce to UCAN, Master Gardeners are promoting and contributing to a healthier community. So if you want to nurture your love of gardening while helping others AND have a good time, come join us in the Victory Garden!

Eastside Greenhouse

Bruce Gravens



The Core Group and devoted helpers of the Eastside Greenhouses would love to welcome the new members of the Class of 2022 to come join our efforts. We are responsible for curating and propagating woody plants for the annual Plant Sale which is our major fundraiser.

Working in the Eastside greenhouses you will learn how to maintain a wide variety of potted plants. You will learn about root pruning, top pruning, winter prep, and fertilization. You will also learn about propagation of woody plants. We propagate using root cuttings, top cutting, and division techniques. Learning these techniques will not only give you the skills you can use in your own gardens, but provide you with information you can use to educate members of your community.

We look forward to seeing many of you in the greenhouses, and you're welcome to come out on workdays to learn and play in the dirt with us.

Trash to Treasure Sale

Ann Severson

It's been a dream of mine to become a Master Gardener for many years and my husband gave me that gift in 2015. It is my goal to do as much as I can, lend a helping hand, volunteer and help our Master Gardener Program.



In 2015 I volunteered to help with a fundraising event called Trash to Treasures. Trash to Treasures is a one day huge yard sale, which takes place in Winston at the Winston Community Center, in June of each year. Two years later in 2017 I became the coordinator of Trash to Treasures.

Over the past few years I have taken all most all of the donations at my house. Master Gardeners and many of my friends know about this event and donate to it just by dropping items off on my front porch or seeing me at the gardens. Once I get them, I price them, box them up and put

away for the sale. I usually need help gathering the items at my house and getting them to the event location on Friday. This is where all Master Gardeners are needed. We need your donations.

Here is a list of the items that we DO NOT take: old TV sets, old computers, old phones, baby items, beds, exercise equipment, VHS and cassette tapes, food, all holiday (unless I okay), wine glasses. ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLEAN, IN WORKING CONDITION.

We are scheduled for June 2-3 of 2023 at the Winston Community Center. Volunteers will need to arrive around 10:00 am to late afternoon. There are no set amount of hours anyone has to do. Do what you can is all that is asked. Friday's of this event are scheduled for setting up tables and receiving donations. They will then be placed on the correct tables. This usually goes very fast as most of the donations are pre-priced. Those who help on Friday will get the opportunity to shop the donations that have been donated. It's an added bonus to many who love the thrill of finding that special something. Saturday is the day of our sale. This day it's all hands on deck. I will need many volunteers to man tables and help customers. Early morning volunteers are to be there by 8:00 am and we try to be out of the building by 4:00 pm.

Trash to Treasures is a great way of getting your payback hours in and getting a chance to work with many of our MG's. I hope that you will take the chance to volunteer with our event.

2022 OMGA Mini College Report

Kish Doyle

The OMGA meeting was held at the Hilton Garden Inn on Thursday, July 28, 2022. The meeting was not a normal business affair but just a sharing of ideas and current projects from the different chapters. Kish shared the new Soil Testing Lab being finalized at the Discovery Garden and our upcoming Fall Training for new Master Gardeners.

The Mini College program, held at the Alumni Center at OSU, began on Friday morning with an opening welcome and introductions by OMGA President Chris Rusch. The keynote speaker from OSU, Dr. Samantha Chisholm Hatfield, presentation was titled, "Traditional Ecological Knowledge(TEK), climate change impacts, indigenous ecosystems and indigenous food systems. It was well received by the attendees. Saturday morning, Gail Langellotto talked about the successes of the Oregon Master Gardener program and her research with bees. It was obvious how passionate she is regarding the bees. One of the statistics she shared was all the volunteer hours in 2021

added up to 41 full time paid employee positions worth \$2.5 million dollars.

All day Friday and Saturday were a wide variety of classes from Smart Gardening Strategies to Plant Health Care and Dryland Farming. Douglas County was well represented with Logan Bennett, Bruce Gravens and Jack Finney all presenters of well-attended classes. Kish's personal favorite was a mason bee class given by Rich Little. He is taking his knowledge on the road and offering to give a training class in the different counties to educate Master Gardeners on the best practices for keeping the bee population healthy and growing.

On Saturday evening, there was a social hour, Mexican buffet and Awards dinner. All the county award winners were recognized and the state Master Gardener of the Year nominees, including our own Patrice Sipos, were presented along with a brief overview of their work. The winner was from Jackson County.

In addition to the classes during the day, there were opportunities to attend a Corvallis Knights baseball game, a virtual tour of the Oak Creek Center of Urban Horticulture, a tour of the Block #15 brewery, River Ranch Olive Oil tasting and self-tours of three local nurseries.

The Silent Auction was very successful and raised \$4000 towards next years Mini College.

Treasurer's Report

Dawnetta Loomis
07/29/2022 - 08/24/2022

INCOME

Grant/Gift/Scholarship	\$250.00
Class Fees	\$1,900.00
Soil Testing	\$240.00
Interest	\$21.09
Plant Sale Post	\$291.50
Other	\$19.00
Compost Tea	<u>\$439.00</u>

TOTAL INCOME

\$3,160.59

EXPENSES

Management & General	\$113.25
Discovery Garden	\$130.68
HLC	\$238.53
Plant Sale	\$2,332.16
DC Coop Svc Charge	\$3.00
Trash to Treasurers	\$425.00
Community Outreach	<u>\$249.88</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$3,492.50

Breakdown of our accounts at 08/24/22

NWCC - Checking	\$1,111.38
NWCC - Reserve	\$5,010.73
NWCC - MMK Savings	\$67,693.78
NWCC - Waddington Fund	\$71,887.44
NWCC - 6 Month CD	<u>\$17,725.73</u>

Ending Balance

\$163,429.06

Creating Deeper Garden Soil Using a Broad Fork

Bruce Gravens

For the last 5 years, I have been adding as much compost as I dare or can get my hands on to my garden soil in an attempt to improve the soil quality and depth. Over that time the top 3 to 6 inches have greatly improved and my vegetables look good and require little or no added fertilizer. I guess I should be happy, but below that nice layer of top soil is harder packed soil with lower organic material and a high percentage of clay. This packed soil shows lots of signs of microbial and earthworm activity, but it is hard to plant into and I feel like the tomato and pepper roots are not penetrating it as deeply as I would like. A younger version of myself double dug a garden that was less than 5% of the size of this garden. I know that worked and created a much deeper top soil layer that was good for many years. I considered doing that again, but the prospect of double digging on a 7,000 sq. ft. garden was just too much for my mind and now older back to take on.

The next best option to quickly increase quality soil depth with minimal soil disruption is to use a broad fork. A few weeks ago, I was able to borrow a broad fork and it worked like a charm. I then bought one for myself. The broad fork reached down about 12 inches and pulled that hard soil to the surface allowing the top 3 to 6 inches of high organic material soil to fall into the hole. You can see the **before and after in the first picture**. On the right side of the picture, you see the garden bed before I used the broad fork. It is very nice and friable. On the left side you see a similar bed after I used the broad fork. That top soil is

now deep underground and the harder lower organic material soil is on the surface. I added a bunch of compost to the surface and tilled the compost into the soil the broad fork had brought up. I now have 3 to 4 inches of new top soil and below that I have 8 to 9 inches of older top soil and chunks of harder soil. In the **second picture** you see the compost on the surface and in the **final picture** you see the

compost tilled in to create a nice layer of friable top soil. My hope is after 2 or 3 years of this effort I will have a good 12 inches of high-quality top soil.



I selected a 30" wide, 12" deep broad fork made by Treadlite. My beds are 5 ft. wide set on 7 ft. centers, so a 30" wide broad fork requires 2 passes through each bed. Using a broad fork does require a good bit of effort. The good news is it is low impact on your body and does not require any action that feels like it might hurt you. It consists of balancing on the broad fork while rocking back and forth on the fork to drive it into the soil. This requires a sense of balance and feels like it would help improve your balance. Once it is fully embedded, you just let your body weight rock the broad fork backward and leverage the hard soil to the surface. In the end it is a very gentle action, with no heavy lifting or twisting.

This tillage does disrupt the soil structure and you will want to give the soil plenty of time to recover. In my case, 3 of these beds will be planted in garlic and shallots in mid-October. The other beds will be planted in the spring of 2023. I plan to do the rest of the garden as the summer crops finish up and before the rains start. This will give them all winter to recover.

When selecting a broad fork, the narrower the broad fork the easier it is to operate. Select a broad fork that fits your bed width. Online they recommend broad forks with a round surface to stand on that is as big as possible. They say the square steps are harder on your feet. I also recommend forks that have blades that look like sheet steel vs spikes. Folks say the spike versions often bend.

There is a down side to using a broad fork. This work creates a disruption to the soil structure. While it is not as disruptive as double digging, it is a disruption. In my case, I very much wanted to disrupt the hard clay soil structure of my subsurface soil. There are other less disruptive techniques promoted by the "no dig" folks. Those techniques take much longer and are not nearly as certain to achieve the desired result. In addition to using the broad fork, I will be planting a digger radish as a cover crop.

Anytime you are introducing air into the soil, which the broad fork does, you will increase microbial action which will consume (mineralize) more organic material. You want to replace that organic material or you will end up where you started with hard soil with low organic material. In the end, nature will always want to return the soil to its natural state. There is a promise that using this technique will eventually result in a garden soil that can be cultivated each year with a gentle use of the board fork and no additional tilling. I have no experience with that situation but would love to see it.





About a year ago I was curious about these air plants I had seen in one of the nurseries in town. So, I bought one. Now I am the proud owner of over three dozen of these cute little gems.

What caught my eye and attention of these plants? First of all they are small and don't take up much space. They don't need soil or even a garden pot. The fun of it is finding that cute little cup, container or hanging display for them. Many use drift wood for them. The ways of displaying them are countless.



Air plants, *Tillandsia ionantha*, have many layers of green to silver colored leaves. These plants thrive on the bark of trees in Mexico and South America. There are dozens of different varieties from the small sizes that are about the size of a fifty cent piece to some that are as big as a huge hanging plant.

The care of these plants is very simple, as they only need two things: light and water. They do best in bright light, as in a nice sunny window. There are two ways to water and take care of them. The first is using a water mister. By doing this, you might need to do it more than once a week. The second way is once a week to fill a bowl with water and start soaking them for 30 minutes. Remove them from the bowl and gently shake them. Place the plants on a towel with the bottom of the plants up. I leave them there on the towel for the day and go about my business. Then I put them away in their cute little spaces. Now if you forget to do this, as I have many times, I just run some cold water over the leaves of the plant, following the same routine. If you don't do this and just put your plants away, then the chance of them rotting is much greater.



The *Tillandsia* live from two to five

years. When it is coming to the end of its life cycle it will put out a bloom in the center of the plant. They can bloom in various colors from violet, pink and white. If you don't know yet, the *Tillandsia* is monocarpic. But no worries because it leaves behind pups that will take the place of the mother plant when it dies. The flower on the plant can last up to several weeks and the blooms are just stunning. The pups can be removed easily and then once again you will have an air plant to enjoy for many more years. I can't wait until I see one of my air plants bloom.

Until then when I see you in the garden...

Ask the Tool Man Alley



Eventually, most of us gardeners, of any type or level, will be faced with a **Broken Garden Hoe Handle**. Rather than simply throwing the broken handle and hoe head away we might say to ourselves, "How do I replace this broken hoe handle?" In this case I'm speaking of our favorite standard garden hoe as shown in **photo 1**. I don't know if you have researched hoes, but there are literally hundreds of different types. Many are designed and constructed for a single function. Most of us, I suspect use the standard garden hoe.



While it first appears replacing a garden hoe handle is relatively easy, we have to first start with the simplest and smallest part of the hoe, one that can drive us crazy. It is the small nail inserted in the throat of the hoe head driven into the end of the hoe handle. You can see the nail in both hoes in **photo 1 and 2**, and in **photo 3**. This little stubby, serrated nail is very difficult to



remove. Because you cannot buy them anymore, I try very hard to remove them with a small nail remover (very small crowbar) for use later. Sometimes you can carefully remove it with a small wood chisel. Most often I fail and end up removing it using the process in this article.



Photo 4 shows, with the exception of an electric drill, what you will need to remove the top cap of the nail and a



small portion of the nail shaft. This process is rather tedious, and requires the exact tools. From left to right is:

- 3/16-inch drill bit. This bit must be the same size diameter as the shaft of the nail
- Sharp nail punch
- 7/64-inch drill bit
- Serrated nail, that you believe matches the nail in your hoe
- 3/16-inch punch.
- Standard hammer

Step 1: Place the hoe head in a vise with nail head facing up. Take the sharp nail punch and make a pilot hole in the center of the nail head.

Photo 5. The pilot hole should be large enough to accept the 7/64-inch



drill bit.



Using the 7/64 bit, make a slightly larger hole for the larger 3/16-inch drill bit. **Photo 6** shows the pilot hole. This hole should be dead center of the nail cap.

Step 2: Using the 3/16-inch drill bit, drill down into the nail. Because the drill bit is larger than the nail shaft, the nail head will spin off once it reaches the nail shaft. Be careful not to drill into the hoe shaft. **Photo 7**



Step 3: Using a nail punch, slightly larger than the nail shaft, drive the nail down further into the wood handle. You only need to drive it past the underneath of the hoe shaft. Once this is accomplished you should be able to pull out the broken handle. **Photo 8.** If not:



Step 4: Take the hoe head out of the vise. Grasp the handle with the hoe facing down. Using a hammer, strike the back part of the hoe, forcing off the hoe head. This might take a number of strikes, rotating strikes from one side of the hoe to the other side. Eventually, the hoe head will drop off.

Step 5. You are done. Clean and sharpen the hoe head, then replace with a new handle, and a new nail. It is far easier to clean and sharpen the hoe head when is separated from the handle.

Step 6. If you don't have a new nail, call me and I will make you one. It is easy to make from a steel 16 penny nail. Cut it with a bolt cutter or hack saw to 3/4-inch length, sharpen the end and drive into the hole in the shaft, into the new handle. I recommend a steel nail because it will last longer than a galvanized nail. To keep the hoe head from rotating, many of the older hoes have two anchor nails, one on top of the shaft and the other on the side of the shaft. One is usually enough. If the head rotates later, you can still add the second nail.

If you have questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact me. I'm usually at the Discovery Garden during our Tuesday work days, or you can always call me on my cell phone. Happy gardening and continue keeping those garden tools clean, sharp, oiled and properly stored.



WE ARE STILL ASKING FOR
DONATED GARDEN TOOLS FOR
UMPQUA VALLEY FARM TO SCHOOL
PROGRAM
- Fred Alley

There are two 5-gallon black plastic buckets at the Discovery Garden, one in the Westside Greenhouse and one in the tool room where you can place your donated garden tools. I will be meeting next week with the director of the program, Erin Maidlow, to deliver the first group of tools. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

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World on a Leaf

Janet Bitter



Patrice Glasscock and I made an interesting find in the bed we all know as "Milkweed Goes Wild" in the Butterfly Garden.

The bright yellow aphids are Oleander or Milkweed aphids. Apparently they are this bright color as

some predators will avoid them because of the slight toxicity possible from them eating milkweed. However, there are an abundance of ladybugs (apparently not deterred) and who knows what else in this "world on a leaf". The cool thing is Patrice noticed these little white eggs attached to the bottom of the milkweed leaves by very fine filaments. A little detective work and we think these are green lacewing eggs. Lacewings are voracious predators!



Maybe others would like to get up close with these interesting leaves before everything hatches and flies away! And a good reminder to try to identify things before you just bring out the spray.

DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Chapter Meeting at home of Cynthia Moyer

August 25, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:13. There were 22 in attendance including President Julie Stanbery, Past President Nancy Fuller, Vice-President Diana Woodward, Treasurer Dawnetta Loomis, Membership Kay Livermore, and Secretary Bonnie Courter.



Welcome: Cynthia Moyer gave us a short history of her home. Her family moved here in 2019, arriving the day after "Snowmageddon". Her garden is all new since May of this year, including raised beds and the pergola which her husband constructed. Irrigation is by a well.

The orchard down the hill will be planted in berries, and a lavender farm is in the plans as well. The palm trees were planted by the former owners. They

have 6 beehives, 3 of which are full, along with 21 chickens. In addition there is one acre of oak forest above the house.

Agenda Approval: The agenda was approved as posted.

Minutes Approval: The minutes were approved as posted.

OFFICER REPORTS

Past President - Nancy Fuller: Monarch butterflies are back in Elkton after an absence. Her digger critter has quit digging, so hopefully that's the end of it.

Membership - Kay Livermore: We currently have 209 members.

OMGA - Barbie

Hamby: Not present.

Chris Rusch gave the report. They had a tremendous Mini-College with hundreds of attendees and 20 different speakers for 2 days in Corvallis.

This was the first in-person one since 2018. Logan Bennett spoke on blueberries, apples, hops and strawberries. Bruce Gravens and Jack Finney also spoke, so we were well represented. Dr. Hatfield talked on traditional ecological knowledge.



Bee Hives



We are organizing an advocacy to get a Horticulture Agent for us and for other counties to work with the commercial growers. Chris will send out a template of what we can write and where to send letters to advocate with a hopeful

July 2023 date for an incoming horticulture agent, requesting a funding package during the coming legislative session. MG's are encouraged to attend commissioners meetings to advocate for Master Gardeners - they meet every Wednesday at 9:00 AM.

Logan Bennett will now be our MG Program Coordinator as well as Small Farms Program Coordinator. He will provide leadership for DCMG, oversee training and MG retention activities, encourage educational outreach to the community - essentially what Steve did for our organization.

Treasurer - Dawnetta Loomis:

- No big changes in the budget. She still needs more feedback for the 2023 budget. She will send the current budget out again through Shirley with requests for the 2023 budget.
- BottleDrop made \$400.
- The water bill is \$450 over budget because of the water leak. We will let it be in the overbudget column for now.
- CD: She talked to the bank about pulling the money out, and there would be a \$15 penalty. Dawnetta suggests leaving it there for another 6 months to see if rates go up. The new maturity date is February 5.
- The Treasurer's laptop is outdated and very slow. We should request replacing it in next year's budget. She also needs new file boxes as the latches are breaking. There is still money in the Executive Board budget to buy new ones.



Vice-President - Diana Woodward: Next meeting will be at the Discovery Garden pavilion in September. She has a lot of speakers lined up for continuing ed including Logan who wants to teach in February. We will have a home chapter meeting in May hosted by Dave Clark and Iva Greywolf.

President - Julie Stanbery:

- Logan is the new MG Coordinator for our chapter.
- Logan's Friday program at the olive ranch in Glide was changed to the morning. When asked to host Dr. Lyles at 2:00 that afternoon instead of the morning, we objected as it had already be changed once. Dr. Lyles was also to meet with commissioners, but we don't know if that was set up. Julie wants to see if he could come down on September 29 when Geoff Puryear is giving his talk on Xeriscaping to the new class.

COMMITTEE REPORTS



Meet "James"

Black MG Apparel - Ann Severson: Not present. She wants to wait until class is mid-term so the students can order them as well as any MG's.

Community Outreach - Leo Grass: A disability group of 20 from Grants Pass is coming up for a garden tour on September 13 around 11:00.

Discovery Garden - Julie Stanbery:

- The plumber has come out several times, but only charged us for one service call. He replaced the valves on the toilet,

but it's still not flushing properly. To put in a new toilet would require taking a jackhammer to the concrete floor.

- Hemlock mulch will be available at the Coop next month, so she will order some for the garden.
- Ed Barrett has stepped up a lot doing tractor work and servicing it. However, the Kabota is having issues, so it will have to be serviced in the field by Umpqua Tractor Services.
- Fire danger: At HLC, during extreme fire danger days, the use of any power equipment is forbidden.

Facebook - Barbara Horst: Not present. No report.

Fair Booth - Diane Smith-Lewsadder: We had a good turnout with volunteers and over 400 contacts throughout the week. The artistic Fair sign is a big draw, but it has had a lot of issues. The surface bubbled because of the heat in the Fair building. The business in Eugene can print it on vinyl instead, so Diane will look into that as it can be rolled up and is lightweight. She will also get an estimate for printing a smaller version for the Farmers Market and budget the cost for next year.



Extension is now covering all OSU publications for Fall Training class and for Fair.

Fall Training Program - Bonnie Courter: We held our mentor training meeting on the 15th. Kish and I met together last Friday and paired students with their mentors. We have a full class of 20 students, with two on "standby" in case someone drops before class begins. First day is September 6. All veteran MG's are welcome to come and sit in on classes for recertification or continuing education credit.

Farmers Market - Abigail Hotovec: She has been working there the last two weeks with Andino's and Cettina's, as well as weeding 2-3 evenings a week at the Discovery Garden to get in her payback time.

Fundraising - Nathan Baily: Not present. No report.

Greenhouse West - Carol Bolt: She said the packets of wildflower seeds were a great draw for people at the Fair. They are root pruning and propagating. In the milkweed garden, they are cutting the pods off, but are careful there

aren't monarch eggs present. Patrice Glasscock said that there were some seed-collecting bags left over the columbine, but no one has claimed them. See Patrice if they're yours.

Greenhouse East - Bonnie Durick: They are busy weeding, pruning, and mainly focusing on the new compost operation. They now have 80-90 yards of compost which is tarped and "cooking". They've worked in aged horse manure and also developing a seed starting mix that needs to be sterile. We could sell any left over after plant sale.



Hallmark - Linda Thames: Not present - her report: Sent a "Get Well" card to Kay Livermore who had COVID. Sadly, Jackie Carpenter's youngest son died of pancreatic cancer earlier this month, so sent a sympathy

card to her and her family.

Insect Committee - Diana Woodward: Richard Johnstone was ill, so they didn't meet last time.

Newsletter - Bonnie Courter: If you are a Board member or committee chairperson, I need your article introducing yourself and any other articles or contributions by Saturday, August 27.

Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch: They had over 100 visitors in August. Spaces are still available on the calendar.

Plant Sale - Bonnie Durick: We will have a fall plant sale, directly after the September Chapter meeting - accepting cash, check or credit card. Still need sturdy boxes for Ken, and about 7000 boxes for the spring plant sale. Julie mentioned that we will give a tour of the garden to the new students at 9:00 before the Chapter meeting, so she will need helpers for that.

Publicity - Cheryl Caplan: There are colorful bookmarks detailing our MG program in the Plant Clinic to give out.

Soils - Patrice Glasscock: Nothing to report. They've done 53 tests so far this year. They still need a rain barrel - Fred Alley may have one. There are 5 MG's working in the lab. Logan will offer a class for the public in September on soils.

Swinger Bars - Kay Livermore: Due to illness, Kay has been unable to give out swinger bars, but now she will try and be out at the garden on Tuesdays to distribute them.

June Swinger Bar Report:

Congratulations to 2021 Trainees Empress Lee and Linda Witbeck who have completed their payback hours and are now Master Gardeners.

Members who have swinger bar updates for June 2022:

60 hours: Empress Lee, Linda Witbeck
100 hours: Diana Campbell, Judy Ode
200 hours: Mary Holmes, Robin Oki
500 hours: Roselle Benesh, Diana Woodward
1000 hours: Barbara Horst
2500 hours: Ann Severson



July Swinger Bar Report:

Congratulations to 2021 Trainees Mauro Cettina and Kristin Jennings who have completed their payback hours and are now Master Gardeners.

Members who have swinger bar updates for July 2022:

60 hours: Mauro Cettina
100 hours: Kristin Jennings, Linda Witbeck
200 hours: Patrice Glasscock
300 hours: Sylvia Andino, Roger Dejmal
750 hours: Janet Parkerson
1500 hours: Betty Bean
4000 hours: Bonnie Courter



Victory Garden - Carolyn Ruzicka:

Not present. Her report: Things are in full swing with most of the produce ripening each week for lots of veggies going to UCAN. At the moment, the summer squash is going full blast.



Cucumbers are producing way better than last year, since we went to a different variety. Melons are looking favorable with lots of tiny melons on the vines, ready to harvest soon. Monday some of the acorn squash was harvested. Tomatoes are slow coming on.

We have now gone to harvesting twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays. Anyone interested in helping, please come

out. And a reminder if anyone has excess produce, either vegetables or fruit, drop them off early in the morning on those two days to have us take it to UCAN. Or you can drop them off directly at UCAN - just tell them it's from MG home gardens as they keep track of the weight separately.

OLD BUSINESS: The August 26 Vice-Provost visit has been cancelled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Audit Committee Report:

Douglas County Master Gardeners Audit Report For Period June 19, 2021 to August 24, 2022

The audit was performed on August 24, 2022. We met with our current treasurer, Dawnetta Loomis, in the DCMG Plant Clinic. The audit members were Vicki McAlister, Karin Seder and Toni Rudolph.

The following items were reviewed during the audit:

1. Confirmed our Chapter 2021 Tax Return was filed with the OMGA treasurer.
2. Verified the Chapter liability insurance is being maintained for the members.
3. Verified that the current budget was being used to monitor income and expenses.
4. Reviewed random financial transactions for the audited period to verify that transactions were properly documented and accurate.
5. Checked that financial documentation on the Treasurer's computer regarding financial statements, bank statements and reconciliation reports was up to date and complete.

After the above review, we were satisfied that the Chapter's books are being maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards and are accurate. The Treasurer is following OMGA methodology for off-site backup of financial data by maintaining a backup on a thumb drive.



Randomly the records are updated on the DCMG Plant Clinic computer.

Recommendations:

1. The Plant Clinic computer should be updated monthly with all Treasurer documents/files including QuickBooks.
2. We have had the existing Treasurer's refurbished computer for 5 years. It is very SLOW. We recommend replacing it with a new LENOVO computer from Costco. Approximate cost is \$700. MS Office software may also be needed. We will need to verify if the current version will run on the newer operating system. If needed we may be able to purchase this software from eBay.

Respectfully submitted by: Toni Rudolph, Vicki McAlister, and Karin Seder Audit Committee for 2022

Thanks to Outgoing Officer: Kish Doyle was not present, but Julie has a gift for her.

Installation of New Officers: Nancy Fuller installed new officers: President Julie Stanbery, Vice-President Diana Woodward, Treasurer Dawnetta Loomis, Membership Kay Livermore, and Secretary Bonnie Courter.



SHOW AND TELL:

- Julie brought tiger lily bulblets to share.
- Chris Rusch has set March 11, 2023, for Spring into Gardening at Phoenix School. She would like to start a planning committee earlier than last time.
- Diana Woodward: She has lots of thornless boysenberries ready to pick. If you want to pick some, give her a call.
- Diane Smith-Lewsadder: OSU offers an online Home Horticulture class for \$490 with \$60 registration. If you take the online course, you are not an official Master Gardener, but must take a local MG training class instead.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:03.

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Courter, Secretary

Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: E-mail submissions to Bonnie Courter: rbcourter@gmail.com

Website: www.douglascountymg.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487

OSU Douglas County Extension Service: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas

OSU Gardening Information: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening

OSU Master Gardeners Program: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg

Oregon Master Gardeners Association (OMGA): www.oregonmastergardeners.org



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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.

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