



March 2023 Calendar

- Sat., March 4, 2:00
Awards Social @ Phoenix School
- Mon., March 6, 10:00
Insect Committee, Annex
- Tues., March 7, 9-Noon
Greenhouse Crews
Discovery Garden Workday
- Wed., March 8
Continuing Education (9:00)
Chapter Mtg./Board Mtg. (10:00)
- Sat., March 11, 9:00-4:00
Spring Into Gardening, Phoenix School
- Tues., March 14, 9:00-Noon
Greenhouse Crews
Discovery Garden Workday
- Mon., March 20, 10:00
Insect Committee, Annex
- Tues., March 21, 9-Noon
Greenhouse Crews
Discovery Garden Workday
- Thurs., March 23, 1:00-4:00
Pruning Japanese Garden
- Tues., March 28, 9:00-Noon
Greenhouse Crews
Discovery Garden Workday
- Thurs., March 30
Continuing Education (9:00)
Chapter Meeting (10:00)



The Prez Sez...

Before I begin my musings, a friendly reminder: DCMG AWARDS SOCIAL is **next Saturday, March 4**. I heartily encourage **all volunteers** to join us in celebration of this wonderful group of garden friends. Please RSVP to Ann at [541-817-4983](tel:541-817-4983), and remember to bring a finger food.

Clutter, hodgepodge, jumble and disorder. Nouns that perfectly describe the disorder of notes and clippings that bestrew my desk. In no particular order, these are some thoughts and factoids that gained my attention and made their way into my "stack of stuff".

From the MFP's comes a new publication for those who forage and enjoy consuming stinging nettles. Stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) is a delicious and nutritious food. But it's also a plant that can sting and cause welts. The PDF gives tips for safe gathering. Nettle roots, seeds, stems and young leaves are edible. "Wild Edibles: Stinging Nettles" can be found on the OSU website, <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/catalog/auto/EM9373.pdf>. It includes some fun recipes for making pesto, quiche, soup and ravioli!

Congratulations to MG (2016) Jude Stensland, who served as Community Outreach chair, on her December 5th marriage. Our best wishes to Henry and Jude.

Bullfrogs thrive in warm water. If you decrease the temperature of the pond, you may reduce the attraction. Master Naturalist program coordinator, Jason O'Brian, advises planting trees, shrubs, native wildflowers, even sedges and rushes to increase the amount of shade that falls on the pond. Choosing friendly wildlife and native plants will improve the habitat for birds and pollinators, improve water quality and decrease the suitability for bullfrogs. (Note from me: bass will also eradicate the big boys!).

Peat moss is harvested in bogs and fens around the world, primarily in Canada and Russia. According to Linda Brewer, OSU Soils Scientist, the water-logged bogs have taken carbon from the atmosphere and sequestered it for 10,000 to 12,000 years. Harvesting peat moss destroys native habitat essential to the survival of many birds, reptiles, insects and small mammals. Bogs represent 5% of the earth's surface yet they contain more carbon than all the planet's forests combined. It is a huge storage unit for carbon dioxide. It is harvested as a soil amendment. However, it is very low in nutrients, has a low pH and is not attractive to essential soil microbes. The sale of peat moss will be banned in England in 2024. Suggested alternates are compost, decomposed manure, wood chips, leaves and perlite (a product made from lava deposits).

Studies done in 2022 showed that pigs (who have genetic and physiological traits similar to humans) had a measurable increase in the number and diversity of beneficial microorganisms in their gut after a 2 week diet with added 10% freeze-dried tomatoes.

The Spring 2023 Territorial Seed catalog has arrived. The back ten pages always draw my attention. For \$65.95 you can have an English oak tree inoculated with Bianchetto Truffles. Biochar is sold by the 12# bag, and nylon maggot barriers are available to combat codling moth. They offer a dibber that I have always known as a dibble, a pointed dowel-like tool that manually makes correct-sized holes in soil to plant seeds.

Weed factoids: Each pigweed plant that goes to seed produces just short of 118,000 seeds which on average will survive in the soil for at least 10 years! A single lambsquarter plant will produce 72,000 seeds that will remain viable for an average of 40 years. Common dandelions produce a mere 15,000 seeds viable for just 6 years.

“Canopy View Newsletter”, authored by our forestry agent, Alicia Christiansen, is always an interesting read. The winter issue included information on a video series "Woodland Pollinator Habitat" and a website for native bees in the woodlands: “Bees in the Woods” website. I heartily encourage you to subscribe to this newsletter. (Inquire at the front office).

I'll close these random thoughts with a quote from Texas Bill Bender from his book, Don't Throw In the Trowel: "The hardest part about going through a seed or nursery catalogue is deciding what not to order".

See you in the garden, Julie.



Photos: F. Alley

| Treasurer's Report | |
|--|---------------------|
| 01/26/2023-02/22-2023 | |
| Dawnetta Loomis | |
| INCOME | |
| Kroger Community Rewards | \$20.70 |
| Bank Interest | \$55.76 |
| Soil Testing | \$140.00 |
| Bottle Drop | \$200.00 |
| Plant Sale | \$2,451.17 |
| Compost | \$60.00 |
| Membership | <u>\$400.00</u> |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$3,327.63 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Awards Social | \$60.00 |
| Computer Supplies | \$17.00 |
| Soil Testing | \$394.94 |
| HLC | \$246.06 |
| Discovery Garden | \$83.54 |
| Plant Sale | \$1,669.50 |
| Greenhouse Fan Repair | \$117.02 |
| Propane | \$539.33 |
| Utilities | <u>\$685.99</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$3,813.38 |
| Breakdown of our accounts at 02/22/2023 | |
| NWCC - Checking | \$2,670.26 |
| NWCC - Reserve | \$5,011.99 |
| NWCC - MMK Savings | \$46,366.71 |
| NWCC - Waddington Fund | \$71,985.79 |
| NWCC - 6 Month CD | <u>\$17,756.59</u> |
| Ending Balance | \$143,791.34 |



Plant Sale

Karin Seder & Joy Keeling

We are moving closer to the Plant Sale with lots happening with each of our Committee Chairpersons. Joy and I have the pleasure of working with seasoned Committee Chairs for which we are very grateful.

There is one area where we need a leader to step forward – someone to manage our youth volunteers. There are several different youth groups that have volunteered in the past – we need to make contact with them, confirm the date/time, and have a Master Gardener ready to give them some direction on the day of our sale. Could that be YOU? Contact Karin or Joy if you can help.

Everyone is invited to use our online sign-up to hold your volunteer space(s) on the Friday and Saturday of our Plant Sale. If you are not particularly comfortable signing up online, contact myself or Janet Bitter and we can help you through the process. It is so very important that we have your commitment to help – the success of the Plant Sale depends on our volunteers – and that means you! Reminders will be sent out on a regular basis, but you can beat the rush and sign up following this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FA5AB2EA4FBC16-2023>.

Sign up for a shift at the Plant Sale to volunteer on Saturday and you not only help your organization pull off the best plant sale in the county, you get free admission. Otherwise, the admission for anyone over the age of 12 is \$3.00.

In addition to our big volunteer days on May 5 & 6, here are some other dates you will want to mark on your calendar:

Thursday, April 27, from 1-3 and **Sunday, April 30**, from 1-3 will be the “Master Gardener Only” plant sale out at the greenhouses. The Thursday sale is after the April chapter meeting. For the MG’s and especially the new MG’s, this sale is for Master Gardeners only and gives us all first dibs on the wonderful plants available before the public even gets to see them. There isn’t a discount, just first dibs and the opportunity to shop without the crowds. Buy early and free up your time to

volunteer at the Plant Sale! Both pre-sales will accept cash, credit cards and checks.

Thursday, May 4, our Transportation team will be loading the tables and plant sale supplies from the Extension Annex and Punches Palace at the Discovery Garden into trailers and trucks to be ready to take them to the Fairgrounds on Friday.

Friday, May 5 is a big day. Some jobs will be starting at around 7:00 a.m. at the Fairgrounds to start setting up for the sale. Then the majority of help comes at 8:00 to get the rest of the setup completed. It is pretty amazing how quickly this all comes together.

Saturday, May 6 PLANT SALE DAY!!!! This is the day we have all been working towards all year.

A couple other items regarding Plant Sale include:

- Sign-ups - Online sign-ups are progressing well. An email will be coming every 10-14 days through Shirley with the link to the sign-ups. This will continue until we close it down mid April. Please consider signing up for more than one job as we have positions available on both Friday and Saturday. It takes a lot of hands to pull this all together. (You can even sign up your spouse to help in non-plant-related areas such as setup, take down, transportation etc.).
- Raffle - Please consider donating something for the raffle. If you have small items, our Raffle team can bundle them into baskets. Anything you have – garden related or not – can be given to Diana Circle or Toni Rudolph.
- Vendors - Right now our vendor spaces are just about all spoken for thanks to the great work by Jen Bailey and Ann Severson.
- Publicity - Cheryl Caplan has put out a request for the number of flyers and/or bookmarks anyone would like to have to distribute. If you have not already given her an estimate for what you would like, please let her know.
- Potluck - In the past, we have had a great potluck lunch on both Friday and Saturday and once again Barbie Hamby has stepped up to organize our potluck meals. Look for her reminder emails to bring something to share with the crew. Paper products will be available for your use, water, tea and coffee will also be available. We want our volunteers to be happy, hydrated and well fed! We are looking forward to a great Plant Sale this year. Thanks for all your help.

“Heart” Woods

Shared by Diane Smith-Lewsadder

Gardens and plants are often used as a metaphor for love — something that must take root and be tended to over time in order to grow. Winston Howes takes that metaphor quite literally. Decades ago, the British farmer began planting oak trees on his property in Wickwar, England, in honor of his late wife Janet. Today, those plantings have turned into **an entire woodland crafted in the shape of a heart**, with the point facing toward Janet’s childhood home.



knows how long. When they got this compost delivered to their home, all these trees were in the soil. It took my family a bit of time to dig out these trees from the load of compost. They were quite sad to see how many trees were in there. And many are still there. I sent her pictures of the job that all our wonderful Master Gardeners did and about how many they potted up today - well over 150 trees! My daughter and family are very happy to know that these trees have another chance of life and thanks us greatly.



Vice-President’s Report

Diana Woodward

Since we had to cancel our February chapter meeting due to snow and ice, our Continuing Education and Chapter/Executive Board Meeting will be combined on **Wednesday, March 8**. Bruce Gravens will do his talk on seeding tomatoes and peppers starting at 9:00, followed by our chapter/board meeting at 10:00.

I haven’t confirmed our March 30 continuing education class yet - it will either be Fred Alley on tools or Logan Bennett on pests.

Incense Cedar Trees

Ann Severson

I want to send out a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped pot up the trees that my daughter gave to me for our Plant Expo. As you know these trees had been composted and sitting in the compost for who



ESG hard at work potting cedar trees.



WSG hard at work potting primroses to sell.



Photos: Fred Alley

Membership

Kay Livermore

We have 215 members currently.

In Praise of Tall Cold Frames

Bruce Gravens

As you know, cold frames will increase your winter vegetable production in the Umpqua Valley. A cold frame is typically a raised bed covered by glass or twin wall polycarbonate. Most cold frames provide 8 to 12 inches of space between the top of the soil and the cover. This is great for lettuce, beet root, radishes, carrots, and other low growing vegetables. These cold frames protect the plants from cold wind, trap the heat



from what little sunlight we get, and keep the air temperatures a bit warmer than the night time lows. Because they are low, the night temperatures will stay warmer than a tall cold frame. On the other hand, they also get much warmer, so you need to be quick about venting them in the case of very sunny weather. A 2 foot plus tall cold frame will support growing taller vegetables like cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, and kale. Yes, these vegetables can be grown out in the garden unprotected during our milder winters. Grown in a tall cold frame, these vegetables grow faster, cleaner, and with less frost damage. Because tall cold frames contain so much more air and external surface area, they are slower to overheat and faster to cool down. In both cases, insects still need to be controlled, but

because the cold frame is enclosed, you can add lady bugs and lace wings and they will stay in the cold frame longer than in the garden.

The big advantage of tall cold frames comes in the summer. Normally your cold frame gets too hot in the summer to be very useful. Growing heat-loving plants like Irish and sweet potatoes works great! In March, start planting out Irish and sweet potatoes in between your lettuce and brassicas. These plants will sprout but remain small while your normal cold frame vegetables mature and get harvested. Once the warm weather kicks in, the potato plants are ready to go and the summer heat helps them grow great potatoes. As the plants get big, remove the top of the cold frame so they can grow out the top and reach their full potential.



Build your cold frame facing due south ideally against a south facing wall. I built mine against my unheated greenhouse. I installed a heat-activated vent that vents the heat from the cold frame into the greenhouse. I am not sure this makes a big difference, but it seemed like a good idea at the time. Home Depot has 2' x 10' twin wall polycarbonate panels. These panels make great cold frame walls and old sliding door glass from Heartwood in Green make great tops. A simple cold frame with 4x4 uprights and 2x6 laterals is easily constructed. I do not recommend using pressure-treated wood due to the risk of leaching. I used Douglas-fir and it seems to be holding up quite well after 4 years of use. Make the twin wall panels easy to remove to make tending the plants easy. I used irrigation tape to irrigate cold frame beds during the summer. In the winter, I get enough water seeping in from the ground that there is no need to irrigate at all.

If you're gardening in the summer, consider building a cold frame and extend the fun to a year-round activity. Build it now while the garden is too wet to work and you are itching to get going on your gardening projects.



If you have read any of my articles, you will know that I have a passion for succulents. Usually I'm very excited to tell you about it because it is one of my favorites. Now,

you might not know that I do have succulents that I am not that fond of. Really? So much so that I gave a succulent to the Eastside Greenhouse to propagate and sell at last year's Plant Expo. Guess it was very popular at the Plant Expo because we came back with only a few.

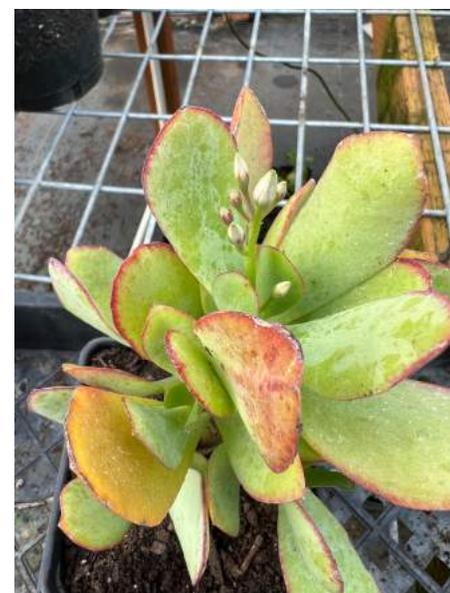


Now where am I going with this you might say? About two weeks ago, new student, Ryan Phillips, was busy helping us clean up plants and doing some propagating. We were about to propagate this plant, the one I gave away, called *Cotyledon* Pigs Ear. Because we only had a few left to propagate from, I started the task. Then I

stopped in my tracks. This Pigs Ear which I have had for several years in my own greenhouses was blooming. On the top of a few of the plants were little buds getting ready to bloom. All propagating was stopped and we just admired it. Today when I was out there at the gardens it was in full bloom. I noticed that two of them had flowers of a light pink and white. The flowers on one plant were a star shape while the other had only four petals. Kind of odd. But cool. (I'm beginning to like the plant I gave away.)

The *Cotyledon orbiculata* Pigs Ear comes from South Africa and the Arabian Peninsula and thrives in hotter and drier climates. As it thrives in these weather

conditions, it will not survive outside due to our wetter climates. But it can be outside in the hot summer months. The Pigs Ear has leaves shaped like its name, pigs ears. (Saw that one coming) On the edge of each leaf margin it has a red coloring when exposed to more sun. It likes

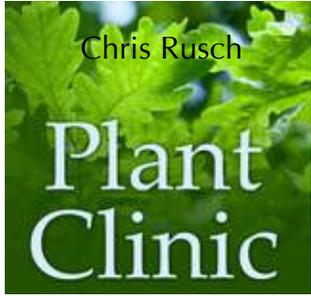


to be in the sun rather than in a shady area, but will tolerate it. Many succulents are fast growing but the Pigs Ear is one that will take some time to get too big for its pot. Over time and many years it can grow to be several feet tall. The stems and trunks will get thick and full to accommodate the weight of the leaves.

General care of this plant is very easy and great for the active person who just doesn't have time to remember to water. This succulent would rather you not water it too much. Fertilizing it can scorch the plant too. If it is already an established plant, you shouldn't need any fertilizer at all. After the flowers have bloomed and are wilting, remove them to keep it healthy and to support continued growth. About the only thing to watch for with the Pigs Ear is slugs and snails - they will chew huge holes in the leaves.

So, after many years of owning this Pigs Ear and not being one of my favorite ones, it has found a place in my heart after showing us its beauty in the Eastside Greenhouse.

Until I see you again in the gardens.



The Plant Clinic was surprisingly busy in February. We answered over 30 emails, phone calls and questions from visitors. We started training our new group of volunteers this month. Many insects, plant identification and garden questions continue to come in.

We are lucky to have a great training team for 2023 with Doralee Hayden, Gerry Crane, Terry Christenson, Linda Estep, Diane Smith-Lewsadder, and Chris Rusch. A BIG thank you to all of you who regularly work at the Plant Clinic!

Speaking of our talented training team, we are always in need of new volunteers and alternates to step up and take on this challenging and important position on our Plant Clinic training team. We need veterans to help in the Plant Clinic both in continuing to help our new volunteers and keeping up with the workload of assisting our visitors to the Plant Clinic. I realize we all have very busy lives, but I encourage each of you to take time, look at your calendar and pick just one afternoon each month and give the office a call and sign up. The Plant Clinic is where we give service as part of our Master Gardener obligation to our community. Please try to volunteer your expertise at least once a month to help in this important outreach program. The Plant Clinic is a great way to promote our Master Gardener Program and encourage sustainable gardening in Douglas County. And besides, it's a fun way to get to know fellow MG's as well as a chance to learn new things!

Call me or send an email if you are interested; crusch3837@gmail.com or 541-825-3827. If you are in town, stop by and say hi!



MARCH GARDENING CALENDAR

- Practice preventive pest management. Apply horticultural oils now before bud burst.
- Plan your vegetable garden. Plant

cool season crops such as peas, lettuce, spinach, and kale.

- Spread compost over the garden and landscape areas.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs after blossoms fade.
- Plant berry crops.
- Fertilize rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas with acid type fertilizer.
- Protect new plants from slugs.
- Start rose blackspot control beginning at bud break.
- Register for "Spring into Gardening" on March 11!

Spring is almost here!! Enjoy the season.

Spring into Gardening Chris Rusch

Don't miss our "Spring into Gardening" event on **Saturday, March 11**, 9 AM - 4 PM at the Phoenix Charter School in Roseburg. Registration is now open. The cost is \$25 per person. Discover practical approaches to vegetable gardening, home orchards, improving garden soil, permaculture, honeybees, lilies, succulents, irises, and so much more. Master Gardeners can earn 5 credit hours towards recertification.

Be sure to register for the OSU Extension and Master Gardener SPRING INTO GARDENING. Visit our website at: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/county/douglas/events>

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, send an email to Chris Rusch at crusch3837@gmail.com If you have already signed up to volunteer, THANK YOU!

Spring Into Gardening

Educational Gardening Classes

Saturday, March 11th, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm

Phoenix Charter School

3131 NE Diamond Lake, Roseburg OR

Keynote- 9:00 am-10:15 am

Logan Bennett, Small Farms Program Coordinator:
Small Farms and Agriculture in Douglas County

Session 1- 10:30 am-11:45 pm

- A. Veggies 101
- B. All about irises
- C. Backyard permaculture

Lunch-11:45 am-12:45pm: Bring your own

Session 2- 12:45 pm-2:00 pm

- D. Food gardening on a budget:
- E. Help! I killed my succulent!
- F. Honey bees in your garden

Session 3- 2:15 pm-3:30 pm

- G. Growing garlic, onions, shallots, and leeks
- H. Secrets of growing beautiful lilies anywhere
- I. Growing and caring for fruits and berries

Free
Entry

\$25.00 for 1 or more classes

Registration deadline Tuesday, March 7th, 2022

Registration will be complete with payment

Cancellation policy: No refunds.

The registered participant may invite another person to substitute in their place. Please notify us at 541-672-4461.

To Register go to online: https://beav.es/iHt_



OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by 03/07/2023 to Logan Bennett, 541-236-3015, logan.bennett@oregonstate.edu



Raffle Items for Plant Sale Needed by May 2

In the past, members have given like-new books, tools, plants, gardening supplies, artwork, chocolates, birdhouses, baskets of goodies. As you can see, we have had a variety of items donated.

If you would be willing to provide an item or two, please contact Raffle Co-Chairs:

Diana Circle (541-530-7123) or
Toni Rudolph (541-530-2397)

Pruning Daze Bill Horton

We had four eager MG's from the Class of 2022 show up, pruning implements in hand: Bill Horton, Ryan Phillips, James Dumas and Scott Damschen.

Along with Steve Renquist to guide us through, we tackled a well-overdue pruning of the four kiwi fruit trees just outside the Discovery Garden..

Next pruning session is Japanese Garden, 3/23; 1-4.

Before

Scott & Steve in action

After



Ask the Tool Man Alley

March 20th is the first day of Spring! It's time to clean/refinish the wood handles on all your yard and garden tools. Many yard and garden tools have wood handles that could have been cleaned last fall for winter storage and ready for spring use.

Some of us just didn't get it done. These wood handles are part of many yard garden tools which include, but not limited to, shovels, hoes, cultivators, rakes, pruners, pitchforks, axes, Hori Hori knives. Well then, the question is: **How do we easily and quickly clean (and maybe refinish) wood handles?** To cover this topic, I have selected five wooden shovel handles. These five handles are all oak, range in age from 1-5 years to over 10 years and obviously in different conditions. I think these will cover most of our different wood handle conditions.



- Handle 1. Less than 3 years old. Refinished approximately two years ago.
- Handle 2. Less than 2 years old. Original factory polyurethane finish.
- Handle 3. Less than 5 years old. Refinished with boiled linseed oil, many times.
- Handle 4. Over 5 years old. Original polyurethane finish gone and never refinished.
- Handle 5. Over 10 years old. Original polyurethane finish gone, never been refinished, weather checked and the oak is starting to crack.



This photo illustrates basic materials one could use to clean and, if needed, to refinish each of the five handles. These products should be readily available in any Master Gardener's garden/tool shop. I have divided the projects into five groups. From left to right:

- Dish washing soap, cleaning scrub sponge with two different sides and #3 steel wool
- Sandpaper from course grade #40, to #80 to a fine grade #120. Please note I have shown sandpaper for my Orbital Sander, not the sandpaper you would most likely use, that being sheet sandpaper. Actually, either will work fine, just that I use my orbital sander because I refinish many wood handles at a time.
- Boiled Linseed Oil with a cotton rag. My favorite is a discarded t-shirt. Sometimes it is very hard to discard a favorite t-shirt!
- Fast-drying polyurethane. Purchase a small pint, because it will solidify over a short period of time if not perfectly sealed after every use. Also, it's available in different types of finish. I prefer the warm semi-gloss. It's your choice.
- Formby's lemon oil furniture treatment with a cotton rag. Any good furniture polish will work. Many times, I use Old English lemon oil. I suggest you do not use the Old English scratch cover. It has its purpose, but not in sealing yard and garden tool handles.
- Lastly, only as a reminder, I have included a container of 3-in-one multi-purpose oil. I have found from experience that when you first clean the wood handle, you should also clean the metal part of the tool. If you don't, as you clean and refinish the handle, you will grab the dirty rusty metal part and accidentally grab the nicely cleaned and refinished wood handle. Not good.

Lightly oil the metal part of the tool as your last step.

The following are the fast and easy steps in cleaning and refinishing each of the handle and metal parts of the tool. The cleaning of the tool handle and the metal part of the garden tool is always the first step in cleaning and refinishing all five garden tools.

Handle 1 and Handle 2. These two handles are relatively new and only require good cleaning and a light coat with a new poly finish. The cleaning will expose the surface of the oak wood handle; therefore, no sanding is necessary.

- Wash the entire tool with warm water and dish soap, #1 steel wool and finish with the cleaning scrub sponge.
- Dry for one day, preferably outside in the sunshine.
- Using the #1 steel wool pad, rub down the entire handle creating a nice smooth finished handle.
- Apply a thin coat of boiled linseed oil, thoroughly rubbing the oil into the handle.
- Apply a thin coat of polyurethane with a cotton cloth. Dry for one day.

Handle 3. This handle has been finished with only linseed oil. You have two options: 1. continue using only linseed oil as the sealant, or 2. after thoroughly cleaning the handle, dry out the handle for a day and apply a thin coat of polyurethane with a cotton cloth. Before the invention of poly products, it was common to rely on boiled linseed oil. The oil is an excellent product, but it takes a long time to dry, and the handle will become dirty and gritty in a short period of time, requiring you to clean the handle with soap and water more often.

- Wash the entire tool with warm water and dish soap, #1 steel wool and finish cleaning with the cleaning scrub sponge. You will find it difficult to remove all of the boiled linseed oil, because it has deeply saturated into the core of the handle.
- Choice option 1 and 2 from above.

Handles 4 and 5. These two handles need the most work. The original finish is gone from both handles and #5 handle has dried out so much that the oak wood grain is beginning to split. Even in these conditions the handles can be cleaned and refinished to near original condition. The key is to sand the handles down enough to reach nice solid wood.

- Wash the entire tool with warm water and dish soap.
- Dry tool for a full day, preferably in direct sunlight.
- Sand down the handle with #40 grade - #80 grade - #120 grade. Again, I have shown orbital sandpaper, but sheet sandpaper will work. Rub down the handle with # 1 Steel wool.
- Rub in three coats of boiled linseed oil, separated a day apart.
- Rub down the handle with #1 steel wool.
- Apply three thin layers of polyurethane, separated by two hours.
- Apply thin layer of quality furniture oil.

I hope this article will help you in refurbishing your wooden tool handles. If you have problems or need additional assistance, please feel free to contact me.

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



Fred's Fav's



Our Awards Social is coming up fast! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 4, 2:00** for a fun-filled afternoon of awards, prizes, games, and

good eats. We will congregate at the Phoenix School. **PLEASE CALL OR TEXT** Ann Severson to tell her you are coming.

Also, since our February chapter meeting and continuing education was cancelled due to snow and ice, please plan on coming **Wednesday, March 8,** for the 9:00 continuing ed with Bruce Gravens on tomato and pepper seeding, followed by our general meeting at 10:00. (Minutes taken during the March 8 meeting will reflect both the February chapter meeting and the March Executive Board meeting.)

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



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener

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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.

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