



# Garden Thymes

Coos County Master Gardeners™  
Myrtle Point, OR 97458

Volume #10 Issue #4  
December 2008

Oregon State University Extension Service

## President's Message

Whoa. . . what the — ! It's hard to believe that two years have gone by so fast. I guess the old adage is right: time *does* fly by when you're having fun. Yes, the last two years have been fun. Thanks to each and every one of you for the time, energy and enthusiasm that you brought to the MGA. You are what makes this association work and my job as president so easy. It has been a real education for me, especially in the legal and permit department. It's really good to get rid of my personal nemesis (the green house) before my term is over.

I know you will give your support to the new president, Blair Holman. My style was different from Renée's and Blair's will be different from mine but, whatever the leadership style, I know the MGA will continue to grow and provide excellent service to the public. There are many activities going on and I encourage you all to stay involved. There's something for everyone, whether it's social contact or the solitude to write or do research.

As people become more aware of how their actions affect this planet (third rock from the sun) and want to go green, they will want to know how and what they can grow in their gardens. I foresee a lot of work for the MGA.

According to the National Garden Association, vegetable gardens are now a \$1.4 billion a year industry! More and more people are discovering they can save money and eat healthier by growing their own food. There are other benefits as well, like getting fresh air and exercise, bringing families together in the growing and cooking of their produce, and the satisfaction of producing one's own food. I believe that people are going back to their roots (no pun intended, well, okay, maybe) and trying to become more self sufficient. While most people can't do that entirely, they can certainly take a dent out of their grocery bills. We, as Master Gardeners, are here to help teach young and old, learning more ourselves as we teach them.

During my time as president I have seen community gardens grow and flourish. It seems that every town wants one. I have also seen the MGA grow and I have seen individuals grow (me included) as they become more confident and familiar with the MGA. I know for me, personally, I didn't realize how much I knew until people started asking me questions at the farmers' market! I also know there's a lot I do not know (this probably surprises some of you!) The bottom line is that, as a Master Gardener you are taught a number of things but the most important thing is how to look up the answers to questions you don't know (or ask Renée).

So in closing (it's about time!) I just want to thank everyone for their support for me and the MGA and I hope you will all continue to help teach and guide the public in the wonderful thing we call gardening.

Soon to be ex-president,

*Steven Patrick Hennessey*

### Inside this Issue

**Page 2:** Tracy's Message; Scholarships

**Page 4:** Gifts for Gardeners

**Page 6:** 2009 Master Gardener Class Schedule

**Page 3:** Fertilize Your Mind; *Winter Twigs*; Cranberry Bogs

**Page 5:** How to Make a Drag Cloth; Gardeners and Giving

**Page 7:** Garden Hints and Tasks; 2009 MG Training



Tracy Martz  
Coos County OSU Extension Agent  
PH (541) 572-5263 X 286  
Fax (541) 572-5963  
Email:  
tracy.martz@oregonstate.edu

## Officers

Steven Hennessey  
President

Norm Holck  
Vice President

Volney Fecto  
Treasurer

Lily Betzing  
Secretary

Anita Straus  
OMGA State Representative

Carol Dominick  
Alternate OMGA State Representative

Ledadeane Hagedorn  
Historian

Kay Pace  
Publicity

Kathy Creason/Blair Holman  
Plant Clinic Coordinators

\* \* \*

Garden Thymes  
is published quarterly (March, June,  
September, December) in cooperation  
with Oregon State University Extension  
Service, by Coos County Extension  
Service Master Gardener™ Program.

Tracy Martz  
Publisher

Valerie Cooley  
Editor

## Message from Tracy

Dear Master Gardeners,

As many of you all know, life has been in transition for me the past few months. My husband took a job this summer over in Douglas County and it has been inevitable that I would be joining him, that date however has been up in the air. I did not want to leave my work here in Coos County until the 2009 Master Gardener training was complete and I was able to secure a job in Douglas County. An opportunity came about recently with an opening at the Douglas County OSU Extension office for the 4-H agent position. As you all know, I love working with youth and am passionate about 4-H, so I applied.

After two grueling days of interviews I was offered the position. I am very excited to be given the opportunity to continue working for OSU and serve the 4-H leaders and youth of Douglas County. I am sad however to be leaving all of you in Coos who I have grown to value and admire a great deal. My position starts the beginning of January but one stipulation to me accepting the job was that I would be able to continue working with you until the training and garden seminar is complete.

You and I will have help during this transition time and beyond. John PUNCHES has arranged to have Kim Phillips (recently hired as a research technician) serve as the MG coordinator. I am confident she will do a great job and she will serve you well. I am working to help make the transition smooth while giving Kim the resources needed to give you continued support.

Again, I will miss working with you tremendously. I admire each one of you for the passion, dedication, and integrity you bring to the Coos County Master Gardener Program.

Best Regards,

Tracy Martz

## Spread the Word about Scholarships

If you know of anyone who has graduated from a Coos County high school who plans to study in a *plant-related* field, let them know that the Coos County Master Gardener Association will be awarding a scholarship of up to \$2000 for the academic year 2009-2010. Acceptable fields of study include agriculture, biology, botany, biochemistry, entomology, forestry, horticulture, and landscape design. The application and more information is available under Master Gardeners on the OSU Extension website but applications must be mailed, not emailed, and be postmarked by February 28, 2009.





Annual Master Gardener Seminar

## Fertilize Your Mind: the Dirt on Backyard Gardening

Saturday, March 28, 2009  
Southwest Oregon Community College

This year's theme is "Sustainability." The keynote speech, "**Food Production**", will be given by Zoey Bradbury of Abby's Greens in Langlois, promptly at 9:00 am. Classes will be:

**Herbs** — Jennifer Ewing

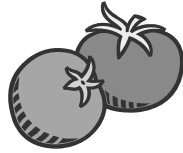
**Tomatoes** — Carol O'Neal

**Drip Irrigation** — Liza Ehle

**Soils and Compost** — Tracy Martz

**Cheese Making** — Anita Straus and Miller Chappell

**Beneficial Insects** — Betty Jones



**Raising Chickens in a Small Garden** — Annie McAleer

**Edible Gardening in Containers and Small Spaces** — Rose Marie Nichols McGee

**Year Round Vegetable Gardening** — Renée Blom and Roland Ransdell



Call the Extension office at 572-5263 early to register and sign up for the classes you want.

## Winter Twigs

*A Wintertime Key to Deciduous Trees and Shrubs of Northwestern Oregon and Western Washington*

by Helen Gilkey and Patricia Packard

Oregon State University Press

In the summer, we know trees and shrubs by their colorful flowers and shapely leaves but in winter they become strangers. This little book teaches how to recognize trees at their plainest and most basic. Aside from the personal satisfaction of knowing plants by their stems and buds, there's a practical advantage — when you're pruning or clearing before things have leafed out, you won't accidentally cut down any of your favorites.

## The Scenic Cranberry Bogs

Cranberry bogs are an important local industry but, where many industries are spectacularly ugly, cranberry bogs in fall are astonishingly beautiful with their vibrant red colors. Look for flat cleared fields of short shrubby plants, or pools of water with large dirt dikes surrounding them.

These acidic bogs are not full of water most of the year, but are usually flooded in autumn to facilitate harvest or to protect the plants from harsh freezes in winter. Cranberries are usually pollinated by domestic bees. Historically, they were planted in wetlands and used as food by Native Americans as well as the Arctic, Nordic, Russian, and Scottish peoples. (Due to a loss of suitable wild habitat, they are no longer harvested much in Scotland.)

Cranberries are thought of as a 'superfruit' due to their nutrients and 'oxygen radical absorbance capacity'. This isn't the right article for me to attempt to explain radicals but, basically, cranberries have the right qualities to stop a chain reaction within cells that can breakdown and diminish the effectiveness of your body's cells.

Fresh cranberries can be frozen and will keep for up to nine months. Using a food processor, we like to take two apples, two peeled oranges, and fresh cranberries, and chop this all into a fresh fruit 'relish' salad. We are working hard to bring more fresh fruits onto our family table and to reduce our intake of processed foods, as well as to bring in things that taste better. Try it! By buying bags of locally grown cranberries, you are not only bringing better health to your friends and family, but you are supporting local industries.

## Brook Settle

*From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens —  
the garden outdoors;  
the garden of pots and bowls in the house,  
and the garden of the mind's eye.*

**Katherine S. White**



Timers for watering devices

Big outdoor clock visible from garden



Permanent tags to mark perennials and bulbs



Gardening journal

Baskets with handles for gathering produce

## Gifts for Gardeners

Thermometers:  
\*Soil  
\*Indoor-Outdoor  
\*Mini-Max

Knee pads and gardening stool for weeding



Cuttings and seeds from your plants

Tall metal supports for tulips, gladioli, tomatoes, sweet peas, and vines



Soaps and creams for rough hands

Pens with indelible ink to mark plant tags



Pole pruner

Spring bulbs

Carol Savonen's 2007 list, adapted

Gift certificates for:  
\*help in garden  
\*gardening books or plants  
\* sharpening favorite clippers

Collapsible compost bin

Sharp scissors for herbs and flowers

Bags of potting soil and compost

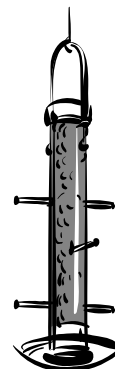
Native Plant Society Membership

Make a drag cloth or a garden tool tote

Long spout for watering high baskets



"Green Man" or sun face for outdoor art



Gifts for Wildlife  
\*Bird feeders and baths  
\*Bat houses  
\*Orchard mason bee blocks

\*Interesting flower pots  
\*Small vases for single blossoms

### Books from Extension

- \* *Winter Twigs*
- \* *Handbook of Northwestern Plants*
- \* *Trees to Know in Oregon*

### For Rainy Day Gardeners

- \*Mud boots
- \*Gore-Tex jackets
- \*Boot scrapers
- \*Boot dryer



\*Seed sower for tiny seeds  
\*Bulb planter with long handle

\*Mini-college  
\*Garden tours  
\*Classes at Siskiyou Field Institute

### Other Books

- \*Specialty books on pruning, garden design, bulbs, etc.
- \* *Sunset Western Garden Book*
- \* *Bringing Nature Home* — Douglas Tallamy
- \* CCMGA Cook Book
- \* *Wildflowers of Southern Oregon* — John Kemper



Easy-grip tools for arthritic hands

Gloves:  
\*Leather for rough work  
\*Nitrile for transplanting  
\*Cotton for clean nails!  
\*Vinyl for mud

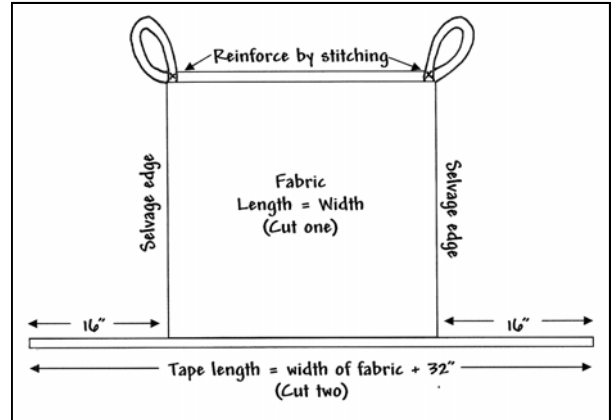
New bypass pruners





## The Drag Cloth: A Useful Tool to Make

The drag cloth doesn't take long to make, is inexpensive, holds way more than a bucket, accommodates odd sizes of plant material and won't bruise your shins with sharp corners as you carry it. It's the single most useful tool in my garden tool bucket. Mine has almost reached the end of its useful life and I need to make a new one. Lifting a drag cloth filled with garden debris is easy; emptying it can be fun too especially if you have a dump site lower than the rest of your garden. Just swing it back and forth a couple of times to gain momentum and let go of two handles on one end. (Sometimes this backfires.) Drag cloths can be tugged along so they are near as you weed, hence the name, and they are really easy to make. All you need is a square of rather heavy cloth like light weight denim, medium weight will work too. Purchase, or dig around in your stash of fabric, and use a length that is equal to the width and has two selvage edges. Wider widths are best used for taller people. I have seen them made from a square of fabric sewn together in a patchwork made from used jeans too. In this case opposite edges would be hemmed or overstitched. The raw edges of the square are finished with 1 inch wide strapping (cotton or nylon) which extends 16 inches on either end then is looped back and sewn at the corners to form four 8 inch long handles. That's all it takes and you are ready to weed. Take your drag cloth with you and you won't have to rake later.



**Carol Dominick**

### What To Give Your Gardener

Gardeners often need several pairs of gloves, some for heavy, muddy work or for weeding and digging. Shovels geared for height and files to sharpen the shovel are nice things to own. Gardeners often love unromantic things like really nice organic materials to boost the quality of their soil. Gift coupons for soil, manure or even for digging soil and shoveling manure are wonderful. Try giving extra flower bulbs, flowers, pots, and cute things from local nurseries and gift shops. We love things that are shared, like saved vegetable or flower seed in a unique envelope, complete with how you grew your plant. We never have enough mulch and, when we need to shovel it over our gardens, we appreciate those gift certificates for shoveling. Gardeners work long hours May through September and would love a casserole in the freezer. We'd love cards of our gardens made with photos, pencils, or watercolors. If you are handy with a chainsaw, offer your services.

### What Gardeners Can Give

I have found that gardeners tend to handle people gently and know how to nurture them. They turn the landscape into something that feeds our bodies and souls. They share the bounty of their gardens as well as the gifts of peace and beauty. They teach others and learn from them. They find places in the community to help — the community garden, the city's hanging baskets, and neglected public spots that need care.

**Brook Settle**



|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|



## Indoors

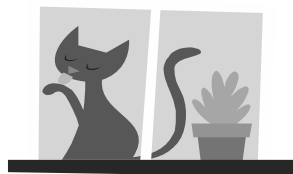
♣ Bring branches of quince, forsythia, and flowering cherries inside to force early bloom.

♣ Houseplants, besides being pretty, can help keep the air clean. They can absorb and eliminate some of the toxins in the air, like benzene, formaldehyde, and trichloroethylene

♣ Water houseplants carefully, enough but not too much. Heated houses are too hot and dry for some plants. Fertilize them but less than in the growing season. Move them to south and west facing windows for more light. Dust their leaves as the dust will block the already-low light.

♣ Plant windowsill container gardens of carrots, lettuce, or parsley.

♣ Gather up your seed catalogs and plan for spring and summer!



## Garden Hints and Tasks

### Outdoors

♣ If you haven't already cleaned out your rain gutters, do so soon. Use the leaves and dirt in your compost

♣ Make raised beds. Find instructions online at [extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog) or see Joanne White's article in the December 2005 Garden Thymes.

♣ When the rains start in earnest and you think your watering worries are over, don't forget to check plants under eaves or decks that might be getting very little water.

## Propagation Ideas

from Renée Blom

♣ Start early for yourself and for the Plant Sale!

♣ Start new tuberous begonias from stem cuttings.

♣ Start Rex begonias from their leaves. Remove a leaf. Slice across some of the veins on the bottom side and place vein-side down on soil-less medium in a shallow take-out container with no drainage holes and a clear top. Wet the medium and make sure the leaves make contact with it. Cover with the clear lid, put in a bright spot, and keep it moist but not too moist.

♣ Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs and trees for propagation.

♣ Take cuttings of fuchsias. Dip stems in Rootone and put in soil-less/seed-starting medium in a somewhat warm spot with bright light.

### **2009 Master Gardener Training Classes start January 8 at Pony Village Mall**

This is a good chance to refresh your memory about bugs, soils, and other subjects you'd like to re-visit. Many of the classes give you education hours towards re-certification. It's also a good time to get to know the new trainees.

The public can take individual classes for \$10 per three-hour class or attend all day for \$15. Tell your neighbors and friends!

**A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.**

- Doug Larson

**How do you compare apples and oranges? By their nutritional value.**

- Marshall Elizer

**I always thought a yard was three feet, then I started mowing the lawn.**

- C.E. Cowman



# Garden Thymes

Coos County Master Gardeners™ Association

OSU County Extension Office

631 Alder Street

Myrtle Point, OR 97458

Non-Profit Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Myrtle Point OR 97458  
Permit No. 17

Check us out on the web at:

[extension.oregonstate.edu/coos/Mg/index.php](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/coos/Mg/index.php)

Your Extension Service is the United States Department of Agriculture, Oregon State University and Oregon Counties and Communities cooperating in: Agriculture, Family and Community Development, 4-H Youth, Forestry, and Extension Sea Grant Programs.

HAPPY



HOLIDAYS

