A Bouquet of —— talents, energy and more...

While working at the County Fair Master Gardeners’ booth last month (great blue-ribbon booth display, by the way!), I was marveling at the many floral arrangements. One in our booth particularly caught my eye, as it was a glorious mixture of foliage consisting of flowers, vegetables, shrubs and even weed species. A few of the items were Queen Anne’s Lace, beautiful gladiolus, yellow calla lilies, a sprig of English laurel, sunflowers, and a kale leaf. The many varieties and textures brought together in one arrangement made it especially pleasing and attractive to the eye. Individually they probably would not have attracted quite as much attention. Together they made something quite special. I realized that this could be compared to our Master Gardener chapter and all the many individuals that make up our great organization. Obviously we are all different, coming from a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences, life-styles and talents, and yet we are all brought together by our common interest and commitment in gardening and the Master Gardener Program. We are all volunteers. No one has twisted our arms (I hope!) to attend the training classes and complete the many volunteer hours needed to earn the MG badge. We are an awesome group with a wonderful message. As members, each one of us should feel good about our role in what we do.

Kudos . . .

A very big thank you is in order for our Coos County Fair Booth Coordinator, Mary Dixon, and those members who assisted in putting together our outstanding MG booth and providing demonstrations. This year, through all these efforts, we were awarded the Blue Ribbon as best of category. The booth received many positive comments about the colorful display of flowers and useful information, and the demonstrations were popular and well received. Thanks go to all of you who helped, staffed, and donated your time, talents and efforts to make this happen!

Another big thank you must go to our Gardener’s Mini-College Chapter Display Coordinator, Sandra Stafford, and her helpers, for putting together one of the most outstanding chapter displays this year. While our display did not quite make the awards podium, it received many, many supportive comments and certainly made us extremely proud. Thank you again, Sandra and committee!

The Badge . . .

One class I attended at mini-college leadership training this year was of particular interest to me. It was the class on chapter liability taught by a Portland attorney. A comment was made that when we wear the orange and black Master Gardener badge, we also wear the responsibility that comes with it when we provide answers and guidance to a requesting public. We must always remember to stay within the guidelines of the teachings of the OSU Extension Service and its related training. When we put on our badges, the public expects the best. We must continue to give that to them!

Thank you all again for all you are doing for the Coos Chapter!

Blair Holman, President
Master Gardener 2004
Three Scholarships Awarded

One of the greatest benefits of having a successful plant sale is the ability to give back to the community by aiding in the education goals of some of our local students. This year’s success has allowed the Coos County Master Gardener Association to award three scholarships totaling $4,000.00 for the school year beginning fall term 2010.

**Tasha Livingstone** is a 2009 North Bend HS graduate who is already attending OSU, majoring in Forestry Management. This summer she is once again working for BLM so she is already applying what she is learning. She is such a go-getter that when she returns to school in the fall she will have earned enough credits to have junior standing.

**Jarred Lincoln** is a 2010 North Bend HS graduate who is going to attend Santa Barbara City College. Jarred hopes to transfer later to UC Santa Cruz to continue his education in the biological sciences. He plans to become an ethno-botanist and return home and contribute to his tribe.

**Ben Jernstedt** is a 2010 Myrtle Point HS graduate who has been accepted to OSU where he plans on majoring in agricultural business management. He has been very active in 4-H and FFA for many years and hopes to own his own ag business one day.

**Congratulations to our three worthy recipients!**

And thanks go to Scholarship Committee members Jane Mitten, Cathy Denton, Kathy Creason, and Sarah Van Horn for their hard work.

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Master Gardener Training 2011

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Master Gardener Training Program in 2011, please contact Coos County OSU Extension at (541) 572-5263. Please provide your address so that we can mail you an application packet.

Information about what you can learn in the training and instruction for taking the training online are available at [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/master-gardener-training](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/master-gardener-training)
WHY IT’S IMPORTANT TO KEEP CATS OUT OF YOUR GARDEN

Cats clearly love gardens, and some of us enjoy their company as long as they are not taking a sunbath in the lettuce bed. However, if cats have visited your garden in the last year and have deposited their feces in the soil, it is very important to **always wash your hands thoroughly after working in the dirt, and avoid eating unwashed vegetables and herbs, because even the best of feline friends can cause infection that can result in Toxoplasmosis, a disease that can be deadly for some people.**

Cats are the primary host for protozoa (*Toxoplasma gondii*) that can be carried by many warm-blooded birds and animals, including an estimated 10.8% of the U.S. human population. The Pacific Northwest Publication #250 “You Can Prevent Foodborne Illness” (reviewed by Universities in Washington, Oregon and Idaho) warns that essentially all cats that spend time outdoors are infected by this parasite. It is highly unlikely that simply handling a cat or other animal would cause infection: in this country the disease is normally spread specifically from contact with soil contaminated with feces. Persons vulnerable to infection may develop severe toxoplasmosis involving the heart, lungs or nervous system. There is also some concern that infection may trigger neurobehavioral problems including schizophrenia, but scientists do not have conclusive evidence yet. Direct exposure to this parasite is a particular concern for people who have compromised immune systems from HIV-AIDS or who may be using chemotherapy or other immune-suppressing medications.

In most countries, pregnant women are not routinely checked to see if they have been exposed to the parasite, because of the cost and possibility of false-positive results. This surprises me, because a pregnant woman infected for the first time can pass the infection to her fetus with possible serious consequences that can include damage to the developing brain (encephalitis), eyes, ears or nose, and some infants may develop symptoms later in life.

**Cleanliness** seems to be the key to preventing infection and transmission. In some other countries, direct contact with raw meat is more frequently a cause of toxoplasmosis. Raw or partially cooked pork, lamb and venison, and fruits and vegetables that have come in contact with the soil can be a source of infection. Fortunately, cooking meat above 150° Fahrenheit or freezing in a domestic freezer for over 24 hours does kill the protozoan. Also, fruit and vegetables should be rinsed thoroughly with cold water before eating them. More information about washing foods can be found at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/factsheets/Does_Washing_Food_Promote_Food_Safety/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/factsheets/Does_Washing_Food_Promote_Food_Safety/index.asp).

The bottom line is that it is a very important safety issue to keep cats out of your vegetable garden. There are a few ways to do this, for instance by covering the beds with wooden frames and chicken wire, or bird netting strung over plastic hoops. You can also purchase electronic cat deterrents that are safe and effective. Also, use garden gloves whenever possible and wash your and your children’s hands after working in the garden.

**You don’t need to be afraid to eat the wonderful food that you have grown, just be sure to wash everything well before enjoying the fresh fruits and vegetables of the season.**

**Katie Etienne**, Master Gardener Coordinator
**Master Gardener 2007**

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**CONGRATULATIONS to a Prize Winning Master Gardener!**

Amy Jo Hoppins, a 2010 Master Gardener trainee from North Bend, has won ribbons for growing vegetables and herbs at this year’s Coos County Fair:

- **First place** for Sweet Basil, Savory, and Lavender
- **Second place** for Valerian, Catnip, and Radicchio
- **Honorable Mention** for Oakleaf Lettuce, Artichoke, Marjoram, Parsley, Queen Anne’s Lace and Mammoth Dill.

Amy Jo also won a **First Place** ribbon for an embroidered pillowcase with three fish.

**Well done, Amy Jo!!**
It's already August and I feel like we missed a month somewhere.... The Garden is beautiful. We expanded our rental beds to 29. SCCGA gave up 10 demonstration beds so more families could grow their own, and they are doing a very successful job!

We also got delivery of our greenhouse/garden shed in early July, just in time for the 1st Tour of Gardens in Coquille, as we were one of the gardens on the tour. The shed was the finishing touch in our Garden. We still have to paint the inside and plan some organization of storage before we move in, but I think it's such a happy little building. We'll use it for storage, seed starting, gardening classes, and whatever else we can imagine. Backyard Buildings, in Coquille, did a wonderful job and it was nice to have a local business do the work.

Also, we can't thank the Coquille Indian Tribe enough for their generosity in giving us the grant for this shed.

Next on our agenda will be the 2nd Tomato Taste-Off. We are still deciding when to schedule it, wondering when the overabundance of tomatoes will be. We all need to have enough tomatoes to be willing to give some up for the Taste-Off! We do know that it will be on a Saturday in late September or early October. That sounds awfully far away and feels too soon. How does that work? If you have questions, or comments, or would like to help with the Taste-Off, please email me at igarlicgirl@gmail.com.

Mary Dixon for Pioneer Coquille Community Garden
Master Gardener 2008

Special Activities at the Pioneer Coquille Community Garden

We have someone posted in the garden on Saturdays from 11-1 to help not only our garden plot renters but also the general public, with plant problems, suggestions and identification. Come and take advantage of the information that is available on Saturdays and be a part! If we are not able to answer your question, we will get back to you with an answer as soon as we can. This is just one way we are reaching out to the public.

There have been several gardening classes this year, both in and out of the garden. Some topics that have been covered are Starting your garden and Suggestions about containers and plants that do well in them. We are always looking for new ways to expand our teaching and to help enable more people to garden, so don't be shy - ask that question you have. We also were part of a successful fundraiser by the River Walk, July 17th on their “Garden Tour” route.

In an effort to expand our outreach, the kids at Growin’ Yer Grub day camp, held from Aug 2-6 at the Pioneer Methodist Church, have actively used the garden. Last year we were able to have the garden be used by the children to identify good and bad bugs, identify plants and learn to harvest. This day camp teaches not only how to grow your own plants but also how to prepare your own food. The Master Gardeners & Family Food Educators from OSU will have another fine program this year and will be using the garden again for many adventures.

Be looking for information about our Tomato Taste-off event that will be announced later in the month of August. We have had a strange year and tomatoes may not be available when we had our Tomato Taste-off last year. Again, this is one of the few fundraisers for the garden. Everyone had fun at our Grand Opening last year, with raffles, prizes and freebies for everyone. We must have done something right, as we had to expand to many more plots this year. Thanks go out to each and every one of you that has helped us to plan, build and be a part of your community garden called Pioneer Coquille Community Garden.

Darlene Judd, Garden Coordinator
Master Gardener 2008

Send your question or problem to the Master Gardener Plant Clinic via email at Coos.MasterGardener@oregonstate.edu, and if possible attach a photo of your plant problem. The Plant Clinic is staffed Mondays from 9-12 and Thursdays from 9-12, through the month of October.
BANDON

It's been an unusual weather year in Bandon, but the garden veggies growing at Good Earth don't seem to mind. The gardeners have the most beautiful beds, so well tended and cared for and so full of vegetables. In our cool climate many beds are successful with lettuce, peas, broccoli, spinach and chard. There is one whole bed of potatoes growing strong, and several beds have the edible flower *Calendula*.

Two beds were planted in July for the local food banks. In these beds, seven summer squash transplants donated by *101 Plants and Things* were planted, and the rest of the space was used to start a Fall garden with veggies recommended at Jennifer Ewing's recent class “How to Prepare for Your Fall Garden.” Jennifer also taught us about “Proper Harvesting Techniques” and it was surprising to learn so many new tips to keep the plants producing and the harvest continuing longer. If you have the chance to take this class next year, it’s not to be missed!

Soon we’ll be starting the next construction phase at Good Earth. We have room for about 18 beds and we’d like to build them before the heavy rain starts. All ages and abilities are welcome, and there are jobs suited to everyone.

Don’t be shy! The garden needs your help. Questions? Call Darcy Grahek at 541-347-2855.

Kim Flannagan, Good Earth Bandon Community Garden

LAKE SID E

Lakeside Harmony Community Garden continues to flourish. Our Master Gardener, Aaron Richards, has been a little under the weather but continues to hold the Saturday afternoon summer reading program with our librarian. The kids meet in the garden for a weekly lesson on some aspect of gardening and then read something related. It has been very successful and Aaron gets a big round of applause for offering such a program to our young gardeners.

The produce is doing well in spite of the early fall weather we seem to be experiencing already. Tomatoes seem to be waiting for someone to knit them a sweater before they will start to turn red. The leafy greens and zucchini are doing well without warm weather. Overall the garden looks great. All 22 beds are being used and all are producing well. We are aware that we will need to fertilize with a layer of manure this fall, as some of our plants are looking a little yellow in comparison with last year. The Park Advisory Committee does all the maintenance of the garden in the fall but Aaron does most of the summer work with some assistance from Diane O’Bryan.

For more info, you can contact Aaron Richards at 541-221-8130, or email baprichards@gmail.com.

Diane O’Bryan, Lakeside Harmony Community Garden

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**Floral Arranging Demonstration at the Coos County Fair**

Because I have a background in floral arranging, I explained to fairgoers how I approach creating a floral arrangement. However, I couldn’t have done it without the generosity of Mary Dixon who let me pick an incredible selection of flowers from her beautiful garden.

1. **Always cut flowers** in the early part of the day. Immediately put them in a bucket of water.
2. **Cut stems as long as you can**, especially with roses, and keep in mind shaping the plant as you cut.
3. **Use my floral additive** of one teaspoon of chlorine bleach and one teaspoon of sugar to two quarts of water. You can also add a bit of lemon juice or slice of lemon peel - or a splash of lemon-lime soda in place of the lemon juice and sugar.
4. **The proper proportion for an arrangement** is one and a half times higher than the container you are using. At least one stem or branch should be at the apex of the design.
5. **Start with green leaves** and crisscross them to form support for the stems to follow.
6. **Cut flower stems** to the proper length and cut the stems at an angle to expose more capillaries to the water. Do not use floral foam (Oasis) as it clogs the pores of flowers.
7. **Add fresh water every few days.** Cutting out any flowers (don’t pull them out or you will disturb your design) that may be wilting will keep the arrangement fresh-looking.

Sandra Stafford

*Master Gardener Trainee 2010*
Memories of Fair 2010

Our display booth at the Coos County Fair had many bits and pieces that when joined together helped us earn the coveted Blue Ribbon! Here are some highlights:

- Mary Dixon had the vision and information on growing healthy tomatoes that would produce fruits early—a requirement for Coos County, especially near the coast. With that in mind she espaliered a tomato in a container and managed to get it to the fairgrounds. And when it fell over on the way in the pickup it did so nicely on a soft sack and so arrived ready for the pruning demonstration given by Mike Kelly.

- The weather was pleasant for the set-up on Monday morning (not beastly hot like last year.) Beautiful and unusual plants grown by Mary, Gail Mueller, Ann Ibach, and Carol Dominick along with excellent signage by Carol finished off the booth.

- Sandra Stafford shared her years of experience as the Museum Floral Specialist for the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. One tip was her preference for frogs (or even marbles) to hold flowers rather than floral foam. She created a fantastic arrangement with a huge variety of flowers from Mary's yard. Sandra recommends calla lilies, canterbury bells and statice among others for their longevity.

- Dian Pendergrass did her lavender wand demo again as she has every year since we started our display. Fair-goers walk away with a free wand they have fashioned that would cost $20 at a lavender farm.

- In Roland Ransdell's "Fall Gardening" talk he gave a valuable tip on how to keep the root maggots out of your cole crop transplants: have your plants hardened off, not young and tender, and they won't be so attractive to the fly that lays the eggs.

- Ann Ibach had beautiful lettuce in containers for her "Growing Lettuce" talk on Thursday. One thing she brought out was that sometimes lettuce doesn't like to germinate when the weather is too warm.

- Dolly Fountain showed her beautiful fluffy blue Orpington chickens at her "Chickens in Your Backyard" talk and commented that they are one of the more docile breeds.

Kay Davis
Master Gardener 2000

The 2010 Coos County Fair is past, and our Master Gardener booth and our Garden Talks and Demonstrations were highly successful. And, of course, I want to thank everyone so much who volunteered, helping in so many different ways. It would make a very long list, so this is a big all-encompassing 'THANK YOU'!

We won the Blue Ribbon in our category, which made me really happy for all the work that people put into it. I thought we deserved it. Our garden talks were very successful, with at least 15 people attending each one and some of them going on as mini-forums for well over an hour. What a great venue for our gardening passions!

We had a display board with pictures of each class, celebrating 10 years of graduated Master Gardeners, 2001 - 2010. Congratulations are in order! It was really enjoyable to see so many familiar faces that have graduated from this program.

We also had so many wonderful examples of flowers and plants, demonstrating different ways they can be grown in and around our houses, patios, and gardens. That already makes me think toward next year: why not grow veggies like flowers, perhaps not so much for their produce as their beauty?

Can you believe I'm already thinking about Fair 2011? Anyone else have ideas 'sprouting up?' Please let me know. I'm igarlicgirl@gmail.com.

Mary Dixon, Coos County Fair Coordinator
Master Gardener 2008

[Thanks go to Carol Dominick for the Fair photos; Ed.]
Volunteers Needed - 
Earn Outreach Hours!

PLANT CLINIC at 
OSU Extension:
Monday from 9-12
Thursday from 9-12
(1 veteran & 2 trainees)
Clinic open through Oct. 28th
To sign up call Plant Clinic phone at
(541) 572-5263 ext. 295
during plant clinic hours.
For changes call Kathy Creason

COOS BAY 
FARMERS' MARKET:
Wednesdays
from 9-12 and 12-3
through Oct. 27th
Contact Rick Werle at
(541) 266-8544 or by email at :
GardenerRick@charter.net

Meet Master Gardener
CAROL DOMINICK

Carol has worn many hats - as wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother (hard to believe, but true!), accountant, home gardener, Master Gardener, Master Composter, cookbook collaborator, avid seed-and-cutting propagator and - last but not least in this partial list - maker of children's hats. More about that later....

Carol raised her four children in Stockton, California. Later she met Ben and after years of enjoying vacation trips to Oregon they relocated to Coquille in 2000 for their “retirement.” However Carol hasn't exactly lived a retiring life. She attended Master Gardener training in 2002 in order to learn more about gardening in this unique area. In her first years in the MG organization Carol served as Secretary and participated in writing the by-laws for the fledgling chapter. After that she took on the duties of Treasurer, a job for which she was well qualified after her 13-year stint at a private non-profit in California, doing everything financial from bookkeeping to budgets to grant writing.

Carol had not realized how much Master Gardening would change her life. She has participated in virtually all of the major MG events and efforts, growing thousands of plants for the Plant Sale, serving as county fair demonstration coordinator, coordinating the displays at the Fertilize Your Mind Seminar, and teaching at the Growin’ Yer Grub children’s camp. She took a "wonderful program" on composting from Lane County Extension along with 4 other MGs, and earned the title of Master Composter. She is an enthusiastic composter and vermi-composter and a great source of knowledge for us less-experienced composters.

In “free” time Carol and Ben have completed many home gardening and landscaping projects at their place in Coquille, erecting a succession of greenhouses, installing retaining walls, and building raised veggie beds and flowerbeds. In a current and ongoing project they are terracing a hillside for growing herbs and asparagus. When Carol grows plants for the Plant Sale, she usually keeps a couple for herself - and then finds space for them. Her outlook is to “look at gardening as a big experiment,” to learn from the results and move on. Currently Carol is enjoying her experiments with growing hellebores, fuchsias and tuberous begonias. Once she finally comes in from the garden or the greenhouse, Carol likes to read, cook, crochet and sew. Someday she would like to get back to painting watercolors.

Although Carol is trying to keep herself from volunteering for absolutely everything these days, she is still very committed to the Master Gardener program and enjoys participating. In a discussion about the program and how it has changed and grown over the past 8 years, Carol expressed the importance of finding new ways to welcome and include the newcomers.

“I love gardens.” -T.S.G.
submitted by Roland Ransdell
Master Gardener 2003

Garden Tips and Tricks
I have found that the best way to clean the dirt from under my nails and around my cuticles is with my old cordless, battery-powered toothbrush. Instead of buying a new tip, I retire the old brush and buy a new one. They last a long time and, with a store coupon, they are very affordable. Many dentists think battery-powered toothbrushes are better for tartar removal and gum health anyway, so it is a win-win situation.

Sandra Stafford
Master Gardener Trainee 2010

"Please could I have a bit of earth to make a garden?
...I love gardens." -T.S.G.
The theme of this year’s Mini-College was Beyond Backyard Basics: The Science of Sustainability and many of the classes added to our knowledge of understanding and implementing sustainable gardening practices.

I was interested in learning how to limit my use of city water without harming my landscape. “Solving Not-So-Smart Water Use in Landscaping” with Dr. David Sandrock, Ph.D. helped me understand how to achieve that goal.

There are three problems with how we deal with watering our gardens: We use too much water. We use potable, drinking water for everything including washing our car and watering our garden. We water inefficiently. Dr. Sandrock’s suggestions for rectifying these mistakes?

Proper garden design or redesign. Take a close look at how you can improve the appropriate use of water in your garden.

Plant native or drought-resistant Mediterranean plants like lavender, rosemary, and other hardy plants in well-drained soil.

Take care to put plants with the same water and other cultural requirements together.

Consider replacing sod with a more eco-friendly turf that contains chamomile, wooly thyme, clover, and other slow-growing perennials mixed with a more hardy grass seed. He recommended that when you plant this type of turf, let it go to seed before mowing in the fall to ensure that plants will return after the rainy season.

And, most importantly, wait until fall to plant to reduce the need to water plants continually to establish them.

He suggested October 15th as a good date to begin planting perennials. Oh, and don’t forget to mulch, mulch, mulch your plantings.

One of the important next steps in helping people to reduce their use of potable water is the Oregon Legislature’s HB2080 – the Oregon Gray Water Act, http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/reuse/graywater.htm – which will permit contractors, builders and others to design houses with plumbing that allows the water generated by sinks, washing machines and other drains to be used in the landscape. Obviously, the use of this water will require the individual to limit the use of products that might contaminate groundwater.

Dr. Sandrock discussed the use of drip irrigation and other techniques to limit inefficient watering and over-watering. He suggested using a flow meter on a hose bib to measure how much water you would normally use to water your landscape. Another technique, especially if you use a sprinkler system to water, is to write down the number on your water meter prior to watering and then note the number after you have finished irrigating your plantings. After you have redesigned your irrigation system with drip, soaker hose, or other water-saving techniques, you can measure again to see how much more efficiently you are now watering your garden.

To highlight the capture of rainwater, Dr. Sandrock showed examples of the installation of large tanks situated under roofs that were fitted with filters, plumbing and valves to deliver water to the fields of a small farm. For example, the roof footprint of a 1500 sq. ft. house captures 3.2 ft. of rainwater (40 inches) multiplied by 7.5 gallons per cubic ft., which over a season equals 36,000 gallons of water.

His lecture is available as a PDF file on his website at www.sandrockscapes.com.

Sandra Stafford
Master Gardener Trainee 2010

Mini-College was a great inspiration to me. I am reminded of the basics of sustainable landscaping and the importance of having a backyard wildlife habitat. My future worm bin is calling me to action and my compost pile has had another layer added to it. The next tool I invest in will be a digging fork like the one I used to dig quack grass out at the Club Farm tour with the guys (great fun!).

I especially enjoyed getting to know my fellow Coos County Master Gardeners on this trip, Sandra, Cathy and Valerie. We talked, we ate, we stayed up late (not too late). I went on three garden tours, which were a lot of fun... hazelnut shell pathways, bicycle wheel frames on teepees for pole beans, cracked glass bulb lighting, window planter boxes of flowers on a chicken coop, a chicken coop on rails that can be moved across an empty row, lasagna compost heaps in three stages.

There was a “beetle row” at the OSU Organic Growers Club Farm that looks like a row of weeds: it’s a place the beetles can overwinter and be safe, and then they are ready to eat in the spring when everything is hatching. At another garden they had a tower of plants growing out of a 6 or 7 foot wired-in compost pile. The vegetable garden with its interplanting looked natural yet structured, with enough space and furniture to eat and relax. The sunflowers were huge. I could go on and on....

Deborah Sanden
Master Gardener Trainee 2010
MINI-COLLEGE = INSPIRATION
The first time I went to Mini-College, I was in search of knowledge, which I found in quantity. Now I know that the true gift of those three days is inspiration. Inspiration is in the air at Mini-College. It flows from the classrooms. It circulates through the special sessions and the Search for Excellence presentations. It's generated by the books sold by OSU, the chapter displays, and the garden tours. It's the force that makes me want to put everything I've learned into practice and to spread the word. The first year, for instance, I learned about the loss of bio-diversity from Douglas Tallamy and have been planting native plants – and nothing else -- on my perimeter ever since.

For me, inspiration doesn't necessarily spring directly from knowledge. Although I have dozens of gardening books and access to thousands of websites, I can plod through my garden for weeks or months without true inspiration. The catalyst I need to convert information into inspiration -- the force that gets things done -- is simple human enthusiasm. It's like the yeast that makes bread rise or the warmth that makes seeds sprout. And it is abundant at Mini-College.

The teachers and presenters are enthusiastic and the attendees almost unbearably so, exposed as they are to several teachers and presenters each day. I never browse the silent auction or chapter tables without falling into conversation with someone whose enthusiasm about bees or rain gardens just bubbles out. And I'll bet that half the books sold there are due to the enthusiastic reviews shared by browsing neighbors.

During meals, we talk more about what we're learning than other things, a far cry from my college days when meals with fellow students were a respite from learning, not a sharing. It makes sense. We're all older than we were then and we share a common interest. The teachers are teaching their favorite subjects and the students are receptive. We're all wearing comfortable clothes and we'd stay there forever if all that inspiration weren't driving us home to work in our gardens and change the world.

Valerie Cooley
Master Gardener 2005

2010 PLANT SALE RECAP
By now, I am sure you are aware of our wonderful Tomato-Rama Plant Sale success this spring. Through the efforts of our Plant Sale Coordinator, Renée Blom, and the many other plant contributors and workers, this year we exceeded our goal of $10,000 and realized a net profit of almost $11,000. What a tribute to all those hard-working individuals! This is our major fundraiser for the year and provides us with funds to offer college scholarships, school garden grants, Mini-College sponsorships and cover various other expenses in our program. Thanks again to all of you who helped make this such a success!

Blair Holman, President
Master Gardener 2004

A recap discussion of this year's Plant Sale was held at the June 8th Chapter meeting, and suggestions for next year's sale were also discussed. Here are some highlights:

- Plants that are on an official "Noxious Weed List" cannot be offered for sale. To be sure your plants are "safe" to sell, check both the Coos County Noxious Weed List compiled by the Coos County Weed Board, and the Oregon State Noxious Weed List published by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). You can find these lists online by searching on their titles, or ask for a copy from OSU Extension.

- Other plants that can be invasive or spread aggressively should be clearly labeled.

- The Holding Area should be expanded with better signage next year. More people should be assigned to help out. Mary Anne K will reorganize layout and process.

- Suggestion to emphasize in advertisements that all plants are locally grown. Maybe try to get early news coverage at seed-starting time.

- Need more vegetable plants (other than tomatoes) to sell next year, especially beans, peas, cucumbers, zucchini/summer squash. Could also have sold more cherry, grape and yellow pear tomatoes. Broccoli and blueberries were very popular; cauliflower and cabbage much less so.

- Hardening-off: some plants are, some aren't, so this is confusing to the buyer. Cathy D will make a small hand-out with instructions for hardening-off, to be given out by cashiers.

- The street-banner looked great over the door in the Mall. Need bigger and better signage on the parking lot side. Sandra S will arrange.

Let's start planning now to make next year's Tomato-Rama Plant Sale an ever bigger success!
Tracking the Spotted Wing Drosophila: Follow-up

As reported in our May issue (GT Vol. 12, Issue 2), the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) fruit fly or “vinegar fly” is moving through Oregon and is of major concern for growers of many berry and stone fruit crops. The SWD, an Asian import first found in California in 2008, thrives in the cool temperatures of the Oregon Coast and it moves from crop to crop as each one matures. The SWD multiplies at an astonishing rate of up to 10 generations in one year.

In the July/August 2010 issue of Umpqua Valley Hort News, the Douglas County horticultural newsletter, Steve Renquist, Horticultural Agent for Douglas County Extension, reported on results from traps he set up in the spring. He stated that although activity started slowly, by the middle of June the traps were catching flies in blueberry, raspberry and peach sites. Further, he reported that homeowners had started bringing in trapped flies from their cherry orchards. Steve advises, “If you are raising any berry crop or soft tree fruit crop you should be trapping with plastic cups with apple cider vinegar in them to monitor the pest in your area.”

The Douglas County Extension site has some very up-to-date information and links on the SWD (see the Pest Alert link on this page: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/). From there you can read a “Monitoring Traps Information Flyer” with detailed info about how to set up a trap and watch videos about it. You can also refer to the OSU extension SWD site http://swd.hort.oregonstate.edu/ for extensive coverage of this problem.

If you are monitoring for Spotted Wing Drosophila in your home orchard and you think you might have SWD larvae in your fruit, please bring in a sample of the fruit, with or without insects, to the MG Plant Clinic at OSU Extension in Myrtle Point for verification. It is crucial that researchers get information quickly from home and commercial growers to help them track and study how to manage this new and serious threat to small fruit production in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.
South Coast Community Garden Association

is sponsoring our 5th Annual

Harvest Fundraiser

Chef Jardin of
BLACK MARKET GOURMET
will prepare a
Special Lunch Dish
using the
Best of the Garden

Wednesday,
September 15th
11-2 pm
at
Lady Bug Landing
Community Garden
8th & Anderson
Coos Bay

Lunch $5
Dessert $1

Donations are welcome.

For more information call 269-7468