

Douglas County Master Gardeners



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YOUR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings and Happy New Year. I am delighted to welcome all of our new 2011 Master Gardener™ trainees. We look forward to meeting and getting to know you all throughout this coming year as you progress through your class sessions and integrate into our organization.

This newsletter is designed to give you a better insight to the Douglas County Master Gardener organization and its make-up. Please read over the articles and get to know our different committees and their chairpersons.

As the weeks of your program go on, you will learn more and more about the DCMG organization through your work in class, in the Plant Clinic, at the Discovery Garden, and in our many other activities. You will meet veterans with five, ten, fifteen, even 20 years of experience. We become a special family, with one goal, to educate our community about horticulture and the good practices of sustainable gardening. This is a great organization and there are many opportunities for you to volunteer time to give back to our Douglas County community.

I think one of the other important parts of the DCMG organization is our connection to each other through our planning and involvement with these opportunities. We meet each month, except December, on the last Thursday, at 10:00 am. In January through May and then again October and November we meet in the Annex Building where you are taking classes. During the summer months, we meet at Master Gardeners' homes throughout Douglas County, and we enjoy each other's company over lunch and get to view wonderful landscapes (which are always in progress). We also have continuing education at 9:00 am during the winter months. You are all invited to come beginning with our meeting on January 27th.

We look forward to many of you bringing your own perspectives and qualities to our organization. If you are anything like I was when I began my classes in 2001, you already are an avid gardener. There was much I did not know, and I quickly learned of better practices for my flowers, trees, fruits and vegetables. Some things I already did well!!! We invite you to find your niche among

all of the committees and opportunities, and we hope you will join one or more of them.

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.

Again welcome. I look forward to meeting you all and feel free to ask any of us for help with your questions.

Judy Huntley
President, DCMG



Reminders:

Potluck for incoming class! Greet the new class with that universal gift: food! See page 8, and give Lorena a call.

Dues are due: See page 9.

Hours: better get your hours submitted for 2010. Don't forget to write the totals down. Pam does not need to complete our homework.

Committees: there are lots of work projects done by your organization. Make it a New Year's resolution to get involved.

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Agent's Welcome 2011

Welcome to the class of Master Gardeners™ 2011. Every year in January, Oregon State University and the Douglas County Master Gardener Association have an opportunity to welcome a new group of gardeners from around Douglas County into our program. Our program has three major components: classroom education, hands-on education and outreach to the community.

The classroom education comes when you enter the winter training class. You will have experienced instructors share their gardening knowledge with you for eleven weeks. Then, when you begin your volunteer time in the plant clinic you will be able to interact with veteran Master Gardeners solving problems for others in Douglas County. This time in the clinic will be when you really reinforce all that you learn in the classroom.

The hands-on education segment of our program begins during the winter training classes. Many of our lectures are supported by demonstration and lab work. You will also be asked to take several pruning classes during January and February. If you look at the class schedule you will notice we have two sessions planned for the greenhouses at our Horticultural Learning Center (HLC). These classes will teach you how to do vegetative propagation and seeding. On the day you learn at the greenhouse you will be introduced to our Discovery Garden. The Discovery Garden is a teaching and demonstration garden for the public located at the HLC. You will be impressed with all the interesting theme gardens you can learn from and help develop. You will also have classes on raising tree fruit at the Discovery Garden. The class of 2010 will have a hands-on volunteer project too, at the Discovery Garden or in the Victory Garden. The Victory Garden is a project at the HLC, which will produce vegetables for donation to UCAN.

The final component of our program is what we call our outreach to the community. This portion of the program consists of taking our sustainable gardening message to other groups in Douglas County. We give presentations and demonstrations wherever we can. Maybe you know a few groups we could reach. We also have a Master Gardener booth at Garden Shows, the County Fair, Earth Day and other gatherings around the county that you will be recruited to join. This is a great way to tell our story to others and to recruit new trainees.

In 2008 we began offering to new Master Gardeners a chance to work with other community groups to teach gardening that helps reduce hunger in Douglas County. If you find helping others in your community rewarding, we will allow you to use your non-clinic volunteer payback hours with groups fighting hunger like UCAN.



I am really looking forward to our year ahead together. We have forty-six people signed up to join us. When you come into our classroom you will be assigned a table and a mentor. Make sure that you ask your mentor to introduce you to all that our program has to offer, fun day activities, “Spring into Gardening” seminars, organizational committees, and mini-college.

We challenge you to be open-minded, 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. You will soon see that the energy and enthusiasm of our veteran Master Gardeners is infectious and we look forward to you joining our organization.

Welcome,
Steve Renquist

Editor's Note

This issue—the first of 2011—welcomes the winter class of new Master Gardeners, and introduces our officers and committee chairs.

This newsletter is your publication. Your editor solicits articles, essays, and photographs. And, if you have gardening websites that you find valuable, I'd be happy to include them in “Links to Other Sites” so you can share with the rest of this community.

I invite you to play “Name that Invasive!” and “Name that Native!”, and to recognize dangerous invasives, and to support our native species. Answers will be in the form of websites for you to visit: yet another reason to view this newsletter on-line!

Joe Yetter joeleeyetter@yahoo.com

Links to Other Sites (annotated)

(suggestions for additional links are solicited)

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/> Welcome to the Mother Ship! Browse, read, repeat.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture> The Horticulture link, with further valuable links

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/enews/> Northwest Gardeners' e-News.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/calendar/>

What you should be doing in your garden this month.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/newsletter>

The Metro Master Gardener Newsletter.

<http://hort.oregonstate.edu/> OSU Horticulture.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/gardening/mga>

Jackson County MGs' *Garden Beet*

<http://oregonmastergardeners.org/GardenersPen.htm>

The Gardener's Pen! Don't forget to sign up by e-mail.

Vice-President—Leo Grass

Welcome to the class of 2011. I sat in that same hard seat that you are in, back in 2002. I had enrolled in the class because a long time friend had



done so, and it seemed to be a good way to pass those dreary winter months, and it was. At the time I thought that Master Gardeners was just another class that one completed, and then went on to be a better gardener, end of story. I soon learned just how wrong I was. I found that this is a dynamic group of people that aren't just interested in growing plants, but also in growing their community. I also learned that what I had learned during those eleven weeks, was just the foundation for my new gardening skills. It's after you graduate that you begin to build on that foundation. You will learn by doing, in the discovery garden. You will sharpen your diagnostic skills by working in the Plant Clinic. You will also learn by listening to, and working with other Master Gardeners.

As Vice President, my primary responsibility is to give you another path to enhance your understanding of the world of gardening. Each month, during the winter, I schedule an hour's presentation of some gardening topic. Our monthly business meeting is the last Thursday of each month, from 10:00AM, and usually lasts for a little more than an hour. The hour before the meeting is dedicated to Continuing Education. Some topics are presented by our own Master Gardeners, and guest speakers present some. The world of gardening is huge, and we try to explore every nook and cranny of it. January's subject is: Bonsai Trees, presented by Mike Winters, of Winter Green Nursery. Please accept my invitation to attend each exiting episode of 'Continuing Education'. See you there.

————Leo Grass, Vice President

Secretary—Debbie Hesseltine

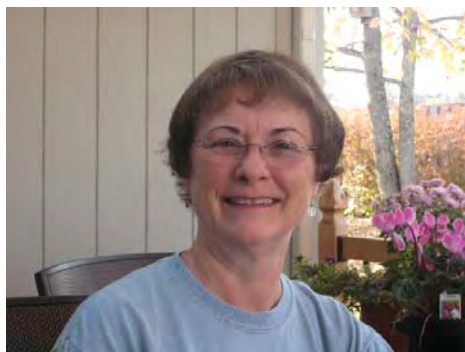
Hi! My job is to take minutes of the Executive Board and the Chapter meetings and keep for future reference. I also assist the President in correspondence preparation as necessary and maintain a current Chapter policy and motion file. I also maintain any other lists the President deems necessary. Respectfully submitted.....



Debbie Hesseltine

Membership Director—Barbara Robinson

Perhaps the most visible job you will attach to the membership director is collecting annual dues. There are, however, several behind the scenes tasks which are her responsibility. She notifies OMGA of the current status of each member. The director maintains and keeps current the database of addresses, emails, and telephone numbers. A membership roster is published in the spring with her assistance. She also attends chapter and board meetings, reporting on pertinent information regarding Master Gardener membership. If you have any membership questions or changes to your personal information on the roster, please feel free to catch me at a membership meeting or email me @ barbararob@gmail.com.



Treasurer—Toni Rudolph

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: toni@rosenet.net or 541-673-7803.

Reminder: Dues are due! And, when you pay your dues, be sure to choose to receive your newsletter on-line. Save money for your organization, and see lots of pretty pictures!



Plant Clinic Manager—Judy Mercer

Welcome to the class of 2011. I look forward to getting to know you all and working with you in the Plant Clinic.

You will find that the Plant Clinic is interesting, informative, rewarding and fun. We get to interact with the community, help our clients with their gardening questions and continue to learn.

Douglas County has been very supportive of the OSU extension programs and the Clinic gives us an excellent opportunity to be worthy of that support.

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You will be working with Master Gardner Veterans and other students during your training period. We will give you all the tools you need to become a vital member of our team.

We will be diagnosing plant problems, identifying insects and plants, taking in soil samples and more. You will be able to use all that you have learned in class and you will continue to learn as we research the questions that come in.

I can't wait to get started.

SEE YOU IN THE CLINIC

Judy Mercer
Plant Clinic Manager

Oregon Master Gardeners Association Representative — Maureen Benice

Each Master Gardener Chapter in Oregon, that pays dues to OMGA, has one



representative and an alternate representative. These individuals are the information conduits to and from OMGA and to and from each Chapter. What do I do about that? Everyday: I check to see if there are any emails from the OMGA. If there is something which needs attention, I relay it to the proper person(s) and answer the emails with, if nothing more, just an "I got it!" or, of course, the information requested. Monthly: I write an article for our newsletter and report to the Executive Board and Chapter at these meetings. Quarterly: I write and email a report informing the OMGA and other chapters of what the Douglas County Master Gardeners are doing to further our mission of education. This report will be given at the quarterly OMGA meeting. Oh, yes, there are four OMGA meetings located in different parts of Oregon. Either I and/or the

Alternate Rep attend these meeting. I write an article for the Gardeners Pen, the OMGA newsletter. This article tells everyone what our chapter is doing. These things keep me telling you about Mini College and busy writing and shuffling a lot of electronic and actual paper. See you around the classroom and garden/greenhouses.

Maureen Benice
Douglas County – Oregon Master Gardeners Association Representative

Community Outreach — Leo Grass

Welcome to the class of 2011. You have already learned much about the Douglas county Master Gardener program, especially just how hard the chairs in the classroom are. If you boil our goals down, to just that little bit, left in the bottom of the pot, you'd find they're very simple: to learn sound, sustainable gardening practices, and to tell, or show our neighbors, what we have learned. Our demonstration gardens, along with various community projects take care of the show part. Community outreach activities have included: children's gardens, rest home gardens, youth shelter, animal shelter, and battered persons shelter, garden projects. We are also actively engaged in a number of school garden programs. One of our goals is to ignite that spark of interest in gardening in young people. It's the telling part that that more directly involves the Community Outreach committee. We have members who perform lecture and hands on training for a wide variety of organizations in Douglas County. We have developed a library of Power Point programs to enable different people to present consistent, uniform presentations. So, if you were a big fan of show and tell in grade school, chances are you'll be a great addition to the Community Outreach Committee. Ask me, and I'll tell you how.

——Leo Grass

Discovery Garden Coordinator —Julie Stanbery

Welcome to the Discovery Garden at the Horticultural Learning Center! As new Master Gardeners you are invited to join us in a great adventure as we continue to develop our year round educational garden and teaching facility. MG volunteers participate in all areas of garden management , including landscape design, planting, pruning and the ubiquitous weeding.

Working in the garden is a stimulating hands-on experience and lots of fun. All trainees will be asked to schedule volunteer payback time in the garden. These sessions will help familiarize you with all aspects of the garden and give you the opportunity to decide which area of the garden you would like to offer your volunteer time during the year.

Established in 1999, the entire garden has been built by thousands of Master Gardener volunteer hours and community groups such as Job Corp and inmate work crews. We have 14 gardens within the DG including Japanese, children's, hedgerow, orchard, scented entry, lilies and dahlias, shade and sun, compost, ornamental shrubs and grasses, butterfly, herb, xeriscape and easy access areas. Items of particular interest include the spider gate, human sundial, and the moon gate. We also have added numerous benches and picnic tables.

The goals and directions of the garden come from MG volunteers with guidance from OSU Extension and our Home Horticulture agent, Steve Renquist. We use the children's garden, worm bins, compost bins and pavilion as an outdoor classroom for school children and youth groups. Other gardens are used for public demonstrations including pruning and plant care.

Your winter program classes contain information in many aspects of the garden such as water wise gardens, dry garden (xeriscape), water collection and irrigation techniques, container and adaptive raised beds

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(easy access), herbs, Japanese, perennials, annuals, roses, lilies, and much more! All of our classes include ecological management practices that stress integrated methods (IPM) and low impact techniques.

My name is Julie Stanbery, and, as coordinator of the Discovery garden, you will be hearing many garden updates from me. A number of your classes will take place in the garden, at the greenhouses and at Helleck Hall at the HLC. Your first classes at the HLC will be Jan 11 & 18. A tour of the garden will be part of these class sessions. You will be introduced to some of the veteran MGs who work in the individual gardens and learn the lay-out of the gardens. These classes are OUT-OF DOORS so dress in layers, wear long underwear, mud boots, rain slicker, gloves and hat!!

Steve has scheduled three "hands-on" pruning classes in the Discovery Garden. All students are asked to attend these classes. Bring your pruning tools, as we encourage everyone to participate in the training. We will be working on fruit trees, ornamental shrubs, Japanese garden plants and landscape trees.

Starting March 22, we will have regular Tuesday work days each week through September.

Come dressed for foul weather as we work rain or shine. You need not be a strapping physical specimen; I can find a task for anyone!! Always come to the garden with work gloves, hand pruners, a good weeding tool, kneeling pad and a shovel. I'll let you know if we need special tools for any particular project. Working in the garden is considered payback time; specifics will be explained in class.

Our big project for the spring is to finish the installation of the in-ground irrigation system. We have a year round pump and two reservoirs for water storage, so this is the next step to demonstrate water wise techniques and to get rid of the hoses!!

We have a busy season ahead of us, but as all gardeners know, you meet the nicest people in the garden, we'll

see you there!!
— Julie Stanbery

Victory Garden — Co-Chairs Mik Carlson and Lorreen Robinson



Greetings to the Master Gardener Class of 2011. The Victory Garden is one of the newest additions to the HLC. We had a great first year and are looking forward to improving both our management practices and production. The Victory Garden has two major goals:

—First, the Victory Garden offers Master Gardeners an opportunity to put into practice techniques taught in our winter class such as succession planting, leaf mulching, and using cover crops. Next year, we hope to improve our vertical gardening by installing more poles, trellises and cages.

—Second, by donating fresh, nutritious produce to UCAN, Master Gardeners are promoting and contributing to a healthier community. Last year we delivered 2,017 pounds of vegetable to be distributed to local pantries and community kitchens. So, if you want to nurture your love of gardening, while also helping others, come join us in the Victory Garden.

The jobs are many...moving compost, planning, planting, fertilizing, mulching, pruning, harvesting...and don't forget the weeding. Some really great friendships have been cultivated while pulling up crabgrass and bittercress.

**Did you pay your dues?
Did you opt for on-line only?**

So, for fun, education and community, consider sharing your time and talent in the Master Gardener's Victory Garden. We look forward to seeing you.

—Mik Carlson and Lorreen Robinson
Victory Garden Co-Chairs

Herb garden: Lori Salars

Hello class of 2011 and welcome to the Master Gardeners! I'm part of the team that keeps up the Herb Garden out at the Discovery Gardens. We grow many varieties of herbs from ornamental to medicinal. We have a bed dedicated to cooking herbs and another bed just for aromatic herbs. Our educational focus is letting people see just what they can do with herbs, be it for landscaping or planting an herb garden.

Our schedule is different from the rest of the Discovery Garden. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month and weather permitting, will start in March and go through October. We start work at 1000 and usually end at noon.

If you are interested in herbs, we would love to have you come and join us in our little garden.

Lori Salars

Xeriscape Garden

The Xeriscape Garden Committee would like to welcome the new Master Gardner Class of 2011. The Xeriscape Garden is a display garden designed to give the public an idea on how to landscape using different types of drought tolerant plants (very little water). In the spring when we start working in the gardens again (after the plant sale), if any of you would be interested in working on this type of landscaping and learning more about it, please come out and join us. We try to add new things each year and have new projects to work on within the garden, and we also have a lot of fun.

—Xeriscape Garden Committee:
Gloria Amorde
Judi Danielson,
Irene Thomason
Anne Waddington

Plant Sale Committee: Gloria Amorde, Chuck Aiello, Bob Brindley

The Plant Sale Committee and the Greenhouse Crew would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Master Gardener Class of 2011. The Plant and Garden Expo, to be held May 7, 2011 at the Fairgrounds, is the biggest fundraiser of the year for our program and it takes a tremendous number of people, hard work and dedication to make the Expo the success it has become. We look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you, and having all who are interested come join us at the greenhouses as soon as you have completed your hands-on classes in a couple of weeks. This is a wonderful way to meet new people and make new friends, as so many of us have done in the past. WELCOME!!!!

— Julie Stanbery

Plant Sale Committee:
Gloria Amorde, Chuck Aiello, Bob Brindley

Greenhouse:
Tasha King and Crew

Orchard Invitation —Roger Sawyer

For those Master Gardeners, trainees and current students that would like to learn more or share knowledge about orchard type fruits you are invited to participate in the care and maintenance of the small orchard that we have established within our Discovery Garden. The things that will be demonstrated during the year will include pruning, thinning, monitoring for pests and their control when identified, and watering, summer pruning along with harvesting if we can control the raccoons, birds and visitors.

There will be formal pruning classes scheduled during February. Everyone will be encouraged to attend one or more of these demonstrations. You will be encouraged to participate as well, plan to bring your favorite pruning

tools. As the year progresses we will be placing and monitoring pheromone traps. If insect pests are identified in sufficient quantity we will be using the least harmful spray products available. By staying involved during the summer you will gain valuable experience in the production of small fruits.

Having a few fruit trees in you landscape can provide a good share of fruit requirements in the fall and early winter. If you can grow enough produce for canning your pantry will stay productive well into the next season.

I will be away from the class activities until early February. At that time I will ask you to give me your email address and phone number so that you can be notified when things will be done in the Orchard.

—Roger Sawyer



(Roger Sawyer prepares to assemble a fruit tree in the orchard. —Editor.)

Pruning class dates:

Thurs., Jan 27
Fri., Feb 11
Fri., Feb 18
(All sessions 1 to 4 pm.)

Hallmark: Linda Thames

When a member needs a little note of cheer or condolence, that's where Hallmark comes in. If I'm notified of a situation where a card would be welcome, I see to it that one is sent. It might be a Congratulations, a Get-Well, Sincerest Sympathy, a Thank You, or perhaps just a Thinking of You. The key thing to keep in mind is that I need to be notified. Please do not assume that I already know. No crystal balls come with this position. If possible, I also like to know if the information is for publication or is to be kept private.

I send out cards, usually hand-made, in the name of the Master Gardeners and sometimes I receive a reply, which I then share with the membership.

It's a joyful job, and with your help, I will continue sharing and keeping the membership informed as best I can.

—Linda Thames
(linbill2@charter.net), 541-673-3978

Email Communicator: Shirley Purcell

Welcome to the MG trainee program. As you move into the new year, and have taken on this new commitment. You are entering a world of change with many opportunities before you : to learn, to change gardening techniques, to give back to your community plus developing new friendships.

Take advantage of them all. Your rewards will be well worth it.

If you have an email and have it listed, you will be receiving notices via hopover@gmail.com. (Editor's note: Add this address to your e-mail address book so your server recognizes the correspondent, and does not send the messages to your "Spam" box.)

These messages will be more urgent pieces of information that come up

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after the monthly meeting or after the newsletter has been published.

Often the emails are new notices; reminders for an upcoming activity. Often the email requests a reply from you, which requires a reply to the sender not the communicator.

Please keep me informed of changes in your email address, so you can stay up-to-date with the program you have started.

Welcome!

— Shirley Purcell

Insect Committee: Bob Brindley

Nearly 25% of the calls to the Master Gardeners 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 are looking for additional people to help us produce material that would make insect identification and treatment recommendations even easier for Plant Clinic volunteers. Plus, we can always use help in identification.

We welcome new members; no experience required. The committee meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month for two hours or more 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 clinic hours obligation.

I would be happy to tell you more about the committee. Please contact me at 459-7897 or rbrindley459@yahoo.com for more information.

Bob Brindley
Insect Committee Chairperson

Bake Sale: Yvonne Henderson

Hello, MG Apprentices,

For the past 2 years since I have been chairperson of our "Annual BAKE SALE". It is the most joyful, friendly,



fun-filled; albeit brisk and chilly event; hoping it will, again, be semi-annual. My duties for this event are:

- *to secure the BAKE SALE site;
- *to keep my "Food Handler Certification" current;
- *to publicize the sale with flyers pass out around the community by fellow MG's;
- *notify our publicist with the sale information for advertisement via radio, newspaper, and/or television;
- *use our E-mail system to communicate to fellow MG's;
- *to report to our editor to submit articles like this one;
- *to interact with the executive committee, our treasurer, and other chairpersons;
- *to research the prices of baked goods/memorize the going rate, and at what quantities for quick recall for

PRICING;

*to acquire tables and any supplies necessary for a smooth running fundraiser;

*to BAKE;

and most importantly--
*to encourage and entice fellow MG's to sign up to participate in the SET UP, CLEAN UP, to BAKE, CASHIER, PRICE, and to SELL at the event.

This fundraising event is now happily held in November--Hope to see you there.

—Yvonne Henderson

Less Is More

— *by Nancy Sieck*

Last year, when I took the plunge and joined the Master Gardener Apprentice Class, I was very excited. It seemed all my wishful thinking about being a real-live garden person was about to become reality. I was sure, like many novices, that within the year I'd be growing all my own fruits and veggies. I would have a beautiful garden space that would be the envy of the neighborhood. I live in the woods, so there actually IS no neighborhood, but no matter... I was ready to jump into gardening with both feet!

Members of the DCMG are very supportive and would never discourage enthusiasm in a novice, but I actually didn't know enough to know about plants and gardening to figure out what questions to ask them. I'm sure some veterans got a bit tired of answering the really simple questions I asked, but they were far too gracious to reveal it to me... or any of the other "Newbies".

Many of our class-members had gardened extensively in the past, and provided help to novices as well. The classes were a great starting point for our learning. Working with veteran MGs in the Discovery Garden and Plant Clinic helped all of us solidify the new sustainable gardening practices to which we were exposed.

Some things, however, I had to learn on my own. Observation and practice are two things I do well, so I thought I'd have no difficulty making my dream

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garden into a physical presence. Not so much: making a brand new garden in a spot never before cultivated was a challenge. There was the physical work of setting up the beds while the tiny plants were rapidly outgrowing their four-inch pots. Figuring out how to get water to the site was another challenge. Locating a source for fertilizer and mulch without breaking my piggy bank wasn't as difficult as figuring out which varieties of different vegetables to grow. Hhhmmm... there was more to this food-growing project than had I anticipated.

Advice to other Newbies? Start SMALL! Unless you have gardened before and are merely improving your skills, baby steps into your own garden are fine. Veteran MGs have been growing flowers, fruit and veggies for years. The size of their gardens, and the variety of plants they cultivate are amazing. Don't let that intimidate you... growing a simple "Salsa Garden" and a small annual flower border your first year is fine. Next year, you can double the size of your garden and perhaps plant a fruit tree or some native plants. Don't get in over your head; your garden can take on a life of its own in more ways than one.

Try to grow one "new-to-you" plant each year, but remember that spring planting and summer watering are not the only jobs in the garden! Now, in the fall, adding mulch and compost to your existing beds and any new spaces you want to garden next year will benefit the soil and make garden preparation easier in the spring. Don't forget, there is no such thing as "Too Much Organic Matter"!

———— Nancy Sieck



Agrilus anxius Brassy girl seeks boring boy. Tree lovers reply to: bronzie@arthro.net

Notes from the Clinic:



The Bronze Birch Borer

—by Judy Mercer

The bronze birch borer, *Agrilus anxius* Gory measures a little less than ½ - inches in length. It is a slender metallic-coppery beetle. The beetle itself is rarely seen. They are in the family of borer beetles. The adult does not damage the tree. The larvae, on the other hand can be devastating. The larvae bore into the phloem and the cambium layers after emerging from their eggs which have been laid on the bark. Trees are killed by the interruption to the sap flow. Their life cycle is 1 year from egg to beetle.

The beetle was confirmed in Oregon as of October 23, 2003 and has killed trees in Beaverton and Tigard. It has also been positively identified in the Corvallis area. An increase in distribution is likely.

The bronze birch borer is very difficult to control. Chemical controls and require annual insecticide applications. Dormant oil will control the overwintering egg stage and surface sprays are applied to the tree bark so that the residual insecticide will kill larvae when they hatch. Once a tree is infested as evidenced by thinning of the crown the tree usually dies in two to three. It is recommended that once an infestation is detected the tree be removed.

The best course of action is prevention. First and foremost are proper site selection and selection of a resistant variety. Birch should be planted in a shaded semi-moist area. The north and east sides of buildings are recommended.

Secondly, plant resistant varieties. For a comprehensive list of birch varieties go to (http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_birch/ht_birch.htm). This site also has excellent information on site selection, maintenance and birch characteristics.

Other sites:

http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/bronze_birch_borer.htm

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/br_bir_bor/bbbfidl.htm

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG1417.html>

Incoming Class Potluck: Reminder

All veteran Master Gardeners are welcome to come and welcome the new incoming class members. Please bring a food dish and a big smile for the big welcome. We also need cookies for the break times, those bringing cookies also need to bring a food dish for the potluck. (I know a lot of us have a spare dozen or so cookies laying around from Christmas).

Please bring your food to the kitchen downstairs and the cookies upstairs to the coffee table. Food for the potluck can be dropped off before class starts or any time before 11am.

I also need help setting up the coffee in the morning and help setting up and clean-up with the potluck area. No help will be refused. ha!

—Lorenna Remington

Please contact me at: lorsrem@cmspan.net ; 541-863-4860; 541-430-3499

Name that Native!



Native from California to British Columbia; thrives in moist soils in forest openings and in gardens. Not particularly common in wild, very common in gardens. Spicy bulbs used as food by indigenous people.

Answer: http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/potd/2005/06/lilium_columbia.php

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lilium_columbianum

Name that Invasive!



Highly invasive, takes over entire fields; demands intensive eradication efforts.

Answer: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/em/em8750/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centaurea_solstitialis

Date: _____
 Check No. _____
DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2011 DUES
 (Due **BEFORE** 01/01/2011)
PLEASE complete ALL information below EVEN if nothing has changed:
 NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 PHONE: _____
You will be receiving the Master Gardener Newsletter online. If you cannot receive it online, place an "X" here _____ and it will be mailed to you. (Remember: this option costs your organization lots of money, and the printed version lacks the pretty pictures and the useful links! Avoid it if you can, please.)
 The 2011 dues are **\$10.00 PER PERSON** or **\$20.00 PER COUPLE**. Checks should be written to DCMG. Drop your payment AND completed form in the plant clinic's dues drawer OR mail to:
 Barbara Robinson, 544 Quail Lane, Roseburg, OR 97471

**Douglas County
Master Gardeners
Newsletter**

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Executive meetings: second Wednesday, 9:30am, kitchen conference room; Chapter meetings: last Thursday, Jan thru May: 10am, annex auditorium; June, July, August: members' gardens, 10am; Sept: Pavilion, Discovery Garden, 10am; Oct, Nov: 10am, annex auditorium; (no December meetings)

Articles for the February 2011 Newsletter are due Noon Saturday, January 29. Please email articles to Joe Yetter (joeleeyetter@yahoo.com) (Word, Arial 12pt as an attached file; and include "Newsletter" in subject line. (If you are a Mac user, a Pages document is OK; but Word is preferable.)

Douglas County Master Gardeners of
OSU Extension Service

Important internet links:

Website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/mg>

Discovery Garden: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/discovery-garden>

MG Plant Clinic Email: douglasmg@oregonstate.edu

Steve Renquist Email: steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu

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