**COASTAL CURRANTS**

Dragon fruit (*Hylocereus undatus*) is a popular tropical treat in Southeast Asia. Locally regarded as indigenous by the Vietnamese, the sweet fruit is native to Central America and introduced to Vietnam as an ornamental plant by the French over a century ago.

Unopened flower buds can be cooked like vegetables, but the blooms are short-lived—only one night, thus the common name "moonflower" or "lady of the night." The plant is a climbing cactus vine thriving in dry organic soils scaling to 20-30 feet tall if left alone.

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**FALL BULB SALE COMING TO YOU AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 25TH**

The third Master Gardener Fall Bulb Sale is coming right up! Start thinking about where you are going to plant the marvelous new bulbs we will be selling. When we ordered bulbs in the spring, we focused on many new varieties, as well as the types that were hot sellers previous years.

The bulbs to be offered have all been carefully chosen to do well in coastal conditions. For example, the tulips will not be those with 3-foot stems that flop over in the first hard blow, and the bulbs will all be hardy varieties that can take what our coastal weather dishes out. They will also be priced well below retail, and will include some unique, "brand new to the market" bulbs.

Our Master Gardener Fall Bulb Sale will be held September 25 at the Newport Recreation Center from 9 AM to 1 PM. The Newport Farmers Market will be in full swing right next door, and we’ll have flyers for the sale at the market (just a little reminder to our public not to miss this wonderful annual event).

We (Betty Bahn, Anne Irving, Liz Dillon, Liz Olsen and I) spent some quality time drooling over the bulb catalog and ordered wonderful specimens several months ago.

We are once again soliciting donations of bearded iris, other corms (such as *Crocosmia ‘Lucifer’*), ‘Naked Ladies’, garlic sets, etc. When you divide your iris this fall, we’d love to have you set some aside to donate to the sale.

I will be sending out updated info on event dates and sign-up sheets on listserve, so you will all be in the loop.

Our Master Gardener Fall Bulb Sale is now a happy tradition. See you there!

Pam McElroy

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**2010 LCMGA Members Directory**

We are at last ready to publish the 2010 LCMGA Members Directory. The directory will include the name, physical address, phone number and email address for all dues-paying members. Printed copies will be available at the OSU Extension Office. It will not be published online.

While we would like to include full details for all active members, if you paid your dues this year but would prefer to have all or any individual part of your information unpublished you may do so. Simply email Jeff Olsen at jeffryolsen@gmail.com by September 15 and let him know your wishes. The directory will be printed and available shortly thereafter. This process will be repeated in future years in June, after most annual dues have been received. Happy gardening!

Jeff Olsen

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**Calendar Highlights**

- **September 11, Saturday**
  - Extension Office Picnic. See page 4.

- **September 25, Saturday**
  - Master Gardener Fall Bulb Sale. See article on this page.
2010

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Bill Biernacki, igobybb@gmail.com
1st Vice President: Pam McElroy, pmcelroy456@charter.net
2nd Vice President: Jeff Olsen, jeffryolsen@gmail.com
Secretary: Mary Jane Bonelitz, mjbonelitz@gmail.com
Treasurer: Cathy Fitzhugh, cmfitz3@actionnet.net
Past Presidents: Charles Dallas and Emilia Lacy
OMGA State Representative: Janet Anderson, beachlady868@embarqmail.com
Alternate State OMGA Representative: Betty Orr, bettyorr@charter.net
Historian: Linda Cook and Debi Durkee, gnlcooke@gmail.com; runner_lady@hotmail.com

Ah, sunshine!

When molested the terrestrial Northwestern Salamander emit a ticking sound and assume a defensive posture while secreting sticky white poison from glands on their head, body, and tail. But when happy they eat lots of bad bugs, slugs, and snails from our gardens.

2010

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

LCMG Class Co-Chairs: Claudette Schroeder and Linda Cook, hairbows@gnrcom.com; gnlcook@gmail.com
Office Scheduler: Alice Mitchell mitchellor@earthlink.net
Librarians: Diana Pinto and Sally Reill, dgpinto@peak.org; jsreill@charter.net
Lincoln County Farmers’ Market Advisor: Mark Dixon, dixonindexing@gmail.com
Farmers’ Market Coordinators: Newport—Laura Clark, wedigit@q.com; Lincoln City—Rick and Janet Anderson, beachguy0123@embarqmail.com; beachlady868@embarqmail.com
Yachats—Mark Dixon

Spring Garden Sale: Rick and Janet Anderson
Fall Bulb Sale: Pam McElroy; Betty Bahn, bahngarten@yahoo.com; Anne Irving
Home & Garden Exposition: Pam McElroy
Coastal Currants Newsletter: Nancy and Mark Dixon, dixonindexing@gmail.com; Diana Pinto
Demonstration Gardens: Yachats—Mark Dixon; Newport–Cathi Block bblock@peak.org, Liz Olsen liztolsen@charter.net; Lincoln City—Rick and Janet Anderson
Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Project: Liz Olsen
Publicity: Laura Clark

Note: For contacts listed more than once, see first listing for email.
It’s been a busy summer for the Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Association (LCMGA), with garden tours, the Town and Country Fair, OSU Mini-College, trips to the Thyme Garden and Gathering Together Farms, and our participation at the three farmers' markets (Whew!). I want to thank all veterans and students for their continued participation around the county. Without volunteers and the hard work they do there would be no LCMGA.

Our August Board meeting was held on Tuesday, August 24 and we were pleased to have Marilyn Scheffler, second vice president of the Oregon Master Gardener's Association (OMGA) in attendance. Marilyn came to this meeting to explain to the Board and association members the role the LCMGA will play in next year’s Mini-College. As you have no doubt heard, Mini-College 2011 will be held in Newport. Mini-College has been held in Corvallis since 2002, and the committee has decided they would like to alternate throughout the state every year, beginning with Newport. Mini-College will be held on July 13, 14 and 15, 2011 at the Newport Middle School. It is important to note that our chapter will incur no expense for this event as this is all done at the state level. Our job will be to support the Mini-College committee in whatever areas needed, i.e. set up, garden tours, silent auction, assisting with promotion, etc. This is a great opportunity to showcase our chapter and our gardens, as well as promote the Central Oregon Coast, from Newport to Lincoln City to Yachats. All work will be on a voluntary basis and as the committee proceeds with their plans we will learn where we can be of assistance. Janet Anderson, LCMGA state representative, and Emilia Lacy, second past president, will be the contact persons for this event. They will be in direct contact with Marilyn and her committee and will keep the Board apprised of their progress and where we can be of most help. The Board will in turn pass on information to the members. This channel of communication was set up to assist the committee in the most efficient means possible. Janet has been working closely with the OMGA as our state representative and has been in close communication with Marilyn since the idea of other venues was first discussed. I’m looking forward to this being a great success, and I see our chapter as a shining example to future counties.

Other significant discussions at this month’s Board meeting were fundraising and grant writing. Emilia Lacy is drafting a fundraising policy to ensure guidelines are followed. Second Vice President Jeff Olson has been busy pursuing the possibility of LCMGA hosting a booth at the Newport Seafood and Wine Festival in February. The wrinkles have to be ironed out, but it looks like this is a real possibility. I am sure there will be no shortage of volunteers for this event.

Anne Schatz has volunteered to be our grant coordinator. Anne recently took a class on grant writing and is willing to help with advice and review of grants available to the LCMGA. Grant guidelines have been put in place to ensure coordination with Board approval.

I would like to welcome Mary Jane Bonelitz to the board in the position of interim secretary. Mary Jane will fill this position through the end of the year.

I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE PICNIC ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2010 FROM 11 AM TO 4 PM AT ELKS RV PARK AND PICNIC GROUNDS. COMPLETE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 4.

Bill B
HELP DESK:
Fall Sign-Ups Needed and Always Appreciated

The help desk is in need of volunteers for August, September and October. As we near the end of the season, please remember that help desk hours are needed to certify and to re-certify. I am willing to work with anyone who needs hours to fulfill that obligation.

Please check the Famundo site and your calendars for dates that you may be able to help out and contact me if you have any questions.

Your response to my emails regarding volunteers this past year has been outstanding and very much appreciated! Thanks to all for your numerous hours of service this year.

For instructions on how to view the Famundo calendar go to http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lincoln/sites/default/files/documents/mgonlinecalendarinstructions.pdf. Simply go to famundo.com and log in using the username and password contained in the above named file. If you need assistance in viewing the calendar or to reserve dates, please contact me at mitchellor@earthlink.net or 541-867-3773.

Alice Mitchell

OSU EXTENSION PICNIC

WHEN? Saturday, September 11th, from 11AM–4 PM. Come when you can, leave when you have to! Great food! Lotsa fun!

WHERE? Elks RV Park PICNIC GROUNDS
(from Siletz: travel approx. 3 miles north on Hwy 229 to the 2nd green bridge. Elks picnic grounds is on the west side just after crossing bridge; FROM LINCOLN CITY: travel 23 miles on Hwy 229. Picnic grounds are on the west side before the green bridge.

WHO? All Extension people—staff & their families, 4-H members & their families, Master Gardener volunteers & their families.

WHAT to bring? Hot dogs & hamburgers with all the fixin’s & farm-fresh roasted corn-on-the-cob will be provided! Bring your favorite SALAD or DESSERT or other POTLUCK ITEM to share, your own BEVERAGES and TABLE SERVICE, along with any lawn chairs or outdoor games you’d like to bring!

ATTENTION

October Newsletter Article
Deadline September 15
Email articles to: dixonindexing@gmail.com
Insert “MG article” in subject line.
There’s a writer in each of us!

OSU Extension Agent:
Sam Angima 574-6534
Sam.Angima@oregonstate.edu

OSU Ext MG Office Specialist:
Kathy Buismman 574-6534
Kathy.Buismman@oregonstate.edu

OSU Extension Office MG contact:
Phone: 541-574-6534
Fax: 541-265-3887
E-mail: lincolnmg@oregonstate.edu
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg

Questions E-mail: gardenquestions.lincolncounty@oregonstate.edu

Editor in Chief: Bill Biernacki
Managing Editor: Nancy Dixon
Editor: Diana Pinto
Design and Layout: Ray Sbed
Botanical names reveal a lot about plants. There are the obvious ones, the genus *Pinus* or pine, and the genus *Rosa* for rose. I looked up *rugosa*, which means wrinkled. So in the case of *Rosa rugosa*, you have a wrinkled leaf rose. But what about something like *Angustifolius*? Yes, you're right, it means narrow-leaved.

A lot of people think the common name is easier to say and remember. But, have you ever been talking to someone about a particular plant, and then realized you're not talking about the same thing? Part of the problem is that some of us are self-conscious when trying to pronounce a plant’s genus and/or species. You shouldn’t be self-conscious; at least you are making an attempt to pronounce it. If we were to take five plant professionals and ask them to pronounce a plant’s Latin name, they would probably come up with at least three different pronunciations. One of the keys is to take your time to look at the word and break it down. Another is to pronounce the name with confidence! The genus *Clematis* is still that whether you pronounce it KLEM-i-tis or Klem-AH-tis. A great pronunciation source with audio is www.finegardening.com/pguide/pronunciation-guide-to-botanical-latin.aspx. An excellent OSU site breaks down genus and species phonetically at http://oregonstate.edu/dept/idplants.

Chapter 22 in our Master Gardener Handbook contains an explanation of the importance of learning the botanical names of plants. In a nutshell it gives a number of good reasons. By identifying a plant you can determine its cultural requirements, ultimate size, flowering and fruiting habits, propagation methods, and common problems. Many insects and diseases are fairly host-specific; that is, they attack only certain species (and sometimes only certain varieties within a species) or certain genera. When you know a plant’s genus and species, you can identify problems and make a diagnosis more easily, efficiently, and with more certainty. In fact, the first step in diagnosing a sick plant is to identify the plant. A great learning tool is *Botany in a Day*, by Thomas J. Elpel. It is part of the Master Gardener Library.

I know it can be frustrating when talking with a client when they try to describe a plant for you to identify, especially when they don’t have a specimen of the plant with them. Sometimes you just have to be a mystic, especially with tips like, “it kinda sorta looks like so and so.” Or you get this description: “this plant has semi-large or medium-sized leaves that have somewhat sharp rounded leaf tips that I think drop off in the fall, but I’m not positive.” The plant crystal ball says…

If nothing else, while at a party you can really impress people with comments like, “Just this morning I was checking on my *Godetia*.” On second thought, maybe it would be a good idea to keep that information between you and your gardening friends.

Now repeat after me…

- *Pinus contorta*………………
- *Rosa rugosa*…………………
- *Godelia*…………………
- *Iforgeta*/

Did You Know? Using the botanical name helps you know more about a plant...

What’s in a Name?
The other day I was rummaging through a stack of assorted papers, folders, magazines and books, and came across my copy of the small, but informative booklet, *New Pronouncing Dictionary of Plant Names*. It’s a great source for understanding the plant world.
LCMGA Master Gardeners of the Year, 2010

Excitement and energy filled the ballroom of the CH2M Hill Alumni Center on July 29 when several hundred Master Gardeners gathered to celebrate and present awards to the County Master Gardeners of the Year. Lincoln County staked out our seats, front and center, with, of course, green garden tape. LCMGA is one of few chapters that tries to keep secret the honoree(s) name until the award presentation. This year was a real challenge! When Gail Langellotto announced Rick and Janet Anderson for the Lincoln County Master Gardener of the Year Award, Janet beamed, Rick was shocked. We had kept the secret well.

We are asked to keep the nomination narrative to one page, but it was very difficult to cover the Andersons' accomplishments in such brief space. Below are excerpts from the narrative.

When Janet and Rick Anderson entered the 2008 Lincoln County Master Gardener class, they brought with them a wide range of experience, education and talent. They applied this background along with their boundless energy to a landscape of Master Gardener programs.

As apprentices, Janet and Rick identified the need for a MG mobile help desk at the new farmers' market in Lincoln City. They enlisted the help of veterans and other apprentices to staff and equip the help desk each week from May through October. In 2009, as veteran Master Gardeners, Janet and Rick integrated the new apprentices into the Lincoln City Farmers' Market activities, and completed another successful season.

In 2009, we also added ‘fearless’ to Janet and Rick’s list of qualities. They took on the enormous job of planning, organizing and managing the Master Gardener Spring Garden Sale. Not only is the sale our biggest fund raiser, but the event was moved to a new venue. While Janet and Rick would be the first to acknowledge the work of dozens of Master Gardeners, through their tireless efforts, constant encouragement and creative ideas, the association harvested our highest income for a Spring Garden Sale. In a Ripley’s Believe-It-or-Not moment, Janet and Rick agreed to do it all over again in 2010. Their second year, very effective signage; seed and propagation workshops; and their constant attention to detail resulted in the same outstanding outcome.

This year saw the sprouting of three new demonstration garden sites. As the MG veteran and mentor for the North County Demo Garden, Janet and Rick worked with the apprentices as they designed and built the garden beds, a greenhouse, a cloche, a rainwater collection system, composting bins, bee and bird housing – all accomplished in less than 2 months. Located on the Oregon Coast Community College campus, the North County MG Demonstration Garden is and will be for years a source of pride and learning for the entire community.

Janet and Rick were instructors for Pond Construction and Aquatics session of the 2009 Master Gardener Class; and mentors for the 2009 and 2010 classes. Janet’s MG involvement isn’t limited to county activities. This year, Janet is the OMGA Representative from Lincoln County, after serving as the Alternative Rep. in 2009. Rick was the 1st Vice President of the LCMGA in 2009. As part of Rick’s duties, he organized over 14 educational and fun field trips.

Master Gardeners, the Lincoln County Master Gardener Association and most importantly, our community all benefit from the bouquet of talents Janet and Rick share with us every day. They are true volunteers: selfless and giving.

Claudette Schroeder
Diana Pinto: Behind the Scenes Master Gardener of the Year, 2010

Behind so many LCMGA successes we find Diana. She exhibits many of the qualities of the ideal Master Gardener. She’s a regular Master Gardener classroom supporter and became a Master Composter last year. She mentors students and generously shares her experiences with other MG and community garden members. For the Spring Garden Sale, she grows and donates several carloads of plants, both vegetables and perennials, each year.

Diana was elected to the LCMGA Board of Directors as Historian in 2007 and again in 2009. In that position, she has created wonderful photo collages for the LCMGA display at Mini-College, winning two awards competing against some very sophisticated displays. She currently serves as co-Librarian with Sally Reill.

At the Waldport Community Garden, Diana has been a leader and volunteer since Day 1, donating personal resources in support of the garden and also helping with the Food Share beds. Elsewhere in the county, she has helped with the Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Project and the Yachats Demonstration and Community Garden.

Diana spends many hours at the help desk both at the extension office and at farmers’ markets and was office scheduler for 2007.

And then there’s the newsletter. With her keen eye, attention to detail, and ability to edit with subtlety and nuance, she has helped us produce the best MG newsletter in the state of Oregon.

Diana is exceptionally generous in her support of the LCMGA and its mission. And Diana will always say, "I don’t really do that much."

Nancy and Mark Dixon

Lincoln County Displays A Winner

Congratulations are in order to our Historian team, Linda Cook and Debi Durkee, for winning FIRST PLACE for their chapter display at Mini-College. Each county Master Gardener association is invited to create a display about the accomplishments of their county’s Master Gardeners, and how these accomplishments follow the theme, Beyond Backyard Basics: The Science of Sustainability. Under Linda’s coordination, the Lincoln County display reflected the many aspects of how progressive our chapter has been in providing sustainability in our coastal demonstration gardens, classes and innovative science.

Linda created a beautiful, one-of-a-kind display. The award presenter said, "This year’s displays set a whole new standard." Visitors to the Lincoln County table commented on how much our chapter accomplished and how well the display communicated our efforts. Many were drawn to both the great pictures on board and the informative scrapbook.

Lots of hard work, innumerable hours, and creativity went into this great display. Take note of the mason bee hive, birdhouse (attached to the driftwood) and the worm bin (on the floor). The table was covered with a plush sunflower print fabric topped with a lovely basket of fresh herbs and vegetables, and the chapter scrapbook.

Thanks also to Linda’s husband, Gary who contributed countless hours to this project, and was a patient tour director in Corvallis during Mini-College.

Claudette Schroeder
Tomato Trouble and This Crummy Summer

As I write this it is the middle of August, almost Labor Day, the official "end" of summer. Summer, such as it is, has barely arrived! By now I should have lots of tomatoes, but so far only a few cherry and grape varieties are producing.

Along with the cold and very wet start have come some new and unusual problems this growing season. First, three quarters of my garlic crop was lost to rust, a fungus that covered the leaves causing the tops to die prematurely and the bulbs to be very small. Half of the onions and all the shallots got root rot and drowned. This is all attributable to the June deluge on already wet soil. Another problem at our place is that we've had virtually no bees of any sort. For pollination of crops this is especially worrisome! We've hand pollinated all the squash and feel elated to see one bee. Even the cabbage butterflies are MIA! Getting back to the tomatoes, I've had to remove three plants for a disease that I've never seen before. Another new disease was thwarted by emergency surgery!

What's the point of this sob story? First, if you have had problems with vegetables this summer, you are not alone! Everybody is complaining about the crummy weather. If you've had NEW, or abnormal, problems with vegetables I would like to hear from you. Email me at jsreill@charter.net. Let me know what's troubling your vegetables and I will compile a list. As MGs we need to be on the front lines learning about new problems so we can be ready to help.

By all means try diagnosing disease problems in your garden. OSU's Plant Disease Index is a wonderful resource; [http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/plant_index.cfm](http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/plant_index.cfm). Another excellent site is UC Davis; [http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/GENERAL/search.html](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/GENERAL/search.html). Both of these sites have photos and detailed descriptions to help you.

Finally, don't give up on edibles. Sometimes it is a huge challenge but there is always another summer coming, bringing new disease resistant varieties and new methods to manage problems.

Sally Reill

Library News

This summer we librarians have been taking inventory of exactly what books LCMGA owns and making sure that all of our books are accounted for. We've grouped books on shelves based on general topics and added some new subcategory signage on the edge of each shelf to help you find books more easily. During this process we've also moved a few books to different shelves and taken some out of service.

A new category on the bottom left shelf is PLANT SPECIFIC. These books each cover a single plant group such as roses, camellias, clematis, daylilies or rhododendrons.

If you live right on the coast or one of the bays there is another subcategory that may interest you. We have three books on native dune and wetland plants. These are now located in special small binders on the upper left corner of the green label shelf with easy to read titles.

It is easy to rely on the Internet to answer just one question, but our books are a wonderful resource for in depth information. If you are interested in a particular subject you may find more information in our library than is easily available on the Internet.

Sally Reill and Diana Pinto
Here are just a few of the things we learned on our guided behind-the-scenes tour at Gathering Together Farms in Philomath. Owner and farmer John Eveland marched us through tomato-laden hoop houses, across acres of seemingly endless manicured crops, and bounced us across farm roads in the back of his hay truck. Might have been just another day at the farm for John, but it was a day of amazement and fun for us MGs:

1. Farmer John is a friendly, funny, laid back guy who keeps ALL the operational farm information in his head. His cell phone rings constantly, and he either picks up, or not, depending on who is calling. If it’s an employee or fellow farmer, he’s there with an answer. But a temperamental chef from Portland, maybe not.

2. Slinging mud to create a shade cover on the plastic of a big hoop house is much cheaper than a shade cloth, and much more fun.

3. Floating row covers keep maggots out of turnips. “Oh, if you see a hole in a turnip in the store don’t buy it, it’s likely a maggot bore right into it,” Farmer John advised.

4. GTF’s heirloom tomato cultivars are meticulously grafted onto soil-borne disease resistant sturdy root stock. And does it ever work!

5. Green plastic around plants lets in 80% of the beneficial light spectrum yet prevents weeds from growing. It also keeps the soil and roots warm.

6. Put potatoes (in a hoop house) on top of the dirt and then cover with leaf mulch, followed with black plastic until the plants start to emerge. Then remove plastic and use floating row cover. Very good results and quicker harvest.

7. Seed saving is a big part of the GTF program. With help from Frank Morton of Wild Garden Seed in Philomath, seeds are bred, rogued, saved, sowed, and sold.

8. Even GTF and Farmer John experience failures but what they learn leads to better crops in the future. Some isolated hoop houses are used to purposefully stress and disease crops in order to learn what preventatives do and don’t work.

9. The food at the restaurant is great! And don’t forget to pick up some GTF vegetables after lunch.

Mary Cutting and Nancy Dixon

Climate Friendly Gardening Publication Available

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) has announced the release of the "Climate-Friendly Gardener: A Guide to Combating Global Warming from the Ground Up." This science-based but accessible guide explains how home gardeners can avoid contributing to climate change by using certain techniques and tools that are more climate friendly than others. The Climate-Friendly Gardener discusses the connection between land use and global warming, and offers recommendations for conscientious gardeners to maximize the amount of heat-trapping carbon dioxide their green spaces store and minimize the other global-warming gases gardens can emit. The article discusses gardening tips on: choosing low-emission garden products and practices, adding better soil amendments, use of plants and shrubs native to the location, recycling and composting, and reducing use of fertilizers in lawns due to trapping of nitrous oxide emissions. See complete article online at http://www.ucusa.org/food_and_agriculture/what_you_can_do/the-climate-friendly-gardener.html.

Submitted by Sam Angima

Take the UCS Climate Friendly Garden Pledge: To build healthy soil that keeps heat-trapping carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere while reducing the need for herbicides, insecticides, and fertilizer which generate global warming pollutants.
Beyond Backyard Basics:

The Science of Sustainability

The concept of "sustainability" continues to be the hot topic in the Master Gardener world. Like many of us, I suspect when we hear or see that word our eyes roll, ever so slightly. Well, the first workshop I attended on Thursday was entitled: "Beyond the Basics of Sustainable Landscape Design, Installation, and Maintenance" with Weston Miller. What Dr. Miller did was to better nail down the definition of sustainability, which is the simple notion that you do not bring more matter onto your property and you do not take matter off your property. You use what you have completely and do not appreciably add to it. Having a conceptual grasp of this word made me say, "There, I think I've got it." The biggest conclusion I came to is: I cannot be sustainable in the even close-to-purest sense on this 100’ x 100’ property. We recycle; we compost; we share plants; we eat out of our garden as much as possible; we coexist with the deer and raccoons. We inform ourselves and we do the best that we can.

The rest of the day was spent with Rob Emanuel in the Rain Garden Workshop, Parts 1 and 2. We learned that he has property just south of Tillamook and spends about half his time there. So he knows the territory. The concept of rain gardens is known to Lincoln County so I won't dwell. In this workshop we went outside and did the engineering of making a rain garden including computing slope, distances, area, and amount of water falling off a roof. Now our job is to translate all that to our demo garden. We have the roof of the greenhouse, we have the rain barrels, and we have an area. Just need to re-excavate the area, put in more soil, get some plants, and wait for it to rain. Shouldn't be a problem there, huh?

The Thursday evening garden tour took us to three local gardens that are just about as sustainable as you can get, right in Corvallis, not out in the country. Knowledgeable, hardworking folks who are eager to share their place greeted us with lavender cookies and lemonade.

The Spotted Wing Drosophila workshop with Amy Dreves from OSU Extension was on the roster for Friday morning. Dr. Dreves gave every extension office a notebook that carefully describes the critters and gives careful identification equipment. It is in our extension office if you are interested. Those of you with fruit trees might be especially interested.

Friday afternoon’s session was a humorous look by Maurice Horn, the co-owner of Joy Creek Nursery in Scappoose, at the psychology of his customers and what they either buy or think they are buying. He is a clematis specialist and his nursery sounds like a showcase. I'm looking up geocaches to hunt to get Rick up there!

Lincoln County was honored with the winning chapter display. Way to go Linda Cook! Lincoln County was also honored with the Karl Carlson Award. The application was written by Rick Anderson to provide signage for the Lincoln City Demonstration Garden. Precise plans are yet to be made.

Then the Lincoln County Master Gardeners of the Year were announced. Much to our surprise, Gail Langelotto Rhodaback called out "Rick and Janet Anderson" from the stage. Thank you so much for this honor. We are so proud to be representatives of this wonderful chapter full of bright, energetic people who have a common goal.

And the final announcement made at the banquet on Friday night is that the Gardener’s Mini-College for 2011 is coming to Newport. A discussion will be made at the board meeting on August 24 with a representative from OMGA about what LCMGA can do to help. It should be fun and already people are suggesting ideas for an educational and fun event for all.

Janet Anderson

Editor’s Note: In fall of 2009, several spotted wing drosophila were captured in my husband John’s Malaise trap in our yard in Waldport. John sent them to Oregon Dept. of Agriculture in Salem for identification. As of August 27, 2010, these were not indicated on Oregon maps of SWD locations, but Amy Dreves informed me they would be added. More about these flies can be found at http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/IPPM/DP.
Our local Lincoln City Sunday Market is thriving, growing ever larger as the summer begins to wind down and the tourists converge upon us by the hundreds. Last year we had 17 vendors, which included our Master Gardener Help Desk. This summer we have well over 50 vendors and growers; all familiar faces, friendly and helpful to us.

The MG Help Desk is up and running each and every Sunday, staffed by at least three, sometimes even four Master Gardeners, willing and able to provide non-biased science based gardening information. Non-biased...Really? Well, at least we try. What we can’t figure out on the spot, we bag up and write down the necessary information and send it down to the extension office. We always try to have an arsenal of gardening books with us, besides our standard market library. We purchased *Weeds of The West* while attending the Gardener’s Mini-College. It’s already proven to be quite helpful to us.

Janet and I appreciate all of you out there from far and wide who continue to call and email us about working the Lincoln City Farmers’ Market. Some of you have helped staff our help desk two, three and even four times now. This has given us a great opportunity to get to know you better. Thanks!

Sunday, August 8, was our busiest day ever. It was almost non-stop questions, from 8:30 AM before the market even opened up for business to 2 PM as we were busy closing things down. Questions ranged from: Can we really grow hops on the coast? Where can I find information about how to build a garden entry gate? Why do my rhodies have holes in the leaves? Why are my tomatoes still green? Our most popular questions are usually about Bill Biernecki’s famous worm bins or his mini-cloche. Both of those items draw people in by the bushel. There’s even a vendor at our market who happens to sell red wigglers—three dozen for $2.75—and reminds us weekly that he’s still got them.

Each week Janet Anderson brings a different colored potted *Streptocarpus* to set on our table. We hang a gallon bag of hops from our mini-cloche. We hand out OSU Extension Office business cards. We send people from the market down to the demo garden to conduct tours and answer questions for interested folks. Our garden rain barrels are a big hit. Master Gardeners from other states show up to say hello and talk about the differences between our climates. I firmly believe that we Master Gardeners need a secret handshake to help identify one another.

Janet and I want to thank all of you for the honor that you bestowed upon us at Mini-College—Lincoln County Master Gardeners of the Year. We hope to live up to your expectations. We enjoy being Master Gardeners, enjoy working with so many of you, love getting to know you and especially enjoy all the many friends that we’ve made over these last three years. LCMGA is an awesome program and we look forward with great enthusiasm to our next project—the Spring Garden Sale.

Rick Anderson
Tansy Ragwort Re-emerges in Oregon, But Still Controllable
Tim Butler, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) [edited for space]

The poisonous, noxious weed pops up again, but biocontrol should keep it in check

ODA – Farmers and ranchers in Western Oregon this summer are noticing patches of the telltale bright yellow flowers of tansy ragwort—a noxious weed once the scourge of the 1970s. But the experts at the Oregon Department of Agriculture say it’s no cause for alarm as successful biological control agents should keep the plant from making an unwelcome comeback to prior levels. As the tansy ragwort population grows, so do the populations of flea beetles and cinnabar moths that feed off the weed. It’s all part of a natural cycle, and ODA’s Noxious Weed Control Program believes the good insects will maintain the upper hand.

In the last couple of weeks, ODA has been receiving calls from landowners or their neighbors anxious about the return of tansy ragwort, now in a very visible stage. The outbreaks are spotty and localized. Still, many Oregonians remember the bad old days when tansy was so invasive in Western Oregon that cattle and horse owners reported more than $4 million in losses each year as their animals grazed on infected pastures. Too often, the leaves of tansy grew among the grasses consumed by livestock in the spring, leading to sickness and death.

"The late spring and early summer rain has led to a resurgence in some areas," says ODA entomologist Eric Coombs. "It’s counterintuitive to just let it go right now, but the whole premise of biological control is to allow the insects present to naturally build up on their own."

Coombs has personally visited many of the sites where tansy has popped up this year and has found the good bugs present in all cases. This comes after intensive efforts years ago to release insects in infested areas where the flea beetle and cinnabar moth are now established as part of the natural environment. Due to the cool, wet spring, cinnabar moth populations are very low this year. However, the flea beetles are still active.

"I think we've done our job, now it's time to wait and let the insects do their job," says Coombs. "It's all a natural cycle. We will get these flare-ups of tansy ragwort that will move around from field to field depending on factors like the weather or how the field is used. It might be another year or two before the insects build up in numbers again and knock the weed back down. It would take three to five years if the natural enemies had to be reintroduced."

Tansy ragwort has the distinction of being the only weed for which a Governor's Task Force was created, leading to a control program housed in ODA that has made effective use of biological control. “Since the mid-1980s, there has been an estimated $5 million annual benefit from the biological control of tansy ragwort throughout Western Oregon,” says Coombs.

The cinnabar moth eats the leaves of tansy ragwort. With the flea beetle working on the roots and ragwort seed fly eating the seeds, the fearsome threesome has worked wonders. It has been almost too good. Much of the weed has been destroyed over the last 25 or so years that there hasn’t been enough tansy to maintain high populations of the bugs. The result this summer has been a sporadic but definite reappearance of the poisonous weed. "As long as we can suppress the weed below an economically damaging level, we'll be satisfied," says Tim Butler, supervisor of the Weed Control Program.

Tansy ragwort contains poisonous alkaloids that can kill livestock if ingested. Three decades ago, when much of Western Oregon was covered with the weed, cattle and horses were dropping in alarming numbers. Oregon doesn’t appear to be returning to that scenario despite this year’s resurgence of tansy. ODA will be working with Oregon State University’s Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to see if any documented cases of tansy poisoning of livestock are reported.

Pulling or mowing are always available options, but the latter only leads to the weed growing back stronger and heartier next year. Herbicides can be used to control tansy ragwort but need to be applied in early spring before the stalks are formed or late fall after some re-growth of seedlings and rosettes.

Until then, the best advice is to practice patience and wait for the good bugs to beat the bad weeds.

For a tansy ragwort profile, go to http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_tansyragwort.shtml

For more information, contact Tim Butler at (503) 986-4621.