Master Gardener Week in Lincoln County

Sam Angima, MG Agent

2010 has been a great year for Master Gardeners. We had 24 new apprentices join our active group of Master Gardeners and are helping us in our volunteer activities through farmers' markets and demonstration gardens besides helping in the office.

Each year since 2007, the Lincoln County Commissioners dedicate one week as the Master Gardener week in Lincoln County. What does this Master Gardener week mean to us and the community? Let us look at what the proclamation says:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whereas:</th>
<th>The Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener Program was initiated in Lincoln County in 1988</th>
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<tr>
<td>Whereas:</td>
<td>The OSU Master Gardener Program is an integral and important component of the Oregon State University Extension Service educational efforts throughout Lincoln County; and</td>
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<td>Whereas:</td>
<td>Approximately 425 volunteers have been trained through this outstanding program and there are currently over 149 active Master Gardeners; and</td>
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<td>Whereas:</td>
<td>Candidates are granted the title &quot;OSU Master Gardener&quot; upon successfully completing a required course of training, passing a comprehensive examination, and fulfilling required hours of volunteer service; and</td>
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<td>Whereas:</td>
<td>Environmental education is important to Master Gardeners, and they participate annually in educational outreach programs; and</td>
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<td>Whereas:</td>
<td>Master Gardeners are generous humanitarians who volunteer their time to the protection and beautification of our environment, teaching sustainable gardening practices; and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whereas:</td>
<td>Lincoln County commends all of the OSU Master Gardeners for their invaluable contributions to our communities and diligent services to the citizens of the county</td>
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Now therefore: We ------ as commissioners of Lincoln County, hereby proclaim July 4-10th 2010 to be

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE MASTER GARDENER WEEK

In Lincoln County and encourage all Lincoln County Citizens to join in this observance.

So essentially, all residents of Lincoln County are asked to observe this week. So what do we do as Master Gardeners in observance of this week? For this year we have arranged open houses for the community to come and visit and see what we have been doing. See the calendar at left for the schedule for the open houses.

I will request each Master Gardener show up at their closest demonstration garden or all three gardens and help welcome visitors and friends. We should walk visitors around the garden and explain why we are growing what is currently in the raised beds. This is the time also for apprentices to explain either by talking or displaying signs showing their discoveries versus their initial "dream" ideas. We should encourage the visitors to ask questions about their home gardens as well as what they see in the demonstration. If we are not able to answer questions on the spot, fill in the client request form and send it to the office as a new question. We should also use this opportunity to recruit new class members for 2011, and encourage the support of others as Friends of Master Gardeners (allowed by our by-laws) who contribute toward our success. Remember to use the title "OSU Master Gardeners" when speaking to visitors and friends. Please take pictures of activities you get involved in. We are planning on having an expert document our progress as part of our marketing strategy for future programs. Your pictures could be turned into a movie for this cause.

I have to tell you that due to the good efforts you have had in the community, I was approached by a big land- owner for us to expand our activities beyond the demo gardens and even venture into mid-size composting. This is worth considering given that our skills as a group are enormous. This goes to show how much the community thinks about our activities and how they want to help us grow beyond what we have.

Have a glorious time this Master Gardener week; I hope the week will be warm and sunny.

Sam Angima, OSU Extension Agent
It's been a long wet growing season so far this year and most crops are behind schedule and harvests are suffering. Not the case for blueberries along the Oregon coast; some are predicting a bumper crop this year, in part due to the wet spring. *Vaccinium* is the family of all blueberries of which there are over 450 varieties. In fact the blueberry is one of the few fruits native to North America.
WHY INSTALL A RAIN BARREL?

Taking a little deviation from my regular Notes from the President, I thought you might be interested in learning about collecting rain water. My good friend and mentor Sam Angima and I recently collaborated on how to build a cloche for an OSU publication. We are now venturing into the area of rain water collection using rain barrels. For our gardening purposes, a rain barrel is any above-ground container modified to receive, store and distribute runoff, usually from roofs, for non-drinking uses.

We just have to look outside to know that the Pacific Northwest is rainy and wet (especially this year), but in the summer months we can actually have drought conditions. Saving rain water can be an efficient and inexpensive way to reduce our use of municipal water, and in many situations, precious well water. Sam and I researched several designs and all had their advantages and disadvantages, so we kind of made our plan up as we went. If you are handy, it should be easy to make your own custom system.

Here is our idea of an efficient water barrel system. We chose to connect multiple barrels in a horizontal position, enabling us to use the existing fill caps on the top end of the barrels. The fill caps are pre-threaded to accept a 3/4-inch PVC fitting that a hose bib will attach to, eliminating the need to drill a hole in the barrel.

Make sure that you have space below the hose bib to drain the water. You can connect a hose to the hose bib to take water from the barrels, but the flow of water will stop once the water level in the barrels drops below the hose end. You also need to vent each barrel to relieve barrel pressure so that they will completely fill.

Roofs can collect a lot of water in a short time, so using an overflow or diverter is essential. Examples: a rainfall of 1/10 of an inch on a 15’x50’ roof amounts to over 40 gallons of water; or 0.3 inches from 300 square feet of roof will fill a 55 gallon rain barrel. When filled with water, barrels may weigh up to 400 pounds so a stable and level surface is required to prevent tipping. Rain barrels use gravity to supply water, thus the area you plan to water needs to be below the level of the barrel bottom.

What are the benefits of rain barrels?

1. Rain water is free.
2. Rain water is naturally soft and more oxygenated than tap water.
3. Rain water is free of chlorine, fluoride and salts.
4. Rain water collection reduces runoff and storm water pollution, saves water for dry spells and can reduce your water bill (especially in the summer).

You can visit the Lincoln City Demonstration Garden to see a working design of collecting rain water. Also, there is a workshop planned later this year that will answer many questions regarding the benefits of rain barrels and how the collected water can be used.

Bill B
Summer may almost be here! The days are getting longer and warmer, flowers are blooming, and we are getting fresh produce from our Farmer’s Markets. It must be summer!

The Help Desk is in need of volunteers for July. Most days of the month are available. Please check the Famundo site and your calendars for dates that you may be able to help out. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

The Help Desk continues to provide a service to our local community and requests will increase as summer progresses. Once again, thanks for all that you do! You are appreciated!

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
Office Scheduler

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!
LIBRARY NEWS

The LCMGA library of reference material is organized to make it easier to find books that answer your questions; it's not like a regular library with the Dewey Decimal System. It is devoted to one single subject: GARDENING. We've broken it down to general topics, color-coded by shelf. From there we have added a few subcategories to make it even easier to find what you are looking for. Each book has a matching color code on the spine making it easier to return it to the right shelf.

This month we are highlighting PROPAGATION. You will find this subject on the TECHNIQUES shelf. We recently added the latest copy of Propagation of Pacific Northwest Native Plants. Other titles include: Creative Propagation, Cuttings Through the Year, The New Seed- Starter's Handbook and Sally's new personal favorite book, The American Horticulture Society: Plant Propagation.

If you are interested in propagation, Cuttings through the Year is a good place to start. It is a small, handy month-by-month list of Northwest plants, organized by Latin and common names. For really comprehensive information on all types of propagation the AHS: Plant Propagation is excellent. It has very detailed color photos describing the MANY techniques of propagation and which methods apply to what plants. It also rates the difficulty of each plant and how best to handle it. In looking through the books mentioned above there are many plants that are common in our area that can be propagated through the summer and into the fall by one method or another.

Every serious vegetable gardener should see The New Seed Starters Handbook. It contains all sorts of information on every aspect of growing plants from seed; collecting and saving seeds, growing in the greenhouse (cloche), light, temperature, transplanting and solving problems.

For many gardeners the adventure lies in trying new things. If you feel intimidated, try something really easy to gain confidence. If you fail, try again and when you succeed, what a great feeling! These books will guide you in when, and how, to take cuttings of every sort, divide perennials, layer, graft, collect and sow seeds. You can also learn to make your own soil mixes, what tools to use and how best to treat each particular plant.

Although the books must stay in the office for help desk use, you are welcome to come in and browse our collection "after hours." If you're looking for information on a particular subject, come see if the LCMGA has just the book you need.

Sally Reill and Diana Pinto
Simple Pleasures

Take a moment to think about what simple pleasures bring a smile to your face. They come in all shapes and sizes. A pleasure to some might be driving into a gas station and noticing that a gallon of gas has dropped 5 cents. But I’m not talking about monetary surprises or pleasures, even though they are nice.

I’m talking about those amazing little things that can brighten your day. They can include a fragrance that reminds you of a special place. It could be something as simple as the buzz of a bee, the cheerful song of your favorite bird, or even the rustle of leaves by a gentle breeze. You get the picture, that something special that is yours alone, a personal thing. But I would be remiss if I didn’t include those perfect times that have been shared with someone dear to you.

One simple pleasure that all of us can agree on is the return of sunshine, even if it’s a short visit. It always amazes me how it can rain for 40 days and 40 nights, and then the first hint of the sun’s warmth instantaneously makes me forget about all those dreary days. June 4th was such a day. Everything seemed clean and fresh and the sky seemed endless as it opened up with the bluest of blues. I seem to find myself saying “this is why I live here.” Amnesia can be a good thing.

Pleasures can be the changing of the seasons. For instance, there is nothing like those first real days of spring, when lifeless branches and twigs start to awaken with new growth. New buds magically appear. It can be the softness of the unfurled fern, or the bright bud of one of your many favorites. Spring also brings new hope for the gardener. It is time to put away the seed catalogs and get your hands happily dirty.

Once again you get to don your usual gardening garb. If you’re like me, you try not to dress too nerdy just in case someone shows up unexpectedly. It’s not that I am vain; it’s just that I don’t want to fit into the retiree stereotype of the full-armed leisure suit, or the tatty sweats that are worn until the clock strikes high noon or the five o’clock news (whichever comes first). Don’t snicker, you know what I’m talking about!

What about those “hot-new” tools that have laid in waiting? The ones that make snipping or cutting an effortless joy! Consider the “new” hose that allows water to flow freely without the stubbornness of the many crimps and duct-taped holes that make you look like you’re trying to lasso something. I won’t even mention the many “*#&@” words that accompany your wrangler-like pose. Happiness about a new tool isn’t just a guy thing!

Since there are too many pleasures to publish in one month, I will close and hope that in the meantime you are experiencing the pure pleasure that gardening can bring.
OMGA Board Report of Recent LCMGA Activities Submitted to OMGA for the June 2010 meeting.

On May 15 the Lincoln County Master Gardeners held their 11th Annual Spring Garden Sale. The event was, once again, a resounding success. Funds raised from the plant sale go toward supporting our three new demonstration gardens in Yachats, Newport, and Lincoln City. The Yaquina View Lighthouse project also receives funds. Other funds go out to local groups who apply for grants. Scholarships for the Master Gardener class are also funded.

Our new demonstration gardens proceed on time: Yachats has big infrastructure projects going with gravel being laid down for access, raised bed construction, and irrigation. They are also planting natives around the outside for wind protection and for ornamentation. This garden is within a few blocks of the ocean and presents a great challenge.

The Newport Demo garden has 9 raised beds including 2 with trellises, 6 wine barrels, a rock garden in progress, many plant starts in their greenhouse, and many student projects taking shape.

The Lincoln City Demo garden has its cloche built and nearly full. The greenhouse is using water from the two rain barrels to water everything: a native plant garden (a 2009 student project moved to this site); the potato beds with a “trash can” demo and two different raised bed projects are showing green; and the 3-bin composting system and one Earth Machine are in place. A large comprehensive informational sign about composting is installed.

The Yaquina View Lighthouse pioneer garden is ready for the plants that second graders from Sam Case Elementary school will plant this spring.

There are lots of sights to visit in Lincoln County. Oh, yes, there’s also the Pacific Ocean...

Janet Anderson
OMGA Representative
Lincoln County Master Gardeners Association
Amazing Plants
Acacia A Humble Start

Acacia, native to much of Africa and the Middle East, has one unusual means of regeneration: rather than relying on seed dispersal by wind, they are particularly well-adapted to dispersal by elephant droppings. Unless the seeds pass through the elephant's alimentary canals, they are unlikely to germinate. One theory is it might have something to do with the action of digestive acids on the seed coat.

A casual observer can see tiny acacias sprouting merrily and producing little pea-shaped leaves atop a generous banquet of dried elephant stools. This may seem like a lowly beginning for a tree that is one of the few great timber species of the Arabian deserts.

Some Acacia species use an ingenious strategy to fend off damage by enemies. The tree allows colonies of stinging ants to set up house in its spiny, swollen thorns. In exchange for a home and nourishing nectar, the militant ants attack other insects, herbivorous animals, and even people who threaten the tree. The acacia can be assured of safety, without having to do anything to protect itself.

Source: Catnip and Kerosene Grass by Gina Mohammed, PhD

Sharon Casteel

Solar Power Awarded to the Newport Demonstration Garden

The Oregon Master Gardener Association has approved an Educator Grant from OMGA to Agent Sam Angima for $500. The grant will be used to buy a solar panel to provide power for venting and proper heating for the greenhouse at the new demonstration garden at Oregon Coast Community College in Newport.

The solar panel unit (45 watts) will include a panel, battery, and inverter. The unit will serve to demonstrate how homeowners can adopt this technology in their own gardens, and is another step forward in the garden's sustainability. Congratulations to all involved!
Hanging baskets, overflowing with abundant richly-colored flowers, are valued summer-time features in many gardens.

**Choose a container** A suitable container is large enough to last through the entire growing season as well as light-weight enough to hoist into place. A plain container works well because, within a short time, the pot will be completely covered by your trailing plants. Containers come in a variety of shapes, sizes and materials. Wood, sphagnum moss, and unglazed clay or terra cotta, can dry out quickly. These can be lined (usually with a perforated plastic) to keep them moist longer. Realize that clay and terra cotta will be very heavy after they are planted and watered. Select containers that fit your style, décor, and landscape. Realize that a 10-inch container may need to be watered every 1 to 2 days. Smaller containers will require even more frequent watering.

**Use a potting mix** Use a good quality potting mix to fill your container. These products are formulated to be very coarse, thereby ensuring good drainage in containers. A well-drained mix goes a long way toward promoting healthy plants. If you re-use the container in another season, consider replacing the potting mix. Replacement would be critical to success if the previous planting had a root disease; if so, also wash the container well. Don’t use garden soil in containers because its fine texture severely limits drainage and, thus, inhibits root growth. Garden soil may also bring in disease, insects, and weed seeds. Be aware that the oft-suggested “coarse stuff in the bottom of the container for drainage” is wrong. Because of the dynamics of water movement within a container, that coarse material will inhibit drainage.

**Use fertilizer** Get your plants off to a running start by mixing fertilizer into the potting mix before planting. A slow-release formula designed to persist for 3 to 4 months works well because it will last for the entire season. After all the plants are in place, settle the potting mix around their root balls with water enriched with half-strength soluble fertilizer.

**Choose your plants** It is essential that the plants in an individual container do well under the same growing conditions be that sun or shade, moist or relatively dry. Also keep in mind the growth habit of the plants, such as upright or trailing. You can combine annuals and perennials in an individual pot for just a single season then, at the end of the season, you can replace the annuals for a new, fresh look.

**Design and plant** After you select a planter, and have the plants and potting mix at hand, follow these steps for success:

1. Pour out the amount of potting mix you think you’ll need, then mix in a 3- to 4-month slow-release formula fertilizer; follow label instructions for the amount to use.
2. Pour just enough potting mix into your container so that the plants can be set in place and still be 1 inch below the rim of your container. (Be aware that if you completely fill the container, you’ll have to repeatedly dig out potting mix to make room for the next root ball.)
3. Set the tall upright plants in the center or back of the container, fill in with clumpers next, then finish with trailing plants toward the container’s edge. To create a balanced look, place two or more of the same plant (or several plants of similar size, foliage, and color) opposite each other in the container.
4. To complete the planting, fill in around the plants with extra potting mix to meld the combination and to cover any exposed roots. When everything is in place, the potting mix should be about 1 inch below the rim of the planter to allow space for watering.
5. Settle the potting mix around the root balls with fertilizer-enriched water mixed at half-strength.
6. Hang your container where the sun or shade conditions match your plants’ requirements. Now you can sit back, relax and enjoy!

For tips on maintaining your hanging baskets and suggested plants for hanging baskets, see the entire article at [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/sites/default/files/Hanging_Baskets_O.pdf](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/sites/default/files/Hanging_Baskets_O.pdf)
Scientific advances are leading us to ever better practices in home horticulture, and Oregon State University is where this happening. These advances are taking us beyond the basics of backyard gardening. And, are increasing our knowledge and understanding of “best practices” in our backyards.

What are these scientific advances? How do they apply to my backyard? How do I know my garden is sustainable? How do I go beyond a basic backyard to a sustainable garden? Can sustainable practices enhance our environment? Improve our economy and ecology? Protect the food we grow and eat? Ensure future generations enjoy healthy, bountiful harvests?

Answers to these questions and more will be presented and explored at the 27th Annual Gardeners Mini-College, July 28th through July 31st on the campus of OSU. Come; join us in a quest for the answers. Meet others who share this quest. Sign up early for class selection, making sure you get your first choice. Understanding the science of sustainability will let us change the climate one backyard at a time.

Silent Auction and Door Prizes for Mini-College

Since the Mini-College is the major fundraiser for OMGA for the year, we could really help by donating substantial items for the silent auction and door prizes. If you have ever attended, you know that door prizes are given out intermittently the whole time. Please contact Janet Anderson at beachlady868@embarqmail.com or 541-996-8937 with your contributions.

Thanking you in advance, Janet Anderson
Lincoln County
Master Gardener™ Association

BOARD MEETING Monday, July 12, 2010
9:30 AM/12 Noon
OSU Extension Office

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes – June 14, 2010

III. Reports of Officers

A. Treasurer Cathy Fitzhugh
B. Vice President Pam McElroy
C. State Representative Janet Anderson

IV. Extension Agent Sam Angima

V. Reports of Committees

A. Demonstration Garden Coordinators
   Master Gardener Week Update
B. Other Committees

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Coordinating requests for limited grant funds
B. Association Fund Raising Guidelines

VII. New Business

Chapter Insurance update Bill B

VIII. Calendar

July 12 LCMG Board Meeting 9:30 AM
July 16-17-18 Town & Country Fair (Help Desk)
July 20 Thyme Garden Field Trip
July 28-31 Mini-College
Aug 9 LCMG Board Meeting 9:30 AM

IX. Adjournment

Biernacki, McElroy, Olsen, Fitzhugh, Schatz, Anderson, Orr
Cook/Durkee, Dallas, Lacy, Angima