It’s Time to Pay Your Dues!

Are you a member of the Lincoln County Master Gardener Association (LCMGA)?

If so, this is a reminder that in order to remain an active member in both the LCMGA and our state association, Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA), your dues need to be paid during the month of January. Also, all new members from the 2010 Master Gardener class are reminded to pay your dues at this time too.

“What do our membership dues do?” We spell it out on p. 11 with your membership renewal form. In a nutshell, our membership dues go toward support of our LCMGA operations, our annual fundraisers, and projects like our network of demonstration, community, and educational gardens in Lincoln County. With your help, MG volunteers drive the association to bigger and better goals every year.

Every penny we raise is a plant in the right direction.

NOTICE

Rivers Edge Chevre farm in Logsden is offering goat bedding for use on gardens. The bedding is a mix of wheat straw, alfalfa, goat manure. Contact Pat Morford at (541) 444-1362 or email threering@peak.org.

Oh No! Not Another New Year’s Resolution!!

You resolve that you will immediately plant every plant you buy, but then create a nursery holding bed in your garden to hold over those plants that you don’t have the time or place to plant and change your resolution to “I will care for the plants I buy, even if I don’t plant them right away.” Whew! "Did you Know" contributor Michael Noack probes potted plant points on p. 7.

Calendar Highlights

January 10, Monday

LCMGA Board Meeting, 9:30 AM-NOON. OSU Extension Office Conference Room. All members invited and encouraged to attend. (See meeting agenda p. 12.)

January 11, Tuesday

Ooh La-La!

It’s that time again—2011 brings a new class of apprentice Master Gardeners in training. (See class schedule p. 9.)

Look for Riley the Naked Gardener on p. 8. This guy knows how to enjoy the great outdoors!
**Editorial Policy AND DISCLAIMER**

Contributions from readers are welcomed and encouraged. All submissions are subject to approval of the editors and extension agent, must serve the mission of the association, and are subject to space requirements. Opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent policies of OSU Extension Service—Master Gardener Program or LCMGA. Please limit article size 350-450 words or less.

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### 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Claudette Schroeder, hairbows@jnrcom.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:** Donna Davis, annodd@charter.net  
**Past Presidents:** Bill Biernacki and Charles Dallas  
**OMGA State Representative:** Cathi Bloc, bblock@peak.org  
**Alternate State OMGA Representative:** Betty Orr, bettyorr@charter.net  
**Historian:** Diana Barnes, grammydiana@charter.net

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### 2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**LCMG Class Co-Chairs:** Claudette Schroeder; Linda Cook, gnlncook@gmail.com  
**Office Scheduler:** Alice Mitchell, mitchellor@earthlink.net  
**Librarians:** Diana Pinto; Sally Reill, dgpinto@peak.org; jsreill@charter.net  
**Spring Garden Sale:** TBD  
**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–Jill Johnson, jilmjohnson101@yahoo.com  
**Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Project:** Liz Olsen, liztolsen@charter.net  
**Publicity:** Michael Noack, rfox creek@peak.org; Liz Olsen; Linda Cook; Bonnie Saxton, bsaxton@teleport.com  
**Mini-College:** Emilia Lacy, lacycae@AOL.com, Cathi Block, or Betty Orr

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Toxic wolf lichen (Letharia vulpina) was the most widely used dye lichen for native peoples in North America. The common name reflects its traditional use as a poison for wolves and was mixed with rattlesnake venom to make poison arrowheads by the Achomawi peoples.
As the new president of the Lincoln County Master Gardeners Association (LCMGA), I would like to thank everyone for your support and encouragement. I look forward to working with our board and all members as we embark on a new year. A special thanks to our past presidents, Bill Biernecki, Charles Dallas, Emilia Lacy, Sally Noack and Sally Reill. I am grateful for their example and counsel.

In the year ahead, we will have many opportunities and challenges. I’m confident that with the dedication, talent and good humor of our volunteers, we will once again reach new heights of accomplishment.

The new Master Gardener class begins January 11. Classes in water collection and worm bin construction are new this year. Back by popular demand, Morris Ostrofsky will give us all the buzz on bees. The class is still open to enrollment. Please get out the word, and introduce a new student to the wonderful world of Master Gardeners.

The Seafood & Wine Festival is a new upcoming fundraiser for LCMGA. In conjunction with Columbia Winery, our booth will sell wine and other interesting items (TBA). Second VP Jeff Olsen chairs the Festival committee, and he’s looking for a “few good wine pourers” to staff this event February 25-27.

Master Gardeners have a full year of activities ahead. The Spring Garden Sale, Landscape & Garden Expo, and the Fall Bulb Sale allow us to interact with the community and raise funds for the association. Our three farmers’ markets, three demonstration gardens, and Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Garden are excellent examples of our commitment to community education. The Extension Office Help Desk continues to be the main source for community gardening information.

The biggest new event coming to Lincoln County this year is OSU Mini-College. OMSA has direct responsibility to conduct Mini-College. LCMGA volunteers will support those efforts and help with local activities. Several members have stepped up to chair and serve on committees. It is a great opportunity for our Master Gardeners to shine and our county to welcome visitors.

Be sure to spread the word that Mini-College is open to everyone; no need to be a Master Gardener. For more information, contact the Mini-College liaison team.

We all know one or more Master Gardeners who, for whatever reason, have become inactive in the association. Let them know Mini-College is coming to Newport, and tell them about all the other great activities scheduled for this year.

Let’s look forward to sharing a great year together.

Happy New Year to all Master Gardeners and our friends!

Claudette
Selecting seeds for the coming season is an exciting time of the horticultural year. The success or failure of a vegetable garden can often hinge on the kind and quality of the seeds you buy. Small-space gardeners need vigorous seeds that are adapted to our climate. As a gardener seeking seeds, how do you know where to find what?? I've spent many years learning HOW to look for what I need so maybe I can be of some help.

In the larger scope of world food production home gardeners are small potatoes, but farming to produce seeds is a big business. A few big conglomerates produce most of the commercial farming seed, but most of those are not the best varieties for home gardens. Retail seed vendors who sell mainly to home gardeners buy seeds from primary sources and growers all over the world. There's been a lot of consolidation in seed production over the past few decades and seeds are getting more expensive, particularly hybrids. Research and development to create new varieties, and maintain uniform and pure existing varieties, is expensive. Many new varieties come from seed research at universities such as Oregon State University and other agricultural research programs.

When you walk through a big box store and see inexpensive seeds on a rack be aware that you are likely to get what you pay for. This generally applies to catalogs as well. These seeds will be older or mostly open-pollinated (non hybrid) varieties that have been around for decades, are mass-produced, and may not be suited to our climate. They can be "oldies but goodies" but they also can be quite variable in what they produce. There is rarely any quality control so if you don't get what you want you have wasted time and garden space.

Heirlooms are open-pollinated varieties that have been handed down through generations; they're currently in favor at farmers' markets. Some are good, some not so good. Many are adapted to specific climates so the regional adaptation should be considered. An heirloom that originated in Iowa or Kansas likely would not do well in a cool, damp climate.

Hybrid varieties are those that have been purposely cross-pollinated to improve on the good qualities of both parents. Traits such as better flavor, higher productivity and disease resistance are bred in. They will generally have a high percentage of seed viability, vigorous growth habits and qualities that are bred to suit particular climates or to be productive in less than ideal conditions.

If you are a small-space gardener who wants maximum production, it is wise to buy good seeds from reputable sources and avoid old generic varieties. Many of the better seed companies do their own field trials to see if plants live up to the description. They want the seed to perform as advertised so that you will come back and buy more. Be aware of glowing descriptions: varieties that are touted as being the "biggest," "best," "sweetest," "earliest" etc., may be not be so. When you get down to it, many vegetables are as good as the soil and climate conditions they are grown in.

To shop for seeds you first must make some decisions. Do you want to save the world, save old seed varieties, or save seeds for your own use? If so, open-pollinated seeds are what you need. Hybrids will not come true from seed so saving them is a gamble. Many NEWER open-pollinated (OP) vegetables such as lettuce, beans and peas are excellent.

For good production and fewer problems in our maritime climate, I am a big proponent of hybrids for certain vegetables. Reasons include earliness, disease resistance and fast production. Plant descriptions should say either "hybrid" or (F1); the latter indicates that they are the first generation and generally hand pollinated. Some of the important vegetables are tomatoes, cucumbers, leeks, sweet peppers, squash and corn.

Since there is so much more to know and learn, please check out the February Coastal Currants for more specific information on varieties and vendors. I'm looking forward to another season to try new things and improve on last year's results.

Happy New Growing Season!!

Sally Reill, LCMGA
The Help Desk is in need of volunteers for the Adopt-A-Week program. Two weeks in January are available, as well as all weeks in February, and just one week in March. We are well on the way of continuing Help Desk services to the community for 2011.

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.

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
Research from Oregon State University found that seed from 10 common brands of bird feed contained weed seeds. In this study, the samples contained seeds from more than 50 weed species, including 10 ranked among Oregon’s most noxious weeds. Each brand tested contained weed seeds, with six different weed species found in half or more of the samples. The weed seeds sprouted under bird feeders. These weeds can then spread to nearby fields and gardens. When landowners and farmers were questioned about the spread of a relatively new weed in the Pacific Northwest—velvetleaf (*Abutilon theophrasti*)—they found that it was growing in the soil beneath backyard bird feeders.

Bird feeding is a great family activity as it provides a local connection to nature. When feeding birds during winter, bird watching can be done from the warmth of the home. Hopefully, this will increase interest and encourage outdoor bird watching during the warmer months. Place bird feeding stations where they are protected from strong winter winds. Locate where trees and shrubs are growing, especially near evergreens. Plants provide protective cover and perching sites.

Some seeds are common in bird feed mixes, but are not especially good for attracting birds. Avoid seed mixes with high proportions of milo, wheat, oats, rice and rapeseed. Birds won’t eat most of these undesirable seeds, making the bargain price not such a great deal. There are many kinds of bird seed, but some are much better than others for attracting birds. For general purposes, a mixture of equal parts sunflower seed, millet and cracked corn is an excellent seed mix. There also are specialty bird seed products for attracting specific birds.

Use different types of feeders to increase the chance of attracting a variety of birds. For instance, goldfinches are easier to attract if fed niger thistle seed in a plexiglass tube feeder. Suet feeders, usually made from plastic-coated wire, are used to hold chunks of suet. Woodpeckers and nuthatches are fond of suet.

To reduce chances of buying bird seed that might contain weed seeds, try buying treated wild bird food mixtures such as baked seed mixes. While baked seed may seem a bit odd in the birdseed aisle, the reason some manufacturers now bake bird seed is to kill any weed seeds. If baked bird seed cannot be found, use a large tray or any form of containment under bird feeders to help keep seeds off of the ground. Selecting bird foods that won’t sprout, such as sunflower hearts and plain suet cakes, is another option. In spring and through summer, be sure to weed the area beneath feeders often to kill weed seedlings and prevent weeds developing seed or sending out rhizomes or sprouts which also produce new plants.

Sam Angima, Extension Agent

Source: Weed Science Society of America  [http://www.wssa.net/WSSA/PressRoom/WSSA_WildBirdFeed.htm](http://www.wssa.net/WSSA/PressRoom/WSSA_WildBirdFeed.htm)
I was walking around the property recently and realized that we still have more potted plants than I thought we did. We were well beyond our pot garden capacity. Whoops, maybe I should rephrase that: our container garden capacity. I know some of you reading this might have the same dilemma. Are we considered hoarders?

One of our priorities last year was to plant as many of our potted plants as possible. But it was somewhat like Disney’s *Sorcerer’s Apprentice*. The more we planted the more we had. As I write this I can almost hear the theme music running through my head.

I had a number of potted tree specimens that I found permanent homes for, but it seems as much as I try to decrease the numbers I seem to inherit more trees.

I currently have some Sitka Spruce and Western Redcedar (also called Canoe Cedar) adopted from the Spring Garden Sale. I know that Cathi Block and Elizabeth Griffith can sympathize with me. The three of us took home many poor unfortunate plants that no one else wanted. My concern is that they will be too pot-bound for next year’s sale so I have been repotting some into larger pots. If anyone would like a tree, please contact me.

I guess being pot bound (stuck in a pot) can be irritating to some plants. If plants could talk it would probably sound something like, “Will I ever grow up (reach my potential) to be like others of my species who enjoy the luxury of the sun and breeze through needles and leaves?” Or, “It must be nice to be able to stretch your roots and search for new and exciting nutrient rich soil.” It’s basically, “Hey buddy, plant me or trade me—I got feelings, too!”

In November I gathered up as many potted plants as space allowed in the greenhouse and garage to get them out of the cold elements of winter. So I have acted responsibly, no matter what the plants may say.

If you want to abuse, I mean purchase, plants like me, then don’t forget the Yamhill Native Plant Sale (www.yamhillswcd.org) coming in February. Yes, I will be buying plants but concentrating mainly on ones for the Spring Garden Sale. And I must shy away from purchasing any more trees. Stay tuned!
Riley (4) and Gus (2) are my grandsons. While exploring the backyard last spring, they saw a small building, “What is that??” and “Can we play inside??” This was said as one reached for the door handle. Kara (mom) said, “NO!!!” and explained it was a greenhouse for plants. Riley’s reply was, “It is not green and plants live outside!!” Logic from the mouths of babes.

This gave me an idea. What do you call a “greenhouse”? According to Webster’s Unabridged, it’s a structure “enclosed by glass and devoted to the cultivation and/or protection of tender plants or production of plants out of season.” It does not have to have electricity, but should have a means of maintaining heat. The rest is left to your imagination.

Mine is a basic overgrown cloche, made of leftover lumber and blocks and covered in clear rigid plastic panels. Last year it sprang some leaks, so we covered it with some heavy greenhouse plastic gleaned from the valley. An extension cord for power and two hanging lights help keep the temperature above 40 degrees in cold weather. One side is a trough where I mix soil and store compost. Above the trough is a shelf for stacking small pots. Overhead there is a pole to hang baskets. The other side has a bench with overhead lights and a small insulated tray for starting seeds and cuttings. Under the bench is storage for pots and buckets.

An Internet search provides an infinite variety of greenhouse designs, each to meet the needs of an equally infinite variety of individuals, from my overgrown cloche to complete ecosystems. These even have composting areas beneath the growing beds to utilize generated heat and fish growing ponds where the water is used to nourish the beds. Such are the dreams of a self-sustaining household.

Riley decided that he wanted a greenhouse. Knowing Mom and Dad can do anything, he wanted it right now. Using an old Tupperware container with a high dome lid, we rigged up a small one. After planting seeds in small peat pots and watering them, we snapped on the lid. Two weeks later, sprouts were struggling upward. A raised bed was next on tap. Using 2x4 ft. cedar Dad made three small beds. These were placed in the front yard so everyone could enjoy watching them grow. Thus a new generation of Master Gardeners emerged.

Both Riley and Gus have enjoyed picking and eating their peas, Sun Gold tomatoes, green peppers and strawberries. The corn came up but did not survive. We still need to work on what is a weed and what is not! All of this goes to prove that anyone can do it and it is not necessary to purchase fancy equipment.

Donna Davis
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<td>LCMGA/Student Introductions</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Coastal Gardening</td>
<td>Sally Noack</td>
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<td>Native Plants ®</td>
<td>Michael Noack</td>
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<td>Coastal Lawns/Water Collection</td>
<td>Sam Angima, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Botany I ®</td>
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<td>Honey &amp; Mason Bees ®</td>
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<td>Invasive Plants ®</td>
<td>Robert Emanuel, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Soils/Nutrients</td>
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<td>Spring Garden Sale Presentation</td>
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<td>Plant/Conifer Identification ®</td>
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<td>Composting/Worm Bin Constr.</td>
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<td><strong>Sign Up &amp; Discussion</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Office Orientation</strong></td>
<td>A Mitchell / K Buisman</td>
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<td><strong>Q &amp; A with Sam (remaining ½ of Class)</strong></td>
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<td>Plant Propagation (Annuals, Perennials,</td>
<td>Susan Coast</td>
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<td>Integrated Pest Mgmt/Pesticides ®</td>
<td>Sam Angima, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Feb 3</td>
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<td>Insects/ OSU MG Program ®</td>
<td>Gail Langellotto, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Plant Diseases ®</td>
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<td>9:10</td>
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<td>Cloche Construction</td>
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<td>Graduation/Class Photo</td>
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**Optional Workshops:**

2/8 – Grafting/Plant Cuttings - Tuesday
3/1—Pruning - Tuesday

**NOTE:** ® = Recertification

Class SCH 2011 12/27/2010
It’s Membership Dues Time!!!

We will continue to publish the newsletter online every month. If you wish, you can print the online version at home or visit the OSU Extension Office for a printed copy. LCMGA dues remain crucial to support our association and the Oregon Master Gardener Association. Thanks for your support.

Mail To: Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Association
29 SE 2nd Street, Newport, OR 97365
2011 MEMBERSHIP: Renewal / New (Circle one)

LCMGA Active Member ______________ $15.00
(Master Gardeners only. Includes newsletter and required Oregon Master Gardener Association dues.)

LCMGA Associate Member ______________ $10.00
(For those who have not completed the Master Gardener program. Includes newsletter.)

CONTRIBUTION TO LCMGA: $ _____
Supports LCMGA education programs, projects and the Coastal Currants newsletter. Tax deductible.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $ _______

NAME: ________________________ PHONE ______________________
EMAIL: _______________________________
MAILING ADDRESS __________________________________
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PRINT THIS PAGE OF THE PDF FILE, CUT OUT DUES FORM, AND SEND WITH PAYMENT TO ADDRESS ABOVE.

LCMGA Membership Categories

Are you an active member of the Lincoln County Master Gardener Association (LCMGA)?
An active member is defined as a person who has taken the Master Gardener™ Program classes, either in Lincoln County or in another county or state where the Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program is offered. An active membership includes memberships in the LCMGA, with voting rights, the Oregon Master Gardener™ Association (OMGA), and subscriptions to both the LCMGA newsletter Coastal Currants and the OMGA newsletter The Gardener’s Pen.

Are you an associate member of the LCMGA?
An associate member is defined as a person who wishes to participate in LCMGA activities and has NOT completed the Master Gardener™ Program. An associate membership includes membership in the LCMGA, without voting rights, and a subscription to the LCMGA newsletter Coastal Currants.

Are you an apprentice currently enrolled in the OSU Extension Master Gardener™ Program classes in Lincoln County?
An apprentice membership includes memberships in the LCMGA, the Oregon Master Gardener™ Association (OMGA), and subscriptions to both the LCMGA newsletter Coastal Currants and the OMGA newsletter The Gardener’s Pen. Apprentices are exempt from dues for their class year.

Sally Noack
This year’s annual Mini-College will offer three days of workshops, tours, seminars and hands on classes. If you’ve ever attended either the Natural Resources School or a Self Reliance fair you have an idea of how this works. It’s a place to feed your brain, to learn something new and to meet people who are expert in their fields.

People from all over the state of Oregon will merge in Newport to participate in this wonderful event. Instructors are currently being recruited for the classes, workshops and tours. A wide variety of informational topics will be offered. In the past the tours have included full scale farms, home landscapes, animal farming and demonstration gardens. Previous workshops have included the making of herbal teas and worm bins. Possibilities for this year's classes may include cloche building and art classes as well as many others. Ideas and suggestions for instructors or topics are welcome.

Gardeners Mini-College events will include OSU Master Gardener Chapter displays and history (LCMGA has taken first or second place prize in 2007, 2009, and 2010.) All attendees are encouraged to vote for their favorite chapter display. A silent auction will be held which will include many fabulous items up for bid. There will be an onsite OSU Bookstore as well. OSU Master Gardener Chapters will have items available for purchase, and of course there will be free coffee and cookies.

Be sure to tell all your friends that Mini-College offers a great variety of information and there will be something of interest for everyone.

Volunteers are still needed to co-chair and staff many of the committees. If you're interested in helping LCMGA host THE BEST Mini-College ever, please contact Emilia Lacy (lacycae@AOL.com), Cathi Block (bblock@peak.org), or Betty Orr (bettyorr@charter.net).
Lincoln County Master Gardener Association

Board Meeting
Monday, January 10, 2011
9:30 AM to 12 NOON
OSU Extension Office

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes—December 13, 2010

III. Reports of Officers
   Treasurer Report and discussion of financial reports  Donna Davis
   Other Officers

IV. Extension Agent  Sam Angima

V. Reports of Committees
   Seafood and Wine Festival  Jeff Olsen
   Mini-College  Emilia Lacy/Cathi Block

VI. New Business
   MG Class Workshops  Pam McElroy
   Plant Sale Coordinator  TBA
   YDGC and The Ford Family Foundation Grant  Dixon/Bahn

VII. Adjournment
    Schroeder, McElroy, Olsen, Davis, Bonelitz, Block, Orr, Biernacki, Dallas, Barnes, Angima

Calendar

January 10  Board Meeting
January 11  MG Class Begins
February 8  Cuttings/Grafting Workshop
February 14  Board Meeting
March 1  Pruning Workshop