The Fourth Annual Oregon Coast Gardening and Landscaping Expo is coming up on June 25 at Newport Intermediate School, and Master Gardeners will once again be prominent players! There will be eight different gardening seminars. Ed Hume (of Ed Hume Seeds) will be attending and speaking again; always-entertaining TV and radio guy Ciscoe Morris from “Gardening with Ciscoe” will be leading a seminar; and much more. It promises to be a busy and enjoyable time. The Expo benefits Samaritan House Family Homeless Shelter and will be followed by the Samaritan House Secret Garden Tour on Sunday. A gardening weekend extraordinaire!

The Expo brings more than 40 different vendors, who offer an incredible array of plants, garden art, books, seeds and all things garden, even tool sharpening, for a nominal fee. This year the Master Gardeners will offer vegetable plants for sale, which is a first for the Expo. We will also run a Plant Clinic, do pH testing, provide an invasive weed information display, and have information on cloche building, vermiculture, and coastal gardening. This is a really enjoyable event, and is a good demonstration to the community of what Master Gardeners do.

We will sell vegetable plants that were not quite ready to go to the Spring Garden Sale but will be thriving by the end of June. Several MGs have planted more seeds to ensure that we will have plenty of plants available. This should be a plus for people who could not make the Spring Garden Sale, but still want to purchase Master Gardener-grown plants. If you are able to grow some additional vegetable plants for the Expo, we are most happy to accept them!

I will be putting out sign-up sheets in the near future, and we will get rolling on another successful Master Gardener event.

Pam McElroy
2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Claudette Schroeder, hairbows@jrnc.com
1st Vice President: Pam McElroy, pmcelroy456@charter.net
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2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

LCMG Class Co-Chairs: Claudette Schroeder; Linda Cook, gnllcook@gmail.com
Office Scheduler: Alice Mitchell, mitchellor@earthlink.net
Librarians: Diana Pinto; Sally Reill, dgpinto@peak.org; jsreill@charter.net
Spring Garden Sale: Sharon Casteel, mudchicks@charter.net; Cathi Block
Fall Bulb Sale: Pam McElroy; Betty Bahn, bahngarten@yahoo.com; Anne Irving
Gardening and Landscaping Expo: 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, lizolsen@charter.net
Publicity: Michael Noack, rfoxcreek@peak.org; Liz Olsen; Linda Cook; Bonnie Saxton, bsaxton@teleport.com

Mini-College: Emilia Lacy, lacyae@AOL.com, Cathi Block, or Betty Orr

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.
Notes From Our LCMGA President

Today the sun was shining; the birds were singing. I could almost see the plants in the greenhouses grow as they delighted in this all too seldom day of light and warmth. I planted seeds of beans, snap peas, summer squash and cucumbers, with hope that we would have more glorious days.

Growing plants this year for the Spring Garden Sale has been a real challenge. As I look at the array of plants in "Big Green" that survived freezing temperatures, I marvel at the resilience of nature. Gayle Buck and I partnered to seed, transplant, repot, re-transplant, nurture, fertilize, groom, fret over and otherwise have a great time growing vegetables in my greenhouses.

Many of you are going through the same activities and anxieties to grow ornamentals, native plants, herbs, and vegetables for our annual gift to the community. For months, Master Gardeners work hard seeding, taking cuttings and dividing bulbs. We spend two days setting up, and then sell 60% of the plants in the first 45 minutes. It’s exhilarating!

If you don’t have the facilities to grow plants, you can still contribute time, talent and effort to this great event. Sign up, to set up on May 12 and 13. (Set up is a great time to test yourself on plant identification.) Bring items for the yard sale. It’s also an opportunity to visit with and enjoy the wonderful Master Gardeners in our county.

Sale day cannot be described, it must be experienced. Our customers are so happy! Faces light up when they find that perfect tomato variety. Another has a great spot for the flowering red currant, and the price is right. They are thrilled when we have the answer to their question. And, oh, what is a worm bin?

Am I excited? Absolutely! Tell your friends, family, neighbors and everyone else to join the Master Gardeners on May 14, at the Newport National Guard Amory, for our Spring Garden Sale. And don’t forget Set-up on May 12-13. We are counting on your plants, donations, and help.

Claudette

Vinegar Approved for Use as Organic Herbicide

Pharm Solutions Inc, just issued a label for Weed Pharm, which is the first organic-approved vinegar herbicide product that can be used in food crops (check label for approved food uses), reports Joe DeFrancesco at OSU North Willamette Research and Extension Center at Aurora. The label has been accepted and registered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Weed Pharm (20% non-synthetic acetic acid) does not have Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) certification but was certified and deemed compliant for organic production by the Washington State Department of Agriculture certification program. The Certification Director for Oregon Tilth, Kristy Korb, states that “Oregon Tilth accepts all products that are WSDA and OMRI listed as compliant without any further review necessary.” To avoid damage to the crop, Weed Pharm must be used with a hooded or shielded sprayer; other restrictions are listed on the label. This is the label organic producers have been waiting for. See the label on our Lincoln County website http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lincoln/sites/default/files/documents/vinegar_-_weed_pharm_food_use_label.pdf

Sent in by Sam Angima
(We miss you Sam!)

Check out the funny “Gardening with Ciscoe” video about this product at http://pharmsolutionsinc.com/weed_pharm.html
Help Desk

Thank you to the twenty veterans who attended the Help Desk Refresher Class. A special thank you also goes out to Librarian Diana Pinto, Assistant Librarian Sally Reill, and Kathy Buisman who all provided their expertise and time in presenting the class. We all learned from each other, as Master Gardeners tend to do when they get together. A revised 2011 Office Procedures updating new resources is available.

Veterans are needed in May and June. The Help Desk office is getting busy with inquiries from community members who are anxious to get outside and garden. Kathy Buisman recently sent out an email about logging on to our calendar. If you have questions about the calendar or would like to volunteer, please contact me – see below for my email address and phone number.

Don’t hesitate to give me a call if you don’t email – you can always leave a message, and I will get back to you if I am not available when you call.

I can be reached at mitchellor@earthlink.net, or give me a call at 541-867-3773.

OMGA Mini-College Scholarship Available!! Apply Now!

We encourage everyone to attend Mini-College, July 13-16. It is a great learning experience. LCMGA has a scholarship fund for MGs in financial need. Please contact Claudette Schroeder. Application is confidential.

Gardening to Live Well
28th Annual
Mini College for Gardeners
July 13-16 2011

Newport Middle School
825 NE 7th St.
Newport, Oregon
Presented by the Oregon Master Gardener™ Association
2011 Program Dates and Information

May 12-13
LCMGA Spring Garden Sale Set-up.

May 14
LCMGA Spring Plant and Garden Sale, National Guard Armory.

June 14
A field trip to Dancing Oaks Nursery in Monmouth, with catered lunch.

June 25
Fourth annual Oregon Coast Garden and Landscape Expo. Newport Intermediate School, 9 AM-5 PM. Master Gardeners have a booth, and will be selling vegetable starts, providing a Help Desk, pH testing, and other fun stuff. It’s a chance to browse and shop the vendor booths for all sorts of garden supplies. Claudette will be among the guest speakers along with Ciscoe & Ed Hume!

July 13-16
OMGA Mini-College will be held in Newport.

July 26
A field trip to the Thyme Garden near Philomath for a garden tour and wonderful lunch.

August 18
A trip to Shore Acres State Park garden near Coos Bay. Overnight accommodations at the Red Lion.

September TBA
A fun, hands-on workshop on building hypertufa troughs and concrete leaf molds.

October General Meeting/Apple Squeeze/Potluck
The date is TBA, depending on when the apples are ready. 11 AM-2 PM.

November 17
General Meeting: OCCC-potluck/election of 2011 officers/awards ceremony. 10 AM-12:30 PM.

I hope to see you at many of these events. We build such wonderful friendships, come up with really creative ideas, and do some darn good work when we get together as Master Gardeners! We also have LOTS of fun.

Pam McElroy

Shore Acres was once the estate grounds of pioneer timber baron Louis Simpson. The formal garden, Asian-style pond and two rose gardens bloom year-round with plants and flowers from all over the world. A variety of horticultural and cultural events are hosted at the gardens throughout the year. Short hikes provide access to a secluded ocean cove at Simpson Beach or to the cliff’s edge with spectacular ocean vistas and whale watching (seasonal). A fully enclosed observation building allows you to view the ocean in protected comfort.

From Shore Acres web site.
**Grease Those Wagon Wheels**

Can you believe it? The Spring Garden Sale, Saturday May 14, is almost here!!

Time to grease up those wagon wheels and roller skates. Clean muddy finger prints off those pots, pull any weeds, and trim up your plants. We need plants in good condition, and every plant helps.

Check plants for blooms. If they aren’t blooming, find a photo because the plants sell better. Fine point Ident-A-Pens can be purchased at Fred Meyers in the craft section for $1.99. Complete those labels now.

Spruce up your garage sale items. Box up old gardening magazines. Stack up carrying boxes, and please keep accumulating as many as possible.

Time to distribute sale fliers. You can print them off from the Spring Garden Sale poster on page 10 or pick some up at the office. Let’s get the word out. Talk it up!

Plant drop off starts 9 AM-4 PM Thursday, May 12 and ends at 12:00 NOON Friday, May 13.

See you at the National Guard Armory, 541 SW Coast Hwy, Newport. Sale hours are 9 AM-2 PM.

Co-chairs:
Cathi Block bblock@peak.org 541 867-7167
Sharon Casteel mudchicks@charter.net 541 265-9273

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lincoln/sites/default/files/spring_garden_sale_plant_label_info.pdf

The link above gets you to the Garden Sale Label Information for quick and easy reference to making plant labels.

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**Compost Hits the Big Leagues**

Talk about useful give-away promotions, the Seattle Mariners ball club offered 5,000 fans bags of compost this season. We wonder how many baseball fans bought tickets just to get soil touched by Ichiro! Ed.

“It will probably never replace Ichiro Bobble Head Night, but Mariners fans at several games this season are likely to be offered a freebie they haven’t seen at Safeco Field before. Compost. Not just any compost, mind you, but small bags of compost made from food waste, packaging material, drink cups, utensils and other stuff discarded during past Mariners games and transformed into a garden friendly mix by a local composting company. Free-compost nights were one of many earth-friendly steps mentioned Monday as representatives of six Northwest pro-sports teams and their venues gathered at Safeco Field to announce the creation of Green Sports Alliance, a non-profit they hope will reduce the sports industry's impact on the environment.”

—Excerpted from Jack Broom’s article in the March 21 Seattle Times.
CORVALLIS, Ore. – You can attract butterflies to your garden and enjoy one of most beautiful animals in nature. Simply provide a few essentials for the stages of their lives.

When they are caterpillars, butterflies and moths need host plants; as adults they need nectar, sun, water and shelter from the wind, according to Nancy Allen, wildlife biologist at Oregon State University. In return they pollinate flowers, provide food for other wildlife and give pleasure to the gardener.

Near-sighted by nature, butterflies rely heavily on fragrance, as well as color, to home in on blossoms. Fragrant nectar-producing flowers, such as lavender, lilac and honeysuckle are prized by adult butterflies.

The size and shape of flowers also are important. Larger butterflies, such as swallowtails, prefer to land on flowers with large, composite heads that offer them a stable platform for feeding. Large composites include asters, goldenrod, zinnia, marigolds and yarrow.

Stay away from the popularly named "butterfly bush" (Buddlea davidii). It is non-native and invasive. California lilac (Ceanothus) or chastetree (Vitex) are good alternatives, as they have similar foliage and flowers. Also, stick with old-fashioned flower varieties over some of the new showy hybrids that may produce less nectar.

In addition to nectar, butterflies need water and minerals. Unlike birds, butterflies do not drink from open water. They get the moisture they need from moist areas at the edge of puddles. You can create butterfly puddles by burying a container of wet sand in a sunny spot out of the wind. Add a few twigs or rocks on top as perches.

Male butterflies require additional sodium during the mating season. You can supply it by occasionally adding a pinch of salt to your puddle.

You can download, free of charge, a booklet about butterflies in the Pacific Northwest that lists the host and nectar plants recommended for each species. "Create a Butterfly Garden" (EC 1549) is available online: http://bit.ly/OSUESec1549 . Or, call 1-800-561-6719 to order a printed copy ($1.50 plus shipping and handling).

By Judy Scott, 541-737-1386, judy.scott@oregonstate.edu

Source: Nancy Allen, 541-737-1953,
The LCMGA Experience: Resurrecting Raised Beds

After a year living right on the coast back in ‘01 while we built our house eight miles up the Yachats River, our enthusiasm for gardening inland was unbridled. We happily threw ourselves into a raised-bed-building project. Using Trex™, a plasticized wood product left over from our decks, we created four beds measuring 4 feet x 8 feet and 12 inches high. We had many years of prolific harvests, but by 2010 we were losing the battle with the red clover weeds, our soil was tired, and the beds had either settled into our native loamy soil and/or we raised the perimeter paths over the years to the point that the beds weren’t really raised much anymore.

But before we could even think about resurrecting the raised beds we needed a better system to keep the deer and elk out with new and better fencing that wouldn’t look like a minimum security prison yard. (My wailing when the peas and Brussels sprouts were decimated last year was just too much for Mark to take.) We replaced the flimsy 1/2″ deer netting we had nailed up on our perimeter garden posts with panels of 2″ poly mesh fencing, attached to 6’ 2x2’s on one end and stapled directly to the post on the other. We drilled holes in the 2x2’s on an angle to snugly slip over 6-inch spikes set into the perimeter posts so we can remove any panel as needed for access or mowing. Unlike the deer netting, the new mesh doesn’t take off in a gusty wind anymore. Rub your nose on that you deer and elk! So far so good, but we shouldn’t tempt elk fate, when they want to go somewhere they don’t care about fences.

That done, and with some help from a few younger folks, we excavated all the soil out of each raised bed and replaced the hardware cloth across the bottom. (Rub your little noses on that moles and shrews!) We constructed new cedar frames out of 2″x 12″s and set them directly on top of the old sinking frames. Bamboo stakes in the four corners keep them from shifting. Five yards of potting soil, four yards of mint compost, amended with lime, phosphate, and manure, completed the mixture for our fresh beds. A new garden fork made the fluffing and mixing of the various amendments a breeze.

We’re excited! The potatoes, onions and lettuces are in, along with beets, carrots, cauliflower, radishes, kale, and Swiss chard. We’ve heard tell it’s going to be another cool summer, so we’re sticking with crops that like our river valley microclimate on the northwestern slope of the Cape Perpetua. After 10 years of frustrating tomato harvests (with the exception of those sweet Sun Gold cherry toms), we partnered up with our neighbors’ green house for tomatoes this year. Bring on the cole crops. Or is that cold weather crops?

Nancy Dixon

If you have an LCMGA experience with your gardening and/or landscaping here on the coast, take a few photos and share them with your fellow MGs by sending them to the Coastal Currants (see page 4).
I now have our 2011 supply of lime and phosphate for the YDCG. I will bring these soil amendments to the meeting on April 19th. Please be prepared to get yours. Each of you will receive pre-measured amounts correct for your bed or beds. Apply both at the same time, and work into the top one foot of soil. Sooner is better. It will take a while for the lime to make a difference in the soil, and a few spring rains will even help in this chemical reaction.

Lime and phosphorus (P) are both easy and safe to use. It is extremely difficult to apply too much to the soil, and even if you did, the over-supply would do no harm to garden plants -- so say the experts. To keep phosphates in a form which is available to plants, it is desirable to apply the P to soils which have been properly limed. This application of lime and P will exert a marked influence on the crop producing power of our soil. Our coastal soils are unique in as much as high rainfall and other factors produces a low pH and an absence of phosphorus. All phosphorus comes from rock, and our sandstone rock (parent material) on the coast has no phosphorus. However, it is our good fortune that our Yachats soil is very high in nitrogen (N).

New knowledge informs me that it is best to apply the P in two applications. It has something to do with getting locked up in the soil an becoming unavailable to the growing plants before they get done needing it. Therefore, the amount of P that I will be giving each of you may be used half now, and the other half applied about August. The later application can be cultivated around the plants or banded near the roots via shallow covered trench.

Loyd Collett
Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Association

Spring Garden Sale

Featuring:
- Annuals
- Perennials
- Veggies
- Herbs
- Native Plants
- Soil testing (pH only)
- Garden Tools
- Book Sale
- Compost Info
- Cloche Raffle

Saturday, May 14, 2011
9:00am - 2:00pm
at the
National Guard Armory
541 SW Coast Hwy
in Newport, Oregon

Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions.

For more information, call OSU Extension office
574-6534

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Gardening to Live Well

28th Annual Mini College for Gardeners
Presented by the Oregon Master Gardener™ Association

Over 30 Classes & Workshops

Tours of Newport Area
Onsite meals
Silent Auctions
Book Sales
Discounted Lodging
Door Prizes

July 13-16 2011

Newport Middle School
825 NE 7th St.
Newport, Oregon

OMGA
Lincoln County Master Gardener Association

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

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes—April 11, 2011
   Peg Biernacki

III. Reports of Officers
   Treasure        Donna Davis
   President       Claudette Schroeder
   1st Vice President   Pam McElroy
   2nd Vice President    Jeff Olsen
   OMGA Representative Cathi Block

IV. Extension Agent
   Sam Angima/Liz Olsen

V. Reports of Committees
   Gardening and Landscaping Expo   Pam McElroy
   Mini-College                    Emilia Lacy/Cathi Block
   Chapter Sales—Mini-College      Betty Orr
   Spring Garden Sale              Sharon Casteel/Cathi Block
   YDCG/Ford Family Foundation     Betty Bahn/Liz Olsen
   Siletz Grant, International SEA, YBLG Liz Olsen

VI. New Business

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

Calendar

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