



Linn County
Master Gardener
program

Hoe Hoe Hoe

A frog outside my window reminds me of my mortality, "Croak, Croak."

The Newsletter of the Linn County Master Gardener™ Association November 2009 Tom Capel, Editor

THE NEW ALBANY WATER EFFICIENT GARDEN: A THANK YOU From Kim Kagelaris, City of Albany

I would like to thank three master gardeners – Bonnie White, Bev Hall, and Paul Westerberg – for volunteering their time on October 2, 2009. They helped supervise kids that finished planting the new Albany Water Efficient (AWE) Garden at the new library. Students from North Albany Middle School grew 150 perennial plants from seed over the last few months. NAMS and St. Mary’s students planted these perennials on October 2. Bev Hall continued to help out the next two Fridays by assisting St. Mary’s students spread bark and identify the plants. We couldn’t have done this project without their help, and we really appreciate their time.



Photos by Kim Kagelaris

November Calendar

- November 3: LCMGA Board Meeting at the Armory in Albany at 10 am.
- November 7: Volunteer Opportunity. Cheadle Lake 9 am to 4 pm (see article below)
- November 16: Joint Awards Ceremony at Grace Lutheran Church in Corvallis at 5:30 pm (see article below)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

A Planting Day is being planned for Nov. 7th from 9:00 am till 4:00pm at the Lebanon Community Foundation Park at Cheadle Lake. Master Gardeners who want to learn or know how to plant a balled and burlap grown plant are really needed to help with this project. If you have questions, please contact me at barb.fick@oregonstate.edu, or Warren Beeson, Executive Director at 541-451-1039

*...He is all pine and I am apple orchard.
My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.
He only says, 'Good fences make good
neighbors.' (from Mending Wall, 1913)
-- Robert Frost, American writer, poet
(born 3/26/1874)*

FALL BROWN BAG TALKS IN LINN COUNTY

It's informal, informative, and fun – no reservations needed, and no charge! PNW Brown Bag classes are held on Wednesdays in Albany at the Library (2450 14th Ave SE). On Thursdays, classes are held at the Sweet Home LBCC Center located at Sweet Home High School (1661 Long St). Classes begin at noon and end at 1 p.m.

November 4, 5, Hardscapes: Spiffing up your landscape

November 11, 12 NO CLASSES HELD

November 18, 19, Herbs – Fun to Grow & Easy to use

AWARDS AND GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Mark your calendar for Monday, November 16, to celebrate being a Master Gardener. This joint Benton and Linn County event is a potluck, and will be held at Grace Lutheran Church (Corner of Kings Blvd and Harrison) in Corvallis. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6, and awards begin at 6:45.

HOW TO DRY HERBS

By: Judy Scott

Source: Carolyn Raab

When chopped or ground, the leaves and seeds of fresh herbs release their oils and make food tastier. If dried at the right temperatures and stored effectively, herbs can continue their flavoring for as long as a year.

The best time to harvest herbs for drying is just before the flowers first open (the bursting bud stage), according to Carolyn Raab, food and nutrition specialist with Oregon State University Extension Service.

"Gather herbs in the early morning, after the dew has evaporated to minimize wilting," she said.

"Label them when you pick them, because after drying many look alike. Rinse the herbs in cool water and gently shake to remove excess moisture. Discard bruised, soiled or imperfect leaves and stems."

You can dry herbs with a dehydrator or microwave, or air drying works for hardy herbs such as sage, thyme, rosemary, summer savory and parsley. It's important to keep the temperature below 100 degrees because high temperatures cause flavor loss.

Here are a few guidelines for different methods:
Dehydrator: Herbs dry quickly in a dehydrator and will produce high quality herbs. Place them on the trays and cover with a fine screen to catch dried leaves that fall from the stems. Preheat the dehydrator to 90 to 100 degrees. Dry one to three hours or until the herbs are dry and crumble easily.

Microwave: Microwave ovens are a fast way to dry herbs, but dry no more than one to two cups at a time. Place herbs in a single layer between two sheets of plain white paper towels; recycled towels often contain metal scraps that can arc and catch on fire. Check manuals for recommended times for drying herbs and OSU Extension publication SP 50-921, [Drying Herbs](#),

for a general guide for drying. Stir the herbs every 30 seconds after the first minute until almost dry, and then let them finish drying at room temperature. Herbs commonly dried in the microwave are parsley, celery leaves, chives, thyme and sage.

Air Drying: Sturdier herbs are the easiest to dry and can be tied in small bundles and air dried indoors for best color and flavor. Tender leaf herbs – basil, tarragon, lemon balm and the mints – are high in moisture and should be tied together in small bunches and hung inside a paper bag with cut vent holes. Close the top with a rubber band and place where air currents will circulate, such as an attic, kitchen or other warm location. The herbs with leaves, such as bay,

mint and sage, can be placed on paper towels on a tray to dry in about five to 10 days. Sun drying is not recommended.

Herbs are dry when they crumble easily and brittle stems break when bent; leaves and seeds should fall from the stems. To store them, place dried herbs in an airtight container and keep in a cool, dark, dry location for optimum flavor and color. Use them within six months to a year. Whole seeds and leaves have the longest shelf life. For the fullest flavor crush or grind just before using.

*A spell lies on the Garden Summer sits with her
finger on her lips as if she heard the steps of
Autumn echo on the hill. – Unknown*

**Linn County Master Gardeners Board Meeting Minutes
For Sept. 8, 2009 (Approved: 10-6-09)
By Marilyn Girdler, Secretary**

President Betty Goergen called the meeting to order at 9:54 a.m. Minutes from the August Board meeting, available online, were approved. Treasurer Vickie Dones reported Garden Tea income of \$370, expenses of \$189, and profit of \$181. Brief discussion held on clothing sales and logo size. As of Sept. 8, the bank balance is \$7,207.16 with an additional \$90 to be deposited today.

Role of the Board: Betty Goergen

Because Barb Fick’s time is very limited in Linn County due to recent budget cuts, Betty explained that the Board is assuming more administrative responsibility for Linn Co. Master Gardeners. The Board’s role is to approve and oversee all activities and functions of Linn County Master Gardeners. Toward that end, the Board will review all projects and events prior to inception to ensure that each adheres to standards, meets purposes outlined in by-laws, and is an appropriate activity. A new “Project Proposal” application form was distributed and discussed. From this point forward, when a Linn County Master Gardener wants to start a new project, a “Project Proposal” application form must first be submitted to Board for approval before the project is started. This new process will keep Board and membership better informed on current projects, will guarantee adequate volunteers and funding, and will ensure projects align with our mission statement (to represent OSU Extension Service by providing OSU research-based education related to community gardening).

Betty also presented a draft version of binder information she has compiled. After Board review and revisions, a finalized binder will be given to each Board member to assist them in their duties.

- **Action:** Binder information will be emailed to Board members for review. Binder information approval will be an agenda item for Oct. 6 Board meeting.

Demo Garden Grant Application:

Request was made that a report on the LGMG DG grant application be made to the Board. Grant writers include Stephanie Low, Bev Hall, Bonnie White, and Marti Olsen-Haworth.

(Note: Following the Board meeting, Stephanie Low provided the following information.)

“The grant is for Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The amount requested is \$5,880 for signage, 100 copies of a brochure that describes the Demo Garden, a 20’ flagpole with a MG flag (or

new design), extra tables and chairs, two canopies, a couple of brochure racks to hold OSU Extension handouts and Household Hazardous Waste brochures that DEQ will provide us to make available to the public visiting the Demo Garden and a tumbleweed composter to add to our array of composting systems.”

Next Year’s Planning

Brainstorming occurred on 2010 activities, calendaring, and possible adding Board positions or committee chairs. Suggestion was made to add the Demo Garden chair and newsletter editor to Board. Expanding newsletter editor position to news coordinator with broader publicity duties was discussed. Need for marketing was stressed.

- Action: Prior to next meeting, committee chairs are asked to send all dates for 2010 activities to Sheryl Casteen, Casteen@aol.com , who will draft a calendar for planning at Oct. 6 Board meeting.

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Consideration of Name Change for Demo Garden:

Very brief discussion held on possible name change from “Linn County Demonstration Garden” to “MG - GIFT” (acronym for “Master Gardener – Garden Information for Friends & Teaching”). Opinions were expressed that name recognition in the community is important for marketing and that Linn County Demonstration Garden describes what the garden is and does.

- Action: Per decision at 8-4-09 Board meeting, the potential name change will be presented in meetings, newsletters, etc., to allow time for membership consideration and will be on the agenda for a membership vote at the October meeting.

Forming Compost Group: Bonnie White

Bonnie presented idea of forming a compost group. She told how Benton County and Lane County run their compost groups, in regards to training, fees, and community partners. At a very minimum, Bonnie needs help at the Demo Garden with composting. Several suggestions were made on how to offer hands-on compost training to MG trainees and veterans.

- Action: Bonnie will fill out new Project Proposal application form and submit it to Board.

Fund Raising Programs for Next Year

Discussion ensued on marketing, promoting Garden Tour throughout the entire year and on profits from all fund-raisers going into general fund.

- Action: Email info on 2010 fund raisers to Sheryl Casteen, Casteen@aol.com , for Board finalization and inclusion in directory and newsletter.

Insurance:

Question was asked about insurance coverage for people at both the Demo Garden and other teaching situations. Vicki said Master Gardeners are covered for publicized classes and events including the Demo Garden, but that non-Master Gardeners (general public) are not.

Newsletter Distribution

- Action: This agenda item was tabled until next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Some people walk in the rain, others just get wet. -- Roger Miller



2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Submitted by Vickie Dones

Yes, it's almost that time of year again—Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner. It's also time to renew your 2010 Master Gardener membership.

Due to the increase in OMGA membership dues, we have also increased the Linn Co. Master Gardener annual fees. If

payment is received by December 31, 2009, the fee is \$15; after that date, the dues will be \$18.

In November, you will receive an information sheet via email and regular mail. Please fill out the information sheet electronically or manually and return it to me along with your

dues payment. Please make your check payable to LCMG.

My email address is mevidones@comcast.net or my mailing address is 3740 Glendale St. SE, Albany, OR 97322. If you have any questions, please contact me at 926-3847.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND AUTUMN COLORS

By Peg Herring

Source: Pat Breen

Autumn leaves are the grand finale of the growing season. What creates all that color? It's all about photosynthesis, according to Pat Breen, Oregon State University professor emeritus of horticulture.

The word "photosynthesis" means "to transform with light." That is just what happens inside leaf cells as chlorophyll uses the sun's light to transform water and carbon dioxide into food for the growing plant. Throughout the summer, green plants produce a continual supply of chlorophyll to keep the transformation going. But when days get shorter and nights get cooler, plants slow their production of chlorophyll. As the amount of chlorophyll declines, the green color of plant leaves starts to fade and other pigments begin to shine through.

Carotenoids, for example, are found in most green plants, and are necessary for capturing sunlight. When chlorophyll fades, the

carotenoids that are left create yellow and sometimes brilliant gold color. We see

carotenoids at work in big-leaf maples this time of year.



A second pigment, anthocyanin, is produced in the leaves of only a few kinds of trees. It creates shades ranging from pink to red to purple, as in our native vine maples.

When the colorful pigments finally fade, leaves turn brown from the remaining tannin. Tannins are found in almost all trees, and are especially abundant in Oregon white oak, which keeps its autumn color to a conservative brown.

Weather plays a part in the show of autumn leaves. The most vivid color tends to unfold when autumn days are sunny and nights are cool but above freezing. The red-color anthocyanins are produced in strong light when sugars are trapped in the leaf as stems begin to shut off in preparation to drop. If the weather holds, enough

sugars are produced to create brilliant red and orange color in the leaf. Rainy weather blocks warmth and sunshine, and so inhibits sugar production. Leaves fade without much color change. Likewise, early frost can kill leaves, turning them brown.

You can orchestrate your own grand finale by planting trees that promise autumn color. Many

kinds of native trees and shrubs are already brightening the woods this time of year. A trip to the local nursery will reveal an even larger selection. Consider Norway maple or tulip tree for yellow and gold color; sugar maple and sweet gum for bright orange and red; and scarlet oak for deep red. All these should do well throughout most of Oregon.

IN DEAD EARNEST
By Lee Hays, 1981, songwriter

*If I should die before I wake
All my bone and sinew take
Put them in the compost pile
To decompose a little while
Sun, rain and worms will have their way
Reducing me to common clay
All that I am will feed the trees
And little fishes in the seas
When corn and radishes you munch
You may be having me for lunch
Then excrete me with a grin
Chortling, There goes Lee again
'Twill be my happiest destiny
To die and live eternally*

**OSU-Linn County Master Gardeners™
Board Members (& other helpful people)**

President: Betty Goergen

First Vice President: Renee Parr

Secretary: Marilyn Girdler

Treasurer: Vickie Dones

Past President: Stockton Miller-Jones

OMGA Representative: Bonnie White

OMGA Alternate Rep: John Landers

Historian: Linda Hastings

Mentor Coordinator: Stephanie Low

Linn County Horticulture Agent: Barb Fick

Program Assistant: Laurie Gibson
(541-967-3871)

Hoe Hoe Hoe Information

**Please submit information, articles,
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