



# The Marion Garden Gate

## Marion County Master Gardeners™ Association

January 2009

Sponsored by Adaptive Plastics, Inc. makers of Solexx Greenhouses

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is difficult to believe that another year has gone by. It seems that when I was fifteen, a year was a long time. Something cosmic must have happened because they are not nearly as long as they used to be. I nevertheless am looking forward to this coming year. An excellent Board has been elected and I am looking forward to working with them.

The new classes have begun and 37 students showed for the first session. There were some no shows but hopefully they will be there next week. Veteran master gardeners responded well and provided numerous snacks for the group on their first day. Linda Robertson volunteered to head up the hospitality committee and will be assisted by Ludwig DeVito, Julie Miller, Gillian Johnson, Georgia Wilks and Heidi Coonfield when extra help is needed. This group stepped up at the last minute, organized themselves and have all classes through March assigned. I am greatly appreciative of their efforts.

Several projects were started in 2008 that were not completed by years end. The 2009 Board will be working to complete the following:

- A Safety Committee for Marion Garden
- Bylaws amendments
- Numerous small projects in Marion Garden.

In addition to the above I am sure there will be new challenges brought to the Board for consideration.

Several members have questioned when the hour bars will be distributed. Roger Keifer has been working with Jerry Petram and Jim Hansen to put together the information to complete the awards. A list will be sent out via e-mail. Those that do not receive an e-mail may call Roger or myself to find out what badge you have earned. The badges will be available at the desk.

I am looking forward to seeing all of the volunteers at various activities and hope to, with your help, have a successful and productive year.

Jan Shidler



**DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER AND SCHEDULE CONFLICTS THIS ISSUE WAS DELAYED. WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.**



Welcome to our new column.  
The Corncob In Your Ear!  
By Penny Esplin

If you are somewhat baffled by the "title" to this column, don't be. Because there just isn't any justification to it. I suppose I'll try to explain: our sly "editor-in-chief" came up with the bright idea of me having my own column in this newsletter each month. Then she thought it would be cute if it was called "A Penny For Your Thoughts"; I was not impressed. The whole idea caught me off guard. And so, the smart-alec that I am, I said, "That sounds so *trite* and so *cliché*", might as well call it "The Corncob in Your Ear!" I didn't mean for that to be taken literally! But, *she did*. Have-foot-will-put-in-mouth; (now *there's* a title).

Reflecting back to last spring: The Ag-Fest. I wanted to be involved. Amy was *so* driven in this project; she knew how demanding it was going to be. But I had not a clue. The preparation was like a gale force wind, but that was OK, we flew with it. The theme of the Master Gardener booth was children's' interaction with gardening and beneficial insects in the garden. Amy attended the flocks of kids at the Build-a-Bug station, while I painted bugs on the faces of the *swarming multitudes of kids!* I had *no* idea so many kids would be there. She warned me, but I still wasn't prepared for the *seismic wave!* Two days of face painting left me almost cross-eyed. Needless to say, our booth was a big success. Amy can sure be focused. She had no time for shenanigans, *man*, she was so dedicated and serious, I wanted to kill her. So, okay, okay..now I know how she operates. Doesn't take away from the fact that she still makes me want to kill her.

**NOTE:**  
The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m.

The next weekend was the Plant Sale. My favorite memories of it was when I was done with my allotted time, I went over to the Shade Garden (#19) and pattered around tidying up and weeding and doing some casual gardening. Whenever I'm over there, it's almost as if I'm invisible. It must be the shaded effect on their eyes, in relation to the bright sun out in the rest of the garden. Well, as I was quietly tending to the garden, I was uplifted in a way that is hard to describe: The sounds coming to me from the on-going Plant Sale; good natured voices mixed with musical laughter, the scent of Spring, the buzz of a bee, and all my senses were fine tuned with the harmony. I'll never forget that day. Those memories come back to me each time I look back. Like a melody in the wind chimes that plays only during a certain breeze, that's how I remember that day. I still feel the enchantment, and it continues to leave me feeling.. uplifted.

Winter is here, and it's a beautiful season. The bare trees seem feathery soft against the wintry sky. But I know that by the end of January, there are certain localities where the pussy willows will be fuzzing out. And, after the 20th of December, we will begin to gain more daylight, although quite imperceptibly. Happy winter, happy new year!

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## **SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE**

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Extension Small Farms Conference will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2009, from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The one-day conference will be held on the Corvallis campus of Oregon State University at the Alumni Center. The keynote speaker, Michael Rozyne, founder of Red Tomato, will speak on *The Dignity Deal: Red Tomato's Fresh Approach to Marketing Produce*. The Red Tomato is a nonprofit organization marketing fresh fruit and vegetables from family farms in the northeast and southeast US to supermarkets and other customers throughout New England. ODA Director Katy Coba is the invited capnote speaker. Find registration materials on-line after January 9 at:

<http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/> or call the Benton County Extension Office at 541-766-3556 or toll free at 1-800-365-0201.

**New this year:** On-line registration and credit card payment; sessions just for market managers.

The conference includes 12 concurrent sessions, covering a range of topics of interest to growers who market their production directly to the public, for farmers' market managers, and for community food advocates.

- Farmscaping for Beneficials: Insect Biodiversity and On-Farm Habitat
- Tillage and Cultivation Strategies: Innovative Weed Management Equipment
- Building a Sustainable Business: A Minnesota Case Study
- Simple Ways to Promote your Farm
- Simple Ways to Promote your Farmers' Market
- Alternative Poultry Feeds
- Alternative Energy and Renewable Energy
- Management Structures for Farmers' Markets
- Conversation with Michael Rozyne
- Conversation with Community Food Security Coalition's Andy Fisher

Pre-registration is \$30 or \$50 for two registering together, and includes lunch; \$40 at the door.

This event is sponsored by Oregon State University Extension Service; Oregon Department of Agriculture; Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education.

## **MARION COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS BOARD MEETING December 9, 2008**

**In Attendance:** Jim Hansen, Laveryne Gray, Anna Russo, Jan Shidler, Carol Ann Armstrong, Don Kuhl, Pat Rigsby, Linda Buchanan, Tobie Habeck, Paul Thomas, Roger Keiffer, Jim Liskey, Carol Horning.

**Call to Order/Opening Remarks:** President Pat Rigsby called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

### **Presentations/Additions to Agenda:**

There were no additions to the agenda. Pat Rigsby introduced the invited guest speaker, Todd Sheldon.

Todd Sheldon—Alternative Programs Supervisor: Todd Sheldon gave a brief overview of the history of Marion Garden and Alternative Acres. He gave examples of cooperation between MCMGA and Alternative Programs. Master Gardeners have provided gardening expertise and we donate vegetables and plants to Fresh Start Market. We borrow equipment and get occasional help from young people in the program. The Connection Center is open to us.

Todd related that Marion County has been planning for building. The plan is to put up a new building in the lawn area in front of the Health Services building. Two new rows of parking will also be added. At this point, it appears that these plans will not affect Marion Garden. Todd is keeping an eye out for any plans that might impact us. Building may begin within 5 years.

An area of concern that affects Master Gardeners is in regard to the new regulations about using fertilizers and sprays on County lands. Todd needs to report any use of fertilizers or pesticides. We will need to have all spraying done by a certified pesticide applicator or someone who is in training for certification. The main concern is with the grounds and the Greenhouse will probably not be affected by this requirement.

There is a new Business Services Manager and a new Facilities Manager. They need to be notified in advance about anything built on the grounds, including in Marion Garden. Todd needs to approve any digging with power equipment or any electrical installations.

Todd is considering putting a gate on the gravel access road due to theft of produce from the Community Garden and from Alternative Acres. Dumping of waste is also a problem. We would have access to a code or key to unlock the gate.

Questions from the Board concerned details of fertilizer/pesticide application requirements, various kinds of locate services for digging and about graveling/

grading the access road. Todd Sheldon can be reached for questions or help at Alternative Services.

### **Approval of minutes:**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

### **Reports of Officers, and Standing Committees:**

#### **Horticulture Agent, Neil Bell:**

Because Neil was absent, no report was given.

#### **Vice President, Jim Hansen:**

Jim reported briefly on the Plant Sale meeting.

We will continue with the plan to use individual order forms for ordering Master Gardener merchandise.

There will be a meeting on Monday, December 15 at 2:00 p.m. to determine who will receive hours bars. Jim also wants to look at a simpler hours accounting system.

#### **Treasurer's Report, Laveryne Gray:**

Copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed. Major expenditures for the month came from the new fence, potting soil and the Grape Tasting. There were total expenses of \$1,462.47 and income of \$30. The checking account balance as of 11/30/08 was \$22,799.22.


In terms of where we are in the annual budget, Laveryne reported that the new fence has been the major expense in the Capital Expenditure category. A new cash register will probably be requested later from this budget category. In highlighting expenses, Laveryne noted that electrical use seems to be more controlled. Gas will go up next month with the colder weather and she has received the bill for the new reference books. There was discussion from the Board about State of Oregon business registration requirements. It was moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion carried.

**Continued on page 5....**

**“The best way to cheer yourself is to try to cheer someone else up.” --Mark Twain**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>e-mail</b>
<b>President</b>	Jan Shidler	503-393-3749	jshidler@earthlink.net
<b>Vice President</b>	Roger Keiffer	503-393-3906	rogk200osmg@comcast.net
<b>Secretary</b>	Carol Ann Armstrong	503-931-3725	carastro@willamette.edu
<b>Treasurer</b>	Laveryne Gray	503-390-1647	laveryne@concentric.net
<b>Membership</b>	Penny Strand	503-378-9039	atcann@onlinenw.com
Member at Large:	Bill Wade	503-316-8942	billwade7@msn.com
Member at Large	Terri Hoag	503-390-1304	wutnxt@msn.com
Member at Large	Don Kuhl	503-399-5446	dwktnk@comcast.net
<b>Member at Large</b>	Carol Horning	503-588-8148	carolbuglady@aol.com
<b>OMGA Representative</b>	Anna Russo	503-362-4285	arusso18@comcast.net
<b>OMGA Alternate</b>	Elizabeth McCracken	503-585-5856	remccr@earthlink.net
<b>Plant Sale</b>	Jim Hansen	503-363-3367	salemhomes@jimhansen.com
<b>Plant Sale</b>	Glenn Sanford	503-390-5256	mzane@comcast.net
Desk Training			
<b>Education/Youth Program</b>	Linda Fowler	503-364-1139	jplfowler@msn.com
<b>Marion/Polk Food Sort</b>	Roger Trygstad	503-362-2749	Trygstad1893@wvi.com
Desk Training			
<b>Education/Youth Programs</b>	Linda Fowler	503-364-1139	jplfowler@msn.com
<b>Marion/Polk Food Sort</b>	Roger Trygstad	503-362-2749	Trygstad1893@wvi.com
<b>Library</b>	Billy Conklin	503-361-2370	nanakonk@aol.com
<b>Clinics</b>	Roger Keiffer	503-393-3906	rogk200osmg@comcastt.net
<b>Advisor to Alt Programs</b>	Jan Shidler	503-393-3749	jshidler@earthlink.net
<b>Greenhouse</b>	Molly Petram	503-763-1263	Djpetram@aol.com
<b>Desk Coordinator</b>	Elaine Smith	503-580-1093	smie@comcast.net
<b>Garden Gate</b>	Amy Brown	503-767-4540	gardengate@wvi.com
<b>Speakers Bureau</b>	David Spink	503-393-2862	dspinkosu@msn.com
Volunteer Hours	Jerry Petram	503-763-1263	Djpetram@aol.com
Hospitality	Linda Robertson	503-749-2620	wyndasalem@countrycablevision.net
Publicity	Kellie Liskey	503-589-1421	Zygopsyche@yahoo.com
Historian	Lillian Ryan	503-873-8371	Lillian.ryan01@gmail.com

## January 2009

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>1</b> <b>Glenn Sanford</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Elaine Smith</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Ellen Clay</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Bob Pratt</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Cindy Clifford</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Glenn Sanford</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Elaine Smith</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Molly McVey</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Bob Pratt</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Cindy Clifford</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Glenn Sanford</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Elaine Smith</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Ellen Clay</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Bob Pratt</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Janie Jenne</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Glenn Sanford</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Elaine Smith</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Glenn Sanford</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Elaine Smith</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Molly McVey</b>		



## Notes From Neil

By Neil Bell

My articles over the last two months have talked about some of the questions to ask a client when attempting to diagnose a plant problem. In attempting to determine if we are looking at an environmental or a biotic problem, you first have to determine the extent of the problem on the population so the first questions are:

1. **How many total plants of the affected species are they growing?**
2. **Of the total number, how many are affected?**

In order to get an understanding of the extent of the problem, you might then ask:

3. **What part, or parts of the plant, are affected?**
4. **What is the pattern on the plant part?**
5. **What is the pattern of damage within the plant?**
6. **When did the symptoms appear?**

Another helpful question to ask is:

7. **Are the symptoms getting worse, or are they staying the same, or improving?**

Disease problems, or those cause by insects, often start out small, then spread on an individual plant and so they usually get worse with the passage of time. If there is more than one plant of the same species or cultivars, then it may spread to adjacent plants and may with time affect not only bigger parts of individual plants, but more plants, too. So this spread in a population is quite characteristic of biotic problems—those caused by disease or insect pests. Actually, if the problem is caused by gophers or voles, the same would probably be the case. These are also living causes of problems. If these critters are excavating around a prized tree or shrub and the problem is not resolved, then the plant will probably get worse with time, too.

Problems caused by abiotic or environmental causes, often display a distinct pattern where the affected plant (or plants, if there is more than one) suddenly develop symptoms that may involve most of the plant, or specific parts of it. If a client is careless with a Cross-bow application, then the symptoms of that would be readily apparent on nearby broad-

leaved plants. It's common for people to bring their tomatoes, grapes or peppers to the office in summer showing symptoms of herbicide damage from these sorts of applications. These symptoms show up suddenly, often involving the whole plant—a classic sign of an environmental problem. If this is a one-time event, then the symptoms on subsequent plant growth improve or are not present, so with time the problem goes away. Frost injury on plants often looks like this. If injury occurs as the result of a single nights cold, then the leaves and stems present on the plant at that time show injury. But subsequent leaf and stem tissue may show no symptoms, indicating a problem that occurred suddenly—then went away.

Another example of this is drought stress. Again, every summer people bring us Rhododendron leaves with brown edges and yellow areas in the middle of the leaf. These leaves often come from the south- or west-facing sides of the shrub, which happen to be the hottest side of the plant. Again, the symptoms appear suddenly in summer. If the plant is watered, they tend to stop developing, and with time will improve. This again is a classic pattern for an environmental problem. One thing to keep in mind is that if the Rhododendron in this example is NOT watered, then it will likely continue to decline, giving the false impression that it may be a biotic problem. So, if the client indicates that the Rhododendron showing these sorts of symptoms is continuing to decline over a period of months or years, ensure that the plant is being grown appropriately, meaning that it is in decent soil, is fertilized, and most importantly, is watered during our dry summers. The same applies to other plants that cannot grow well in our area without summer water.

Next time—further questions to ask...

### December Board Minutes Cont.: Membership Chair, Linda Buchanan:

Linda announced that there are 43 new class members and that two more may join. The orientation sessions were successful and about three-fourths of the applicants attended. One person chose to drop out as a result of information offered during the sessions. Linda was impressed with the quality of the applicants.

There was a question from the Board about offering to let Extension staff who work with Alternative Acres take the training class.

Continued to next column...

### Board Minutes Continued:

However, at this point, it is not feasible in terms of County work schedules.

### Marion Garden, Pat Rigsby:

1. The potted perennials for the Plant Sale have been covered with frost cloth. June Zink has volunteered to take over Trees & Shrubs for the Plant Sale.

### OMGA Representative, Anna Russo:

Anna has sent information on 2009 MCMGA officers to OMGA.

Neil has requested information on 2009 committees. Carol Ann Armstrong will provide that information as it becomes available.

### Reports of Special Committees:

Bylaw Change Recommendations—Carol Ann Armstrong: The Bylaws Committee recommends that Article XV of the Bylaws, "Amendments", be changed to reflect a new notification timeline for amending the MCMGA bylaws. Because of last year's change to quarterly meetings, the current notification requirements can take up to 5 months. A 2009 timeline for addressing this issue was proposed by the Committee. A new wording of Article XV was also proposed with the intention of providing adequate membership notification in a reasonable amount of time. Member concerns with timeliness of meeting notification and an examination of the voting process will also be addressed by the Committee in 2009.

### Unfinished Business:

#### New Business:

Beneficial Insect Garden—Carol Horning: Carol informed the Board that she will need to request supplies soon. It was determined that funds for her supplies will come from the Marion Garden budget.

#### President's Time:

Pat Rigsby elaborated on Marion County's building plans. They are planning the new building with the intention of bringing all of the health offices into one area. However, our current building may be renovated first. That may mean removal of the Extension Office from our building in 2-5 years.

Adjourn: President Pat Rigsby adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m. and declared sine die for 2008.

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m.

# 2009 Class Schedule

DATE	TIME	SUBJECT	INSTRUCTOR	SG CHAPTER
January 5	9:00-12:00	Orientation	Neil Bell	
	1:00-4:00	Soils and Fertilizers*	Joy Jones	Chapter 2
January 12	9:00-12:00	Botany Basics	Linda McMahan	Chapter 1
	1:00-4:00	Plant ID*	Pat Breen	Chapter 1/22
January 19	9:00-12:00	Pruning Ornamentals*	Neil Bell	Chapter 4/9
	1:00-4:00	Pesticide Safety*	Chip Bubl	Chapter 19
January 26	9:00-12:00	Tree Fruits*	Steve Renquist	Chapter 10
	1:00-4:00	Gardening and Water Quality*	Jacqueline Fern	Chapter 6
February 2	9:00-12:00	Lawns*	Barbara Fick	Chapter 12
	1:00-4:00	Vegetable Gardening*	Pat Patterson	Chapter 7
February 9	9:00-12:00	Plant Pathology*	Melodie Putnam	Chapter 15/16
	1:00-4:00	Berries and Grapes*	Bernadine Strik	Chapter 11
February 16	9:00-12:00	Insects*	Jim Young	Chapter 14
	12:00-2:00	Volunteer Fair	Committee	
	2:00-4:00	Plant Propagation*	Committee	Chapter 3
February 23	9:00-12:00	IPM*	Gail Langellotto	Chapter 20
	1:00-4:00	Vertebrate Pests*	Mike Slater	Chapter 18
March 2	9:00-12:00	Resources**	Neil Bell	
	1:00-4:00	Weeds*	Andy Hulting	Chapter 17
March 9	9:00-12:00	Problem Diagnosis 1**	Neil Bell	Chapter 16
	1:00-4:00	Problem Diagnosis 2**	Neil Bell	Chapter 16
March 16	9:00-12:00	Desk/Office Orientation	Committee	
	1:00-4:00	Final Exam	Neil Bell	

\*Counts for 3 hrs. 2009 recertification credit; \*\*Counts for 4 hrs. credit

Core topics: Botany; Soils and Fertilizers; Insects; IPM; Plant Pathology; Problem Diagnosis; Pesticide Safety; Resources

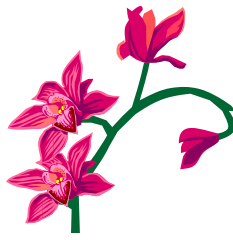


**Calling all Mentors!**

I have taken over the Mentor Program for incoming Master Gardeners. We need a few more people to come forward and volunteer to mentor our incoming Master Gardeners. Please send emails to me at:

**sjb1120@comcast.net**

Thanks, Sally Berg



The **Cherry City Orchid Society** will be having their Show and Sale on March 14-15, 2009. The Show will be at the Capital Manor Auditorium. Judging is Saturday morning,

so the Show will open to the public at approximately 1PM and continue until 5 PM. Sunday the Show will be open from 10 AM until 4 PM. The Plant Sale will be at the Capital Manor Community Center from 10 AM until 5 PM on Saturday and from 10AM until 4 PM on Sunday. Admission to both events is FREE. The address is 1955 Hwy 22 in West Salem.

I personally invite all Master Gardeners to attend. It is a wonderful event every year. The sales area is an amazing show also, so be sure to check it out even if you do not want to buy any orchids.

I know that many Master Gardeners are in a lot of other gardening organizations. I would love to know when other groups are having any special events that are open to the public, so please share this information.

Becky Thompson  
503-364-0854  
thecraftcow@comcast.net

**Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center**

**January Events**

**2008-09 FSELCA Amateur Naturalist Series: Urban Tree Care\***

Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Straub Environmental Learning Center, 1320 A Street, Salem  
\*eligible for recertification credit

**2008-09 FSELCA Lecture Series: Denise DeLuca**

Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
"Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature"  
Loucks Auditorium, Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty Street SE, Salem

**Community Events**

**Salem Progressive Film Series: *The World According to Monsanto***

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, Doors open 6:15 pm, film begins at 7:00 pm  
Grand Theater, 191 High Street NE  
Adults \$3, Students \$2  
<http://www.salemprogressivefilms.net>

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ANY OF OUR PROGRAMS, PLEASE EMAIL US AT [fselc@fselc.org](mailto:fselc@fselc.org) OR CALL 503-391-4145. Details are also available at [www.fselc.org](http://www.fselc.org).

**Menu for the Future: Northwest Earth Institute Discussion Groups in Salem - Winter 2009**

Tuesdays – January 13<sup>th</sup> to March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009, 6:30PM to 8PM at the Tea Party Bookshop

Saturdays – January 17<sup>th</sup> to March 7<sup>th</sup> 2009, 9:30AM to 11AM at the Marion-Polk Food Share

To register, call Melissa at (503) 566-4159, or e-mail [community.dreamer@yahoo.com](mailto:community.dreamer@yahoo.com)

\$20 refundable book deposit

***Congratulations!***

**IT'S A SWEET 'TATER!!**

This summer I decided to try growing sweet potatoes in the Marion Garden. They were planted under black plastic for extra warmth. The harvest was impressive, including two that weighed in at eight pounds each. Unfortunately, an adorable vole family found the bed a cozy place to live, complete with readily available food. They managed to sample every sweet potato in the bed. Unlike those postcards from Idaho showing a giant potato in the back of a pickup truck, this photo is for real.

Linda Buchanan

**PLEASE NOTE**  
**In the Marion Garden,  
the water is turned off  
and the system is drained  
to the garden  
area until further notice.**



The deadline for FEBRUARY'S Marion Garden Gate is January 23rd!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

3180 Center St NE, Room 1361  
Salem, OR 97301  
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