



Garden Beet

Newsletter of the Jackson County Master Gardener™ Association • October 2009

Jackson County Master Gardener Association's

11th Annual Gardening Symposium



Saturday, November 7, 2009
A full day of garden classes
RCC/SOU Higher Education Center
101 South Bartlett Street
Medford, Oregon

Registration Fee: \$40 (includes lunch)

call: (541) 776-7371, or
email: robert.reynolds@oregonstate.edu

For class descriptions & registration materials go to
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/gardening>

OSU Extension Service
in cooperation with Jackson Co.



2009 Classes

From the producers of "The Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley"
A full day of gardening classes with a basic series for the novice gardener
as well as twenty-eight advanced sustainable gardening topics.

Four-Class Basic Gardening Series

- Understanding Soil Improvements • Vegetable Gardening for the Beginner
- Annuals and Perennials 101 • Flowers and Vegetables in Pots for the Beginner

Sustainability & Advanced Garden Topics

- Dynamics of Soil Amending • Tips for Saving Resources & Reducing Waste in the Garden • Art in our Gardens
- Care of Cacti and other Succulents • Backyard Wildlife—certifying gardens with the NWF • Bio-intensive Gardening
 - Worms, Microbes and Living Soil • Bugs by the Month • Community Gardens • All about House Plants
- Fairy Gardens—involving children in gardening • Introduction to Beekeeping • Landscaping for Easier Maintenance
 - Lawns to Gardens • Plant Propagation • Researching Garden Information on the Internet • Smart Irrigation
- Square Foot Vegetable Gardening • Stretch Your Food Budget • Tomatoes • Using Herbs—vinegars, oils & teas
 - Orchards—an orchardist's view of family orchards • Backyard Grapes—managing grapes at home
 - Sex in the Garden—from the plant's perspective • Home Preserving 101—preserve your garden's bounty
- Alternative Groundcovers—explore lawn alternatives • So you want a Greenhouse? • Gardening to Sustain our Watershed

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And you thought you could relax!

It's October. The end of the Master Gardener year. Time to relax, put up your feet, make some tea and get ready for winter rain. Now you can catch up on reading all those garden books you've been meaning to read.

NOT SO FAST! There's still work to be done.

Do an internet search for garden maintenance and you'll find a ton of lists for fall garden chores. The *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley*, written by the great Jackson County Master Gardener vegetable growers, gives us a number of October chores to do to give us food through fall and winter, and make gardening next spring easier and better.

The OSU Extension Master Gardener program has its own list that you can find each month at the Gardening Encyclopedia page (<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/>). This month it includes "register to become an OSU Master Gardener volunteer with your local Extension office."

"So," I hear you say, "I already took the class." Sure, but the long-term health of our program and community needs new class members every year. Be sure to suggest to your gardening friends and neighbors that it's time now to call Bob and sign up for the class starting in January.

While you're talking to them, give them a Winter Dreams, Summer Gardens flyer. This year's symposium at the Higher Education Center in Medford will be the best ever. Make sure they know about all the evening and weekend classes we give throughout the year. And never pass up a chance to talk about our outstanding Plant Clinic available to anyone.

Master Gardeners have a couple more fall chores to complete. Think back and recollect the number of volunteer hours you donated to the program over the past twelve months. And then take a minute to mail, email or call them in to Bob at the Extension Office. And while you're doing that, RSVP for the Annual Master Gardener Banquet at Kids Unlimited on Saturday, October 24.

It's all part of doing that annual maintenance that's so important to both

the garden and the Master Gardener program. Then sit back, pick up your tea, and plan next year's garden. And send in your membership renewal after planning what Jackson County Master Gardener activities you'll be doing next year.

A little maintenance every month makes a great garden and a great Master Gardener Program.

Bob Reynolds

*OSU Urban Horticulture Agent
Master Gardener 2005*

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All information provided by the *Garden Beet* is believed to be accurate. Readers must assume all responsibility for their own actions based on this information. Occasionally a product or company may be named in an article but this does not constitute an endorsement of said product by JCMGA.

President's Message

The temperatures have cooled down, the sun is lower in the sky, and we have been receiving catalogs offering flower bulbs to be planted in our home garden. It must be fall. As I look around at our demonstration gardens, I can see that many of our gardeners are beginning to put their demonstration gardens to bed for the winter. It always amazes me how quickly this happens at the Extension Center. One minute the gardens are a beehive full of activity, and the next, the gardeners are few and the beds are at rest. It certainly makes one appreciate all of the hard work that the head gardeners and the apprentices put into keeping the grounds beautiful year in and year out. Next year, there will be some new head gardeners, gardeners, and apprentices, but the gardens will remain the same; the one constant in our Master Gardener Association.

At the end of this month, on October 24, we will be holding our annual Awards Banquet at the Kids Unlimited venue in Medford. Here we award the new members who have completed their training, with their coveted orange Master Gardener badge, salute the members who have contributed over and beyond the call of duty to the good of the organization, recognize the contributions of outside organizations, recall some of the highlights of the previous year, and generally, have a good time. Please be sure to mark this date on your calendar and, more importantly, join your fellow gardeners for a great evening of camaraderie.

On November 7, we will be holding our annual gardening symposium, Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens, at the RCC/SOU Higher Education Center in Medford. This is a day that you do not want to miss. There is a wide variety of classes throughout the day which will help you become an even better gardener in the Rogue Valley. The WD/SG committee has put in countless hours planning this event, and it promises to be better than ever. I hope to see you there.

In conclusion, Rollin and Margaret are doing well, but are still in Portland. For any updates on Margaret's condition, or to send her a card, or even to call and talk to them, get in touch with me for the appropriate information.

Ron Bombick
Master Gardener 2006

Back by Popular Demand!

**2009 Jackson County
Plastic Round-up!**
Friday & Saturday, October 23-24
9:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m.
\$5.00 Fee*

Save your plastic for recycling! Jackson County Recycling Partnership is hosting 2 drop-off locations for numerous types of plastic, including grocery and dry cleaning bags, cereal and chip bags, to-go containers, lawn furniture, toys, nursery pots, buckets, CD's and cassettes, agricultural plastics, and much more.

Pre-sort plastic:

Plastic **MUST BE PRE-SORTED** into 3 categories: **soft plastic, hard plastic and nursery plastic**. See the event flier and detailed list of acceptable items at <http://www.jcrecycle.org/09-plastic-roundup.html>.

Event locations:

Jackson County Expo,
1 Peninger Road in Central Point

Ashland National Guard Armory,
1420 E. Main Street in Ashland

Fee:*

Residential cars and pick-ups—\$5.00 per vehicle
Businesses and large loads—\$5.00 per yard

Businesses and large loads ONLY:

Non-residential OR loads larger than a pick-up truck **ONLY!** You can pick up large collection bags in advance and bring the plastic ready for drop-off. For more information, please email info@jcrecycle.org, and include your name, phone number and the types/amount of plastic you have.

Help spread the word—flyer online:

You can help make the event a grassroots success. Please print and post the Plastic Round-up flyer in prominent locations, or save and email it to friends and family, <http://www.jcrecycle.org/09-plastic-roundup.html>.

The Plastic Round-up is sponsored and organized by Jackson County Recycling Partnership, Jackson County SMARTWorks, OSU Extension Service & Jackson County Master Recycler Program. In 2008, 1,200 homes and businesses recycled over 43,000 lbs of plastic. Thank you for joining us.

Rhianna Simes
Master Recycler Coordinator
OSU Extension Service &
Jackson County Partnership
541-776-7371

OOOOOPS!

In the September Beet there was a Winter Dreams article asking you to give the supposedly enclosed invitations to people who had never attended. One minor flaw—no matter how hard you shook *The Beet*, no invitations floated out. It was a classic case of "communication gap," "telephone tag," "the left hand not getting the correct message from the right hand," etc. So... on to Plan B.

The invitations are enclosed this month and the directions are still the same. Think of neighbors, friends, relatives, acquaintances, even enemies who are gardeners who might be interested in attending, especially those who have never been and are not on the current mailing list. Give them one of the invitations. Know more than two people who have not been to Winter Dreams? Additional copies are available in the Plant Clinic and Bob Reynold's office.

Next, be sure to fill out your registration form and send it in. Support from Master Gardeners is going to be needed to validate and continue this year's lowered price. And this great conference is a bargain at any price!

Finally, you will be receiving a couple of email messages with Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens information. Please forward them to everyone you know. Invite them to attend with you. Tell them to be prepared for a wonderful experience! It is because we work so well together that the Jackson County Master Gardener program is such a success.

Garden Letter



It is time to concentrate on fall planting! A number of perennials and shrubs can be planted in fall early enough to get new root growth before winter. Divisions can also be done in fall when you can still see where the perennial is. But mostly we are aware of fall planting when it comes to bulbs. I have been giving my catalogs a good viewing. Then I make a wish list in columns so I can see what each vendor is charging. That way I can compare, decide what I can get locally and what I can afford to buy and pay shipping on. I really depend on the catalogs for pricing and for valuable information, even if I don't always order from them. I have developed a few favorites along the way. Bulbs can be expensive, and though I consider them to be an investment, I want to get the most for my money.

As I began to research for myself and deciding to base my October letter on bulbs, I have found there is too much information to share for only one letter, so the November letter will focus on what I call the "little's," those wonderful smaller bulbs that are so special.

On the front of all the catalogs this year were TULIPS! They have beguiled the world for several thousand years and the history of tulips is fascinating reading. The hybridizing continues, and there are new tulips every year. Most tulips are like annuals, because they are not reliable repeaters, except for the Darwin hybrids and the small species tulips. Lucky for me, as they would be my choice. The Darwin hybrids have more selections every year and because their height is 20-24" they do the job for tall tulips. Mainly, I have preferred the species tulips as they blend with my ideas of woodland-like spring plantings including primrose, crocus, and muscari. Yet I can't resist picking up a bag or two of whatever strikes my fancy to put in pots for that special splash of color.

Tulips are hardy in zones 3 to 8, and need winter cold to be successful. Eight to ten weeks in the refrigerator can make them bloom in zones 9 and 10. Tulips prefer good drainage and sunshine. They really require the proper depth of 8" and they need the foliage to dry after bloom, as it feeds the bulb for next year. Buy the best bulbs you can for the best bloom. And plant point up in clumps and sweeps.

Daffodils (*Narcissus* is the botanical name) are also large bulbs with great bloom impact their first year. Better yet, they continue with full-size blooms year after year if the foliage is allowed to dry after bloom. They are the first

major bloom of springtime, and have a range of selection and bloom times to choose from. They are perennial and multiplying. The daffodil is my choice for the best investment results.

Daffodils can be planted fairly close together: up to 40 hybrid bulbs or 60 species bulbs per square yard. I prefer them in clusters or sweeps for best impact. Daffodils are also hardy in zones 3 to 8 and like to be planted in mid-autumn, 6 to 8" deep. They like good drainage and sunshine. Since they're up in early spring before tree leaves come out, they can be planted where the shade will be later. "They" recommend bulb food mix be added to the planting soil. I give my garden beds a good winter and spring mulching every year and, Scotch that I am, forego the food mix. I love the big common King Alfred type for bold color. I also like fragrance, so a variety called Grand Soleil d'Or from McClure and Zimmerman (www.mzbulb.com) is on my purchase list this year. A Tazetta, better known to most of us as Paperwhites, is on the list, too. The description reads "Yellow petals frame orange cups. Delicious fruity fragrance. They require a couple of weeks longer to force. 12 to 14" tall." Need to get hopping on my order!

Tazetta's are the oldest forms of *Narcissus* in cultivation. They are a bunch, or cluster-flowering, daffodil. There are several varieties to choose from, including the well-known Ziva. They are a wonderful forced bulb known for their musky fragrance and are great for Christmas gifts, or flowers early in January.

The local stores are in supply of many bulb choices, but mainly the most common ones. The catalogs offer a full range of bulbs either grown here in America or in Holland. They also are full of information about the bulb and its care. Some catalogs advertise "double your money" or "money off for orders over a certain amount." Watch closely, as often the base price is double too. Some do compare on the bottom line so check this out carefully. Be sure your supplier does not take bulbs from the wild.

That's all until the November letter and more about all the other spring bulbs you can plant this fall. November won't be too late for most of them. Come see the Extension Gardens, you are always welcome.

Cora Lee
Master Gardener 1994

Winter Box Wonders



Although October seems to officiate a well deserved holiday from summer's gardening demands, it also signals an often bitter-sweet finality to fresh produce promenading to its prospective position on the dinner plate. Ah, but for a means to get a few green sprigs to sprinkle upon a somber setting.

For those few venturesome souls, still not weary from the long season's workout, there is a way. Behold, if you have the will, a window, or a well-lit area indoors, your wish for wintergreens is simply a window box garden away.

To get started, you'll need to decide what type of containers would best suit your particular situation. Plants slated for windowsill propagation, need beds fitting the width of that ledge. Long trough shaped planters work best allowing several plants to be put in a row. Round pots work too, but square or rectangular planters are more efficient. Whatever the shape, just make sure it's large enough to accommodate an adequate amount of soil for root growth.

Fill planters with the best potting soil you can find, placing atop appropriate sized drip pans with small gravel to allow good drainage. Although best placed in a south-facing window, if you haven't one, or maybe no window at all, don't be discouraged. A set of full spectrum fluorescent lights will render that situation.

Although you can grow just about anything, smaller plants are best suited to these miniature gardens such as rosemary, oregano, thyme, savory, mint and the like. For seed choose lettuces, greens, herbs such as basil, parsley, chives, dill, and even miniature tomatoes!

For perennial herbs, scavenging nurseries might lead you to orphans still waiting to be claimed. However, for the rest you should get sowing right away before the cultivating curfew comes with the winter wind.

Sow seed at recommended depths directly in filled planters. This not only saves you the trouble of setting up additional pots, but also reduces harvest time by eliminating transplanting shock. Water well with a weak solution of fish and kelp. Keep seeds moist, covered with a plastic dome cover or clear plastic (poke with holes for air) and in as cool a spot as you can find. Once sprouted, move to lighted area.

For potted plants, removing soil then trimming tangled root tips before planting will assist with their establishment. Water the soil well with the same fish/kelp solution, then place in light source immediately.

If you're without a south window, fix full spectrum fluorescent lights about four inches above the plants. These lights might also benefit plants in a window by extending the winter's light in our area that isn't usually the 18 hours length most plants prefer.

Sometime in the solemn mist of November you may have enough new growth to take the first snippets from your herb plants. By early December, you'll likely be able to start clipping lettuce mixes, basil, parsley and chives, and maybe even pluck tiny tomatoes by Christmas!

So, for those who need fill their gardening fondness beyond the first frost, with a bit of faith (and a few prayers never hurts), and a winter garden box, it's still possible even if your greenzone is brown and you may not have windows or even a spot of soil outside.

Sydney Jordan Brown
Master Gardener 2000

Seed Sources:

www.territorialseeds.com

www.superseeds.com

www.johnnyseeds.com

www.westcoastseeds.com

(source for Micro tomato seeds... grows 5-8" tall plants)

Recipe:

Roasted Pear & Goat Cheese Salad (Four Servings)

Vinaigrette

2 cloves garlic, pressed
4 TB Balsamic vinegar
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
1 TB honey
Salt and pepper
¼ c. extra virgin olive oil

Whisk together the vinaigrette ingredients and set aside.

Salad

1 TB each chopped fresh parsley, chives and basil
4-6 cups mixed greens, washed
¼ c. chopped toasted walnuts

Toss fresh herbs with greens and place on four salad plates. Sprinkle with nuts.

Pears: Set oven to broil

2 large Bosc pears, cored and sliced lengthwise in thin wedges

2 TB port wine

1 TB honey

1 tsp limejuice

1 tsp extra virgin olive oil

1½ oz. log shape herb goat cheese, cut in four slices

Mix port, honey, limejuice and olive oil. Gently mix with pears. Overlap slightly slices of pears to form 4 fans on oiled foil covered heavy baking sheet. Place beneath broiler about 5-8 minutes until they start to brown. Place slice of goat cheese on top then broil another 4-5 minutes until cheese is golden. With a spatula, lift pear fans placing one on top of each salad. Drizzle with vinaigrette and serve immediately.



*Garden Tours...
fun, well-attended, and educational!*

Garden Tour **A Walk in the Park**

Join us for a walk in the park on **Friday, October 23** at **10:00 a.m.** at **Lithia Park** in Ashland!

How many times have you thought about taking the walking tour of Lithia Park but just never got around to doing it? Now, here is your chance! Come see the **fabulous fall color display** and enjoy an educational experience at the same time!

Rain or shine, join fellow Master Gardeners for a special guided tour **at exactly 10 AM** at the **Plaza entrance to the park**. You may want to park in the 4 hour spaces along the park on Winburn Way so you won't have to worry about parking tickets! The tour will be split into small groups and lead by our very own **Marjorie Neal**, husband **Alan Neal**, and recent MG graduate **Sherrill Rinehart**. All three are official park guides for the regular summer tour sessions at Lithia Park.

Lithia Park is just under 100 acres and offers a vista of emerald lawns, trees, hiking trails, and colorful landscapes along with a host of other attractions. The park follows Ashland Creek through undeveloped woodlands offering many interesting hikes. The walking trail that we will be taking runs **about one mile and will take approximately 2 hours** to complete. We will witness the ever-changing display of native, ornamental and exotic plant life and learn all about the history of the park and the plantings. We will visit several points of interest including the Japanese Garden, the Redwood Grove, and Perrozi fountain.

Please bring a bag lunch to enjoy after the tour and delight in the beautiful surroundings. It will be a wonderful way to spend a pleasant morning and also a great learning experience!

Space will be limited so please RSVP to judie@judierichardson.com **prior** to Tuesday, October 20th to reserve your spot for this exciting tour!

See you there!

Judie Richardson-Loveless
Master Gardener 2008

Time for those Fall Divisions!

The Gramma's Garden crew is eagerly preparing for the coming season of teaching propagation methods to the 2010 Master Gardener class—and in the process, developing the great array of plants for Spring Fair sales. We have had our first meeting of the year and have sorted out some of our goals—including hoping for some of those highly valued plant donations from our fellow Master Gardeners.

Last year we had great sales at Spring Fair and we are hoping for more of the same this year. We are planning on some special focus areas this year, including perennial herbs and veggies/fruits (asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries, etc), scent garden plants, drought tolerant plants and native plants. These would be in addition to some of our established specialties like the named day lilies, named iris, grapes, trees and shrubs.

We highly value, and in fact depend on, donations from all of you who have so generously provided materials for past classes.

So, as you are dividing your plants this fall, if you have extras, especially in any of the focus areas above, please send them our way. One limitation we have realized is that given our extreme shortage of greenhouse space, we cannot handle houseplants due to the potential of freezing.

There is a plant donation area by the side door of the classroom (aka garage!) and we will be there every Wednesday 9:00–noon this fall to receive donations. Please be sure to fill out the donation form (in mailbox by door) with your name and information about the plant(s) you are donating. If you must leave plants on days other than Wednesdays, please leave them in the labeled donation area with the donation form and in containers or plastic so their roots don't dry out until we can get to them the next Wednesday.

Thanks so much for your help again this year.

Janet Rantz

Master Gardener 2007

P.S. Regarding equipment: We recently took stock and now have sufficient plastic salad containers and clamshells, but we could use pots greater than 5 gallon size.

Master Gardener Profile

Phil Van Buskirk

Although Phil terms himself a “city boy,” the town of Prospect, Ohio, where he was born, was quite small. It did have 4-H clubs, and Phil was one of its members. He had a gardening project, as a matter of fact, and won trips to the Ohio State Fair with his award-winning vegetables.

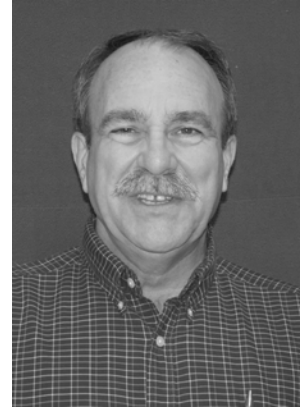
But Phil mostly loved the out-of-doors, and earned an Associate degree in Forestry. He went to work for the US Forest Service, focusing on the Gypsy Moth problem in eleven Eastern states. Following that, he worked for the Department of Agriculture in West Virginia, doing insect and disease surveys in the state.

“But then,” says Phil, “it was time to get a ‘real degree,’” and he received his Bachelor's degree from Elkins College in Elkins, West Virginia. He continued to work in West Virginia for three years. Moving a bit west, he worked for Miles Laboratories in Indiana, but returned once again to West Virginia University for his Master's degree in Plant Pathology.

The USDA Kearneysville Experiment Station in West Virginia needed him then, to work on the growing fire blight problem on apples and pears. But after two years, there came an opportunity in Medford, Oregon.

It wasn't an easy decision to make the move, says Phil, as his father had recently died, and all his family was on the East Coast. But the pull of the West won out, and Phil, accompanied by his wife and grandfather, accepted a position with the OSU Extension Service in Medford to work with commercial pear orchardists, and later, with grape growers.

Phil, his wife and two (almost adult) children have been here for 25 years now, so we must have grown on him. After 19 years as a Jackson County Extension agent, Phil became the Administrator of SOREC—the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center—in 2003. While this keeps him behind a desk and in meetings more than he was, Phil manages to get out “in the field” when he can.



Phil Van Buskirk

In his hard-to-find spare time, Phil enjoys working in his yard and doing a bit of woodworking. If he had a bit more spare time, you'd find him fishing, and in his dreams, he would have arrived at the fishin' hole on a Harley!

Carol Oneal

Master Gardener 2002

Membership Changes

Contact Changes:

Merrell Schwimmer
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Jeff Haug
Class of 2009
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Ashland, OR 97520

Valerie Dambacher
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If any of your
contact information
changes, please notify
Judy Williams at
notimeflat@apbb.net
or 846-6722.
Thank you.

The *Garden Beet* writers want to know what **YOU** want to read about! If you have any topics you would like to know more about, or if you just want to tell the writers how much you enjoy their column, find their name and contact information in this year's membership directory and let them know!

Classes in October

One of the things seriously lacking in my garden, and I suspect in many Rogue Valley gardens, is berries. Even though the *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley* has a wonderful section on growing berries, I just don't feel I know enough to try them. After the deer got my strawberries, I gave up trying anything else. But hope springs anew! I have already started my winter dreaming and have visions of all kinds of berries next year. And, just in time to start planning how to make that vision become reality, **George Tiger**, retired OSU Extension Agent and the original Rogue Valley Berry Man will be teaching an evening class on **Growing Berries in the Rogue Valley, 7:00–9:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 13** in the **OSU Extension Auditorium**. Master Gardeners wearing their badges will be admitted free. Others will be charged the nominal fee of \$5. Refreshments (probably

berries!) will be served. I am already imagining raspberries for breakfast and strawberries for lunch and....

Jane Moyer
Master Gardener 2005

Upcoming Classes:

Tuesday, November 10
Managing Weeds Around Your Home
7:00–9:00pm
—Bob Reynolds, Master Gardener Advisor

Tuesday, December 8
Maintaining a Home Greenhouse
7:00–9:00pm
—Don Shaffer, Master Gardener

Got too
much
poop?



Need some
garden
gold?

Try Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District's Manure Exchange

(We don't discriminate—manure from all livestock species welcome!)

Go to www.jswcd.org

Click on "Manure Exchange"

To post what you have or find some for your garden!

Questions? Call 541-734-3143 or email angie@jswcd.org

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

How About You?

You've probably noticed. "Sustainability" has become one of those fashionable, catch-all words that get slung around until they lose any real meaning. So what is "sustainability," really? According to an on-line dictionary/thesaurus, it's "the ability to maintain, nourish, continue, carry on, prolong."

JCMGA has been encouraging sustainability for as long as it's been in existence and has added an extra emphasis during the past year. The Board commissioned Janet Rantz to catalog the current sustainable practices as a baseline, and plans to move on from that baseline.

As a part of the on-going effort to increase sustainable practices, this will be a recurring column to encourage sustainable practices in all aspects of our lives. We are all familiar with the slogan "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." It will become the theme with at-home hints in each category.

Did you know that the words reduce, reuse, and recycle are not placed in random order in that slogan, but are in the recommended order for having the greatest impact? Reducing the amount of "stuff" we buy, own, and use eliminates not only the stuff itself, but the energy used in making, transporting, and eventually eliminating it as well.

But we all have to have some stuff, so next is the recommendation to reuse whenever possible, rather than buying new. Finally, the third recommendation is to recycle stuff that can't be reduced or reused.

Of course, some efforts toward sustainability incorporate all three. Composting is a prime example. Both the need for manufacturing and transporting commercial compost and the need to transport and dispose of our yard and kitchen waste are reduced when we compost. Material put into our home compost is being reused rather than going into a landfill. And, when we use our own homemade compost in our gardens, we are recycling.

Have a good Reduce, Reuse, or Recycle hint you'd like to share? E-mail it to janemoyer@connpoint.net for inclusion in a future column.

Master Gardener Profile

Ron Bombick

Ron is one of those people who has put lots of miles under his belt since he left his birthplace of Pittsburgh, PA. Born into a family of steelworkers, Ron put in his time in that industry during the summers of the years he was in school.

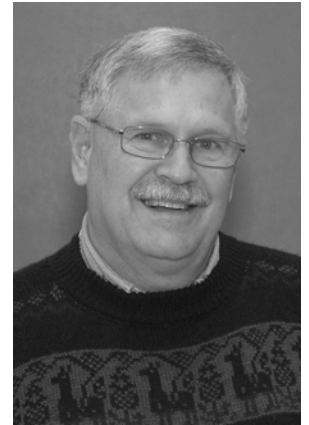
Like many of our Master Gardeners, Ron was introduced to gardening by his parents and grandparents. He recalls his dad having a garden, in which he and his siblings worked, mostly as weeders. His grandparents had a large garden on their farm, which he enjoyed visiting as a youngster.

Then it was off to college at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Ron had dreams of becoming a doctor, and chose a Biology/Pre-med major. He did some tutoring, and upon observing his skill at that, his advisor encouraged and advised him to consider teaching. Ron did so, and eventually changed his major, graduating with a degree in Biology/Education/Chemistry.

Thus began his career in education, teaching in various schools in Maryland for the next 31 years. Of course, there were other events in Ron's life during that 31 years. He married, earned his Master's degree from the University of Maryland in Science Education/Chemistry, and let's not forget the gardens so large and beautiful that people often thought he must be a professional, and asked if he was available for services.

It was during those summers that Ron and his family got bitten by the travel bug, and traveled over most of America. He came to realize that he didn't want to retire on the East Coast, and began to look in earnest for a place more suitable.

Modern Maturity magazine had listed Ashland, OR as one of the ten best places to retire, and upon retirement, he and Marydee visited, and fell in love with it. They rented a house for three months, just to be sure, then sold their house in Maryland, and moved here in 2005.



Ron Bombick

After completing the Master Gardener class in 2006, he and Marydee immediately became active in JCMGA. Ron served as Outreach chair, then as president-elect, followed unexpectedly quickly as president.

In his spare time, Ron not only loves to tend his own beautiful gardens, but enjoys reading, cooking, following sports, and traveling some more—this time mostly overseas.

Carol Oneal
Master Gardener 2002

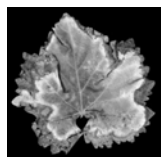


October in the Plant Clinic

Weather Damage

August in the Plant Clinic brought in a fair number of weather damaged plants. To the unsuspecting client, it may appear that their garden is being ravaged. Part of the problem seems that each plant indicates weather damage in a different way. Recognizing the unique qualities of heat related stress on an individual plant is important as with extended hot temperatures most plants show some form damage.

During the hot days of summer, many plants will show dry margins around the leaf margin. The picture of the grape leaf is a good example.



The basic cause is that the plant is unable to take up sufficient water. Once burned, the leaf will not recover as dehydrated leaves will not turn green again. However, with proper watering, the plant should recover. Be careful not to over water however, and resist the urge to continually apply more water. Remember that roots need oxygen and this means the soil must dry between watering.

Another heat related problem and defense mechanism is wilting, especially in vegetables such as squash. Inspect the plant for signs of



infestation or disease. Do not be concerned with watering unless the plant does not recover by the next morning as wilting is a protective measure on the part of the plant. Has your plant enough available nitrogen in the soil? If not, it will be more susceptible to wilting. A liquid, organic feeding of worm tea or manure, will see an almost immediate improvement if nitrogen deprivation is the problem.

At temperatures in the high 80-90's, heat susceptible plants will indicate damage. At a recent Grower's Market a client brought in raspberries with white patches on them. Sun scald had prevented the berry from completely



pigmenting each part and hence the white parts. The condition is called White Druplet Disorder and although the berries are not attractive, they are fit for consumption.



During very hot spells fir trees exhibit needle scorch which causes the branches and twigs to eventually die and drop, leaving a disfigured tree. Sometimes, especially hot and windy conditions will lead to burn no matter how

appropriate the cultivation. Make sure to continue deep watering your trees once a month throughout the summer, resisting the temptation to over water and possibly "kill them with kindness."



Rhododendrons indicate burn with chlorotic areas on leaves, which could be mistaken for chlorosis. The chlorotic area may or may not develop into brown, dead patches. A good way to tell whether it is chlorosis or scorch is to check the leaves under the outer layer of leaves for signs of chlorosis. Check for soil permeability and retention as although they love moisture they will not survive poorly oxygenated water. Hot wet conditions are more dangerous to rhododendrons than cool wet conditions. All shade loving plants will need protection until the hot spell is over as plants suffering from heat stress shut down basic functions. Again, once scorch has occurred, there is no cure. However, with proper water management, the plant should recover.

Wendy Purslow
Master Gardener 2006



Splinters from the Board

Jackson County Master Gardener Association Board of Directors Meeting – September 2, 2009

Officers' Reports

President (Ron Bombick) Ron reported on the actions of the Executive Board at its meeting on August 1st. At the 2009 Winter Retreat, several areas of interest were identified with a person who volunteered to look into each one. Each will offer a report at a meeting this fall. The Home Builders Association asked us to participate in its fall Home Show. We have declined, but will look into participating in their February Home Show, with the possibility of offering classes, as well.

Ron introduced the question of co-chairs. He wanted the Executive Board to consider how it fits into the bylaws. He wants a single board position for each group; the person with fiduciary responsibilities. There is a need for continuity on the board. As issues come up, members must follow the issues and alternating attendance at board meetings involves a lack of continuity. Ron's final comment was that this came up now because of his new presidency. He's interested in streamlining the organization, not separating people. For ease in its work and to follow the bylaws, he is defining the board as 10 officers and 14 members-at-large.

Treasurer (Jim Scannell) Jim Scannell distributed the financial report for August. The treasurer's report was approved as distributed.

OSU Extension Agent (Bob Reynolds) The OSU Dean of Agriculture and several of his OSU co-workers recently visited the Jackson County Extension Office for the first time. The Dean was impressed with the Master Gardeners organization. Many Extension people said "Wow, you do a lot of things!" after viewing the display that Jane Moyer created for Mini-College.

Grounds Master Planner (Richard Brewer) A 400-amp service is needed to serve the Greenhouse, Prop House and Gramma's Garden workspaces. The total cost for the 400-amp service plus several other improvements will come to about \$6,000. We have the skills among our members to do all the work, except for that which must be done by a journeyman electrician.

MOTION: to add a new 400 amp service plus expenses. Wallace/Belknap. Motion passed.

Retreat Results. Six ideas resulted from our Winter Retreat: infrastructure improvements (Richard Brewer), marketing plan (Carol Oneal), long-range plan (Jim Scannell), evaluation of the cost/benefit of demonstration gardens (Nathan Swofford), youth/schools (Barbara Davidson), more green/renewal (Janet Rantz). Presentations from these six people will be given during the next two months.

Barbara Davidson discussed youth/schools. Thirty-two schools have been involved in our seed grant program over the past few years. She has talked with a number of teachers and plans to speak to many more, asking them, "What more is needed in your school? What assistance is needed in your horticultural programs?" Master Gardeners have been asked to help with school-less Mondays in the Medford and Central Point School Districts.

Carol Oneal spoke about marketing. The Speakers Bureau participants have experienced a training session with materials about Master Gardeners and Extension services. Bookmarks have been brought up-to-date. Expanding our advertising into Siskiyou County in northern California may also be a good idea. Carol also recommends that Spring Fair, Winter Dreams and the Open House all have their own publicity people. Vicky Lunde suggested that these positions be included in the apprenticeship program.

Janet Rantz discussed creating a less-wasteful Master Gardener operation, valuing green and sustainable practices. Carol Oneal suggested that Janet create a tip column on being "green" for the *Beet*.

Committee Reports.

Winter Dreams (Janet Rantz) All is going well. The class list is complete and looks fine! She and her group will be at the Harvest Festival in Talent on Sept. 12.

Apprenticeship Coordinator (Judy Wallace) She has had several inquiries from MiniCollege attendees about the apprenticeship program. As well, the presentation at the picnic elicited a large response from veterans who had not heard of it.

Community Outreach (Jan Purkepile) Oak Valley community asked for help in designing a garden and Jan referred the inquiry to Rhianna Simms. The response from Oak Valley was one of delight with Rhianna's work. The Harvest Fair held at the Expo Center will be charging \$100 for a booth. 4H will be participating, although we don't know if they're being charged for their booth. Jan suggested that if there's enough room, we'll squeeze in with 4H. The AAUW Fall garden tour with MGs at each garden as docents. Linda Vista in Ashland has a strip of land that needs help.

OMGA Representative (Bill Hunt) The next meeting of OMGA is on November 7. Bill will need statistics from the gardens by then.

Social Committee (Vickie Belknap) The picnic was a wonderful event, and went very smoothly, as did the set-up and take-down. Thanks to Judy Wallace for pitching in. Vickie suggests re-scheduling the picnic to early June. Bob suggested using generic name tags for those people who forget their own.

Next month's meeting: Friday, October 2. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Nancy Hunt
Recording Secretary
Master Gardener 2005

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MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION**
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*Class of 2009
Graduation and
Awards Banquet
October 24*

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Friday, October 2

Board Meeting, 9:30–Noon

Thursday, October 13

Growing Berries in the Rogue Valley
7:00–9:00pm

—George Tiger, retired OSU Extension Agent

Saturday, October ??

Graduation and Awards Banquet
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Saturday, October 31

HALLOWEEN

Friday, November 6

Board Meeting, 9:30–Noon

Saturday, November 7

Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens Symposium
RCC/SOU Higher Education Center

Tuesday, November 10

Managing Weeds Around Your Home
7:00–9:00pm

—Bob Reynolds, Master Gardener Advisor

Thursday, November 8

Saturday, November 7



*Winter Dreams /
Summer Gardens*

*Qualifies for recertification
Unless noted, all classes will be held in the Extension Center