

# Garden Beet

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

Plan Now  
to attend the  
**Master Gardener's  
Annual Picnic  
and Barbecue**  
August 29



OSU Extension Service & 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

Class descriptions & registration  
materials will be mailed in September

## Those Pesky Pests!

All gardeners experience pest problems from time to time. Insects, plant diseases, weeds, slugs and snails, etc., can cause significant plant damage. Many gardeners are concerned about the use of pesticides and herbicides because of possible harm to the applier, the environment, children, pets and other non-targets. "Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a strategy to prevent and suppress pests with minimum impact on human health, the environment, and non-target organisms," reports Steve Dreistadt, University of California. Preventing problems is the first focus of IPM. As a review for all who have taken the Master Gardener class, the following tips are taken from *Sustainable Gardening* (pg. 437-453), the text used in the JCMGA training program.

- Choose resistant or tolerant varieties of plants.
- Place plants in an environment where they will grow well. Consider soil pH, neighboring plants, moisture and drainage, sun and wind exposure, and any other pertinent factors that might have an effect on the plants.
- Know your plants' needs. Water and fertilize accordingly. Plants that are drought-stressed are more susceptible to pest attack, while plants that are over-watered are vulnerable to root-disease organisms.
- Keep your garden clean. Weeds harbor insects and diseases in addition to competing with garden plants for water and nutrients.
- Regularly check plants for signs and symptoms of pest damage. Inspect the undersides of leaves and the inner part of canopies. Use a hand lens to look for smaller signs and symptoms. Periodically check with a flashlight for pests that are active at night.
- Most plant problems are due to non-living factors such as poor growing conditions, temperature extremes, poor water management or mechanical injury, so rule these out first.
- Keep your garden tools clean, especially pruning tools. Disinfect your tools.
- Learn all you can about a pest's life cycle to determine at which point the pest is most susceptible to control measures.
- Rotate annual plants.
- Use companion planting and intercropping to discourage disease and insect pests.
- Consider how much damage both you and your plants can tolerate.

For further information, consult Chapter 20, "Integrated Pest Management" in your *Sustainable Gardening* binder and/or attend **Marsha Waite's June 16 evening class on Organic Pest Management**. (Details of Marsha's class can be found on page 8.)

**Jane Moyer**  
Master Gardener 2005

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Last month I talked to you about the carbon footprint of our home landscapes. (You can find last month's *Garden Beet* on-line at <http://extension.oregon-state.edu/sorec/resources-current-master-gardener-volunteers> or <http://tiny.cc/GardenBeet>.) Now this month, as promised, here are a few suggestions of what you and I could be doing to reduce our carbon impacts.

Lawns are the most dollar, energy and carbon intensive parts of our landscapes. That monoculture of grass goes against nature's love of diversity and it's hard to keep it short, green, and free of weeds, disease and harmful insects. That gasoline mower pollutes more in one hour than 40 late-model automobiles, and two-cycle leaf blowers and trimmers are even worse. The lawn is where you can get the most immediate impact if you:

- Reduce the size of the lawn. Convert some (maybe all of it) to more shrubs and trees with an intermixture of perennials. Not only do you avoid the energy and dollar costs of the lawn, but those woody plants are sequestering carbon for long periods.
- Keep some lawn but get rid of the gas mower. If your plot is small and your energy is high, get a push mower.
- Change from gas-powered appliances to electric. Yes, they use energy and carbon is produced for electrical production, but the total carbon for the work accomplished is much less. And they don't release any local air pollutants.
- Convert your lawn to grass varieties that require less watering – remember that water takes energy to be pumped and moved to your home.

Finally, just mow less. Set your mower a little higher and mow a little less often.

Convert your landscape to an organic operation. Organic growing requires you to build the health of your soil. That means you care for it and feed it to increase humus and therefore the carbon sequestering capabilities of the soil.

And that means you're using compost and organic fertilizers. Good for you. But, think about the embedded transportation (equals energy equals carbon production) costs of the product you use. Where does the organic fertilizer and pesticide you use come from? Always buy the product produced close-by if possible, and avoid products that have excessive packaging.

Make your own compost on-site and there are no transportation costs. If not, buy a locally produced product. Buy in bulk and avoid the waste and embedded energy of the plastic bag. And speaking of waste, organic waste in a landfill (those weeds you

sent away in the trash) often becomes anaerobic releasing methane, a much more powerful greenhouse gas than the CO<sub>2</sub> from your aerobic home compost operation.

Minimize your use of water through planting thoughtfully to avoid the need to water heavily. And harvest the water that comes naturally using rain barrels or other collection systems.

These few suggestions are just a beginning. Master Gardeners are the most creative and thoughtful folks I know. You'll come up with many more.

**Bob Reynolds**

*OSU 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.

# Let's Go to Mini College 2009!

Mini College is 2–4 days of gardening information, friends and fun on OSU's Corvallis campus. It's like a "state convention" of Master Gardeners. Dates this year are August 5–8.

Wednesday, the 5th, is designated "Leadership Day," so classes are geared towards helping members of the local Master Gardener Associations with conducting meetings, long range planning, using volunteers, or similar topics. Wednesday evening will include a kick-off social.

You can find a list of classes/presenters, tours, and workshops offered on Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning by going to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/mini-college>, or in your copy of *The Gardener's Pen*, OMGA's newsletter, scheduled to reach you about June 1. Thursday evening usually includes another social event. Friday evening is a banquet, but doesn't require formal dress.

Door prizes are given out throughout the event. A silent auction is held Thursday–Friday, filling several hallways and including art of all kinds, gardening books galore, gardening tools and miscellaneous objects, wood pieces, glass, jewelry, tools, wall hangings, and much more.

Most attendees eat their lunch in the cafeteria. Some of JCMGA's Master

Gardeners will probably be in the dormitory, while others will stay in the Garden Hilton, and still others will stay in an RV park or motels a short distance away.

A special this year (which is voluntary) is a food drive including fresh produce and store-bought canned goods for the Linn-Benton Food Share. They particularly need low-sodium vegetables and low sugar fruits. Meals ready to eat, such as soups or stews in "pop top" cans, are also particularly appreciated. Home-canned goods cannot be accepted for this food drive.

In the main lobby area near Registration, tables are set up for local Associations to have Chapter displays. Another set of tables will be for Chapters to sell merchandise (aprons, shirts, mugs, and a variety of other items). A seed exchange will be available for any who want to participate. And my favorite place for the whole event—the Gardening Bookstore, also off the main lobby, is a place you don't want to miss. Special-topic gardening books, children's books focused on gardening, bugs, and animals, and a variety of chart and quick reference tools all vie for your attention.

Mini College gives you an opportunity to hear a variety of presenters on topics both general and technical. Talk with Master Gardeners from across the state and

discover the vast diversity of the state along with some very common threads. Mini College is not limited to Master Gardeners, so a gardening spouse or friend who would like to expand their gardening experiences might accompany you.

If anyone plans to go to Mini College and would like to help our Chapter with door prizes or silent auction items or just have suggestions, please let me know. Also, if someone has some "poster" or "bulletin board" skills and would like to help refurbish our JCMGA display board, please let me know.

Hope to see many of you, both '09 class members and veterans, at Mini College!

**Barbara Davidson**  
*Master Gardener 2004*

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## HOW TO REQUEST A MINI-COLLEGE \$100 SCHOLARSHIP AND COMPLETE REGISTRATION

**Any Jackson County Master Gardener—this year's class or veteran—may apply for a \$100 scholarship to help offset the cost of Mini-College, August 5-8, on the OSU campus in Corvallis, by doing the following:**

1. By June 5, send an email to [barbdav@charter.net](mailto:barbdav@charter.net) follows: a) Subject: Mini College Request
- b) Complete the following sentence: "I would like a \$100 assistance scholarship for Mini College because..... (few sentences, not pages). (These requests are necessary and become a part of the Treasurer's documents)
- c) Be sure to include the name(s) and address for each Master Gardener request. (Couples may submit only 1 request but both names need to appear on the request.)
- d) NOTE: The Board has designated money for 15 scholarships. These are given on a first-come-first-served basis.
2. Obtain OMGA Mini-College Registration form on-line (available by June 1–2) or from *Gardener's Pen*, Spring 09, expected June 1. COMPLETE the form for your individual choices on classes, workshops, meals, etc. Note that 1 package for the OSU dormitory includes all meals. Another choice will be all meals excluding the dormitory.
3. By June 10, if you are applying for the \$100 from JCMGA, leave your completed registration WITH APPROPRIATE PAYMENT (minus \$100 of the total shown on the form) in Bob's office in the tray or box on the side table marked "Mini College—Barbara." All completed applications along with the scholarship check from JCMGA will be mailed to qualify for the early bird registration discount, available through June 19.

If you are not asking for the Mini College Scholarship, then you may send your registration in on-line or by mail with appropriate payment by Friday, June 19 to qualify for the early bird discount. Registration for Mini-College (non-early birds) closes Wednesday, July 15.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Barbara Davidson—Phone 541-245-2729; Cell 541-601-1471 (late evening calls accepted).

# Garden Letter



Greenhouses are on many gardeners' wish list. It happens every year after class. After the April heat wave of over 90°, I was reminded of the technical knowledge one needs to have in order to run a greenhouse.

Haydn built me a "Folly" when we lived up on the Applegate. I wanted something like a greenhouse, but not really one, as I am very limited on the side of my brain that deals with mechanical, technical, and other like things. "Corabird's Folly" was born, using recycled sliding glass doors, old windows, left over plastic from a brother-in law's professional greenhouse, imagination (mine), and his willingness to please me.

The purpose was multiple: a storage place for garden pots and tools, a planting place, and a warmer-than-outside place to winter some tender things. I started seeds there, and even spent time there in the winter sunshine.

My yard is so small here that I don't really have a place for all the things I want in my garden. I have, however, been eyeing a corner on the deck. Maybe before winter I can check out recycled windows and antique doors with neat brass handles again. Purple trim?

I talked with Sharon Maurin in the Grandma's greenhouse when I picked up plants they grew for the Craft Garden. They seem to be doing well using the converted garage for a classroom and potting. Sharon and Jodi Willis and their group of mentors provide "hands on" classroom education for the new class members, as does Ken Thompson and his crew in the big greenhouse. Sharon showed me the three

small greenhouses they use and as always, they say they could use more space.

The big greenhouse had some problems at the end of the season with overheating. A new thermostat and motor got them through, but heavier duty wiring is in the works soon.

Being aware of how to manage such problems needs to be on your list if you are considering a greenhouse. Also think about how you will really use the greenhouse, to determine the size and kind. Choices in materials from wood and glass to metal and glass, to plastic and plastic can make a difference in price and experience. Storage shelving and windows that open mechanically or under pressure are additional expenses.

So is installation and ground surfaces. Do your research.

In talking greenhouse and Fair preparation, I became aware of a problem of plant theft. Apparently clematis in a back corner of the outside storage area disappeared, as well as other plants there and in Peggy Corum's propagation area along the fence. I know that the bird bath had been damaged by vandals earlier this spring. So sad. The "visitors" were not able to lift it out of the rock and cement base put in to secure the replacement for the first one that was taken several years back. Frustration and something big hit the top and broke a big hole in the bowl. The Research area also reports ongoing incidents of gasoline theft.

Safety is the first concern. Wear your badge. If you work after hours or on Saturday, work with a partner and be alert. Be friendly when you meet up with people you don't know; introduce yourself and ask their name and if you can help or direct them. If you are at all concerned, LEAVE. Make notes of what happened, including vehicle information, and let the Office know when they are open.

The Spring Fair was a success! Class is over. Additional hours of service in the Plant Clinic and the Gardens will continue over the summer. Students are responsible for their hours. If you haven't heard from your Head Gardener, call him or her.

Mini College is coming up, there are garden tours, and an August Picnic. Summer has come. Stop by the gardens; you are always welcome.

**Cora Lee**  
*Master Gardener 1994*

# June Sprouts



June is definitely busting out all over filling the air with sweet lavender and ripening berries. As summer sits on the sidelines, the last slice of spring holds a secret for growing the best ever Brussels sprouts.

Since sprouts mature best after the heat of summer days and nights has mellowed, starting these little gems early this month is the ticket to true success. The savvy gardener who spring sows will be able to harvest their sprouts after the first few frosts and savor them at their most honey sweetness.

So for all those who still turn their nose, nor spade a spot, they likely know not what they are missing beyond the commercial grown bitter balls at the market. Even if you give them all away, there's something intriguing about their truncated stalks with outstretched leaves towering over the garden like miniature palms trees adorned with their spherical balls of red or green.

The next secret to successful tightly budded sprouts is starting them in a firm bed. All heavy clay soils need apply. If using a spot previously amended and occupied by peas or beans, then you'll not likely need any further compost. If not, use compost that's low in nitrogen since too much will cause your sprout progeny to misbehave with off colored comments and loose bud syndrome.

Once bed is well amended, but still firm and not too loose or fluffy, sow seeds about ¼–½" deep in rows about 18–20"

apart. Cover with fine compost and water well. Make sure you keep them moist, but not soggy.

You can expect your babies to emerge in about 5–17 days. When the sprouts are about 3" tall, thin them to about 18"–20" apart. Protect with floating row cover from birds and pests such as the cabbage moths who'll likely want to devour your Brussels buffet.

As sprouts grow, mulch generously. Continue protecting from flying pests by wrapping individually or making a dome over the entire row with floating row cover. Also making disks about 6" in diameter from roofing felt, (impenetrable heavy weed barrier, or whatever endurable material meets your imagination), should keep cabbage root fly maggots at bay. Cut a slot from edge to center of disk and place around the stalk at ground level.

Sprouts also need securing from wind. Secure with two stakes or surround with larger sized circular wire cages (usually sold for tomatoes) pushed well into the soil.

About mid summer, the sprouts will be getting hungry. Feeding them with a foliar type meal will benefit their appetites more efficiently since they absorb most nutrients through their leaves. Use a well-balanced formula low in nitrogen.

Once autumn's chill has sent the bugs elsewhere, remove the row cover. After the first few frosts, start picking sprouts when small and firm. Beginning from the base working up, either snap off with your fingers or cut with a sharp knife. Take only a few from each stem at a time.

Sprouts may be stored at 32° (unwashed) for 3–4 weeks, either individually or still on the stalk to be removed as needed.

Once you've harvested all the sprouts, let the tops continue growing a bit longer. What a treat are these mini leaf cups that make a most tender crowing for those adventurous enough to spring early for some honey sweet Brussels sprouts.

**Sydney Jordan Brown**  
*Master Gardener 2000*

## Recipe:

### **Oven Roasted Brussels Sprouts**

*Crisp on the outside, sweet and tender on the inside.*

## Ingredients

1½ pounds  
Brussels sprouts,  
washed and trimmed

2 tablespoons  
fragrant olive oil

3 cloves garlic, pressed

1 teaspoon minced,  
fresh rosemary

¾ teaspoon  
kosher salt

½ teaspoon freshly  
ground black pepper

## Directions

*Preheat oven to  
400 degrees F.*

*Mix Brussels sprouts  
in a bowl with the olive  
oil, garlic, rosemary,  
salt and pepper.  
Place them on a heavy  
roasting pan and roast  
for 35 to 40 minutes,  
until crisp on the  
outside and tender on  
the inside. Shake the  
pan from time to time  
so the sprouts brown  
evenly. Serve at once.*

## Seed Sources:

These sources have  
both red and green  
Brussels sprouts seeds

### **Territorial Seeds**

[www.territorialseeds.com](http://www.territorialseeds.com)

### **Pinetree**

### **Super Seeds**

[www.superseeds.com](http://www.superseeds.com)

# HERBAN RENEWAL

## Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium purpurea*)



Last month I honored one of the "ladies" of the herb garden, lady's mantle. With Father's Day approaching, it is only fair to recognize a "gentleman" of the herb garden, Joe Pye weed.

Joe Pye weed, a hardy herbaceous perennial definitely not for the windowsill, is a native American plant that prefers woodlands and low swampy marshlands from eastern Canada to Florida. This member of the Asteraceae (formerly Compositae) family likes rich calcareous soil and will grow in Zones 3 to 9 in light shade or sun. Joe Pye weed makes a real statement in the herb garden because it can reach a height of 5 to 12 feet. The stems, though generally hollow, may have some pith and are rigid and stout so wind protection is not necessary. The aromatic stem is purple above the joints and may have spots and vertical lines, especially toward the base of the plant. The leaves, which come almost directly off the stem, can be a foot long and are lance shaped, rough on the top and with fuzz on the underside. The edges are roughly and randomly toothed and the leaves are placed in whorls on the stem, often in groups of five. When the leaves are bruised, a faint scent of apple or vanilla is released. In mid- to late-summer, dense clusters of dusty rose flowers appear with overlapping petals; they make good cut flowers. After the petals drop, the 1/8 inch narrow pointed tufted brown seeds can be harvested and planted. The seeds will ordinarily take 2 or 3 weeks to germinate but the process can be accelerated if the seeds are stratified. Another method of propagation is division of the herb in either autumn or spring. The plants should be spaced at least three feet apart because a mature clump of Joe Pye weed can reach a width of 3 or 4 feet. I believe I've made my point about the windowsill. Butterflies, bumblebees and goldfinches are attracted to the plant.

Today Joe Pye weed, also known as gravel root, trumpet weed, Jopi weed, purple boneset and queen of the meadow, is grown mainly for its impressive and magnificent presence in the garden. But this was not always the case. The herb was originally grown for its thick and purplish-brown root (rhizome) with a creamy interior that was harvested in the autumn and then dried for medicinal

purposes. The plant has been used as an astringent tonic, diuretic, nervine, stimulant, anti-rheumatic and antilithic, especially for uric acid renal stones. It has also been used to treat dropsy, hematuria, prostate problems and to ease childbirth. It was listed in the Pharmacopoeia of the United States from 1820 to 1842. It is interesting to note that cattle rarely eat the herb and those that do may get "the trembles" and produce poisonous milk. The taste is reportedly aromatic, astringent and bitter and, in humans, large doses may cause vomiting. There are about 40 species in the genus; many have been used medicinally, particularly *E. cannabinum* (hemp agrimony) and *E. perfoliatum* (boneset or feverwort.) To make things confusing, at least 5 of the species are also known as Joe Pye weed. *E. purpurea* is generally considered to be less effective.

American Indians taught the white settlers how to use Joe Pye weed and may be responsible for the common name. One story claims an Indian herbalist from New England, Joe Pye, taught the white man how to use the plant to induce sweating to break fevers in typhus. Another story says that Indian tribes called typhoid fever "jopi," while still another tale tells us that it was named after a white entrepreneur who promoted it as a remedy for typhoid and fevers. The herb was additionally used for its reddish pink dye obtained from the seeds. The genus name is derived from a Persian/Greek king of Pontus, Mithridates Eupator, who first used another species medicinally. He has been described as "one of the first to study intensively the art of poisoning and the preparation of antidotes." The species name simply means purple. The earliest use of the name Joe Pye weed occurred in the early 1800s. Since Joe Pye weed is a New World plant, it has not accumulated the rich folklore typical for European herbs.

The only other "gentleman" of the herb garden that comes quickly to mind is lad's love. I'll save that one for another day. In the meantime, Happy Father's Day.

**Ellen Scannell**

*Master Gardener 1986*

# President's Message

The State of Oregon's biennium budget process is currently underway. The OSU Extension, including Master Gardening, could face a budget reduction as much as 30 percent in funding in the future.

On April 30, 2009, the Ways and Means Committee of the Oregon State legislative process heard testimony from the public at the SOU Student Union in Ashland.

I thought you might like to review the testimony I prepared on behalf of the OSU Extension and Master Gardening that evening. Testimony was called on at random, and fortunately I was called on to testify. My testimony follows. I had a brief two minutes to give it.

## April 30, 2009 Ways and Means Field Hearing Testimony

My name is Rollin Mack. I am a retired manufacturing executive residing in Jackson County, Oregon. I am current year President of the Jackson County Master Gardener Association.

I am speaking in support of the OSU Extension Service, one of three OSU "Statewides."

Let me share a story about how the OSU Master Gardening education program has had a positive impact on me and has allowed me to impact many others. When I retired and relocated to the Rogue Valley, I was very interested in learning about urban horticulture as it would apply to this specific area. I was introduced to the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program through media and friends. As I participated in the OSU Extension Master Gardener classes, I learned that the Jackson County Master Gardener Association was about continuing education for me, and about educating others in the community.

Our local Scott's Garden TV segment produced by Channel 12, and nurtured by Master Gardeners, had an estimated 100,000 viewership weekly in 2008! Thousands of people in Jackson County alone, benefit from the OSU Extension Service, its classes and trained resources. Classes delivered by the local Master Gardeners teach local citizens how to grow some of their own food healthfully and locally...important in today's tough economic times.

I appreciate the tough budget decisions you have to make as elected officials.

I believe Oregon State University Statewide Programs are positioned well and committed to help solve many current problems facing Oregon.

Oregon families, businesses and communities need the OSU Statewides to provide the research and education to achieve full economic recovery and our healthy, robust future.

I ask that you not cut the OSU Statewide Services, pushing them over their financial tipping point causing the loss of essential services.

*"Thank you* for the opportunity to provide input into this hearing".

**Rollin Mack**

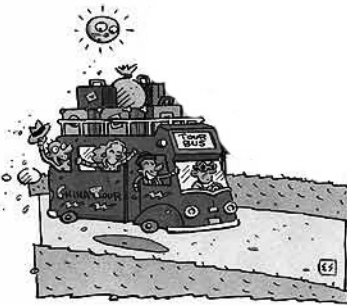
*Master Gardener 2007*

## WEB REPORT Fact or Fiction?

### H.R. 875: Food Safety Modernization Act of 2009

This bill will require organic farms to use specific fertilizers and poisonous insect sprays dictated by the newly formed agency to "make sure there is no danger to the public food supply".

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-875>



Don't forget  
the Master  
Gardener  
Field Trip on  
June 20<sup>th</sup> to  
Roseburg!

Leave the driving to us!

Departing at 9:00 am and returning at 5:30 pm to OSU Extension, ride in a luxurious coach to Douglas County's Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens.

**Deadline for a paid reservation is June 5th!!!!** RSVP to Margaret Mack [maggiem3@earthlink.net](mailto:maggiem3@earthlink.net) prior to June 5th, 2009!!!

## Membership Changes

### Additional Members

#### **Loraine Ewing**

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#### **Genevieve Smith**

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*If any of your contact information changes, please notify Judy Williams at [notimeflat@apbb.net](mailto:notimeflat@apbb.net) or 846-6722. Thank you.*

## Classes in June

This article is being written the day after Spring Fair. As always, it was fun but exhausting to the point of being mind-numbing. This year's exhilaration was tempered with a little trepidation, though. There were so many signs of the times. Saturday attendance alone was roughly equal to the 2008 attendance for the whole weekend. There were disagreements in the parking lot over parking spaces. The greenhouse booth could hardly give away flowers because most were intent on getting vegetable plants. And there was at least one instance of a mother shushing her children as she walked away without paying for her plants.

It was also eye-opening—a good reminder of our mission and the fact that JCMGA is positioned to make a real difference in the lives of people who are learning to garden for survival as well as pleasure and health. Will they know what to do when they encounter problems in their gardens?

Master Gardener **Marsha Waite** will address one set of problems that gardeners encounter in her **June 16 (7:00–9:00 p.m.)** class on **Organic Pest Management** to be held in the **OSU Extension Auditorium**. Veteran gardeners and beginners alike are sure to learn something new in this class, as Marsha discusses a safer approach to pest and disease control using gardening techniques that prevent the need for pesticides along with cultural and less toxic controls. Master Gardeners wearing their badges are admitted free. Others who attend will be charged \$5. Refreshments will be served.

#### **Jane Moyer**

*Master Gardener 2005*

## Lovely Lavender



Wednesday, June 17

11 a.m. to noon

Cost: Free

Location: Extension Classroom  
569 Hanley Road, Central Point

Instructor: Ellen Scannell

Ellen Scannell, Head Gardener in Extension's exquisite Lavender Garden, will be presenting a "101 Crash Course" on Lavender for her apprentices and welcomes any other interested persons to participate in this informative class. No advance sign-up is required.

*If you have some information you would like to share that informs readers on the How To's of living a sustainable life, send them to the Garden Beet at [gardenbeet@trinity2500.com](mailto:gardenbeet@trinity2500.com). Deadline is the 10th of each month prior to publication. Articles will be published on even-numbered months—Feb., April, June, August, October, and December—and are subject to space availability.*



## OUR WRITERS SPEAK UP!

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!

# Garden Tour

**Thursday, June 18 at 9:30 am!**

We have 2 special gardens on our June tour so mark your calendars and email your RSVP! **We will plan to leave from Hanley Extension parking lot no later than 9:30 am on Thursday, June 18.** Those that would like to car pool can do so from there. **Please note—we leave the parking lot at 9:30!**

Our first stop will be the number-one manufacturer of herbal extracts in the nation, **The Herb Pharm**, a certified organic farm located in the rural Applegate valley. As organic farmers, they never use synthetic fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides nor do they use genetically modified seeds. Instead, they employ fundamental, time-honored sustainable agriculture techniques including crop rotation, cover cropping, natural weed control and composting. Established in 1979 and still owned by Ed Smith and Sara Katz, it is now an 85-acre farm which employs 75 people and sells products to health food stores, Herbalists, Naturopathic Physicians, and Medical Doctors worldwide. We will be treated to a guided tour of its state-of-the-art herbal extraction facility and Botanical Sciences Laboratory.

**Please bring a bag lunch to be enjoyed after the tour at the Pharm farm.**

After lunch, we will caravan to Jim and Dottie Becker's **Goodwin Creek Gardens**, where they grow the plants that they sell. Their nursery specializes in herbs, lavenders, scented pelargoniums, everlasting flowers and fragrant plants. They also include a large number of Native American species which are not dug up in the wild, but are all propagated in their nursery. All of their plants are grown with organic soil ingredients, organic fertilizers and (though seldom needed) organic pesticides. Here, you will find many joys and surprises that will delight both your hearts and your flower beds!

Please email me at [judi@judierichardson.com](mailto:judi@judierichardson.com) **prior to Monday, June 15, to reserve your spot for this fabulous tour!**

**Judie Richardson-Loveless**  
*Master Gardener 2008*

Book Review

## Crops in Pots



This book is container gardening taken to a new level, waaay beyond the ordinary to the daring. It presents 50 container projects such as a fish lover's bouquet, a taste of the Mediterranean, a tea pot, lettuce and tulips (!), and more. Specific plant varieties suitable for containers are suggested (who knew...corn?). Each project is nicely photographed at maturity and, better yet, a recipe is given!

The "Getting Started" chapter condenses the basics of container gardening into a mini-book about choosing containers, soils, placement, watering, mulching and fertilizing. The last chapter, "What to Grow," gives the specific needs for each kind of crop. In between are three chapters of elaborate possibilities in taste, color and purpose. "Starters" offers 12 ideas for quick results, such as "Stir Fry," which combines bok choy, mustards, and mizuna greens (a cool weather Oriental mix). The look is a lovely mix of leafy textures. The recipe is for Sesame Shrimp with Bok Choy. "Main Courses" offers 26 combinations. For example, "Peas and Beans" shows three kinds of dwarf beans. The recipe is for French Bean and Tomato Salad with a dressing of mint, garlic, olive oil and balsamic vinegar. "Desserts" offers 12 delicious ideas. These recipes are especially unique... ice creams, sodas, cupcakes and more.

Because of its expansive variety suggestions and surprising recipes, sometimes with some unusual spices, *Crops in Pots* by Bob Purnell appeals to our taste buds, our visual aesthetics and our sense of adventure.

**Mryl Bishop**  
*Master Gardener 2000*



## KUDOS

...go to **Cora** and **Haydn Lee** for their donation of a very beautiful and informative addition to the lavender garden sign. Thanks!!!

...go to the wonderful and selfless participants who joined together in the **Spring Garden Cleaning Party** held for **Audrey Merz** on May 11—**Diane Donaldson, Mel Harder, George Jennings, Mavis Marney, Baldassare Mineo, Janet Rantz, Ellen and Jim Scannell, Lynne Schafer, Alana Starkweather, Ron Bush**, and some of Audrey's other special friends. Many other people also offered help, if needed. Everyone did a wonderful job in assisting Audrey in her time of need. Each individual epitomized the true spirit of the Master Gardener program—always willing to help others and inspire all. It was truly a moving experience to be part of this event.

## June in the Plant Clinic

# Green Ladybugs?



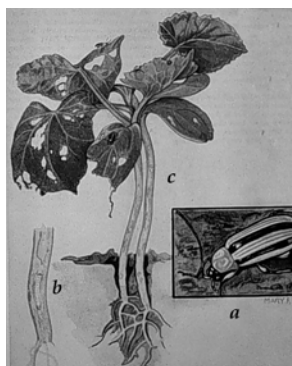
Banded Cucumber Beetle



Western Striped Cucumber Beetle



Western Spotted Cucumber Beetle



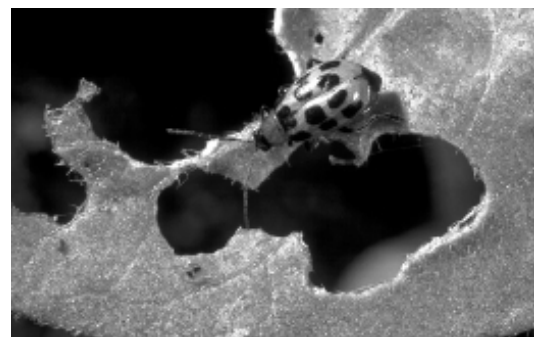
Life cycle of Cucumber Beetle

The Western Spotted or Striped Cucumber Beetle is capable of damaging plants as well as transmitting a variety of diseases. Cucumber beetles inflict feeding damage three times in their life cycle: as over-wintering adults feeding on emerging spring growth, larva in the soil feed on plant roots and midseason adults feed on foliage, stems, flowers and crops. Additionally, cucumber beetles are vectors for bacterial wilt, squash mosaic virus, powdery mildew, black rot and fusarium wilt. Good cultural practices now will head off many problems that are so hard to eliminate later in the season.

Cucumber Beetles exist throughout the United States, but most prevalent in our area is the Western Spotted Beetle (*Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata*), the Western Striped Beetle (*Acalymma trivittatum*), and the Banded Cucumber Beetle (*Diabrotica batltea*). The beetles over-winter as unmated adults and are active beginning in the early spring. Adults lay their eggs at the base of plants, hatch, feed on roots and complete their development in the soil. Adults are about 1/3 inch or 1 cm long and have a greenish yellow background with black spots or black and yellow stripes.

**Western Striped Cucumber Beetles** are yellowish green with a black head and yellow thorax (not to be confused with adult Western Cornworms, which have a yellow abdomen and faint yellow markings on their legs). The beetles are monophagous (feed only on roots or cucurbit plants). Over-wintering adults feed on the leaves of early blooming plants, especially roses, before moving on to the cucurbits. Western Striped Cucumber Beetles are known as specialist feeders because the beetles highly prefer cucurbit plants and fruits. The beetles produce one or two generations per year.

**Western Spotted Cucumber Beetles and Banded Cucumber Beetles** are polyphagous (feed on multiple host plants). The larvae are commonly known as rootworms because they feed on the roots of multiple host plants. Adult spotted beetles over-winter in warmer areas and migrate north in June or July, appearing 2–4 weeks later than striped cucumber beetles. Banded beetles are dependent on the warmer temperature and peak activity can spike every 30–60 days.



**Controls** are best achieved by using a variety of techniques:

1. Start by planting less susceptible varieties and adjusting planting times. A delay in planting time avoids the first generation of beetles and also bypasses squash bugs.
2. Distract insects from susceptible crops by planting nasturtiums amongst the crop. If you have the land, plant a highly susceptible variety such as Black Jack zucchini or Big Max Pumpkin on the perimeter of the main crop. Vacuum beetles or hand pick beetles from the susceptible plant.
3. Use floating row covers for the first 30 to 40 days so that the plants can put on enough growth to withstand an attack. Remove the covers in time to permit pollinators access to the flowers.
4. Conduct population monitoring by inspecting plants several times a week. Pay special attention to the undersides of the plant.
5. Use sticky traps. Make your own by taking a yellow plastic cup, coating it with sticky material such as Tanglefoot and attract the beetles with a Q-Tip dipped in allspice oil or clove oil. Both oils lure cucumber beetles and increase trap effectiveness.
6. Use a variety of natural predators and parasites such as bats, parasitic tachinid fly, preying mantis, green lacewings and assassin bugs for adults and parasitic nematodes for larvae.
7. As a last resort, treat areas of high infestation with insecticides such as neem, rotenone or pyrethrum. All are toxic to other wildlife and have the potential to compound the problem.

**Wendy Purslow**  
Master Gardener 2006

# Splinters from the Board

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## Jackson County Master Gardener Association Board of Directors Meeting – May 8, 2009

### Officers' Reports.

**President (Rollin Mack).** JCMGA received donations from six vendors after the Raffle deadline. They will be auctioned off at the August picnic.

SOPTV has asked JCMGA to answer phones for their fund-raising event on June 4. Carol will act as our spokesperson. Board members volunteered as phone answerers.

There is a bus trip scheduled on Saturday, June 20, to Douglas County's Master Gardener's demonstration gardens in Roseberg. The cost is \$20.00 and can be sent to Bob at the Extension office. The tour is open to anyone, not just Master Gardeners. On the same date, Rollin is planning an RV trip to the gardens. Contact Judie Richardson-Loveless ([judie@judierichardson.com](mailto:judie@judierichardson.com)) to reserve your seat on the bus and Rollin ([rtmmm@earthlink.com](mailto:rtmmm@earthlink.com)) to hold your RV spot.

Bylaws Discussion: Judy Williams and Carol Oneal read sections from the Bylaws. Bill Hunt commented that Lake County MGs experienced difficulties in disposing of their capital assets upon their dissolution. Jim Scannell said that we have no plan for disposing of our non-moveable capital assets.

The next four board meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month—in the library—starting at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be served in the arboretum for all garden workers and board members.

**Treasurer (Jim Scannell).** Preliminarily, we had a very successful Spring Fair; however, not all bills are in. The Board approved a garden guide reprint of at least 2000 copies. In response to the need for a new shed, the Board authorized an expenditure of up to \$600 for a Children's Garden structure.

**OMGA Representative (Bill Hunt).** In a survey by OSU, the public evidenced a very poor understanding of their pesticide use. Pesticide reduction (via three 2-hour classes) has been modeled in Portland for a year and they're targeting homeowner's groups. The need is evidenced by our own new MGs initial lack of knowledge about pesticides.

**OSU Extension Agent (Bob Reynolds).** Kudos go to Gramma's Garden and others who worked with the new class. Sixty to

seventy people have signed up at the Spring Fair for the 2010 class.

The Grower's Market season has begun. Marvin Kazmin is in charge of the MG booth in Medford, and Lillian Maksymowicz will handle Ashland's.

Klamath County MGs gave a round of applause to the help they've received from Jackson Co. MGs, especially Marsha Waite. Peggy Corum would like to encourage attendance of younger children at some evening classes. Discussion centered around starting a junior MG program and publicizing our Speakers Bureau to Scout troops.

Spring Fair was great! "It kick-starts the gardening season," said one vendor.

### Committee Reports.

Gardens and Grounds (Nathan Swofford). Clean-up Day is on May 27 (9–noon).

Sam Ward spoke about the Compost Garden. It's been around since 2007 and she formally requested that it be put on the site map and a sign be placed in the area. The Compost Garden handles the green and fruit "leavings" of the Extension grounds all year and produces about 20 yards of compost, resulting in great cost savings for the gardens. Sam offers apprentices a total of 12 instruction hours. She also asked everyone to keep an eye out for another shredder-chipper. She'd like to establish a master composter program.

Past President (Barb Davidson). Barb and/or Jan will gather more information regarding our future participation in Art in Bloom, a vendor-oriented street festival in Medford. Mini-College's online registration begins on June 2. Local scholarships (\$100) are available. Judi Holdeman will provide the decorations for the banquet. Needs are for Silent Auction items and door prizes. Chapter sales and displays are available as well as a Seed Exchange. The Board authorized \$100.00 to acquire baskets for the Silent Auction and door prize.

Master Planner (Richard Brewer). Richard discussed the 2003 plans and what we've accomplished. We have met most of the goals from the last 5-year plan. Richard will create a new plan with input from individuals and key stakeholders. He will bring it to the Board to prioritize. Rollin commented that Richard's skills are extremely helpful for us

when doing such planning.

Spring Fair (Maryen Herrett). We sold over 7,895 tickets, so attendance was over 8,000 including vendors and free tickets that were distributed to county officials. All vintners will return next year.

Plant Clinic (Marsha Waite). The count for the past three months: February 99, March 169, April 300, and Spring Fair 319. Most questions have covered insects, ornamental plants, vegetables and soils.

Vice President (Jim Foster). In charge of clean-up at the Spring Fair, Jim thanked everyone for their help. Attendance at Spring Fair classes was 399, up from 333 last year.

Outreach (Jan Purkeypille). Jan thanked people who helped at the Phoenix High School FFA contest. Earth Day at ScienceWorks in Ashland was a great success. She heard many good comments about the Master Gardener program.

Speakers Bureau (Carol Oneal). Eighteen people have signed up so far. They've had two training meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

**Nancy Hunt**  
*Recording Secretary*  
*Master Gardener 2005*

**JACKSON COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION**  
Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center  
569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR 97502

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Father's Day  
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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Wednesday, June 3

Board Meeting, 9:30–Noon

### Tuesday, June 16

Organic Pest Management  
7:00–9:00pm

—Marsha Waite, Master Gardener

### Wednesday, June 17

Lavender Class  
11:00am–Noon

—Ellen Scannell, Head Gardener, Lavender Garden

### Saturday, June 20

Master Gardener Field Trip  
9:00am–5:30pm

### Sunday, June 21

Father's Day

### Tuesday, July 14

Drip Irrigation  
7:00–9:00pm

—Colby Troxel, Grange Co-op

### Thursday, August 6

Wildflowers in the Home Garden  
7:00–9:00pm

—Lillian Maksymowicz, Master Gardener

### Saturday, August 29

Master Gardener Annual Picnic and Barbecue  
—Extension Arboretum

### Thursday, September 10

Feng Shui in the Garden  
7:00–9:00pm

—Cheryl Magellen, Master Gardener & Feng Shui Practitioner

### Thursday, October 13

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

—George Tiger, retired OSU Extension Agent

### 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

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

JCMGA website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/mg/>