

# Garden Beet

Newsletter of the Jackson County Master Gardener™ Association • July 2011

## Join the Fun at Mini College

Love gardening? Love learning? Love the Oregon coast? Have we got a deal for you! The event that combines all three is the 2011 Gardener's Mini-College held July 13-16 in Newport and sponsored by the Oregon Master Gardener Association. The cherry on top the sundae is that JCMGA will contribute \$100 toward the expenses of the first 20 members who contact Barbara Davidson by July 6 at [barbdav@charter.net](mailto:barbdav@charter.net).

**Gardening to Live Well**  
28th Annual Mini College for Gardeners  
Presented by the Oregon Master Gardener™ Association  
Over 30 Classes & Workshops  
July 13-16 2011  
Tours of Newport Area  
Onsite meals  
Silent Auctions  
Book Sales  
Discounted Lodging  
Door Prizes  
Newport Middle School  
825 NE 7th St.  
Newport, Oregon  
OMGA™  
Online Registration by 7-1-11 [www.oregonmastergardeners.org/MiniCollege2011.htm](http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org/MiniCollege2011.htm)  
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The twenty-eighth annual Gardener's Mini-College, with the theme "Gardening to Live Well: Nutrition, Reflection, Health Wise," is open to gardeners of all levels: amateurs, professionals, wannabes, Master Gardeners, etc. It's important to note that all gardeners are invited to Mini-College, not just Master

Gardeners, so invite a friend or two to join you.

The focus of Mini-College is education for all backyard gardeners in ever-improving home horticultural practices. To that end, there will be over 30 classes covering a wide variety of gardening topics. July 13, Wednesday is designated as Leadership Day, with classes for those interested in filling leadership roles in their home chapters. Thursday and Friday are filled with classes ranging from "How Can Gardens Support Healthy Lifestyles?" to "Tools and Ergonomics While Gardening;" classes on gardening in each of four different Oregon climate areas are included. On-line registrations close July 1; registration at the door is available.

Wait! There's more! There will be a silent auction, an on-site bookstore, a seed exchange, displays, and sales by Master Gardener chapters. Tours of local garden sites will be available. A welcoming dinner will be held Wednesday evening and an awards banquet on Friday evening. On Thursday evening, reservations have been made at a coastal restaurant for those from Jackson County to dine together and get to know each other better.

For total Mini-College details, including a complete list of classes, go to <http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org/MiniCollege2011/Classes/index.html>

But, wait! Wait! There's more still! The Lincoln County Master Gardeners and the Tillamook County Master Gardeners have arranged for additional classes and tours highlighting their ocean side area. To see complete descriptions of their offerings go to <http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org/MiniCollege2011Tours/ToursFinal/index.html>.

Mini-College promises to be an action-packed couple of days, a chance to get to know fellow gardeners, and an opportunity to learn some of the latest information on digging in the dirt. Oh, yeah, there's the Oregon coast thrown in for good measure. Who could pass up all that?

**Jane Moyer**  
Master Gardener 2005

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# OSU Advisor's Report

The hot and dry weather of the Rogue Valley in mid-summer makes water a precious commodity in the home landscape. Regardless of where you live in the greater Rogue Valley, we need to become increasingly conscious of good water management.

Master Gardeners all learned about evapotranspiration, the loss of water to the atmosphere by the combined processes of evaporation (from soil and plant surfaces) and transpiration (from plant tissues). It is an indicator of how much water your crops, lawn, garden, and trees need for healthy growth and productivity. Gardeners need to replenish the soil moisture evapotranspiration removes. That can be substantial in hot dry periods amounting to more than 3/10" each day.

General guidelines say to water deeply once or twice weekly during hot periods for a total of 1"-2" of water. However, as a science-based gardener, you might want to know more precisely what evapotranspiration is this week, this year. That information is available to you at the Pacific Northwest Cooperative Agricultural Weather Network, more commonly referred to as AgriMet.

The AgriMet website includes both current and historical evapotranspiration along with a host of other weather and climate related data. Go to [www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet](http://www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet) and explore the site. Our local southwest Oregon AgriMet station is located at the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center in Central Point. You will have to adjust slightly depending on your location in the area, but it will give you a good indication.

At the website, you can see the amount of evapotranspiration for the last several days and then replace that amount as you irrigate.

When you do water, you want water to permeate to a depth of 5"-6", and then do not water again until the top couple of inches begin to dry out. Average garden soil will store about 2" - 4" of water per foot of depth, although this varies by soil type.

If you have a lawn, you can save water by letting it go dormant or reduce watering your lawn to as little as once every two weeks. This will generally keep the lawn alive although not uniformly green.

Prioritize your landscape. Water the small and important areas as needed. Apply minimal water to less important lawn areas

and none at all to peripheral areas.

Remember that most watering is common sense. Water during periods when the weather is hot, and slack off when it is cooler. Do not forget that even if you don't water at all, your brown lawn will likely survive and turn green when the rains return.

### **Bob Reynolds**

*Jackson County OSU Home Horticulture Agent  
Master Gardener 2005*

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## Garden Tour Update

June's garden tour was spectacular! Couldn't have asked for a more beautiful spring day to wander around some pretty nice gardens!

We started our day visiting Joan Thorndike's Le Mera Gardens. Joan has been growing organic specialty cut flowers, foliage, branches and berries for southern Oregon and northern California since 1984. She likes to grow all the old time favorites along with many rare and unusual ones. In 2001, Le Mera Gardens and Fry Family Farms joined their worlds of flower farming and have settled into growing and harvesting an ever-expanding array of specialty cut flowers from certified organic fields. You can purchase Joan's flowers at all the farmers' markets in the Rogue Valley through Fry Family Farms. Joan led a very informative session on what it takes to grow and harvest organic flowers commercially in the Rogue Valley followed by a tour of the flower fields. We were then treated to some pretty sumptuous cheese tortas and crackers by our very own Master Gardener, Robin McKenzie of Rising Sun Farms—wow, what a way to start the morning!



Next up we traveled to Jacksonville to tour the unique and wonderful garden of Kelly Leonard. Downsizing to a smaller property, she created a densely planted perennial and rock garden in the hillside's red clay. Kelly's plant list is extensive and includes commonly used perennials and unusual and rare plants. Her gardening passion appears inexhaustible!

*Continued on page 7*

## President's Message

Dear JCMGA members:

It is always a pleasure to walk around our 21 demonstration gardens, especially in the summer time. Thanks to the hard work of all the head gardeners, the veteran Master Gardeners, and new class members the gardens are looking very well. Flowers are blooming, vegetables are thriving, clusters of grapes are forming, and summer is here. As part of the Extension Center, we have been able to utilize the land of Jackson County. This resource enables new and veteran Master Gardeners to have hands-on opportunities that facilitate the learning of new skills throughout our 21 demonstration gardens. What could we do to give back to the community? How do we connect our demonstration gardens to the community? One of the suggestions from the "town hall" meetings was to utilize our demonstration gardens to show southern Oregon residents the many examples of what plants, flowers, and vegetables grow well in the valley. To help promote our demonstration gardens, Linda Holder, Scott's Garden chairperson, arranged with Scott's Garden to tape an episode on the Extension Center grounds. Ron Bombick did an excellent job as the host of that episode. As a result, people from the community have been coming to visit the gardens. I have been discussing with various individuals how to develop a program to reach out to the public. I will share with you more details when additional information is available. If you would like to be involved in this effort, please let me know, or contact Bonnie Martin, Community Outreach chairperson. Meanwhile, please feel free to invite your friends and family to visit our gardens.

As I mentioned in my previous e-mail, OMGA's Mini-College is on July 13 - 16. There are many interesting and informative classes offered this year. For more details, please check out Jane's article and the Mini-College website: <http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org/MiniCollege2011.htm>.

Our annual picnic is on August 27. We are going to combine the quarterly membership meeting with the picnic. Please make sure to mark your calendar and join us.

Even though November seems so far away, it is not too early to think about the Winter Dreams and Summer Gardens (WDSG) Symposium, which is on Saturday, November 6. The WDSG committee has already begun their work and would welcome more volunteers. Please contact Michael Riding or Linda Greenstone if you are interested in helping.

Next Board meeting is on July 6, 10 am in the Research Library.

**Li Harder**  
*President*  
*Master Gardener*  
*2009*

### A Garden Quote

**I have found, through years of practice, that people garden in order to make something grow; to interact with nature; to share, to find sanctuary, to heal, to honor the earth, to leave a mark. Through gardening, we feel whole as we make our personal work of art upon our land.** - Julie Moir Messervy, *The Inward Garden*, 1995, p.19

# Garden Letter



July already? We had such a long spring again this year. On the days it didn't rain, I crunched in all the spring chores so it felt hectic to me, but finally the weeding, planting, and mulching are all done. Now it's time to relax a bit and enjoy the garden seat and a glass of iced tea. At least I hope the above is true since we write about a month before the Beet comes out. Actually, the last of May we had a whopper of a rainstorm complete with hail, and more is forecast. I hope summer will come in June.

Gardening is my pleasure, and I hope to continue doing it as long as forever. A recent book review at a Medford Garden Club meeting has me thinking about how I can do "gardening for a lifetime." Sydney Eddison's book by that name is a good read. Available at your local library, she offers a number of excellent suggestions we might consider on how to garden wiser as we grow older.

This isn't the first time I have thought about my gardening practices and how to control them a bit. Last summer I was looking for all the many ways to simplify the garden maintenance on a friend's garden that I had volunteered to tend. I read Valerie Easton's *New Low Maintenance Garden* also Tracy di Sabato-Aust's book, *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*. Both books were helpful with tips for easier care. With the help of fellow Medford Garden Club members, we were successful in caring for the garden, but I really began thinking about aging and gardening. We never know what the future brings and it only takes a minute for our ability to garden to change.

The hardest part is admitting to what I can or cannot do. This spring I have realized I no longer want to garden in the cold or the rain. I bought a gorgeous small evergreen tree and had to have someone else plant it, as I couldn't manage the 25-gallon pot or dig the hole deep enough. You know from many past letters that we have moved several times since returning to this valley of my birth. From 39 acres out in the Applegate to 2.4 acres on Old Stage Rd to our current 1/6 acre sub-division lot in town. Was it all really because of Haydn's issues? Well, I don't do pumps, wells, tractors, mowers, tree pruning, etc. Not my fault? Well, some of it was prompted by the thought that I might really have to do some of those chores. Can't. Don't want to. Answer: move on. And someday that too may be the right answer again, but for now, the right answer is to question how to make it easier to garden where we are.

So this is what have I learned from my reading (particularly from Sydney Edison's book) that I can share with you. First the question; the answer is complex. You must try to find the right balance for you considering your lands, assets and drawbacks, and your own preferences. You need to review all the

aspects; the type and condition of your soil, your climate, exposure to the elements, wind, sun, shade, and especially what is there now. You need to review how you garden. Is your garden very neat and orderly or casual? Do you control it with chemicals or is it organic? Can you determine the areas that require the most work? Can you take a different approach to your gardening by perhaps overlooking the small imperfections and viewing the garden's overall look? Question if the garden is an easy place to work. What changes, if any, could make it better? Could you make paths wider for better access, or add more hard scape for relaxing rather than gardening? What kind of plants do you keep? Annuals require the most maintenance; lawns, too, are up there with their regular mowing. Perennials may come up year after year, but they require deadheading, staking, division, and other maintenance. Shrubbery and trees require the least work, but they too need regular care and raking in the fall. Native plants require less water and maintenance than other selections. And speaking about water, what kind of water system do you have and is it possible to make it more efficient? We most likely can't start over, but we can consider changes and work toward a less demanding yard.

Perhaps we will need to recognize that we need some help. It is very hard to admit to this one if you are a hands-on gardener. It won't be cheap and can you afford it? Changes are very hard to make, and the first step is to consider it seriously. Just considering it can make the difference. It may slow you down on plant addition. You may upgrade some of your tools to make things easier on your hands or in winding up your hose. Having the right tool can work wonders. Thinking about change can help you to readjust your expectations of the garden and of yourself. I am trying. Will you think about it too?

I think I will have a cup of hot tea, go outside in that quick sun break surrounded by gray clouds, and consider how to enjoy my garden more. This summer visit other gardens when you can and come see the gardens at Extension. You are always welcome.

**Cora Lee**  
*Master Gardener 1994*

# A Shady Deal



At the arrival of July there seems to be an endless explosion of sun ripening fruits, flowers and activities in the garden. However, the heat of summer's searing rays is not for all. We humans are not the only ones seeking some relief lurking in those shady spots.

We wait anxiously to savor the first juicy tomatoes to glide across the tongue, but what is a fresh, succulent garden tom without the accompaniment of those tender leaves of ruby and emerald green lettuce? Although most vegetable plants prefer the full heat of the sun's rays, lettuce is one of the exceptions. Still, if you have even a wee spot with filtered shade, you can coax along leafy lettuce heads. Keeping them clipped will also extend their leaf life.

To plant summer lettuce select the coolest spot in your garden that receives afternoon shade. If you don't have a shady spot, you can create one with hoops or poles and shade cloth. No space in your beds? Then try a pot filled with compost. The bed should be well amended with organic compost and raked smooth. Since the soil will be warm you can seed directly into the bed with seeds of slow-to-bolt lettuce varieties.

Avoid greens in the mustard family, arugula, romaine, as well the Mesclun wild greens since all of these will want to flower and set seed before you can clip a single leaf. The loose-leaf green, crinkled red and deer tongues do quite well.

Sow the seeds generously in rows spaced about 1' apart. Cover seeds sparingly with fine compost patting it gently to firm in place. Since you don't need large spacing between rows for cut and come again cultivation, you can have lettuce even if shade space is limited. If growing lettuce in compost filled pots, moisten soil well before broadcasting seed. Cover as for garden beds or set in the shade.

After sowing, whether on open beds or in pots, water lettuce seed generously until it's well moistened. It's very important that seed be kept consistently moist in order for it to germinate in these warmer temperatures. It should sprout in 3-7 days.

Once lettuce has sprouted, give it a good feeding with full strength fish emulsion. Continue to keep seedlings consistently moist. When the leaves have grown to about 3-4" high, you can start clipping to your heart's content. Keeping plants about this height will help deter bolting. Every afternoon, fog with mini drip sprayers, or use a hose spray, to wet lettuce leaves. The idea here is fooling your summer lettuce crops into thinking that it's still spring. Unless there are several days over 100°, you may be able to have your lettuces throughout August to grace your tomatoes with their shady leaves.

## Seed Sources:

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

Varieties: Simpson Elite; Red Velvet Organic; green deer tongue

## Sydney Jordan Brown

Master Gardener 2000

## Midsummer Grilled Peach and Green Salad

### Salad:

- 2 firm ripe peaches, washed and cut in halves
- 2 tsp each agave nectar and toasted sesame (or peanut) oil
- 5 cups fresh cut lettuce leaves  
(can use other greens such as spinach, arugula, etc.)
- 1/2 red sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 1/3 cup toasted sliced almonds

### Vinaigrette:

- 1 cup rice vinegar
- 1/4 cup sesame oil
- 1 TB fresh grated ginger
- 2 TB agave nectar (or honey)
- 1 TB fresh lime juice
- 1 tsp grated lime peel
- Sea salt

Combine agave nectar and toasted sesame oil then brush peach halves. Grill with cut side down over medium heat until they start to brown. This takes only about 3 minutes. Turn and grill skin another 2-3 minutes. Remove and slice in wedges when cool. Mix together lettuce, sliced onion, peaches and almonds.

Combine rice vinegar, sesame oil, grated ginger, agave, lime juice and peel. Mix together until blended. Add salt to taste. Pour over salad and gently toss. Serve immediately. Makes four servings.

# HERBAN RENEWAL

## Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)

This herb is undoubtedly found in the flower garden more often than in the herb garden because of its beauty when in bloom. Some of its common names are witches' gloves, dead men's bells, witches' bells and bloody fingers. The many names indicate there may be more to foxglove than first appears.

Foxglove, often called by its genus name *digitalis*, is generally classed as a biennial but sometimes behaves as a perennial. It makes a definite statement in the garden with its 4'-8' height. It is native to Western Europe (except the Swiss Alps), Morocco, and the British Isles and has naturalized in North and Central America.

Foxglove grows in moist, well drained, humus soil; preferring morning sun and afternoon shade; and tolerates a pH range between 4.5-8.2. In the first year, this member of the Scrophulariaceae (snapdragon and figwort) family produces a 2' wide rosette of wrinkled, fuzzy, ovate leaves. The odor of the leaves is somewhat unpleasant; the taste is reportedly disagreeable and bitter. During the second year, toothed alternate leaves on long stalks found toward the base of the herb are apparent and are sometimes confused

with those of comfrey. In June and July, the plant produces a spike with 1½-3" tubular lavender flowers hanging on one side of it; the average life span of an individual flower is about six days. The interior of the flower is white with crimson spots; the lower lip of the flower provides a landing platform for bees. In inclement weather, other insects take refuge in its bell-like shape. The flower produces an oval shaped, hairy capsule about ½" long filled with tiny reddish brown seeds. It has been estimated that a single plant produces 1-2 million seeds. The seeds, which take two weeks to germinate, can be mixed with sand for ease in sowing in either spring or early summer; foxglove also self-sows. This herb can also be divided in early fall or spring. Although animals don't browse on foxglove (they've gotten the message - see below) it is subject to Japanese beetles, mealy bugs, anthracnose, and root rot.

Foxglove was cultivated in 1000 A.D. for medicinal purposes that included the treatment of coughs, swollen glands, and epilepsy. It has been speculated that, because van Gogh used *digitalis* to treat his epilepsy and since the drug creates yellow vision changes, his paintings may reflect the use. There were so many deleterious side effects, such as blurred vision, a strong but slow pulse, vomiting and diarrhea,

tremors and sometimes convulsions as well as death, that the medicinal use of *digitalis* fell out of favor until 1775 when Dr. William Withering examined a woman with severe dropsy. He didn't expect the woman to survive but learned later she had recovered after drinking herb tea. He analyzed the tea and discovered it contained *digitalis*. In 1785 he published *An Account of Foxglove* which put foxglove in the forefront for treating congestive heart disease and hypertension. Foxglove contains several glycosides: digitoxin is especially effective for strengthening the contractions of the heart and is also a powerful diuretic. Although

the powdered leaves were originally used, the effective dosage varied; purified extracts or pure compounds are now employed. Extracts from a related species, *D. lanata*, are sometimes used for a milder effect. Foxglove is considered extremely poisonous and, if one leaf is chewed and swallowed, paralysis and sudden heart failure may occur. The leaves are harvested from two-year-old plants just as the flowers are opening. This poisonous herb is subject to legal restrictions in some countries and definitely not one with which to experiment but to enjoy in the garden.

There are several theories

regarding the origin of the common name. One is that it is a corruption of folk's glove, the glove of the good folks or fairies who lived in deep hollows and woody dells where foxglove likes to grow; the cluster of flowers was fancied to resemble the fingers of the glove. A legend says bad fairies gave the blossoms to a fox which he placed on his toes so he could prowl around quietly in the chicken roosts. Elves made the spots on the blossoms with their fingers perhaps as a warning sign. In addition to the common names already mentioned, there are fairy's glove, fairy thimbles, gloves of our lady, virgin's glove, dog's finger, lion's mouth, and fairy caps. In 1542, the German herbalist, Leonhart Fuchs, named the genus *digitalis* for thimble, an obvious resemblance.

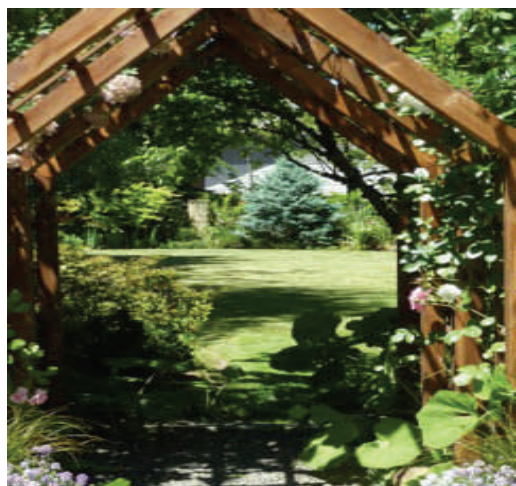
The Welsh had an unusual application for foxglove. They used it to stain engraved stone floors which created a mosaic appearance. With an alum mordant, the flowers will produce a chartreuse dye. Closing with two last bits of trivia: none of the old English poets, including Shakespeare, mentioned foxglove; this year the USPS issued a set of 29 cent stamps that featured herb images, among them lavender and foxglove.

**Ellen Scannell**  
*Master Gardener 1986*



## Garden Tour cont.

We then gathered at the beautifully lush and serene "Wisteria Gardens," the Cosmanns' garden paradise! From the moment you enter it is quite apparent that this garden is well loved! With two landscaped acres, Annette and Brian have the space to take advantage of mass plantings, beautiful trees, and numerous garden rooms—and indeed they have! You can see some pretty magnificent photos of the garden on their web site: [www.wisteriagrds.com](http://www.wisteriagrds.com). They are also available for weddings in the garden or other special events!



We ended our tour right next door at Pebblestone Winery for a little wine tasting. All in all, it was a spectacular day of garden tours!

**Next tour is Friday, July 15** where we will be heading to Grants Pass to visit Sherry Young's 5-acre paradise! We will be bringing a bag lunch to enjoy there while viewing what she has created with extensive outdoor lighting, frog ponds, vegetable beds, and much, much more! Look for details in an upcoming email!

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

**More Garden Tour Photos page 8**

## Master Gardener Profile

Darlene is a true Oregonian. Born in Prineville, she is descended from "settler stock," which differs from "pioneer stock." Pioneers, she told me, came West in the early to mid 1800s, while her ancestors made the trip in 1876.

In the Prineville area Darlene was literally surrounded by family, as her mother and her mother's brothers, along with their wives and children, lived on smaller acreages divided from the original ranch. But when Darlene was six, she moved with her family to Medford to be near her dad's family.

Darlene married soon after graduating from high school. Before long, she fulfilled her dream of being a mother with three children rounding out the young family. When the children were young she helped teach pre-schoolers.

After the kids were in school, Darlene went to work for Darigold, where she soon worked her way up to the management level. She realized by then that she should have taken the opportunity to go to college and enrolled at Southern Oregon College (now SOU). Next, a chance to do a bit of travelling came with her employment doing vendor surveys for a circuit board company in Medford for six years.

Then she met Walt and became a partner in his aluminum awning business. The two were both "single again" at this point and married. After they sold the business and Walt retired, Darlene worked for the State of Oregon for five years until she retired in 2010.

Now she and Walt enjoy their 2-acre property, with a large garden, fruit trees, chickens, and a "watch peacock," who lets them know if he sees any unusual activity taking place. They live near ranches, so are able to enjoy the rural life they love "without the work."

Family is important to them, with their combined family of eight children and the extended family that that entails. They also take time to pursue their other interests of cooking from scratch, genealogy, fishing, and golf.

Darlene had heard about the Master Gardener program for several years, and longed for the day when she could enroll in the program. She did so in 2011, as soon as she retired.



**Darlene Shontz**

Although she is apprenticing in the Wanda Hauser Garden, Darlene has interest in other areas, too, including the Culinary Herb Garden, Lavender, Composting, and Children's Garden.

She loves the idea that she has the opportunity to work in those areas in the future. As the 2011 Class Representative on the JCMGA Board, she is also learning about the administrative side of the organization.

**Carol Oneal**  
*Master Gardener 2002*

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

*"Little by little, even with other cares, the slowly but surely working poison of the garden-mania begins to stir my long-sluggish veins."-- Henry James (1843-1916).*

Just when I was beginning to think summer was never going to come, it appeared. Gardening suddenly kicked into high gear, and the game of catch-up went into full speed.

**Reduce:** I watched a TV program recently in which the commentator described how the FDA is looking again at pesticide and herbicide use in our country. They are theorizing that the disappearance of bees may be the "canary in the mine." They are investigating the possibility that pesticides and herbicides become systemic in living organisms and accumulate over years possibly leading to colony collapse disorder in many species besides bees (including human beings). The Master Gardener Association has long preached that using the least toxic solution possible for a gardening problem is the most sustainable and this makes that stance seem even more important.

**Reuse:** Once you got all your plants into the ground, what did you do with all those empty pots? If you are not saving them for reuse, remember that Gramma's Garden and the Greenhouse are always in need of pots for their programs. Remember also that, all year round, the Grange Co-op collects nursery plastic not suitable for reuse. They are able to send it for recycling.

**Recycle:** Common wisdom says that you can always tell a gardener by the dreadful condition of their hands. If, like me, you go through large quantities of hand lotion, you may have wondered if the lotion containers can be recycled. Even after trying to clean them out, a residue always remains. Recently, Master Gardener Carol Oneal told me about a young start-up company called TerraCycle. Organizations such as ours can collect hard to recycle items to send postage-free to TerraCycle, who collaborates with the manufacturers to recycle them. Along with lotion containers, they will also accept sunscreen containers (You do wear sunscreen when you are out in the garden, don't you?), antibiotic ointment tubes, chapstick tubes, make-up containers, nail polish and nail polish remover containers, hair product containers, toothpaste tubes, and glue containers. These are all recycled into pavers for the yard and garden. A collection point has been set up in the back of the OSU Extension Auditorium. Bring those containers in and we will send them off.

**Jane Moyer**

*Master Gardener 2005*

## June Garden Tour Photos



# Classes in July

Recently I received a national nursery's advertisement for daylilies. There was a lot of flowery information and the following paragraphs particularly caught my attention: "If all you've ever known are the common daylilies with orange petals and yellow throats, you're in for a real treat. Thanks to the skill of today's *Hemerocallis* hybridizers, the once ordinary daylily, like Cinderella, has become a thing of real beauty. By planting a carefully selected group of modern hybrids, you can enjoy the beauty of today's improved daylilies from late spring through early fall."

"Cross-breeding daylilies to produce just the right look or trait requires patience. Hybridizing involves tremendous effort." They obviously haven't met Marsha Waite! She's a wiz at raising and hybridizing daylilies, talks about how easy it is, and, fortunately for us, she's always anxious to share what she knows. Marsha will be teaching a class on "Delightful Daylilies" on July 14, Thursday (7-9 pm) in the OSU Extension Auditorium. She says that today's daylilies are not like the ones our grandmothers used to have out by the outhouse. They thrive in the erratic Rogue Valley climate. She will show us how to grow, cultivate, propagate, and hybridize these beauties. Visit the Daylily Garden on your way in or out of class. It's located at the far end of the staff parking area along the east side of the Extension building.

The good news is this spring's rains have brought an overly lush crop of flowers. The bad news is they have also brought an overly lush crop of WEEDS! Actually, I have planned to do more in my yard this summer besides battle the bountiful weeds. Master Gardener Advisor Bob Reynolds will teach all the many ways to fight this plentiful problem in his program "Woe to Weeds - You Can Manage Them" on July 25, Monday (7-9 pm) in the OSU Extension Auditorium. How timely! If bitter cress, crabgrass, thistle, yarrow and other unwanted are taking over your yard, this is the class for you! Learn strategies and techniques for managing the weeds around your home. This presentation will not address large acreages or farm weed management.

The entry fee for each of these classes is \$5. Those with dirt under their fingernails, a farmer's tan, and a Master Gardener badge will be admitted free of charge. Yummy refreshments will be served at both classes.

**Jane Moyer**

*Master Gardener 2005*

# Master Gardener Profile

Wildflowers have always fascinated Lillian. As a child in her birthplace of Ronneby in southern Sweden, Lillian loved the outdoors, and that feeling has never left her.

While in high school, Lillian enjoyed a summer assignment to make an herbarium. This entailed collecting wildflowers, drying and mounting them on paper, then labeling each one, including name, location, and habitat. Lillian says there is an herbarium room at SOU where one can view records of local wildflowers.

Following high school, Lillian moved to Stockholm to continue her education. She earned a degree in clinical chemistry and, after graduating at the top of her class, she was offered a position as a medical technologist. This gave Lillian the opportunity to become involved with some of the early research on cholesterol, trying to determine if it was one of the causes of heart disease.

At an early age, Lillian was influenced by her father, who spent five years of his youth in the U.S. She loved to listen to his stories about America, and decided that she wanted to immigrate here, but not until after her graduation.

She accepted a research position at the Medical School of Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA. There, her research centered on looking into fats in the diet and one's life style as causes for heart attacks. Lillian worked for twenty years at Stanford before she took early retirement.

Lillian enjoyed the California climate and California's abundance of wildflowers during the forty years she spent in that state. Trained as a docent at the Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District, she led wildflower walks for many years.

While on a backpacking trip with the Sierra Club, she met a charming physics professor from Bellingham, WA, who was on sabbatical leave from Western Washington University. He was a wildflower enthusiast, also, and the two married about a year later. This meant that someone had to relocate, and it was Lillian's new husband who moved to California and went to work for Lockheed Martin. The couple remained in California until he retired when they moved to



**LILLIAN  
MAKSYMOWICZ**

Ashland, as southern Oregon is known for its unique and diverse wildflowers.

Besides their home and garden in Ashland, they continue to enjoy skiing, hiking, photography, and traveling. Both are active in the Native Plant Society, the Audubon Society, OLLI, and lead wildflower walks. Lillian has visited 6 of the 7 continents, with only Australia's wildflowers left to be explored and photographed.

Lillian is Head Gardener for the Wildflower Garden. Becoming a Master Gardener in 2003, she is also interested in the Plant Clinic, and for many years has coordinated the volunteers who work in the Master Gardener booth at the Ashland Growers Market.

When asked why she likes JCMGA, Lillian replied, "The people, learning, and of course, the wildflowers!"

**Carol Oneal**

*Master Gardener 2002*

## Featured Garden of the Month

# The Greenhouse



Jane Moyer, Master Gardener Class of 2005, is the Head Gardener for the Greenhouse. Jane co-chaired this position with Bill Dietz until his death in January 2011. The role of the Greenhouse Head Gardener is to coordinate Greenhouse meetings, organize the Greenhouse program to teach students how to grow vegetables, flowers, and herbs from seed, and to facilitate the Greenhouse role at Spring Fair.

Jane's interest in working in the Greenhouse came from her desire to learn more about starting plants from seeds. To her, it was like a miracle that those little seeds filled the Greenhouse, Prop House, and Greenhouse #3 to overflowing in just three short months. Jane says the fun and caring team of students and mentors, learning new things every year, and the miracle of watching the seeds become beautiful plants makes her want to return to the Greenhouse year after year



This year, Christina Bern MG 2008, Marydee Bombick MG 2006, Sue Bower MG 2004, Carole Evans MG 2007, Lee Finney MG 2010, Jack Groves MG 2001, Terry Halter MG 2010, Tresa King MG 2010, Lori McTaggart MG 2007, Vikki Perlson MG 2000 and Glen Risley MG 2010 all participated as mentors in the Greenhouse.

What draws all these devoted people to help the new class learn about the propagation of seeds? Well, when asked, we received a multitude of responses; the reassurance that the warm temperatures and abundant growth in the Greenhouse provide during the cold of winter, the miracle of putting seeds in the starting mix and in a matter of weeks having flowers in bloom and 3' tomatoes and peppers, teaching others and getting them hooked on the endless possibilities of the Greenhouse, and finally, the culmination of all the hard work when the plants are sold at Spring Fair.



Many hours are spent by the mentors and students preparing the Greenhouse for planting, determining the seeds and supplies to be ordered, keeping plant records, and caring for the plants until Spring Fair. Vegetables, flowers, and herbs are grown, and one of the first lessons for students is on the four factors needed for seeds to germinate; the right amount of heat, light, water and air in the seed starting mix. All seeds need these four elements, but often in different amounts.

The best time to view this miracle in the Greenhouse is in late April about 2 weeks before Spring Fair. Stop by and visit next year!

**Carolyn Trottmann**  
*Master Gardener 2007*

## Officers' Reports

President (Li Harder) Claudia Hill has accepted a full time job and is no longer available for the recording secretary position. Nancy Olson, class of 2010, was elected to be the new recording secretary. Phil VanBuskirk, Extension Superintendent, is on medical leave. Dr. Sugar is acting Superintendent/Staff Chair and Debbie Burroughs is assisting him.

## Committee Reports

School Grants and Scholarship (Barbara Davison) The Grant Committee includes Barbara Davidson, Marydee Bombick, Ron Bombick, Joan Long, Jody Willis and Bill Hunt. Barbara, Marydee, Ron and Joan met to review the 22 applications. After careful consideration, \$4200 was determined to be the most appropriate total amount to be awarded to all the applicants. Barbara requested the Board approve a \$200 increase in the budget to cover all the grants. Motion passed. Questions were raised about monitoring the school projects and publicity for JCMGA for sponsoring the horticulture grant program. The Board will be kept apprised. Barbara and the committee will work with the marketing team on publicity.

OSU/JCMGA Scholarship (Barbara Davidson for Marydee Bombick) This year's recipient of the \$2500 scholarship is Ryan King who has maintained a 3.8 GPA. Ryan is from Josephine County and expects to come back to the Rogue Valley upon graduation to work in the nursery business with his father.

Mini-College (Barbara Davidson) Deadline for requesting JCMGA Mini-College scholarships is July 6, 2011. E-mail Barbara (barbdav@charter.net) to request the scholarship. OMGA has requested local associations bring 10 items worth \$25 each to contribute to the silent auction, a fundraiser for OMGA, or a comparable cash donation. Barbara suggested that JCMGA send a cash donation of \$200. Approved. OMGA has asked local Master Gardeners to bring 2 items worth approximately \$20 each for door prizes. Barbara will secure two items for JCMGA to contribute. Jane agreed to update the JCMGA display board as she has done in recent years.

Marketing/publicity (Carol Oneal) The Marketing Team met with Bobbie Murphy. The goals of the Marketing Team are to increase public awareness of JCMGA and SOREC and for them to be perceived as the Rogue Valley gardening resource/experts, to recruit new Master Gardeners, and to keep engaged current Master Gardeners. To work toward these goals, the following areas will be emphasized for the remainder of the year: Plant Clinic, including at Growers Markets;

evening and Saturday programs; Winter Dreams; feature stories in Mail Tribune (4-6 per year) and outlying newspapers; sale of Garden Guides; Facebook; website.

Garden Beet (Carolyn Trottmann) Garden Beet is going to feature all the demonstration gardens as a way to promote them.

Greenhouse (Jane Moyer)/Gramma's Garden (Sharon May) Jane reported on the pilot program combining the curriculum of Gramma's and Greenhouse. Discussions are being held on the possibility of expanding it next year. Sharon reported that the Gramma's Garden mentors would meet with Jane on July 8 to discuss this issue and to address concerns. There are three possible outcomes to this issue they will explore at this meeting.

Community Outreach (Bonnie Martin) The "Celebrate Age" event at Heritage Hall, sponsored by Pacific Retirement Services on May 26, went well. Honey Brown created a workshop for the seniors to propagate an African violet from a leaf. Bonnie taught several sessions on container gardening. Bonnie created a handout on container gardening emphasizing using both edible and ornament plants, using information from the Garden Guide and the Master Gardener notebook. Bonnie received a nice thank you note from the person who was in charge of the event. They had lots of positive feedback. The senior bus tour scheduled for June 29 is on hold due to not enough signups yet. Sharon Johnson was also there giving a talk on nutrition for seniors.

OMGA rep (Rollin Mack) OMGA chapter reports are due quarterly. Officers and chairs can help contribute by sending Rollin any important JCMGA facts or information to be included in the next JCMGA chapter quarterly report. Our July Board meeting will be the deadline for getting pertinent data to him for the next OMGA meeting to be held at Mini College on 7/13/11.

Audit (Diane Seitz) Diane reported that Judy Williams is doing an outstanding job as the treasurer. Due to time constraints, Diane said she would report the audit results at the next Board meeting.

The next Board meeting will be held July 6.

Li Harder and Bonnie Martin, Acting Recording Secretaries

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

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- July 6, Wednesday, 10 am-noon**, JCMGA Board Meeting, Extension Library
- July 13-16**, Gardener's Mini-College, "Gardening to Live Well," Newport, Oregon \*
- July 14, Thursday, 7-9 pm**, "Delightful Daylilies," Marsha Waite \*
- July 15, Friday, Garden Tour**, Sherry Young's 5-acre garden in Grants Pass
- July 25, Monday, 7-9 pm**, "Woe to Weeds" - You Can Manage Them," Bob Reynolds \*
- July-August, Wednesdays, 9 am-noon**, the public is invited to visit the demonstration gardens at the Extension Center. Master Gardeners will be working in the gardens during this time period.
- July-October, Monday-Friday, 10 am-2 pm**, Plant Clinic is staffed with Master Gardeners to answer your gardening questions. Call 541-776-7371.
- August 3, Wednesday, 10 am-noon**, JCMGA Board Meeting
- August 9, Tuesday, 7-9 pm**, "Growing Cane Berries," George Tiger \*

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

## Membership Changes

### Corrections in Directory

Alvarez, Chris: [suzannealy@msn.com](mailto:suzannealy@msn.com)  
Palmer, Troy: [troy@dtppcentral.com](mailto:troy@dtppcentral.com)  
Peel, Kathy: [kpdahlias@gmail.com](mailto:kpdahlias@gmail.com) 541-944-5593  
Risley, Glenn: change last name from Risling to Risley  
Robinson, Carol: 920 Cambridge St., Ashland, OR 97520  
Sornson, Mike: 4105 Barbara Jean Way, Medford 97504  
Tiger, George: 604 Ameran St., Phoenix OR 97535;  
[gwtiger@q.tet](mailto:gwtiger@q.tet); 541-890-8671

### Corrections in Directory for Class of 2011

Rewolinski, Kathy-Jean: [kathytski@aol.com](mailto:kathytski@aol.com)  
Osborne, Debra: 10196 Hwy. 238, Jacksonville, OR 97530  
Nowak, Rhonda: [rnowak@hawaii.edu](mailto:rnowak@hawaii.edu) (this is a bit tricky - the r n looks like m when printed)

### Additions to the Directory

Cherney, Richard: PO Bo 836, Jacksonville, OR 97530; 541-899-2280  
Cunningham, Janet: PO Box 994, Phoenix, OR 97535; 541-601-2439; [mkstarkissd@yahoo.co](mailto:mkstarkissd@yahoo.co)

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