MISTLETOE - Lynn Long

The first time that I actually saw mistletoe growing in the wild was on a high school biology fieldtrip. I don’t remember anything else about the fieldtrip except the mistletoe. There was a huge oak tree growing in the middle of a field and one of the kids noticed that there was mistletoe growing on the branches. Several of the kids, including my older brother wanted a closer look and walked over to the tree. He ended up with a severe case of poison oak for his efforts. Being of a less curious nature, I stayed put and avoided his distress.

Famous in the myths of many cultures, mistletoe has long been a symbol of peace and friendship. In Scandinavian antiquity, enemies that met beneath a tree filled with mistletoe would lay down their arms and declare a truce until the following daybreak. The Roman poet Virgil enabled his hero Aeneas to return safely from the underworld armed with a sprig of mistletoe. And ancient Celts hung mistletoe over their doors to bring happiness into the home.

But this symbol of peace and friendship can actually be harmful to the oak tree where it is growing, depending upon the level of infestation. A parasitic plant, mistletoe gets water and nutrients from its host plant, the oak tree. It is spread from tree to tree by birds that first dine on mistletoe berries and then spread the seeds through their droppings. Mistletoe seeds sprout, sending roots into the oak branches. If you snap off the mistletoe, it will grow back from roots within the oak branch.

A few clumps make little difference to a healthy tree, although 15 or 20 clumps can begin to sap nutrients. A professional tree care specialist can remove such large infestations of mistletoe.

There are two major types of mistletoe, including dwarf mistletoe that parasitize conifer trees. Unlike the oak mistletoe, dwarf mistletoes can alter the growth pattern of trees, stimulating thick broomy branch growth that reduces the value of timber trees, causing severe economic loss in western forests. However, these dwarf mistletoe brooms have their upside. It has been discovered that these growths provide nest sites for spotted owls and other forest creatures.

The mistletoes that grow on conifers are not as conspicuous as the oak mistletoe, with its fleshy leaves and sticky white berries. Let a sprig of oak mistletoe represent peace and happiness in your home this Christmas. Sealed with a kiss.
PRESIDENT’S CORNER

This month I am looking at committee assignments and hoping that many of you will be willing to serve again and that some of you who have not served recently, would be willing to step forward and help. Please let me know if you are interested in helping or if you do not want to continue to be in charge of the committee you lead last year.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 12th. That is the date for the Rose Seminar and it is shaping up to be a very worthwhile event!

As we enter this busy holiday season, let us take a moment to ponder the recent news that our state ranks third in the nation for the number of Oregonians who are suffering from low or very low food security. About 1.5 million Oregon households do not have regular access to healthy food. As Master Gardener Volunteers we have an opportunity to help change this statistic for our community.

When I think of our work together I am struck by a quote from Albert Schweitzer: “I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.”

Happy Holidays and the very best to each of you and your families!

Candy Armstrong

HOME GARDEN SEMINAR

Here’s an early “save the date” for all of you MG’s chompin’ at the bit in wintertime. The Josephine County Master Gardeners are having a home garden seminar on Saturday, February 19, 2011.

Classes will be held at Rogue River Community College in Grant’s Pass. They will have over 30 classes to choose from, many approved for advanced MG re-certification.

Registration will be from January 10th to February 11th, 2011. For more information contact robert.reynolds@oregonstate.edu or the Josephine county website: http://jocomastergardeners.com/. Lana Tepfer

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES - Therese Leon

WCMGA Executive Board Meeting held Nov 9, 2010
Present were: Candy Armstrong, President; Dave Rawson, Vice President; Catherine Whalen, Treasurer; Candy Barnard-Davidson, Historian; Ned Kice, Lana Tepfer, Cheri Austin

Treasurer’s Report: Current financial balance $13,851.00. Outstanding expenses anticipated include graduation party, historian, annual insurance, newsletter for Nov/Dec.

Rose Seminar: Will be held February 12th, 2011 (venue yet to be determined). Ned Kice presented an update on the work of the Rose Seminar committee. Hood River will be able to participate. We will need volunteers to house four or five people.

Fall Bulb Sale: Cheri presented a summary of the fall bulb sale. Total sales $1625.50.

OMGA Report: The Brown Marmorated Stinkbug has now been identified in Oregon. The state OMGA chair is asking for us to be diligent in reporting sighting of these new (to us) pests which at this writing are mainly in the south. OMGA is requesting that all MG chapters donate $125.00 in January and annually to the endowment fund. To be discussed at December meeting. Mini college dates are July 13-16, 2011. Theme is “Gardening to Live Well”.

Calendar Items:
Executive committee meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Extension office.
Spring Fair planting at NORCOR will begin in January.
The January quarterly meeting will be held on January 19th at the PUD (please note date change, PUD conference room was not available on Jan 18th as we discussed).
February Social will be on Tuesday Feb 15th. Classes begin the 16th.
Spring Fair will be held in May.

Sincerely,
Therese Leon, WCMGA Secretary
SPRING FAIR – Sheri Esquivias

Well, it’s that time of year again when we start thinking about Spring Fair. What, you say, with the stores bombarding us with Christmas items and music since October and it’s barely past Thanksgiving, you’re talking Spring! Yes, we are. For those of you who get those wonderful seed catalogs to keep you company in the winter - while they make you think about springtime planting we are busy with the same thoughts. Those of us who work with the youth at NORCOR are in the early stages of planning our greenhouse activities and using those same seed catalogs. The earlier we start the better our chances are of getting what we order.

We have already had one informal meeting with the teacher and have been given the go ahead with next year’s greenhouse usage. We hope to plant a few things to sell in February when our classes get started.

Our first Master Gardener meeting for all those interested in helping with the youth will be Monday, December 13 at 10 a.m. in the NORCOR board room. Those of you who helped last year - I hope you help again this year. For those of you who have an interest in helping: it is a great way to get out of the house, play in the soil, and teach your knowledge to kids who might not have any clue of what you are talking about but are eager to learn. After all, that is why we are Master Gardeners. It is a great way to establish your payback hours and have fun at the same time. Just think garden and be warm this time of year all at the same time! I hope I have given some of you a thought or two about helping us. Any questions call Cheri Austin or Sheri Esquivias.

The following recipes are from graduation:

Smoked Salmon Pate – Mary Rollins

| 2 8-oz pkgs cream cheese, softened |
| ½ pound smoked salmon |
| 2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice (or more) |
| 1 tsp horseradish |
| salt & pepper to taste |

Combine all ingredients in a food processor (don’t over process). Serve with crackers or baguettes.

ROSE SEMINAR – Mel Omeg

Mark your calendars! The American Rose Society is coming to the Mid-Columbia region to share their expertise and love of roses on Saturday, February 12th.

The American Rose Society is the largest specialized plant society in the US promoting the culture and appreciation of the rose - America’s national flower.

Thanks to a group of local rose lovers (a.k.a. Wasco County Master Gardeners), this all-day rose workshop will be held at The Dalles Senior Center and will include lunch.

Garry Peterson, Ned Kice and Mel Omeg (your event planning committee) will be calling upon members for participation and assistance to make this a successful event.

Apple Coffee Cake

| 5 cups tart apples, cored & chopped |
| 1 cup sugar |
| 1 cup dark raisins |
| 1 cup toasted pecan, chopped |
| ¼ cup oil, 2 tsp vanilla |
| 1 egg, beaten |
| 2 cups all purpose flour, sifted |
| 2 tsp cinnamon |
| 1/8 tsp each – cardamom, cloves, all spice, ginger, nutmeg |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly oil 13x9x2 inch pan. In large mixing bowl, combine apples with sugar, raisins, and pecans. Mix well and let stand for 30 minutes. Stir in oil, vanilla & egg.

Sift together flour, soda & spices. Stir into apple mixture about 1/3 at a time - just enough to moisten dry ingredients. Turn batter into pan & bake for 35-40 minutes. Cool cake slightly before serving. Dust with powdered sugar if desired.
OMGA MINI COLLEGE 2011

Mini college 2011 will be in Newport OR on July 13th to 16th, 2011. The classes will be held at the Newport Middle School, 825 NE 7th St, Newport OR and the host hotel will be Best Western at Agate Beach. The theme for next year’s mini college will be GARDENING TO LIVE WELL: NUTRITION, REFLECTION, HEALTH WISE. There will be several series classes; art workshops; and classes for all areas of Oregon’s diverse climates, with local speakers from each area.

If you plan to camp or RV in the state parks near Newport, you should start to make plans now. You can reserve sites at the state parks up to 9 months in advance of the date. I have attached specific information for RV sites. I have also attached information regarding the rooms that have been blocked off at various hotels in Newport (see page 5). OMGA is getting an excellent deal for accommodations as everything is discounted by an average of 15% off Newport’s summer rates. All arrangements have been made and you can start reserving your accommodations anytime. The discount code for all accommodations is OMGA. Please note that each of them have a cut off date for holding the rooms or RV sites, so plan accordingly.

Also on this document it gives you some information regarding the two state parks near Newport and some contact numbers. There will be brochures to hand out at the November Board of Directors meeting for more information. There is a separate document attached regarding the RV sites available at Port of Newport Marina and RV park. I understand that these 18 sites are probably the last RV sites in Newport for this time slot and we are getting a discount besides. Gary Landis will be the go-to-guy on these sites.

Please note that all of the hotels are located approximately one mile to 1.78 miles from the middle school. But also, there will be adequate free parking at the middle school and each hotel. The RV parks and state parks are from 3 miles to 6.6 miles from the school. To better visualize the locations compared to the middle school go to: . Link: <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&ll=44.645239,-124.045429&spn=0.014076,0.027466&z=15&msid=114580092233107011791.0004925f265d0ded84d96>.

This information will be posted on the OMGA website, and additional information regarding MC2011 will be added onto the website as it is acquired. Any questions, feel free to contact me.

Best regards,
Marilyn Scheffler, MC2011 co-chair, 541-917-0380

Old Fashioned Apple Pie - from Farm Journal’s Complete Pie Cookbook

Pastry for 2-crust pie (9 inch)
2 cups flour  1 tsp salt  ½ cup oil  5 tbsp cold water

Stir flour and salt together with a fork and make a well. Measure the oil and add the water to the measuring cup. Without stirring, dump it into the dry ingredients and gently toss until a shaggy ball forms. Do NOT over mix. Roll out half at a time between sheets of wax paper.

Ingredients for filling:
7 cups peeled, sliced tart apples  ¾ cup white sugar  2 Tbsp flour  1 tsp cinnamon
1/8 tsp ground nutmeg  ¼ tsp salt  2 Tbsp butter

Combine sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Mix with apple slices. Place mixture in bottom pie crust. Dot with butter. Cover with top crust, make slits, sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 425 degrees for 50-60 minutes until crust is brown and apple are tender.
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINI COLLEGE 2011
IN NEWPORT OR, JULY 13, 14, AND 15, 2011
CODE FOR DISCOUNTS: OMGA

HOST HOTEL: BEST WESTERN AGATE BEACH INN
3019 N Coast Hwy
Newport OR 97365
Resv. 1-800-547-3310

100 rooms blocked off for 7, 13-15, 2011
$109.00 to $139.00 (single or double)
$10.00 extra for each addtl guest per room
Cut off date for accepting resv. June 19, 2011

COMFORT INN
531 SW Fall St
Newport OR 97365
Resv. 1-541-265-6203

10 rooms blocked off for 7, 13-15, 2011
$93.50 to 110.50 (single or double)
$10.00 extra for each addtl guest per room
Cut off date for accepting resv. June 13, 2011

EMBARCADERO RESORT
1000 SE Bay Blvd
Newport OR 97365
Resv. 1-800-547-4779

10 rooms blocked off for 7, 13-15, 2011
$134.00 to 159.00 (less 15%) single or double
$10.00 extra for each addtl guest per room
Cut off date for accepting resv. June 13, 2011

HALLMARK RESORT
744 SW Elizabeth St
Newport OR 97365
Resv. 1-888-448-4449

10 rooms blocked off for 7, 13-15, 2011
$114.00 to $149.00 (single or double)
No charge for addtl guest per room
Cut off date for accepting resv. June 13, 2011

SHILO INN
536 SW Elizabeth St
Newport OR 97365
Resv. 1-541-265-7701

20 rooms blocked off for 7, 13-16, 2011
$109.95 to $119.95 single or double
$20.00 extra for each addtl guest per room
Cut off date for accepting resv. June 29, 2011

RV SITES PORT OF NEWPORT RV AND MARINA
(NO TENTS) Marina,
Newport OR 97365
Resv. www.portofnewport.com
OMGA Contact: Gary Landis
Info: 1-503-805-6226

18 RV sites blocked off for 7, 12-16, 2011
special rate of $39.39 to $41.00
7th nite free, dogs welcome
Cut off date for accepting resv. May 1, 2011
New bldg for showers, rec room
All sites pull thrus

CAMPING CLOSEST TO MARINA RV Park
SOUTHEAST BEACH STATE PARK
US 101, 5580 S Coast HWY
Newport OR 97365
Info: 1-541-867-4715
Full hook-ups, 3 group tent camping areas, yurts
Can reserve up to 9 months in advance
Resv. 1-800-452-5687
Resv. www.oregonstateparks.org

CAMPING
BEVERLY BEACH STATE PARK
US 101, 198 ne 123RD St
Newport OR 97365
Info: 1-541-265-9278
Full hook-ups, tent camping areas, yurts
Can reserve up to 9 months in advance
Resv. 1-800-452-5687
Resv. www.oregonstateparks.org

CONTACT PERSON REGARDING HOTELS: MARILYN SCHEFFLER, OMGA 1ST VP, 2011, 1-541-917-0380 mfscheffler@yahoo.com or marilynscheffler@comcast.net
I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the newsletter during 2010. There wouldn’t be a Dirt Sheet without the articles and pictures that are submitted by fellow Master Gardeners and others.

Candy Armstrong, Cheri Austin, Barbara Bailey, Lynette Black, Cindy Brown, Lee Bryant, Jamie Crouse, Candy Barnard-Davidson, Judy Davis, Sheri Esquivias, Therese Leon, Charlotte Link, Lynn Long, Brad Mulvihill, Anna Nolen, Mel Omeg, Sharon Paz, Peggy Peterson, Janet Probstfield, Marian Rohde, Ronnie Smith, Marcia Strader, Lana Tepfer, Tammy Tripp, Lolly Tweed, Catherine Whalen, Carolyn Wright.

### Feature of the Month

Some of you may have missed Mel Omeg’s suggestions for winterizing your roses, so I thought I would share his timely suggestions with you again.

“Weather forecasters are projecting very low temperatures. (Tuesday 6 degrees-Weather.com) This should be a concern to rose gardeners. In our region most roses need some measure of rose protection. The traditional method is to mound a layer of protective material over the base of the canes to protect the frost vulnerable bud union. Good materials for winter mulch are oak leaves, straw, new bark mulch or evergreen limbs. Oak leaves are the best type of leaf as they don’t mat down or become slimy. Avoid taking bark chips from around the plant so as not to expose tender roots near the surface. One of the best shelters against winter extremes is a thick blanket of snow. Snow also blocks wind which can break branches and rob moisture from the canes and soil. A heavy snowfall can damage or break branches. After a snow fall brush off branches that are sagging. I have tied my tall roses together with string to reduce snow and wind damage.” Mel

Reference: Ortho’s Complete Guide to Roses, & Complete Roses