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Volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless but because they are priceless!
PRESIDENT’S CORNER

A Thank You Letter to the Sawyers

Dear Jared and Warren

We are delighted that you are willing to provide $50.00 towards a Wasco County Master Gardener Class Scholarship for 2011. The classes usually start in February.

Your help and guidance and ample supply of garden-related products is much appreciated in the community. Our scholarship committee (Candy Armstrong, Mel Omeg and Rita Hendrickson) will also be considering Wasco County scholarships for Mini-College held on the OSU campus and for an appropriate Norcor student to attend community college or trade school. The only other suggestion is that you join Heather Bremer in attending classes in 2011.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bailey

BULBS - Lynn Long

Since we as Master Gardeners are in the middle of our annual bulb sale I thought that it would be appropriate to talk about bulbs in this month’s newsletter. By the way, if you haven’t been to the Saturday Market yet to pick up your bulbs from the MG booth, this Saturday is the perfect time to do that.

I know personally that after a long summer of gardening it is hard this time of year to think about the spring garden. But daffodils, tulips, crocus and hyacinth need to be planted now, like buried treasure, so that you can count your riches in the spring.

But before you dig, consider advice from my colleague, Barbara Fick, Oregon State University Extension horticulturist in Benton County.

First, it’s important that you choose large, healthy bulbs. With lilies, tulips, daffodils and narcissus, larger bulbs yield larger blooms. Stay away from bargain catalogs or small bulbs sold in stores at bargain prices. Some bargain bulbs are not worth the price, no matter how cheap, because they are too small to bloom well.

Next, consider how spring blooms will fit into your garden. Hardy bulbs make a beautiful show in spring, but their foliage fades soon after the blooms. Those tattered leaves should not be cut back until they are completely faded, as they provide food for next year’s flowers. For best effect, plant bulbs with plants that begin to flower after the bulbs bloom. I have daffodils mixed in my rose bed. As the roses leaf out in early spring, the bulbs are blooming, and by the time the bulb foliage fades, the roses are beginning to bloom. This combination provides color and interest in my rose bed from early spring right through the fall.

Prepare planting beds eight to 12 inches deep, even if the recommended planting depth is less. This allows room for drainage and healthy root growth. Remove large stones and loosen clumps of hard soil.

Use a small handful of well-balanced fertilizer per cluster of bulbs. Slow-release fertilizers or bone meal work well for fall-planted bulbs. Place a one- to two-inch layer of organic matter at the bottom of the planting space. Thoroughly mix the fertilizer and organic matter with the soil. Add a layer of unfertilized soil. Place bulbs on top and cover them with more unfertilized soil.

As a general rule, most bulbs look best if planted in clusters. Plant bulbs two to three times as deep as the diameter of the bulb. Tulips should be about six inches deep; crocus, two inches; daffodils, seven inches; grape hyacinths and irises, three inches, and hyacinths, four inches. It is important not to plant bulbs too shallowly because this will encourage frost heaving.

Mulch plantings with two to four inches of compost or shredded fir bark. Keep the mulch light enough to allow new shoots to poke through in the spring. Be sure to water the new planting in well. Roots grow slowly through the winter. If planted in a protected area, such as under an eave or evergreen tree, supplemental water may need to be provided for the planting from time to time throughout the growing season.

Although, by October, many of us feel that the gardening season is past, a little extra work now will pay big dividends in the spring as colorful crocuses, daffodils, and grape hyacinths begin to brighten the dreary landscape of early spring.
The D.I.G. Update - Lynette Black

The D.I.G. has experienced a successful year. Many pounds of fresh produce including zucchini, yellow crookneck squash, beans, tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, parsley, onions, cucumbers, and corn was donated to the food bank.

A few of the plots have been “put to bed” for the winter yet several remain intact - still producing beautiful flowers. Help is still needed to prepare the rest of the beds for their winter siesta. I will be at the garden on Saturday, Oct. 2nd from 9am to noon if you would like to stop by and help with this process.

Thanks to all who helped develop the garden this year. It was (and still is) magnificent and a true oasis in the middle of a grey industrial area.

Marian Rohde sent in the following with the comment that it’s a new use for those oversized zucchinis that hide in the garden!

Montana woman fends off bear attack with zucchini

The Associated Press

FRENCHTOWN, Mont. – Police say a Montana woman fended off a bear attack with an unlikely weapon – a zucchini.

Missoula County Sheriff’s Lt. Rich Maricelli says a 200-pound black bear attacked one of the woman’s dogs just after midnight Wednesday on the back porch of her home about 15 miles west of Missoula. When the woman, whom police did not name, tried to separate the animals, the bear bit her in the leg. Maricelli says the woman reached for the nearest object at hand on the porch’s railing – a large zucchini that she had harvested from her garden. The woman flung the vegetable at the bear, striking it and forcing it to flee.

Maricelli says the woman did not need medical attention. Wildlife officials were trying to locate the bear on Thursday.

WCMGA Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday Sept 14, 2010

Catherine Whalen gave the treasurer’s report - August Checking account balance is $12,207.02
The graduation date was set for October 19th at 6pm at the Episcopal Church. Potluck!

Janet Probstfield announced the new Executive Board for 2010-11 year. Please welcome Candy Armstrong as our new president. David Rawson will be Pres. Elect., Therese Leon will continue for another year as Secretary. (How did that Happen?) Catherine Whalen will also stay on for another year. Historian will be Candy Bernard Davidson. Heather Bremer will be our new OMGA Representative and Barbara Bailey will be the OMGA Alternate.

Candy Armstrong is chairing a Committee for scholarships - further details will be available once the criteria for the 3 different scholarships are written. Mini College will be moving next year to Newport.

Next meeting will be October 12th. Anyone is welcomed to the meeting - just make sure you have made prior arrangements to be on the Meeting Agenda should you have something to address to the board. Please keep your topic brief, 5-10 minutes, as there may be others to speak and the board keeps meetings to 2 hours. All Committee chairs please bring a copy of your report to hand to the Secretary-Therese Leon.

Thank you. Let's dream of things to come this winter and make into reality next year.
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<td>October 1-3</td>
<td>9-3</td>
<td>Native Plant Sale, Milestone Nursery</td>
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<td>October 4</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Monthly DIG meeting (new time)</td>
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<td>Executive Board Meeting</td>
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**Feature of the Month** – Carolyn Wright

Charlotte Link sent in the following information about praying mantids which she found in Google information. I have been seeing a lot of them flying around recently, both brown and green ones.

“Breeding season is in the summer in temperate areas. After mating, the female will lay groups of 12-400 eggs in the autumn, in a “frothy” liquid called an "ootheca", which turns into a hard protective shell. This is how these insects survive during the wintertime. Small mantids emerge in the spring. Often, their first meal is a sibling. Young mantids or nymphs, also eat leafhoppers, aphids and small flies. Young mantids will shed many times before it is full grown. It takes an entire summer or growing season for mantids to mature to adulthood. One generation develops each season. Many species of mantids resemble ants when they are small, but as they go through a series of molts, they begin to look more like adult mantids.

Most often people think mantises are pests. That is only partly true. They can be beneficial, too. Praying mantises are terrific pest exterminators. They keep down the population of bugs that are a threat to farming. A master of disguise, the praying mantis can be an able assistant to farmer and gardener. Look carefully in your backyard. Perhaps that deceptive shape is a praying mantis poised for his next meal.”