“He who plants a garden, plants happiness!”

Congratulations to the class of 2019! Now is the time to start to put all that great knowledge to work.

Your volunteer hours are an extension to your learning which you’ll be able to build upon. The Master Gardener Calendar, https://teamup.com/ksa7919614bd52037a, is the place to go to see what is going on and where you can help. If you’re not techy, Scott or myself, will be happy to help you. There are many opportunities at the Riley Creek Garden and the Greenhouse, where the seeds are being grown and the propagation is happening for our Annual Plant Sale in May. The Plant Clinics will be starting soon on Wednesdays.

Get to know your fellow Master Gardeners, share the success and the failure stories of gardening in the Pacific Northwest and talk about our favorite subject, … gardening.

Don’t forget to track your hours using the VRS, Volunteer Reporting System. Here is the link, https://mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/ When you work directly with people (and kids), we need to track that number, so talk to your fellow Master Gardener volunteer to decide who is reporting that total number so you do not duplicate the numbers. For example, 30 kids come through during the 2 hours you work, and there are 3 MG’s interacting, each of you get to take 10 “direct contact” or 1 of you can report all 30. The goal is to report how many community members we are interacting with and helping.

Please come out and join the fun! Many hands make light work.

Thank you.

Lori Phelan, President 2019
ANNUAL PLANT SALE
Carol Hobbs, 541-251-2422, Mailhobbs@yahoo.com
Questions? Give me a call or text
Preparation for the Annual Plant Sale continues. The greenhouse is bursting at the seams. Plants everywhere you turn. So this means time to start moving plants outside into the courtyard at GB High School. We spent time organizing them in alphabetical sequence by genus. All in prep to go into the sale with ease! Next will be to mark all of the plants with identification tags.

Succulents will be brought into the greenhouse within the next couple of weeks in prep for making planters. Watch for notice to come out and make succulent planters for the sale.

If you would like to help, please stop out on Tuesday afternoons. If you are available to help water on the weekends, please let me know. An extra drink of water at this time is always appreciated.

RILEY CREEK GARDEN ~
Ali Mramor
Riley Creek School Garden Coordinator
Ph.: 310.409.3496
Email: mramoral@gmail.com or amramor@ccsd.k12.or.us

Spring is finally here! The big news this month is that we have begun the installation of the new irrigation system. We’ve removed the old tubing and begun digging trenches and installing new tubing inside all of the raised beds. We’re estimating that it will take another two or three days to finish the project. Once finished, we will have an efficient and safe system, eliminating any trip hazards.

Seeds have been started in the greenhouse and the Kindergarten through third grade classes have started their Mother’s Day projects. Half of the classes started succulent cutting in pots and the other half started herb seeds for culinary pots. When the students return from spring break, we will have more classes coming out to start planting out in the garden.

A Master Gardener Riley Creek Community Garden Committee has been formed with Lori Phelan, Mary Jacobs, and Debbie Richter serving along with the Garden Coordinator. With the leaving of our FoodCorps Service member, Katie Struth, this committee will be very helpful in keeping things running smoothly in the garden and connecting in-class lessons to garden experience, along with increasing collaborative decision making for the direction of the garden.

The bulbs are blooming, peas are sprouting, and the fruit trees are budding out. Stop by the garden to check it out and lend a hand!

Please get in touch with Ali via email, text or phone call if you’d like to help out: amramor@ccsd.k12.or.us  tel. 310-409-3496.

HOW TO FIND OUT WHAT’S GOING ON
Contact Lori Phelan, find us on Facebook: Curry County Master Gardeners-OSU Extension
THE BRAMBLES NEWSLETTER
Emailed to active members and on www. http://extension.oregonstate.edu.curry
Editor, Cathe Barter at umpqua.bart@gmail.com

BOARD MEETINGS are monthly 3rd Tuesday from 10 am to noon
OSU Extension (Gold Beach)
2930 Ellensburg Avenue, Gold Beach, meeting room
(No Meetings in August or December)

Visit these sites to volunteer:
GOLD BEACH HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE
29316 Ellensburg (at the head of school)
Contact Carol Hobbs, 541-251-2422
“Annual Plant Sale Project” spoken here

RILEY CREEK GARDEN
94350 6th Street, Gold Beach
Contact Ali Mramor alimramor@yahoo.com

ABC PRESCHOOL
543 Hemlock St, Brookings
Contact Barb Carey barbcary15696@gmail.com

SHOP AND GIVE BACK TO CCMGA!
CCMGA has completed two "REWARD" program applications! This is your chance to give to our non-profit organization through your daily purchases.

The 1st rewards program is smile.amazon.com. If you have an Amazon account and purchase products from Amazon, connecting your account to Smile.amazon is easy. Go to smile.amazon.com and log in to your account. You will be asked which charity/non-profit you would like to support. You will find MANY Master Gardener Associations, so PLEASE select Master Gardener Association, Gold Beach, Oregon. It is on page three or four of their list of Master Gardener Assns. Then make your purchases...it is that simple. Amazon smile will donate .05% of your qualified purchase to CCMGA by direct deposit.

The 2nd rewards program is with Fred Meyer. Using this reward program is as easy as linking your Fred Meyer Rewards card with Curry County Master Gardener Assn., Gold Beach, OR. Set up a new account or sign into your existing account at fredmeyer.com, click on the ‘Fred Meyer Community Rewards’ link at the bottom of the page, type in ‘Curry County Master Gardener Assn.’ or the number ‘85441’, choose our organization, and click on ‘Enroll.’

Information about both the programs is available online at each business; check it out!
CCMGA – General Meeting Minutes - March 19, 2019

Meeting Called to Order 10:06 AM at the OSU Extension classroom


Motion to approve minutes from February 19, 2019, Ruth P, seconded by Ali Van O.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

January 2019 & February 2019 financial reports completed and financial statement balanced by Ruth P. No expenses for February. March statement will have some expenses and will show the transfer of $900 from the Holiday Bazaar Plant Sale to the Land & Building Fund. The latest 2019 Budget needs corrections, Riley Creek is missing new irrigation expense line item, and last version of budget was not available to Ruth. Financial report accepted with changes, approved by Pam L., seconded by Debbie R.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Statewide Chapter Survey: Lori P asked that all Curry MGs take the OMGA statewide survey. Some members have not done so yet.

Update Bylaws: Old version of bylaws & standing rules with proposed changes need to be attached to the April Brambles for the membership to consider. Revisions can be approved at the May meeting. A proposed change would be to mandate two signatures on larger checks written by the CCMGA treasurer & audits should be performed by two people.

Plant Clinic Website: The OMGA is paying for a website/database under development to be used by county chapters to input plant clinic data. OMGA would like the county chapters to contribute some money for this project’s expenses. Discussion was held concerning the need for this, how easy will it be to use & access by all the MGs working at plant clinics, how will it work when the plant clinics are at locations other than the OSU office? It could be useful in tracking the geographic locations of pest and disease trends, a reference for MGs, and will standardize the collection of data. Scott will get more information about this project.

Grants through OMG: Different Grants are offered to MGA chapters through OMG. Deadlines for applying are approaching.

Extension Educator Grant: Deadline for submission the state is May 15. Money is to be used “to aid in the development of programs or the acquisition of materials, designed to enhance public education in the field of home horticulture.” CCMGA has used 2 grants to purchase office microscope and soil testing equipment. Could be used for promotional signage. Bryan G. has been working on new signs for plant clinics.

Search for Excellence, Karl Carlson Fund Award, & Jan McNeilan Quarterly Meeting Grant: Three different grants/awards for different MG programs and events. Search for Excellence could be used to help expand the ABC Preschool program, different MG programs and events. Search for Excellence could be used to help expand the ABC Preschool program.

UPDATE CALENDAR:

Ali Van O. - has put up an online month long permaculture class and 2 new webinars the MGs can take for continuing education. Registration for weekly plant clinics is now available, other events with definite dates through September & the May 11 Annual Plant Sale.

PROGRAM ASSISTANT’S REPORT:

Scott Thiemann: “Seed to Supper” training starts March 30 in Brookings at the Living Waters Church 9 AM to 4 PM. Scott will be making lunch for trainees. 15 people will be participating, some coming from Crescent City. Scott is working with Brookings Harbor Food Bank to get the word out about the classes. Wants trainers to volunteer for at least 3 of the 6 classes. There is a budget for supplies, participant bonuses, and snacks.

He needs more veterans for plant clinics, Ali Van O said he should be receiving sign up confirmation emails from Teamup. Will look into why he isn’t.

Scott read a letter that he wrote to Robin Fornoff, editor of the Curry Coastal Pilot, describing all of the many upcoming activities of the Curry MGs. He also mentioned that there will be a cleanup of invasive species at Buffington Park, Gold Beach on June 1.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Riley Creek: Ali M. - The new irrigation system project is starting this Wednesday. The first meeting of the Riley Creek Committee was held. Katie Struth the FoodCorps employee is leaving her position at the school early and not fulfilling her contract. She leaves a lot more classroom & garden education work for Cathy Boden, Foodshed (part of Curry Watersheds Partnership) Program Coordinator for Gold Beach & Port Orford elementary schools. Maybe MGs could help fill in. Donated irrigation timers will not work with new system and will have to be returned. Replacements will be paid for out of irrigation budget.

ABC Preschool: No news, classes start May 15.

Living Waters: Scott discussed earlier.

Plant Sale: Debbie C. - Plants are being transplanted into larger containers. She would like others to take on the marketing of the sale with newspapers, local radio, posters & flyers. Bryan G. & his wife are working on the flyers/posters again this year. Lori offered to help write an article for the paper. A spreadsheet with contacts for public service announcements is available from Pam L.

Brookings-Harbor Annual Holiday Bazaar: No news, decision to participate will be decided after plant sale.

Gardening Basics for Kids: Classes developed & coordinated by Julia Bott will start soon. “The Curry County Master Gardeners in partnership with the Chetco Community Public Library are offering Dig Your Library, a gardening series for young people in May and June. In advance of the 6 week program we will be hosting a garden activity for the Library’s storyline for young children and their caregivers in order to introduce the children to the garden.” It was stated that her program would be a good Search for Excellence candidate.

Land/Building Fund: Debbie C. - There will be a meeting at greenhouse today at 1 PM.

Basics to Landscaping: Scott T. - is working with different organizations to find suitable properties to work on. Must be “owner occupied” and preferably low income or for people who are unable to maintain their yards. This project will help kids learn landscaping skills.

TERRITORIAL SEEDS:

No response from them. They may not be giving out old seeds anymore.

OTHER ASSOCIATION PROJECTS/WORKSHOPS/CLASSES:

Fertilize Your Mind: Some CCMGs going. It happens to be on the same day as the Seed to Supper training.

Gold Beach Main Street Update: Scott is coming around to the idea that CCMGs landscaping a spot at McKay’s, (Mama’s idea) could have an educational benefit. Would require a design (Carol Hobbs’?), landscaping cloth, rocks, and plants. It would a public demonstration of plants that grow well on the coast and could be a promotion for CCMGs with signage. The issue is that it would require ongoing maintenance. The MG mission is to educate the public about gardening, not just provide “free labor” for other people’s property/projects.

Garden Tour: Could maybe be held in June instead of August. Tim Lyons suggested his property in Brookings could be a stop, since he is gone all summer the time might be in June.

Save the Dates: Sunday, August 11 at Mama’s home in Cedar Valley for summer party, 12 to 3:00 PM.

Brian Grummon is in charge of setting up the holiday party set for December 7.

Meeting adjourned 11:51 AM

Submitted by Jeffrie Hall
APRIL GARDENING TIPS

Planning
- Write in your garden journal throughout the growing season.
- Prepare garden soil for spring planting. Incorporate generous amounts of organic materials and other amendments, using the results of a soil analysis as a guide.
- Prepare raised beds in areas where cold soils and poor drainage are a continuing problem. Incorporate generous amounts (at least 2 inches) of organic materials.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. When the soil is consistently above 60 degrees Fahrenheit, some warm season vegetables (beans, sweet corn) can be planted.

Maintenance and Clean Up
- Allow foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to brown and die down before removing.
- Apply commercial fertilizers, manure, or compost to cane, bush (gooseberries, currants, and blueberries), and trailing berries.
- Place compost or well decomposed manure around perennial vegetables, such as asparagus and rhubarb.
- Cut back ornamental grasses to a few inches above the ground, in early spring.
- Cover transplants to protect against late spring frosts.
- Optimum time to fertilize lawns. Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn. Reduce risks of run-off into local waterways by not fertilizing just prior to rain, and not over-irrigating so that water runs off of lawn and onto sidewalk or street.
- Western Oregon: Optimum time of year to dethatch and renovate lawns. If moss was a problem, scratch surface prior to seeding with perennial ryegrass.
- Western Oregon: Prune and shape or thin spring-blooming shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.

Planting/Propagation
- Plant gladioli, hardy transplants of alyssum, phlox, and marigolds, if weather and soil conditions permit.
- It’s a great time to start a vegetable garden. Among the vegetables you can plant, consider:
  - Oregon Coast: Beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, slicing cucumbers, endive, leeks, lettuce, onion sets, peas, and potatoes.
  - Western Valleys, Portland, Roseburg, Medford: Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, endive, leeks, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, spinach, and turnips.

Pest Monitoring and Management
- Clean up hiding places for slugs, sowbugs and millipedes. Least toxic management options for slugs include barriers and traps. Baits are also available for slug control; use caution around pets. Read and follow all label directions prior to using baits or any other chemical control.
- Monitor strawberries for spittlebugs and aphids; if present, wash off with water or use insecticidal soap as a contact spray. Follow label directions.
- If necessary, spray apples and pears when buds appear for scab. See Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards (PDF - EC 631).
- Cut and remove weeds near the garden to remove potential sources of plant disease.
- Use floating row covers to keep insects such as beet leaf miners, cabbage maggot adult flies, and carrot rust flies away from susceptible crops.
- Help prevent damping off of seedlings by providing adequate ventilation.
- Southwest Oregon: Place pheromone traps in apple or pear trees in late April to monitor codling moth activity.
- Western Oregon: Manage weeds while they are small and actively growing with light cultivation or herbicides. Once the weed has gone to bud, herbicides are less effective.
- Western Oregon: Spray stone fruits, such as cherries, plums, peaches, and apricots for brown rot blossom blight, if necessary.

MASON BEES POLLINATE PLANTS BEFORE HONEY BEES GET BUSY

Author: Kym Pokorny; Source: Brooke Edmunds--CORVALLIS, Ore.

April 3, 2015 ---- The gardening season is young, but mason bees are out for their short but productive foray into the blooms of your backyard.

These solitary native bees – most commonly the blue orchard mason bee (Osmia lignaria) – get busy before honeybees and set to work on early-flowering plants like forsythia, pieris and especially fruit trees.

“Mason bees fill a spot in the season when other pollinators are not out,” said Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist with Oregon State University’s Extension Service. “They’re really important for fruit trees, especially in cool, wet areas.”

As honeybees continue to struggle for survival, mason bees take on a bigger role in the backyard garden, according to Edmunds. Both serious and casual gardeners welcome these earnest pollinators to get better yields of fruits, vegetables and flowers.

Mason bees are smaller than honeybees, have a bluish hue and are often mistaken for flies. Rarely do you have to worry about being stung because these unaggressive bees live alone and have no hive to protect.

Unlike honeybees that fly up to four miles to find their preferred food, mason bees don’t go much farther than 300 feet. They move in a zigzag pattern, which makes them especially efficient pollinators for small spaces, according to Edmunds.

The single-minded bees live to bring nectar and pollen back to the nest for their larvae that hatch from eggs laid between walls made of mud – another material the female bees must haul back to the nest. Leaving patches of mud close to nesting areas in trees or other wood will help attract them, Edmunds said.

You can also encourage mason bees by creating a garden that includes plants that bloom during their excursions in March to mid- or late May. Consider plants such as crabapples, redbud, flowering currant, elderberry, huckleberry, Oregon grape and lupine. Even the often-dreaded dandelion is a great source of food.

If you want to introduce the bees rather than wait for them to arrive in the garden, she recommends purchasing a nesting house, which contains straws filled with cocoons that hatch in spring. They’re available online or at garden centers.

Alternately, you can drill holes into a solid piece of untreated wood. Make the holes five-sixteens of an inch in diameter, six inches deep and three-fourths of an inch apart. Insert paper straws with cocoons that hatch in spring. They’re available online or at garden centers.

Whatever you end up using, hang houses or containers under eaves or any other chemical control.

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Whatever you end up using, hang houses or containers under eaves or other protected areas where they’ll be protected from wind, rain and sun. Some people will bring the cocoon-filled houses inside over winter to keep them out of reach of predators. They’ll also spend time removing cocoons and washing off mites or parasites and reinserting them into clean straws.

“There are two schools of thought,” Edmunds said. “Some people want to get into high maintenance and harvest, clean and store cocoons. But that’s not necessary. You can always buy additional cocoons each year. And, of course, give the bees the plants they need to keep them around.”
April 2019 ~ The Brambles

Our 2019 MG graduates:

Front row:
John Deck, Barbara Deck, Janet Foster, JoAnn Jimerson, Rebekah Wilson, Sherry Baum, Ali Mramor

Back row:
Scott Thiemann, Master Gardener Coordinator, Geo Vella, Judy Emerson, Ginny Knox, Ken Dobberpuhl, Suzanne Hossler, Ezekiel Wilson, Tom Kerr

Pictures from the March 16 Hypertufa/Driftwood Container Workshop
Have you seen the Curry County Master Gardeners website? Extension.oregonstate.edu/curry/mg
The Brambles is usually posted there by the second of the month.

The last Monday of the month is the cut-off date for submitting articles for the Brambles. Email them to Cathe Barter umpqua.bart@gmail.com

This is your newsletter, if you have something to share please send it in. We will make every effort to include it.

Thanks to all of you who generously contributed to this edition of the Brambles. All submissions are gladly considered.

Curry County Master Gardeners Association
monthly meetings 3rd Tuesday, 10 am to noon in Gold Beach, OR

www.facebook.com/OSUExtCurryMG

Curry County Master Gardeners Association
PO Box 107
Gold Beach, OR 97444

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