So much to learn!

~Scott Thiemann

And, I know, given the amount of information provided during the various classes in our 2018 training, your heads are so full. You all are real troopers!

As Master Gardeners working with Oregon State University to get the word out about horticulture, landscaping and gardening to the citizens and homeowners of our county, you have a BIG job. Part of what makes our work challenging and dynamic is that our knowledge base is always evolving and growing. This is why by helping others, we also just keep learning. “I don’t know the answer, but I will get back to you”, definitely rings true.

In our effort to realize this mission, there are many ways in which to share our knowledge. Just go to: https://teamup.com/ksa7919614bd52037a to sign up.

The obvious is at our plant clinics. Learning here takes place by doing research. Besides taking your classroom education to a higher level, a lot of what you will be doing is learning WHERE to go for answers and information. There are myriads of websites and research resources out there of which you may be unaware. And you’ll discover that remembering isn’t really as important as we are often led to believe that it is.

Secondly, there are many other events and venues at which to share information: monthly tables at a couple locations in Brookings, the Azalea Festival there, and also the Curry County Fair here in Gold Beach; all of these are places where folks can talk to you and where you can provide numerous publications that we offer through our MG Program. You will find that your conversations are much more informal and that many folks will simply want to chat about plants, something all of you enjoy as well.

Thirdly, you can help with doing presentations. The libraries, county fair and the upcoming Earth Day event at Dragonfly Farm are all places where you can talk on a horticultural topic of passion or interest in which you feel knowledgeable or dedicated. This is as much—if not more—about sharing your enthusiasm as it is in being an expert. Remember that all the time for research is counted as volunteer time. A number of you have indicated interest in teaching and this is a very important part of our outreach and what we can offer as Master Gardeners. Just think of the people we could reach in the county if each person in the class chose just one topic!

Such classes could be as simple as talking about a certain group in which you are involved, such as the dahlia, orchid, or fuchsia ‘society’, or how to use food in your garden for disaster preparation, or ‘what I have learned in gardening in Curry County (say
compared to where you came from!).

Finally, there’s what you can share with kids, and a lot of this is about experience, especially in helping them get in touch with the earth and will hopefully also lead to more exercise and healthier eating.

SO, so many ways to support the Master Gardener Program as an ‘educator’...and so little time: just 50 volunteer hours, that once you get going, are going to pass very quickly!

ANNUAL PLANT SALE-March 11th
Carol Hobbs, 541-251-2422, Mailhobbs@yahoo.com
Questions? Give me a call or text

The plants for the plant sale are coming along. They get a little bit bigger each week, although this cold weather is not helping. We continue to groom the succulents and transplant selected perennials to larger pots. We are looking for succulent planter ideas. We will be making hypertufa pots and driftwood planters at Pam Leslie’s house on Saturday March 2nd. Any other ideas?

I have started the process of updating our informational signs with new photographs and hopefully more information about the growing conditions for the plant. Below is a photo from last year’s plant sale. We hope to be as busy and do the sales! A lot of fun! Start talking and mentioning the plant sale with your friends.

Remember Saturday May 11th at GBHS.

RILEY CREEK GARDEN –
Ali Mramor mramorali@gmail.com, Coordinator, Tele. 310-409-3496

Happy New Year Master Gardeners! The Riley Creek Garden has been enjoying its winter-time rest this month. Garlic has started to show some greenery and the fava beans are growing slowly, adding much needed nitrogen to the soil while helping to keep the weeds down. We are getting ready to start another round of hydroponic lettuce with the 3rd graders which will be harvested for the cafeteria.

In the next couple weeks we will be cutting back raspberries, dividing dahlias, and pruning and mulching fruit trees. The 8th graders will be learning about the importance of turning a compost bin and have a chance to get their hands dirty doing so.

As always, thank you to all the amazing volunteers and hope to see you in the garden! Enjoy the rain!

Winter’s Artist ~ Suzanne Bates

An awesome scene the artist paints, expert and deft his hand.
Brush strokes swift, he draws with ease, a winter wonderland.
Landscape sketched from memory, heavens and land entwine
Rapidly the scene is set, exquisitely divine.

Pine trees reaching tall and proud, like statues standing still.
There is no wind to speak of, more an icy winter chill.
Strong branches dusted with the snow stretch their fingers high
As if welcoming the blanket bequeathed by the darkened sky.

Crisp snowflakes twirl like dancers, pirouetting to and fro,
Waltzing to their silent tune toward the ground below.
Pale moonlight showers diamonds, generously all around.
Its treasure glints and sparkles upon the hardened ground.

Snowfall in shades of silver envelops the land below,
Lighting up the darkness with its soothing, gentle glow.
Mellow in its nature, no preference where it lays
Takes refuge where and when it can, throughout the winter days.

Though bereft of colour is the scene, prevailing grey and white,
Its awe inspiring beauty is apparent day and night.
Who nonchalantly paints this scene, for all on earth to share?
His strokes proficient every time, precise and so aware.

Jack Frost paints wondrous pictures with his palette of frozen dew,
Then stands back when his work is done and proudly admires the view.
HOW TO FIND OUT WHAT’S GOING ON
Contact Pam Leslie, 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 @ umpqua.bart@gmail.com

BOARD MEETINGS monthly 3rd Wednesday, 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 read of school)
Contact Carol Hobbs, 541-251-2422
*Annual Plant Sale Project* spoken here
RILEY CREEK GARDEN
94350 6th Street, Gold Beach
Contact Barb Rylee at 775-686-9649 barbrylee@gmail.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 Assn. 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, so check it out!

MARCH GARDENING TIPS
Planning
- Plan your vegetable garden carefully for spring, summer, and fall vegetables that can be eaten fresh or preserved. If you lack in-ground gardening space, plan an outdoor container garden.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. Some cool season crops (onions, kale, lettuce, and spinach) can be planted when the soil is consistently at or above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Maintenance and Clean Up
  - Lawn mowing: Set blade at 0.75 to 1 inch for bentgrass lawns; 1.5 to 2.5 inches for bluegrasses, fine fescues, and ryegrasses.
  - Compost grass clippings and yard waste, except for clippings from lawns where weed-and-feed products or herbicides (weed killers) have been used.
  - Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.
  - Prune gooseberries and currants; fertilize with manure or a complete fertilizer.
  - Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees, only if needed. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
  - If needed, fertilize rhododendrons, camellias, and azaleas with acid-type fertilizer. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
  - Western Oregon: Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blossoms fade.
  - Western Oregon: Fertilize caneberries using band fertilizer, broadcast fertilizer or a complete fertilizer or manure.

Planting/Propagation
- Divide hosta, daylilies, and mums.
- Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
- Plant insectary plants (e.g. Alyssum, Phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow, and dill) to attract beneficial insects to the garden. For more information, see Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden (PNW550).
- Plant seed flats of cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts) indoors or in a greenhouse.
- Western Oregon: If soil is dry enough, prepare vegetable garden and plant early cool-season crops (carrots, beets, broccoli, leeks, parsley, chives, rhubarb,
peas, and radishes). Plant onions outdoors as soon as the soil is dry enough to work.

Western Oregon: Plant berry crops (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, and other berry-producing crop plants). See OSU Extension publications for berry varieties.

Pest Monitoring and Management

Spray trees and shrubs for webworms and leaf rollers, if present.

Protect new plant growth from slugs. Least toxic management options include barriers and traps. Baits are also available for slug control; use with caution around pets. Read and follow all label directions prior to using baits or any other chemical control.

Learn to identify the predatory insects that can help keep aphids and other pests under control.

Spray to control leaf and twig fungus diseases in dogwood, sycamore, hawthorn, and willow trees.

Prune ornaments for air circulation and to help prevent fungus diseases.

Western Oregon: Start rose blackspot control tactics at budbreak. Control rose diseases such as black spot. Remove infected leaves. Spray as necessary with registered fungicide.

Western Oregon: Monitor for European crane fly and treat lawns if damage has been verified.

Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

Trim or shear heather when bloom period is finished.

Start tuberous begonias indoors.

Western Oregon: Take geraniums, begonias, and fuchsias from storage. Water and fertilize. Cut back if necessary. Move outdoors next month.

CCMGA – GENERAL MEETING MINUTES -

February 19, 2019

Meeting Called to Order 10:01 AM at the OSU Extension classroom


Motion to approve minutes from November 20, 2018, Lori Phelan, seconded by Jeffrie Hall.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

TREASURER’S REPORT

No report for January due to Barb Rylee stepping down. No major changes in the finances. Reimbursements to the 2018 class were issued in January.

BUSINESS ITEMS

New Treasurer & Reimbursements: Ruth Patton, nominated last month, was approved by the board to be the new treasurer. Lori Phelan has created a new form with the current budget line items to be used for future reimbursements. The chairperson of a particular committee can approve small amounts, large expenditures outside of the current budget need to be approved by the board. How will members get new form was discussed.

Membership Dues: Debbie C. has almost completed compiling the membership information. There are 35 certified members, 8 associate members, 2 honorary members and 15 trainees, 60 total members. Better retention than in past years. She is working on the updated membership list. She passed out the current year’s stickers for the members present at the meeting.

Summer Party: Potential date set for Sunday, August 11 at Marna’s home in Cedar Valley, noon to 3:00 PM.

Holiday Party: Tentative date of December 7, maybe at new Gold Beach brew pub Bandon Brewing.

Statewide Survey: The OMGA has sent out a survey for all members to take. “This survey will provide OMGA with information to advance the goal of improving our ability to deliver the mission.” Some of Curry’s members have taken it and Lori will send out another reminder email.

Update bylaws: A copy of current bylaws will be sent to board members to seek input for any needed changes. The bylaws were last updated in 2016.

UPDATE CALENDAR:

Ali Van O. is current with updating calendar. Scott has many activities and events coming up but needs to establish firm dates.

PRESENTATION FROM DALE HODGE: An organic farmer for many years, and supporter of “Biodynamic Agriculture” has been consulting with one of Curry County’s commissioners about the possibility of establishing “Food Sovereignty” in Curry County. “Food Sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.” His stated purpose with the board was to see if any of the Curry MGS knew of available land or people who would be interested in such a project.

PROGRAM ASSISTANT’S REPORT: Scott Thiemann - An average of eight veterans are attending the Friday classes. “Seed to Supper” training starts March 30 in Brookings at the Living Waters Church. Twenty people have expressed interest in the program. Last week compost was put on the beds. Devon D. of the Oregon Food Bank will be training the “trainers”. The challenge will be
to get persons to sign up for the program. It is free and will help teach people about “gardening on a budget”. There is a possibility of offering a “bonus” (small gardening gift) each week, to the people who participate. Potential participants could be found through local churches, and the local food bank. Lori P. asked if maybe there was somebody in the current class with a marketing background who could help with publicity for all the upcoming programs. Earth Day is coming at the end April. Curry MGs will be at Dragonfly Farm again. Plan is to have the MG information table and a table with activities for children.

Karlie Wright of the Curry County Library and Scott will be implementing his 6 week program created to help middle schoolers learn landscaping skills. Looking for volunteer help to assist with this.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Riley Creek:** Ali M. - the irrigation project is underway. Kerr Ace Hardware donated all the irrigation materials and the Rotary Club donated a total of $450 towards seeds and other supplies. Since Ali M. has all needed materials she will not need the money that was budgeted for these items. Pam Leslie stated the allocated money should stay in budget until the plant sale proceeds are tallied. If enough money is made she can use what is in the budget if other needs arise. Riley Creek committee formed: Ali M., Lori, Mary Jacobs, and Debbie Richter. Future projects: covering paths with decomposed granite and the replacement of the greenhouse cover. Composted sheep’s manure has been placed on beds at Riley Creek & Chetco Library for the summer program run by Julia Bott. A $200 donation from the Association for the compost will be given to the “Wild Rivers Land Trust”. The cost to be split between 3 budgets: “Seed to Supper” Riley Creek, and “Gardening Basics”. Ali M. asked if someone could look over the grant renewal that funds her position at the school. Mary Jacobs wrote the first one, Scott and Pam also looked at it and are willing to do so again.

A donation of $200 was given to the church whose electricity the Riley Creek garden uses. Was hard to find contact information to mail check.

**ABC Preschool:** Barb Carey. - Classes will start May 12 and go to the middle of September. Held once a week. She is working on her lesson plans. Barb has had great support from the teacher, and volunteer help. This will be the program’s 4th year. The original startup costs for beds were covered by grants and now the ongoing costs are minimal. She purchases new teaching materials, craft supplies, and books for the school’s library that pertain to her lessons. A long term goal would be to establish the program in other local preschools.

**Plant Sale:** Debbie C. - She will soon start signing up people to help with the sale.

**Land/Building Fund:** Debbie C. - There will be a meeting at greenhouse March 7, for Land & Building Fund.

**TERRITORIAL SEEDS:** Mama has sent a letter to them and has not heard back.

**OTHER ASSOCIATION PROJECTS/WORKSHOPS/CLASSES**

**Hypertufa and Driftwood:** Pam has set the date for Saturday, March 3 at her house. Ten volunteers so far.

**Gold Beach Main Street Update:** Mama has two potential sites in town that MGs could possibly develop with new landscaping. Scott said that if done by MGs there must be an educational component.

**Worm Composting:** Ali M. is proposing a workshop that will teach how to create and harvest castings made by red wriggler worms. She has taught this in Ohio.

**Garden Tour:** Mama suggested a tour before the summer party. The Tu Tu’ Tun Lodge could be a stop.

Meeting adjourned 12:12 PM

Submitted by Jeffrie Hall

**SIX STELLAR SHRUBS TO BRIGHTEN THE WINTER GARDEN**

By Kym Pokorny, Source: Neil Bell–CORVALLIS, Ore. – In January and February the flowers of winter arrive, blooming as cheerfully as the showoffs of spring.

“One of the coolest things about gardening in the Pacific Northwest is winter gardens,” said Neil Bell, a horticulturist with Oregon State University’s Extension Service. “Spring is overwhelming with flowers, but in winter it’s surprising. It’s nice to see something that’s so unexpected. And then there’s the scent; such an enjoyable thing.”

One of the showiest of the cold-weather shrubs is *Mahonia ‘Charity,’* a relative of native Oregon grape with bountiful spikes of yellow blooms. The large evergreen leaves give the plant a tropical look and make it a standout year round. Snow is no deterrent for this easy-care, 10-foot shrub that will take temperatures down to minus 5. A bonus is the multitude of blue berries.

For those who are only familiar with camellias that bloom in spring, *Camellia sasanqua* will come as a pleasant surprise, Bell said. Blooming right smack in the middle of winter, this 8-foot camellia doesn’t get the mushy, brown flowers some hybrids display. White-blooming ‘Setsugekka’ is easily found, as is ‘Yuletide,’ the most popular of the *Camellia sasanqua* with its Santa Claus-red flowers decorated with prominent puffs of yellow stamens that provide sustenance for overwintering Anna hummingbirds.

In the darkest part of the year – sometimes before Christmas – the vanilla perfume of sweetbox hovers
on the air. The small white flowers aren’t a big deal, but the scent more than makes up for that. The shiny, dark green foliage is similar to its relative the boxwood and useful as a hedge or backdrop for colorful perennials and annuals in other seasons. Several species are on the market, most commonly Sarcococca ruscifolia and S. confusa, both topping out at 5 feet. They’ll take temperatures down to around 5 degrees and grow happily in shady, dry areas of the garden, where most other plants turn up their toes.

Bell mentions Grevillea victorae one of his favorite winter-blooming plants. The 8-foot tall and wide evergreen shrub with small gray leaves and stems can bloom September through April once it gets established. The unusual red-orange flowers emerge from rust orange buds making it a standout in the garden. It’s attractive to hummingbirds and bees.

Blooming December through March, two months earlier than the Oregon native flowering currant (Ribes sanguineum), is the chaparral currant (R. malvaceum) of the California coastal ranges. The 5-foot shrub attracts hummingbirds that will sip the nectar and forage for bugs among downward-facing pink flowers. Because the foliage is aromatic, many gardeners will be happy to know that deer will typically leave chaparral currant alone.

Bell can’t finish his list without mentioning native silk tassel (Garrya elliptica). There’s no missing the waterfall of catkins dangling in long chains of 6 inches or more. The large shrub can grow up to 12 feet tall and wide, has glossy green leaves with white undersides and is drought tolerant.

These six shrubs, all of which are hardy down to about 10-15 degrees or lower, are on Bell’s short list. Others worth researching, he said, are witch hazel (Hamamelis), winter jasmine (Jasminum nudiflorum), Viburnum ‘Dawn’, wintersweet (Chimonanthus) and Harry Lauder’s walking stick (Corylus avellana ‘Contorta’).

“Having color in the garden in winter is not that hard to do,” Bell said. “Once you’re aware of the possibilities, it’s just a matter of planting the right plants.”

CREATE A HOME LANDSCAPE FOR POLLINATORS: BUTTERFLIES, BEES AND HUMMINGBIRDS

Pollinator numbers have declined due to habitat destruction and incorrect chemical use. However, you can create a beautiful pollinator paradise in your home landscape by following these planting guidelines. Native plants often provide good sources of nectar and pollen for our native pollinators, so include native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees in your landscape. Provide a source of water with a bird bath, a small muddy area, or a fountain. Allow some areas of unmulched, bare ground. More than 75% of our native bees need these areas for nesting.

Planting for success:

- Provide flowers from early spring to late fall
- Include variety in flower color, shape and size
- Plant some larger plants to provide shelter
- Most pollinator plants prefer sunny sites
- Plant in groups of the same flowering plant

Butterflies prefer:

- red, orange, yellow and purple flowers
- flat flowers shaped like daisies, zinnias, and coreopsis
- small flowers in clusters such as lilac, butterfly bush, milkweed, catmint, verbena, lupine, and goldenrod

Bees prefer: white, yellow, purple and blue flowers

- flat flowers shaped like daisies, berry blooms, and dahlias
- tiny flowers in clusters, such as lavender, sedums, catmint, clover, ninebark, spiraea, and milkweed

Hummingbirds prefer: red, pink and orange flowers

- flowers shaped like tubes in all sizes, such as bee balm, honeysuckle, penstemon, and hardy fuchsias
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.

CCMGA Officers for 2019

President ............ Lori Phelan
Vice President......... Marna Williams
Secretary................ Jeffrie Hall
Treasurer............. Ruth Patton
OMG State Rep...... Jeffrie Hall
Newsletter Editor...... Cathe Barter
Historian............... Cathe Barter
Past President......... Pam Leslie
OSU Program Asst... Scott Thiemann

1 - 800-356-3986

To contact officers, leave a message at the Extension office 1-800-356-3986

www.facebook.com/OSUExtCurryMG

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

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

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