What will you find in the August Newsletter?

* Notes from the Editor about the BLUES (the video is amazing!)
* August Calendar
* News from the Inspiration Garden, by Patty Bernardi
* Introduction to Japanese wineberries, Glenda Sylsberry
* Bren Coop shares wonderful produce
* A view of bamboo, Paul Sieber
* Inspiration from our President, Bobbie Muncrief (check out her new fire pit)
* Dale Jordan's amazing apples
* Community service, Karen Lippsmeyer
* Jean Nielsen is growing 5 foot tall tomato plants and other veggies
Notes from the Editor. **August**

August weather can be very dry and hot. Are you experiencing the summer **BLUES**? No, not the sad kind of blues. I am referencing blue flowers. Have you noticed that your other garden beauties are beginning to slow down a bit after a long summer of energetically producing color?

How about adding the **BLUES**? Just when you thought all will be fading, Mother Nature thought ahead to just this moment in midsummer and gave us some shrubs that strut their colors during this month and the next. One of those **BLUE** jewels that attract bees, hummingbirds and butterflies is the *Caryopteris clandonensis* or more commonly known as bluebeard. They are drought tolerant once established and they are reported to repel deer. Late fall or early spring is a good time to add one of these amazing shrubs in your garden to enjoy 2021 midsummer **BLUES**.

**Did you know?** Why are bumblebees attracted to **BLUE**? Because they see the blue spectrum colors best and flowers in the violet-blue range produce the highest volumes of nectar. A scientific report by Dimitri D. Deheyn and published in "Nature" indicates that nanoscale structures on flower petals manifest a blue halo type glow that are lined up in a design that attracts bees. The article also states that these are found in all major flowering plant groups that are pollinated by insects. Wow! Who knew that the **BLUES** could bring a smile to our bees?

For more specific information, visit this photobiology article by "Nature" [https://www.nature.com/articles/nature24155](https://www.nature.com/articles/nature24155)

More **BLUES**: Take time to enjoy this two minute video showing a bumblebee enjoying blue-violet salvia [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=45&v=Tip2ONWDaQQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=45&v=Tip2ONWDaQQ)

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**Just a reminder** - For the current time period, the OSU Polk County Extension Office in Dallas will be open Mondays-Wednesdays from 8am-5pm (closed during the noon hour) in order to serve the public as needed. All other hours we will be working remotely and our faculty will remain working remotely as well. All meetings at this time are to remain remote.

**Questions?** Please email polkmg@oregonstate.edu or phone: 503-623-8395

Thank you for your encouragement and newsletter articles. Please know your comments, suggestions, and submissions are always welcome at polkmgnews@gmail.com.

Stay Safe and Happy Gardening! Lorena Elliott, Polk Weed Editor

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**Calendar for August**
01 - Time to clean and fertilize strawberry beds
02 - Celebrate peaches!
03 - Time to deep water your Camellias to develop flower buds for next spring
04 - Plant cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, spinach, turnips and parsnips
06 - National Fresh Breath Day
07 - National Mustard Day
08 - National Sneak Some Zucchini Into Your Neighbor’s Porch Day (hahaha!)
10 - National S’mores Day!
13 - International Left-handers Day
16 - Prune raspberries, boysenberries and other caneberries after harvest
21 - Senior Citizens Day
23 - Ride the Wind Day!
29 - More herbs, less salt day

**Flower of the Month: Gladiola**

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**News from the Inspiration Garden by our own Patty Bernardi - Thanks Patty!**

The Fragrant Garden is looking good and there are amazing cones in the Large Conifer area.
The Catalpa Tree
A mom and her daughters who walk through the garden regularly were heard to squeal as they saw the catalpa tree in bloom. They came running, and I heard one tell a friend “and we will know the name—they have all the plants named!” (go signage committee!) There were lots of flower sniffing and squealing!

This Indian bean tree, *Catalpa aurea*, has large heart shaped whirl leaves and gorgeous lacy panicles of creamy white flowers in early summer that produce pods. This tree can grow 40 - 60 feet tall and it is native to the Southeastern USA. Check out the pods that will be growing soon.

Photos by Lorena Elliott

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**GARDEN NEWS FROM GLENSDA SYLSBERRY**

When I purchased a raspberry plant two years ago and tasted the fruit, I thought these are really strange raspberries. They don't taste like raspberries and they are sticky. Turns out they are Japanese wineberries. I planted them next to my Tayberry. Tayberry is a cross between raspberry and blackberry.

The tayberry plant was purchased from last year's Polk County Master Gardener Plant Sale. The berries are really tasty. I also have some everbearing raspberries, much older plants, and a fall gold raspberry that was purchased this year. The wineberries are not as good as raspberries and are slightly sour.

In addition, I wanted to talk about this pumpkin. I saved some seeds from a pumpkin that I bought not knowing what kind it was but I liked the taste. I labeled the seed envelope "pumpkin with stripes". The pumpkin seeds came out of a small sized pumpkin and this one is getting rather big. I am excited about eating it when it is ripe but I still don't know what it is called.

The striped pumpkin does taste similar to orange pie pumpkins, maybe better. It will be light yellow and green at ripeness.

Thanks for sharing Glenda!
Fantastic Gardening News from our Past-Prez Bren Coop
Albany Mennonite Village

We definitely are all eating well! Some of our wonderful produce is being taken by a volunteer, Maryanne Kirk, to a local food bank. She and her partner are sort of in charge of the current food bank project. I think there are 3 places in Albany who rotate to distribute the fresh food.

The neighborhood food drive here also collected about 1,200 pounds of non-perishable food which was taken to a food bank at the beginning of the month. A great example of community service.

That is terrific and thanks for sharing Bren! We miss you!

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Check this out! Amazing Bamboo
Submitted by Paul Sieber, August 2020
When bringing up the idea of using bamboo as a landscape plant there seem to be two schools of thought: the first use, as an artistic, exotic accent with its vertical elements, gently swaying in a breeze which adds motion to a garden scene; the other thought is of a messy, uncontrollable, spreading green monster.

There are elements of truth in both views. Between the two extremes there is a place for bamboo, by considering the growth habits of the more than 1400 species of this largest group of the grass family Poaceae.

Bamboos are evergreen, perennial flowering plants, growing on all continents, except Antarctica, having a wide range of climate adaptability. Most bamboos are found in the warm, moist tropical and temperate climates.

Structurally, like most grasses, its culm or stalk is a hollow tube separated regularly by cross walls called nodes. The tubular stalk form makes a strong lightweight structural element useful in construction due to its high strength-to-weight ratio, similar to timber.

Bamboo sizes can vary from 10-12 inches in diameter and 98 feet tall called "Timber Bamboo", to the delicate 2-3 inch tall variety.

The differing opinion of bamboo landscape usefulness derives from the differing root or rhizome growth: the "clumping" type has growth tips turning upwards at the main clump or rhizome, keeping the above ground stems or culms in the same area. In the "spreading" type, they are underground rhizomes that grow laterally and seek to spread out rather than up. Hence, with the rapid lateral - then upward growth - some varieties have amazing ability to take over an area.

Bamboo flowers, but not in the expected manner. Flowering is seldom and infrequent, and depending on species can vary from 65 to 120 years. The flowering is termed "mass" or "gregarious" with ALL plants derived from a particular "cohort", flowering at the same time, no matter how far separated. Once the flowering has occurred the plant declines and often dies.

As a group, bamboos contribute a significant economic, cultural and physical benefit to humanity and earth. They are a major source of oxygen to the atmosphere.

The tiny "grove" in the Inspiration Garden demonstrates both views of the characteristics, positive and negative, of bamboo.

Sources:
1) Timber Press Pocket Guide to Bamboo, by T.J. Meredith, 2009;
2) Wikipedia, numerous references.

President's Corner

It's almost August already. I am sure by now you are harvesting some wonderful garden veggies and enjoying all those ripened berries. Yes, summertime is fun.

We have lots of great opportunities right now.
1. The Inspiration Garden has many areas of need and interest as well.
2. For those of you looking for your 10 direct hours, one way to do that is to write a newsletter article.
3. Last Wednesday from 9 to 10:30am we worked on propagation at the Inspiration Garden. We had 5 people learning this new skill. It was a very enjoyable experience.
4. We are always looking for more volunteers to help with propagation for our plant sale. If you are interested, please contact Bobbie Muncrief, 503-551-3911 or bobbiejmuncrief@gmail.com.
Last week the youth group from our Church and I cleared flower beds for an older member of our Church. We then planted the flower beds with many wonderful perennials. It looked so good when we were done and the best part was the huge smile on her face.

I have met many new friends in our small community. Most of them have come to my house to enjoy the gardens. Several women asked me to show them how to propagate plants. 10 women showed up to learn this skill. It was lots of laughter and good fun as we took our cuttings and began to do the propagation work.

This is what I truly love about the Master Gardener Program. You have the opportunity to learn some new skills, learn new sustainable gardening information, meet many wonderful gardeners, and share what you have learned with others. Isn't that what it is all about?

Enjoy your gardens.

Bobbie Muncrief

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Check Out Dale Jordan's Gala Apples from his garden.

Thanks Dale for Sharing these beauties!
FROM THE "MASTER" GARDEN OF KAREN LIPPSMEYER

I have been busy working in my vegetable garden at home. Potatoes, cabbage, summer squash and Walla walla onions have produced very well. Kathy Stewart and I have been donating extras to the Ella Curran Food Bank on behalf of Master Gardeners.

THANK YOU KAREN AND KATHY FOR SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Photos submitted by Karen Lippsmeyer

FROM THE "MASTER" GARDEN OF JEAN NIELSEN

My tomato plants are over 5 feet tall!
My 4 varieties of squash are going into high production
My Mexican Gherkins are beginning to produce
The Lemon Drop hot peppers will be great in my mango pepper jelly
Basil ready to become pesto
Mild heat Mariachi peppers.

Thanks Jean for sharing photos of your garden goodies!

Tomato plants  Squash  Lemon Drop Hot Peppers

Basil  Mariachi mild peppers

Congratulations to Rachel and Logan Brandon!

Our sweet Rachel is married. The wedding ceremony was held at the family's forest on June 27, 2020 and we wish them much happiness! A reception is planned at a future date. Please congratulate Rachel when you get a chance.
Important Things to Know

Mission: "To serve our community by promoting research-based, sustainable gardening practices."
OSU Polk County Master Gardeners
Neil Bell, OSU Ext. Horticulture Agent
Rachel Villwock, Program Assistant
Carla Cudmore, Program Assistant

Membership dues: $20/year
Please send inquiries, address changes, and membership renewals to:
Polk County Extension Office
289 E. Ellendale Ave, Ste 301
Dallas, Oregon 97338
Extension Office: 503-623-8395

Master Gardener Merchandise:
Jan Quintens - 503-623-9442 cell: 541-659-3012
Cuttings Through the Year $9
Mac's Field Guides (each): $6
  NW Trees
  NW Wildflowers
  NW Good/Bad Garden Bugs
  NW Park/Backyard Birds
Trees to Know in Oregon (2010) $14
Shrubs to Know in PNW Forests $9

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