



Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

April 2023

April 2023 Calendar

Mon., April 3, 10:00

Insect Committee

Tues., April 4, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Discovery Garden Workday

Fri., April 7, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., April 11, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Discovery Garden Workday

Wed., April 12, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting, Annex

Fri., April 14, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Mon., April 17, 10:00

Insect Committee

Tues., April 18, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Discovery Garden Workday

Fri., April 21, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., April 25, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Discovery Garden Workday

Thurs., April 27

Continuing Education (9:00)

Chapter Meeting (10:00)

MG Pre-Sale @ HLC (1:00-3:00)

Fri., April 28, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Sat.-Sun, April 29-30, 9-5

**Glide Wildflower Show, Glide
Community Center**

Sun., April 30, 1:00-3:00

MG Pre-Sale @ HLC

Friday, May 5

Set-up for Plant Sale

Saturday, May 6

PLANT SALE !!!

The Prez Sez...

I sez it's been a miserable long, cold, wet month that allowed me plenty of time to catch up on my reading. I enjoy finding obscure books at estate sales from a wide variety of genres. Biographies and historical fiction have always been favorites.

My most recent finds include Plants of Colonial Williamsburg, How To Identify 200 of Colonial America's Flowers, Herbs and Trees by Joan Parry Dutton. Ms. Dutton writes of 17th and 18th century America from the aspect of garden habits and plant material from that era. She provides interesting biographies of noted plantsmen from Pliny the Elder circa 23-79 A.D. whose Natural History runs to 37 volumes to the Royal Society of London founded in 1660.

She cites Reverend John Banister, an English chaplain and naturalist sent to Virginia in 1678, who published the Catalogue of Virginia Plants. Banister was a recognized authority of natural history of Virginia. He was a planner in the establishment of the College of William and Mary, is the namesake of the Banister River as well of a silvery-leaved Brazilian climbing vine, *Banisteria argyrophylla*.

Among the 50 plus biographies she references, many are European-trained physicians, clergymen, naturalists, apothecaries and botanists. Prominent civic leaders of Virginia, including Presidents Washington and Jefferson, were dedicated diarists who included detailed drawings in their notes. The family of William Prince (1766-1842) founded the The Prince Nursery, a famed center of horticulture in America.

Dutton details the relationships these people had during those centuries and how they influenced each others' works. Her beautifully illustrated work includes a notation on White Oak. "Of all North America's oak trees, the white oak is closest to the English Oak. The large acorn was a staple food for the Indians, some colonists rubbed themselves with the oil they extracted to help them 'supple their joints' and the bark was recommended as the best remedy against the dysentery". Each plant description has such an historical notation as well as detailed botanical information.

Another find is typical of estate sale purchases, not always a home-run but interesting in part. In 2017 Penelope Lively wrote Life in the Garden. The 15 page introduction was more interesting than the chapters discussing why and how people garden and their different garden types. Lively quoted from literary works such as the Bible and Alice in Wonderland. My favorite citation is from Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca. "*Last night I dreamt I went to Mandalay again. The rhododendrons stood fifty feet high, twisted and entwined with bracken, and they had entered into alien marriage with a host of nameless shrubs...Ivy held prior place in this lost garden, the long strands crept across the lawns... nettles were everywhere, the vanguard of the army. They choked the terrace, they sprawled about the paths, they leant, vulgar and lanky, against the very windows of the house.*" Classic use of gardens as a metaphor for life. Can't you just picture it in your mind's eye?

My last treasure is a little 4.5"x 6.5" beat up pocket book titled Birding Babylon, A Soldier's Journal From Iraq written by Jonathan Trouern-Trend. A Connecticut-born biologist, Trouern-Trend served in the National Guard with a medical unit north of Baghdad. His skills as a naturalist played against his military training. He describes the incredible dichotomy of migrating birds amidst the daily rocket and mortar attacks. I found his blog on the internet at birdingbabylon.blogspot.com. A very interesting look at war from one who saw the beauty and the destruction side by side.

Thus ends the month of March. Hope springs eternal. April has arrived. The tom turkey's daily parade in full fan is a sight to behold. My manzanita and vinca are in bloom. As gardeners we look to the bright future of blossoms and blooms. Happy Spring, everyone!

See you in the garden, Julie

Awards Social

Bonnie Courter



On March 4, we gathered at the Phoenix School for an afternoon of fun, finger food, and frivolity to honor our hard-working MG volunteers. Kudos to Ann Severson and Kristin Jennings who planned out the event

and to members of the Class of 2022 who helped decorate the room.

Along with all the many certificates, prizes and accolades given out, we especially wanted to honor our Master Gardener of the Year - **Dawnetta Loomis**, Behind the Scenes MG of the Year - **Joy Keeling**, and Outstanding Rookie of the Year - **Patrice Glasscock**, for their exceptional efforts in making DCMG such a successful organization.

Dawnetta Loomis, MG of the Year by Diana Woodward

Our Master Gardener of the Year comes to us with a full and accomplished life. She is currently serving on the Douglas County Veterans Advisory Committee (VAC) and has been a Foster Parent to 8 local children, along with four children of her own.



Dawnetta had a decorated 24-year military career with the US Army, rising to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Four (CW4), and has been awarded the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Star Medals and the Combat Action Badge, and deployed on three separate combat tours to Iraq.

During all of the previous achievements, she earned two college degrees: one in Restaurant & Culinary Management and the other in Computer Science.

Settled for the last 9-years of life here in Douglas County, developing a garden, orchard, vineyard, and chicken farmstead, she joined the 2019 Winter Class.

Even as a new student she volunteered her home that year, to study for the final and serve pizza with a small group of fellow students and their mentors. She finished 2019 with 68 volunteer hours. She served as a mentor for the 2022 Fall Class, and had logged in over 500 volunteer hours by the end of 2022.

In 2021 Dawnetta hosted our 2021 and 2022 summer meetings at her home, providing us with delicious wood-fired homemade pizza from her oven.

Dawnetta became our Treasurer in 2021, and handles the job professionally and with ease.

“Given to hospitality” is one of the gifts given described in the Bible, and Dawnetta has this gift. Last year at our 2022 Awards Social she came to serve, brought her husband, Dan, and daughter, Neysa, and all 3 worked the refreshments. Neysa gets a secondary award as well for all the help she’s given us at events.

Dawnetta was also instrumental in changing our Winter classes to Fall. She came with the Board to meet with the head of our state organization to successfully convince Gail to support us in our Fall class efforts.

Joy Keeling - Behind the Scenes MG of the Year by Barbie Hamby

Joy spends a lot of her time “behind the scenes,” but she is upfront when sharing her time and expertise with fellow gardeners. In her gentle, yet confident style, she gets the work done.



After arriving in Roseburg from Colorado, she went through the Master Gardener class in 2020.

Her mentor, Vicky Barrett, said Joy was a pleasure to work with and that Joy knew more about plants than she did!

Joy’s plant knowledge just didn’t grow from the class. She and her husband owned a large nursery in Colorado. After selling this successful business, Joy

continued to assist the new owners. She was compensated for her time, but was paid with plants, not money.

Joy is very involved in our chapter in a variety of ways. She has volunteered more than 750 hours. She frequently attends the Executive Board and Chapter meetings. She is serving as co-coordinator of this year's Plant Sale with Karin Seder.

Joy is also co-coordinator of the Westside Greenhouse with Carol Bolt. Carol says that Joy is always ready to help.

We are so thankful for Joy's generous sharing of her wealth of knowledge about plants. She's always willing to help any way she can.



Ivor Chapman, before he flew off to his native UK, was awarded the "Handy Dandy" Award, a gift certificate to Home Depot, by Ann Severson for all his handyman work at the HLC.

2021 Outstanding Rookie of the Year - Patrice Glasscock

Patrice was in the Fall Class of 2021 and jumped right in as a Master Gardener volunteer. She turned in hours for the Plant Clinic, Plant Sale, outreach, Discovery Garden, etc., and by the end of 2022 had a total of 385 volunteer hours!



Kristin Jennings helps arrange all the prizes for the Social.

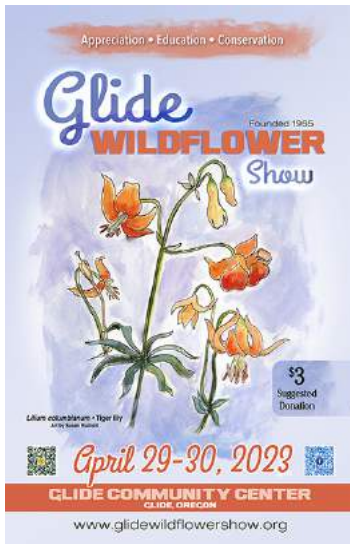


Patrice was instrumental in moving the soil testing lab to the HLC and oversaw the remodel, upgrades, move and set up. She has also volunteered to be co-chair of the 2023 Fall Training class.

We are very fortunate to have Patrice as a part of our team. Thank you, Patrice!



A table groaning with delicious eats provided by our culinary-talented MG's.



Appreciation - Education - Conservation

Glide Wildflower Show

April 29 & 30 * 2023
 9 am to 5 pm
 photographers' hour 8 am Sat & Sun

Over 600 species of Southwest Oregon wildflowers, trees & shrubs, grasses, ferns, lichens, mosses & liverworts

Exhibits
 Edible & Medicinal Plants
 Beekeeping
 Natural Dyes
 Oregon Flora Project
 Weeds
Sales
 Flora Books & Posters
 Native Plants
 Food & Beverages
 Homemade Pies

Special Presentations
 - Edible & Medicinal Plant Uses
 - Meet the Oregon Flora Project
 - Vegetation after Wildfire
 - Tour the Show with a Botanist
 - Guided Wildflower Walk

See website for complete details!

Glide Community Center
 Hwy 138, Glide, Oregon
www.glidewildflowershow.org

\$3 Suggested Donation

Random Photos from our MG's

Whatever happened to the weeping mulberry tree in the Children's Garden?!! Well, **Fred Alley** was on the scene, watching Dave & Sharon Hopkins along with Betty Bean give it a good "haircut". The results are spectacular!



Swinger Bar Report Kay Livermore

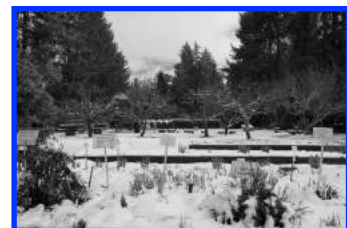
Members who have swinger bar updates for January 2023:

- 100 hours: Empress Lee, George Slay
- 300 hours: Karin Seder
- 400 hours: Patrice Glasscock
- 4000 hours: Carol Bolt

Members who have swinger bar updates for February 2023:

- The last 2021 trainee and the first 2022 trainee completed payback hours:
- 60 hours: Terry Christianson [2021], Colleen Baida [2022]
 - 100 hours: Cynthia Moyer

Colleen Baida shot these three photos during one of our late February snowy days out at the Discovery Garden. Brrrr...makes you want to go back to scanning your spring gardening catalogue!



MG Appreciation Week - April 17-21 Anita Clark



MG Volunteer Appreciation Week, normally in October, has changed to April to align with National Volunteer Appreciation Week. MG's can come in to the office and get a little bee box that has sweet treats in them and then enter their name into a drawing for the "Thank-You" gift. (The "rose" is a bee waterer)

Membership

Kay Livermore

We currently have 215 members. OMGA membership cards are available in the Plant Clinic timesheet drawer or Eastside Greenhouse mailbox.

Keeping Weeds at Bay this Spring with Cardboard

Karin Seder



Are you as excited as I am about Spring??! Something that is also excited about spring are all the weeds that pop up. I have found the best way for me to take care of weeds in

my deer fenced garden area is to stop them before they start. No chemical sprays here – just cardboard and mulch. I lay down overlapping pieces of cardboard in all the areas around my raised beds (not in the beds) and cover the cardboard with a thick layer of wood chips. It not only looks nice, but it also keeps most of the weeds at bay. The few weeds that do pop up are easy to grab and toss. The cardboard will eventually decompose and become part of the soil, but with continued applications of woodchips or mulch, the weeds don't stand a chance.

I have an endless supply of cardboard and I would love to share it with you – I will even bring it to the greenhouses if you give me a call. My husband and I volunteer at the Riddle Food Bank and my job there is to recycle the copious amounts of cardboard – and there is plenty of cardboard for your garden area too!

For the woodchips, whenever I see a tree service truck in my area, I stop and let them know they can dump the chips in my yard. If you have the room, it is always nice to have a big pile of woodchips sitting in your yard, ready whenever you need it.

Call or text if you would like cardboard – 707-322-6672 or KarinSeder@gmail.com

Let Soil Temp Guide You When Planting Vegetables

by Kym Pokorny, OSU
(shared by Jack Finney)

Weeks of cold temperatures and rain have unsettled the gardening season. You may be raring to get your garden – but hold. Sowing seed or planting seedlings at the wrong time will bring nothing but heartache.

“One of the biggest mistakes people make is to plant too early,” said Weston Miller, a former horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. “They get excited when it’s sunny for a few days, put plants in the ground and think they will grow. But the seeds either rot from damping off fungus or germinate very slowly. At the very least, they’ll be stressed for the rest of the season and never catch up.”

Right about now in the Willamette Valley is usually when you can get away with planting cool-season vegetables like peas, arugula, mustard, radish and turnip in prepared planting beds. Also, carrots, beets, scallions, chives, parsley and cutting greens that are easy to grow from seed; or plant already started transplants of kale, head lettuce, chard, leeks and onions.

This year, however, paying attention to soil temperature is the best way to go. An inexpensive soil thermometer helps keep planting time in perspective.

“Fifty degrees is a good benchmark for cool-season crops,” Weston said. “And the soil should be 60 degrees or more for warm-weather plants like tomatoes, peppers and basil. In fact, for tomatoes it should ideally be 65 to 70.”

If you can't resist the urge to plant warm-season vegetables before the soil warms sufficiently, Miller recommends using some sort of protection from the chill like floating row cover, individual glass or plastic cloches or even milk jugs or soda bottles with the top cut out and turned upside down over plants. For directions on building a large, greenhouse-type cloche with PVC pipe and plastic, check out the OSU Extension guide on [“How to Build Your Own Raised Bed Cloche\(link is external\).”](#)

“Gardening depends on the weather, which is unpredictable,” Miller said. “But it pays to wait.”

Plant Sale

Karin Seder & Joy Keeling



Master Gardeners Plant Sale is coming to a Fairgrounds near you! Both Westside and Eastside greenhouses are working to get all the plants ready.

Here are some dates for you to put on your calendar:

Thursday, April 27 and Sunday, April 30 from 1:00 - 3:00 is the Master Gardener only plant sale out at the greenhouses. This is your chance for first dibs on your favorite plants. Bring cash, check or credit card and have a great shopping experience. Beat the crowds and get all your plants while the selection is at its peak. This also frees up your time to volunteer for the sale (you did remember to sign up, right?!!) At the Plant Sale on May 6, MG's, will not be able to shop for plants until 3:00 pm – all the more incentive to meet us out at the greenhouses on April 27 & 30.

Friday, May 5 we set up at the Fairgrounds. Most people need to arrive at 8:00 AM unless otherwise noted by your team leader. We will stay until everything is set up and ready to go.

Saturday, May 6 - THE PLANT SALE!!! Workers will need to be in place by 8:00 AM. Vendors can begin their shopping at 8:30 and the doors will open for the public at 9:00. Master Gardeners present at the sale can shop after 3:00 and not before – we need you working in your area to assist all of our customers. We close shop at 4:00.

Have a significant other (brother or sister, uncle?) who is not interested in plants? They can help with traffic control, parking and security.

Following the close of the Plant Sale, we need folks to help load the trucks up with unsold items to go back to the greenhouses. Additionally we need some strong backs to load the tables and chairs to return to the Extension office.

We have volunteers to manage the kitchen for our great potluck on both Friday and Saturday. This is for the workers only and is always something we look forward to. Bring your favorite dish to share – we have lots of outlets for your crock pot! We can keep your cold things cold and your hot things hot. Serving spoons, plates and utensils will be available along with water, coffee and tea. Please write your name on anything you want returned.

Keep your purse/valuables in your locked car as we do not have a secured place to store them inside the building. And please remember to bring your reading glasses – the plant labels are getting smaller every year!

Please, please, please check what positions are available and see where you can help. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FA5AB2EA4FBC16-2023> or if that doesn't work for you, contact Janet Bitter, Joy or myself. There are some areas in desperate need of volunteers, and we need all hands on deck to make the Plant Sale run smoothly. Thank you in advance for your help!



First, I want to thank everyone who worked in March at our Plant Clinic!! The Plant Clinic is one of our DCMG programs that reach out to our community to help people solve a wide range of gardening and landscape questions. We have been busy.

Our training for the Class of 2022 is in full swing. We are lucky to have a great team this year with Leo Grass, Barbara Horst, Doralee Hayden, Linda Estep, Diane Smith-Lewsadder, Gerry Crane, and Chris Rusch. The April calendar is full! Sign-ups for May are wide open.



Spring Into Gardening

Chris Rusch

Our Spring into Gardening was a terrific success. This community education event is an opportunity to bring our OSU Extension program on sustainable gardening to our greater community. It is also an opportunity for MG's to get recertification hours by attending classes. We had a diverse set of speakers lined up. Logan gave an excellent keynote talk on "Small Farms in Douglas County". We also offered 9 gardening classes with something for everyone. What a talented group we have. Thanks to everyone who helped with this event.



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Treasurer's Report

02/24/23-03/29/23
Dawnetta Loomis

INCOME

Bank Interest	\$57.80
Soil Testing	\$370.00
Spring Into Gardening	\$84.00
Membership Dues	\$180.00
Becky Carlson Shed	\$75.00
Newsletter Income	\$18.50
Badge	\$9.00
BottleDrop	\$140.00
Plant Sale	<u>\$1,278.23</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,212.53

EXPENSES

Swinger Bars	\$32.00
Badges	\$48.00
Discovery Garden	\$135.00
Propane Tanks	\$913.57
Soil Testing	\$83.34
HLC	\$228.42
Administration	\$160.97
Spring Into Gardening	\$26.98
Plant Sale	\$58.20
Utilities	<u>\$619.01</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,305.49

Breakdown of our accounts at 03/29/23

NWCC - Checking	\$2,219.05
NWCC - Reserve	\$5,012.18
NWCC - MMK Savings	\$46,384.46
NWCC - Waddington Fund	\$72,013.35
NWCC - 6 Month CD	<u>\$17,768.89</u>
Ending Balance	\$143,397.93



Ever wonder where spring went to? I've been working in my greenhouses for the last month or better in the hopes of seeing spring, spring up. Well, the tube flowers are popping up all over and they love this weather. But when you have

succulents the weather can really mess you up. So, if you have some succulents that you would like to put outside right now, I'd hold off until we see a better chance of them surviving this crazy Oregon weather. Maybe sometime in 2024.

Okay, now on with my story.

A bit over a month ago I bought a succulent from one of my friends. I already had it, but it was big and beautiful and getting ready to bloom, I couldn't say "No". Moving it from its place to my car was going to be the challenge. Why do I say? This is the one plant when someone purchases it, I tell them to find their forever garden pot. You are never going to pot this plant up again, as it will just fall apart and leave a trail of its little beans/leaves every where. This plant is the Burro Tail (*Sedum Morganianum*).



Now we had to find something to put it in to carry it to my car which was about 100 feet from the house. We couldn't find anything to put it in. So, I told her that it was going to fall apart and leave her with a mess and there would be many broken vines. And boy did it ever do that! Several of the vines were on the floor and the beans too. Off to my car I went. She followed close behind to catch any vine that might have broke while carrying it to my car. She rescued a few. Arriving home I got a box and laid the Burro Tail in the box and took my pruning shears and cut off all the vines half way off. I knew that there was not going to be a better way of handling this Burro Tail. It was sad to have to do this, but I knew it had a better chance of not falling apart as much.



It now sits in the corner half the size of the original. It will grow again.

The Burro Tail or Donkey Tail comes from Mexico and Honduras. The beans or leaves of this plant are super fragile, and with just the slightest touch they can fall off. So, it's best to get this plant in an early stage of growth as it will be easier to transplant. It will lose some of its leaves/beans. The leaves that fall from the plant can be used to start more. But it will be sometime before that plant will be full with trailing vines. If you ever purchase this plant, find your forever garden pot - I'd usually say about 8 inches across. Handle with care, and be prepared for a mess if you ever try to pot it up again.

Until then when I see you in the garden.

DCMG Compost Project

Bruce Gravens



In July of 2022, Logan Bennett, Ed Barrett, Bonnie Durick, Julie Stanbery, and I started an effort to create our own potting soil instead of buying it from commercial sources. The budget for potting soil is a bit higher than \$2,000 per year, so there was a financial

incentive as well as a soil quality incentive. It was unknown if we could collect all of the basic material we would need. Was the tractor big enough for the task? Could we make it as good as what we could buy? What would it cost to make it? Did we have enough space? So many questions. Now 9 months later we have successfully created and are using ~ 50 cu. yds. of high-quality compost/potting/seeding soil, about 40 cu. yds. is in storage, 10 cu. yds. was sold to Master Gardeners, and we have 160 cu. yds. of compost cooking. We expect this next batch to be ready in mid-summer.

This soil is every bit as good as what we have bought from the local commercial sources. The best news is, this quality product is available to you as Master Gardeners. It is perfect as a soil supplement in your gardens, as seed starter mix, for up-potting your seedlings, as a mulch in our flower beds, and even as a lawn supplement. As you get started with your spring seeding and gardening, consider saving some money by buying Master Gardener compost instead of bagged soil.

The Plant Sale teams and Discovery Garden have been using about ~30 cu. yds. commercial compost annually. The Victory Garden uses another 10 cu. yds. of compost that we were making in the past - which means we will consume

about 40 cu. yds. on Master Gardener operations. We have proven that we can make about 160 cu. yds. annually with the resources we have marshaled.



But how much can the Master Gardeners consume? Time will tell. We expect to have about 160 cu. yds. of compost ready by mid-summer. Our plan is to store 40 cu. yds. for Master Gardener operations and offer the rest for sale to Master Gardeners. During the summer we will collect the materials necessary to make another batch. Roseburg government has committed to bring us all the leaves we want as part of the project. Our

plan is to make enough to replenish 40 cu. yds. needed for operations and to bring the total compost stored to 160 cu. yds.

This has all been done with sustainability in mind. The leaves are from the City of Roseburg, thanks to Our Mayor/Master Gardener Larry Rich. If these leaves were not brought to us, they were bound for the Douglas County landfill. The majority of the horse manure was delivered from local horse stables and was also bound for the landfill. Ivor Chapman also delivered manure from a local horse stable. The tarps we are using to protect the compost from the rain and reduce leaching are recycled vinyl billboard that were diverted from a landfill. The Roseburg Director of Public Works has committed to supply us with leaves from Roseburg going forward. So other than diesel fuel for the tractor, all of the materials are sustainability sourced.

This effort is good for the planet, good for Douglas County, good for the City of Roseburg, good for the Master Gardener Program, and good for your garden, flowers, and lawn.

What did we do? Well, Logan has provided weekly hands-on technical direction. He has directed the mixing ratios for all the green, manure, and brown materials that have been collected. He has been measuring the temperature of the piles and specifying when they should be turned. Ed has provided the labor. He has been mixing piles of



material and turning the piles of cooking compost for the last 9 months. Ivor and I have been focused on acquiring manure. If you know someone that has a pile of manure and they want to be gone, let Ivor or I know about it. Horse stables are a



good place to look. We need to collect about 100 cu. yds. of manure annually.

Now that the compost is ready, it needed to be

sifted. Steve Hart stepped up and built a world class wheelbarrow-sized compost sifter, and Fred Alley built a nifty tool to assist with the sifting effort. Ed Barrett located and got us access to a tractor-sized sifter that was parked in a fence row years ago. Ed has stepped forward and got the sifter functional and connected it to the tractor. Ed, Logan and I sifted all of the 25 cu. yds. of finished compost. With that experience, we are now modifying the sifter to better meet our needs. The wheelbarrow-size sifter that Steve Hart made will be fitted with a finer screen so we can create finer seeding soil.

Ivor, Logan, and I built a seeding soil solarization box out of recycled materials to sanitize seed starting soil for the WSG Plant Sale effort.



Our long-term goal is to have 60 cu. yds. of finished sifted compost in storage and 160 cu. yds. of compost cooking late in the fall. This goal is an attempt to meet the Master Gardener operations needs and offer as much compost as our membership can use at home. We would like to see most of the home use compost sold before things get too wet and mucky. We plan to have enough compost for seeding and up-potting in the early spring in an area that does not get so mucky. If bulk compost is really needed in the early spring, we will sort out how to offer that in a drier part of the complex.

All of this is happening just west of the Westside Greenhouses. Come and check out the operations and get compost for your garden.

TRASH TO TREASURES

Winston Community Center

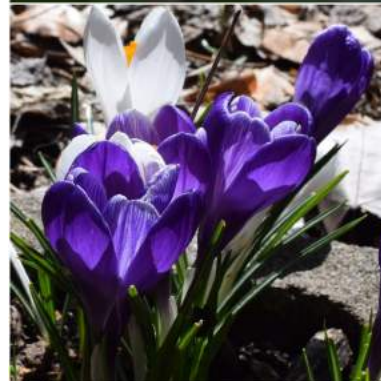
JUNE 3 - setup June 2

Still accepting donations.

We do NOT accept old TV's, analog computers, clothing, shoes, food, mattresses, baby furniture, exercise equipment. Everything must be clean and in working order.

Contact Ann Severson: 541-817-4983

Fred's Fav's





Ask the Tool Man Alley

Daylight Savings time has arrived. The Daffodils are in bloom and the Discovery Garden Greenhouses are full of activity. It's the time of year I receive a basic springtime garden maintenance question.

That question is: **“What is the one special file you recommend for keeping my hand pruners sharp?”** The second part of that question is: **“I try to sharpen them, but I can't get them sharp.”**

This is an excellent question. In preparing an article for the August 2020 Newsletter, I was mostly using only one small file to sharpen hand pruners, so I only named that file. Since that time, the types and sizes of hand pruners on the market have exploded, causing me to expand my recommendation to include two different files for sharpening hand pruners. The size of the pruners really determines the type of file recommended. In this case, I recommend the following two files for smaller hand pruners.

- The B-Sharp, Diamond Blade Sharpener is made by Barnel USA, a longstanding USA company.
- The AC8300 Sharpening-Sharpener is made by Corona, another longstanding USA company.

Photo 1 illustrates a Corona #60 ½ inch hand pruner and the Barnel B-Sharp, Diamond Blade Sharpener Tool.

The Corona #60 is by far my favorite medium/small hand pruner. It can be used for a variety of purposes, from cutting roses, vines, etc. to deadheading. The steel is high quality, holds a cutting edge for a long time and can cut up to ½ inch wood stock.



Photo 2 illustrates the use of the Barnel B-Sharp, Diamond Blade sharpener, as I'm sharpening the Corona #60 pruners. The medium and larger size pruners receive heavy work conditions that can even cause

chips in the cutting edge. When removing the chips and sharpening the blade, one needs two-sided sharpeners. The Barnel B-Sharp has two sides, a coarse side and a fine side.

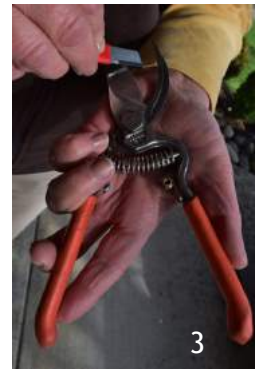


Using a circular motion, move the coarse side along the edge of the blade to remove and damaged edge including chips.

Then, turn the file over to the fine edge and repeat the same process. It is IMPORTANT to keep the file blade at the same angle as the original cutting edge. The original cutting blade should be at a 20-30 degree. Lastly, turn the cutting blade over. Place the fine file edge flat against the back edge of blade and pass the file across the back edge. This will remove any burrs that may have been created when sharpening the cutting edge. You are through sharpening the hand pruners. The Barnel B-Sharp, Diamond Blade sharpener was my choice sharpener from last year. The main reason for that choice was the coarse and fine sharpener. One can easily remove chips from the cutting edge with the coarse file and finish sharpening with the fine side.

Photo 3 illustrates a Barnel B3000 small hand pruner, a Corona AG 494055 small hand pruner and a Corona AC 8300 Sharpening Tool.

These two cutting edge pruners are designed for fine pruning and clean-up work, particularly for greenhouse work, unlike the by-pass pruners. The Corona AC 8300 Sharpening Tool is really the only sharpener that can completely sharpen a small hand pruner, as the carbide blade can reach the entire cutting edge of both cutting blades. The sharpening carbide blade sharpens by edge of the file, not flat to the cutting edge like the Barnel B-Sharp, sharpener. **Photo 4 is a close-up photo of the sharpening process.**



It only takes two to three passes with the sharpening tool. You will quickly see a new shiny, sharp cutting edge appear. Make one to two light passes of the file over the back edge of both cutting edges to remove any small burrs created when sharpening the front cutting edge.

Lastly, before you place your pruners back into your garden carrier or drawer, lightly oil them with a nice light oil. I use Remington REM Gun oil. These oils are higher quality oils that are designed especially for metal and corrosion prevention. 3-in One multi-purpose oil is a good alternative.

The Barnel B-Sharp Coarse and Fine Grit Diamond Garden Tool Sharpener can be purchased locally for \$15.99, and the Corona AC 8300 Sharpen Tools can be purchased locally for

\$10.00. Both of these sharpening tools are a must for all gardeners. I regularly find small containers of 3-in One multi-purpose oil and gun oils at garage sales for cheap or most often free. Tell them you use the oil on your garden tools. It increases the likelihood they will say "Oh, just take it".

Happy gardening and continue keeping those garden tools clean, sharp, oiled and properly stored.

DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Chapter Meeting
March 30, 2023

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:07. There were 36 in attendance, including President Julie Stanbery, Past President Nancy Fuller, Membership Kay Livermore, OMGA Alt. Rep. Patrice Sipos, Treasurer Dawnetta Loomis, and Secretary Bonnie Courter.

Agenda Approval: The agenda was approved as posted.

Minutes Approval: The minutes were approved as posted.

OFFICER REPORTS

Past President - Nancy Fuller: Nothing to report.

Membership - Kay Livermore: We currently have 215 members. Kay has OMGA membership cards which will also be stored in the Plant Clinic and in the Eastside Greenhouse mailbox.


OMGA - Patrice Sipos: Nothing to report. Just a reminder about the upcoming Joy Into Gardening (Mini-College) at OSU campus in July.

Treasurer - Dawnetta Loomis: She will be getting the water bill soon. OMGA dues are due, so she will be sending out a check for that.

Vice-President - Diana Woodward: Not present. Julie Stanbery commented on another excellent presentation by Fred Alley this morning on tools, and thanks to Patrice Glasscock who helped Fred with setup.



Scribblings from the Little Free Library
shared by Kathy Hart



Notes

Our family loves the gardens here. We have had many people here and days of exploring here. The old garden was started by my great-grandmother and continues to work all of my children. Some people want to know... they are my daughter's 1st birthday and we expect to bring snacks and go to the gardens.

Thank you all so much for making this place beautiful for all to enjoy.

Kathy Hart

March 5, 2023

My boys and I brought in a bin of books and are so excited to take home a few! Thank you!

-Lanessa Sakmyn

March 19, 2023

We are here on a scavenger hunt. We came from California & eastern Oregon. The place is magical. Steve, Leah, Sandra, Bob, Michelle, Kacie & Charon.



Dear winter,
I am breaking up with you. It is time I start seeing other seasons, like spring.
He gives me flowers.

Shared by Kathy Hart
@shocho3oul



Shared by Kish Doyle



President - Julie Stanbery: We are not going online for recording our hours until November 1, so MG's still need to send in their hard copy timesheets, keeping current on them. Turn in timesheets at Westside Greenhouse or in the Plant Clinic. Westside Greenhouse also has a bin where you can leave things for Julie or Dawnetta instead of going into Extension office.

Steve's Minute: Fruit trees are starting to swell with buds now, so now's the time to put horticultural oil on, and in another week put on a fungicide. Stop spraying when the fruit trees are in bloom to protect pollinators. When bloom is over and leaves are coming out, apply another fungicide once or

twice if we're still in a rainy period. Put traps out for codling moth and stink bugs after that. Now's the time to pull weeds when they're small. Use a skiff hoe (surface weeding) or you end up exposing more seeds.

His house is up for sale now. Looking at moving possibly to the Carolina's.

MG Program Coordinator - Logan Bennett: Not present, no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Blue Bags - Dawn Shumack: Dawn came with some bags for anyone who needs them. She went to some MG's homes to pick up cans.

Community Outreach - Cheryl Caplan:

Leo Grass & Dawn Shumack went to Avamere at Oak Park on March 13 where Leo gave a gardening talk to 8 to 10 residents who are planning to have a raised bed garden. The residents are getting more raised beds made & may have more questions for Master Gardeners.

Julie Stanbery & Cheryl Caplan presented on spring tune-up for your gardens & seed starting to the Camas Valley Grange on Saturday, March 25, to 21 people. We've agreed to do quarterly programs with the next one on working with your soil.

What's next:

- Oakland Co-op Playschool at the Discovery Garden on Friday, April 21, at 10 am for guided tours of the gardens. Expecting 15-20 pre-schoolers plus lots of adults. Could use another DCMG.
- Bridgewood Rivers in Roseburg on April 27th is getting a presentation to their garden club on building 8 hanging baskets. They are buying all the materials.
- The DEMO garden is going to be part of the "Grow This!" program. Carolyn Ruzicka is going to see that the preferred plants (lettuce, kale, zinnia, herbs, tomatoes) are growing in the garden. Cheryl Caplan is going to handle the 2-3 emails/month on how the plants are doing. Doing this is a way to increase interest in the Demo garden through widespread "Grow This!" publicity. We will probably see even more people coming to see the plants in person.
- UCC Resource day is April 5 - Cheryl will have a booth there.

Opportunities!

- DCMG outreach at the Sutherlin Farmers' Market, Thursdays, 2-6 pm, in the Tractor Supply parking lot at the

Community Booth. Contact is Rae Murphy, 541-817-5778, please leave a message.

- Fullerton IV Kindergarteners at the Discovery Garden sometime in May for a tour. About 60 students plus adults. Date and time to be arranged.

Update:

The request from DC Farm Bureau for 4th graders' event at the Fairgrounds in October 2023 to grow plants for large Plexiglas containers is now being handled by the FFA.

Discovery Garden - Julie Stanbery: Steve did his last Japanese pruning. There was a low turnout due to bad weather. Water is on in the Discovery Garden. The pump was repaired, so we can pump water from the water tanks. Umpqua Basin water is on as well. Becky Carlson will start making compost tea, but needs someone to partner with her. Bittercress needs weeding as always.

Facebook - Barbara Horst: Not present - her report:

- I will be posting a series of announcements for the Plant Sale in April. These were designed by Cheryl Caplan. The first with the Plant Sale poster already has 104 likes and 156 shares!
- Fred's photos of the Discovery Garden blooms are always popular.
- I receive requests for information regarding our programs including training and soil testing. I answer these and refer any plant problems to the Plant Clinic.
- If you find research-based articles or local events of interest to gardeners, please forward the links to me, and be sure to like us on Facebook!

Greenhouse West - Carol Bolt: We are fighting rats recently, losing some of our starts which we've had to replant. Otherwise we are transplanting, cleaning, and getting ready for the sale. Leo cleaned out the heater that had a rat in it. We will work this Friday, tomorrow. Primroses brought in by Marianna Sierocinska to share. Carol is also taking a bunch of them to a local rest home. She also has 8 azaleas that were given to us.

Greenhouse East - Bruce Gravens: We are working Tuesdays and Fridays until after the sale, weeding, cleanup and fixing up plants.

All the compost has been sifted at 1/2" level. If you want super fine, Steve Hart built a 1/4" sifter that's in the barn MG's can use.

Hallmark - Linda Thames: Not present - no report.

Insect Committee - Diana Woodward: Not present - no report.

Newsletter - Bonnie Courter: Submissions for the Newsletter are due Saturday, April 1. I want to thank Leo Grass for volunteering to mail out the printed version for me.

Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch: Not present. Her report:

First, I want to thank everyone who worked in March at our Plant Clinic!! The Plant Clinic is one of our DCMG programs that reach out to our community to help people solve a wide range of gardening and landscape questions. We have been busy.

Our training for the Class of 2022 is in full swing. We are lucky to have a great team this year with Leo Grass, Barbara Horst, Doralee Hayden, Linda Estep, Diane Smith-Lewsadder, Gerry Crane, and Chris Rusch. The April calendar is full! Sign-ups for May are wide open.

Plant Sale - Joy Keeling/Karin Seder:

There will be a meeting after the chapter meeting. She and Joy are counting on chairpersons to help them through it. They are on track with the Fairgrounds. Online signups need more helpers, so consider doing more than one job.

Publicity - Cheryl Caplan: All publicity is now concentrated on the Plant Sale - social media, newspaper and radio, flyers and bookmarks, banners and lawn signs. If you have a place for a 6' banner to put up that has lots of traffic, Cheryl has some at the meeting to check out. There are also 14 lawn signs go up the Sunday before (April 30). She also has flyers to go out to the community and bookmarks as well.

Soils - Gloria Cettina: They have done 30-35 soil tests this year already. They are sending out additional information with results to help educate the public with links, videos, etc. Steve added we should encourage them to call Extension if they have further questions.

Spring Into Gardening - Chris Rusch: Not present. Her report:

Our Spring into Gardening was a terrific success. This community education event is an opportunity to bring our OSU Extension program on sustainable gardening to our greater community. It is also an opportunity for MG's to get recertification hours by attending classes. We had a diverse set of speakers lined up. Logan gave an excellent keynote

talk on "Small Farms in Douglas County". We also offered 9 gardening classes with something for everyone. What a talented group we have. Thanks to everyone who helped with this event.

Swinger Bars - Kay Livermore: Members who have swinger bar updates for February 2023:

The last 2021 trainee and the first 2022 trainee completed payback hours.

60 hours: Terry Christianson [2021], Colleen Baida [2022]
100 hours: Cynthia Moyer

Trash to Treasures - Ann Severson: She is still putting donations in her greenhouse. You can bring donations to the HLC on Tuesday mornings or Ann's house in Winston. June 3 is the sale.

Victory Garden - Carolyn Ruzicka: March 15 they started work. Planted onions, peas, lettuce, beets, radishes, and cabbage. They spread bark mulch on walkways in the demo garden. Will take off a couple of weeks.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

SHOW AND TELL: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:07.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Courter, Secretary



Westside Greenhouse blooms by Fred Alley

Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: E-mail submissions to Bonnie Courter: rbcourter@gmail.com

Website: www.douglascountymg.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487

OSU Douglas County Extension Service: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas

OSU Gardening Information: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening

OSU Master Gardeners Program: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg

Oregon Master Gardeners Association (OMGA): www.oregonmastergardeners.org



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener

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considerations in order for you to attend an event, please notify the office at 541-672-4461 no later than 2 weeks prior to event date. This publication will be made available in an accessible alternative format upon request. Please contact Bonnie Courter, rbcourter@gmail.com.

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