



### June 2023 Calendar

Fri., June 2, 10:00 - ?

Trash to Treasures setup

Sat., June 3, 9:00-3:00

**Trash to Treasures Sale,**

Winston Community Center

Mon., June 5, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Tues., June 6, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Discovery Garden Workday

Victory Garden Crew

Tues., June 13, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Discovery Garden Workday

Victory Garden Crew

Wed., June 14, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting, Annex

Mon., June 19, 10:00-Noon

Insect Committee

Tues., June 20, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Discovery Garden Workday

Victory Garden Crew

Tues., June 27, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Discovery Garden Workday

Victory Garden Crew

Thurs., June 29, 10:00

Chapter Meeting at residence of

Laura Corder - potluck to follow

470 Singing Waters St., Roseburg

Fri.-Sat., July 7-8

**"Joy of Gardening", OSU**



## The Prez Sez...

**Julie Stanbery**

Our longtime Master Gardener **Richard Johnstone** celebrated his 90th birthday recently, so I thought I'd give him my column to tell his story...



"In 1998 I moved from Glendale to Roseburg. In the fall of 1999, I had a problem with a plant in my garden. I took the plant to the OSU Master Gardener Plant Clinic. The crew in the clinic was very helpful and gave me a solution to my problem. As I was getting ready to leave, someone asked if I would like to become a Master Gardener. I thought I could use a little more gardening knowledge, so I filled out an application. Little did I know...

I completed the class in 2000. That year, we had no horticultural agent and Master Gardeners, led by Sam Lee, taught the class assisted by other outside OSU experts. Steve would come a year later. Joy Perry was my mentor. Linda Thames was a table mate. It was an excellent experience.

At that time the Discovery Garden was a piece of dry dirt, covered with blackberries and brush. There were no Eastside greenhouses, no green shed and no Victory Garden.

Shortly after graduation, a gal named Julie asked for some help and I volunteered. Julie made me a protege. As Julie's protege, I learned many things. How to pull acres of weeds, how to dig miles of ditches, how to spread yards and yards of bark and gravel. Julie also taught me how to "fetch and tote". That year Julie oversaw the Plant Sale which was held at the Armory. Under Julie's guidance, it was "fetch this here", "tote that there", "fetch me that at this place". With Julie's tutelage, I became one of the very best "toters" and "fetchers" around!

Over my 23 years with the MG program, we have seen many improvements including moving a dilapidated old greenhouse from the Winchester area to make the two Eastside greenhouses, building the green shed, building the two sheds back of the Eastside greenhouses, the Victory Garden, turning the Discovery Garden into what it is today, among many others. All of you have been involved in some way or another in these projects, plus all the good gardening advice you give to the public through the clinic. You can be very proud of what you have accomplished.

As for me, the MG program has given me a lot more than I have given back. Aside from developing my gardening skills, I have developed many wonderful friendships which I consider lifelong. For that I will be eternally grateful."

**Treasurer's Report**  
04/28/2023-05/24/2023  
Dawnetta Loomis

**This & That**  
Julie Stanbery

<b>INCOME</b>	
BottleDrop	\$166.00
Interest	\$61.84
Plant Sale Event	\$35,193.96
Plant Sale Post	\$419.25
Pre-Event Sale	\$1,787.85
Compost Tea	<u>\$322.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$37,950.90</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Management & General	\$158.35
HLC	\$278.56
Plant Sale	\$1,910.22
Utilities - Electricity	\$654.09
Class Fees	<u>\$400.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,401.22</b>
<b>Breakdown of our accounts at 05/24/23</b>	
NWCC - Checking	\$408.05
NWCC - Reserve	\$5,012.60
NWCC - MMK Savings	\$76,615.37
NWCC - Waddington Fund	\$72,073.42
NWCC - 6 Month CD	<u>\$17,798.45</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$171,907.89</b>

**DC Fair**  
Chris Rusch



It's coming up to **Douglas County Fair time!** The Douglas County Extension and our Master Gardeners will staff an outreach booth. Responsibilities include talking with the public about our program and answering gardening questions. We are looking for 2 volunteers per shift. A free ticket to the Fair for each volunteer is included!

**Douglas County Fair Shifts:**  
**Dates: August 9, 10, 11 and 12**  
**Shift times: 10:30-1; 1-4; and 4-7:30.**

If you are interested in helping, please send me an email with the date and shift time you are available.  
Thanks, Chris Rusch  
[crusch3837@gmail.com](mailto:crusch3837@gmail.com)



Kudos to Diane Smith-Lewsadder and Sandi Anderson. Following our general meeting on Thursday, they returned to the Plant Clinic where they quite ably identified the palm seed pod that I brought in for Show & Tell. It is a Chinese or Chusan Windmill Palm. It is the most cold-hardy of the trunk palms, surviving to zero degrees. Fast growing, it is used in landscapes around pools, etc. and can be purchased at Home Depot!

Each year we budget scholarship money to be used by DCMG's who wish to attend the "Joy of Gardening" conference. This year 6 volunteers contacted me within the first 24 hours of announcing the open applications. Although the initial offer was to four volunteers, the Executive Board agreed to split the scholarship money six ways to accommodate all six requests. We look forward to these attendees sharing their acquired knowledge with us at future meetings and classes.

Shelby Filley, our resident forage agent and noxious weed specialist, identified an invasive weed in the rock garden in the Discovery Garden. The "shiny geranium" is really pretty and found in many areas including my own back yard! Go to: <https://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/shiny-geranium.aspx> for more information. Tasha and her crew will be out Tuesday removing the nasty weed.

Help is needed this year with chores at the HLC. We need someone to weed-eat the areas at the garden that we can't manage by mower and we need someone to take over the task of year round weed control using OSU approved chemicals. Please contact me if you would be willing to take on either responsibility.

Lastly, we still have no nominees for two **Executive Board positions**. We depend on our Vice-President to procure our continuing education presenters as well as backing up the President. We also need a volunteer to take on the challenge of representing our chapter at the OMGA. Please refer to the job description manual on our website for details of each position - better yet, talk to us anytime for more insight into the job requirements. That's all the this I have for now.

See you in the garden, Julie

# 2023 Plant Sale

Karin Seder & Joy Keeling  
Photos: B.Courter, K.Seder, F. Alley

## WE DID IT!!!

We can close the books on the 2023 Plant Sale.... but wait, we are already starting to work on plants for the 2024 sale! You can mark your calendars now because we are booked at the Fairgrounds for set up on May 3 and the sale on May 4, 2024.

Joy and I learned a lot from this plant sale and were so grateful we had the support of a wonderful group of committee leaders who knew exactly what they were doing. And then we have to commend our volunteers – Master Gardeners and their family and friends – everyone helping out to make the 2023 Plant Sale & Expo a big success! Joy and I took it all in, and we didn't get scared off – we plan to share the leadership for the Plant Sale & Expo again next year.

A special thank you goes to Bonnie Durick who provided us with detailed guidelines, with goals to complete by each month, and was always available to answer questions – and we had a lot of questions! Her leadership in the past five years laid a strong foundation for the Plant Sale, ensuring the success of our largest fundraiser of the year.

We hope you had fun, ran into folks that hadn't seen since last year's Plant Sale, and enjoyed the energy that filled the building when you get so many plant-loving people in one place.

We have already started planning for 2024. Our teams met to discuss each aspect of the sale, what worked well and what we might do differently next year. We have some really good ideas to roll out for next year, not the least of which is bringing back the fancy hat contest. Let us know if you have any comments or suggestions about what you would like to see happen at the sale.



Abigail & helper join the "Fire Brigade"

Bruce measuring for tables & hanging signs

Then there's the "Truck Brigade"



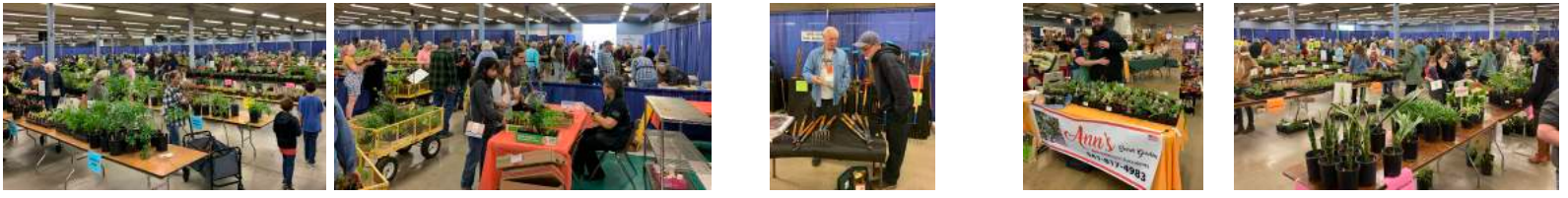
Cutting veggies

Raffle team

Jim Leet and Janet Parkerson doing their part

So organized!

Holding down the Holding area



"And they're OFF!!"

Happy, excited customers!

The Tool Man and Succulent Queen at their booths



Chow time at the delicious potluck

Taking a well-deserved breather

Hooray for the Kitchen Crew!

MG's aren't shy when there's good eats around.

## Vice-President's Report

Diana Woodward

Our next Chapter meeting will be at Laura Corder's home located at 470 Singing Waters Rd. Roseburg. Laura has graciously offered her home for our June potluck/Chapter meeting, Thursday June 29, 2023 at 10AM.

We will be meeting on her deck, overlooking the Umpqua river. This setting on the river is so wonderful and peaceful. All Master Gardeners are invited to attend and have lunch with us. Laura's place has such attention to detail, you have to look close to notice all the wonderful things she and her late husband did to this special place inside "down to bare studs" to the outside with Laura's rock collections.

### Directions:

Heading north or south on Stephens St. in Winchester, head east at Page Road. Go about a mile, through a school zone, a neighborhood, then along the river. Take a left on Singing Waters Rd. If you begin heading up a hill and open fields, turn back. Go straight to 470. Limited parking in the driveway, plenty on the opposite side of the street, as there are no homes there.



Well, Spring has finally arrived to Douglas County!! The Plant Clinic has been really busy in May. We have been helping folks plan their gardens and landscapes by answering a wide range of questions. This includes diagnosing plant problems and identifying insects. We had over 80 visitors this month!

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. The Plant Clinic training program is a great opportunity for our new members to put their knowledge of Sustainable Gardening to work. We are lucky to have a terrific Plant Clinic training team this year with Leo Grass, Barbara Horst, Diane Smith-Lewsadder, Linda Estep, Doralee Hayden, and Chris Rusch.

We need veterans to help in the Plant Clinic both in continuing to help our new volunteers and keeping up with the workload of assisting our visitors to the Plant Clinic. We have plenty of openings. I realize we all have very busy lives, but, I encourage each of you to take time, look at your calendar and pick just one afternoon each month and give the office a call and sign up. The Plant Clinic is where we give service as part of our Master Gardener obligation to our community. Please try to volunteer your expertise at least once a month to help out in this important outreach program. The Plant Clinic is a great way to promote our Master Gardener Program and encourage sustainable gardening in Douglas County. And it's lots of FUN!!

## JUNE GARDEN CALENDAR

### **Maintenance and cleanup**

- Prune lilacs, forsythia, rhododendrons and azaleas after bloom.
- Fertilize vegetable garden one month after plants emerge by applying a side dressing alongside rows.
- Harvest thinning from new plantings of lettuce, onion and chard.
- Pick ripe strawberries regularly to avoid fruit-rotting diseases.
- Use organic mulches to conserve soil moisture in ornamental beds. An inch or two of sawdust, bark dust or composted leaves will minimize loss of water through evaporation.
- After normal fruit drop of apples, pears and peaches in June, consider thinning the remainder to produce a crop of larger fruit.
- Make sure raised beds receive enough water for plants to avoid drought stress.
- Mid-June: If green lawns are being maintained through the summer, apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to lawns. If you want a green lawn, water frequently during periods of heat and drought stress. Irrigate 0.25 inches four to six times per week from June through August. Measure your water use by placing an empty tuna can where your irrigation water lands.

### **Pest monitoring and management**

- Spray cherry trees for cherry fruit fly, as necessary, if fruit is ripening.
- Spray for codling moth in apple and pear trees, as necessary. Continue use of pheromone traps for insect pest detection.
- Monitor azaleas, primroses and other broadleaf ornamentals for adult root weevils. Look for fresh evidence of feeding (notching at leaf edges). Try sticky trap products on plant trunks to trap adult weevils. Protect against damaging the bark by applying the sticky material on a 4-inch wide band of poly sheeting or burlap wrapped around the trunk. Mark plants now and manage root weevils with beneficial nematodes when soil temperatures are above 55 degrees Fahrenheit. If root weevils are a consistent problem, consider removing plants and choosing resistant varieties
- Control garden weeds by pulling, hoeing or mulching.
- Control aphids on vegetables as needed by hosing off with water or by using insecticidal soap or a registered insecticide.
- Watch for 12-spotted beetles on beans, cucumbers and squash and cabbage worms or flea beetles in cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts).
- Continue monitoring blueberry, strawberry, cherry and other plants that produce soft fruits and berries for spotted wing drosophila. If these pests are present, use an integrated and least toxic approach to manage the pests. To learn how to monitor and manage spotted wing drosophila.

### **Indoor gardening**

Move houseplants outdoors for cleaning, grooming, repotting and summer growth.



Late spring and early summer are my two favorite times of the year. With each new season I get to witness in my yard the captivating new flowering Echeverias. As I walk around my small, but busy yard, I see the splendor in an array of colors and sizes. My Little

Secret Garden, oh how it makes me smile.

Most of my Echeverias are Mexican Hens and Chicks. What is the big difference with regular Hens and Chicks? The biggest thing I will tell you is that when Hens and Chicks bloom, they die. Remember that word - Monocarpic? When they bloom they die. When Mexican Hens and Chicks bloom they are spectacular, and don't die from blooming. These Echeverias can take temperatures to 28 degrees and the hot summer months. They can be the size of a dinner plate to the size of a salad plate and a bit smaller. Also they put off offsets around the mother plant like the regular hens and chicks do. There is really no comparison to these two plants.



With most of my outdoor Echeverias, I ignore them. I do not water them much. They get most of their water from their leaves and from the morning dew. However, I will tell you that if we are due to have some extreme temperature changes from 80 degrees to well over 90 degrees in one day, you best water all your yard and even your sedums, succulents and hens and chicks. While they can all take high temperatures and require very little watering, they will not survive that. Voice of experience. I lost every hen and chick in my yard about three years ago when we had extreme heat that got to 115 degrees. Water, water, water your yard.

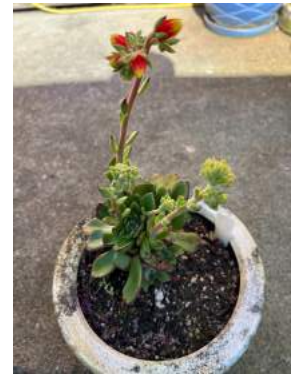


Now over time some of my Echeverias have grown into some great sizes and shapes. One of them I have done nothing to. I just let it grow to see just what might it look like over a few seasons of growing. Many would never do this as they like their succulent to have the same look like they purchased it. They love the rosette shape of it. But what to do when it's no longer that succulent you liked when you bought it? Depending how long and leggy it has become, you can cut it back. Take a look at the stem of the plant and decide

where to cut it, giving at least a few inches of stem to put back in the soil. You can use a rooting hormone or not, depending on how fast you want it to root.

Over the winter and spring months, some have put off several offsets. I have chosen to remove them when they are about two inches wide. Reach into the mother plant and find the stem. Try

and get as close to the mother plant as possible and remove it from her. (Sometimes you might find it easier to remove the mother plant from the ground or garden pot to remove the offsets.) Now you have a new one to plant. Your stem of the new plant might be a bit too long. Remove some of it with clean nippers, leaving at least a one and a half inch stem left to plant in good soil. About two times a year I am able to remove several new offsets from my Echeverias. It is important to remove them, as after a bit the mother plant will become too over-crowded with them.



Mexican Hens and Chicks are just a wonderful succulent to add to your yard. There are vast varieties of them which grow to many different sizes and colors, all flowering with an orange/pink bell flower coming out of the center. They can be planted in the ground or in garden pots. Some are considered deer resistant. (But we all know deer like to nibble a bit.) Remember, just ignore them and they will do all the work. Until then, when I see you in the garden.

## Fall Master Gardener Training Gloria Cettina

Do you have a friend or two who would like to become a Master Gardener? This year training will be in-person lectures and outdoor garden labs once a week, starting September 5th through October 24th, 2023, each Tuesday.

The curriculum will be taught by OSU experts and experienced Master Gardener™ volunteers. Labs will be held at the Douglas County Master Gardener™ Demonstration Garden near River Forks Park.

Volunteer hours are the key learning experience to become an OSU Master Gardener™ volunteer. In 2023 we require 60 hours of volunteer service. All volunteer experiences are carefully selected to help you learn and connect with the community.

Cost: \$250 (\$100 reimbursed when 60 hours of volunteer service is complete).

The deadline to sign up for the Master Gardener™ Training Program is August 1, 2023.

If interested, please contact Douglas County Extension at 541-672-4461 by August 1, 2023.

## Bearded Iris

Kathy Hart

Several years ago, a generous donor brought several boxes of bearded irises to the Westside Greenhouse with hopes that they could eventually be sold at our Plant Sale. They were originally purchased from a well-known Oregon iris nursery. Barbara Robinson was head of the greenhouse at that time and asked me to take some pictures of a few that were blooming. I became so intrigued with them that I met up with a fellow MG, Jack Finney (our in-house iris guru!), and he shared his wealth of knowledge with Steve and me. We potted them up into 1-gallons with ?? labels and they sat for a couple of years at the Westside Greenhouse. As space became tight there, we brought 160 pots home to our property and have taken care of them since and have been identifying the irises by color as they bloom. In May of 2022, 14 were color-ID'd and all sold at the 2023 sale.

Mid May is high bloom season for bearded irises. They have exploded in color over the past couple of weeks since the sale. Recently, I have been able to tag 34 different irises by color of standards, falls, beards, etc. I have a list of 19 different irises now. Jack shared his fertilizing tips of using a low nitrogen, 5-10-10, 6 weeks before high bloom season in mid May with a second feeding in October. Thank you, Jack, and thank you to our anonymous donor! If you or your friends are bearded iris aficionados, come check them out at the 2024 sale!



## Lupine "Boom Bloom"

Both Kathy Hart and Nancy Fuller report that they have never seen such blooms on their lupine as they have this year. Check these pictures out!



## Gardener's Gold Wool Pellets

Karin Seder

At the chapter meeting Show & Tell, I shared news of a wool pellet that expands to hold water in the soil, provide nutrients and repel slugs. It is made from previously discarded wool ends that would otherwise end up in a land fill. I have been experimenting with the product and it actually has prevented slugs from devouring tender plants, though as it expands, my husband thinks it looks like something the cat coughed up. The product is not harmful to people or pets, and if it works to keep slugs at bay, then who cares what it looks like! The third round of specialty fertilizer label information awaits approval by the State of California and until this is approved, pellets will be sold with labels that do not contain claims as a fertilizer. More information and to purchase products can be found here: <https://www.integrityalpacas.com/gardeners-gold-wool-pellets>



And then this was this little guy that was outside my door this morning - he was smiling at me!

It's a Zebra Jumping Spider!

## Ask the Tool Man Alley



something I can do myself?”, and “When should I sharpen them?”

First, let's start with, “When should we sharpen our lawn mower blade?” Your lawn will tell you when you need to sharpen the blade. If your lawn has a brown cast to it, pull up a single blade of grass. If the end of grass blade is torn ragged, and the tip of the grass is brown, your blade is most likely dull and not giving you a nice clean cut. Usually, the time to sharpen your lawn mower blade is in the spring. During the year, if you see the ragged, torn grass tips, sharpen them again.

Second question. “Is it something I can do myself?” Yes, absolutely. While you may be intimidated the first time, you will become familiar with the process and will find yourself regularly sharpening the blade because you notice your lawn looks so much better.

Third question. “How do I sharpen my lawn mower blade?” There are several methods one can use to sharpen a mower blade. Some experienced individuals, with the right equipment, will most likely use a bench grinding wheel, maybe a hand-held grinder and even a special lawn mower sharpening wheel that fits into a hand drill. The easiest, cheapest, and most effective method to sharpen a lawn mower blade is using the old-fashioned metal file. I have listed each step of the sharpening process below. I'm using my fifteen-year-old Craftsman lawn mower as a demonstrator. (Photo 1)



Step one: Tip your lawn mower back, approximately 45 degrees, enough that you have easy access to the blade and the center pivot bolt. You may have to have another person tip the mower back as you remove the pivot center pivot bolt, which secures the blade to the mower. Depending on the mower you may have one or two pivot bolts. Before removing the center pivot bolt, disconnect the spark plug wire. It's a safety thing. If you feel



intimidated, take a photo of the pivot bolt and blade before you remove. Remove the bolt, and take a second photo after you remove the bolt and blade. This trick will insure you replace the blade and bolt in the same position. (Photo 2) The Craftsman mowers many times have “Grass Side”

stamped into the blade, making it simple to know the correct placement of the blade. In removing the center pivot bolt and blade there are several important steps. 1) always wear gloves. 2) make sure you use the right size socket. You do not want to accidentally round-off the edges of the pivot bolt. The longer the



socket wrench, the better the leverage. 3) as you remove the pivot bolt, you need to securely hold the blade to prevent it from rotating. One method is to place a wooden block between the inside mower deck and the blade. (Photos 3 and 4)



Step two: Place the mower blade in a vise or securely position it on a work bench/ table top with a C clamp or use a portable vise that is secured to a work bench. (Photo 5) Using a ten/ twelve-inch metal “bastard file”, sharpen the blade by forward cutting motions

towards the end of the blade. Pay close attention to the existing cutting angle, keeping your sharpening file strokes at the same angle. As you repeat the file strokes, you will notice a nice, full, shiny cutting surface coming to light. Your last step is the turn the blade over and remove any burrs created during the sharpening process. This will take only one or two passes with the file. Reset the blade and repeat the sharpening process on the other end of the blade.

At this point you have completed the blade sharpening. While you have the blade off, it is a good time to scrape off the inside of the mower deck, removing any grass build-up. You might consider washing it with a strong spray from the garden hose. One of the maintenance items I do at the same time as I sharpen the blade is to change the engine oil. It really enhances the performance and longevity of the lawn mower.

Step three: Replace the blade. To ease the future loosening of the pivot bolt in the future, spray the bolt with penetrating oil before you replace the bolt. You are ready to mow. Remember to re-connect the spark plug. You will absolutely notice the nice clean cut and the new appearance of your lawn.

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

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**FRIDAY, JULY 7**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 8**



CH2MHILL ALUMNI CENTER  
725 SW 26TH ST.  
OSU CAMPUS, CORVALLIS, OR

In cooperation with  
and support of  
 Oregon State University  
Extension Service  
Master Gardener

https://omga.org/mini-college-2023/  
REGISTRATION OPENS ON MAY 15

Questions? Contact us at 2023joyofgardening@gmail.com




Shared by Kish Doyle



Shared by Linda Estep

## *How to Make a Toad House for Your Garden*

Diane Smith-Lewsadder shared a link to an article in "The Spruce" by Erin Huffstetler on attracting bug-eating toads to your garden by making a "toad house".

Here's the link: <https://www.thespruce.com/how-to-make-a-toad-house-1388582>





## DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Chapter Meeting

Iva GreyWolf & Dave Clark's residence

May 25, 2023



Iva gave a talk about their property. When they moved here in 2010, there was nothing but dirt and mud. They both did all the work including all the rock work that Dave hauled up the slopes.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:05. There were 41 in attendance including President Julie Stanbery, Vice-

President Diana Woodward, Past President Nancy Fuller, Membership Kay Livermore, OMGA Alt Rep Patrice Sipos, 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:** A few years ago she planted some lupine, but nothing ever bloomed. This year it's stunning!

**Membership - Kay Livermore:** Nothing to report.

**OMGA - Patrice Sipos:** Five potted plants were donated from the greenhouses for the Joy Into Gardening auction. We still need \$150 worth of items for the auction. Chris Rusch will bring along any donated items with her to the event.

**Treasurer - Dawnetta Loomis:** Not present. Financials are available online. She sent out an email to MG's who were owed reimbursement to let them know she mailed them out.

**Vice-President - Diana Woodward:** The next chapter meeting will be at Laura Corder's home. Directions will be sent out. Diana wants to remind those who have the Shiitake mushroom inoculated oak logs to water them now.

### President - Julie Stanbery:

- We have some vacancies on the Executive Board - Vice-President's position and OMGA Rep. Barbie Hamby is also stepping down from hospitality.
- HLC area - Julie needs help this summer with spraying walkways and heavy weedeating. It's usually a "once and done" job.
- We received a thank-you from Umpqua Community Center for plants we donated for their Mother's Day plant sale.

### MG Program Coordinator - Logan Bennett:

- The Olive Tour will be June 23 at River Ranch in Glide. It's limited to 30 attendees. Register at the Extension Office. The tour cost is \$10.
- Lenore Drake and Sharon Bordeaux are piloting a "Pavilion Series" of 3 classes, once a month, in July, August, and September. This will be available to the public free of charge, and feature various gardening topics taught under the Pavilion. They are presently looking for speakers and topics.
- Kish Doyle and Logan plan to contact every grange in Douglas County, offering to give gardening presentations.
- Patrice Glasscock, Gloria Cettina and Logan are rewriting the Homework Review Questions for the upcoming Fall Class so they are more accurate. Kish suggested it would be nice to have them in a digital format so they can be revised periodically.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Blue Bags - Dawn Shumack:

- Dawn has blue bags to give out. She encourages MG's to hand them out to neighbors. 20 bags have been turned in so far this month. She restocked the box in the tool shed.
- Dawn is going to Joy Into Gardening the day before to tour the Oregon Gardens. She has rented an Air B&B in Corvallis with 2 separate rooms. Anyone interested in going up the day before and spending 2 nights at the Air B&B with Dawn, let her know.

## Community Outreach - Cheryl Caplan:

### Recent presentations:

- DCMG table at the Umpqua Community College Earth Day Resource Fair



- Creating hanging flower baskets at Bridgewood Rivers Assisted Living Facility



- DCMG overview to the Optimist Club



- DCMG overview & gardening answers to Secret Wine Society in Oakland
- Umpqua Valley Boys & Girls Club with advice on gardening beds; they would like more presentations

### Upcoming:

- UCAN Healthy Families event on 5/25 from 2:00-5:00; Geoff Puryear on "Gardening On a Budget".
- 100 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to Discovery Garden on 5/31; may need tour guides

- Container gardening to Open People group on Monday, June 12
- Summer Classes in the Garden – Lenore Drake & Sharon Bordeaux are organizing the free classes and want instructors.

### Pending:

- Logan & Kish Doyle are developing presentations for 4 topics that will be offered to the 8 granges in Douglas County. Their goal is to do one visit to each grange before August.
- Cheryl is meeting with Erin Maidlow, the director of the Umpqua Valley Farm to School project, to find out how other MG associations are cooperating with "Farm to School" groups. Their mission: Empowering youth with knowledge and skills to create a healthy, equitable, and just food system.

Request: We'd like to know who has a program ready to share with a group along with information on any presentations you are giving as a Master Gardener. Remember, there's a place to note the outreach on the back of your monthly timesheet. You also get to record volunteer hours for preparing any presentations.

### **Discovery Garden - Julie Stanbery:**

- Kathy Hart checked a journal entry in the Little Free Library that said the writer was inspired to be a florist after touring the Discovery Garden, but missed the children's garden weeping mulberry which had been severely pruned. Kathy also saw a botany class from UCC there, checking out our botanical names on our plant labels.
- This Friday and the following Friday the garden will be irrigated. The leaky pump in the green shed will be repaired next week.
- The small log cabin island in the Butterfly Garden needs someone to take it over. Andrea Collins and Sue Waite took over the iris bed. Julie Burchstead tends the milkweed island.
- Please make sure to lock all gates and doors. The soils lab was left unlocked recently.

**Facebook - Barbara Horst:** Not present - no report.

## **Fair Booth - Chris Rusch:**

It's coming up to **Douglas County Fair time!** The Douglas County Extension and our Master Gardeners will staff an outreach booth. Responsibilities include talking with the public about our program and answering gardening questions. We are looking for 2 volunteers per shift. A free ticket to the Fair for each volunteer is included!

### **Douglas County Fair Shifts:**

**Dates: August 9, 10, 11 and 12.**

**Shift times: 10:30-1; 1-4; and 4-7:30.**

If you are interested in helping, please send me an email with the date and shift time you are available.

**Farmer's Market - Sylvia Andino:** Not present. Her report: The first weekend in June our booth will return to the market. She is looking for new trainees to help out - this counts as 4.5 hours for Plant Clinic time. MG's can sign up on the calendar in the Plant Clinic. She will need someone to substitute on July 8 and 15. The hours are 8:30 AM -1:15 PM.

**Greenhouse West - Carol Bolt:** After the sale, we have been getting rid of a lot of plants. Now we are just cleaning up and getting rid of the last of the veggies this week.

**Greenhouse East - Ann Severson:** Worked from 9:00-5:00 recently dealing with all the leftover plants from the sale. She put pictures of plants on Facebook and sold over \$400 worth of plants.

**Hallmark - Linda Thames:** Not present - her report: I sent cards to those I read about in the minutes: Nathan Baily for his second surgery, Janet Bitter who is caring for her mother with a broken hip, and Cheryl Caplan who was recovering from Covid 19. The farewell card I sent to Steve and Ceda Renquist unfortunately came back undeliverable as I'd addressed to their street address, not a PO Box number. I have been unable to get a forwarding address.

**Insect Committee - Diana Woodward:** Still working on identifying spiders. Richard Johnstone reported that using the "Picture This" app is amazingly helpful and is about 80% accurate.

**MG Training Class - Gloria Cettina:** She and Patrice met with Laura Corder and Logan recently, and

progress is being made. Fall class will be 8 weeks, from September 5 - October 24, meeting only on Tuesdays. Logan has the speaker and lecture schedule all done. The class will be limited to 27 students and 9 mentors. Each mentor will have 3 students. They will advertise on Facebook, and have flyers at the Farmer's Market. The required volunteer hours for Plant Clinic will be 24 hours with 36 hours for everything else. The cost is still \$250, with \$100 returned when the 60 hours are completed. The Sustainable Gardening Handbook has been reviewed, but we don't know if it was revised.

**Newsletter - Bonnie Courter:** Submissions are due Tuesday, May 30. Also, I will not be able to be at Trash to Treasures this year. So I would appreciate anyone attending to take photos at the event and send them to me for the Newsletter.

**Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch:** The Plant Clinic was surprisingly busy in May. We answered over 80 emails, phone calls and questions from visitors. Many insect, plant identification and garden questions continue to come in. We are lucky to have a great training team for 2023 with Leo Grass, Barbara Horst, Linda Estep, Diane Smith-Lewsadder, Doralee Hayden, and Chris Rusch. A BIG thank you to all of you who regularly work at the Plant Clinic!

**Plant Sale - Karin Seder:** The sale was a great success, thanks to all our hard-working MG's. We are already preparing for 2024. I have reserved dates at the Fairgrounds for next year. We had a good post-sale meeting. The two youth groups who helped asked to return next year. We made \$37,000 net so far.

## **Publicity - Cheryl Caplan:**

- Trash to Treasures paid ad, Facebook posts, and Craigslist ad coming.
- Sent a KUDO's letter and photo to the News-Review, thanking the vendors and volunteers at the Plant & Garden Expo.
- Any outstanding lawn signs and banners? Take to the Plant Clinic & let me know about it.

**Soils - Patrice Glasscock:** We've processed 75 soil samples so far - last year was 110 for the whole year. Our team has 5-6 regulars to come and help. Things are running really well.

**Swinger Bars - Kay Livermore:** No report. Vicki McAlister has been out of town, so she hasn't posted last month's hours yet. Kay will come out a couple of times to the Discovery Garden and bring swinger bars, and notify everyone by email through Shirley. If you are due for a new swinger bar, please bring your badge to Kay before the meeting so she can have them ready for you afterwards.

**Trash to Treasures - Ann Severson:** We need 5 pickups to be at Lenore Drake's house at 9:00 on Friday, June 2, to load up donations and take them to the Winston Community Center. From there they will go to Ann's house across the street and transport her donations. Ann is still taking donations up to that Friday.

**Victory Garden - Carolyn Ruzicka:** Not present - her report:

The Victory Garden has gotten off to a great start for our UCAN donations this year. This week a total of 60 pounds of produce was harvested, making a total so far this year to UCAN of 106 pounds. Most of the 106 pounds has been radishes with a little bit of rhubarb and asparagus. Home garden donations (which are from MG's personal gardens) are at 109 pounds so far this year. Cabbage should be starting to form heads by next week. Most all the vegetables have been planted and are growing nicely. Peas have been a little slow coming up. Beans were planted yesterday. We still have peppers and eggplant to get into the ground.

**OLD BUSINESS - Bylaws revision:** The Treasurer delivers two financial reports each month for each of the monthly meetings which seems redundant. These reports are probably more important for the Executive Board meeting. At the last Board meeting, a motion was made and passed to only require the Treasurer to deliver one financial report each month to the Executive Board alone. This change in the Bylaws will go into the Newsletter, then voted on at the June chapter meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS - Joy of Gardening Scholarships:** We have \$400 in the budget for this, but no guidelines were made. In the past, these were open to anyone who wanted it, with the stipulation the recipient share what they learned. After a little discussion, it was agreed to offer \$100 to 4 MG's on a "first come, first served" basis. Contact Julie Stanbery if interested.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION:** We are celebrating Richard Johnstone's 90th birthday today. We honored him with some special cupcakes and heard his story of how he became a Master Gardener in 2000 and all the changes he's seen since then. He read his story during the meeting, and it will appear in the June Newsletter.

#### **SHOW AND TELL:**

- Karin Seder - She is trying out a wool pellet product that expands to hold water in the soil, provide nutrients and repel slugs. It is made from previously discarded wool ends that would otherwise end up in a land fill. Karin notes that it has prevented slugs from devouring tender plants, though as it expands, her husband thinks it looks like something the cat coughed up. The product is not harmful to people or pets and, if it works to keep slugs at bay, then who cares what it looks like! The third round of specialty fertilizer label information awaits approval by the State of California, and until this is approved, pellets will be sold with labels that do not contain claims as a fertilizer. More information and to purchase products can be found here: <https://www.integrityalpacas.com/gardeners-gold-wool-pellets>
- Ken Hays - Thanks to everyone for bringing boxes for the Plant Sale. He actually took some back to store for next year. However, many boxes were not useable. Look for sturdy, low-profile boxes that you can get in Costco's fruit section - they have the perfect size.
- Julie Stanbery - She brought a bloom from a palm tree like the one seen in the Xeriscape Garden. Very unusual-looking!

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 and potluck followed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Courter, Secretary

**PHOTOS FROM THE CHAPTER MEETING  
AT IVA GREYWOLF & DAVE CLARK'S  
BY BONNIE COURTER & FRED ALLEY**



# Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: E-mail submissions to Bonnie Courter: [rbcourter@gmail.com](mailto:rbcourter@gmail.com)

Website: [www.douglascountymg.org](http://www.douglascountymg.org)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487)

OSU Douglas County Extension Service: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas)

OSU Gardening Information: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening)

OSU Master Gardeners Program: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg)

Oregon Master Gardeners Association (OMGA): [www.oregonmastergardeners.org](http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org)



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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](mailto:rbcourter@gmail.com).

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