



Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

November 2023

Nov. 2023 Calendar

Mon., Nov. 6, 10:00

Insect Committee, Annex

Tues., Nov. 7, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Wed., Nov. 8, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting, Annex

Thurs., Nov. 9, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Discovery Garden Workday

Sat., Nov. 11

Veteran's Day

Tues., Nov. 14, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Wed., November 15

Deadline for Timesheets

Thurs., Nov. 16

Continuing Education 9:00, Annex

Chapter Meeting 10:00, Annex

Tues., Nov. 21, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Thurs., Nov. 23

Thanksgiving Day

Tues., Nov. 28, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Thurs., Nov. 30, 9:00-Noon

Eastside Greenhouse Crew

Meet the Class of 2023



Douglas County Master Gardeners now have added to their ranks 30 new eager “beavers”, graduates of the 2023 class. October 24 was graduation day for them as they received their certificates and trainee badges, acknowledging all their hard work in completing the course.

A huge “thank you!” to class coordinators Gloria Cettina and Patrice Glasscock along with DCMG Program Coordinator Logan Bennett. And kudos also to our hospitality co-chairs, Dawnetta Loomis and Diane Smith-Lewsadder, for supplying them with snacks and beverages.

We all look forward to partnering with you new students in carrying out our mission of providing research-based gardening information and help to the citizens of Douglas County.

Congratulations!





I want to thank everyone who worked in October 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 were busy with over 100 contacts in

October. Questions for October were diverse including orchard management, cover crops, lawns, plant and weed identification and lots of insect ID.

The Plant Clinic will be reducing hours beginning in November. We will staff the clinic on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-4 PM.

Our training for the new class began in October. Class members can still sign up for their initial orientation. We are lucky to have had a great team this year with Leo Grass, Doralee Hayden, Ken Parry, Diane Smith-Lewsadder, and Chris Rusch.

Master Gardener Discovery Garden Pavilion Series
 "Soils" & "Garlic and Shallots"
 Sharon Bordeaux

We had a soils class at the Pavilion October 14 taught by Logan. Here are some photos taken by Dawn Shumack:



Then on Thursday, October 19, 34 community and Master Gardener members were present for the class on "Growing Garlic and Shallots", presented by Master Gardener Bruce Gravens. Bruce has a 7,000 square foot garden and grows 20 varieties of garlic and two varieties of shallots.

His presentation included preparing the soil and beds with instructions on spacing when planting. He stressed the importance of light fertilization monthly. The garlic and shallots sprout in the fall but will not take off until the weather warms in the spring. However, the roots continue to grow during the winter months. Bruce also covered harvesting and drying for both garlic and shallots. He shared a list of garlic varieties along with advice on which varieties do best in our area.

After the end of his presentation, we all assembled for a hands-on demonstration and planting of garlic and shallots. Each person had the opportunity to plant both, and take home samples for planting in their home gardens.

Thanks again for the support of Logan Bennett and Cheryl Caplan. Plans are in the works for new classes in the spring.... we will keep you posted!!



Photos by Fred Alley

Treasurer's Report

Dawnetta Loomis
09/29/2023-10/29/2023



INCOME

Soil Testing	\$150.00
Interest	\$48.47
Plant Sale Post	\$1,340.75
T-Shirts	\$754.00

TOTAL INCOME

\$2,293.22

EXPENSES

Management & General	\$773.93
Clinic & Office	\$90.85
Discovery Garden	\$491.91
HLC	\$737.43
Community Outreach	\$29.51
Utilities	\$907.62
Class Deposit Return	\$200.00
Advance Training	\$539.89
Special Events	\$346.83

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$4,117.97

Breakdown of our accounts at 10/29/23

NWCC - Checking	\$1,168.50
NWCC - Reserve	\$5,013.65
NWCC - MMK Savings	\$73,190.09
NWCC - 6 Month CD	\$17,879.43
Charles Schwab	\$72,370.87
Ending Balance	\$169,622.54

Swinger Bars Kay Livermore



October 2023 Swinger Bar Report

Members who have swinger bar updates for August and September:

Two 2022 trainees completed their 60 payback hours:
60 hours: Bill Horton and Jewels Reeves
100 hours: Sandy Anderson, Ellen Porter
200 hours: Beth Brandon, Teresa Grosenbach, Dawn Shumack, Linda Witbeck
300 hours: Judy Ode
400 hours: Sylvia Andino, Ellen Campbell, Gloria Cettina
500 hours: Lynn Foster, Patrice Glasscock
750 hours: Dawnetta Loomis, Carolyn Ruzicka
1000 hours: Diane Smith-Lewsadder
2000 hours: Sharon Bordeaux
3500 hours: Fred Alley

Spring Into Gardening

Chris Rusch

Mark your Calendars for
March 9, 2024!

This is a terrific community education event where we can 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. If you want to help with the planning, please contact me.

541-825-3837



Shared by Kish Doyle

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offthemark.com

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Who doesn't love a great houseplant? And one that doesn't require much attention, watering or light. Now, this could be for just about for anyone who is busy, or just forgetful. 😊

Earlier this year I bought a Sansevieria called "Laurentii" which is also known as Snake Plant, Mother-In-Laws-Tongue, Bowstring Hemp, Saint George's Sword. These plants come from South Asia, Madagascar and Africa. All of the Sansevieria varieties have the same traits.

Many may not know that these plants are succulents and are one of the best houseplants you can have. They are easy to care for and will do great with just being ignored. When it comes to what type of light they need, the only thing that can really harm them is direct sunlight. If you have a house with low light, then this is the plant for you. The Sansevieria does best with bright

light and indirect light. But, do not put this plant or any varieties in drafty areas as it will likely cause it to die eventually.

When it comes to watering them, it's best to let them completely dry out. Then water them until the soil is draining out of the bottom of the garden pot. I usually do this two times to make sure the soil is completely wet.

Once it has stopped dripping, place the plant back on its plant tray. Do not let it sit in water as it will cause root rot. This is the number one reason that they die. If you notice that your plant is getting root rot, replace it with new fresh soil.

Sansevierias are not fast growing plants, which is great. They like to be root bound, so much so that the roots of these plants will intertwine with each other in the garden pot. You can go many, many years before you ever need to up-pot your Sansevieria plants. If your Sansevieria is falling over in its pot, it usually means it's

time to up-pot it. Don't go to much bigger than the other pot.

While most of us see our succulents bloom sometime in the early spring to late fall, the Sansevieria is one that only lucky people get to see. The conditions have to be perfect for this plant to bloom. I have yet to see one bloom in the many years of caring for them. Lucky ones will see a long, thin stem coming out of the center of the plant. It will bloom with white fragrant flowers that are sweet to the smell and can last for several weeks. (Still waiting 😊)

Listed are a few varieties of Sansevieria that you just might want to try in your home.

Sansevieria Fernwood Mikado: This variety has pencil-like shoots that are striped with a light green to a dark green and sometimes a yellow. They can grow to several feet tall and will bunch together in a cluster. They do best in bright light and indirect light.



Sansevieria Moonshine (Dracaena trifasciata): This variety is similar to the tall Snake Plant that we all know. It is a rare variety that has thin, wide, green to gray colored leaves. The leaves of this variety are wider than most of the varieties. So much so that they can out grow the garden pot quicker due to their size by cracking pots and overcrowding.



Sansevieria trifasciata Laurentii (Variegated Snake Plant): This variety will grow very tall, pointed leaves that have horizontal stripes that are a gray-green coloring. On the margins of each leaf is a yellow creamy coloring. You will likely see these plants tightly in garden pots, as this is how they like to be grown.

Enjoy your houseplants and maybe add a new one like the Sansevieria.

“YARD CLIPPINGS” GATHERINGS OF THIS AND THAT

CHERYL CAPLAN



This year I grew something odd called a “jelly melon” (*Cucumis metuliferus*). It has a tart taste that I didn’t really care for, but it was interesting to grow.

To quote an article in Parade, “this spiky, yellow fruit is also known as the horned melon, African horned cucumber, hedged gourd, melon and blowfish fruit. People describe the flavor of the green interior as a cross between cucumber, zucchini and kiwifruit (thought as it ripens, it tastes more like a banana). It features a healthy dose of magnesium, iron, vitamin C and phosphorus. It’s also an excellent source of antioxidants, including vitamin A and E, zinc and lutein.”

“The simplest way to eat it is to slice it open and spoon the pulp directly from the rind. It may be eaten fresh or cooked. Gently squeeze one half until the seeds pop out. The seeds aren’t harmful to eat, but you can also scoop out the inner fruit and add the pulp to smoothies or as a topping for yogurt, granola or an ice-cream sundae.”



Also we found this tomato growing in the Victory Garden. Kind of looks like the tomato was growing another tomato!

DIANE SMITH-LEWSADDER

Some fun tomato facts I found at [historyfacts.com](https://www.historyfacts.com):

“Long before tomatoes were eaten in salads and sliced on sandwiches, they were advertised as medicine. In the early 1800s, many Americans found tomatoes unappetizing, and some even believed they were poisonous. That perception began to change in 1834, after Ohio physician John Cook Bennett advertised

tomatoes as a medical panacea. Bennett propagated the idea that tomatoes could cure indigestion, jaundice, and other ailments, even though his claims proved untrue. He also debuted tomatoes in a new pill form, solidifying the fruit’s dubious reputation as a medicinal tonic. The tomato health fad faded in the 1850s, but the versatile fruit saw a resurgence as a culinary treat soon after, thanks in part to the introduction of a new tomato-based condiment: ketchup.

The first recipe for tomato-based ketchup was published by Philadelphia scientist James Mease in 1812, but the condiment didn’t really take off until the F&J Heinz Company released its ketchup in 1876. While previous ketchups decomposed too quickly, Heinz used vinegar in the preservation process, which made the condiment more shelf stable. Heinz ketchup was sold in the now-iconic clear glass bottles, chosen to showcase the product’s purity. Starting in 1896, Heinz (by then rebranded as the H.J. Heinz Company) began featuring the number “57” on its packaging, though it had nothing to do with the number of varieties sold. Founder Henry John Heinz chose “57” for the branding because it combined his lucky number, five, with his wife’s favorite number, seven.”

The Supreme Court declared tomatoes are vegetables.

In a botanical sense, tomatoes are classified as fruits, because they contain seeds and grow from a flowering plant. But legally, the U.S. Supreme Court established a different truth. The decision stemmed from the Tariff Act of 1883, which required taxes on imported vegetables, whereas imported fruits remained tax-free. That law was tested during the 1893 case Nix v. Hedden, in which the Nix family — who sold produce in New York City — sued Edward Hedden, the tax collector at the Port of New York. The Nixes claimed they were being unfairly taxed on tomato fruits, and sought to recover fees they had incurred. However, the Supreme Court sided with Hedden by a unanimous 9-0 vote, ruling that the Tariff Act extended to tomatoes. Justice Horace Gray wrote that while tomatoes are “fruit of a vine,” they’re treated as vegetables in “the common language of the people.”



Ask the Tool Man Alley

Fall has arrived and Thanksgiving is just around the corner. It has become a ritual in many gardening families that Thanksgiving is the date they start thinking about repairing, cleaning, sharpening and storing their garden tools for the winter. This task is not the favorite task of the gardeners but is an important one. It is best to clean, sharpen, oil and sanitize your garden tools after each use. This routine task makes the fall cleaning and sharpening so much easier. Clean, sharp and maintained tools are much easier and safer to use. Equally important, a clean, sharp and maintained garden tool will most likely last a lifetime. This is also a good time to take an inventory of your tools. Did the neighbor return your favorite shovel? Where are your favorite bypass pruners? Did they get left lying on the ground next to the tomato plants?

So, what is the easiest way to clean, sharpen, oil and store your garden tools for the winter? And what are the items needed? While each tool has its own characteristics, the types of cleaning, sharpening and oil products, and the method of cleaning and sharpening are similar. Sometimes we need to do more extensive cleaning and/or need to repair or replace a part. If you are like me, I have a wide assortment of manual and power equipment that I use. This is a list of some of the basic equipment and supplies. I have identified the most basic with an asterisk (*).

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Heavy duty rubber gloves* | Cleaning sponge/scratch pad 8* |
| Steel wool, #1 grit* | Protective Eyewear* |
| Stiff 4-6" scrub brush* | Ear Protection* |
| 6" fixed or locked pocket knife* | Electric Orbital Sander |
| Wire brush* | Petroleum Jelly |
| Grinding wheel for bench grinder 120 grit | |
| Electric grinder | 7 in 1 putty knife* |
| Table vice* | Quality furniture liquid polish* |
| Honing oil* | Water-based polyurethane, |
| Paint/varnish stripper | Wipe-On* |
| Light oil (3 in 1 Oil)* | Heavy duty 20" wash basin* |
| Danish oil | Goo Gone spray gel* |
| Minwax Fast-Drying Wipe-On Polyurethane* | |

For years I used a 5-gallon bucket to clean my garden tools. Then I found a large heavy duty wash basin that works perfectly. Larger tools like shovels, pitchforks,

digging spades and lawn rakes are too wide for the 5-gallon bucket. This photo illustrates the wash basin and several garden tools that I'm cleaning. I place the wash basin on a sturdy folding table, so I don't have to bend over. It's amazing how much dirt, even clay and rust will be removed simply by washing any tool with hot water, dish soap and Ajax. If your tool is really coated with dirt and rust, you can take two predatory steps.



1. Wash the tool with a steel brush, finished with No. 1 steel wool, coated with Ajax.
2. Spray the metal part of the tool with WD-40 oil and let sit outside overnight. Make sure the tool does not subjected to any moisture. After setting overnight, repeat the cleaning process again. Always let the tool completely dry. Remember to always wear heavy rubber gloves when using products like WD-40. It is rare for me to use paint/varnish stripper. Read the product label and follow the directions.

Small hand garden tools like bypass pruners, loppers, hand spades, digging forks, and knives are much easier to clean. Most often, just using No. 1 steel wool, hot water and Ajax, most of the dirt, grim and sap will be removed. For bypass pruners, it is best to use a stiff 6-inch nylon brush to get into small places of hand tools. Again, if the dirt, grim and sap is really persistent, spray with Goo Gone spray gel, let set for an hour and slowly rub the tool with No: 1 steel wool. If the tool is really dirty, spray with WD solvent and let set overnight. In most cases I will completely dismantle pruners and loppers, only because it is difficult to reach the dirt and grime between the two blades. See Photo.



The cleaning process many times includes cleaning the wood portions of the tool. Interestingly, the wood handles can be clean just like the metal parts. Simply using No. 1 steel wool, Ajax and hot water the handle will become clean. It does take a while for the handle to dry, preferably in direct sunlight. If you have product

stickers on the handle or the metal part of the tool, spray with Goo Gone spray gel, let stand for an hour and remove the sticker with a duty knife or a pocket knife. **Always scrape with the direction of the wood grain, otherwise you will make gouges in the wood handle.** Finish removing the last part of the sticker with No. 0 steel wool.

After thoroughly cleaning your garden tools, you should complete four more maintenance steps in preparation of storing garden tools for the winter.

1. Prior to applying any oil on the metal parts, or boiled linseed oil on wood parts, clean the metal parts with No. 00 steel wool to remove any remaining rust, grim and sap away and sand the wood parts with grit 120 sandpaper followed with a No. 0 steel wool to remove any splinters and smooth out the handle.
2. Apply a thin coating of 3 in One Oil, or any gun oil to the metal parts. Gun oil is best because it has high viscosity properties which can penetrate the metal. This provides an excellent long-lasting lubricant and prevents any further rust from occurring.
3. With a small cotton cloth apply a thin coating of boiled linseed oil on all wood parts. Let it dry for one day.
4. With a small cotton cloth apply two a thin coating of Minwax fast-drying Wipe-On over all wood parts. Separate the coatings by at least one hour. This Wipe-On polyurethane product is relatively new and is better than the old product as it does not thicken up when left in the container. During the year as you are using your garden tools with wooden handles, after you wash your tool routinely, you can simply apply a coat of furniture oil to protect the wood handle.

After all four steps you are ready to store your garden tools for the winter. Well, almost. The weather and climate in our region give us the opportunity to grow produce/crops all year long, so we never really put all the garden tools away for winter. Just make sure your tools are stored inside in a dry and secure place. If you have the means, it is always best to hang tools, particularly those with long handles. Even the garden picks, if left leaning against a wall, may end up with a curved handle.

I realize, properly maintaining and storing garden tools and equipment is not the most exciting chore, but it is well worth your time and effort.

You most likely noticed I did not address “sharpening of different tools”. I have written so many sharpening articles for specific tools, that I thought you could review those specific articles in the past Master Gardener Newsletters. I plan to include a list of all my 2023 articles in the January Newsletter. The 2022 articles are included in the December 2022 Newsletter. If you have some specific questions on tool maintenance or repair, or just need some help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sanitizing your tools for winter storage is not necessary. Sanitation is best applied just prior to use. Disinfect tools by treating them for at least 30 seconds with 10% bleach or preferably 70% isopropyl alcohol. Bleach is not kind to metal, particularly over time. There are a variety of alcohol products readily available on the market including hand wipes and spray foams that can be easily stored in your tool bucket. Just make sure you read the label and use only 70% or greater.

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





NOVEMBER GARDEN CALENDAR

- Service lawn mower.
- Check potatoes in storage and remove any going

bad.

- Place a portable cold frame over rows of winter vegetables.
- Place mulch around berries for winter protection.
- Cover rhubarb and asparagus beds with composted manure and straw.
- Rake and compost leaves that are free of diseases and insects. Use mulch to prevent erosion and compaction from rain.
- To protect built-in sprinkler systems, drain the system and insulate the valve mechanisms.
- Drain and store hoses carefully to avoid damage from freezing.
- Protect tender evergreens from drying wind.
- Tie limbs of upright evergreens to prevent breakage by snow or ice.
- Trim chrysanthemums to 4 to 6 inches after they finish blooming.
- Leave ornamental grasses up in winter to provide texture in the landscape. Cut them back a few inches above the ground in early spring.
- Last chance to plant cover crops for soil building. You can also use a 3- to 4-inch layer of leaves, spread over the garden plot, to eliminate winter weeds, suppress early spring weeds and prevent soil compaction by rain.
- Take cuttings of rhododendrons and camellias for propagation; propagate begonias from leaf cuttings.

- Prune roses (tea and floribunda, but NOT climbers and ramblers) to around 3 feet in height to prevent winter damage.
- Plant a window garden of lettuce, chives and parsley.
- It's a good time to plant trees and shrubs. Consider varieties that supply food and shelter to birds, such as sumac, elderberry, flowering currant and mock orange.
- Still time to plant spring-flowering bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocuses. Don't delay.
- Good time to plant garlic for harvest next summer, and to transplant landscape trees and shrubs.
- Rake and destroy leaves from fruit trees that were diseased this year. Remove and discard mummified fruit.
- Treat peaches four weeks after leaf fall spray for peach leaf curl and shothole diseases.
- Moss appearing in lawn may mean too much shade or poor drainage. Correct site conditions if moss is bothersome.

Membership

Kay Livermore

We currently have 242 members.

I am now accepting 2024 dues. \$10 if paid before January 1, 2024 or \$20 if paid after January 1, 2024. A membership form is included at the end of this Newsletter. Remember, to be a 2024 member you must pay dues **and** sign the OSU required forms either via DocuSign or in the Extension office.

**2023 trainees need to sign the OSU forms, but dues were included in your class fees.

Fall Training Class Photo Album

Photos by Fred Alley and Bonnie Courter

Cindy Ocamb teaching Plant Pathology



Logan teaching Plant Diagnostics



Field Test & Final Review
Graduation & Celebration



Cat & Deric Fuller gave a masterly answer to Logan's challenge question on the final. 👍



Proud Graduates



DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Chapter Meeting
October 26, 2023

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:17. There were 35 in attendance, including President Julie Stanbery, Vice-President Andrea Collins, Past President Nancy Fuller, Treasurer Dawnetta Loomis, Membership Kay Livermore, and Secretary Bonnie Courter.

Agenda Approval: The agenda was approved as posted.

Minutes Approval: The minutes were approved as posted.

Introduce Guests: Welcome to new trainees.

OFFICER REPORTS

Past President - Nancy Fuller: Nancy welcomed new trainees and encouraged them to come out and help at the Discovery Garden.

Membership - Kay Livermore: We have 242 members. The DocuSign forms were emailed out last week and 102 MG's have signed them already. Please sign as soon as possible. Kay is now accepting 2024 dues - they are \$10 if paid by January 1, \$20 after. She will be moving in 3 weeks, so give dues to Kay directly or place in the Plant Clinic drawer. Kay will send out a notice through Shirley once she's settled into her new address so you can send them to her by mail.

OMGA - Patrice Sipos: Not present - no report.

Treasurer - Dawnetta Loomis:

- She sent out the 2024 budget which is balanced. Any changes, see her. This will go into the Newsletter this month. At the November chapter meeting, we will vote to approve the 2024 budget. 2023 off-budget funding expenses will roll over to 2024 and appear on the budget once it's approved.
- Compost bin - \$500 was added to the budget. Our new budget will separate it out so we can see what we are making selling the compost. We need to increase our \$1/pail price for compost as we use a lot

of fuel and resources to make that soil, and that money is having to come from other sources. She suggested charging \$3/pail and \$12 for a tractor load, which is half a scoop. Pay Ed Barrett directly. This should pay for itself eventually. There was a consensus to increase what we charge.

- Porta Potty - Since the water was shut off at Extension during the beginning of class, a porta potty was delivered, and the cost was \$483. Since it was for our class, we said we would pick up that cost as a non-budgeted item. **Kish Doyle made a motion that we go ahead and cover the \$483 bill. Toni Rudolph seconded it. The vote to pass the motion was unanimous.**
- She also has some reimbursement checks for people.
- Dawnetta is still looking for her replacement as treasurer, hoping to have that replacement work with her until she "retires" next year.

Vice-President - Andrea Collins: Great presentation by Bruce Gravens this morning on growing garlic and shallots. Next month the presentation will be by MG Gerry Crane, a retired RN, who will speak on cardiac issues in gardening.

President - Julie Stanbery:

- Julie acknowledged the mentors present and thanked them for their service. She also recognized mentors who brought their trainees to the meeting with gift bags. Two trainees who came without mentors also got gift bags.
- Volunteer hours are done by October 31, so get your time sheets turned in to Vicki McAlister by **November 15**. If they are not turned in, you still get cumulative hours, but it doesn't show on the report to OSU. Time sheets can be turned in to Westside Greenhouse, the Plant Clinic, or mailed to Vicki directly.

MG Program Coordinator - Logan Bennett:

- Last Sunday, he had a meeting with all the heads of County granges. They are interested in education programs this next summer, so he will be coordinating those.
- Tuesday was graduation for our new students. The class was a big success.
- Today Shelby Filley will be at the Discovery Garden between 12:00 and 4:00 to take samples of forage and would love help from MG's. Friday she will be

doing botanical compositions all day at the Extension Annex, from 9:00-4:00. This counts toward payback hours.

- Logan has met with others to discuss Continuing Education classes, and they are planned ahead now for two years.



New grads Jo Carol Driver & Jan Polka helping Shelby with samples after the meeting.

Photo: Laura Corder

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Blue Bags - Dawn Shumack: 16 bags were turned in this month.

Community Outreach - Dawn Shumack: No new events. Around 25 people have been attending each of the Pavilion series classes. If interested in helping with outreach, contact Cheryl Caplan, Leo Grass or Dawn.

Discovery Garden - Julie Stanbery:

- We are in need of a new “toilet crew” to team up with Rebecca Taylor. See Julie if interested.
- Had 2 new trainees who want to work in the Entry Garden with Lynn Foster.
- There will be a workday November 9, 9:00-12:00, to clean it up for winter - spread chips, pick up hoses, take out blackberry vines. We will turn off Umpqua Basin water to the Discovery Garden this week.
- For new trainees who would like to work on a Saturday, she has a project in mind, so contact Julie.

Facebook - Barbara Horst: Not present. She needs someone to back her up for a couple of months.

Greenhouse West - Carol Bolt: Not present - her report: They are transplanting and cleaning plants for winter. Will be working Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Greenhouse East - Bonnie Durick: We welcome anyone to come out and help with propagating (200 starts done recently), pruning and root pruning. Bring gloves, fork, pruners, and a kitchen knife. Workdays are Tuesdays, 9:00-12:00. Ann Severson will be out there this Saturday for the last time if anyone wants to help out.

Hallmark - Dawn Shumack: She sent out two cards: one to Martha Sinkula whose husband passed away and one to the family of Stormy Speaker who passed away. Let her know of anyone needing a card.

Insect Committee - Diana Woodward: Still going through drawers and identifying insects. They will meet the first Monday in November, then won't meet till February.

MG Training Course - Patrice Glasscock: We had 30 students graduate last Tuesday.

Newsletter - Bonnie Courter: Submissions are due this Saturday, October 28. For the December Newsletter deadline, it will be **Tuesday, November 28**. The January Newsletter deadline will be **Friday, December 29**.

Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch:

I want to thank everyone who worked in October at our Plant Clinic!! We were busy with over 100 contacts in October. In November, the clinic will be open only on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Our training for the new class began in October. Class members can still sign up for their initial orientation. We are lucky to have had a great team this year with Leo Grass, Doralee Hayden, Ken Parry, Diane Smith-Lewsadder, and Chris Rusch.

Publicity - Cheryl Caplan: Not present - no report.

Soils - Patrice Glasscock: They have 4 regulars, and some new trainees are signed up to learn how to do testing. 130 samples came in so far this year.

Spring Into Gardening - Chris Rusch: Mark your calendars for March 9, 2024, our Spring Into Gardening seminars for the public. This is a terrific community education event where we can 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. If you want to help with the planning, please contact me.

Swinger Bars - Kay Livermore:

October 2023 Swinger Bar Report

Members who have swinger bar updates for August and September:

Two 2022 trainees completed their 60 payback hours:

- 60 hours: Bill Horton and Jewels Reeves
- 100 hours: Sandy Anderson, Ellen Porter
- 200 hours: Beth Brandon, Teresa Grosenbach, Dawn Shumack, Linda Witbeck
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- 750 hours: Dawnetta Loomis, Carolyn Ruzicka
- 1000 hours: Diane Smith-Lewsadder
- 2000 hours: Sharon Bordeaux
- 3500 hours: Fred Alley

Vermicomposting - Dawn Shumack:

At 12:00 on Tuesday, October 31, she will reestablish one of the worm bins, giving a short demo on setting it up from scratch. Anyone is welcome to come and participate. Also Lane County Extension office is having a worm composting class in Eugene, November 4, at 10:00. It should be about 1.5 hours long.



Nathan Baily handing over the worm wrangling job to Dawn Shumack.
Photo: Nathan

Cost is \$50, and you will come home with a worm bin and worms. Register online - she sent out a link by email.

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

We will be putting the garden to bed for the winter next week. This week all the vines were pulled down. Next week will be a final cleanup and planting the cover crops. The total poundage for the year was **10,088**: 8,428 from the Victory Garden, 1,617 from home gardens, and 43 from the Easy Access garden.

OLD BUSINESS: Garden Tour - The Discovery Garden is all set up to be part of the June 8, 2024 Garden Tour, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, and will be great publicity for us.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

SHOW AND TELL:

- Diana Woodward brought 2 nests to share from her pond tules made by red-wing blackbirds.
- Judy Mercer said she had two separate people visit her recently, and she took them to see the Discovery Garden - they were “blown away”!
- Julie Stanbery has some older pamphlets from North American Fruit Explorers and 4 old reference books to give away.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Executive Board Meeting, November 8, 10:00
Continuing Education, November 16, 9:00
Chapter Meeting, November 16, 10:00
No meetings in December.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 11:19.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Courter, Secretary



Proposed Budget for 2024

MG 2024 BUDGET			
INCOME			Discovery Garden
Donations			Butterfly 300
Contributions	0		Children's 420
Educators Grants	0		Vermicomposting 120
BottleDrop	1,000		Easy Access (Container Garden) 110
Fred Meyer Community Awards	75		Educational Kiosk 150
TOTAL Donations	1,075		Entry 50
Dues & Membership			Herb 150
Membership Dues	2,110		Hummingbird 80
Newsletter - Income	222		Iris 150
Class Fees	3,000		Irrigation 400
TOTAL Dues & Membership	5,332		Japanese 60
Interest Income - Bank		150	Kiosk - donor board 0
PSP Income			Maintenance - DG 1,100
Soil Testing	1,800		Mulch/Gravel 600
TOTAL PSP Income	1,800		Native Garden 300
Plant Sale			Orchard & Ornamental & Pavilion 0
Raffle	1,200		Perennial Border 150
Entrance Fees	3,000		Raised Beds (Dahlia/Lily) 100
Sales - Event	29,000		Rock Garden 235
Sales - Post	1,300		Shade & Sun Garden & Signage Project 0
Sales - Pre	4,500		Xeriscape 150
Vendor Booth	3,000		TOTAL Discovery Garden 4,625
Tip for Volunteers	200		TOTAL PSP Expense 8,525
TOTAL Plant Sale	42,200		HLC Horticultural Learning Center
Special Events Other			Annual Pumping Expense (diver) 300
OMGA Host Reimbursement	300		Eastside Greenhouse Maintenance 1,000
Compost Tea	900		Eastside Greenhouse Supplies 1,000
Misc Events - Tee-Shirts ETC.	0		Garbage Dump Fee 150
Soil Compost	500		HLC Fire Extinguishers 250
Trash-to-Treasure Sale	3,500		HLC Maintenance 1,300
TOTAL Special Events Other	5,200		HLC Orchard 0
TOTAL SPECIAL EVENTS	47,400		Toilet Supplies and Repairs 100
TOTAL INCOME	55,757		Tree Trimming Professional 1,500
EXPENSES			Victory Garden 750
Awards & Banquet			Victory Garden Signage 70
Awards	350		Westside Greenhouse Maintenance 1,200
Banquet	500		Westside Greenhouse Supplies 500
Swinger Bar	200		TOTAL HLC - Expense 8,120
TOTAL Awards & Banquet	1,050		Plant Sale Expenses
Conferences			Advertising 1,900
OMGA Travel/Meetings	1,300		Contributions/Plant Sale Volunteers 500
TOTAL Conferences	1,300		Exhibit Fees 3,700
Dues-OMGA		1,484	Next Year Seed 1,400
Grants/Gifts/Scholarships			Plants - Eastside 600
4-H Donation	80		Plants - Westside 1,300
Hallmark	50		Supplies (combining this and next yr) 7,000
Officer Gifts	80		Vendor Costs 200
Scholarships - Mini-Col 2022	400		TOTAL Plant Sale 16,600
TOTAL Grants/Gifts/Scholarships	610		ESG house Tank #1 2,000
Other Management & General			ESG house Tank #2 2,000
Computer Supplies	300		WSG house Tank #3 1,100
Print Check Charges	50		WSG house Tank #500 2,000
Hospitality	350		TOTAL Propane Tanks 7,100
Liability Insurance	1,000		Special Events Other
Newsletter Printing & Postage	250		Tee Shirts 0
Postage for Exec Board	150		Compost Tea 200
Supplies / Copies for Exec Board	120		Soil Compost 500
TOTAL Other Mgmt & General	2,220		Trash-to-Treasure Sale 600
(PSP) Expenses/ Program Service Project			TOTAL Special Events Other 1,300
New Class Supplies	300		TOTAL SPECIAL EVENTS EXPENSES 25,000
Fall Program	700		Electric - meter 82346502 - HLC 6,000
TOTAL Advanced Training	1,000		Electric - meter 81156829 - pump 150
Clinics and Office			Water - Heleck Hall meter #30015613 1,500
Farmers Market - Canyonville & Roseburg	0		Water - Caretaker meter #69151311 50
Insects	100		TOTAL Utilities 7,700
Library	100		Expenses Approved Not Budgeted
Plant Clinic and Office Supplies	200		Victory Garden - Stafford 786
Soil Testing	1,500		Extension Educator Grant - 2022/2023 451
Website	150		Class Fee reimbursement 3,000
TOTAL Clinics and Office	2,050		Total Expenses Approved Not Budgeted 4,237
Community Outreach			TOTAL EXPENSES 60,246
Spring into Gardening	0		NET INCOME (LOSS) -4,489
DC Fair Outreach Booth	200		
Printing materials 4 Outreach	350		
Speakers Bureau	300		

Go Underground With Bulbs for Colorful Spring Bloom

By Kym Pokorny, OSU

When it comes to plants, bulbs are about as easy as it gets and now's the time to get them in the ground.

"You plant spring-flowering bulbs in fall, they grow over winter, flourish in spring and go dormant in summer," said Heather Stoven, a horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. "Once they're in the ground, they do quite well over multiple years with little maintenance."

On top of that, bulbs are drought tolerant. "That's one of the great things about them," Stoven said. "Since they go dormant in summer, they don't need to be watered."

If you plan to intermingle bulbs with perennials or place them near shrubs, pair with plants that don't need much irrigation, she said. Or, if the area gets regular water, make sure the soil drains well.

Bulbs such as daffodils, tulips, crocus and hyacinth are planted in fall because they need some time to get their roots going before pushing up to put on a spring show. Although October and November are ideal for planting, bulbs can go into the ground until mid-December.

When purchasing bulbs, choose large ones. The bigger the bulb, the bigger the bloom, Stoven said. Also, avoid those with mold or soft spots, which signal rot. Plant as soon as possible, but if something comes up to delay you, store bulbs in a cool, dim place such as an unlit garage.

Make a plan before heading to the garden center. Decide on color combinations. Do a little research so that you can choose early, mid- and late-blooming varieties for a longer display. Think about what to plant together – a mix of different types of bulbs is an attractive option. A big swath of the same type and color bulbs will make a statement, too.

As you get ready to plant, dig holes to fit multiple bulbs rather than planting one at a time. The effect is more natural. "Groupings are really nice," Stoven said. "You'll get a mass of color."

When digging the hole, it's best to follow directions on the package for planting depth, but a general rule of thumb is three times as deep as the bulb is wide. Add some organic material – compost, well-rotted manure or mulch – to the bottom of the hole, place bulb pointed side up and cover with soil. Adding fertilizer is not necessary, but if you feel compelled, use super phosphate or a low-concentrated product labeled for bulbs, Stoven said.

There's no need to dig bulbs up after flowering, but letting the foliage turn brown and die back is a good idea so that the nutrients contained in the leaves return to the bulb and it can start the cycle once again.

Here are Stoven's recommendations for uncommon spring-blooming bulbs:

- **Fawn lily** (*Erythronium oregonum*) – An Oregon native wildflower with dainty, nodding white or yellowish flowers and brown-stained leaves. Doesn't mind shade and looks inviting in a woodland setting. 
- **Grecian windflower** (*Anemone blanda*) – Delicate, star-like flowers come in blue, white and pink on frilly foliage that melts away soon after bloom is over. Best used in a mass. "Blue is especially nice to have as a contrast to yellow daffodils," Stoven said.
- **Allium** – Part of the garlic family, this deer-resistant bulb puts up a stem with one ball-shaped flower, usually in shades of purple, pink and blue, more infrequently white. Sizes vary widely from the 10-inch flowers of 'Globemaster' to the tiny pops of 1-inch drumstick alliums. 
- **Fritillaria** – Another group of bulbs with wide variation. On 'Crown Imperial Fritillaria' (*F. imperialis*), bell-shaped flowers in orange or yellow hang in clusters from single stems up to 5 feet tall. The much-smaller native checker lily (*F. affinis*) has dark purple flowers spotted irregularly with yellow. 
- **Species tulips** – Just like their big siblings, but shorter, hardier and longer lasting. They come in many colors and often the flowers open wider than regular tulips. These bulbs will seed themselves, so they'll naturalize and give years of enjoyment. 

DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2024 DUES

Print ALL information EVEN if nothing has changed:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Land Line: _____ Cell Phone: _____

____ \$10.00 if paid before January 1, 2024 (50% early bird discount)

____ \$20.00 if paid after January 1, 2024

____ Please mail my newsletter: include \$18.50 to cover printing & postage.

____ \$6.00 badge order. Name: _____ Class Year: _____

Stop! Membership Director use only.

Date: _____ Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

PLEASE LEAVE THIS FORM AS IS. DO NOT CUT!

2024 Dues: \$10.00 before January 1st or \$20.00 after January 1st

Please give dues to the Membership Director or put in the plant clinic locked drawer. Copies of the Dues Form are available in the plant clinic. Dues payment includes an E-mail copy of the Master Gardener monthly Newsletter. To have our Newsletter mailed to you, include \$18.50 with your dues payment.

Replacement Badges: Replacement badges need to be ordered by mid-January. Please provide your name as you want it to appear on the badge, class year, and include \$6.00 with your dues payment. You will be contacted when the badge arrives.

Make checks payable to DCMG. Print this form and put in the Plant Clinic locked drawer or give to Kay in person.

(I am moving. A revised form with a mailing address will be published as soon as I am set up to receive mail at my new address.)

Kay Livermore, DCMG Membership Director
kay.livmr@gmail.com

Douglas County Master Gardeners

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

OSU Gardening Information: extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening

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

Oregon Master Gardeners Association (OMGA): omga.org



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