



Feb. 2024 Calendar

Sun., Feb. 4, 1:00-4:00

"Celebration 2024"@ Sutherlin Community Center

Tues., Feb. 6, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Thurs., Feb. 8, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Fri., Feb. 9, 1:00-4:00

Pruning Ornamentals, DG

Sat., Feb. 10, 10:00-1:00

Beekeeping 101, Annex

Tues., Feb. 13, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Wed., Feb. 14, 10:00

Executive Board Meeting, **Rm. 310**

Courthouse

Thurs., Feb. 15, 10:00-Noon

Seeding Peppers, Pavilion, DG

Westside Greenhouse Crew, 9-12

Mon., Feb. 19, 1:00-4:00

Pruning Roses/Hydrangeas, DG

Tues., Feb. 20, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Thurs., Feb. 22, 9:00-Noon

Westside Greenhouse Crew

Tues., Feb. 27, 9:00-Noon

Greenhouse Crews

Thurs., Feb. 29

Continuing Education (9:00)

Chapter Meeting (10:00)



The Prez Sez...

Welcome to a bissextile year! A leap year is a calendar year that contains an extra day added to keep the calendar year synchronized with the astronomical or seasonal year.

A year with a bissextile or double day keeps our calendar in sync with the seasons. The time it takes for the earth to orbit the sun (a solar year) is not an exact number of days.

Each 365 day year is **actually** 365.242199 days which is only a difference of about 26 seconds between the real year and the calendar year and that's only one day in 3,323 years. But who's counting?

In 45 BC Julius Caesar was counting. His astronomers discovered that the old calendar was 90 days ahead of the sun. They then adjusted the year to 365.25 days with an extra day added to the month of February every four years to make up for the lost quarter day.

But the Julian calendar was long by eleven minutes and fourteen seconds. As the decades and centuries passed, his calendar became more and more off-kilter. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII fixed the problem by having the calendar jump ahead 10 days whereas October 4, 1582 became October 15, 1582. Thus the Gregorian calendar came to being. Can you even imagine our world today if we just randomly dropped 10 days?

So, without Caesar's installation of the leap year and Pope Gregory's crucial adjustments to it, by about the year 2750, Christmas would occur in June!

Pope G's adjustments set **leap years** to "leap" every year divisible by four. Century years are not leap years unless the year is divisible by 400; which made 2000 a leap year. In a non leap year, any fixed holiday after February, such as Christmas, leaps a day. In a leap year, the holiday occurs two days later.

Leap year stats: Less than 0.07% of the world population was born on February 29 which equals about 4.8 million in the world and about 205,000 in the United States. Chances of being born on leap day = One in 1,461.

If you are wondering how you might make use of your extra day this month... join us in the Discovery Garden on Friday, February 9, 1pm, for a pruning session in the ornamental/shrub gardens. Another session is planned for Monday, February 19, in the rose entry garden which includes hydrangeas.

BIG REMINDER! Sunday February 4 is our "Celebrate 2024" party. We hope to kick off the new year with conviviality and some just plain fun. Please plan on joining us to renew our friendships and get our year off to a great start. Logan is our "Master of Ceremonies" and our guest speaker is our own John Punches, and you earn continuing ed hours towards re-certification.

See you in the garden,
Julie



Swinger Bar Report

Kay Livermore



December 2023 Swinger Bar Report

Members who have swinger bar updates for December:

60 hours: Rebecca Taylor (2022)

100 hours: Terry Christenson

200 hours: Colleen Baida

300 hours: Linda Witbeck

500 hours: Debby Finley

3000 hours: Sharon Hopkins

13,500 hours: Julie Stanbery

December 2023 Swinger Bar Report



I want to thank everyone who worked at the Plant Clinic in January!! 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. Questions for January were diverse including orchard management and pruning, cover crops, lawns, and a few plant and insect identifications. All the questions were challenging and fun to research with our new volunteers.

The Plant Clinic will expand our winter hours for February. We will staff the clinic on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1-4 PM.

Our training for the new class began in October. Class members can still sign up for their initial orientation or to achieve their 24 required hours. Many openings are available. We are lucky to have a great training team this year with Leo Grass, Doralee Hayden, Ken Parry, Diane Smith-Lewsadder, and Chris Rusch.

Douglas County Master Gardeners™ | OSU Extension Service

Spring Into Gardening

Educational Gardening Classes
Saturday, March 9th, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
Registration starts at 8:30
Phoenix Charter School
3131 NE Diamond Lake, Roseburg OR

<p>Keynote- 9:00 am-10:15 am Logan Bennett, Small Farms Program Coordinator: Garden Soil: It's ALL about the soil! Most of us have a vague understanding of what soil is, and how it works. Do you know what makes your garden tick? Come find out!</p> <p>Session 1- 10:30 am-11:45 am A. The Downlow on Dahlias B. Garden Tools and their Maintenance C. Saving Seeds From Tomatoes and Peppers D. Starting your own Container Garden</p> <p>Lunch- 11:45 am-12:45pm: Bring your own</p>	<p>Session 2- 12:45 pm-2:00 pm E. Lively lawns F. Let's talk about Succulents G. Landscaping with Native Plants H. Fruits and Berries: a homeowners guide</p> <p>Session 3- 2:15 pm-3:30 pm I. Grafting Apple Trees (Additional \$15) J. Secrets of Growing Squash and Pumpkins K. The Spice Rack-et L. All About Blochar</p>
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\$25.00 to attend, additional \$15 to register for grafting class
Registration deadline Monday, March 4th, 2024
Registration will be complete with payment
Cancellation policy: No refunds.
The registered participant may invite another person to substitute in their place. Please notify us at 541-672-4461.
To Register go to online: <https://beav.es/iHT>

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by 02/26/2024 to Logan Bennett, 541-236-3015, logan.bennett@oregonstate.edu

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 Chris Rusch.Membership

Membership Kay Livermore

We currently have 198 members. Thank you to all members who have paid 2024 dues. If you have any question about your membership status please contact me.

cell/text: 541-430-2887

email: kay.livmr@gmail.com



How did I find my passion or love of succulents? I'll take a trip back over ten years ago when a friend of mine gave me a bag of succulent cuttings that she had gotten from a friend of hers. I had no idea of what they were or how to plant them, let alone

“what in the world is a succulent?” Where have I been all these years and not heard of the name “succulent”?

I had no greenhouses at that time, only a covered area in my crazy back yard where I did all my stuff. I had really nothing to start with like soil or garden pots. Nothing. While I love plants and at one time had over 40 houseplants, I was now stepping out into a new area of plants that I had no knowledge about. Research, research, research. Can't say enough about that. It was that that got me to the point of finally understanding what I was working with and how to grow them and not kill them. I did that a lot until I did my research. (I still kill some.)

Fast forward to today. I am in awe that my passion has grown this much to the point that I had to get a greenhouse and now have four! With each and every new succulent that I purchase comes the education and learning about it. It is like a new little friend I have that has trusted me to take care of it and watch it grow and develop into a beautiful plant. The surprise I get when they bloom and grow makes my heart happy. Doing something so simple to make me so happy is incredibly awesome.

Do I know everything about succulents? No. But I am eager to learn and share my passion with anyone who wants to learn about succulents. Being a Master Gardener and working on the Eastside gardens is a big blessing for me. I get the wonderful opportunity to share my passion with anyone who wants to learn. Heaven forbid if you ask me about a succulent! Do you have the time? (I heard that Bonnie Durick loves succulents too.)

While I am at home healing, I have some wonderful MG friends who are working on succulents in the Eastside greenhouse. They now have found a passion for them as well, and hopefully someday they will be able to share what they have learned with someone. Hopefully you will find that passion in your garden too, someday.

Until I see you in the garden. (Likely In February)

Treasurer's Report

Dawnetta Loomis

11/28/23-1/9/24

INCOME

Bank Income	\$97.69
Soil Compost	\$94.00
Plant Sale	\$2,071.25
Soil Testing	\$30.00

TOTAL INCOME \$2,292.94

EXPENSES

Grants/Gifts	\$24.00
Administration	\$71.15
Clinic/Office	-\$20.00
Discovery Garden	\$535.28
HLC	\$701.56
Propane	\$1,827.79
Utilities	\$2,828.13
Compost Soil Sifter	\$504.45
Plant Sale	\$1,262.08

TOTAL EXPENSES \$7,734.44

Breakdown of our accounts at 01/09/24

NWCC - Checking	\$605.11
NWCC - Reserve	\$5,014.28
NWCC - MMK Savings	\$66,281.18
NWCC - 6 Month CD	\$17,935.57
Charles Schwab	\$69,854.46

Ending Balance \$159,690.60

Plant Sale

Karin Seder



Our Plant Sale committee chairs met for the first time this year and we are off to a productive start. A couple people on the Plant Sale committee have stepped down and a few chairs are planning to retire from their positions next year. This is your golden opportunity to become involved with the inside

workings of the Plant Sale – our biggest event that funds our Master Gardener programs.

We need help with **publicity** and we need people to shadow the chairs for **transportation** and the **raffle table**. Would you like to know more? Contact Joy or Karin and we will be happy to give you the scoop.

The East and Westside Greenhouses are working on plants for the sale and can always use help – this is an excellent learning experience, and for our new class members, a good way to accumulate pay-back hours. Check the weekly email for any changes, but the WSG currently meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-noon and the ESG meets on Tuesdays from 9-noon.

Other things you can do now to help prepare for the Plant Sale: **collect boxes** – the fruit boxes from Costco are ideal – just the right size, plus they have hand holds for our customers. We also need quality garden-related **raffle items** to fill our raffle table, another source of income from the Plant Sale.

We encourage everyone to participate in the actual sale on **May 4** – this event can only happen with your help. It is a fun, energizing and friendly atmosphere where you can catch up with MG's you may not have seen lately and meet lots of new folks too! And did we mention the crazy hats? Not a contest, just a fun idea that will make us easy to spot at the sale. You may have a decorated hat from years past, or let Karin know if you would like to start with something from her collection.

Dates to put on your calendar are **Thursday, May 2**, for those who will help get the tables and supplies from the Extension Office and the HLC; **Friday, May 3**, to set up

for the sale and **Saturday, May 4**, the date of the sale. We are also planning on having potluck lunch on Friday and Saturday for all MG workers – a real treat!

Sign-ups for the Plant Sale will be available on-line in mid-February. Here is a rough idea of what to expect:

BOXES - Day of sale, pass out boxes to customers. (Saturday)

CASHIER/CHECKER - Take payment from the customers - cash, check or credit card. Need smartphone, preferably one that can link to a “cube” for credit card payment. (Saturday)

CLEAN-UP - Keep tables swept clean of soil. (Friday and Saturday)

CUSTOMER SERVICE - Help place table signs on Friday and be out circulating on the floor helping customers on Saturday. (Friday and Saturday)

FAIRGROUND PLANT SETUP - Help unload plants from the trucks, place in carts or on racks and take to designated tables (Friday) and help load plants into the truck after the sale to return to the greenhouses. (Saturday)

FINAL PICKUP - Area customers can leave purchased plants or other items to do more shopping at the vendor stalls or get their vehicle to load plants. (Saturday)

FOOD MANAGEMENT - Set up for potluck and keep area clean. (Friday and Saturday)

HALL/VENDOR SPACE - Mark floor for vendor locations and assist vendors to locate their spot. (Friday - starts at 7:30 a.m.)

HOLDING - Area where customers can leave their plants in MG sale area to continue shopping before they pay for their plants. (Saturday)

LOAD/UNLOAD AT GREENHOUSES - At the HLC, help bring plants from the greenhouses and load into the big U-Haul trucks we will rent (Friday), then after the sale, help unload unsold plants and put back into greenhouse areas. (Saturday)

RAFFLE - Help setup and organize the items for the raffle (Friday) and sell tickets during the plant sale. (Saturday)

REFERENCE TABLE - Answer plant-related questions. (Saturday)

SECURITY/TRAFFIC CONTROL - Be a presence to be sure people don't leave plant sale area without paying for their plants, help with any traffic control issues. (Some on Friday but mostly Saturday)

TABLE/CHAIR SET/UP AND TAKEDOWN - We have over 100 tables that need to be put up. This team will

put up the tables and chairs (Friday morning) and then after the sale, take them down and stack them on the carts provided (Saturday afternoon)

TRANSPORTATION - This is a 3-day job. On Thursday, all the tables and supplies from the Extension Office and the HLC are loaded into trucks and trailers. Friday, all these supplies are taken to the Fairgrounds and setup begins. U-Haul trucks will be driven to the HLC to load plants and driven to the Fairgrounds with as many trips as necessary. Saturday, returning plants and supplies to their appropriate spot after the sale.

WHEREVER NEEDED - If you don't know what you would like to do, sign up here for Friday and/or Saturday. We will put you to work wherever needed and will probably use you to help with lunch breaks for the workers in a variety of positions.

If you have any questions, please give us a call or text – we'd love to hear from you!

Joy (970-560-6446) or Karin (707-322-6672)



Pavilion Series Lenore Drake



The first three classes scheduled for this year's Pavilion Series at the Discovery Garden are on starting tomatoes and peppers. The classes will be taught by MG Bruce Gravens. These are hands-on classes and attendees will be taking home their work.

Dates:

February 15th: Pepper seeding

March 21st: Starting tomatoes from seed

April 18th: Up-potting both tomatoes and peppers

Douglas County Master
Gardener™ Association

Plant & Garden Expo
Saturday, May 4, 2024
9 am - 4pm

Douglas County Fairgrounds
Roseburg, Oregon
(Exit 123 from I-5)

Thousands of annuals, perennials,
grasses, trees, native & pollinator plants
grown by Master Gardeners

60+ Vendors | Drawings for Great Prizes
Garden Supplies | Yard & Garden Art

Master Gardeners available to answer
your gardening questions!

Admission is \$3
(Children under 12 get in free)
Certified service animals only

Cash, checks, & cards accepted

In support of the OSU Extension Master Gardener™ Program





Ask The Tool Man Alley

I suspect I'm pushing the envelope, but Spring is just around the corner. Our Spring Into Gardening Program flyer has been mailed and I'm already receiving inquiries from customers asking if I'm ready to repair, clean, refinish and sharpen their garden tools. Late winter is a good time to complete many of your tool maintenance tasks.

As we start looking at our garden and yard tools, replacing or refinishing wood handles is a common task, as you would expect. One of the most common questions I receive this time of the year is **“What kind of finish do you use on garden and yard tools that have wood handles?”** This is really a cumulated question and very lengthy answer. There are so many finish products on the market and what type of finish you can use depends on the item you are refinishing. Since I'm limiting this article to refinishing the garden and yard tools that have wood handles, it greatly reduces the finishing solution as well as the types of finishing products I use. The only other factor we have to consider is the condition of your wood handle. Is it a new handle, directly from the store? Is it an older handle in need of major restoration? Maybe it is a handle that is in good condition and simply needs to be cleaned and resealed?

I have restored and finished many garden and yard tools and even restored and refinished antiques furniture pieces, so I have substantial knowledge of refinishing products and their applications. **For garden and yard tool handles, I use only two finishing products: Boiled Linseed Oil to re-store the wood handle and Polyurethane for the finish.** Before you purchase any polyurethane products, it is important you purchase polyurethane that is: 1, for exterior use; 2, is oil based; and 3, is the type of finish you want - Clear Gloss, Satin, Warm Satin and Warm Gloss. Carefully read the label. It can be very confusing. Do not use polyurethane that is for interior use only, or water-based polyurethane. The type of finish is your choice, but I prefer Warm Gloss. Oil based polyurethane is for exterior use and after applied in several coats, provides excellent wood handle protection from moisture, dirt,



grime and bruises and dents to the wood. This photo illustrates Klean-Strip Boiled Linseed Oil and two types of Minwax Polyurethane finishes that I use. Left to right:

1. Klean-Strip Boiled Linseed Oil. Produced from flax seed. Use to develop the richness of unfinished wood and increase its resistance to water and scratches. It produces a nice rich brown color. It can be mixed with turpentine to provide deeper penetration into wood.
2. MINWAX interior/outdoor Helmsman “spar urethane” is specifically for exterior use. Contains UV blocker to reduce the sun’s graying and fading effect, and forms a protective barrier against rain and moisture. Special oils allow the finish to expand and contract with the wood as seasons and temperatures change. The product takes four to five hours to dry.
3. Premium Oil MINWAX Fast-Drying Wipe-On Polyurethane is a clear, oil based, durable protective finish. This product is good for applying finish in hard-to-reach areas and requires multiple light applications. It will provide a smooth application. Provides a natural hand rubbed look. Apply at least two to three coats with a cotton cloth. Do not use old towels. They tend to have too much lint. Old T-shirts work best. This project requires three to four hours to dry.

Between the two: MINWAX, Fast Drying and Helmsman spar, the Helmsman, is my preferred Polyurethane because it is specifically for indoor and outdoor use. The disadvantage is not the product but the size of the container - 32 oz. size. The Fast-Drying product comes in an 8 oz. can. I have found from experience that the 32 oz. polyurethane over time tends to get too thick at the bottom of the can. The larger 32 oz. Helmsman does the same thing, but to a greater extent. It is also important that both products should be stirred prior to use, not shaken. Shaking the can will cause bubbles to

form in the can and then transferring them to your wood handle as you apply the finish.

The photo below illustrates three small garden spades I recently refinished. The first two shovels were sanded, removing all of the old finish. This process was accomplished by using an orbital sander, using a progression of 60wt-120wt-220wt sandpaper. The third shovel was simply cleaned with soap and water. All three have been refinished with Boiled Linseed oil and Polyurethane, but each received a different application process based on the condition of the handle.



Handle No 1: (Left shovel) This handle was old, left outside and not maintained. The wood was dry, brittle and had lots of long and deep cracks. This example illustrates the value of Boiled linseed Oil. The handle desperately needed moisture back in the oak handle. To accomplish this task, I mixed Boiled Linseed Oil and Turpentine (1:1) and generously applied four coats, with a cotton cloth, each separated by two hours at room temperature. This handle required six coats of the fast-drying polyurethane (can) because of the deep cracks. After each coat finished drying, I lightly buffed with No 00 Steel Wool. The last step is to apply a coat of fine furniture oil. Finishing with the furniture oil gives a nice smooth waterproof barrier.

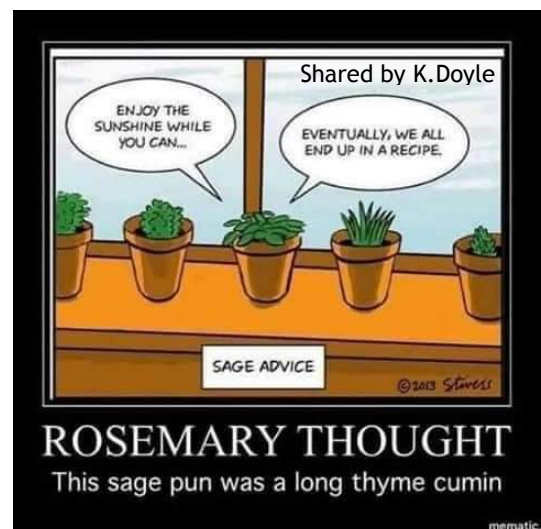
Handle No 2: (Middle shovel) This handle was in average condition, had not been refinished, but it had been stored inside. I sanded down the handle, then applied only two coats of Boiled Linseed Oil and allowed it to dry at room temperature, just as I did for Handle No 1. For this handle I applied six coats of fast-

drying polyurethane (can). After each finish coat is dry, I lightly buffed with No 00 Steel Wool. The last step is to apply a coat of fine furniture oil.

Handle No 3: (Right shovel) This shovel was given to me just last week. I told the donor that it was a special stainless steel flower spade, which I rarely find. It is a shovel that most gardeners love to have, and it is their go-to shovel when harvesting small vegetables, carrots, onions, beets, etc. I carefully restored the shovel and plan to give it back to him and his wife. I suspect they will not recognize it. This shovel was found under their newly purchased house. The edges of the blade were rusted, but not enough that I could not clean, grind, and polish the entire stainless shovel. The oak handle was in remarkable condition. The handle only had to be scrubbed with a green scouring pad with Ajax. I sanded it with 220 wt. sandpaper and buffed it with No: 00 Steel wool. The handle was a hard smooth, tight grained oak, which I applied a one-to-one mix of Turpentine and Boiled Linseed Oil and two coats of fast-drying polyurethane (can). The last step again was to apply a coat of fine furniture oil.

After refinishing the three shovel handles, they all came out beautifully. It wasn't difficult to see the difference between the dried out cracked handle from the almost new handle. The key is preparation of the handle and numerous coats of Boiled Linseed Oil.

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



Growing Tomatoes in Iceland Lenore Drake

With an increasing world population, currently 8.1 billion up from 7.8 billion in 2020 (United Nations & US Census Bureau) and the limitations on some of our natural resources, it seems it is time to explore how we can better use our natural resources to produce larger amounts of food. In natural resources there are renewable energy resources that replenish naturally, like sunlight, wind and geothermal energy (heat produced deep within the earth's core). Natural gas, oil, and water are examples of non-renewable energy sources - water being the most consumed resource. Water is needed for drinking, agriculture, cooking and many industrial processes. On a recent trip to Iceland, my tour group visited Fridheimar Farm where they use geothermal energy to produce 370 tons of tomatoes annually.

Fridheimar Farm is a family owned and operated farm, one of the most famous greenhouse farms in the country. The farm is located in Iceland's Golden Circle - an area with key historical and geological attractions. The farm is powered by geothermal energy and produces 370 tons of vine-ripe tomatoes annually. I was very impressed with what they could accomplish using the natural resources available to them.

Iceland's harsh climate, long winters and poor soil make it difficult to grow fresh produce. The Fridheimar Farm, utilizing UV lights in greenhouses and geothermal energy, are able to produce the 370 ton annual crop of tomatoes. Icelanders are now able to enjoy tomatoes, cucumbers and basil year around.



There are eight greenhouses heated with geothermal energy. Each greenhouse has a control computer that controls temperature, humidity, carbonation and lighting. There is a connected fertilizer blender that liquefies to a specific specification. A weather station on the roof provides information of wind direction, temperature and light. All of this connects to the mainframe which is connected to the Internet and can be accessed and monitored from anywhere so adjustments can be made if necessary.

Bees are brought in for pollination.



In the greenhouse, the tomato plants are planted under a sheet of wood in about 6 to 8 inches of soil. They are fed through a hole in the wood (see picture).

A restaurant has been opened on the farm and tomatoes are an ingredient in nearly everything on the menu - tomato soup, beer, and even tomato ice cream. A dessert from the menu: *"Home made tomato ice cream with our delicious dessert sauces. One made from green tomatoes and vanilla and the other one made from piccolo tomatoes and strawberries."*

The owners, Knutue and Helena, have made many educational trips to neighboring countries to study cultivation methods, build relationships and acquire knowledge. They have won many awards for their work.

The World Hasn't Seen Cicadas Like This Since 1803

Aimee Ortiz, [New York Times](#)

Shared by Diane Smith-Lewsadder



Brood XIX and Brood XIII will both emerge this spring. The last time these bugs showed up at the same time in the United States, Thomas Jefferson was president.

The cicadas are coming — and if you're in the Midwest or the Southeast, they will be more plentiful than ever.

Or at least since the Louisiana Purchase.

This spring, for the first time since 1803, two cicada groups known as Brood XIX, or the Great Southern Brood, and Brood XIII, or the Northern Illinois Brood, are set to appear at the same time, in what is known as a dual emergence.

The last time the Northern Illinois Brood's 17-year cycle aligned with the Great Southern Brood's 13-year period, Thomas Jefferson was president. After this spring, it'll be another 221 years before the broods, which are geographically adjacent, appear together again.

"Nobody alive today will see it happen again," said Floyd W. Shockley, an entomologist and collections manager at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. "That's really rather humbling."

These insects will begin to appear in late April. They'll use their forelegs to tunnel out from the earth, their beady red eyes looking for a spot where they can peacefully finish maturing. A few days after they emerge and molt, the males will start buzzing in an effort to find a mate, a slow-building crescendo of noise that in a chorus can be louder than a plane.

Dr. Shockley said the dual emergence would most likely result in more than one trillion cicadas appearing in the roughly 16-state area where the two broods are generally seen. Forested areas, including urban green spaces, will have higher numbers than will agricultural regions. To put that into perspective, one trillion cicadas, each of which are just over an inch long, would cover 15,782,828 miles if they were laid end-to-end. "That cicada train would reach to the moon and back 33 times," he said.

One of the more exciting aspects of this dual emergence, Dr. Shockley said, lies in the possibility of interbreeding along the narrow band in northern Illinois where the two broods will overlap.

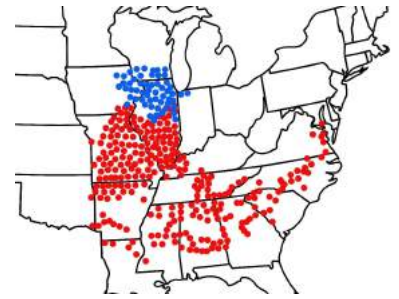
"Under just the right circumstances and with just the right number of individuals cross breeding," he said, "you have the possibility of the creation of a new brood set to a new cycle. This is an extremely rare event."

In most cases, Dr. Shockley said, the cicadas, which live about a month, will die not far from where they had emerged. But since they're "not great flyers and even worse landers," cicadas often end up on sidewalks and city streets, where they can be squished by people or cars and "could conceivably make things slick."

"In urban areas, there will be sufficient numbers to necessitate removal of their bodies," he said. "But rather than throwing in the trash or cleaning up with street sweepers, people should consider them basically free fertilizer for the plants in their gardens and natural areas."

According to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, during a 1990 cicada emergence, "there were reports from people in Chicago having to use snow shovels to clear their sidewalks of the dead cicadas."

The first wave of periodical cicadas, which differ from those that appear annually in smaller numbers, will show up in northern Louisiana, southern Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, northern Georgia, and up into western South Carolina, said Gene Kritsky, a retired professor of biology at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, and the author of several books on cicadas, including "A Tale of Two Broods," which was published this month.



Then it'll be central North Carolina, eastern Tennessee and northern Arkansas, followed by southern Missouri, southern Illinois and western Kentucky. Finally, he said, the cicadas will appear throughout central and northern Missouri and Illinois, northwestern Indiana, southern Wisconsin and eastern Iowa.

All told, these areas will be buzzing for about six weeks as the insects fly around looking to mate and deposit their eggs into slits they cut into tree branches. Then they'll die, bringing with them an unforgettable smell, described by Dr. Shockley as similar to rotting nuts, as their bodies decay.

The insects are clumsy fliers, making them easy prey for predators like birds. They don't bite, sting or carry any diseases, and they serve as natural tree gardeners.

The holes they leave behind help aerate the soil and allow for rainwater to get underground and nourish tree roots in hot summer months. The slits they make in trees can cause some branches to break, and the leaves then turn brown in a process known as "flagging." But it's like a natural pruning, and when the tree grows the branch again, the fruit will be larger. The cicadas' rotting bodies provide nutrients that trees need.

"They're very important to the ecosystem in the eastern deciduous forest," Professor Kritsky said, referring to the forest ecosystem in the eastern half of the country.

John R. Cooley, a biology professor at the University of Connecticut, said his best advice for people living in the regions of the dual emergence is to let the bugs be.

“The forest is where they live,” he said. “They are a part of the forest. Don’t try to kill them. Don’t try to spray insecticide, all that kind of thing. That’s just going to end badly because there are more than you could possibly kill with insecticide, you’d end up killing everything.”

If you have delicate plants you want to protect, Professor Cooley said, use special netting created for that purpose.

While the prospect of the trillion cicadas that the dual emergence is expected to bring might sound horrifying to some, Dr. Shockley emphasized the awe of this rare natural event.

“Don’t be scared of it, embrace it for the wondrous event that it is and embrace the fact that it’s very temporary,” he said. “It will be intense, but short-lived.”

(Photo & map by Gene Kritsky, Mount St. Joseph University)

FEBRUARY GARDEN CALENDAR



- Tune-up lawn mower and garden equipment before the busy season begins.
- Have soil tested to determine its nutrient needs. For more information, contact your local Extension office for a list of testing laboratories or view Laboratories Serving Oregon: Soil, Water, Plant Tissue, and Feed Analysis (EM 8677).
- Select and store healthy scion wood for grafting fruit and nut trees. Wrap in a damp cloth and place in a plastic bag. Store in a cool place.
- Plan an herb bed for cooking and creating an interesting landscape. For example, choose parsley, sage, chives, and lavender. Choose a sunny spot and plant seeds or transplants once the danger of frost has passed (late-April or early-May in the Willamette Valley and central coast; June or July in eastern and central Oregon).
- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers to your flowering landscape this spring. Try some drought-tolerant perennials to save money.
- Repair winter damage to trees and shrubs.
- Make a cold frame or hotbed to start early vegetables or flowers.
- Fertilize rhubarb with manure or a complete fertilizer.

- Incorporate cover crops or other organic matter into soil.
- Prune and train grapes; make cuttings.
- Prune fruit trees and blueberries.
- Prune deciduous summer-blooming shrubs and trees; wait until April in high elevations of eastern and central Oregon.
- Prune and train trailing blackberries (if not done the prior August); prune back raspberries.
- Prune fall-bearing raspberries (in late-February or early-March).
- Prune clematis, Virginia creeper, and other vining ornamentals.
- Plant windowsill container garden of herbs like chives, cilantro and parsley.
- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers this spring: astilbe, candytuft, peony and anemone.
- Good time to plant fruit trees and deciduous shrubs. Replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with resistant cultivars.
- Plant asparagus if the ground is warm enough.
- Plant seed flats of cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and Brussels sprouts), indoors or in a greenhouse. Where soil is dry enough and workable, plant garden peas and sweet peas. Suggested varieties of garden peas include Corvallis, Dark Green Perfection, Green Arrow, Oregon Sugar Pod, Snappy, Knight, Sugar Snap, Oregon Trail and Oregon Sugar Pods.
- Good time to plant new roses.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Use delayed-dormant sprays of lime sulfur for fruit and deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose, bacterial canker of stone fruit and Eastern filbert blight. Sterilize tools before each new cut.
- Control moles and gophers with traps.
- Elm leaf beetles and box-elder bugs are emerging from hibernation and may be seen indoors. They are not harmful but can be a nuisance. Remove them with a vacuum or broom and dustpan.
- Monitor for European crane fly and treat lawns if damage has been verified.
- Make your own potting soil for starting seedlings in pots or flats or use clean sterile commercial mixes.

Diana Woodward shares this abbreviated article by Janet Lehrke from *USA Today*, published November 16, 2023,. She says this is now her favorite spider because it eats flies, mosquitos and STINK BUGS! It may even find itself in Oregon one of these days...

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Invasive Joro Spiders Are Weaving Their Web Across the US: What to Know About the Arachnid



Photo: Jose Romero, Univ. Georgia

According to new research, the massive invasive Joro spiders are spreading throughout the U.S. and are not likely to go away anytime soon.

They were first spotted in the U.S. in Georgia from 2013 to 2014, and their population has flourished since then

throughout the state and in other parts of the Southeast.

Researchers at Clemson University published a study on Joro spiders, concluding that the species is spreading rapidly beyond South Carolina, and data shows they could inhabit most of the eastern U.S.

Here's what we know of Joro spiders:

How big is the Joro spider?

Joro spiders belong to a large spider species known as golden silk orb-weavers. They spin oversized webs of gold-colored silk, which is similar to the U.S. native golden silk spider, also known as the banana spider, found in the Southeast.

Adult females have legs about 3 inches long, which gives them a span of 6 to 8 inches if their legs are extended.

The female Joro spiders are huge, as big as your palm, but don't let their size scare you. They're venomous but shy, and they don't pose a threat to people because their venom is weak and their tiny fangs can't easily pierce human skin.

Hudson said the female's abdomen will usually be full of eggs, so it will be about the size of your thumb. Underneath, the spider has a black and gold checkerboard pattern with red splotches.

What do Joro spiders eat?

Joros eat bees and the usual garden pests, such as ants, flies, mosquitoes and stink bugs. Larger Orb-web Weavers spiders have been known to prey on other creatures, such as centipedes, lizards and even small birds like hummingbirds, which can be trapped in their webs.

Joro spiders don't appear to cause problems in the local food sources of other animals or local ecosystems, Hudson said. They may even be a food source for birds.

Is the Joro spider poisonous?

The spiders secrete venom, but they don't bite unless they're cornered. Their bites are similar to bee stings and could produce localized pain and redness around the bite area.

Where did Joro spiders come from?

Joro spiders are native to Asia. They prefer tropical and subtropical regions of the world.

Where are Joro spiders in the US now?

There is no clear answer for how Joros came to the U.S., though they probably arrived in shipping containers. In nearly 10 years, the species has rapidly spread across Georgia and other parts of the Southeast.

According to [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org), Joro spiders reside mainly in Georgia but have migrated to neighboring states. They've been spotted in South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee, with reports of the spider in Alabama, Oklahoma, West Virginia and Maryland.

David Coyle, a scientist and professor at Clemson, had one major takeaway from the results of the study: "These things are here to stay."

DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Chapter Meeting, Annex
January 25, 2024

Continuing Education: VRS Virtual Reporting System update presented by "RJ" Richard Jacobs from OSU

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:10. There were 44 in attendance, including President Julie Stanbery, Past President Nancy Fuller, Vice-President Andrea Collins, Membership Kay Livermore, 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: She is amazed how much moss there is everywhere, and can't wait to get rid of it!

Membership - Kay Livermore: We now have 190 members and dues are still coming in. If you haven't paid for 2024, see her after the meeting.

OMGA - Patrice Sipos:

Patrice is on the Joy of Gardening Planning Committee which met January 16. Here are some items discussed:

- For registration, now attendees have the option to pay for only one day if desired - \$60 for one day, \$80 for the full conference.
- For the Silent Auction, each chapter is responsible to deliver about 10 items worth a total of \$350. They also discussed each chapter creating "Spirit Poles" or "Peace Poles" for the auction, something used at the International MG Conference last summer. These are 6'X4"X4" poles,



decorated in a garden theme by each chapter, which can be used as garden decor.

- Garden tours as well as a tentative list of speakers were also discussed.

Treasurer - Dawnetta Loomis: Not present - her report:

- If you shop at Fred Meyer (FM) and have a loyalty card, please consider going online and making Douglas County Master Gardeners your charity of choice. If you do not shop at FM, please start shopping at FM and get a loyalty card. For every dollar spent, FM will send a small percentage to us each quarter. Nothing will come directly out of your pocket or purse. We have the plant sales for that. Instructions on how to sign up have been in the last 2 newsletters.
- Monies are already coming in for vendors space rentals at the Plant Sale. It is going to be another great event again this year. I hope to see you all there.
- Any outstanding expense forms, put in her box in the Plant Clinic to be picked up today.

Julie Stanbery: We made use of a winter special at John Deere to get the lawnmower serviced. Unfortunately, the mower had other issues for repair, resulting in a bill of \$1,006.70. We only have \$1,300 in the HLC account. **Patrice Sipos made a motion to pay \$1,006.70 for the lawnmower repair as an off-budget expense. Joy Keeling seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approving the motion.**

Vice-President - Andrea Collins: We had a good training on VRS time reporting this morning by RJ Jacobs by Zoom. She does have some plans for upcoming Continuing Ed, so will let us know either in the Newsletter or by email soon.

President - Julie Stanbery:

- She received a nice letter from Julie Lowe of Umpqua Watersheds thanking DCMG for our help and the loan of our tools for the recent MLK Service Day. Kudos to everyone who participated and to Fred Alley for supplying the tools. We also had nice coverage of the event in the News-Review.
- The doors coming up the back stairs, side doors and the two inside auditorium doors will be locked when the auditorium is not in use. To access the room, get a key from the office.

MG Program Coordinator - Logan Bennett:

- Logan is officially now our permanent Master Gardeners Coordinator.
- Spring Into Gardening is now live online to sign up for classes. If you want to volunteer, see Chris Rusch or Logan.
- February 15, 10:00-Noon, will be our first monthly Pavilion Series class this year with Bruce Gravens presenting on starting peppers from seed. These classes are free to the public.
- February 4 is our "Celebration 2024" party at Sutherlin Community Center, 1:00-4:00. John Panches will give a virtual tour of one of his projects which counts for CE credit. This will be a potluck with finger foods, and an opportunity to reconnect with fellow MG's.
- For Small Farms, there will be a class on beekeeping February 10, 10:00-1:00. Bring a sack lunch.
- There was a question about what counts for Continuing Education (CE) as far as trainees go? If you are a trainee, you need a total of 60 hours of payback - CE does not count toward those 60 hours, but does count for cumulative and swinger bar hours, and for recertification for next year. If you are doing the work at a workshop (such as pruning), that counts for volunteer hours. If you are only listening to the instructor, that counts toward CE
- VRS hours won't start immediately, but you can start using the program. You will still need to turn in a hard copy as well until we're fully using the system. Logan will have a workshop the end of February again. If you run into issues, document them. We will have admins to enter inputs for you if you can't access the VRS program or have trouble using it - let Kay Livermore know.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Black Apparel - Andrea Collins: Andrea checked with Prints Charming, and the prices remain the same as last time we had a sale. The deadline to order will be the end of March. Order forms will be emailed out. You can place your payment with the form in the Plant Clinic locked drawer.

Blue Bags - Dawn Shumack: So far this month, we have had 12 bags turned in.

Community Outreach - Cheryl Caplan:

- Cheryl is moving soon to Longview, Washington. and needs someone to replace her who is certified for 2024. Contact Dawn or Julie if interested in being co-chair for Community Outreach as well as Publicity.
- Request from Fullerton IV Elementary School for a tour of the Discovery Garden for 3 classes of third graders. Dawn Shumack will coordinate with the teacher.

Discovery Garden - Julie Stanbery:



WSG corner protection for water valve upgrade, thanks to Steve Hart.

(Photos by Julie Stanbery)

- Pruning classes: - Friday, February 9, for ornamentals and Monday, February 19, for the rose garden/ hydrangeas. Both classes are 1:00-4:00.



- Julie shared the excellent brochure created by Rebecca Taylor on the Butterfly Garden for children. She asked MG's to consider how we want to use them.
- The Discovery Garden is on the League of Women Voters garden tour this year. Do we want to put together a brochure to hand out? Discussion ensued. It was generally felt that that would probably not be worthwhile as the garden has signs with QR codes already. Carolyn Ruzicka asked if the Victory Garden was part of the tour, and it could be, but they will need to have MG's there to guide visitors through it.

Facebook - Barbara Horst: Not present - her report:

Facebook Report for the last 28 days:

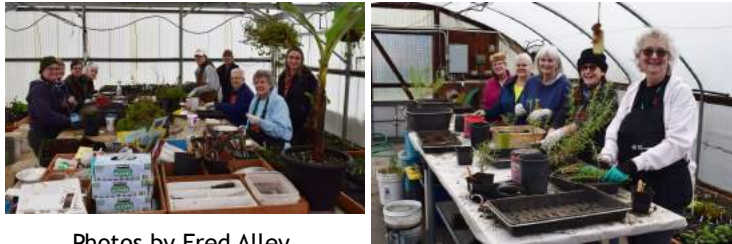
We have 2,690 followers including 15 new ones.

Our posts have reached 4,569 people and engaged 575 people.

The most popular posts have been:

- Vendors for the plant sale - 2,908
- Spring into Gardening - 2,113
- Fred's photos of the ginkgo tree and the Japanese gong - 2,270

Greenhouse West - Joy Keeling: She appreciated all the people who have been working Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is still a lot of work to do. If out at the greenhouses alone and you see lights on or hear strange noises, call Carol Bolt.



Photos by Fred Alley

Greenhouse East - Bruce Gravens: Not present - his report:

I am so grateful for the hard working crews that have been working every Tuesday to get ready for our major fundraiser, the annual Plant Sale.



Our plants are all weeded, root pruned, and trimmed. Our heat bed is packed with starts for our 2025 Plant Sale. We have set out over 1000 cuttings to support the Umpqua Native Plant Partnership. Thank you all!

Our weeds are begging for a break! So we will take next Tuesday off to make it more of a fair fight. See you in two weeks.

Hallmark - Dawn Shumack:

January cards went to:

- Ann Severson - surgery
- Larry Rich - hospitalization
- Ted Benice - surgery

Email sent to all MG's notifying them of MG Aaron Williams passing January 2.

Newsletter - Bonnie Courter: Submissions to the Newsletter are due Saturday, January 27.

Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch:

We are still training the new students. Yesterday we had 5 people working there at one time which is too many. We need to limit it to 4 people including the advisor. This month, the clinic is open Mondays and Wednesdays. In February we will add Fridays. There are still a lot of blanks in the schedule for February. We had 30 contacts in January so far. In April we will start 5 days a week.

Plant Sale - Joy Keeling/Karin Seder: We will need signups, though we're not online yet. Also we need boxes from Costco and quality garden-related items for the raffle tables. Monthly meetings for committee chairs will be the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00, and will be on Zoom as well. Position replacements are needed for transportation, raffle table, cleanup, and publicity. This year we are bringing back the wearing of hats - no contest involved - and hats don't need to be a garden theme. It's just a way to have fun and identify us as MG's at the sale.

Publicity - Cheryl Caplan: She is starting a Plant Sale flyer, and Spring Into Gardening and Trash to Treasure publicity will start going out. She also needs someone to replace her for publicity.

Soils - Gloria Cettina: Soil sampling is still on hold due to chemicals on backorder - maybe the end of the month.

Spring Into Gardening - Chris Rusch: Registration is now open. This year there will be 4 classes per session offered. Keynote speaker is Logan on garden soil. It will be March 9 at Phoenix School. Bring your own lunch. The grafting class will be limited to 15, but Logan will give a class on that later on as well.

Swinger Bars - Kay Livermore:

December 2023 Swinger Bar Report:

60 hours: Rebecca Taylor (2022)
100 hours: Terry Christenson
200 hours: Colleen Baida
300 hours: Linda Witbeck
500 hours: Debby Finley
3000 hours: Sharon Hopkins
13,500 hours: Julie Stanbery

Victory Garden - Carolyn Ruzicka: The garden is still “sleeping”. We have a co-chair now - Beth Brandon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

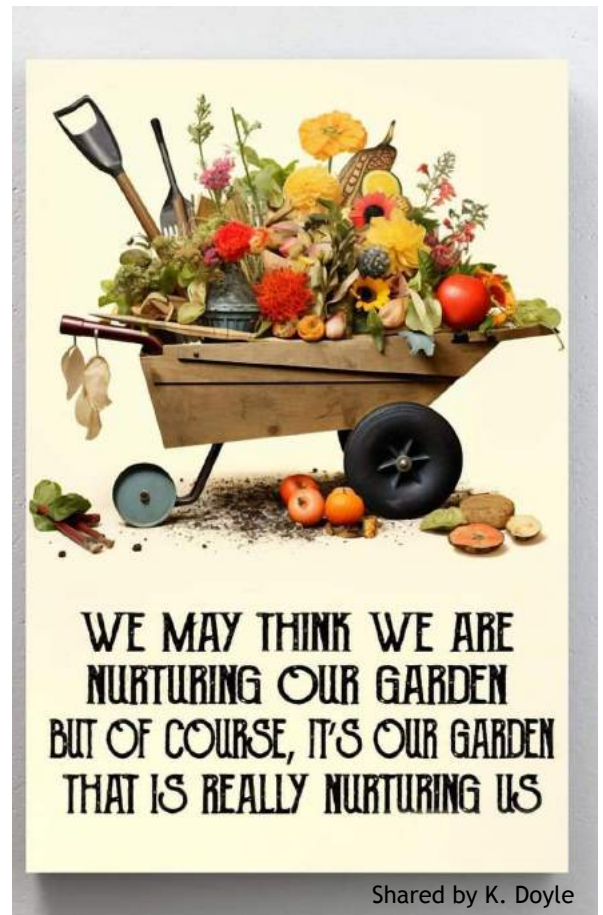
- Executive Board Meeting, 10:00, February 14, at the Courthouse, Room 310
- Julie: Alicia Christensen has a newsletter called “Canopy View News” that Julie finds very interesting and informative, and worth checking out.
- Jeff Puryear: The Herb Garden needs work - some cleaning up to do. Contact Jeff if interested. He also brought some heirloom seeds to give away.
- Ann Severson has a few black hats and aprons to give away.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Courter, Secretary



Fred's Fav's



Douglas County Master Gardeners

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

Website: www.douglascountymg.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/douglascountymgs

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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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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