1992

Gardening seminar coming up at RCC

Irrigation, landscaping among topics

The Josephine County Master Gardeners Association, in cooperation with the Josephine County office of the Oregon State University Extension Service and Rogue Community College will conduct a regional gardening seminar March 14 on the RCC campus.

A wide range of topics in gardening and landscaping will be covered in the upcoming all-day seminar which will focus on the unique climate and soil conditions of the area. Topics include irrigation, lawns, pests, home landscapes, greenhouses, trees, rock gardens, soils, organic gardening, grafting, shrubs, berries, fruit trees, pruning, herbs, grapes, waterfalls and garden ponds.

Instructors and classes scheduled are as follows:

■ Don Argenbright will draw on years of experience designing and installing irrigation systems to show ways to save water and work while growing healthier plants.

■ Rene M. Pare, a professional landscaper, will share landscaping ideas for the yard and address landscaping problems.

■ Steve Siegel, a horticulturist and landscaper, will present a program on growing greener, healthier lawns with minimal work.

■ David James, a gardening columnist, horticulturist and director of Greenleaf Industries, will demonstrate how to build and utilize a home greenhouse.

■ Martin Seybold, operations manager for the City of Grants Pass, will discuss how to plant the right tree in the right place, while addressing health, safety and environmental needs.

■ Rita Spencer, a Master Gardener, will present design concepts, construction tips and advice on plant selections and soil mixes for rock gardens set in a natural landscape.

■ George Tiger, an OSU extension agent, will teach a short course on bugs and weeds common to the area, with hints on how to control them using organic and safe chemical methods.

■ Monique Slipher, a horticulturist and nursery worker, will discuss perennial flowers for the home garden and landscape.

■ Jeanne Schattler, a horticulturist, will demonstrate the basics of grafting with a hands-on course. Participants will need need to bring a sharp knife and pruners; root stock and scions will be furnished so that students will learn to create their own dwarf apple tree.

■ Max Cain, a Master Gardener, will give a short course on the selection, growing and care of grape varieties specific to Southern Oregon.

■ Lindell Perkins, a Master Gardener who has 30 years experience with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will address soil problems and solutions.

■ Mike Gallagher, who has spent a lifetime in organic farming, will discuss the health benefits of organically grown food.

■ Rob Tanzer, a horticulturist and nursery worker, will demonstrate how to grow shrubs, cane berries and fruit trees as well how to prune and train them.

■ Mark Nelson, a landscaper, will demonstrate how to build and manage waterfalls, mini ponds and small water gardens.

■ Mike Erby, a produce farmer, will offer tips on growing vegetables.

■ Jim Becker, an herbalist, will show how to raise culinary herbs outside in the garden or inside on a kitchen window sill.

The cost of the seminar is $5 per session or $20 for the entire day.

Participants need to sign-in at 8 a.m. in the RCC cafeteria; classes start at 9 a.m.

Advance registration is necessary. Registration forms are available at local nurseries, garden centers and the Extension Service office, 215 Ringuette St. For details, phone 476-6613.

Grants Pass Daily Courier
03/05/92

■ **GARDEN COLUMNIST WILL HELP GREEN-THUMB CROWD PLAN.** David James, horticulturist, gardening columnist and greenhouse manager, will talk about planning this year's garden and ordering seed from catalogs when the Master Gardeners meet Wednesday. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the Oregon State University Extension Office, 215 Ringuette St.

Grants Pass Daily Courier
01/13/92

■ **LET MASTER GARDENERS ANSWER PLANT QUESTIONS.** The Josephine County office of the Oregon State University Extension Service will have volunteer Master Gardeners available to help with home gardening questions throughout the gardening season. The Master Gardeners also staff a plant clinic at the local office, 215 Ringuette St. Master Gardeners are volunteers who have completed 60 hours of training through the OSU Extension Service. Gardeners and local residents can come into the office with strange insects or sick plants between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday, or phone 476-6613.

Grants Pass Daily Courier
03/26/92

■ **GARDENERS TO LOOK AT POISONOUS PLANTS.** Poisonous plants in the home and garden will be discussed by Nealon Henderson, a local pharmacist, at the next meeting of the Josephine Master Gardeners. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Extension office, 215 Ringuette St.

Grants Pass Daily Courier
06/16/92

■ **MASTER GARDENERS' HOURS TRIMMED BACK FOR OCTOBER.** The Josephine County Oregon State University Extension Office will reduce the hours of the Master Gardener Plant Clinic through October. Master Gardeners will be on duty from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday to answer home gardening questions. The volunteers handle plant and insect identification, diagnose plant problems and have information on various yard and garden subjects, including lawn care, mole and gopher control, composting and harvest times and storage of garden produce. Volunteer Master Food Preservers also are available in the office to answer questions on canning, freezing and drying during the harvest and hunting season. The extension office is located at 215 Ringuette St. Phone 476-6613 for further information.

Grants Pass Daily Courier
10/03/92

■ **MASTER GARDENER GIVES LOWDOWN ON ROCK GARDENS.** "Design Concepts, Plant Selection and Soil Mixes for Rock Gardens" will be presented by master gardener Rita Spencer at the Wednesday meeting of the Grants Pass Garden Club. The group meets at noon in the Women's Club Auditorium. There also will be a salad luncheon honoring Hildagard Von Fuchs, the group's district director.

Grants Pass Daily Courier
10/03/92

TAMMY ASNICAR/Daily Courier

Leonie Corbeth explains plan to fellow gardeners Don Ness, left, and Jim Smith.

Master Gardeners, teens landscape Inn Between

Growers pass lore and enthusiasm to new generation

By Tammy Asnicar
of the Daily Courier

The grounds at the Inn Between were once a jungle of weeds and grass where forgotten patches of dormant flowers and a potpourri of improperly planted flowering shrubs grew.

In recent months, though, the grounds outside the juvenile shelter have been pruned and transformed into a lovely, landscaped yard at the hands of the Josephine County Master Gardeners Association and a band of teens eager to learn more about gardening.

Earlier this spring, the Master Gardeners, armed with pruning shears, hoes, rakes, seedlings, vegetable starts, and other gardening tools, recruited troubled teens at the residential facility, Fourth and D streets.

Their hard work has resulted in raised flower and vegetable beds, a miniature garden for hot-weather crops, a cold frame for seedlings, redwood flower boxes, a herb and rock garden and birdhouses. Trees and shrubs have been transplanted and/or pruned.

Though several organizations, agencies and churches reach out to the youths at the Inn Between, it's the first time a community organization has taken on such large-scale project there, said Brian Burgess, executive director of the facility.

Also, 15 area merchants have donated materials, supplies and plants to the project, said Leonie Corbeth, a Master Gardener and one of the driving forces behind the project.

Though the Master Gardeners have done the bulk of the work, the teens have been involved every step of the way, said Corbeth, and are responsible for the day-to-day maintenance.

In addition to the landscaping project, there are other ongoing, hands-on projects and gardening-related workshops at the facility.

"Sitting in a classroom learning about gardening from a book isn't really going to turn a kid on," said Leonie Corbeth. "This teaches them something and gets them interested."

"And, not all (the teens) are allowed outside," she said. "This has become kind of a challenge for them."

According to Jim Smith, president of Master Gardeners, the group's other community service projects include a regional gardening seminar, "Paint Your Heart Out," a year-round plant clinic, a half-acre community garden and Master Gardener classes.

This weekend, the Master Gardeners Association will hold its 14th annual Spring Garden Fair from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at the 4-H Activity Center, 215 Ringuette St.

The event will feature exhibits and demonstrations on native plants, plant propagation, grafting, small-woodlot management, poisonous plants, mushrooms, moles and gophers, food preserving and other gardening-related topics.

Admission and parking are free. A free shuttle will run between the garden fair and the home show at the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

Grants Pass Daily Courier
04/23/92

The master of all Master Gardeners

Helen Bell loves to turn brown thumbs to green ones

By Barbara Hahn
of the Daily Courier

MERLIN — Perched in the foyer of Helen Bell's ranch-style home are two lugs of peaches, ready to be canned.

And in the center of her living room, amid the couches and easy chairs, there is a blue plastic bushel basket just cleaned of the garden-fresh corn. Already the cobs have been prepared and preserved for a winter feast.

Still, Bell seems a bit embarrassed about being named Master Gardener of the Year for the state of Oregon. As she puts it: "It's kind of humbling."

But if there was a book called "Zen and the Art of Gardening," it might well detail the gardening life of Helen Bell.

For the novice might wonder about her garden. There is the landscape, neatly laid out around her suburban home. But it doesn't have the perfection of a magazine layout. Rather, there are weeds, as Bell points out. And the roses have been most recently pruned by the deer that wander the neighborhood.

But there is more to a gardener than the garden.

Helen Bell, who has lived in her Josephine County home for 12 years, is actually a great example of a real gardener.

"Helping other gardeners is what gardeners love doing most," says Bell.

And she lives out this credo through her work with the Josephine County Master Gardeners, as well as with the statewide Master Gardeners organization. As other gardeners are generous with their surplus tomatoes, Bell is quick to provide gardening advice to those in need.

Eleven years ago, Bell attended a Josephine County Extension Service Master Gardeners class, an extensive series of courses designed to teach the basics and beyond of gardening. In return for the inexpensive classes, students volunteer time back to the community to answer gardening questions from the public.

For Bell, that's a job she has continued since graduating more than a decade ago. And, she says, it's the best part of being a gardener.

Her work during the past 11 years has been extensive. She's attended — and most recently served as housing and meals chairwoman for — the Master Gardener mini-colleges, held annually in Corvallis. It was during the recent mini-college that she was awarded the plaque noting her statewide achievement.

Bell also is the secretary for the statewide organization, and served as the local county representative for two years.

She also helps out with the annual regional gardening seminar each spring for Josephine County gardeners. And then, she recently spent a week at the Josephine County Fair serving as assistant superintendent of the 4-H flower arranging exhibit. Next year, she'll be superintendent.

As if that's not enough, there's also the Paint Your Heart Out program in which she and other Master Gardeners lend a hand to prune trees and shrubs for low income seniors.

Many area gardeners know Bell as the editor of the monthly Master Gardener newsletter. There, gardeners glean the latest in tips, as well as insight on upcoming events.

For Bell, the gardening seed was sown early.

"I was a gardener as a little kid with my grandfather," she recalls. Her true love was apparent and she pursued it in college, earning a degree in botany some 35 years ago from UCLA. Things slowed on the gardening scene, though, as she and her husband began a family.

"I got out of (gardening) when I raised kids," she says, noting that her four youngsters are now out of the house and on their own. "You raised kids instead of plants."

Still, it hardly delayed her efforts.

"That's what I love, and I've always kept a hand in it," she says of horticulture.

Her bookshelf displays the expertise needed by a Master Gardener. Not only are there tomes on trees, shrubs, fruits and vegetables, but volumes on geology, birds and butterflies.

"Gardeners are frustrated scientists," she explains. "And you learn at least as much as you give."

TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Co

Helen Bell grows a real gardener's garden: It may not make the magazine covers, but it sure churns out the vegetables.

Grants Pass Daily Courier
09/07/92

Want to Master Gardening?

Sign up is under way for the 1993 Oregon State University Extension Service Master Garden Program scheduled to start in mid-January.

The program is intended to provide home gardeners with basic instruction in horticulture and then to use the trainees to help the Extension staff members answer gardening questions from the public.

The classes will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., one day a week for 12 weeks. The classes are held at the Josephine County 4-H Activity building, 215 Ringuette Street.

The course of study will include vegetable garden management, landscaping, plant disease, insects, management of soil and water, lawn and turf maintenance, fruit, nut and berry cultivation and growing herbs, among other related topics.

Except for a $35 materials fee, the training is free in exchange for volunteer educational activities.

Those Master Gardener activeties begin after the training period is completed. Each participant spends a pre-determined number of hours staffing plant clinics, where the public may bring questions and plant specimens for diagnosis.

In addition to the plant clinic hours, volunteers may choose to help plan and care for a demonstration garden, organize and lead 4-H clubs, talk to garden clubs and schools, or assist with a spring garden fair.

Interest in horticulture and availability to participate are essential for enrollment. Enrollment will be limited. Applications will be accepted until Jan. 4

For more information, contact George Tiger at the Extension office, or by calling 476-6613.

Grants Pass Daily Courier
10/24/92

Grants Pass Daily Courier
12/08/92

MASTER GARDENER SIGNUPS UNDER WAY The Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener Program will continue to accept applications through Jan. 4. Enrollment will be limited. The classes will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., one day per week for 12 successive weeks at the Josephine County Activity Building. The course of study will include vegetable garden management, landscaping, plant disease, insects, management of soil and water, lawn and turf maintenance, fruit, nut and berry cultivation and growing herbs. The only charge for the class is a $35 materials fee. In exchange for the class, participants are expected to volunteer a pre-determined number of hours staffing the extension office's plant clinic. The clinic is where the public may bring questions and plant specimens for plant problem diagnosis. In addition to plant clinic hours, volunteers will be asked to plan and care for a demonstration garden, organize and lead 4-H clubs, talk to garden clubs and schools or assist with a spring garden fair. For more information, contact George Tiger at 47-6613, or visit the extension office at 215 Ringuette St.