September, 2014

THE MASTER GARDENER™

Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By Peter Pernarelli, President

August, another hot and busy month for us all. Please continue to be careful with the fire danger in the Extreme range. We typically still have a few weeks before the rainy season returns. With that in mind, you should consider locations on your property for planting perennials to take advantage of these rains. Our fall perennial sale will be held on September 13th from 9 am to 1 pm, behind the Auditorium. Additionally, perennial sales continue to be held on Tuesdays from 9-11 am.

Once more this organization demonstrated our commitment to the community with our involvement in the 100th Anniversary Josephine County Fair. Charlie Newsom, this year's Horticulture Superintendent goaded and encouraged all of us to get involved in promoting this event. As a result, many Master Gardeners (27) entered vegetables for judging and quite a few were recognized for the quality of their produce. Additionally, there were Master Gardener entries in Floral (11), Home Arts (6) and even Beer (1) with our members winning awards in all these departments.

For two consecutive years, thanks to the artistic talents of our members, especially Ida Toro and Pam Zaklan, the decorations in the Horticulture Building received compliments by many visitors. I am extremely grateful to all the Master Gardeners who assisted in any way. Many arrived on Monday before the event to help set up the tables, decorate and even loan personal items for display. On Tuesday, a second crew of dedicated volunteers helped register entries for judging and assisted in the process. Another group staffed the Plant Clinic during the Fair, answering many questions that arose during the event. Thanks to Pat Siler for suggesting that we move the Plant Clinic into the (Continued on Page 4)

WILMA'S CORNER

My heart is full of gratitude to our Master Gardener Association for sending me to Mini-College. I won't be in town for our next meeting (Aug.5) so I cannot express my thanks verbally It was a growth time for me with 6 classes of new information under my belt, at least on paper, and the fellowship of seven of our group watching out for each other. I strongly suggest the uninitiated for this experience consider it next year. Of course the coup de grace for me was the great honor you bestowed on me. What a tear inducing surprise and experience. I still can't believe it. I know, too, there are other equally deserving. Thank you! We have nine new titles in the library with more to come covering weaker areas in our collection. Diane Wickstrom has made another contribution by giving us the latest edition of *Botany for Gardeners* by Brian Capon. Wilma

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Special points of interest:

- *2014 Elected Officers*
- *2014 Appointed Coordinators*
- *Calendar*
- *Editor Notes*
- Birthdays

SEPTEMBER CLASSES

Design and Equipping the Home Greenhouse class will be on Wednesday, September 10th from 6-8pm. Instructor is Kelly Brainard from Ashland Greenhouses. Thinking of building a hobby greenhouse but don't know where to begin? This class will go over the basics of greenhouse site selection, design and construction. A variety of greenhouse options that fit into your gardening and landscape plan will be presented along with the basic elements required to make your newly constructed greenhouse efficient and productive. Cost is $5/MG free with badge.

"DeVine" Summer & Winter Squash class will be on Thursday, September 11th from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Instructors are Lilly Pattee & Connie O'Brien, Master Food Preservers. Class covers clever methods to preserve summer squash to use throughout the year as well as winter squash: little-know curing method, storage, and safe, simple pressure canning to make soups, stews, breads & desserts. We will be discussing how to make an easy root cellar in your yard or garage and have several unusual squash for you to sample. Cost is $10, pre-registration required. Call Sharon at OSU Extension 541-476-6613 for more information.

Practices for Attracting Wildlife class will be on Saturday, September 20th from 8am to 12pm. Instructor is Tal Blankenship, retired Extension Agent/Horticulturist. See and learn what a Douglas County resident has done to attract wildlife and restore his land. Learn the importance of native plants and non-disturbance habitat management. After this lecture/lab, students will take home the knowledge and information that can be incorporated into their own property. Meet at the Extension Office to carpool to site in Glendale. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Cost is $10/MG free with badge, pre-registration required, Class limit is 15.

Tips on Growing and Caring for Houseplants class will be on Thursday, September 25th from 6-8pm.

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STATEMENT OF POLICY

Information provided by the Josephine County Master Gardener Newsletter is accurate to the best of our knowledge. However, readers must assume all responsibility for their own actions based on information found in this publication. If, and when, a company or product is named in an article, it is not an endorsement from the Master Gardeners, Josephine County, or the OSU Extension Service. Alternate gardening methods are sometimes presented for your information and consideration, but they are not necessarily the only approach to gardening problems.

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EDITOR NOTES

Please submit notices and articles to the editor, Ruth Reel.

You can always e-mail to the editor:

reelsox@grantspass.com

Or mail to: 3990 Galice Rd., Merlin, OR 97532.

Or call at: 541-479-7702

Please let the editor know if you have changed your address, phone # or e-mail address.

Phone #: PamelaAnn Huwa, 541-291-1017
New addresses: Debi Ashton, 1898 Carton Way, G.P., 97526

Sandy Stephens & Al Cook, 682 Peco Rd, GP, 97526
Julie Joki, 657 North St, Yreka, CA, 96097
Diane Wickstrom, 2048 Hubbard Lane, GP 97527
New email address: Vicki Willis, jvcwillis@msn.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Julie Kaszuba, Treasurer

Cash and savings totals: As of 7/31/14

Checking: $22,070

Savings: $21,347

CD: $3,608

Total Assets: $47,025

Total Income: $192. This comes from Perennial Plants Sales ($192).

Total Expenses: $1,092. This comes from Plant Clinic New Ref. Books ($141), G.H. Seeds for 2015 class ($71), Supplies ($82),General Ads; Perennial Ads ($216), Mini College Scholarships ($530) Recipients; Gordon Hoefer, Sandy Stephens, Wilma Christian, Guy Young, Newsletter; Postage ($34) Printing ($18).

**These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 7/31/14 bank statement.

**Reminders - When shopping at the Grange Co-op don't forget to have them credit the Jo.Co.Master Gardener's with your purchases.

Don't forget to sign up for Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program linking your Fred Meyer Reward card to Josephine County Master Gardeners.

GARDEN PONDERINGS BY KAREN PLEASANT, MG COORDINATOR

Tips for Being the Best Volunteer You Can Be

Volunteers are always in great demand in the Master Gardening world. There are more ways than you can imagine for getting involved and helping promote gardening and educating people about gardening in our community. So many of you have given of your time, energy and money in a variety of ways and your efforts are deeply appreciated. This article is my attempt to reach out to those Master Gardeners who are not as involved as they could be or (hopefully!) want to be. The bottom line is we need each of you and you can make a difference!

Whether you are actively volunteering or want to do more, here are ten tips to help make your volunteering experience as successful as possible. **1) Choose Wisely**: decide the types of projects/activities that interest you the most. If you're not sure, do your homework and research the possibilities by talking to me or any active Master Gardener. Is there a specific aspect of gardening that is very important to you? Are you passionate about working with people or would you rather work behind the scenes? With adults or children? There are a few new programs on the horizon too, that will need the help of many volunteers to get them up and running, including Seeds to Supper and Community Gardens. **2) Ask for Referrals**: Let people know that you want to get involved and what your interests are, they can help introduce you and connect you with the right people. **3) Don't Overcommit**: As eager as you are to make a difference, make sure you balance your time carefully so that the rest of your life still works smoothly. Think about how much time you are willing to commit. We want to keep you volunteering for a long time by not getting burnt out. **4) Have Fun**: Manage your tasks with a sense of humor and excitement! Volunteering and making a difference to our community is its own reward, don't let it feel like a chore. **5) Consider your Skills**: Ask yourself what you have to offer that can translate into helping support the

WE NEED YOU...YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Master Gardener program. If you're not sure where you might fit in, please talk to me. **6) Learn Something New**: Try something out of your comfort zone and you might discover that you enjoy an activity you didn't know about before. Ask questions - never be afraid to ask about things you don't know or understand yet. Think of every situation as a learning opportunity. **7) Combine your Goals**: Look for volunteer opportunities that will help you achieve personal goals in addition to doing good and this will help you stay committed to the cause. For example, one of our MG instructors likes to teach classes on topics that he wants to know more about. **8) Work Together Synergistically**:

(Continued on page 5)

2014 ELECTED OFFICERS

President .....Peter Pernarelli

1st Vice President .....John Farias

2nd Vice President.....Carolyn Farias

Secretary .....Joan Seward

OMGA State Rep ..... Candace Bartow

OMGA Alt. State Rep.....Guy Young

Past President ..... Al Cook

Voting APPOINTED COORDINATORS

Treasurer……..Julie Kaszuba

Green House Managers ...Deborrah Dunham ...../Tracey Raggi

Plant Clinic..... Wilma Christian

SOS Garden Seminar.....Craig Ingram/ .....Peter Pernarelli

Communications.....Steve Schoen

Spring Garden Fair……...Al Cook

Newsletter Editor..... Ruth Reel

Hospitality Chairman..... Bob Wilson

Special Projects ..... Sybil Longinotti

Publicity……...Art Reel

Historian……...Skeeter Guardione

Non-Voting APPOINTED POSITIONS

Master Gardener Coord…….Karen Pleasant

County Fair…….Charlie Newsom

Growers Market..... Peter/Lori Pernarelli

K-12 Program……..Lilly Pattee

Mentor Committee……...John Farias

Paint Your Heart Out..... Sybil Longinotti

Volunteer Hours .....John Farias

Computer Coordinator .....Steve Schoen

Webmaster ..... John Farias

Perennials …… Craig Ingram

Young Master Gardeners……...Ruta Warren

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(Continued from page 1 President's Comments)

Horticulture building this year. And lastly, on the day after the event, the Sunday crew helped with tear down and assisted with the return of produce to entrants.

The number of exhibits rose from 305 last year to 617 this year with the number of exhibitors rising from 96 last year to 188 this year. I'm sure that the reintroduction of premiums, the many articles in the Daily Courier by David James, and the fact that this was a 100th Anniversary Event all contributed to this increase. I especially enjoyed seeing the reaction of the children in the 8 year and under category when they saw the rainbow ribbons attached to their entries. Should we speculate that they are all future Master Gardeners in the making?

If you shop at any of the following businesses, please thank them for their Fair support: The Grange, Greenleaf Nursery, Redwood Nursery, South Forty Farm, Fort Van Noy Farms and Gary Peterson Paving.

The Social Committee has been busy. The Bingo/Cookie Exchange on July 19th was a huge success with many members asking for a repeat event. The second annual Chili cook-off, another success, was held on August 23rd. The Committee is already planning for the Awards/Graduation Banquet scheduled for October 18th. More details will follow but be sure to mark your calendar for this event.

The Seeds of Spring had their kick off meeting under the guidance of Terry Ruiter. It was great to see so many students attend this meeting. The group is working on topics and instructors for the Seminar. If you would like to be involved, the next meeting will be on September 9th at 9:30 am in the Auditorium.

Reminders:

Next Board Meeting: September 2nd at 9:30 am in the Auditorium.

Have you signed up for the Fred Meyer Rewards Program?

Both students and seniors need to log their volunteer hours. For recertification, seniors need to complete 6 continuing educations hours and 10 volunteer hours. Students need to complete 25 Plant Clinic and 55 other hours by October 31st in order to graduate.

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GROWERS' MARKET

September 27th will be our last Saturday at the Growers' Market for the season. We want to thank everyone who assisted in staffing this location from April through September.

(Continued from page 3 Garden Ponderings)

While you might have your own ideas about how things should be done, remember why you are volunteering and that everyone is there with the same good intentions. Synergy in our case means the interaction or cooperation of two or more Master Gardeners to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate efforts. **9) Involve your Friends and Family**: Many MGs have brought their spouses, friends and other family members to the organization. I think they figure if they want to see them, they need to get involved too! The experience can bring people closer together, give you some shared goals, create special memories, and help you meet new people. **10) Be Yourself**: Everyone has something special to offer, so bring your heart, sense of humor and enthusiastic spirit to your volunteer activities.

By the law of inertia, we tend to remain passive until something sets us in motion. So my best advice to you is to just try it - often the most difficult part of volunteering is making the first move, so be brave and practice the Nike slogan: "Just do it!" Volunteering is what you make it, so get involved, be positive and go out there. We'll all be glad you did!

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PERENNIAL MUSINGS

So our last sale of the season will be September 13th, we will be offering some good bargains so mark it on your calendar.

September also marks the beginning of our slow season, as we begin to prepare the perennials for the cold. We will be making sure all the outdoor plant containers are topped with soil, and we will begin bringing those that are a little more sensitive into the cold frame.

This has been a really good year, all due to the great volunteer that have devoted their time to making the perennials all they could be. Thanks to all of you, we appreciate all you do. Craig & Pattye Ingram

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Phil Damewood (6), Linda Dunn (9), Jim Porter (10), Katy Dalke (17),Lilly Radbourne (19), Trish Hepburn (22), Carolyn Farias (23) and Joan Seward (29).

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

I was watching the local news one night and who do they interview but a Master Gardener I knew. The next day I had Plant Clinic duties and who walks in but the MG from the TV interview. So I asked her for her autograph since she was on TV and she said that it wasn't her, she didn't do an interview. My response was, it was a woman with the same haircut, glasses and even the same name on the screen under her face. She insisted it wasn't her for, 3 hours. Then the light goes on! She came back in and said "Oh yea...I guess it was me, I forgot!"...Do the long hot days in our gardens do this to us or are we that use to answering questions from the public that a TV camera doesn't faze us?

Karen Zoufal

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in the following volunteer opportunity please email Karen Pleasant at karen.pleasant@oregonstate.edu.

Seeds to Supper Program: A program of Oregon Food Bank and Oregon State University Extension Service.

Seeds to Supper is a comprehensive, 5-week beginning gardening course that gives novice, adult gardeners the tools they need to successfully grow a portion of their own food on a limited budget. A joint effort of Oregon Food Bank (OFB) and the Oregon State University Extension Service, Seeds to Supper started in collaboration with host agencies throughout Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas and Clark Counties and is now expanding across the state. I would like to get Josephine County involved in the program by developing a cadre of volunteers who will go through the training program. Volunteer Garden Educators teach classes using existing program materials, including a comprehensive student course booklet and a series of engaging PowerPoint presentations. There is a huge need in Josephine County for a program like this. If you are interested in getting involved and discovering a new way to earn MG volunteer service hours please let me know. A meeting for all interested MGs will be held in early September.

Plant of the Month September 2014

Sunchokes

Family: *Compositae* (composites or sunflowers)

Sunchokes, or Jerusalem artichokes, are of the sunflower family and as a native of North America were referred to as "sun roots" before the European settlers renamed them.

Scientific name*: Helianthus tuberosus*

Helianthus: from the Greek helios, *meaning* "sun" and anthos, *meaning* "flower."

tuberosus: from tuber, meaning a lump, hump, swelling, or protuberance. The suffix *-ōsus* is added to the noun tuber to form an adjective indicating an abundance of that noun.

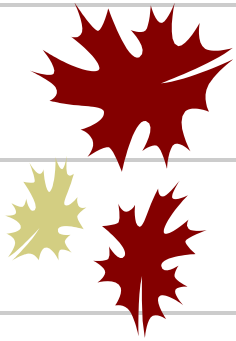
Sunchokes are also known as Jerusalem artichokes, but they don't come from Jerusalem and they don't look like an artichoke! One naming theory suggests that because the small flowers turn toward the sun, they were first called "girasole" (flower turning and looking for the sun) with the word becoming warped into "Jerusalem." Another theory states that as a new staple food of the European settlers, it was referred to it as a food for the "new Jerusalem."

To the French explorer, Samuel Champlain, who discovered the Jerusalem artichoke in 1605 in Cape Cod, they tasted like artichokes, hence the origin of the second part of their name. In the 1960s, as a marketing tool for a produce department and to separate church and state, their new name became "Sunchokes."

Whatever you call them, some people consider them weeds, others gourmet fare. Sunchokes, a perennial vegetable, can grow up to ten feet tall and multiply readily from their potato-like tubers, so be sure and consider how you will contain them once planted. It is almost impossible to harvest all of the tubers from the garden, so destroy any volunteer plants before they set tubers in late summer. The edible, small, knobby, crunchy tubers (swollen ends of an underground stem) resemble ginger roots and are sweeter than potatoes, can be used raw in place of water chestnuts, broiled or baked like potatoes, or added to soups and salads. The carbohydrate inulin, contained in the tubers, can be tolerated by diabetics. Sunchokes will be at their prime if harvested after a couple of frosts. While very prevalent during World War 1, they were considered a poor man's vegetable.

If someone comes to the Plant Clinic and tells a tale of woe about a sunflower that they can't seem to get rid of, the culprit is most likely a Jerusalem artichoke.

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2 9:30 MG Meeting	3	4	5	6 Growers Market
7	8	9	10 Designing & Equipping the Home Greenhouse Class	11 "DeVine" Summer & Winter Squash Class	12	13 Perennial Fall Sale Growers Market
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Practices for Attracting Wildlife Class Growers Market
21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22	23 Fall Begins	24	25 Tips on Growing & Caring for House-plants Class	26	27 Growers Market
28	29 Mushrooms, Nature's Hidden Treasures Class	30				

(Continued from Page 2 Sept. Classes)

Instructor is Cliff Bennett, Owner, Chet's Garden Center. The best thing you can do for indoor plants is to learn something about their growing conditions and provide as close to those conditions as possible. This class will teach you the various types of houseplants and how to choose the ones best suited for your home as well as techniques to care for them: from lighting requirements, to fertilizing and watering. Cost:$5/MG free with badge.

Mushrooms, Nature's Hidden Treasures class will be on Monday, September 29th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Instructor is Jeanne Evers, Master Food Preserver. Come & learn about the health benefits of mushrooms. Explore beyond the white button mushroom - examine the varieties available in the marketplace today and their uses in our cuisine. Discover how to store (canning, freezing and dehydrating) and prepare mushrooms. Enjoy the experience of tasting mushrooms in a variety of delicious recipes. Cost: $10, pre-registration required: Call Sharon at OSU Extension 541-476-6613.

All classes will be held at the OSU Extension Auditorium, 215 Ringuette St., G.P. with the exception of the field trip on September 20th.

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OSU Extension Service, Master Gardener™ Association - Josephine County, Oregon, 541-476-6613

Our email address is: josephinemg@oregonstate.edu

Our Web Site: http://www.jocomastergardeners.com

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