

October, 2014



THE MASTER GARDENER™



Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By Peter Pernarelli, President



“Free at last, free at last, Thank God Almighty I am free at last.” Well, that’s not exactly how Dr. King said it but it’s pretty close. Actually, I still have a few months to go in my term but I’m pleased to note that the elections are behind us and John Farias will soon assume the position. In case you were off on vacation in Prague or some out of the way location, in addition to John, Charlie Newsom will be the 1st Vice President, John Etchells will be the 2nd Vice President, Pat Etchells will be the Secretary, Guy Young will be the OMGA Representative and Candace Bartow will be the Alternate OMGA Representative.

As I mentioned last month, please continue to be careful with the fire danger in the Extreme range. It’s difficult to consider how many acres have burned in the West in the last month and some of those fires in such close proximity like the Onion Mountain fire. Currently, the planes are flying over my house at five-minute intervals, dropping their payloads on that blaze. I just pray that the wind doesn’t shift dramatically or I might not get to finish this article.

If you didn’t attend the Chili Cook-off, you missed a great time and some great food. The highlight of the event was the water balloon toss to determine some of the winners due to a tie in the voting. Personally, I think Charlie just wanted an excuse for people to get wet on a warm day. We did get even with him with the leftover balloons.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Graduation Event on October 18th. The theme this year is a return to the late sixties and early seventies. Remember the Jefferson Airplane lyrics, “One pill makes you taller and one pill makes you small.” Well, if you have any of those pills, please leave them home since our theme is focused

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STORIES FROM THE FIELD

My husband and I moved to Grants Pass after we retired in 2005. In January my sister-in-law and I joined the MG class of 2006. She and I had the most wonderful experience. Not only did we learn lots, and she is already a great gardener, we met a wonderful group of women. We still, after 8 years, get together monthly with Ida, Lana, Pam and a couple of other MG’s from later classes which we mentored. We all still learn from each other, and I’m proud to be even a small part of this wonderful organization. *Marla Coughran*

We need your help...Please keep sending in your stories: anything inspirational, or funny happenings while volunteering at an MG activity, or occurrences in the garden, whatever you want to share! Send your stories to Karen at karen.pleasant@oregonstate.edu and we will try and publish one story every month.

Special points of interest:

- 2014 Elected Officers
- 2014 Appointed Coordinators
- Upcoming Events
- Editor Notes
- Birthdays

2014 AWARDS & GRADUATION BANQUET

Date Saturday, October 18
Time 5:00 pm
Location Extension Services Auditorium
Theme Flower Power

Invitations are on their way so save this date for a great time with friends (fellow Flower Children), food and entertainment. Prizes and awards will be provided including best costume so you are encourage to wear your finest 60's outfit (think bell bottoms, fringed vests, tie-dye shirts, headbands). The main dish will be provided; you are requested to bring a side dish, salad or dessert.

I want to encourage all students to complete their volunteer hours commitment and to log them into our tracking system ASAP. Mentors are trying to help those that are short hours, and badges need to be ordered based on what is logged into system so please keep your hours up to date. If you need help, contact your mentor or me. Remember hours not logged into the system do not count when we determine if you are eligible to graduate.

John Farias, 541-955-9795 or jocafarias@earthlink.net



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.

Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities and materials without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability and disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer. OSU Extension programs will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with physical or mental disabilities. If you need particular accommodations, please call our Extension Office at (541) 476-6613 at least 3 weeks prior to the event.

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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Julie Kaszuba, Treasurer

Cash and savings totals: As of 8/31/14

Checking: \$21,232

Savings: \$21,347

CD: \$3,608

Total Assets: \$46,187

Total Income: \$555. This comes from OMGA In Search for Excellence Award to YMG Program (\$300), Fred Meyer Reward Program (\$90), Perennial Sales (\$165).

Total Expenses: \$2,032. This comes from Plant Clinic; Stamps (\$49), County Fair; Volunteer Passes (\$72), Produce Award Prizes (\$1,000), Supplies (\$240), Election; Postage Nomination Letter (\$166), Printing Ballots (\$53), Perennial Tuesday Ads (\$65), Accommodations for Ruta Warren accepting YMG Excellence Award (\$79), K-12 Program (\$29),

Newsletter; Postage (\$34) Printing (\$18), Socials; Bingo Party (\$88), Chili Cook-off; Paper goods (\$39), Prizes (\$100).

**These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 8/31/14 bank statement.

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



GARDEN PONDERINGS BY KAREN PLEASANT, MG COORDINATOR

Winding up the MG Year

Change is in the air and we'll soon be seeing the beautiful fall colors everywhere we look and putting our gardens to bed. That means we're also completing this year's volunteer activities and recertification, planning a new round of activities and getting ready for the 2015 Master Gardener training to begin in January.

We've been receiving many inquiries about next year's Master Gardener training. Many of our participants join the program because they have friends like you who have already completed training and are active volunteers. Make it a point to let people know about the 2015 program and encourage your friends and colleagues to participate. Sometimes people feel shy about joining because they feel they don't know enough about gardening. Remember no prior experience is necessary to become an OSU Master Gardener. Registration begins October 1 and is limited to 50 participants, (first come, first serve) so tell interested people to sign up early. Ap-

plication materials will be available in the office and online beginning Oct. 1.

The \$125 (for residents of Josephine County) Master Gardening Training will run for 13 weeks in 2015 and will still be held on Thursdays from 9 am to 4 pm. The series of classes begin on January 15th and continue through April 9th. Some new classes have been added to the schedule including plant identification, berries and grapes and attracting pollinators. Remember, as a Master Gardener you are always welcome to attend any of the training classes which count toward continuing education hours for your recertification.

Hopefully you are all thinking about completing your volunteer hour requirement. For the Class of 2014, that means 70 volunteer service hours with at least 25 of these in a plant clinic (12 of which are in the Plant Clinic/Hotline at the Extension Office). For recertifying veterans, it means at least 10 hours of volunteer time and 6 hours of continuing education. If you are in the Class of 2014, you are certified as an

***END OF THE 2014 MASTER
GARDENER YEAR***

OSU Master Gardener through 2015, assuming you complete this year's requirements. However, you will have to begin recertifying for 2016 during 2015.

Report all of your hours, both volunteer time and continuing education at the Volunteer Reporting System website (<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/vrs>) or report them on paper in my office. Remember that the Master Gardener reporting year started on November 1, 2013 and will end October 31. Please have all your hours reported before the end of October. This is especially important for trainees so they can graduate with their class and become a certified Master Gardener.

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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..... Terry Ruitter
- 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

(Continued from page 1 President's Comments)

on the attire of the era not the paraphernalia. Prizes will be awarded to anyone that retained that clothing all this time and can still fit in it.

I am extremely grateful to everyone who helped with the cleanup and weed abatement prior to the Fall Perennial sale. The weedy patch in front of the office was quite an eyesore. The Tribulus terrestris (goat head weeds) were out of control and will probably continue to be a problem for years to come. Thank you to Jean Kitchen for the needed push to complete this task.

The Perennial group had another successful Plant sale on September 13th. They will continue with their Tuesday sales for a few more weeks. Craig and Pattye can relax now that they have met their goal for the year.

This is you last notice to record your hours for recertification. I will be ordering the swingers in the next few days and I would like to give one to everyone who completed their requirements for recertification.

And lastly, if you know of anyone that is interested in completing the Master Gardener Program, registration starts on October 1st. Everyone who has expressed an interest will be given notice but class size is limited to the first fifty people who have paid for the program.

Reminders:

Next Board Meeting: October 7th at 9:30 am in the Auditorium.

Have you signed up for the Fred Meyer Rewards Program?

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

Newsletter Article Contributors

Do you like to write? Are you interested in learning more about plant problems, weeds or other aspects of gardening? You learn so much when you research a topic and then write about it. One or two writers are needed to take turns contributing a monthly article for the Master Gardener Newsletter for Josephine County Master Gardener's reading pleasure.



It's been a great year for the Josephine County Master Gardeners. You've all accomplished an amazing amount. I am proud to be associated with such a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers. Keep up the good work...you really make a difference in our community and do a wonderful job representing OSU Extension and the Master Gardening program.

PERENNIAL MUSINGS

Well folks my wife tells me that it's my turn to write the input for the Newsletter, which is about as appealing as fingernails on a chalkboard...but 'she who must be obeyed' has spoken, so here goes.

Our September Perennial & Tree sale did pretty well, taking in approximately \$1200; mid morning we had quite a crowd, but we had a lot of MG folks helping, and a lot of MG's buying, so thanks to you all for making the sale a success! Maybe more important, because of the sale we were able to clear some of the shelves in preparation for fall & winter. Over the next month as cool weather approaches (none of us really want to think about that) we will be moving the cold-sensitive plants into the cold frame. Our goal is to shut-down the perennial operation around the beginning of November, and re-open in February/March. So thank you to all the great folks that have helped out this year...

You know when I was six, I liked to dig in the dirt, and I still do today...the only difference, is that now I wash my hands afterwards...
Craig & Pattye Ingram

YOUR LAWN

After a three year hiatus from the monthly newsletter, I thought a return visit is in order. The subject, my home, your lawn. Now, I know that lawns may be a dirty word to some of you, but others of us enjoy a healthy green patch of grass.

This year has been exceptionally difficult for lawns. The heat and continued drought have taken their toll. Fall brings relief from the summer and an opportunity to restore some health and vigor to your lawn. Here are a few tips:

1. Aerate the Soil - This allows oxygen, water and fertilizer to reach the root zone (rhizomes) of the grass. It also relieves soil compaction. There are aerators you can rent that actually take a plug out of the soil.
2. Fertilize - Because plant growth slows down considerably in the fall, a good middle to late fall application of a fertilizer heavy in potassium and phosphorous and light in nitrogen will set your lawn up for a good spring start.

Remember there are lots of organic fertilizers on the market now. If you have a bit of moss, consider fertilizing with moss control.

3. Leaves - Unlike our vegetables, flower beds and trees, heavy leaf coverage is not conducive to healthy grass. Rake or mow leaves so that they don't mat up and create dark, soggy patches.

So for those of you who don't mind me smiling because I will have a happy vigorous home, take care of lawn.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM AUGUST QUESTIONS IN THE PLANT CLINIC

There were approximately 35 questions asked at the Fair Plant Clinic in 2013. That number increased to at least 66 in 2014.

Tomatoes took the center stage in August. Lack of taste, blossom end rot, slender stems, tiny fruit not getting bigger, brown spots on fruit, catface, leaves curling.

Insects dominating: Squash bugs, yellow jackets, Aphids, Brown Marmorated Stink bug.

Harvesting times for pear, melons & potatoes.

A uniform challenge was the result of early freezes and extended cold weather resulting in lack of pollination among trees and vegetables resulting in blossoms but no fruit.

Danger: Two reports of "Milestone" used in connection with animals. "Potatoes, beans and tomatoes have curled and distorted leaves. Client suspects herbicide Milestone used on hay fed to donkey. Its manure was used as compost." Its effect can last for years. Break-down hastened with exposure to sunlight, heat and moisture, tilling soil and planting non-susceptibles e.g. zucchini, squash, cucumber and cabbage.

Wilma

Plant of the Month: October

One of the most eye-catching plants of the late summer and early fall is the Crepe Myrtle. *Lagerstroemia* /ˈleɪɡərˈstriːmiə/, commonly known as crepe myrtle or crape myrtle, is a genus of around 50 species of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs native to the Indian Subcontinent, southeast Asia, northern Australia, and parts of Oceania, cultivated in warmer climates around the world. It is a member of the Lythraceae, which are also known as the loosestrife family. The genus is named after the Swedish merchant Magnus von Lagerström, who supplied Carolus Linnaeus with plants he collected. These flowering trees are beautifully colored and are often planted both privately and commercially. Flowers are borne in summer and autumn in panicles of crinkled flowers with a crepe-like texture. Colors vary from deep purple to red to white, with almost every shade in between. Popular cultivars used in modern landscaping include the bright red 'Dynamite', the deep pink 'Pink Velour', and the purple 'Twilight'.



Lagerstroemia indica: The specific epithets *indica* and *indicum* are used in binomial nomenclature to indicate species (or subspecies) of plants, animals etc. thought to originate in, or associated with, India.

Crepe Myrtle Fruit Capsules



Bright Red Rocket Crepe Myrtle: New foliage is crimson & in autumn the leaves turn bright orange!



Pink Crepe Myrtle: After flowers fade and fall from the tree, fruit remains in the form of small brown capsules. These fruits remain throughout the winter providing winter interest along with the attractive, exfoliating bark which peels away to expose a trunk which ranges in color from many handsome shades of brown to gray.



Propagation is by cuttings or seed.

Pests
Aphids often infest the new growth causing an unsightly but harmless sooty mold to grow on the foliage. Heavy aphid infestations cause a heavy black sooty mold which detracts from the tree's appearance.

Diseases
Powdery mildew can severely affect Crape-Myrtle. Select resistant cultivars and hybrids to avoid this disease. Leaf spots are only a minor concern and do not require treatment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 7 9:30 MG Meeting
- Oct. 9 Home Fruit Tree Care Class
- Oct. 10 Instructor Workshop
- Oct. 13 Dehydrate Your Dinner Class
- Oct. 16 Apple & Pears Nature's Jewels Class
- Oct. 18 Awards/Graduation Banquet
- Oct. 20 Newsletter Deadline
- Oct. 24 Instructor Workshop
- Oct. 30 Orchids for Beginners Class

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YOUNG MASTER GARDENERS

Young Master Gardeners is in action again with the Grants Pass sessions on September 17 and Illinois Valley session on October 3. The first subject of the year was, The Story of Water - Drips, Streams and in between . Where do humans and plants get water? How do we use and conserve water? Those were the questions we explored.

Helping us to explore was the special guest, Morteise the tortoise, brought by Linda Cochran who has cared for him for 55 years. The stunning fact is that he is over 80 years old and is still moving and curious. That gave most of us older MG volunteers comfort. But the kids could relate to the fact that as a desert tortoise, he doesn't have to drink for a whole year. That was a wow factor for them. Thanks to Linda for bringing us this special treat.

Sometimes we forget about the simple things. The under age 5 group looked at the inside of a cactus. One little boy, about age 4, ran to show his father, explained it and stated it was the coolest thing he'd ever seen.

Thank you to the perennial folks who supplied the YMG kids with sedum. There are always different points of view when planting. One kid jammed as much as he could into his pot, and the next one chose carefully over quite a length of time to find the one that was special and the only one he wanted.

Thank you all from the Young Master Gardeners.

Ruta Warren

GROWERS' MARKET

The Master Gardener Booth at the Growers' Market is over for this year. We will return next April. If you are interested in taking charge of this position or in volunteering to assist in some capacity, please contact Lori Pernarelli.

INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOP

If you are even remotely interested in teaching gardening topics to others, please join in on the fun and learning at the first instructor workshop which will be offered in two parts on Friday afternoons from 2 to 4 pm, October 10th and 24th. In this interactive workshop participants will learn a pot-pourri of techniques to help them become more effective instructors. Topics will include understanding adult learners, the components of an effective learning experience, and tips for using visual aids, finding resources, and how to deal with challenging people and technology situations. Be ready to challenge yourself and practice some of the techniques discussed in class. The class will be team taught by Karen Pleasant, the MG Coordinator, and Vicki Willis, a member of the Class of 2014. The instructors have years of teaching experience and facilitating workshops. Our goal is to help people like you, who have a wealth of knowledge, become comfortable with sharing that knowledge with others. Call the office and sign up now as this free (to MGs) workshop is limited to 40 participants.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Sue George (6), Shirley Ogden (8), Candace Bartow (10), John Farias (12), Mary Rust (16), Eric Lundberg (25), Jean Kitchen (27), Al Cook (31).



OCTOBER CLASSES

Home Fruit Tree Care class will be held on Thursday, October 9th from 6-8 pm. Instructor will be Steve Renquist, Agent Douglas County, Horticulturist. If growing good quality tree fruit in your own yard hasn't turned out to be as easy as you were expecting, come join our tree fruit educational class. This class will teach homeowners how to raise low input good quality fruit and will cover important topics like site selection, training and pruning trees, thinning, pest control and fertilization. Cost is \$10/MG free with Badge.

Dehydrate Your Dinner class will be held on Monday, October 13th from 6:30-8:30pm. Instructors will be Jackie Greer, Jennie Reed and Jessica Camp, Master Food Preservers. Learn how to easily dry fruits and vegetables for best quality and so much more. Cost: \$5. **This class will be held at RCC/Kerby Belt Building in Kerby.**

Apple & Pears: Nature's Jewels class will be held on Thursday, October 16th. Instructors: Debi Ashton & Karen Zoufal, Master Food Preservers. Let us help you take your apple cookery to the next level! Learn how and when to pick apples & pears and more! Cost: \$10. Pre-registration required: Call at Extension Office 541-476-6613.

Orchids 101 for Beginners class will be held on Thursday, October 30th from 5:30-7:30pm. Instructor: Paul Jackson, MG Class 2014. A class designed to those who are interested in growing orchids, but have always been afraid to try. Participants will be introduced to a brief history of the orchid family, how & where they grow in the world, learn how to choose orchids genera that will grow well in this area, where to buy them & their basic culture needs: water, temperature and fertilization, repotting basics and how to get them to bloom again & more! Cost \$5/MG free with Badge.

3 out of 4 classes will be held at the OSU Extension Auditorium, 215 Ringuette St., G.P.

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>

THE MASTER GARDENER



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