

November, 2014



THE MASTER GARDENER™



Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By Peter Pernarelli, President

"Finally, you are a Master Gardener" ... Wilma & MG's

Change is in the air. Each year the seasonal change is different. This year was no exception. Regardless, the trees and plants seem to prepare better than most of us. I always hope that I can get a few more tomatoes from my plants if I "baby" them. Then the first frost comes and it's all over. Change is coming for Master Gardeners, as well. Be sure to read Karen's "Garden Ponderings" for statewide changes for our Organization.

The big change locally happened on October 18th, when forty-one students qualified to trade their temporary ID's for OSU Orange Badges. Welcome, class of 2014. You have all worked hard to achieve this distinction. Please don't consider yourself done. Organizations are only successful when members stay involved. So consider paying it forward, by mentoring new students, working in the greenhouse, the perennials, the Plant Clinic, or just weeding in the Kroll garden.

Once more, I wish to thank all who were involved in creating our graduation event. From planning to decorating, food preparation, and door prizes and none will forget the entertainment. Charlie went above and beyond to bring us back to the "Hippie and Protester" days. Did you recognize the couple that won the best-dressed award for our event? If they hadn't said a word, I never would have guessed that they were Ruth and Art Reel. They must have lived in a commune some time in the past.

I was pleased to note that 89 seniors recertified this year versus 59 last year. That's a 50% increase and the most we have ever had since I've been involved.

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STORIES FROM THE FIELD

I took the MG class in 2009. Al Cook was looking for someone to start an educational outreach program for children. Now, five years later we are in all the elementary schools in Grants Pass. We have gardens at eight schools. Watching the faces of the kids when they eat kale they grew is life changing. Having MG as support in spreading good gardening practices changes the lives of the children we serve. MG has totally changed my life...retired!? Not really.

Lilly Pattee

We need your help...Please keep sending in your stories: anything inspirational, or funny happenings while volunteering at an MG activity, or unique 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.



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Special points of interest:

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

TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE: YOU DECIDE

For the next 4-5 months this column will focus on what gardeners can do to support our native pollinators (bumble bees, mason and other solitary bees, wasps, flies, butterflies and moths). By creating pollinator habitat you will not only have a more beautiful yard but you will also enjoy increased yields of fruit and vegetables and that warm, fuzzy feeling of knowing you are a good steward.

There has been much in the press about Colony Collapse Disorder which has resulted in a loss of approximately 30 percent of commercial (non-native) honeybee hives annually since 2006. However, little has been written about the significant declines in populations of our native pollinators. In our area, Franklin's Bumble Bee is now thought to be extinct while the most common Western Bumble Bee has become a rarity. Monarch butterfly numbers are now so low that entomologists believe that they will no longer be able to complete their migration which may cause extinction.

So even if you do have an abundance of honeybees in your yard don't be lulled into complacency because two-thirds of all animal-pollinated crops are dependent on native pollinators. These natives are also responsible for the pollination of 97% of all wild flowering plants. Bumble bees are the most important of these natives and are considered keystone species wherever they occur. This means that their demise would result in a cascade of multiple extinctions leading to the collapse of whole ecosystems.

Because of their importance this and the December column will focus on what you can do specifically to help bumble bees (BBs) based on what we know about their life cycle. Most BBs are "social", living in a colony which includes a reproductive queen and sterile daughter workers numbering from a few dozen to a few hundred bees. Late in the season, the queen lays eggs which will become males (drones) and fertile females. After mating these new queens can be seen looking for nectar and pollen to build up their body weight before hibernating. It is these queens that will emerge in the spring to found new colonies. The old queen, her workers and the drone all die.

BB queens are the first bees to emerge in the spring, starting in early March. They are larger than the worker BBs you see in the summer. Their ability to withstand cold means that both early and late season queens (Continued on Page 7)

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.

New phone #: Deborrah Dunham, 541-507-1419

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Julie Kaszuba, Treasurer

Cash and savings totals: As of 9/30/14

Checking: \$21,577

Savings: \$21,347

CD: \$3,608

Total Assets: \$46,532

Total Income: \$1,370. This comes from Garden Guide Sales (\$85), Perennial Plants Sales (\$1,285).

Total Expenses: \$588. This comes from G.H. Repair tire kit (\$11), Co. Fair Work Party Lunch (\$52), Award Banquet; Decorations (\$395), Ads for Perennial Plants Sales (\$65), K-12 supplies (\$13), Newsletter; Postage (\$34), Printing (\$18).

**These figures are based on reconciling checks and depos-

its to the 9/30/14 bank statement.

**Reminder - 2015 Membership Dues will be \$20 per member and will be due and payable as of 1/1/15.

**Reminder #2 - 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

Master Gardener Standards

The fall season is a time of change as trees prepare for the winter and leaves change color and fall to the ground. This fall has been an exceptionally lovely one with warm days, cool nights and vibrant earthy colors delighting the eye everywhere you look. November first begins the new Master Gardening year (Nov. through Oct.) and change is in the works for Master Gardeners too, especially for recertification requirements, as National and State Standards have been adopted to add uniformity to Master Gardener programs across the nation. Special thanks to Steve Renquist, Douglas County Horticulture Agent for compiling the following information about the National Standards.

In 2012 and 2013, a special task force was charged with developing resources and national standards for Extension Master Gardener Programs. The task force was comprised of state Master Gardener coordinators from across the country, including Oregon MG program leader, Gail Langellotto.

The task force worked throughout 2013 to draft a list of program standards, seeking input from Master Gardener faculty, staff and volunteers throughout the process. These standards were forwarded to the Extension Master Gardener National Committee in late 2013. The Committee approved the standards (with minor edits) in January 2014. the national standards for Extension Master Gardener Programs in the United States are:

Our National Standards

Extension Master Gardener programs are networks of land-grant university-trained volunteers, distinguished by the standards listed below. To achieve greater consistency in program management and volunteer experience across the Cooperative Extension system nationally, state Extension Master Gardener programs will strive to meet these standards and ensure they are reflected in the statewide program.

Program Structure and Expectation Standards

- Has an established statewide or-

MASTER GARDENER STANDARDS

ganizational system

- Establishes state program goals that align to achieve The EMG program mission
- Engages in Extension-approved projects and programs designed to educate the public about horticulture and gardening
- Is accountable to state Extension leadership and local stakeholders
- Shows documented educational impact in local communities that demonstrates behavior change and public value
- Follows the Equal Opportunity Guidelines for their state and/or university.

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2014 ELECTED OFFICERS

PresidentPeter Pernarelli
1st Vice PresidentJohn Farias
2nd Vice President.....Carolyn Farias
SecretaryJoan Seward
OMGA State RepCandace Bartow
OMGA Alt. State Rep.....Guy Young
Past PresidentAl Cook

Voting APPOINTED COORDINATORS

Treasurer.....Julie Kaszuba
Green House Managers ...Deborrah Dunham
...../Tracey Raggi
Plant Clinic.....Wilma Christian
SOS Garden Seminar.....Terry Ruiter
Communications.....Steve Schoen
Spring Garden Fair.....Al Cook
Newsletter Editor.....Ruth Reel
Hospitality Chairman.....Bob Wilson
Special ProjectsSybil 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 HoursJohn Farias
Computer CoordinatorSteve Schoen
Webmaster John Farias
Perennials Craig Ingram
Young Master Gardeners.....Ruta Warren

(Continued from page 1 President's Comments)

I'm sure Karen is pleased with our effort. I'm also confident that Lori will be reminding everyone to record his or her hours in future months.

In addition to the awards that were presented at Mini-College, (Master Gardener of the Year - Wilma Christian and Behind the Scenes - Pat Siler), the Golden Trowel Award was presented to Marguerite and Phil Damewood for their dedication in many avenues of service to our organization and our community.

Additionally recognized were Craig Ingram for his many years of leadership with Seeds of Spring, Pattye Ingram for her insight in developing the highly successful Perennial Program, Paula Ehrenberg for her dedication to the Young Master Gardener Program, and Annie Bacon for her diligence in promoting our Facebook Page.

Lastly, for the third year in a row, Lynne Pecot has outweighed Charlie for the Giant Pumpkin contest. Her baby weighed only 145 pounds but it was enough to top Charlie's entry at 94 pounds. Third place went to Lori Pernarelli with an 11 pound Cinderella entry, Karen Zoufal won for the ugliest, and Sharon Evans for the smallest entry at 3 ounces. Other entries were from Barb Franklin, Mary Hallows and Daric Stuckenber. I know there are others out there who are capable of out-performing these entries. So, start planning for next year; the gauntlet has already been thrown down.

Plan on attending the Board Meeting on November 4th.

GARDENING TRIVIA

As far as anyone knows, Thomas Jefferson was the first one to grow tomatoes in the United States in the 1780's. Even so, the Northeastern United States continued to shun the new plant until the mid-nineteenth century. As late as 1900, tomatoes were little used except in purees and were considered inedible raw.

We've sure come along way in our opinion of tomatoes since that era! Karen



Volunteer Management and Preparedness Standards

- Uses recognized volunteer management practices
- Incorporates a system for volunteer leadership and development
- Uses an established state training curriculum (A suggested core curriculum

includes Botany, Physiology, Soils, Basic Pathology, Entomology, Weeds, IPM, Vegetables, Fruits, Turf, Woody Ornaments, Herbaceous Ornamentals, Composting, Diagnostic and Troubleshooting, Planting and Maintenance, Introduction to Extension Master Gardener Program, and Record Keeping and Reporting)

- Requires a measurement of volunteer competency following completion of state training program
- Requires volunteer service hours; 40-hour volunteer service minimum in the initial training year and 20-hour volunteer service minimum in subsequent years
- Required annual continuing education and professional development hours; 10 hours minimum annually in years following initial training
- Uses an annual recertification criteria and process

National Extension Master Gardener Program Standards Adopted

The following information is a review of the meeting that took place in Corvallis on July 11, 2014. The recap of the meeting is from Gail Langellotto.

Gail's Writing

On July 11, 2014, 17 faculty and staff representing 19 county Master Gardener programs met for an all-day work session in Corvallis, Oregon. While Master Gardener Volunteers were attending Leadership Day classes, we were meeting next door to discuss issues, brainstorm solutions, preview tools, share ideas and network. It was an incredibly productive session, where key decisions were made that impact the Master Gardener Program and the volunteers that we train and serve.

A major focus of our July 11th working group agenda was to consider whether or not Oregon would adopt these new national standards. Many of the national standards are that we already do (or try to do) in Oregon. The key parts of the standards that impact Oregon's Master Gardener Programs are:

- Requires volunteer service hours; 40-hour volunteer service minimum in the initial training year and 20-hour

volunteer service minimum in subsequent years and

- Requires annual continuing education and professional development hours; 10 hours minimum annually in years following initial training

There was some concern on the part of the representatives from the southern Oregon counties (Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry) that the recertification requirements might cause them to lose volunteers, require them to 'de-badge' volunteers, or cause dismay with their local MG Association. Others thought that adopting the standards would: provide much-needed structure and guidance on recertification at the local level, ensure the quality of volunteer education and of the program. The national standards were eventually adopted, by consensus decision.

What Does This Mean for Current Volunteers and County Programs?

What does this mean? Does it mean that programs will be 'de-certified' or that individuals will be kicked out of the Master Gardener Program if they have not met the minimum recertification standards (10 hours of continuing education and 20 hours of volunteer service)?

No! But it does mean that programs now have specific guidance on the guidelines for Master Gardener recertification. Over the next 3-5 years, the Oregon Master Gardener Program (at state and county levels) will work to implement the new standards by:

- 1) informing Master Gardener volunteers that the national standards have been adopted in Oregon, as well as the reasons for the development of national standards, and the reasons that Oregon has moved to adopt these standards.
- 2) Adjusting recertification requirements at the local level, as needed, setting a 3-5 year timeline as a goal to reach compliance with the standards.
- 3) Training new Master Gardener volunteers (e.g. trainees) about the recertification requirements. Over time, as more volunteers are trained under the 'new' standards, it will increasingly become the norm.
- 4) Working to offer flexible options for recertification education hours (e.g. a take home test, online modules, etc.). We currently have a few online options available for recertification hours, and will work to develop more in the coming years. We will also work to develop assessment-based recertification options.

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(Continued from Page 5 Garden Ponderings)

5) understand that life happens, and sometimes a volunteer may need to put their MG status ‘on hold’. Be flexible, where needed.

Over the past 7 years that I’ve worked in the Master Gardener Program, I’ve realized that change rarely comes quickly or easily. I’m excited about the adoption of the national standards and am hopeful that they will indeed provide much-needed structure and guidance on recertification at the local level and that they will help ensure the quality of volunteer education and of the program. But, I recognize that there may be some ‘growing pains’ - particularly where recertification is concerned. Our intention is to roll out the new standards in a way that is gradual (over 3-5 years) and well supported (e.g. offering more options for recertification credit hours) - in an effort to continue to offer high quality educational programs to our volunteers and advice that is reliable (science based), relevant (can be customized to anyone’s gardening situation) and reachable (find us online, in the office, on the phone, in your community).

A Few Closing Thoughts from Karen

There were differences of opinion about the national standards rollout, but after extensive discussion all the county coordinators agreed that consistent minimum standards will be good for the Extension Master Gardener program nationwide. You may notice that Josephine County already has much higher requirements during the initial year of training for our volunteer service at 70 hours versus 40 hours for the new minimum standards. Apprentices in our county will receive 78 hours of classroom training beginning in 2015 and typically volunteers repay an hour of training with an hour of service, which is why we have the 70 hour requirement. Some counties only offer seven or so weeks of training so subsequently their requirement for volunteer hours is less. It will always be acceptable at the county level to have higher volunteer time standards if desired. The core topics listed for the MG training program at the national level coincide with the topics we teach in our training program every winter very closely. This will not be an issue for us locally.

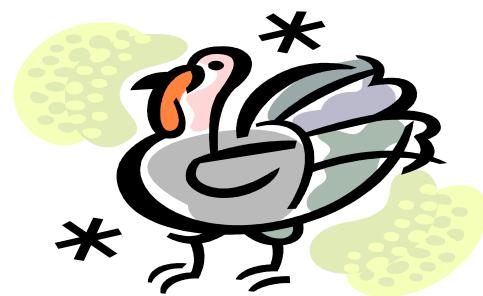
We also know that there will always be some dissent on how local programs handle the question of recertification from year to year with the volunteers. As Gail commented, we will gradually, over 3-5 years, ask volunteers to choose one of several ways to recertify. The simplest way will be to attend at least 10 hours of continuing education (MG training classes, community classes in the evenings and/or

on Saturdays, and classes at the Seeds of Spring Conference), and give 20 hours of volunteer time to the organization during the year. Remember you don’t have to be re-certified in order to be involved with the Master Gardener Association and activities. However, recertification is required for anyone working in the Plant Clinic, serving as an elected officer, or appointed as coordinator of any of the major programs sponsored by JoCoMGA. So, whether you support this idea or not, being recertified does help to keep volunteers up-to-date technically by taking classes, and actively by being connected to groups and undertakings within our chapter.

We are an inclusive organization and don’t intend to be bouncing people out of our chapter who want to be a part of the Josephine County Master Gardeners. However, moving forward we would like to have active members in our chapter who are prepared to interact with the public on occasion, and help carry the workload of a successful chapter so it doesn’t all fall on just a few volunteers. I think these national standards can be beneficial to our local chapter over time.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you Know? Master Gardeners! Please note the correct spelling of the common noun “gardener”. Look for the word “garden” in it and you’ll know you spelled it correctly. The spelling “gardner” is often used for people’s surnames as in Isabella Gardner, the art collector; Ava Gardner, the actress; or Howard Gardner who developed the idea of Multiple Intelligences. The spelling “gardiner” can be attributed to the names of several cities, such as Gardiner, MT and Gardiner, ME. Since we all proudly earned the name “Master Gardener” remember to keep “garden” in the title since we like to tend and cultivate a garden in our spare time!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 4 9:30 MG Meeting

Nov. 6 Putting Your Garden to Bed Class

Nov. 15 It's All About Soil! Class

Nov. 13 Not Your Granny's Desserts Class

Nov. 20 Homegrown Microgreens Class

Nov. 20 Newsletter Deadline

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(Continued from Page 2) To Bee or Not to Bee

will be flying when there is little food available—not much pollen or nectar.

Only one in seven queens will succeed in founding a new colony due to the scarcity of food and the herculean task of finding a suitable nesting spot, building “honey pots”, gathering pollen and nectar, make “bee bread” for her young and building brood cells in which she lays eggs to produce the first hatch of worker bees. Because it is still cold out she must sit on the eggs, like a chicken, to keep them warm. During this time the queen doesn't leave the nest and eats the stored honey instead.

Providing early and late season food sources is the single most effective way to help vulnerable queen BBs. For spring sources consider planting willows, rock cress, lungwort, crocuses, forget-me-nots, pansies and primroses. Your cover crops can also provide flowers in the early spring if planted in August. And please try to tolerate those early dandelions! In the fall, provide asters, late goldenrod, catmint, Russian sage, pansies and primroses. Also some culinary herbs bloom late in the season as do many annuals. Queens will also visit tomato and squash blossoms so leave these in until first frost.

If you do find an inactive queen she may have run out of energy (a full load of pollen and nectar only gives 40 minutes of flight time) and will probably die without supplemental feeding. Saturate a small piece of soft cotton with a solution of 30% sugar and 70% water placing it in a shallow bottle cap or lid. The saturating of the cloth is important because you don't want the BB to get sticky. Place this in front of the BB. You can also place these feeding stations amongst flowers.

Freezing temperatures can be lethal so if you find an inactive queen late in the day and a cold night is forecast, scoop her up with a sheet of paper, put her in a paper bag, and bring her inside overnight and provide supplemental food. Release her in a sunny area in the morn-

ing. Note that late season queens prefer to hibernate in sheltered areas either underground or under the built up debris under hedges and shrubs. So don't tidy up these areas until late next spring.

Next Month: Providing season long food resources and next site for BBs.

Judi Maxwell, Entomologist & Master Gardener Class of 2013

YOUNG MASTER GARDENERS

Trees, trees everywhere, but what do they do? The Young Master Gardeners session in October helped answer that and other questions of how they grow and who they are. Ask any Young Master Gardener and they should be able to tell you 101 uses of trees. The older YMG's looked at displayed pictures of the fire devastation in Josephine County in the summer of 2013. They offered some perspectives about scarred and burned trees and reforestation. The incense cedar plugs that each child got to plant helped reinforce many of those ideas.

The YMG'ers are growing plants on their own. This year we are asking kids to bring their plant (or a picture of their plant) and fill out a form with necessary facts including its name and other pertinent information such as how to care for it. One girl brought in her plant and immediately asked the MG volunteers if they knew what it was. To our relief we identified it as a bean plant but she clarified it as a kidney bean. One brought in his picture of a field of parsley that he had started from seed. For their efforts as part of the Earned Book Program sponsored by Grants Pass Friends of the Library, they earned a new science/gardening book of their choice. We will be excited to see what other plants our YMG'ers try.

Ruta Warren

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November birthdays are as follows: Connie O'Brian (1), Jeanette Olmstead (2), Lori Pernarelli (11), John Etchells (20), Charlie Newsom (23), Barb Finch (28), Bill Ward (29), JoAn McManus (30).



NOVEMBER CLASSES

Putting Your Garden to Bed class will be held on Thursday, November 6th from 5:30-7:30pm. Instructor is Mo Kelly, MG of 2011. Prep for tomorrow's future by putting a fluffy cover on your bed tonight. The class will go over the benefits of cover crops, different types of mulch, and how to use them in time for spring planting. Cost is \$5/MG free with Badge.

Not Your Granny's Desserts class will be held on Thursday, November 13th from 6:30-8:30pm. Instructors are Deborah Dunham, Mary Cotton, Lilly Pattee, Master Food Preservers. Tired of the same old holiday desserts? Start new traditions and make new memories with some fun and delicious new recipes for desserts like Pumpkin Noel Log, Caramel Apple Cheesecake and Pumpkin Pecan Pie. Cost: \$15. Pre-registration required: Call Sharon at OSU Ext.541-476-6613.

It's All About Soil! class is on Saturday, Nov. 15th. Instructor: James Cassidy, OSU Soils Professor, Corvallis, OR. First session is from 9-10:30am will be on Soil—What it is & How it works... Second session is 11-12:30pm will be Understanding Your Own Soil. Find out all about what soil is and how it works. Cost: \$20 for both sessions/MG free with Badge.

Homegrown Microgreens class will be on Thursday, Nov 20th from 5:30-7:30pm. Instructor is Karen Pleasant, JoCo MG Coordinator. If you miss out in the garden during the winter, growing your own microgreens might fulfill your green thumb needs. In this class you will learn how to grow, harvest, and enjoy your own fresh microgreens. Nutritious microgreens are easy and cheap to grow indoors, they require little space, and they are versatile for use in many things. Cost: \$5/MG free with Badge.

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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