

December, 2014



THE MASTER GARDENER™



Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By Peter Pernarelli, President



“Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” - John F. Kennedy

December 31st marks the end of my Presidency. I am honored to have served in this capacity for the last two years and I look forward to passing the leadership role to John Farias and the new board. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank those who have served with me during my tenure. With their assistance and yours, we have managed to keep this organization operating and even growing. As an example, two years ago we undertook the operation of the Horticulture Exhibits at the County Fair. When I realized that I was desperately in need of help, many of you came out to show what Master Gardeners could do. This past year that venue was even better with more time to plan and better leadership and support for the endeavor.

You are a great group of people who have made my two years of being President fun. I have enjoyed being involved in the many activities but I also look forward to my “retirement” from this position.

I hope you will all plan to attend the Christmas party at the home of John and Pat Etchells. There will be a gift exchange, an ugly Christmas sweater contest and possibly even a visit from St. Nick, as well. You’ve probably already received an email regarding this event. Be sure to RSVP so the Social committee can have an indication how many will be attending.

On another note, be sure to come and greet the new class of 2015 on their first day (Jan.15) and bring a dish for the traditional potluck luncheon that we sponsor on that day.

(Continued on page 4)

INSTRUCTOR TRAINING FOR SEED TO SUPPER PROGRAM

Mark your calendar for **Friday, January 9, 2015** for training class for Master Gardeners to become qualified to be an instructor for the Seed to Supper program that OSU Extension and the Josephine County Master Gardeners will be offering in cooperation with the Josephine County Food Share program. The training will be from 11am to 5:30pm with a 1/2 hour break. Please eat lunch before you come and be ready for a full afternoon of learning and fun. The free six hour workshop will be held at the OSU Extension Auditorium on Ringuette Street. Pre-registration is required, please call Sharon Evans at 541-476-6613.

Inside this issue:

<i>More About Bumblebees</i>	2
Treasurer's Report	3
<i>Garden Ponderings</i>	3
<i>Greenhouse News</i>	4
<i>Perennial Musings</i>	5
<i>2015 Class Schedule</i>	6
<i>Plant Clinic Tidbits</i>	7
<i>Gardeners & Tetanus</i>	8

Special points of interest:

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

MORE ABOUT BUMBLEBEES

Hats off to MG Barbara Larson who saved a queen bumblebee (BB) that she found dangling by one leg from a flower-an indication that it was near death. She brought the bee indoors (naming her Helen) and fed her the 30/70 sugar/water mix recommended in the last newsletter. Two days later Barbara released a very rambunctious bee. If Helen survives and successfully nests next spring, Barbara will have an additional 400-500 daughter workers to pollinize her flowers and crops. Good work!

North America is not alone in seeing BB numbers plummet. Three species are now extinct in Britain and over 50% of European BBs are considered threatened. Besides the effects of pesticides and the introductions of disease by escaped commercial BBs, their ability to fly at very low temperatures, designed to give them a competitive edge, may actually make them more extinction prone in the face of climate change. Specifically, gradual warming and an increase in extreme weather events, both characteristics of climate change, can have catastrophic effects on BBs.

Scientists have found that the timing of spring flowering now occurs 3-5 days earlier in montane areas than it did 30 years ago while BB emergence is 5-7 days earlier. If this trend continues, BBs will increasingly emerge into a landscape devoid of nectar and pollen. Supplemental feeding using the method discussed in November can help. Simply saturate a colorful piece of cloth in the sugar water, place it in a small container which you can set on the ground, or if ants are a problem, try using one of those tall wire flower support stakes with a ring at the top. You can manipulate the size/shape of the ring to hold the container and smear a sticky substance to discourage ants.

Our area also had its share of extreme weather this past year. The lack of snow in the mountains and unusually high mid-summer temperatures resulted in less flowering and seed set in natural areas. If this trend continues the effect will be a decline in the populations and diversity of wildflower species that both support and depend on BBs and other pollinators. Some entomologists believe that pollinator plantings in our yards and along roads, field edges, golf courses, etc., will be necessary to maintain pollinator populations in the future. Planting nectar and pollen rich plants, particularly native species, is the key. For a list of good floral choices for our area visit the Xerces Society's website: <http://www.xerces.org/pollinators-pacific-northwest-region/> and click on 'plant lists' under Publications.

Besides food, BBs also need nesting and hibernating habitat. The preferred nest site for many BB species is a tunnel made by a burrowing mammal. Finally, an excuse for losing the battle to control moles! BBs also will nest under tussocks of bunchgrasses

(Continued on page 5)

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.

New email address: Dawn Hillman,
jdhillman1@charter.net

Susan Sampson new phone #: 541-295-0261

Update your 2015 Planner Book

New Date for 2015 Awards Banquet: October 24.

Chili Cook-Off, July 25. Perennial Sales, March 21, June 20, September 12.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Julie Kaszuba, Treasurer

Cash and savings totals: As of 10/31/14

Checking: \$19,829

Savings: \$21,353

CD: \$3,610

Total Assets: \$44,792

Total Income: \$279. This comes from Garden Guide Sales (\$165), Donation from Jo.Co. Fair unclaimed premiums (\$26), Perennial Sales (\$80), Int. from Ck,Sav.& CD (\$8).

Total Expenses: \$2,683. This comes from Plant Clinic Ref. Books (\$430), Ads; Perennial Sales (\$133), Thank You Cty Fair Ad (\$246), Award Banquet; Plaques Engraving (\$430), Invitations (\$80), Envelopes (\$40), Programs (\$89), Postage (\$123), Mentor Planner Calendars for class of 2015 (\$594), K-12 supplies (\$190), YMG supplies (\$152), Newsletter;

Postage (\$34), Printing (\$17), Web Page Annual Fee (\$125).

**These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 10/31/14 bank statements.

Reminder - 2015 Dues are due & payable beginning January 1, 2015 and will be \$20 per member. Please make checks payable to Jo.Co. Master Gardeners, **NOT OSU EXTENSION, mail checks to OSU Extension Office or drop off in Treasurer's In-Box.

**Reminder #2 - When shopping at the Grange Co-op & Fred Meyer Reward Programs, don't forget to have them credit your purchase to Jo.Co.Master Gardeners.

GARDEN PONDERINGS BY KAREN PLEASANT, MG COORDINATOR

Consider the Gift of Giving to Gardening Organizations

If you're thinking about making a year-end donation to an Oregon garden-focused organization, here are a few that could use your help. Many of these educational or 501(c)(3) charitable organizations are supported by Master Gardener efforts.

Local Organizations:

OSU Extension Master Gardener Program in Josephine County: you can make a donation to 1) the Master Gardener Program to help offset the cost of bringing speakers from out of the area for community education classes and annual Master Gardener training program or 2) to the Extension Endowment Fund and specify that the monies be used for the building fund (we definitely need more classroom and office space). Class and program participation, along with surveys and discussions with community members, shows that Master Gardener volunteers make a difference in our county and help to promote more sus-

tainable gardening practices.

Josephine County Master Gardeners Association: you all know this one, but might not think of making a year-end donation to this charitable organization. Your donation dollars can be allocated to the organization to use as the Board members see fit or you can earmark your donation specifically to support any of the programs that the association sponsors: the plant clinic, the mentoring program in the greenhouses, the perennial program, school garden (K-12) program, and the Young Master Gardener program at the Josephine Community Library to name a few.

Josephine County Food Share and the Oregon Food Bank: OSU Extension will be partnering with the Oregon Food Bank through Josephine County Food Share and the Josephine County Master Gardeners to deliver basic gardening **Seed to Supper** classes to individuals and families who live on a limited budget. Through a series of five 1½ hour classes participants will learn how to grow and harvest their own food. According to Charity Navigator,

***ORGANIZATIONS LOCAL
AND AROUND OREGON***

an independent charity evaluator, 94% of the Oregon Food Bank program budget is spent on programs as evidenced by the books and supplies that are freely given to the Seed to Supper program participants. Online information is available at <http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/Seed-to-Supper>.

Organizations around Oregon*:

Growing Gardens: Growing Gardens' mission is to reduce hunger for people in the Portland area. They work with thousands of volunteers to build home and school organic vegetable gardens and provide three years of support, supplies, seeds and plants, mentoring and more so the residents become more self-reliant and the community

(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

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 Charlie Newsom
Newsletter Editor Ruth Reel
Hospitality Chairman Bob Wilson
Special Projects Sybil Longinotti
Publicity Art Reel
Historian Skeeter Guardione
County Fair Charlie Newsom
Growers Market Peter/Lori Pernarelli
K-12 Program Lilly Pattee
Mentor Committee Lori Pernarelli
Paint Your Heart Out Sybil Longinotti
Volunteer Hours John Farias
Computer Coordinator Steve Schoen
Webmaster John Farias
Perennials Jean Kitchen/Joan Foley
Young Master Gardeners Ruta Warren
Master Gardener Coord Karen Pleasant

(Continued from page 1 President's Comments)

Lastly, plan to attend the General Membership meeting on December 2nd when we will be voting to approve the proposed budget for next year. If you have not had a chance to review the budget, there is a copy available in the Plant Clinic.

My Best Wishes to you and your family for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

P.S. Lori asked me to pass this information along. If you completed the requirements for recertification in 2014 and you have not yet received your swinger, you will find it in the Plant Clinic.

GREENHOUSE NEWS

Greenhouse is approaching. We have the seeds ordered, sorted and ready to be planted, the OBC order for planting mix is ready. Thanks to the many folks who gave suggestions. We tried to find as many as possible and appreciated all. Primary Mentors for this year are: Sunday-Pat Siler; Monday-Tracey Raggi; Tuesday-Craig and Pattye Ingram; Wednesday-David Coon; Friday-John Farias; and Saturday is Deb Dunham. There are many other people we know will be helping - John and Pat Etchells, Jean Kitchen, Pattie Coleman, Peter and Lori Pernarelli - and so many others! But we always can use interested bodies! We need to give a special thanks to Al Cook who helped mend the holes in the floor; Pat Siler who has helped us with the physical plan and invaluable advice; Craig and Pattye who are always amazing and other too numerous to mention. *Tracey Raggi*

ANNUAL DUES

Reminder - 2015 Dues will be \$20 per member and due and payable 1/1/15. Please make checks payable to Jo.Co. Master Gardeners, **NOT OSU EXTENSION**, and either drop checks off in Treasurer's In-Box or mail to the Extension Office. Thank You!

The Editor, Membership Caretaker



(Continued from page 3 Garden Ponderings)

becomes more sustainable. The program has helped to install over 1000 gardens! Find out more at <http://growing-gardens.org/>.

Lettuce Grow Garden Foundation: The Lettuce Grow (“Let Us Grow”) Garden Foundation works to install organic vegetable gardens in correctional facilities across Oregon and to educate inmates on sustainability gardening and horticulture topics. This classroom and hands-on based learning program offers hope in a place that may often seem hopeless, and where there is a high level of daily stress the activity of gardening often provides a therapeutic effect to the inmates. As many Master Gardeners would attest, working in the dirt is healing. An additional benefit is the healthy and fresh produce that helps to reduce the food budget of the correctional facility while providing healthy, homegrown vegetables to the inmates. Learn more at <http://lettucegrow.org/>, where you can also read a newsletter that highlights how the program has changed the lives of several inmates. This program is currently in many correctional facilities around Oregon, but the closest location to us is in Lakeview.

These are just a few ideas for making year-end contributions and whether you are able to donate monies or not, the time and effort you all contribute as Master Gardener volunteers makes a huge impact on our community and the members who enjoy gardening here. My hat’s off to you all, Happy Holidays and may you be blessed in the New Year to come!

*Special thanks to Gail Langelotto for sharing information about these gardening organizations.

(Continued from page 2 More About Bumblebees)

so consider adding a few of these to your perennial plantings. You can also provide nest boxes. The Xerces Society website has instructions for building nest boxes. The pile of branches and twigs you’ve been accumulating all summer provides habitat for overwintering BB queens. Postpone burning until mid-or late spring to assure that queens have already emerged. Finally, please do everything possible to limit your use of pesticides next year. For every toxic control method there is an organic equivalent that can work just as well though it may require some learning to get it right.

Some thoughts about Christmas. In the 1980’s I worked in Australia and at Christmas I’d join a group of other Yanks for a vacation at the beach. Though all of this was fun we still pined for our wintery traditions back home and tried to come up with substitutes. Christmas trees as we know them were hard to come by in Australia so we settled for a potted Norfolk Island Pine that we decorated with Christmas beetles. The beetles are a beautiful iridescent green, gold and red, not unlike small glass Christmas ornaments. They are attracted to lights so the key was to collect dead ones found on the ground in the morning before the resident blue-

tongued lizard ate them. Check out images of these beetles on the web and Merry Christmas to all!

Judi Maxwell, Entomologist and Master Gardener 2013

PERENNIAL MUSINGS

We want to take this opportunity to thank Craig and Pattye Ingram for their tireless efforts and their utmost dedication to the perennial program, which has made it such a great success. Think of how many lives you have touched in the community and just try to imagine how many Master Gardeners and Master Gardener trainees have benefitted from your vision and implementation of this educational program. With heartfelt gratitude, we thank you.

Presently, in the cold frame, we are hunkering down for the winter. All of the “mother” plants have been neatly placed inside for safe keeping and a watchful eye. Each week our inventory seems to magically expand. Inside activity continues as we tend to some of the newest cuttings and transplants. It’s amazing to watch some of the cuttings emerge. Most of the yellowing foliage has been removed, plants have been given their yearly shearing, and many perennials have been lovingly sculpted for springtime viewing.

In the upcoming days we will be cleaning the outside patios and getting new compost as we prepare for spring. The storage racks have been moved to maximize both the inside and outside spaces and Jean’s creative juices are flowing. A special thank you is in order to everyone who has helped with this transitional phase as we prepare to welcome the 2015 season.

Mark your calendars for next year’s perennial sales - March 21st, June 20th and September 12th. We will begin to accept new plants about the 3rd week of January so if you see something that you, your neighbors, or your friends, are willing to share, please bring it to us on Tuesdays, from 9am to 11am, as we begin in January. Let’s make our community proud as we continue to educate and carry on the Ingram’s vision. If you see Pattye and Craig, give them your very own personal thank you. It is with honor that we are entrusted with this responsibility. *Jean Kitchen and Joan Foley*





OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

MASTER GARDENER™

JOSEPHINE COUNTY - 2015 PROGRAM

Grants Pass Thursdays 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Week	Date	Topic	Instructor	SG
1	15-Jan	AM: Training Overview/Introductions	Karen Pleasant	
		AM: Josephine County Master Gardener Association	John Farias	
		PM: Rogue Valley Climate and Weather	John Etchells	
		PM: Sustainable Landscape Design	Mike Zerwer	21
2	22-Jan	AM: Introduction to Soils	Scott Goode	2
		PM: Composting/Vermiculture	Rhianna Simes	5
3	29-Jan	AM: Plant Anatomy	John Punches	1
		PM: Plant Physiology	John Punches	1
4	5-Feb	AM: Urban Tree Care/Lab	Tal Blankenship	8
		PM: Vegetable and Raised Bed Gardening	Marjorie Neal	7
5	12-Feb	AM: Backyard Fruit Production	Steve Renquist	10
		PM: Home Greenhouse Basics	David James	7
6	19-Feb	AM: Pruning Ornamentals	Steve Renquist	4
		PM: Annuals and Perennials	Mo Kelly	8
7	28-Feb	AM: Why Is My Tree Dying?	Max Bennett	9
		AM: Home Weed Management	Peter Pernarelli	17
		PM: Attracting Pollinators	Judi Maxwell	HO*
8	5-Mar	AM: Pesticide Use and Safety	Gail Langellotto	19
		PM: Vertebrate Pest Management	Bob Reynolds	18
		PM: Houseplants: Care and Feeding	Bob Reynolds	13
9	12-Mar	AM: Water Management in the Home Landscape	Dave Searcy	6
		PM: Garden Entomology	Marsha Waite	14
10	19-Mar	AM: Sustainable Lawn Maintenance	Alec Kowalewski	12
		PM: Integrated Pest Management	Judi Maxwell	20
11	26-Mar	AM: Plant Problem Diagnosis	Neil Bell	15, 16
		PM: Berries and Grapes	Bernadine Strik	11
12	2-Apr	AM: Plant Identification	Karen Pleasant	22
		PM: Plant Clinic Orientation	Karen, Wilma, Peter	
13	9-Apr	AM: Plant Clinic Activity	Master Gardeners	
		PM: Plant Clinic Exercises	Master Gardeners	
		PM: Exam Review/Conclusion	Karen Pleasant	

Location: Josephine County Extension Auditorium

215 Ringuette St, Grants Pass

541-476-8613

Breaks One hour will be allowed for lunch. Participants should bring their lunch.

There will be a mid-morning and afternoon break.

SG Refers to the applicable chapter in your *Sustainable Gardening* textbook. *HO=handouts

All regular class sessions are eligible for re-certification for veteran Master Gardeners.

11/12/2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 2 9:30 MG Meeting

Dec. 14 Christmas Party

Dec. 17 Newsletter Deadline

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PLANT CLINIC TIDBITS

Cherrie Lynch, 2013 Master Gardener, handled this question most graciously. A woman called in about some small white moths which she had found in her home and placed in a jar. Her concern was what she should feed them and would there be enough air for them. She did not want to put them out in the rain. Cherrie suggested a simulated cloth and yes, there would be enough air until it stopped raining.

As least a week was spent in an attempt to identify a heavy, dense, ivory colored bone with an opening an inch and a quarter wide and an inch high. It showed some gnawing on the outside by a small critter and a fracture was evident down one side. Both ends of the bones were broken though not shattered nor sawed. It was confirmed by a butcher at Cartwright, who has quite a background knowledge. Diane Wickstrom's suspect as a black bear. He noted that the bone was old because it had begun to fossilize. Our client in Merlin had found it in gravel they had ordered. Diane is a former professor in Anthropology.

Terry Ruiter has written about The Rocky Mountain Society of Botanical Artists for the June 2014 issue of The Botanical Artist magazine. Terry is an artist in her own right.

Some of our new Master Gardeners will be at the helm in the Plant Clinic as the winter season begins on Tuesdays and Thursdays with hours 10-2. They are: Debbie Schultz, Jan Knapik, Terry Ruiter, Mike Zerwer, Cally Baker, Jan Quintens, Diane Wickstrom, Breezy Schallheim and Joan Foley. Stephen Hardesty, Lauren Buksar, Linda Austin and Lorene Elzea will be substitutes.

They will give the capable summer crews of Mo Kelly, Valerie Barrette, Patti Phenix, David Coon, Susie Strickler, Mary Conroy, Carolyn Farias, Sue George, Candace Bartow, Sylvia Miller, Jeanne Schorr, Ruth Monical, Hank Smith, Jeanette Olmstead, Judi Maxwell, Angie Bifano-Sokol, Karren Striplin and Karen Zoufal, a well-deserved break with grateful thanks for their excellent efforts.

Oct. 30 - Does anyone still question climate change? I have an iris in bloom, Judi Maxwell reports a day lily, azalea, ceonothus, lily of the Nile, and an excited client called in about her white camellia blooming for the first time in 26 years.

HELP: We're also putting out a call for a new pocket gopher (meadow mouse). Just recently it has been ravaged and will be bones soon. Still need a vole and a gopher for our wall display begun many years ago. *Wilma*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Annie Bacon (3), Karen Pleasant (5), Barbara Schwartz and David Coon (6), Ron Phillips (12), Stan Bryant (21), Skeeter Guardione (23), Ruta Warren and Linda Cochran (31).



OSU VOLUNTEER SERVICE FORM

You will be receiving your OSU Volunteer Service Form by email and/or Postal Office. This is required by OSU for every volunteer for the following year. This is for your protection in case of injury. A signed form is mandatory whether or not you accept the insurance. Please turn in at the Extension Office at your earliest convenience. Thank You!

**HAVE A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

From your Editor



GARDENERS AND TETANUS

According to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, many gardeners are unaware that they face an increased risk for tetanus, a potentially fatal disease caused by bacteria found in dirt, potting soil and manure. According to the 2004 National Gardening Survey, 80 percent of gardeners say that they get cuts and scrapes while working around the yard, garden or home - which is how tetanus enters the bloodstream.

The survey also revealed a general lack of protection among gardeners, with more than 40 percent reporting that they are not vaccinated against tetanus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends a combined booster vaccine known as “Td” once every 10 years to protect against tetanus and diphtheria, another infectious disease.

Every time you work in the dirt you expose yourself to tetanus. If you don’t keep your tetanus shot up-to-date and end up getting tetanus it is a very painful disease. You can suffer from severe muscle spasms in your mouth and throat, commonly known as “lockjaw” and as many as 20 percent of tetanus cases result in death. So don’t delay, get your tetanus shot today!

Information from Minnesota Gardening Forum Garden Web: <http://forums.gardenweb.com>. Do you know your risk of tetanus as a gardener?

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



Master Gardener™ Association
OSU Extension Service
215 Ringnette Street
Grants Pass, OR 97527