

December, 2015



THE MASTER GARDENER™



Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By John Farias, President



This is my last letter as President of JOCOMG. This year our Chapter set records or near records for sales revenue, number of community classes and total recorded volunteer hours. We also had a high percentage of our students graduating. It was an honor to serve you as Master Gardeners. My heartfelt thanks to all of you who supported me and for your compassion and dedication in supporting our community.

I was asked by several members to have my last letter return to my misguided adventures. I told Carolyn I do not have anymore. She gave me the “are you kidding me look?” and said how about “ladders, oleanders, bougainvillea and Christmas lights. So here it is ...*Tales of the Ladder: Will we (I) ever learn?*

Carolyn wanted me to lower the height of an oleander hedge for a home we were restoring in an historic neighborhood in Phoenix, Arizona. I climbed the rungs of an old step ladder I purchased in a garage sale. I chose to ignore the red warning on one of the rungs which said not to go any higher. I treated it as a challenge, not a warning. My theory was why buy a seven foot ladder if you can only use five feet? The last two feet must be some sort of “ladder tax”. While trying to reach the top of the oleander bush the ladder started to wobble. In a useless attempt to regain my balance by swinging the power hedger like a drunken pirate, I cut the power cord in half. I panicked since I did not know where the live wire was, I made a wise choice to get off the ladder and trim the bush down to three feet high versus six so I did not have to use that ladder again.

The next year we gave up restoring older homes and moved to Scottsdale, Arizona where the community chose what you could plant.

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ANNUAL VOLUNTEER FORMS DUE BY JAN. 15TH, 2016

Beginning this year *all* active volunteers will need to complete two forms annually. Both of the attached forms - Conditions of Volunteer Service and Code of Conduct - need to be turned into the Extension Office by January 15th, 2016, to be a registered Oregon State University Master Gardener volunteer in Josephine County. If you have any questions please contact Karen Pleasant at 541-476-6613.

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Special points of interest:

- *2015 Elected Officers*
- *2015 Appointed Coordinators*
- *Calendar*
- *Editor Notes*
- *Birthdays*

THIS WILL BE THE BEST WHO-LIDAY EVER!

This bright December look forward to a Whoville Dinner, with games and special treats. It promises to be a celebration that just can't be beat!

You are invited to warm up from the cold and enjoy the feast . There will be lots of laughter and maybe even roast beast!

WHEN: Friday, December 18, 2015, Party starts at 4:00 - 9:00ish

WHERE: Greyback Farm, Residence of Pam and Dan Zaklan, home phone 541-226-2165

We will be smoking a roast beast, options on what to bring: An appetizer, a side to share with beef, a yummy dessert, there will be two ovens to keep dishes warm.

BYOB of spirits if you dare! A large cooler will be on the back deck for drinks, wine, beer, etc.

RSVP: TO YOU FAVORITE WHO! You can email Pam at peekay45@charter.net or call 541-226-2165

DIRECTIONS to the Farm: 3230 Woodland Park Rd, Grant Pass. Greyback Farm is 7 miles west of Grants Pass off of Redwood Hwy 199. Woodland Park Rd is between Redwood Ave South and Jerome Prairie Rd. From GP: head west on Redwood Hwy past Rogue Community College. You will see signs after you pass RCC that say Redwood Ave and another sign saying "To Jerome Prairie School - Woodland Park Rd". Turn left on Redwood Ave South, and proceed to the little store on the corner; turn left on Woodland Park Rd. the Farm is a half-mile down Woodland Park Rd on the right. The gate lights will be on and the fence will be strung with lights along the driveway.

Coming from the west, Cave Junction area: Turn right on Helms, this turns into Jerome Prairie Rd. Turn left just after the power station onto Woodland Park Rd.

Looking forward to seeing y'all!



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.

Change of address for Belinda Blauer:

2610 Hugo Rd., Merlin, OR 97532



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Julie Kaszuba, Treasurer

Cash and savings totals: As of 10/31/15

Checking: \$25,468

Savings: \$21,361

CD: \$3,613

Total Assets: \$50,442

Total Income: \$149. This comes from Perennial Plant Sales (\$70), Fred Meyer Reward Program (\$79).

Total Expenses: \$1,329. This comes from Perennial Supplies (\$64), G.H. Supplies (\$20), Flowers for front of OSU garden (\$46), Awards Banquet; Decorations (82), Frames (\$18), Envelopes (\$23), Postage (\$147), General Advertising; 9/12 Plant Sale (\$117), Thank You Ad for Jo.Co. Fair donations (\$318), Mini College expense for Board President (\$184), K-12 Supplies (\$252), Newsletter: Postage (\$34), Printing

(\$17), Social; Goodies for Nov. Board Meeting (\$7).

**These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 10/31/15 bank statements.

Reminder - 2016 Dues are now due & payable as of January 1, 2016 and are \$20 per member. Please make checks payable to Jo. Co. Master Gardeners, **NOT OSU EXTENSION. You may 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 purchases to Jo.Co. MGA.

GARDEN PONDERINGS BY KAREN PLEASANT, MG COORDINATOR

2015 ALL STARS - Many Hands Make Light Work

Along with the awards given out by the JoCo MG Association at the Master Gardener Graduation and Awards Banquet in October several volunteers were honored by Oregon State University for the many hours they contributed this year and they have rightfully earned the title "All Star." The veteran All Stars received an orange kneeling pad and the Class of 2015 All Stars received a special certificate. Text yourself and see if you can answer the following questions before peeking at the answers!

Which 2006 MG Graduate was deservedly honored having served 1000 + hours this year?

Wilma Christian

Which Class of 2015 grad volunteered the most time with 198 hours of service?

Nancy Pyle

Can you name any of the nine veteran MG's who gave over 300 hours

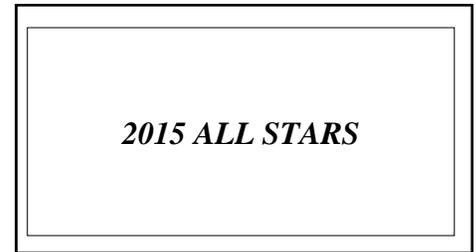
of their time this year (listed in descending order)? Meet the 2015 Veteran All Stars!

Wilma Christian, Judi Maxwell, Ruth Reel, Lori Pernarelli, Diane Smith, Terry Ruiter, Debi Ashton, John Farias, Peter Pernarelli

Can you name any of the twelve Class of 2015 trainees who gave over 100 hours of their time this year (listed in descending order)? Meet the Class of 2015 All Stars!

Nancy Pyle, Barry Burnside, Phyllis McIntosh, Rachelle Gunderson, Pat Olsen, Cheryl Holt, Linda Price, Barbara Reavis, Lucy Chambers, Karen Ramsey, Reb Zwart, Elizabeth Maler

It is really quite astounding! These twenty-one All Stars plus 172 other Master Gardeners have contributed over 15,972 volunteer hours during the 2015 MG year. MG Volunteers also recorded over 3625 hours of continuing education this year. Think of the seeds they've planted! The dirt they have hauled; the drip irrigation systems they've fixed; the programs they've



2015 ALL STARS

coordinated; the children they have taught; the funds they have raised to beautify, educate, manage, and inspire people in our community. Southern Oregon is a better place because of all the Josephine County Master Gardeners. My hat's off to you all!



2015 ELECTED OFFICERS

President	John Farias
1st Vice President	Charlie Newsom
2nd Vice President.....	John Etchells
Secretary	Pat Etchells
OMGA State Rep	Guy Young
OMGA Alt. State Rep.....	Candace Bartow
Past President	Peter Pernarelli

APPOINTED COORDINATORS

Treasurer.....	Julie Kaszuba
Green House Manager	Peter Pernarelli
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.....	Carolyn Farias/Nancy Scheffel
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	Karen Pleasant
Computer Coordinator	Steve Schoen
Webmaster	John Farias
Perennials	Jean Kitchen/Joan Foley
Young Master Gardeners.....	Ruta Warren
Membership.....	Ruth Reel
Master Gardener Coord.....	Karen Pleasant

(Continued from page 1 President's Comments)

Trees were limited to Mesquite, Palo Verde, Jacaranda, etc. Cactus and crushed granite dominated most of local yards and most color was introduced with bougainvillea. My challenge was to trim back a bougainvillea bush which had grown to about 15 feet in height and was lying on my roof. I had to buy a new 14-foot extension ladder to tackle this job. As I climbed the ladder wearing nothing but tennis shoes and shorts I passed the red warning, (Challenge), rung and began to cut six foot stems with my electric hedger and repaired power cord. I could not cut completely through the largest stem with the hedger no matter how I tried. Then the six foot stem slowly started to fall towards me. I let out a silent scream as a dozen or more two to three inch needles imbedded themselves into my back and legs. Exacerbating the problem was that the piece of bougainvillea imbedded in my back was still attached to the main stem. Any movement on my part just drove the needles deeper into my flesh. Fortunately I had a pruner in my pocket and painfully cut through the rest of the stem. I climbed down the ladder in pain, the bush attached to my back, bleeding from my neck to my ankles, looking like a creature from a "B" movie. I rang the front door bell. Carolyn opened the door and proceeded to complete pruning the plant attached to my back. She then applied the appropriate antiseptic and mumbled "what is wrong with you?"

One of our family's favorite movies is *Christmas Vacation* starring Chevy Chase. My kids loved the movie because over time they have seen me perform all the scenes in the movie. They love to remind me, "Dad, remember when you did that?" We moved to West Linn, Oregon in November and Carolyn asked me to install Christmas lights on the exterior of the house (a two story, but I wisely decided just the first floor was best). I attached the strings of lights to the rain gutters using plastic hooks. One side of the hook attached to the gutter while the other side supported the string of lights. It was a *challenge* since the home was on a sloping lot. The gutter on the left side was the standard 10 feet high while the gutter on the right side of the house was closer to 16 feet. To accomplish the task I had to buy a 24 foot extension ladder which also had the red warning rung which I *challenged* but was successful that time.

On New Year's Day I attempted to take down the Christmas lights. My plan was to start on the high side. I climbed up the ladder passing the red warning (*challenge*) rung and easily removed a couple of hooks freeing up a section of the light string. I did not want to climb down the ladder, move the ladder two feet, and climb back up the ladder just to re-

move two more hooks so I made a very dumb decision. I tugged on the string of lights, a hook broke in two but I accepted that because it freed up a section of the lights. That's when I repeated the Chevy Chase scene and yanked on the string with more force. Plastic hooks were flying everywhere. I was feeling pretty proud of myself until I realized the ladder was not leaning on the rain gutter anymore. It was standing straight up and the only thing keeping me from an ambulance ride to the hospital was the light string I was holding and a plastic hook holding the other end. My life passed before my eyes, pizza, hamburgers, bacon...I gently pulled on the light string and the ladder started to lean back towards the house but then I heard a "click" and saw a plastic hook drop to the ground. The ladder returned to its straight up position. I was now convinced that I would never see the Chicago Cubs win the World Series. Out of options, I repeated the gentle pull action until the ladder eventually rested on the rain gutter and my heart started to beat again. I removed the remaining lights and made a decision to only install Christmas lights on our shrubs for the remaining time we lived there.

Happy Holidays and may you never have to climb higher than your raised beds.

NOTICE

Will the person attending the last Chili Cook-off who inadvertently took my Waterford salad utensils please give me a call or email? I have your set and would like to make the trade for the return of my set. Thank you Ida Toro (idatoro45@hotmail.com)

SERVICE DOGS OR COMPANION ANIMALS **HOW DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE**

I was requested to attend a presentation entitled "Service Animals - Your Rights and the Law" at HASL on November 6, 2015. Among the presenters were Dogs for the Deaf, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Canine Angels, which provides service dogs to children and young adults.

Service Animals are most likely dogs, although miniature horses have been used in certain circumstances. The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that each service dog be leashed, harnessed or tethered unless the disability is such that it prevents him/her from using these devices. In that case, the animal must be under complete control through voice, signal or other effective control methods. If someone, for instance, is enrolled in Seeds of Spring and is

present with a dog (or other animal) in arms, in a purse or on a lap and states that this is an emotional support, comfort or therapy animal, you have the legal right to ask the person to leave. Under the ADA, "comfort", "therapy" or "emotional support animals" do not meet the definition of a service animal. One exception is a service member returning from war with PTSD and who may have a service dog with him/her. The ADA makes a distinction between psychiatric service animals and emotional support animals. A service animal who has been trained to alert that an anxiety attack is about to happen and takes special action to help avoid the attack or lessen its impact would qualify as a service animal.

Each service dog is trained to perform a specific task. A hearing dog alerts to certain sounds, a guide dog helps a person with low or no vision and many dogs are trained to alert for seizures, low blood sugar and other illnesses. If it is apparent that the dog is not a service animal, you are allowed to ask "What task does this dog perform for you"? **You are not allowed to ask "What is your disability"?** Sometimes the disability is obvious and other times it is not. If the service dog is dirty, disruptive and not under good control you may ask that the dog be removed, but you must allow the person to stay, if they wish. The service dog must have all feet on the floor and lie quietly under a table or in the vicinity of its handler.

A major problem is the fact that you can buy a jacket, documentation and other paraphernalia identifying your dog as a service animal over the internet and allowing what is essentially a pet to have the same privileges as a working service animal. The abuse of the ADA has become such a problem, that California, and several other states, have made impersonating a disabled person a misdemeanor and California is moving to make it a felony.

The laws governing registered therapy dogs are entirely different. Therapy dogs do not have the same rights and privileges of public access.

Sybil Longinotti, Special Projects



DECEMBER BIRTHAYS

Happy Birthday to Marilyn Ormsby (2), Annie Bacon (3), Karen Pleasant (5), Barbara Schwartz/David Coon (6), Di-
anne Cooper/Nancy Pyle (9), Karen Ramsey (10), Reb
Zwart (12), Kia McQueary (13), Stan Bryant (21), Skeeter
Guardione (23), Ruta Warren/Linda Cochran (31).

December 2015

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 9:30, MG Meeting	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Christmas Party Dinner	19
20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 Winter Begins	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

A GARDENER'S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

By Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor University of Vermont Extension Dept. of Plant and Soil Science.

T'was the night before Christmas and under the snow, perennials now dormant were waiting to grow. The roses were mulched, the soil piled high, to protect the graft: union so the plants wouldn't die. The strawberries were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of fertilizer (organic or not) danced in their heads. The orchard was clean, the fruit trees at rest, no diseases were living much less any pest. The evergreen branches, all coated with ice, provide shelter for birds that they would entice. Shrubs were all sprayed with repellents this year, to protect them from feeding by mice and by deer. Inside the house are poinsettias galore, while wreaths, boughs and holly adorn the front door. While enjoying my garden this quiet, cold night, what my eyes then spied was a gardener's delight! A jolly old man in suit red and white, pulled up in a sleigh and began to alight. He laughed as he said, "I'm a gardener myself," and began to leave gifts packed by his elf. Practical gifts like tools and a mower, along with some labels, pots, and a sower. To protect our hands were hand cream and gloves, for my spouse a sun hat in a color she loves. A hoe will be useful for pulling up weeds, new flats and soil media for sowing spring seeds. Next came a trellis for the clematis vine, stakes for new trees, and to hold them some twine. For the patio a planter and large flower pot, both were in colors bold, bright and red hot. To help all our veggies grow sweet and grow strong, there were large bags of compost to help them along. Our cats will be happy with their new catnip mouse, our birds will enjoy their heated bath and bird house. For fun was a rain gauge and new garden book, a train for the garden, homemade jam for the cook. As jolly St. Nick finished he winked and stood tall, and I heard him exclaim: "*Merry Christmas, and Happy Gardening to all!*"

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

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

THE MASTER GARDENER



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