PRESIDENT’S NOTE
By Terry Ruiter, President

The other day while reading a New Yorker article on losing things (keys, trucks, papers…), I realized that March is here and I had already lost the winter. I had intended to spend it cleaning up my filing, sorting through my seeds and finishing a weaving...all of which remain to be done and I’m looking at crocuses and daffodils in bloom!

With March, Josephine County Master Gardeners seriously gear up for the gardening season. The 28th annual Seeds of Spring kicks things off on 11 March at the Rogue Community College Redwood campus in Grants Pass. This year, we have 34 classes on insects, fruits and vegetables, design, fermenting and enjoying gardening. Preregistration ends on 1 March but walk-in registration is available on the 11th. For almost three decades, Seeds of Spring has provided a terrific way to kick off the winter doldrums and start to think of spring and dirty hands!

Speaking of classes, the Master Gardener program has a variety of classes available to even senior Master Gardeners every Thursday through March. The classes provide credit toward recertification education credit as well as information that may be new to you...or remind you of things you have lost.

The greenhouse and perennials programs are well underway to providing plants for our sales this spring and summer. It is always amazing to see how quickly the greenhouses move from empty to overflowing with greenery. The plant selections show great promise for filling our vegetable gardens and flower beds with nutrition and colorful beauty. Opportunities for helping with the sales with be available as they get closer. (Continued on page 4)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Art Reel, Chad Buckingham, Jody LaChance, Vicky Engel, Belinda Blauer, Kimberlie Lehman, Janet Stanley, Carol Graper, Pal Olsen, Breezy Schallheim, Rebecca Hove, Diane Smith, Susan Finley, Sandy Heyer, Judy Larson, Shelly Sands and Cory Wilborg.
SPRING GARDEN FAIR
Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23

We are in the planning stages for our biggest fundraiser for the year, our Garden Fair/Plant Sale. The event is responsible for bringing in the most of the funds needed to finance the Master Gardener Association for the year, and we are counting on all our senior Master Gardeners to assist our trainees to make it a huge success. The Master Gardener Trainees have us off to a great start with their efforts in the greenhouse.

Here are the work shifts we will be asking you to sign up for:

**Friday, April 21** (2 shifts) - Noon to 2 pm and 3 pm to 5 pm

**Saturday, April 22** (3 shifts) - 8 am to 11 am, 11 am to 2 pm, 2 pm to 5 pm

**Sunday, April 23** (2 shifts) - 9 am to 1 pm, 1 pm to 4:30 pm

**Hospitality (Food)** will have 2 shifts - 10 am to 12:30 pm and 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm on both Saturday and Sunday

Sign ups will take place at the Master Gardener Association Meetings on March 7 and April 4 and at noon at the Master Gardener Training classes on March 16, 23, 30, and April 6. Please bring your calendars with you to these sign-up days. Seniors may call after March 7, Mike Zerwer, 541-955-5076 for all assignments except Cashier and Cashier Assistants. They can call John Etchells, 541-218-7696. **Raffle workers**, Pat Etchells, 541-218-0543.

No phone sign ups accepted before March 8.

Thank you for all your help, Mike Zerwer, Spring Garden Fair Co-Chair, 541-955-5076

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

Also please pay your dues if you haven’t already!! Thanks.
Cash & Savings totals as of 01/31/17
Checking: $8,038.81
Savings: $31,382.90
CD: $3,619.44
Total Assets: $43,041.15**

Total Income $3,977.81. This comes from: Dues ($2,840), Member Purchases (Soil, Aprons & Vests) ($862.50), Perennial Sales ($205), Donations ($50), Plant Clinic Garden Guide Sales ($20) and Interest ($0.31).

Total Expenses $2,588.96. These expenses come from Administrative Items (Aprons & Vests) ($1,155), Insurance ($808), Greenhouse/Perennials/Trees ($229.88), Young Master Gardeners ($171.52), Newsletter & Directory ($171.52), Seeds of Spring (Mailing) ($23.12), SGF (Mailing) ($18.80), Donations to MG Program ($15.24).

***Reminder - 2017 dues are now past due. Membership remains $20 per person. Dues can be paid at the March meeting or dropped off at the Extension Office. Payments after March 1 can not guarantee that you will be listed in the directory.

***Reminder - While shopping at the Grange Co-Op and/or using the Fred Meyer Reward Program, don’t forget to have them credit your purchases to JoCo. Master Gardeners. Also, if you shop using Amazon on-line, please go to Amazon Smiles and select “Master Gardener Association - Grants Pass” as a charity. Then every purchase you make will be credited to us. Amazon is a company that makes it charitable donations based upon the percentage of Smile sales from an organization. This is similar to the (Continued on page 4)

SHUMAN RANCH RUNS ‘TUT’ WHEAT TESTS Submitted by Pat Olsen, Master Gardener, 2015

There is a new variety of wheat with a fantastic history behind it now edging its way onto the U.S. agricultural scene, and if it lives up to the expectations some hold for it, it may well revolutionize agriculture. Archaeology and scientific farming research went hand in hand in the advancement of the new wheat variety which as yet hasn’t even been given a name. The seed was brought to this country originally by a Dr. Hugo Fack. The seed was discovered in the excavations of King Tutankhamen’s tomb, among other treasures, when the tomb was entered by members of the Lord Carnarvon expedition in 1922. That would make the seed nearly 3300 years old since King Tut was stashed away alongside his ancestor pharaohs in 1346 B.C.

Seventy grains of wheat were found in the tomb, and the first effort at germination was tried to Switzerland. Sixty-six of the seventy seeds germinated properly. Last year, one-sixth of an acre was planted - for the first time in this hemisphere - in Oregon by Dr. Fack. The results of that test planting were astonishing. From that one-sixth of an acre, a harvest of 28 sacks of wheat was reported. That would make the yield a whopping 168 sacks to the acre. Of course, Dr. Fack employed extraordinary harvesting methods, but that still shouldn’t detract too much from the variety’s prolific quality. Dr. Fack actually harvested his small plot with a pair of scissors - head by head - to insure the maximum yield of this precious wheat. It was threshed by hand flailing. Help in the operation was readily available to Dr. Fack since many of his neighbors were interested, in the project and they helped.

Shortly after that first harvest, a pool was formed to establish the new variety more firmly, and five growers in different parts of California agreed to grow experimental plots. Here in Ventura County, the Mike Shuman Ranch, Moorpark, planted 19 acres on three pieces of ground. Mr. Shuman’s foreman, George Meade, explained that for experimental purposes some of the seed was planted in sandy loam, some in harder ground, and some in mixed ground.

“Some of the Oregon heads of this wheat were brought down here and we thrashed them by hand,” Mr. Meade said. He produced one head, loaded with grain, that was not thrashed, and it was about three times the size of a normal head of wheat.

The foreman said that only about 10 pounds of seed are planted for each acre of ground, and that seems to be enough. In Oregon, the Egyptian wheat grew to about five feet in height, ten times normal yields were obtained, and 40 stools were reported from each seed sown.

(Continued on page 5)
2017 ELECTED OFFICERS
President...............................Terry Ruiter
1st Vice President ............Mark Schallheim
2nd Vice President..........Phylis McIntosh
Secretary..............................Cynthia Low
OMGA State Rep..............Candace Bartow
OMGA Alt. State Rep........David Coon
Past President .................Peter Pernarelli

APPOINTED COORDINATORS
Treasurer……………………..John Etchells
Green House Manager …….Peter Pernarelli
Plant Clinic.......................Wilma Christian
SOS Garden Seminar........Terry Ruiter
Communications ..............Schallheim/Etchells
Spring Garden Fair ..........Sybil Longinotti
Newsletter Editor .............Ruth Reel
Hospitality Chairman.........Breezy/Mark Schallheim
Special Projects ..........Sybil Longinotti
Publicity.........................Jeana Schorr
Historian.......................Nancy Pyle/Linda Price
County Fair.....................Vacant
Growers Market...............Hank Smith
K-12 Program.....................Vacant
Mentor Committee..............Joan Foley
Volunteer Hours...............Karen Pleasant
Computer Coordinator .......Steve Schoen
Webmaster........ Pat Etchells/Darcy Heater
Perennials .......................Joan Foley
Young Master Gardeners.....Sayaka Lean/
.....................................Barry Burnsides
Membership.....................Ruth Reel
Master Gardener Coord......Karen Pleasant

It’s better to walk alone than with a crowd going in the wrong direction.

(Continued from page 1 President’s Note)

This summer (10-14 July) the International Master Gardener Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon, the closest location to southwestern Oregon for a while. If you have been thinking about attending, but have not registered, you might want to do so. Several tours and classes have filled. Beyond the conference, Portland has much to offer with restaurants, gardens, brewpubs and shopping (Powell’s Books??!). It will be a rare opportunity to share gardening-related information with folks from across the United States, Canada and other countries.

Of all the things we can lose regularly, the loss of time can be the most distressing. While I cannot retrieve my lost winter, I look forward to bringing another garden together this year. The beauty of gardening is that each year offers a new opportunity to explore combinations of plants and environmental conditions...and enjoy each year as an individual event.

(Continued from page 3 Treasurer’s Report)

Fred Meyer Reward Program.
***Reminder - When you have bills for payment, please be sure to complete an Authorization for Payment/Reimbursement Form and have it signed by the committee head or officer responsible for the item. Failure to so will delay payment of your expenses.

HELP WANTED
Paul Moschetti, Class of 2016 is looking for some casual labor in the near future. He can be reached at 541-226-9226 to explain what he needs done. His email is 1947paulmoschetti@gmail.com. Please give him a call if interested.

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PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE

A five-member Project Review Committee has been formed to help Master Gardeners determine if proposed projects are in keeping with Master Gardener Program guidelines and if they are approved for volunteer hours.

The 2015 mission statement of MG Partner Organizations states the mission of the OSU Master Gardener Program as: We educate people about sustainable gardening in the Pacific Northwest via annual Master Gardener trainings, educational opportunities for the general public, and recommendations and advice delivered by trained volunteers. The mission statement further states the vision of the OSU MG Program as: We endeavor to be the authoritative and first choice for people seeking research-based and objective information and education on sustainable gardening in the Pacific Northwest.

The committee was formed at the suggestion of Sam Angima, when he and other OSU staffers were in Grants Pass in order for the Master Gardeners to have some input to activities that we take on and whether they are eligible for volunteer hours.

Other known growers of the Egyptian wheat on a experimental basis are located in the Sacramento and Victorville areas.

The facts regarding this innovation in the grain world are those given our reporter in the field. The qualities of the wheat variety mentioned above must yet be proven to those far more expert in the field than we are. When the tremendous yields mentioned are proven, this grain is certain to receive public acclaim, for it will revolutionize the wheat industry wherever it grows.

2017 TRAINING CLASS UPDATE

Plant Family Exhibit: Veterans are invited to drop by the MG Training class on March 23rd during lunch to view the plant family exhibit. Trainees will gather and display flowering plants from about 20 common plant families and would like to share their new found knowledge with you.

Educational Posters: The educational posters that are being researched and created by the Class of 2017 trainees will be showcased at the Seeds of Spring conference on March 11th. Be sure and view the posters and vote for your favorite one. The posters will be displayed in the registration commons area.

On the Shuman Ranch, the seed was drilled in with 12-inch spacing. It was planted early in April, and will be harvested in late July or early August. It was irrigated recently for the third time by the overhead sprinkler method. A final irrigation will be completed before the crop is harvested.

“The Oregon wheat tested very high in protein and baking quality. An average head is valued at about $5,” Mr. Meade said. “That is why the operations this year were scattered throughout the state. One or more of the growers should hit a good crop, and we’re hoping to obtain sufficient yields to bring the seed within the reach of more growers.”

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**MARCH CLASSES**

All classes are held at the OSU Extension Auditorium at 215 Ringuette Street in Grants Pass

**Saturday, March 4,** Work & Learn: Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic (Limit 15 participants), Instructor Phil Damewood, Master Gardener from 9 to noon. Cost: $15. Outdoor demonstration and practice in pruning fruit trees, so dress for the weather. Bring your own pruning shears and work gloves.

**Saturday, March 4,** Work & Learn: Rose Pruning Clinic, Instructor Mike Zerwer, Master Gardener & ARS Consulting Rosarian, from 10 to noon. Cost: free. In partnership with the Rogue Valley Rose Society, learn how to prune various types or roses and then practice pruning one on one with a Rose Society member. The class is located in the River-side Park Memorial Rose Garden on East Park Street. Bring gloves and a pair of bypass pruning shears. Wear long sleeves. Class meets rain or shine. Pre-registration required. (Limit 25 participants)

**Saturday, March 4,** Gardening with Grafted Vegetables class. Instructor, Harry Olson, Master Gardener from 1 to 4, Cost: $10/MG $5. Harry is convinced grafted vegetables have a lot to offer and will explain and demonstrate why. This presentation will include an explanation of vegetable grafting and a brief history of grafted vegetable development. Grafted/ungrafted trials and outcomes will be presented. The discussion will include the entire grafted vegetable line up: tomatoes, peppers, watermelons, cantaloupes, cucumbers and eggplants. The pros and cons of growing grafted will be discussed and the speaker’s favorites will be revealed. You will be taught how to graft tomatoes with reference materials to help you succeed. This is a very visual Power Point presentation with vivid pictures sure to quicken the spirit of vegetable gardeners.

**Saturday, March 4,** Vertical Vegetable Gardening class. Instructor Harry Olson, Master Gardener from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Cost: $10/MG $5. Modern gardeners face unique challenges. Space limitations and growing conditions require new techniques. This presentation will demonstrate how to optimize your garden to maximize space utilization, production and plant presentation. Gardening doesn’t have to be “hard” if we garden “smart”. You will learn how to grow fruits and vegetables you didn’t think you had room for or were too difficult in our climate. This is a very visual presentation with many pictures, demonstrating the techniques used. You will be inspired to get started early in your garden and put these techniques to use.

**Friday, March 17,** Climate Change Panel Discussion, from 6:30 to 9 pm. Cost: $5. Panel lead: Gabrielle Roesch-McNally, PhD, Fellow for Northwest Climate Hub based in Corvallis and serving OR, WA, ID and AK in responding to mitigating climate related risks in farms, rangeland and forests. Join us for a conversation about some of the science behind a changing climate, predicted changes to our region and agricultural adaptive strategies that producers are experimenting with in our region. Growers from the region and extension specialists will join the discussion to share some local impacts and strategies for adapting for both home gardens and small farms.

**Wednesday, March 22,** Advanced Lawn Care: Turfgrass Cultivar, Fertilizer, and Herbicide Selection from 6 to 8 pm. Cost: 10. Learn about turfgrass genus, species and cultivar selection, along with species that perform the best in drought, heat and shade stress environments from Alec Kowalewski, OSU Turfgrass Specialist. The presentation will then transition into the fertility requirements of these grasses, highlighting fertilizer selection for optimum lawn aesthetics and health. The final portion of the class will cover herbicide selection (including, but not limited to pre-and post-emergence selective herbicides) and methods to maximize the effectiveness of herbicides and, thus, limit their use. Finally, we will discuss some basic weed and insect management problems using an integrated pest management approach. (Qualifies for CEU hours for landscape professionals).
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| Last day to register for SOS | Class |     | 9-to Noon  
10 to Noon, 1 to 4. 6:30 to 8:30 Classes |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
|     |     | 9:30 MG Meeting |     |     |     | Seeds of Spring Seminar |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| Daylight Saving Begins  
(Clock Forward) |     |     |     |     | 6:30 to 9 pm Climate Change Panel Discussion  
St. Patrick’s Day |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
|     | Newsletter Deadline  
Spring Begins |     | Advanced Lawn Care, 6 to 8 pm  
Class |     |     |     |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |
|     |     |     |     |     |     | Class |
GREAT TIPS

- After steaming vegetables, use the leftover water for houseplants. It’s full of vitamins that make plants flourish.
- Sprinkle powdered detergent or ground cayenne pepper in the dirt around your sweet corn and it will keep the raccoons away.
- Dandelions will do a disappearing act if you spray pure white vinegar where the roots were after pulling. Don’t worry about the grass - it will grow back fast.
- Use a sturdy old dinner fork for weeding the flower bed...the tines get under weed roots better than most tools.
- Use a grapefruit knife to cut dandelions from your lawn.
- Put the “plastic peanuts” used for shipping packing in the bottom of your flower pots. They’re light weight but still allow for drainage.
- Your ferns will love it if you add eggshells to the water and let them soak for a short time before using it to water them.
- Plants look a bit sickly? Give them some first aid! Try feeding them a small amount of Geritol regularly for about three months.
- To help cut flowers last longer, apply hair spray.