

April, 2017



THE MASTER GARDENER™



Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Terry Ruiter, President



April is the fourth month of the year in the Gregorian calendar. In southwestern Oregon, it represent the true arrival of spring, when the world opens up to a green landscape. Every year is an amazing show. It seems to take just a few days of sun to have buds swelling and shoots appearing. Historically, April is the time of year in the Northern Hemisphere that farming begins. It just feels refreshing and invigorating with the beginning of a new garden.

April is a significant month for the Josephine County Master Gardener Association, too. The plant clinic in the OSU Extension office, which has had winter hours since November, returns to fulltime summer hours on 3 April. The clinic will be staffed to answer your and the public's gardening questions Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 3:00. The rain this winter promises to bring a set of new issues that are quite different from those of the past few droughty years.

April also brings the return of the Master Gardener booth and plant clinic to the Growers Market in downtown Grants Pass on 15 April. The booth is a terrific venue for Master Gardeners to talk about the program, see friends from the community and answer questions about gardens and gardening in the Rogue Valley. It also provides a place for the new students to meet and get to know veterans in an interesting, informal setting. It is always a highlight of the summer.

The class of 2017 will complete its first major step on 6 April with the last day of class. While the hectic pace of the classroom will be gone, students will continue work in the greenhouse and begin working in the perennials program and plant clinic. (Continued on page 4)

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PERENNIAL MUSINGS

The perennial greenhouse has been off to a slow start because of the unpredictable weather during the early months of the year. Our main source of plant material comes from your donations as you begin to work in your yards and find that you have plants that you are willing to share. Once the weather warms up and the soil is workable, I anticipate business as usual. We accept donations every Tuesday at 9am, and a reminder that you can also purchase plants that we have outside from 9am to 11am on Tuesdays. If you see something you like and Tuesday doesn't work for you just give me a call and I can make alternate arrangements. Our goal is to keep the plant material moving.

Joan Foley 541-471-2103

Special points of interest:

- 2017 Elected Officers
- 2017 Appointed Coordinators
- Calendar
- Editor Notes
- Birthdays

GREENHOUSE HAPPENINGS

Our annual Spring Garden Sale will take place on April 22nd and 23rd and if you have not already signed up to help with the sale and you are available, please contact Mike Zerwer at 541-955-5076 to let her know. There are many shifts to cover and I don't think we can have too many volunteers for this event.

This year, like almost every other year, we will have way too many plants to sell. There are just too many seeds in the packages we buy and we don't want to waste them, so we plant them. For example, we have over 40 different flower varieties as well as 11 tomato varieties and 9 pepper varieties. I am optimistic that the weather will be cooperative for our sale and we will be successful. I'm counting on each of you to tell at least two friends and ask them to tell two friends and so on. This way by sale day the whole County will show up and we'll have a sellout. Don't be so skeptical, it could happen!



Peter Pernarelli, Greenhouse Manager

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:

reelsox9@gmail.com

Or mail to: 3990 Galice Rd., Merlin, OR 97532.

Or call at: 541-479-7702

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

By John Etchells, Treasurer

Cash & Savings totals as of 02/28/17

Checking: \$11,515.88

Savings: \$31,382.90

CD: \$3,619.44

Total Assets: \$46,518.22**

Total Income \$4,196. This comes from: Dues (\$1,440), Member Purchases (Soil, Aprons & Vests, T-shirts) (\$1,659), SGF (\$560), Perennial Sales (\$372), Donations (\$80), Plant Clinic Garden Guide Sales (\$85).

Total Expenses \$720. These expenses come from: Seeds of Spring (\$339), Advertising (\$120), Plant Clinic Printer Cartridges (\$68), Young Master Gardeners (\$53), Greenhouse/Perennials/Trees (\$52), Newsletter (\$44), Seed to Super (\$18), Admin Items, Mentors (\$16) Credit Card Square

Processing fees (\$10).

** These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 01/31/17 bank statements.

***Reminder - 2017 dues are now past due and payable. Membership remains \$20 per person.

***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 Jo.Co. 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 Fred Meyer Reward Program.

***When you have bills for payment, please be sure to complete an Authorization for Payment/ (Continued on page 4)

HOW TO SPROUT SEEDLINGS TO LIFE INDOORS By Carol Savonen

Planting and watching garden seeds spring to life on a greenhouse bench is one of the most rewarding events in a gardener's year. But what do you do if you don't have a greenhouse?

It's easy to start seeds on a sunny window sill or in a dark, dingy basement under a row of lights. Though some plants need longer growing seasons than we have in southern Oregon. Starting them indoors gives them a jump on the season. Also, some rather magnificent plants are available only in seed form. Here are some pointers for starting seeds early in the spring for later planting outdoors in the garden:

Don't start seeds too early. Seed packets usually tell you how many weeks to start seeds before transplanting. They usually say something like 'six to eight weeks prior to setting out after danger of frost is past' or something similar. Count backwards from the recommended time to determine when to start seeds indoors. You can find average frost dates and much more information in the Extension

publication Growing your Own.

Don't start seeds in regular garden soil; use soilless starting mix or sterile potting mix. Starting seeds indoors with soil from the garden is the surest way to introduce fungi that cause 'damping off' diseases. You know you have this problem when tiny seedlings keel over in patches, or when a fine, cottony wool grows over the soil surface, eventually killing the little plantlets.

Keep soil uniformly moist but not soggy. Maintain the air temperature at 65 to 80 degrees for best results. Provide bottom heat with heat tape or a heating pad protected from moisture to speed up germination. Provide plenty of light after seeds germinate. When using a sunny window, turn plants daily to prevent a permanent tilt as plants stretch towards the light.

If you're using indoor lights, place them very close to seedlings - no more than six to eight inches above the plant tops. Suspending shop lights on chains, you can raise them up as plants grow. Cool fluorescent fixtures are sufficient,

IT'S EASY TO START SEEDS

although full-spectrum lighting may be used if available. Keep the lights on 16 hours a day.

Begin fertilizing, at half strength, when the seed leaves (the first ones) begin to turn yellow. Don't waste your money with fertilizers from the start. Seeds contain all the nutrients they need to begin growing.

Thin seedlings so they have plenty of room for their roots to grow. It's hard to do, but it's absolutely essential.

Do not keep plants in pots too long. Some plants, especially fast-growing ones, resent being stymied during intense growing periods. They will not grow as well after sitting too long in pots.

Harden off seedlings (Continued on page 4)

2017 ELECTED OFFICERS

- President..... Terry Ruitter
- 1st Vice PresidentMark Schallheim
- 2nd Vice President..... Phylis McIntosh
- Secretary..... Cynthia Low
- OMGA State Rep..... Candace Bartow
- OMGA Alt. State Rep.....David Coon
- Past PresidentPeter Pernarelli

APPOINTED COORDINATORS

- Treasurer.....John Etchells
- Green House ManagerPeter Pernarelli
- Plant Clinic..... Wilma Christian
- SOS Garden Seminar Terry Ruitter
- CommunicationsSchallheim/Etchells
- Spring Garden Fair.....Sybil Longinotti
- Newsletter EditorRuth 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 CoordinatorSteve Schoen
- Webmaster..... Pat Etchells/Darcy Heater
- PerennialsJoan Foley
- Young Master Gardeners.....Sayaka Lean/
..... Barry Burnsid
- Membership.....Ruth Reel
- Master Gardener Coord.....Karen Pleasant

We see it once in a year...Twice in a week....And never in a day. What is it??
Answer....The letter "E"

(Continued from page 1 President's Note)

The world of being a Master Gardener will open up!
Fred Meyer's Fuchsia Day will be on 8 April. This day has Master Gardeners planting customer plants purchased from Freddie in containers from 7:00 until the Black Gold runs out. It is a fabulous opportunity to engage the community with hands-on gardening as well as being fun and exhausting!

April also brings our biggest sale of the year, the Spring Garden Fair, this on 22 and 23 April. In addition to our own annuals, vegetables, perennials and trees for sale around the greenhouses behind the OSU Extension Auditorium, vendors will have booths selling yard and garden ornamentation, milkweed, aprons, and different plants, among other items. We will also have a raffle of baskets and planted pots sure to entice you to buy a ticket or two.

April is the month to shake off the winter and get out in the garden. The promise of the new season is so alluring. Enjoy it!

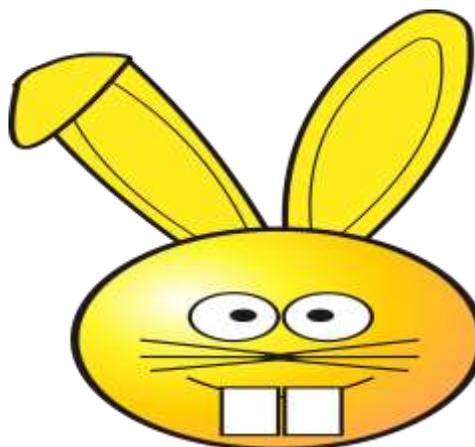
(Continued from page 3 Treasurer Report)

Reimbursement Form and have signed by the committee head or office responsible for the item. Failure to do so will delay payment of your expenses.

(Continued from page 3 How to Sprout Seedlings)

before planting them outdoors. Slowly introduce them to sunlight, wind, and cooler temperatures over a period of a week or so before planting outside.

Need a new apron? No wait--stock on hand.
Contact Joan Foley, 541-471-2103



BUMBLE BEE SURVEY, 2017

As I write this the early flowering fruit trees are blooming and the native Manzanita are starting, so we can breathe a little easier for the emerging Queen Bumble Bees as they start their new colonies. Thank you all for your participation in the Bumble Bee Survey this year. I'm sure you've noticed that it has been wetter and much cooler this year, yet surprisingly, the first sighting was a week earlier. A single sighting on February 5, but the first wave of sightings was indeed three weeks later. Eleven sighting between February 25 and March 2nd. Another wave of sightings from the 10th to the 14th. Most of the bees were feeding on winter heather, the earliest on Crocus and many on willow. We'll keep track through the end of March and the map will be back in Judi's office and the tally will be kept in the folder under the Bumble Bee photo in the plant clinic. Sadly, a large Rosemary in full bloom, with heathers nearby hasn't brought any into my own garden yet this year. Lots of bees and flies, but no Queens. We'll do this again next year and try to make it a little easier for you to log your sightings onto the JoCoMG website. Again, Thank You all for your help, and keep good thoughts for our imperiled native Bumble Bees. Remember that they'll need an extra boost of pollen and nectar late summer before the new queens go back into the ground for winter.

Phylis McIntosh, 2nd VP

POST SALE GET TOGETHER

Mark your calendar for April 30th. We will be having a White Elephant sale on that Sunday at the Extension Auditorium. Start getting together all those treasures that you no longer have a need for and we'll do our best to find someone in attendance that can't live without them. Perhaps you have a lawn mower and you no longer have a lawn, or a rototiller and you no longer till - we'll do our best to find a worthwhile recipient for your item and, if desired, John Etchells can give you a receipt for your donation to a non-profit organization. We'll gladly accept just about anything that can be reused even non-gardening items like books, kitchen items, etc.

As the date draws closer, additional information will be sent out via email. You'll be encouraged to bring friends and/or relatives, anyone that is looking for a bargain. This event will also include some kind of food sharing to be determined by the Social Committee. Perhaps it will be an Ice Cream Social or even a Barbeque.

Peter Pernarelli, Greenhouse Manager

GROWERS MARKET

To all veteran Master Gardeners:

At the last board meeting I started the signups to the Growers Market for seniors. As always we will man a booth at the Market from April 15 to the end of September on Saturdays starting at 8:00/8:15 (set up) to 1:00, with the exception of the Spring Plant Sale and the JoCo Fair.

If you were not at the board meeting (and have not yet talked to me) and you want to volunteer as a senior, please let me know so I can schedule you.

Please indicate any dates that you favor or dates that you have other plans and can not do.

As always thanks,

Hank Smith, Growers Market

Hank's Cell 541-660-4486,

Hank's email: hanksmith@msn.com

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Carlanda Williamson, Hilda Schaefer, Linda Dean, Karen Zoufal, Sue Lundberg, Kathy Sullivan, Steve Schoen.



A motorist was caught in an automated speed trap that measured his speed using radar and photographed his car. He later received in the mail a ticket for \$40, and a photo of his car. Instead of payment, he sent the police department a photograph of \$40. Several days later, he received a letter from the police department that contained another picture, of handcuffs.

2017 Master Gardener Social Events by Mark Schallheim, 1st VP

Due to inclement weather, the Josephine County Master Gardener Social Committee got a late start this year in planning events; but our 2017 Social calendar is starting to fill out. We had great feedback from our first event on 26-Feb, Movie Night; and we'll plan another in the near future. In March we played Bingo, and we are planning 2 events in April: an outing to Daffodil Hill in Shady Cove, as well as at Thank-you party for all the Spring Garden Fair volunteers. In February, we had asked the Members that attended the General Meeting and the MG 2017 Trainees to vote for their top 3 events they wanted to see this year. The top 10 voted events are listed in the chart to the right. The current JoCo Master Gardener Social Calendar is listed below. Please contact me at

Priority	Vote #	Event
1	34	Mycorrhizal Applications Tour (Grants Pass)
2	21	Herb Pharm Tour (Williams)
3	19	Master Gardener's Garden Tour
4	16	Lavender Tour
5	14	Bingo
6/7	13	Picnic at Park (family day)
6/7	13	Wine Tour / Tasting - Schmidt or other(s)
8/9/10	12	Chili Cook-off / Potluck
8/9/10	12	Holiday Party
8/9/10	12	Gladolus Festival [NOTE: Festival was cancelled and replaced by Hot Air Balloon and Kite Festival]

JoCoMG.1stVP@gmail.com to add a potential calendar event, or to provide feedback on past or upcoming social events.

Date	2017 Planned Social Events
24-Mar	Bingo – Cookies and Root beer Floats
9-Apr	Trip to Daffodil Hill (Shady Cove)
30-Apr	Spring Garden Fair Thank-you Potluck (or Ice Cream Social) and Auction
May TBD	TBD
14-Jun	Ashland Nature Center (Medford/Ashland), 9:30-10:30 am and Trip Cosmic Coir & Worm Tour 11:00am-12:30pm and
23-Jun	Lavender Tour (5+ farms 2017 Southern Oregon Lavender Festival- June 23, 24 & 25 - Southern OR Lavender Trail) & Lunch/tour at Red Lily Winery
Summer TBD?	Greenleaf Nursery Tour (Grants Pass)
27-Jul	Herb Pharm Tour (Williams)
Summer TBD?	Mycorrhizal Applications Tour (Grants Pass)
Aug TBD?	Chili Cook-off / Potluck and MG Grape Tasting
9-Sep	Master Gardener's Garden Tour and Wrap-up Party at Hank's house (Potluck, Hamburger/Hot dogs) with Tomato Tasting
28-Oct	MG Awards and Graduation Ceremony
Nov TBD?	Winery Lunch, Tour or Tasting - Schmidt or other Winery
8-Dec	Holiday Party (Etchell's Home)

April 2017

Sun

Mon

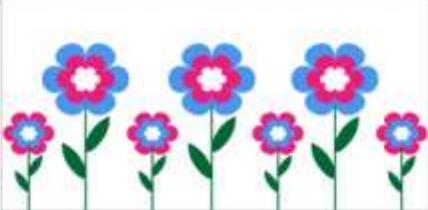
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p><i>Plant Clinic Hours, April 1st to Oct. 31 Mon - Thurs 9:-00- 3:00</i></p>						<p><i>1 Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop, Painting Class April Fool's Day</i></p>
<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i></p>	<p><i>4</i> <i>9:30, MG Meeting</i></p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i> <i>Last day of Class</i></p>	<p><i>7</i> <i>Joy of Berries Class</i></p>	<p><i>8 Fred Meyer Build a Hydroponics Workshop</i></p>
<p><i>9</i> <i>Palm Sunday</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p>	<p><i>11</i></p>	<p><i>12</i></p>	<p><i>13</i> <i>No Till Gardening Class</i></p>	<p><i>14</i> <i>Good Friday</i></p>	<p><i>15</i></p>
<p><i>16</i> <i>Easter Sunday</i></p>	<p><i>17</i></p>	<p><i>18</i></p>	<p><i>19</i></p>	<p><i>20</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i> <i>Spring Garden Fair</i></p>
<p><i>23</i> <i>Spring Garden Fair</i></p>	<p><i>24</i></p>	<p><i>25</i></p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i> <i>Growing Citrus in Rogue Valley Class</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>29</i> <i>Canning Fruits Class</i></p>
<p><i>30</i> <i>White Elephant Sale</i></p>						

APRIL CLASSES

All classes are held at the OSU Extension Auditorium at 215 Ringuette St., G.P. To register, call the Josephine County Extension Office, 541-476-6613. Pre-registration is required for all classes.

Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop on Saturday, April 1 from 9:00 to 12:00. Cost: \$45.00 (\$30. Materials Fee & \$15 class fee), MG \$30 Materials fee only. Limited to 25 people. Instructor: George Tiger, Former OSU/Horticulturist.

Painting Terra Cotta Pots: Floral Design on Saturday, April 1 from 1:00 to 4:00. Cost: \$15./MG \$10 with badge. Limited to 15 people. Instructor: Breezy Schallheim, Master Gardener.

The Joy of Berries class on Friday, April 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Cost: \$10 per person. Instructor: Joel Heller, M.S. Fruit Specialist.

Building a Hydroponics System Workshop on Saturday, April 8 from 11:00 to 1:00. Cost: \$85/MG \$70. Instructor: Barry Burnsides, Master Gardener.

No Till Gardening class on Thursday, April 13 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Cost: \$10. Instructor: Scott Goode, Nourishing Systems/Master Gardener.

Growing Citrus in the Rogue Valley class on Thursday, April 27 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Cost: \$10. Instructor: Joel Heller, M.S. Fruit Specialist.

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

Our email address is: josephinemg@oregonstate.edu

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

THE MASTER GARDENER



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