

August, 2017



THE MASTER GARDENER™



Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Terry Ruiter, President



At the beginning of June, it seemed like summer was just not going to make an appearance this year. The two months since have certainly put that concern to bed. Several days over 100 degrees indicate summer has arrived! Now we fret about keeping cool and our plants watered...

The Portland International Master Gardener Conference is over. It was an intense week of gardening - related talks and classes, tours, food and fun. Oregon chapters (including Josephine County) brought 17 bicycles decorated to say something about their region...they were very creative and imaginative. The next international conference will be in 2019 in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

The two months since the last newsletter have been busy, and August will be even more so. Come to the general meeting on 1 August at 9:30 to hear about activities, sign up for the fair and meet Sue Nesbitt, the OMGA president-elect and a lovely lady from Newberg.

The new demonstration garden is coming along. Master Gardeners have been collecting information from vacations, magazines and other demonstration gardens across the country. The garden will focus on several types of plantings, including vegetables and herbs (with a keyhole garden in the midst), perennials, pollinators, natives and xeriscape. The plants to include in what is really a small space for so many aspirations have plenty of overlap and thrashing out the plantings will be part of the fun. Meetings related to the component gardens are underway. The rocks and bricks from the planters have been removed and set aside. Initial soil has been received and spread. (Continued on page 4)

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PERENNIALS

Thank you to everyone who participated during the perennial sale on one of the hottest days of the year. Despite the fluctuating temperatures, we still managed to bring in around \$400. We continue to work on Tuesdays from 9 to 11, except the first Tuesday of the month when we attend the board meeting. Trainees, if you find you need more volunteer hours, please join us for a quick 2 hours. A reminder that we are still accepting donations during these hours and we also will be happy to sell any of our stock as well. Thank you for everyone's help and to the dedicated team of regular volunteers.

Joan Foley, Perennial Manager

Special points of interest:

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

JOSEPHINE COUNTY FAIR

This year marks the Fifth Anniversary of Master Gardener Sponsorship of the Horticulture Exhibit Building. Working collaboratively with the County Granges, we set-up and decorate the building in preparation for the exhibits. This endeavor has always been successful thanks to the many Master Gardener volunteers who provide their labor and decorating talent.

This year is no exception. Once more, we will attempt to outdo previous years with your help. On Monday, August 14th, we will again be decorating the facility. The Theme for the County Fair this year is "Hometown Pride County Wide". If you have items that you wish to loan us for this event including your assistance, please mark your calendar and plan on joining us. An email reminder will be sent out prior to the date and there will be a sign-up sheet at the August Board Meeting.

On the following day, Tuesday, August 15th, we will assist in the produce entry process until 6:30 pm. Once all the items have been logged in for judging, David James will inspect and select the best entries from each category. If you have been growing fruits, flowers or veggies, consider entering any of these items for consideration. This is an opportunity for you to demonstrate all you have learned in the Master Gardener Program.

The Fair provides an opportunity in other areas as well. Perhaps your talent is Needlework or Photography or maybe you have a secret recipe for Apple Pie. There are so many areas where you can demonstrate your talents. Be sure to pick up a copy of the Fair Book in the Extension Office or at the Fairgrounds Office and check out all the areas where you can show off your abilities.

Lastly, both Veteran and Student Master Gardeners will be needed to staff the Plant Clinic during the Fair. We will need people from 10:00 am until 10:00 pm for this area from Wednesday through Saturday. If you are available to help in this area, be sure to inform Wilma as she will be creating a roster.

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

For the months of May and June:

Cash & Savings totals as of 06/30/17

Checking: \$14,042.24

Savings: \$32,226.77

CD: \$3,620.51

Total Assets: \$49,889.52**

Total Income from May 1st to May 31st \$3,700.93: Seeds of Spring Seminar (\$1,865), Plant Sales (Annuals \$1,306.50, Perennials \$127) \$1433.50, Other Projects [White Elephant Sale] (\$326.50), Plant Clinic Garden Guides (\$60), Donations [Amazon Smiles] (\$15.84) and Interest (\$0.09).

Total Expenses May 1 to May 31st: \$2,856.56: Plant Clinic [Insect Cabinet] (\$1,308.57), Spring Garden Fair Advertising

(\$1,192), Demonstration Gardens (\$133.08), K-12 Program (\$75.96), Young Master Gardens (\$61.46), Newsletter (\$43.80), Greenhouse/Perennials (\$41.69).

Total Income from June 1st through June 30th: \$1,082. This comes from: Plant Sales [Annuals \$132, Perennials \$476, Trees \$62] (\$670), Donations [Grants Pass Garden Club] (\$250), Member Sales [Soil & T-shirt] (\$102), Plant Clinic Garden Guides (\$40), and Dues (\$20).

Total Expenses from June 1st through June 30th: \$593.92. These Expenses came from: Spring Garden Fair Advertising (\$342.20), Social (\$188.68), Perennial expenses (\$38.96), Seed-to-Supper (\$16.62, Credit Card Processing Charges [Square] (\$4.46), Swinger (\$3).

(Continued on page 5)

KNOW THY ENEMY - A PRIMER ON YELLOW JACKETS

By Carol Savonen

Summer is the time when yellow jackets become a problem, especially when it is hot and dry. It helps to become familiar with the natural history of these stinging insects to be better able to cope with them.

Yellow jackets are heavy-bodied wasps, with black and yellow or white markings. They live in gray, papery nests, located either below ground or suspended above the ground.

“Worker” yellow jackets hunt for insects, or food on carrion or rotting fruit. Workers are attracted to any meat-based or sugary item. Food is carried back to the nest where it is fed to nest-mates. Sting usually occurs through accidental contact with the nest entrance. Workers vigorously defend the nest and queen against intruders.

A queen is the epicenter of each yellow jacket nest. Her sole responsibility is to lay eggs. She begins a nest in the spring by laying a few eggs and raising these workers to adults. At this point, the queen may no longer leave

the nest to hunt. Workers provision, expand and defend the nest. As spring and summer pass, the nest grows as new workers are reared and assume their role. By the end of summer, nests may contain hundreds or even thousands of workers. So by August or September, these venomous social insects are the most troublesome and dangerous.

By fall, yellow jacket nests have also produced a crop of new queens and males. By the first frost, most workers and queens leave the nest to find a protected spot to spend the winter. They reemerge in spring to begin the cycle all over again.

There are three points to remember. Only new queens survive the winter, these queens almost never reuse the previous year's nest the following spring, and in certain regions, there are professionals who may collect yellow jackets to collect the venom for pharmaceutical use. Your local county office of the OSU Extension Service may be able to refer you to these collectors.

THERE ARE THREE POINTS TO REMEMBER

CONTROL OF THE NUISANCE NEST: It might occasionally be necessary to destroy a yellow jacket nest because it is near human activity. Here are some suggestions for safe and effective nest removal.

Treating the nest at night helps because the workers are inside and relatively calm.

Use one of the aerosols that propel a stream of insecticide “up to 20 feet” so that you can stand off at a safe distance and treat directly into the nest opening.

Don't pour petroleum products into ground nests. This is dangerous, environmentally harmful and illegal.

Use products specifically made for yellow jacket control (Continued on page 5)

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
New Projects .Sybil Longinotti/Joan Seward
Publicity.....Jena Schorr
Historian.....Nancy Pyle/Linda Price
County Fair.....Vacant
Growers Market.....Hank Smith
K-12 Program.....Charlotte Hutt
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

(Continued from page 1 President's Note)

The collections of containers and plants have begun. There remains much to be done, and the time involved is eligible for volunteer hours. Join us as you can.

In addition to the new demonstration garden in front of the auditorium, the possibility of adding murals to the south-facing wall of the auditorium behind the new garden has tentatively been approved by the county and OSU. If you missed the June newsletter, all Josephine County MGA members are invited to offer designs for the mural(s). The deadline is 31 August 2017. Please send your entries to josephinemg@oregonstate.edu or bring a hard copy of your design to the plant clinic. Designs should focus on the concrete block sections of the wall, which should also provide a grid for painting. If you have any questions about the mural(s), contact me at truitter@msn.com.

The Krull Garden is being renovated with a focus on growing fruit. Michael Anzalone provided a soil test at the start. A new irrigation system has been designed by Chuck Mould and will be installed soon. The columnar and espaliered trees have been pruned and will be joined by blueberries, raspberries and strawberries.

August is also time for the Josephine County Fair, from Wednesday the 16th of August through Saturday the 19th this year. I hope you have been nurturing your produce and making pickles or jams or quilts or artwork to enter. This is a terrific event that Master Gardeners have supported for years. Sign-up sheets will be available at the 1 August general meeting for set-up on Monday 14 August, entry registration on Tuesday 15 August, and take down on Sunday 20 August. Plant clinic volunteers will be signed up in the plant clinic. This is a wonderful culmination of the summer and I hope you take time to attend, even if you can't work at it.

August is also the start of the Josephine County MGA election season (considerable shorter than the federal season). You will be receiving an email asking if you have suggestions for any of the elected officer positions: president, first vice president, second vice president, secretary, OMGA representative, and alternate OMGA representative. All of these positions except secretary require certification both when nominated and when serving. The president also requires membership in good standing in the MGA for 2 years and to have held a previous appointed leadership or elective position. Be thinking of what you might like to do and keep an eye out for the email requesting nominations!

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4 President's Note)

Even though there are always things to do in the garden and life, August represents the end of the summer and a time to slow down a bit, relax and enjoy your garden. Take the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful evenings in the Rogue Valley as the temperatures ease up the world slows. The hectic pace can resume again tomorrow, enjoy today.

(Continue from page 3 Treasurer's Report)

**These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 05/31/17 bank statements.

***Reminder - While shopping at the Grange Co-Op and or using the Fred Meyer Reward Programs, 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 its charitable donations based upon the percentage of Smile sales from an organization. This is similar to the 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 do so will delay payment of your expenses.

SEEKING MENTORS FOR THE 2018 CLASS

Please notify Joan Foley if you are interested in being a mentor for the 2018 class. You must be able to fulfill the 12 week requirement during the months of January, February and March and follow the trainees once a month, or as needed, until the October graduation. You will also need to have access to a computer which has the capabilities of sending and receiving attachments, in order to communicate electronically with your students. We encourage the 2017 graduating class to apply as well as seniors and previous mentors. You can contact me for any questions and can reach me at 541-471-2103 or e-mail me at joanfoleygp@gmail.com.

SEEDS OF SPRING KICKOFF MEETING

It is time to begin thinking about next year's Seeds of Spring which will be held on 17 March 2018 at Rogue Community College, Grants Pass.

The kickoff meeting will be in the Auditorium, Wednesday, 2 August at 10:30 am.

Please come with your suggestions for classes and instructors. Also bring your suggestions for any improvements you might have. See you there!

Terry Ruiter

(Continued from page 3 Yellow Jackets)

only. Be sure to read and follow the pesticide product label. The label is the final word on what does or does not constitute a legal and safe application.

POISON BAIT: Finding below-ground nests is difficult, so pest control professionals may resort to use of poisoned baits to achieve area-wide control. Poisoned baits can be extremely hazardous, but are effective for severe yellow jacket infestations. Baits work by luring the worker yellow jackets to carry a bit of poisoned food back to the nest, thereby getting the poison to those in the nest. These baits contain an encapsulated insecticide. The instructions accompanying the insecticide describe how to use it and must be followed exactly. Bait stations must be protected, so that other animals cannot get to the poisoned bait. Poisoned baits should only be used after about July 15, when nests have begun to expand rapidly. Prior to this date you risk disrupting beneficial species.

TRAPPING: Non-toxic yellow jacket traps are available in yard and garden stores. The most effective traps use a synthetic attractant to lure worker yellow jackets into a trap. Fruit juice or various meats can be used as attractants as well. Traps may provide some temporary relief by drawing workers away from people, but they are not effective for area-wide nest control.

A NOTE ON REACTIONS TO STINGS: Some people are allergic to the venom of yellow jackets and others are allergic to bee stings. Both reactions can be life-threatening to some people. If you are particularly sensitive to yellow jacket venom, be extra cautious in late summer and early fall, when the insects are most numerous.

(Continued on page 6)

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

DON'T MISS the Josephine County Master Gardener Chili Cook-off/Potluck and Tomato Tasting on Sunday, August 27th, 2:30 pm. Chili contest will start at 4 pm. Bring your favorite Chili recipe to compete for prizes, and tomatoes from your garden for a Master Gardener tomato tasting. It will be a fun hot summer day to share with fellow Master Gardeners. We will be meeting at Robin Little's backyard at 420 Donet Lane, Merlin. There is plenty of parking on her property and on the street.

Robin will provide a connection to 110V for your crockpots; and MGA will provide shade canopies, tables, plates/bowls, napkins and eating utensils; as well as cold water/soft drinks and bread.

Please bring the following:

1. Chili in a crockpot or other container and/or a potluck item.
2. Lawn chair for you and your guests.
3. Any yard games that you love to play.
4. Feel free to bring anything else that you would like to share with the chili, such as your favorite hot sauce, beer, wine, corn bread, salad, dessert, etc.

Looking forward to sharing the Sunday afternoon with you.

Please RSVP to jocomg.1stvp@gmail.com or call Mark Schallheim at 541-479-3652.

(Continued from page 5 Yellow Jackets)

Enlist the help of someone not as sensitive, if you need to spray a nest. Bee stings can occur anytime bees are out of their hives, but are far less common than yellow jacket stings. Never attempt to remove or destroy honeybee hives.

If a bee stings you, remove the stinger immediately; don't squeeze it, just scrape it away with your fingernail. Both honeybees and yellow jackets inject venom with their stingers. The venoms are different in each, so a person may react differently to each. It is possible to be severely allergic to one and not even sensitive to the other.

To tell the difference between a yellow jacket and a honeybee, it helps to watch their behavior. Honeybees gather pollen and flower nectar, while yellow jackets are mostly meat eaters, but will take plant and fruit juices also. Yellow jackets are particularly fond of rotting fruit. Yellow jackets are more likely than bees to sting without

Happy Birthday to Pat Etchells, Craig Duncan, Patti Phenix, Michele Aitchison, Miki Minici, Peter Pernarelli, Judy Anzalone, Lynn Kelly, Brian DuBose, Barbara Reavis, Jennifer Schmitz, Trisha Kohut, Cheryle Freudenberg, Corinne King.



provocation, their sting is more painful, and normally no stinger remains in the skin and a single yellow jacket may sting more than once. Honeybees are much less likely to sting and their sting is not so painful. A honeybee leaves behind its stinger and a single bee can sting only once.

Other wasps you may have noticed are the mud daubers and paper wasps. You'll see mud daubers around wet soil collecting bits to take back to their nests, usually a mud horizontal surface, such as under an eave. Their long legs and thin "waists" distinguish paper wasps. Both mud daubers and paper wasps are less aggressive and normally will not sting or swarm when away from their nest.



August 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 <i>9:30, MG Meeting</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>Growers Market</i>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Growers Market</i>
13	14	15	16 <i>JoCo County Fair</i>	17 <i>JoCo County Fair</i>	18 <i>JoCo County Fair</i>	19 <i>JoCo County Fair</i>
20 <i>NEWS-LETTR DEADLINE</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26 <i>Growers Market</i>
27 <i>Chili Cook-off Potluck & Tomato Tasting Social</i>	28	29 <i>6-8, Winter Gardening Class</i>	30	31 <i>Herb Pharm Tour</i>		

AUGUST CLASS

Winter Gardening class on Tuesday, August 29 from 6 to 8 pm. Instructor is Jeana Schorr, Master Gardener. Cost: \$15 per person or \$10 if pre-registered at least 24 hours in advance, MG \$10/\$5 if pre-registered w/24 hours in advance (Badge required). Pre-Registration Required/To register online: bit.ly/JoCoWinterGardening, OSU Extension Josephine County Auditorium.

Just because it's August and your crops are pretty much done, you're not; there's winter to prepare for! Learn about enhancing your soil using any number of methods including growing winter veggie crops, planting cover crops and mulching. The secret to a great harvest is a healthy soil, so keep feeding those microbes and things living in your soil all year.



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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