

October, 2017



# THE MASTER GARDENER™



Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Terry Ruiter, President



As the shadows lengthen earlier, the rain has started and the smoke has dissipated. We seem to have really moved into autumn. October brings plenty of activities to pull Josephine County Master Gardeners away from the end-of-season activities in their gardens for a bit.

The votes for Master Gardener Association (MGA) officers will be tallied after the close of voting. The results will be announced at the general meeting of 3 October. The meeting will begin at 9:30. Everyone is welcome. Remember, time spent at MGA meetings can receive service credit. I hope to see you there.

October is the end of Oregon Master Gardener year. Certification is based on volunteer and education hours undertaken between 1 November and 31 October. Much of the work of the MGA requires certification of participants. If you have any questions about your status, speak with Karen Pleasant.

October also is the last month of summer hours in the plant clinic. Currently, senior Master Gardeners and students are available to respond to plant and gardening-related questions from the public Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Beginning 1 November, new graduates will work with Wilma Christian or another senior Master Gardener in the clinic on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The winter schedule provides an opportunity for new graduates to become more comfortable with the resources of the plant clinic at a less intense time of public inquiry.

The demonstration gardens are developing. The overall theme is (Continued on page 4)

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## WILDFLOWER IDENTIFICATION? THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

Information about the Pacific Northwest's wide array of wildflowers is just a swipe away with a new mobile app designed in part by botanists in OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences.

The Oregon Wildflowers app, co-developed by the Oregon Flora Project and High Country Apps, provides information on 1,054 wildflowers, shrubs, and vines common in Oregon and adjacent areas. For each plant, the app offers photographs, natural history, range maps and more. It works without an Internet connection once downloaded.

(Continued on page 5)

### Special points of interest:

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

# SAVE OUR SCHOOL GARDENS

## **These are the schools in our area:**

Allen Dale Elementary, Fruitdale Elementary, Gladiola High School, Highland Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Madrona Elementary, North Middle School, Parkside, St. Anne (maybe)

Which are the closest to you? Don't let these gardens go. In vision what you can do to bring them back to life. No skills needed just a desire to share your love of gardening.

## **People needed:**

- One to Lead out, to schedule a time and date to be in the garden each week, coordinate with the school, and schedule this with your helpers.
- Help or teach 1 day week from April to June.
- One week during summer check on the garden keeping it watered and weeded and harvested.
- Participate in the County Fair in mid August. (The agricultural buildings all the best displays and cutest decorations in all the fair, and educational.)

Think about what you would have envisioned a school garden to be when you were in elementary.

How about growing your own tent or cave in the garden!

There need to be rules for the garden and posted. Most kids just want to take something home with them each time they visit the garden. One of the rules could be pick a weed, plant one seed, and then pick one thing to take home.

If some of you don't step forward this beautiful program is going to die, and that is sad because some of these gardens are truly amazing, with all the work that has gone into them to get them up and running. On average there are 7 to 10 grow boxes in each garden. Some of these gardens are small, some very large, (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.

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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 month of August:

Cash & Savings totals as of 08/31/17

Checking: \$11,157.82

Savings: \$32,230.78

CD: \$3,622.14

Total Assets: \$47,010.74\*\*

Total Income from August 1st through August 31st: \$48.97.

This comes from Donations (\$54.97), Garden Guides (\$20), Perennial Sales [Refund] (-\$26.00).

Total Expenses August 1st through August 31st: \$2,799.08.

These expenses come from: County Fair Prizes & Expense (\$1,598.70), Travel [OMGA Rep] (\$597.50), Administrative Items [President's Int'l Conference Expense & other items]

(\$369.80), Krull Garden Exp. (115.21), SOS Exp. (\$69.08). Newsletter (\$43.80), Perennials Exp. (\$5.00).

\*\*These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 7/31/17 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 online, 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.

(Continued on page 4)

## CLEAN UP AND CUT BACK BEFORE WINTER SETS IN

By Carol Savonen

Before cold weather sets in, autumn clean up in your yard and garden will help protect your landscape from the ravages of winter. There are several tasks best initiated in October and November.

Mulch your empty garden beds for the winter if they don't have a cover crop on them yet. Mulch will protect from erosion. Even flat beds experience soil erosion and heavy compaction from rainwater. Mulching will add organic matter to the soil. And it will encourage earthworm activity. Plus it will keep weed germination down.

Control the weeds that have recently germinated from early fall rains. It is a much easier job now than in the spring. A hoe or hand pulling will do it. This is not a good time of year to use herbicides. The damp soil makes it easy to hoe or pull weeds, big or little.

Apply slow-release nitrogen fertilizer to lawns, if needed. Use just enough to keep the lawn green, but not enough to cause need for additional

mowing. Don't use quick-release fertilizer, as it will just leach away in fall rains. Don't apply fertilizer to trees, flowers or shrubs this time of year, as it may reduce their cold tolerance.

Cut back late flowering perennials like asters and chrysanthemums to a few inches. Peonies can be cut back all the way to the ground. Mulch the crowns with compost to protect them from hard freezes.

Prune late summer and fall flowering shrubs like butterfly bush (Buddleia) abelia, clethra and hydrangea several weeks before icy winter weather or hold off until mid-February to do your pruning. Trim back roses to knee height so winter winds won't cause damage.

Keep your perennial gardens free of wind-blown plant refuse. Continue to rake your lawn, as more leaves fly. Add the leaves to your compost pile to turn them into humus.

Pull up spent summer annuals like snapdragons, marigolds, zinnias, and cosmos that have dried back.

**Cut back late flowering perennials**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to Sue George, Candace Bartow, Mary Rust, Rachelle Gunderson, Anna Demeduk, Eric Lundberg, Jean Kitchen, Tom Elliott, Barry Burnsides.



**2017 ELECTED OFFICERS**

- President..... Terry Ruitter
- 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 Ruitter
- Communications .....Schallheim/Etchells
- Spring Garden Fair.....Sybil Longinotti
- Newsletter Editor .....Ruth Reel
- Hospitality Chairman.....Breezy/Mark  
.....Schallheim
- New Projects .Sybil Longinotti/Joan Seward
- Publicity.....Jeana 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 Coordinator .....Steve Schoen
- Webmaster..... Pat Etchells/Darcy Heater
- Perennials .....Joan Foley
- Young Master Gardeners.....Sayaka Lean/  
..... Barry Burnsid
- Membership.....Ruth Reel
- Master Gardener Coord.....Karen Pleasant

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(Continued from page 1 President’s Note)

gardening in an urban setting. The Krull garden has a focus on perennial fruits. These include blueberries, raspberries, strawberries and columnar and espaliered apples. The new gardens in front of the auditorium will have two different foci. The west side will demonstrate the use of a variety of containers for raising vegetables and herbs. The east side will demonstrate pollinator, native plant and xeric/dryland gardens. There may be a fair amount of overlap in those areas. All Master Gardeners are invited to be part of the demonstration gardens as they are planted, nurtured and enjoyed.

As part of the end-of-year activities, October also brings the annual awards and graduation banquet. This year, it will be held on 28 October at the Grants Pass Golf Club. We will celebrate the autumn harvest and enjoy the company of other Master Gardeners. Look for your invitation...I hope you can make it. Mark Schallheim and his committee have a terrific evening planned.

The Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA) final 2017 board of directors meeting will be held at the OSU Extension auditorium in Grants Pass on 4 November. This is a great opportunity to meet the folks who make up the organization that melds the diverse Master Gardener chapters into a single group for discussions with Oregon State University as well as providing Mini College, IRS filings, annual PNW resource updates and some insurance. While the board meetings business are mostly business meetings, they do offer opportunities to meet Master Gardeners from around the state and hear about their projects and activities. The November meeting will also include the election of OMGA officers for 2018. The board does not meet in southern Oregon very often, so you are encouraged to take this opportunity to attend.

I hope you are able to finish your summer gardens (and processing produce!) in October and get your winter ones underway...or at least get your gardens ready for winter. And, I hope you will find opportunities to enjoy this beautiful time of year in the Rogue Valley.

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(Continued from page 3 Treasurer Report)

\*\*\*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.

(Continued from page 1 Wildflower app)

“You can use the app no matter how remote you are,” said Linda Hardison, the director of the Oregon Flora Project. “It’s designed for both budding wildflower enthusiasts and experienced botanists to learn about the plants in our region.”

The Oregon Flora Project has also recently published the first of an illustrated three-part *Flora of Oregon*, the definitive reference for more than 4,700 native and naturalized plants in Oregon, [oregonflora.org](http://oregonflora.org)

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(Continued from page 2 Save Our School Gardens)

and some just excitingly eclectic whimsical. No matter what the kids love to be there. At Madrona one of the smaller schools we had 7 workers, and I don’t think anyone felt over-worked.

So if we could get 3 MG’s to head up each school and they recruited 3 to 4 more MG’s, or teachers, or parents, we could have all 8 or 9 schools back in action by this spring. And then look out County Fair, here we come!

*Pat Olsen, Master Gardener, Class of 2015*

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## **PERENNIAL PLANT SALE**

On Saturday, September 16th, the perennial group held their last plant sale of the season with a sales total of about \$550. The final tally will be reported by the treasurer at the BOD meeting. Our group will continue to operate until November, and at that time we will be taking a few months hiatus from the propagation and transplanting activities.

This program success is a combined effort of the many Master Gardener’s who have helped in one way or another throughout the year. There is something for everyone to enjoy, and a wonderful learning opportunity for the beginner enthusiast as well as the seasoned Master Gardener. The invitation is always open for any Master Gardener or trainee to join us.

I would be remiss if I didn’t comment on the 2017 weather. We had to cancel our March sale because of cold and rain, the temperature of the summer sale reached 105 degrees, and the final sale on September 16th was a little smoky. Despite the adverse conditions we made it! I know deep down in my gardening heart that some years are better than others and it’s still OK. Thank you all for a productive year and countless hours of fun.

*Joan Foley, Perennial Manager*

## **AUTUMN RAINS BRING PLANT DISEASE - BE READY**

Autumn rains bring welcome relief from high fire danger. But they also can be a harbinger of plant disease outbreaks in home gardens.

Increased moisture means root rot diseases caused by the fungus Phytophthora, plant dieback caused by the bacterium Pseudomonas and cankers of apple and cypress and a blight of Berchman’s arborvitae. Early autumn rains produce lots of different rots in late-ripening fruit crops like grapes and apples.

Gardeners take heed. The transition from dry weather to wet weather is fast in the fall in many parts of Oregon.

“The probability of rainfall at the beginning of October in the Willamette Valley is 20 to 25 percent,” said George Taylor, Oregon’s State climatologist based of OSU. “By the end of October, it’s 55 percent. That’s a big transition. By the end of the month, we will more likely have rain on any given day than not.”

Many of the fall disease problems associated with increased moisture can be ameliorated with basic sanitation practices in the yard.

Rake up normally shed tree and shrub leaves and vegetable garden debris and compost them.

Remove old fruiting canes off of cane berries such as raspberries, blackberries and boysenberries. Wait to prune stone fruits such as plums, cherries and peaches until mid-winter, as pruning now spreads Pseudomonas-caused cankers. Prune off and dispose of diseased plant tissue on perennials other than stone fruits to remove any spores and increase air circulation to healthy parts of the plant.

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## CONTINUING EDUCATION OPTIONS

### Soils Symposium

**Instructors: James Cassidy, OSU Soils Professor and Scott Goods, Nourishing Systems/Master Gardener**

Soil! - What it is and How it Works...8:30 to 10 am

No Till Gardening..10:30 to Noon

Compost - What it is and How to Make It...1:00 to 1:45 pm

Understanding Your Own Soil...1:45 to 3:00 pm

Saturday, October 14,/8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Cost: \$20/\$15 if pre-registered

MG: \$15/\$10 if pre-registered

Pre Registration Required

Register online: <http://bit.ly/Soilssymposiuim>

Call 541-476-6613 for more information

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### EGGS & MORE EGGS

If there are any egg eating members, this is a heads up. I have eight healthy and ambitious free range egg laying Bard Rock Chickens. Call me if you are interested in eggs. *Karen Zoufal, 541-570-0263.*

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## NEW WEBINARS

Continuing Education opportunities for Recertification:

Recordings are now available for these webinars:

- \*NEW\* ‘Japanese Beetles in Oregon’ by Rachel Suits & Heather Stoven  
<https://learn.extension.org/events/3138>
- ‘Never doubt how a small, thoughtful and committed pollinator habitat (in your garden) can change the world’ by Dr. Andony Melathopoulos:  
<https://learn.extension.org/events/3139>
- ‘Managing the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug with Biological Control’ by Dr. David Lowenstein:  
<https://learn.extension.org/events/3140>
- ‘Organic Pesticides in Home Gardens’ presented by Kaci Buhl: <https://learn.extension.org/events/3141>

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### PRICELESS

I signed up for exercise class and was told to wear loose fitting clothes. If I had loose fitting clothes, I wouldn’t need the class!

Two times a week we go to a nice restaurant, have a little beverage, good food and companionship. She goes on Tuesdays; I go on Fridays.

We also sleep in separate beds. Hers is in California, and mine is in Texas.

I take my wife everywhere...but she keeps finding her way back.

I asked my wife where she wanted to go for our anniversary. ‘Somewhere I haven’t been in a long time!’ she said. So I suggested the kitchen.

We always hold hands, if I let go, she shops.

My wife told me the car wasn’t running well because there was water in the carburetor. I asked where the car was. She told me, “In the lake.”

She ran after the garbage truck, yelling, “Am I too late for the garbage?” The driver said, “No, jump in!”

Remember: Marriage is the number one cause of divorce.

I married Miss Right. I just didn’t know her first name was Always.

# October 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

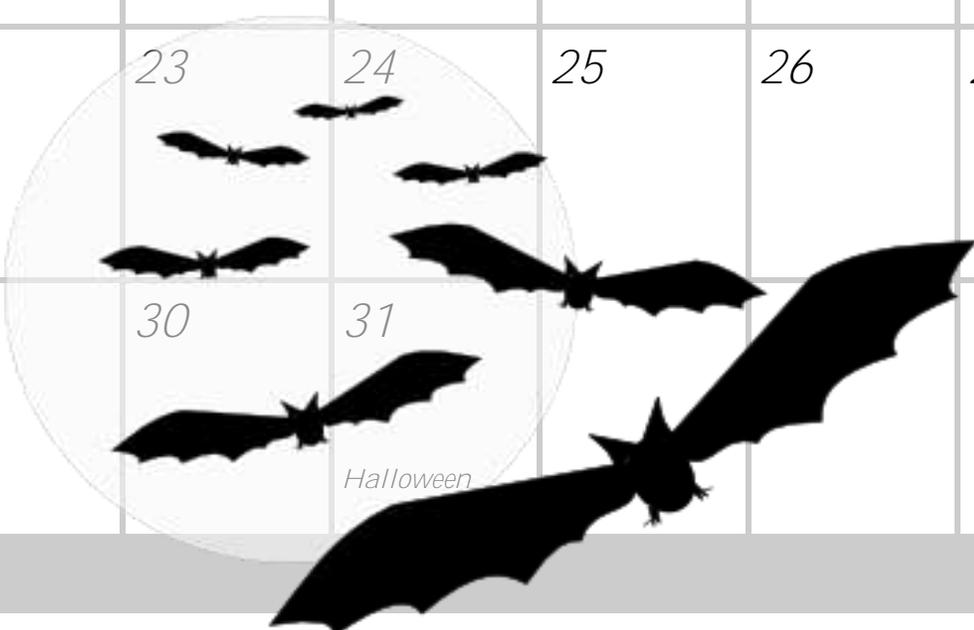
Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3 <i>9:30, MG Meeting</i>	4	5	6	7 <i>Pumpkin &amp; Succulents Centerpiece class</i>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 <i>Carrots Love Tomatoes class</i>	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 <i>Graduation/ Awards Banquet</i>
29	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>				



## OCTOBER CLASSES

**Pumpkin & Succulents Centerpiece** class on Saturday, October 7 from 10 to 12 pm. Instructor: Nancy Pyle, Master Gardener. Make your table fall-festive with a pumpkin & succulents! Learn how to create a fall centerpiece using pumpkins & succulents. Un-cut palm-sized pumpkins, some succulents and supplies will be provided. You're welcome to bring your own uncut Cinderella pumpkin, and some hens & chicks or similar succulents as well. Pre Register is required/Class limited to 15 paid participants. Call 541-476-6613.

**Painting on Terra Cotta Pots: Autumn Mums** class on Saturday, October 7 from 1-4. Instructor: Breezy Schallheim, Master Gardener. A fun & easy class, no experience necessary. Bring a 6" or 8" terra cotta pot or 9x12" canvas; all other materials provided. Pre Registered required/ Limited to 15 paid participants. Call 541-476-6613.

**Carrots Love Tomatoes** class on Thursday, October 19 from 6-8 pm. Instructor: Pam Zaklan, Master Gardener. Companion Planting is one of the oldest gardening traditions. This class explores the benefits and ideas of companion planting and how setting up plant families and friends makes a garden into a good neighborhood. Pre Registered required. Call 541-476-7716 for more information.

All these classes are held at the OSU Josephine County Ext. Auditorium, 215 Ringuette St., G.P.

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

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

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