

December, 2017



# THE MASTER GARDENER™



Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Terry Ruiter, President

It's hard to believe but December is here...the end of the year. The gardens are cleaned up (at least as much as they will be). Mornings are really dark and foggy. The temperatures have cooled to cold...and the 2018 garden catalogues are coming in! The landscape has lost its green and shut down for winter. We know, however, that in a few months, we will start to see the green haze of spring, then leaves, then full-on green. In the meantime, enjoy the hellebores, camellias and witch hazel! Josephine County Master Gardeners are ending the year and preparing for the 2018 class and garden season.

As you know, Karen Pleasant is retiring at the end of December. OSU has advertised for her replacement, but it is possible that person may not be hired until the classes are well underway. John PUNCHES will lead the program until a new person is in. He has scheduled a meeting for 1 December at 1:00 pm in the auditorium to discuss Master Gardener roles and expectations during the faculty transition. John has asked that the Board and other interested MGA members join that meeting. We want the 2018 class to enjoy the program as much as the rest of us have.

The December general meeting will be on the 5th at 9:30 am in the OSU Extension auditorium. As usual, all association members are welcome.

The annual holiday party will be on 8 December at John and Pat Etchells' house. Rumors have an ugly sweater contest and secret Santa gift exchange as part of the festivities. Let Mark Schallheim know you plan to come and start scouting the second-hand stores for that perfect sweater. Search through your cupboards for the implement you haven't used, can't throw away, but would love to give to another gardener for their use! (Continue on page 4)



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## ANNUAL DUES FORM

Next month (January) I will have the Annual Dues Form in the newsletter. This will be sent out to all the members through the Post Office. Please fill it out and submit it to the Extension Office along with your check or cash. The dues are \$20 per member. Dues are payable January 1 of each year. The names of members whose dues are not paid by the following March 1st will be dropped from the membership list.

Thank you,  
*Ruth Reel, Membership*

### Special points of interest:

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

# **2017 OSU & JoCo MGA Master Gardener Awards**

**Presented at the Oct. 2017 Graduation & Awards Banquet**

**By Karen Pleasant, OSU MG Coordinator & Terry Ruiter, JoCo MGA President**

## **TRAINEE AWARDS:**

Class of 2017 T-Shirt Design Winner: Les Derfler. Class of 2017 approx. 100+ Volunteer Hours: Paula Bennett, Janis Bilich, Cindy Garrick, Deborah Kauffman, Robin Little, Jennifer Voris. Rookie of the Year (Class of 2017) - highest number of volunteer hours: Jennifer Voris (129.25 plus)

## **VETERANS AWARDS:**

### **Certificates of Appreciation:**

Sayaka Lean & Barry Burnside, Young Master Gardeners (2 years), Joan Foley, Perennial Program Coordinator (2 years), Breezy Schallheim, Seed to Supper Coordinator (since beg. 4 years), Terry Ruiter, Seeds of Spring Conference Coordinator (3 years), Peter Pernarelli & Lori Pernarelli, Greenhouse Managers, Judi Maxwell, Outstanding Educational Outreach 2017, Phil Damewood, Outstanding Educational Outreach 2017, Barry Burnside, Outstanding Educational Outreach 2017

**INSECT SPECIALISTS** (certification and swinger earned): Paul Moschetti (Class of 2016) and Outstanding Entomology Outreach: (certification and swinger earned) to Phylis McIntosh (Class of 2015)

**MENTORS:** Joan Foley, Mentor Coordinator (2 years) & Mentor, Barbara Reavis, Carol Graper, CarolAnne Durante, Denny Bruno, Janice McBride, Joan Foley, Kathy Schuller, Laurel DeWolf, Linda Price. **Above and Beyond Mentors:** Laurel DeWolf, and Kathy Schuller.

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## **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.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**FROM THE EDITOR**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By John Etchells, Treasurer

Cash & Savings totals as of 10/31/17

Checking: \$7,189.59

Savings: \$32,230.78

CD: \$3,622.14

Total Assets: \$43,042.51\*\*

Total Income from October 1st through October 31st: \$442.59: Donations (\$301), Member Sales [Soil] (\$76.50), Garden Guides (\$65) and Interest (\$.09).

Total Expenses October 1st to October 31st: \$2,932.79: Admin Items [Net Awards Banquet Exp, Secretary's Exp & Swingers] (\$1544.29), SGF [Hospitality] (\$413.35), Social [Class, Meetings & Events] (\$400.71), Newsletter (\$192.60), Dem Gardens (\$133.83)), Gen Advertising (\$95.60) Plant Clinic [Insect Re-

lated] (\$86.91), SOS [Hospitality] (\$32.05), Young MG's (\$21.96), Greenhouse [Supplies] (\$11.49).

\*\*These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 9/30/17 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.

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## KICK THE ZOMBIES OUT OF YOUR ROSE GARDEN AND GIVE YOUR ROSES A WINTER REST

By Mike Zerwer, Master Gardener

You may have observed that your roses insist on trying to grow through the winter months. That's because in Southern Oregon's relatively mild winters, roses do not become completely dormant. They do need some attention and protection through our colder months. What roses don't need, in November and December, is pruning. Pruning now actually stimulates new growth. The result? They could freeze their little petioles off!

Major pruning should not be done until late February and early March, when the forsythia blooms. An exception is canes that are so tall they're in danger of being broken by high winds. Cut these canes down to about six feet.

Many insects and diseases overwinter and even spread with the cool wet conditions in the winter garden. Pay close attention to your roses and you may hear "clean up on the rose aisle". Check for blooms that look like fuzzy gray mammals caused by a fungus known as boytrytis blight. Cut their heads off to prevent these rose zom-

bies from spreading their infectious spores.

Find and remove any diseased leaves. Don't rip them off as you would a band aide because ripping them leaves a small wound opening the bush to disease invasion. More zombies! Instead, cut them off leaving a small stub. Rake up all leaves and debris on the ground. All of this material should be bagged and discarded or burned. Do not compost. Again, more zombies!

Next, if the rose garden does not already have one, apply a winter blanket of mulch. Cover the soil to prevent rain from splashing disease spores from the soil to the bush. Mulch over any exposed bud unions. You will uncover them again in spring.

Finally consider a bit of liquid coverage to fight over wintering fungus. A dormant spray of horticultural oil with sulfur or lime sulfur is considered an organic solution to preventing blackspot and other rose fungus. Be aware that even though this dormant spray is organic it is still a pesticide and 'cide'

### KICK ZOMBIES OUT OF YOUR ROSE GARDEN

means kill. Follow all directions on the label and please, no skin to contact. You don't want to join the mummies and zombies.

Finally, now that you have kicked boytrytis and taken some other names, take a little winter nap along with your roses - but keep one eye open.



**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 .....David Coon/John  
.....Etchells/Pat Etchells/Terry Ruitter
- Plant Clinic..... Wilma Christian
- SOS Garden Seminar ..... Terry Ruitter
- Communications .....John Etchells
- Spring Garden Fair....Sybil Longinotti/Mike  
.....Zerwer
- Newsletter Editor.....Ruth Reel
- Hospitality.....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
- Perennials .....Joan Foley
- Young Master Gardeners.....Sayaka Lean/  
..... Barry Burnsid
- Membership.....Ruth Reel
- Seeds to Supper.....Breezy Schallheim
- Master Gardener Coord.....Karen Pleasant

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It promises to be a night of fun and frivolity.

Development of the demonstration gardens continues, although slowed for the winter. Oregon Master Gardener Board members who were in Grants Pass in early November thought they were lovely, if a bit muddy from rain, and applauded the plans we articulated. The planned official opening is April 2018. In the meantime, there will be calls for work parties to weed and spiff up the gardens and the greenhouse areas in general. While they are county property, one of the assumptions of the Master Gardener use of the area is that we maintain it. That maintenance time is volunteer service and should be recorded toward your 2018 recertification.

I know that even in December, garden questions arise. This is a reminder that the plant clinic is open winter hours, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 to 2:00. Stop by and say hello to Wilma and her new graduates, even if you don't have a question for them.

January brings a new year, new activities, and a new Josephine County Master Garden Association president. It has been a privilege to be your president the last two years. I thank you for that and wish the best for Pam Zaklan and the rest of the Board, as well as the association. This is a wonderful group. Have a fabulous holiday season and the best of years in 2018!

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(Continued from page 3 Treasurer)

\*\*\*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.

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**SCHOOL GARDEN LEADERS**

Debi Ashton, Fruitdale Elementary, Tom Elliott, Fruitdale Elementary, Lyn Dick Fruitdale Elementary, Pat Olsen, Madrona Elementary, Phil Damewood, Madrona Elementary, Marguerite Damewood, Madrona Elementary, Diane Smith, Highland Elementary, Laurel DeWolf, Highland Elementary, Michele Minici, Highland Elementary.

**VETERANS WITH APPROX. 100+ VOLUNTEER**

**HOURS:** Barry Burnsides (182.75), Joan Foley (103.5), Carol Graper (144), Richard Hernandez (111), Lynne Hon (95+), Jan Knapik (139), Cherrie Lynch (140.5), Paul Moschetti (116), Pat Olsen (114), Nancy Pyle (157.25), Hank Smith (121.5), Cathy Stevens-Hernandez (96+)

**VETERANS WITH 200+ VOLUNTEER HOURS:**

Laurel DeWolf (241.5), Phylis McIntosh (251.5), Lori Per-narelli (256.5), Mike Zerwer (219)

**VETERANS WITH 300+ VOLUNTEER HOURS:**

Pat Etchells (301.8), John Etchells (369), Breezy Schallheim (318.3)

**VETERANS WITH 400+ VOLUNTEER HOURS:**

Judi Maxell (406+)

**VETERANS WITH 500+ VOLUNTEER HOURS:**

Ruth Reel (511 plus), Terry Ruiter (571 plus), Mark Schall-heim 629.5 plus) Wilma Christian (785 plus)

**2017 SPECIAL AWARDS:**

**Diamond Pioneer Award** from OSU School of Agriculture for outstanding contribution to Agriculture/Horticulture related programming: Wilma Christian (Plant Clinic)

**OSU Extension Cooperator Award** from OSUEA for out-standing contribution to Extension programming: Debi Ashton, (involved MG, MFP, and Land Stewards)

**Golden Trowel:** Diane Smith (work at Highland Elementary School Garden)

**Behind the Scenes:** Mike Zerwer

**Master Gardeners of the Year:** Mark Schallheim & Breezy Schallheim

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Snowmen fall from heaven, unassembled.

**FRUIT OR HERB VINEGARS MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS**

Home-made herb or fruit-flavored vinegars are easy and fun to make and are welcomed gifts during the holiday season. Plus, they are great additions to winter salad dressings, sauces, meat dishes and cooked vegetables.

To produce herb vinegar, all you need is some fresh herbs from your garden or grocery store, clean glass jars and lids, vinegar, some containers to put the vinegar into when it is done and some nice labels for the jars.

Fruit-flavored vinegars are made in a similar way, using frozen fruit such as raspberries, blue berries or cranber-ries. Frozen fruit works better than fresh fruit because the cells of frozen fruit are broken down and release their juice more readily.

A great variety of herbs or fruits can be used to make fla-vored vinegars, either by themselves or in combinations. Mint, basil, tarragon, dill, oregano and chives all are popular in herb vinegars. Use about three or four sprigs of fresh herbs or three tablespoons dried herbs for each pint of vinegar. The new leaves at the tip of an herb plant are usually the most flavorful. You can also add other flavor-ings along with the herbs such as berries, lemon peel or garlic.

Here is the following procedure for making herb vine-gars:

Sterilize glass containers such as quart or gallon jars by boiling for 10 minutes. Sterilization inhibits microorgan-isms that cloud herb vinegars.

Insert the desired amount of herbs into a sterilized glass jar and fill the jar with the vinegar of choice.

Distilled white and apple cider vinegar are most afford-able, but apple cider’s amber color may not be as desir-able for light colored herbs. White wine is more expen-sive, but has a very smooth flavor.

Put a pint of vinegar in the jar per each three to four sprigs of fresh herbs. The vinegar may be added either hot or cold.

Some people prefer to heat the vinegar to just below the boiling point and then pour the hot vinegar over the herbs. Others like the flavor better when cold vinegar is added.

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(Continued from page 5 Fruit or Herb Vinegars)

Loosely cap the jar. Plastic lids or corks make the best seals, as metal jar tops will rust. Store your herb vinegar in a cool, dark place for several weeks. After the desired flavor is reached, filter the vinegar and put it into sterilized smaller containers for gifts or use in your own kitchen. Add a sprig of fresh herb for appearance. Or leave the vinegar unfiltered. Citrus rind, garlic, peppers or peppercorns can also add unique flavors to herbal vinegars.

To make fruit-flavored vinegars, put frozen fruit in a non-reactive bowl and pour vinegar over the fruit.

Let it set a couple of weeks to steep. Then filter it, through cheesecloth or a paper coffee filter.

Don't forget to label your vinegars with the type of base vinegar used - white, apple cider, red wine, white wine, rice wine - the flavoring ingredients and the date. Use the vinegar up within three to four months for best quality.

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## **GIFT SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GARDENER IN YOUR LIFE**

Gardeners are easy to shop for these days. There are oodles of wonderful gardening accessories to choose from.

Here are a few suggestions that your green-thumbed friends will be sure to love.

- A gardener's journal to record planting date varieties, successes from year to year.
- A gift certificate for 'x' hours of help in the yard

- Hand soaps and creams designed especially for extra dirty hands.
- Interesting flower pots.
- A nice pair of leather gardening gloves to prevent injury and chapped, rough skin or flexible, rubberized cotton gloves that keep fingernails clean and hand dry while mucking about in the garden.
- A water timer for hose-fed sprinklers for carefree watering.
- Bouquets and wreaths of dried flowers.
- A high-quality pruning saw to make winter pruning a pleasure.
- Easy grip or smaller hand tools for gardeners with arthritis.
- A collapsible compost bin to recycle kitchen and yard waste.
- Some small, beautiful vases to display special single blossoms.
- A long spouted water pot for easy house plant care.
- A new ever-sharp pair of garden scissors for snipping herbs and flowers.
- A hand-woven basket with a handle for gathering herbs and vegetables.
- A large garden cart to carry tools and soil amendments out to the garden in one trip.
- Knee-pads or a gardening stool to make weeding and low work less of a strain.
- Metal supports for tall spring tulips and later for supporting tomato plants.
- Permanent tags to mark the sites of your favorite perennials and bulbs or to make the rows in next spring's vegetable patch.
- A seed sower to easily setting seeds into soil at exactly the proper interval.
- A soil thermometer to measure soil temperature, vital for spring planting.
- Bulbs to plant in bowls and vases for early indoor bloom.
- A gift certificate for plants from a favorite nursery.

# December 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 1:00, Meeting with John Punches	2
3	4	5 9:30, MG Meeting	6	7	8 Holiday Party	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 Winter Begins	22	23
24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve						

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Marilyn Ormsby, Barbara Schwartz, David Coon, Dianne Cooper, Nancy Pyle, Karen Katz, Stan Bryant, Linda Cochran, Cindy Garrick, Leslie Brock, and Shari Belcher.



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

**Read me NOW!**



**THE MASTER GARDENER**

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