

March, 2018



# THE MASTER GARDENER™



Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Pamela Zaklan, President



### New Agricultural Extension Faculty Member in Josephine County

I am pleased to announce that Sara Runkel has accepted the position as Josephine County’s new agricultural Extension faculty member. She will serve as the coordinator of the Master Gardener program, and develop educational programs for home gardeners and small-scale commercial agricultural producers.

Sara comes to us from a similar position with Oregon State University’s Douglas County office, where she currently serves as the Small Farms and Food Systems Coordinator. She is skilled in a wide range of agriculture and gardening topics, and manages the Douglas County Master Food Preserver volunteer program. One of her unique specialties is farm food safety.

Sara has degrees in environmental studies and sustainable systems, and a wealth of practical experience as a farm owner and operator. Extension educator at Penn State, and manager and executive director of an on-farm training program in diversified organic vegetable production. She has additional experience in market gardening and landscaping.

Sara is wrapping up commitments in Douglas County and looking for housing in Josephine County. She plans to make her debut in the Grants Pass office on April 2.

Please join me in welcoming Sara to our Josephine Extension team!

*John Punches*

Oregon State University, Division of Outreach and Engagement

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## CLASS OF 18

Hearts were abound as the Mentors hosted this year’s, “Student Appreciation Day.” We celebrated with red and pink tablecloths, red and pink culinary items, colorful spring bulbs, and red and pink gift bags. We started the session by gifting John Punches, Mark Schallheim, Barry Burnside, Tom Elliott and Wil Scarrow, with some unique Valentine attire which they wore through out the day. I can’t wait to see the pictures! Thank you to the 2018 Mentor team for making this happen and all the seniors who support this class. May every day be Valentines Day.

*Joan Foley, Mentor Coordinator*

### Special points of interest:

- *2018 Elected Officers*
- *2018 Appointed Coordinators*
- *Calendar*
- *Editor Notes*

# SPRING GARDEN FAIR

**Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6**

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 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, May 4** (2 shifts) - Noon to 2 pm and 3 pm to 5 pm.

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

**Sunday May 6** (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 6 and April 3 and at noon at the Master Gardener Training classes on March 8, 15, and 22. Please bring your calendars with you to these sign-up days. Seniors may call, **after March 8** 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 9**.

Thank you for all your help.

*Mike Zerwer, Spring Garden Fair Co-Chair, 541-955-5076*

## 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.**

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2018 DUES YET??**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By John Etchells, Treasurer

Cash & Savings totals as of 1/31/18

Checking: \$3,197.69

Savings: \$32,230.78

CD: \$3,624.85

Total Assets: \$39,053.32\*\*

Total Income from January 1 through January 31: \$3,421.58.

This comes from: Membership Dues (\$2640), Greenhouse Sales [Bulbs] (490.33), Member Sales [Soil] (\$286), Donations (\$5) & Interest (\$0.25).

Total Expenses January 1 through January 31: \$1982. This comes from Administrative Items [Insurance] (\$881) Greenhouse (\$498.25), Seeds of Spring [Mailings & Supplies] (\$323.86), Demo Garden (\$212.35), SGF (\$44.60), Newsletter

(\$43.80), Administrative Items [Mentor Exp] (\$20), and Hospitality (\$-41.86).

\*\*These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 12/31/17 bank statements.

\*\*Reminder - 2018 dues are now due. Dues are \$20 per year payable to JoCo Master Gardener Association.

\*\*\*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 (Continued on page 4)

## SIGNS OF SPRING

By Shirlene Ferguson, Master Gardener

Gadzooks! It's March already. So why don't you have your garden planted? A break in the clouds, five minutes of sunshine, and I've got garden fever. I dashed to the garden center, bought five bags of steer manure, 45 gladiolus bulbs, day lilies, sweet peas of course, and three packages of asparagus roots. The sun disappeared and it rained on me all the way home, but it didn't "dampen" my fever.

Spring is on the way and I can't wait. Tulips are up and daffodils are valiantly trying, in spite of Mischief using the daffodil bed as a sand box.

Darn cat!

My duckens (that's Oregon chickens with web feet) are starting to lay again and I'm getting about a dozen fresh eggs every day. About time! Those lazy birds had the whole winter off, and they've had my 1700 square foot enclosed garden area to dig, scratch and fertilize. I'll bet I don't have a worm left in the entire area.

I'm being invaded by the insect kingdom. Either we are going to have a very early spring (I'm ready!) or the

ants are overrunning my kitchen to get out of the cold. When I lived in Sacramento, the ants came in through an outside kitchen window. I planted Tansy below the window and the ants called U-Haul, packed up and moved to my neighbor's property. I never did tell the neighbors about the Tansy for fear they would also plant it, and I would get all my ants back.

My present kitchen is in the *center* of the house, so there is no way I could plant Tansy, even if I could find it this time of year. I suspect the ants are coming up from some humongous ant hill under the house, similar to the gigantic termite mounds in Africa. Since there is no food out, not even a crumb for them, these ants must be scouts. I heard one call back over his shoulder, "*No food on this counter, either, Kemosabe.*" The other ant was wearing a mask and yelling "*Hi, Ho, Silver, awaaaay!*"

I cleaned out the planter bed in front of the house and disturbed multiple recently hatched baby spiders that scattered into crevices of the house, which

**PLAN YOUR GARDEN  
NOW!**

means, I'm sure, that the little devils will soon be inside the house, making more spider webs. A lady I know said that Oregon is the spider capital of the world and I am inclined to agree. You probably already know what an arachnileptic fit is; it's the frantic dance you do just after you walk into a spider web! I've often wondered how those spiders know exactly how tall I am, so they can spin their webs to hit me precisely in the face.

Our resident sparrows have been checking out the hanging bird house by the garage. They haven't even signed this year's lease, but I think they are getting ready to move in. (Continued on page 5)

**2018 ELECTED OFFICERS**

- President.....Pamela Zaklan
- 1st Vice President .....Mark Schallheim
- 2nd Vice President..... Phylis McIntosh
- Secretary..... Cynthia Low
- OMGA State Rep..... Candace Bartow
- OMGA Alt. State Rep..... Charlotte Hutt
- Past President ..... Terry Ruitter

**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.....Pamela Zaklan
- Growers Market..... Hank Smith
- K-12 Program.....Charlotte Hutt
- Mentor Committee.....Joan Foley
- Computer Coordinator .....Steve Schoen
- Webmaster..... Pat Etchells
- Perennials .....Joan Foley
- Young Master Gardeners.....Sayaka Lean/  
..... Barry Burnside
- Membership.....Ruth Reel
- Seeds to Supper.....Breezy Schallheim

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**PERENNIALS**

The perennial greenhouse is now open for business on Tuesdays from 9am to 11am. The first week we took general inventory of the grounds and started to rearrange some of the existing plants. Most of the perennials were cut back in the fall but a few were left behind for the first day's tidying and trimming. So far, we have had ample donations to keep us busy as we divide the plants, observe the root structures, trim as necessary, and separate them into the appropriate size containers. Some of our group works at the tables inside, some work at the tables outside, as others weed, rearrange or stock the newly potted plants. Week 2 we separated the red zinfandel grape cuttings that we took last year. Even though there was no sign of life above the soil, the roots were healthy and amazing, approximately 4 inches long. They are now positioned on the table outside ready for sale for someone to start a mini vineyard. Week 3 we will separate the oak leaf hydrangea cuttings and perhaps some conifers and other cuttings, and then conduct business as usual. The invitation is always open for anyone who wants to join us and the students can participate in May after the plant sale. John Struzik and Paul Moschetti will be doing some well needed structural repairs to the tables outside and we have some new pallets to replace the damaged ones behind the cold frame where we store the pots. Thank you to all of you who have been so loyal to this program and who are eager to mentor the new members on their learning journey.

*Joan Foley, Perennial Manager*

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(Continued from page 3 Treasurer Report)

Fred Meyer Reward Program.

\*\*\*When you have bills for payment, please be sure to complete an Authorization for Payment/Reimbursement Form and 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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**DUTCH OVEN WANTED**

Does anyone have an enamel 5 quart round Dutch oven with a lid that they no longer use, who would like to donate to me? I would give it a good home. I'm on a sourdough bread quest. My number is in the directory, Joan Foley.

(Continued from page 3 Signs of Spring)

Squatters! I keep telling them it's too early, but do they listen? Naah! You know how youngsters are these days. Too many hormones in the bird seed, I guess.

Bulbs are poking through the soil, chickens are laying, insects are hatching and invading, birds are beginning to get twitterpated and goofy guineas are getting goofier (if that's possible). If those aren't signs of spring, I don't know what is. So get out your broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprout seeds (does anyone actually grow and eat Brussels sprouts? and start planning and planting - in seed starting mix, of course. And don't forget tomatoes. Lots of tomatoes!

If you don't have any of these signs of spring at your house, let me know and I'll be happy to send you a nice gift box of ants. I'm willing to share.

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### PART OF A TEAM

A man was lost while driving through the country. As he tried to read a map, he accidentally drove off the road into a ditch. Though he was not injured, his car was stuck deep in the mud. So the man walked to a nearby farm to ask for help.

"Warwick can get you out of that ditch" said the farmer, pointing to an old mule standing in a field. The man looked at the haggardly mule and looked at the farmer who just stood there repeating, "Yep, old Warwick can do the job". The man figured he had nothing to lose. The two men and Warwick made their way back to the ditch.

The farmer hitched the mule to the car. With a snap of the reins he shouted, "Pull, Fred! Pull Jack! Pull, Ted! Pull, Warwick!" And the mule pulled the car from the ditch with very little effort.

The man was amazed. He thanked the farmer, patted the mule and asked, "Why did you call out all those other names before you called Warwick?"

The farmer grinned and said, "Old Warwick is just about blind. As long as he believes he's part of a team, he doesn't mind pulling".



## MY ARMY OF DAFFODILS

As a Rogue Valley gardener, I know winter is fading when I see the emergence of daffodils in spring. There's a certain excitement that permeates the air as the "yellows" come marching in. I look upon these flowers as a special gift, to brighten my spirits and lift my mood, as I patiently wait for spring's full glory. I know I'm not alone. You probably share some of the same feelings!

I liken these springtime troupers to an army of soldiers. They consistently perform as assigned whether they are in groups, teams, or as individual officers guarding my garden. They have been known to survive under the harshest conditions. Some seasons they have been pelted by rain, laden by snow, and have even been blown sideways by the wind. However, despite their celestial abuse, they continue to emerge strong while waiting to complete their tour of duty.

Sadly, it seems as soon as they arrive, it's almost time to say goodbye. For me, I'm ever so thankful that this gift has been extended as a result of our cool days and nights in this beautiful valley. I decided years ago that I will not say good bye, but just farewell. From experience, I know that my little army of daffodils will return after their year long furlough, to bring additional troops with them. It's the best medicine, ever! Sometimes, it's good to get away from the sadness of our times and focus on what's truly meaningful in our lives.

My intent in writing this story is to encourage all of you to plant your own little army of daffodils and fill your yard with happiness. Whether you are shopping from a catalogue, a local store, or the Master Gardener's greenhouse, why not pick your favorite daffodil and perhaps share a bulb with your neighbor or a friend. Trust me, you will be rewarded for years to come.

*Joan Foley, Master Gardener*

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## MY NAME IS DON AND I AM A RECOVERING GARDENER



I started simply enough, my father gave me a few radish seeds as a boy and I successfully grew them. As I grew older, I grew a few more things, simple vegetables like tomatoes, corn and squash.

Later, when I purchased a home, the seed catalogs arrived, and I was smitten with the pictures of those beautiful, perfect plants. I had to have them in my garden. I was powerless to the poetic messages of the catalogs and was hooked. I would bring the catalogs out to the back of the barn and sneak peeks at them when no one was looking.

My library overfloweth with garden books.

Every square inch of the garden needed a plant. Soon raised beds of expensive redwood popped up. Weed barriers went down. I attended special classes that brought me to a state of rapture. Learning about hormone movement in plants was wonderful. Then radishes became *Raphanus sativus*.

When I went to town, I never returned home empty handed. There was always a plant sale going on. Plants were purchased even if I already had a dozen of them or there was no room for them. I had to have them. Nurseries would see me coming and set up special tables just for me. I saw sick looking plants on the way to the dumpster that needed to be adopted.

I purchased special garden tools. The market has scores of weeding tools. Each suited to a special task, even if used only once in a life time. The garden shed is overflowing with such tools. Does anyone need a left handed weeding tool for jacamar?

I have had many long intimate talks with my plants and enjoyed the verbal responses from them. I will admit that at times I was overprotective to them with special fencing, custom-made trellises and other plant comforts of life. They really liked me for this. Thinning young plants out became a heart-rending crisis. I made emotional decisions as to which seedling lives and which seedling dies. It was a nightmare. Do plants scream when they are pulled up from their home in the ground?

I am doing okay now. I have a pleasant room here at the home and the family comes and visits me every Sunday afternoon.

*Don Ness, Master Gardener*

## 4H - JUNIOR

### MASTER GARDENERS PROGRAM

Starting on January 24th, five Master Gardeners teamed up with the 4-H Department to begin a Junior Master Gardener Pilot program at Highland Elementary School. Currently there are ten students from grades four and five involved in the program. We meet each Wednesday from 2:30 - 4:30 pm at the school. Currently, we have completed four of the seven sessions on Plant Growth and Development.

The students are smart, interested and full of enthusiasm. They have planted bean seeds in different soil types including gravel and bark and the seeds are then watered with tap or salt water to observe the effects from these differences. They have also planted three bean seeds in three different position in clear plastic cups, to see the effects on how these seeds germinate. Another take home experiment included placing a white carnation in a vial of food colored water to understand how the vascular bundles in plants work. In future sessions they will be making paper pots in which to germinate pea seeds and learning about propagation of African Violet leaf cuttings in a fabricated jug Greenhouse.

Our students have already indicated a desire to continue this program next quarter with our next topic. We hope that by word of mouth, even more students will want to join this program. If you are interested in helping, please contact Amy Pernarelli, 4-H Education Assistant in the Extension Office.

*Mark and Breezy Schallheim, Peter and Lori Pernarelli and Jeffrey Bellamy*

# March 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 <i>Class</i>	2	3 <i>Rose Pruning Clinic</i>
4	5	6 <i>9:30 MG Meeting</i>	7	8 <i>Class</i>	9	10
11 <i>Daylight Saving Begins (Clock Forward)</i>	12	13	14 <i>Bountiful Berries Class</i>	15 <i>Class</i>	16	17 <i>Seeds of Spring St. Patrick's Day</i>
18 <i>Chili Cookoff, 2-6, John &amp; Pat Etchells</i>	19	20 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <i>Spring Begins</i>	21	22 <i>Class</i>	23	24
25 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	26	27	28 <i>Sustainable Lawn Maintenance Class</i>	29 <i>Class</i>	30	31 

## MARCH CLASSES

**Saturday, March 3, Rose Pruning Demonstration & Clinic** from 10 to 12 (Rain or Shine). Instructor Mike Zerwer, Master Gardener & ARS Consulting Rosarian. The class is located in the Riverside Park Memorial Rose Garden on East Park Street in Grants Pass. Call 541-476-6613 or register online: <http://bit.ly/rosepruning18>. Cost is free, pre-registration by March 1st.

**Wednesday, March 14, Bountiful Berries: How to Grow in Containers & Raised Beds** class from 6pm to 8pm. Instructor is Bernadine Strik, OSU Berry Crops Professor. Cost: \$15/\$10 if pre-registered/MG:\$10/\$5 if pre-registered. Pre-registered required. Call 541-476-6613 or register online: <http://bit.ly/bountifulberries18>.

**Wednesday, March 28, Sustainable Lawn Maintenance** class from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Instructor is Alec Kowalewski, OSU Turfgrass Specialist. Cost: \$15/\$10 if pre-registered/MG\$10/\$5 if pre-registered. Pre-registered required. Call 541-476-6613 or register online: <http://bit.ly/sustainablelawnmaint18>. Register by March 27th to receive Pre-registration Discount.

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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>

THE MASTER GARDENER



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