

June, 2015



THE MASTER GARDENER™



Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By John Farias, President



I moved to Grants Pass in February of 2004 with no knowledge of gardening in Southern Oregon. My property was a perfect example of native plants, but the designer in us was that Carolyn and I wanted more color and fewer thorns to adorn our property. So, being the enthusiastic gardener that I am, the first thing I did was go to a nursery to look at tulips and daffodils. They had burlap bags containing 100 bulbs at a very reasonable price. The sales person said one bag would cover the area I needed so naturally I felt two was better than one and bought *three* bags. Next I bought twice as much bone meal as he suggested. I dutifully planted bulbs with bone meal the next day until I could plant no more. Two days later to my surprise about fifty bulbs were lying all over my lawn. My first thought was, what was wrong with the people that live in this neighborhood that they would dig up all my bulbs as a joke.

Touring my yard for answers, I also found about 50 newly planted pots in various locations that were toppled and tossed around. A freshly stashed peanut had replaced the plant! I'm starting to have a good idea as to whom or what was sabotaging all my hard work. A new challenge came when I installed 50 feet of rain gutters on a trellis to grow strawberries only to find soil removed along with anything that I planted and finding more peanuts. Ah ha! Adorable/evil squirrels were the culprits who were burying peanuts in the soft fresh soil. Two days later I spot Baxter, the neighborhood squirrel, in the gutters with a peanut from my neighbor's feeder in his mouth. He immediately sees me, smiles, and attempts to bury his peanut. Using various methods, some legal some not, Baxter and I came to an agreement who owned the pots. However, the squirrels refused to negotiate (Continued on page 4)

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THANK YOU MASTER GARDENERS

Who donated to the raffle for the Spring Garden Fair

Kathleen Campbell, David Cooms, Vicky Engel, John and Pat Etchells, Joan Foley, Barb Jackson, Bobbie Johnson, Julie Kaszuba, Sybil Longinotti, Cherri Lynch, Leslie Orr, Lilly Pattee, Peter and Lori Pernarelli, Tracey Raggi and Karen Zoufal.

Special points of interest:

- 2015 Elected Officers
- 2015 Appointed Coordinators
- Upcoming Events
- Editor Notes
- Birthdays

RAFFLE THANK YOU

The Raffle at the 2015 Spring Garden Fair was a smashing success!

Several of the 2015 students did a yeoman's job of canvassing the town and getting merchants to donate a record number of gift certificates - and the general Master Gardener community came through with lots of additional items to make the baskets especially enticing.

We divided all the gift certificates and other donations into thirty-two baskets for us to raffle off according to a schedule over the two days of the Fair, and folks were able to put their tickets into flower pots corresponding to the baskets they wanted to win. And to encourage ticket sales by relieving people of the tasks of writing their name and phone number multiple times, we let them register for a number which would replace their names.

On Saturday, when we realized that we had gotten more donations after the baskets were assembled, we decided to go with a Mystery Basket. We circulated among the vendors and asked them if right before the end of the Fair they would be willing to contribute something that they didn't want to pack up and take with them. Their response was phenomenal, and the Mystery Basket was one of the more valuable prizes!

When everything was said and done, we collected just short of \$1,700 in ticket sales and there were over 2100 tickets in the various baskets. And because we told the winners that they had to pick up their baskets by noon the following Friday or ownership would revert to Master Gardeners, everybody claimed baskets in a timely manner!

All the merchant and vendor donors were acknowledged in an ad in the *Daily Courier*. I'm not going to mention Master Gardener worker names, because I don't want to inadvertently skip someone - but the amount of help we received was inspirational. Besides those who recruited the donations and gave merchandise, we had a wonderful crew of people creating the baskets and putting artistic touches on them. The ticket sellers did an amazing job during the Fair convincing folks to open their purses and purchase tickets, and the table help during the raffle may my job easy. Thank you all!

(Continued on page 4)

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:

reelsox@grantspass.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 Julie Kaszuba, Treasurer

Cash and savings totals: As of 4/30/15

Checking: \$31,111

Savings: \$21,356

CD: \$3,611

Total Assets: \$56,078

Total Income: \$14,551. This comes from Garden Guide Sales (\$225), SGF; Booth Rents (\$200), Raffle (\$1,716), Change Return (\$700), G.H. SGF Annuals (\$7,628) Perennials (\$2,071), Trees (\$1,382), Donations (\$28), Class T-shirt sales (\$559), G.H.; Soil Sales (\$42).

Total Expenses: \$4,098. This comes from SGF: Supplies (\$71), Postage (\$29), Ads (\$395), Banner updates (\$63), Raffle supplies (\$22), Change (\$700), G.H.; Perennial Soil (\$35), Supplies (\$253), T-Shirt order (\$160). Swingers (\$12)

Donation of soil (\$115), Perennial Ads (\$290), final pmt. for Apron/Vest Order (\$566) Educational Scholarship, (\$1,000 to Zack Carter), K-12 (\$336), Newsletter; Postage (\$34), Printing (\$17).

**These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 4/30/15 bank statements.

**Reminder - When shopping at the Grange Co-op & Fred Meyer Reward Programs, don't forget to have them credit your purchase to Jo.Co. MGA.



GARDEN PONDERINGS BY KAREN PLEASANT, MG COORDINATOR

The Importance of Recording Your Volunteer Hours

Many people don't realize how significant it is to record your volunteer service and continuing education hours. The data that is collected through the Volunteer Record System (VRS) helps to show support for the Master Gardener Program to the voters in Josephine County, to county and state legislators, as well as to University decision makers. The activities reported show that the Master Gardeners of Josephine County make a valuable contribution to the community. In fact, for the MG year that ended on Oct. 31, 2014 there were over 13,334 volunteer hours recorded and so far this year we have 9676 hours (7386 service hours and 2289 continuing education hours) as of mid-May, which is about half way through the Master Gardener year. I think we are headed towards a record year, but your help is needed: please record your hours.

Sadly, I know that many hours were not reported last year, and I want to

take a moment to encourage everyone to record their hours as soon as they complete them or at least monthly. Not only will this help you to work towards maintaining your MG certification, it will help Extension staff to measure the performance of the program in Josephine County from year to year.

A few important things to note:

- Veterans who want to recertify only need to complete 20 hours of volunteer service and 10 hours of continuing education in a MG year.
- Once a trainee graduates, their certification is only good for a year. Thus, the MG graduates of 2014 are certified through 2015, but need to start accumulating hours towards recertifying for 2016. Remember, you have until Oct. 31, 2015 to get your hours done and reported.
- You can log your hours online at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/vrs>
- Or, if you prefer, you can submit a

***PLEASE RECORD
YOUR HOURS***

paper log to the Extension Office and we will submit your hours for you. The forms are available in my office.

- Please use only one log sheet per person. Members of a couple each need to complete their own sheet.
- Be sure and clearly label the dates and volunteer activities completed.

I encourage all of you to continue your gardening education and to recertify every year. There are so many ways to volunteer and there is such a need in our community for the sharing of your time and knowledge. New projects and educational opportunities abound. If you have ideas about ways that you would like (Continued on page 5)

2015 ELECTED OFFICERS

President John Farias
1st Vice President Charlie Newsom
2nd Vice President John Etchells
Secretary Pat Etchells
OMGA State Rep Guy Young
OMGA Alt. State Rep Candace Bartow
Past President Peter Pernarelli

APPOINTED COORDINATORS

Treasurer Julie Kaszuba
Green House Managers Tracey Raggi/
..... Deborah Dunham
Plant Clinic Wilma Christian
SOS Garden Seminar Terry Ruitter
Communications Steve Schoen
Spring Garden Fair Charlie Newsom
Newsletter Editor Ruth Reel
Hospitality Chairman Bob Wilson
Special Projects Sybil Longinotti
Publicity Art Reel
Historian Carolyn Farias/Nancy Scheffel
County Fair Charlie Newsom
Growers Market Peter/Lori Pernarelli
K-12 Program Lilly Pattee
Mentor Committee Lori Pernarelli
Paint Your Heart Out Sybil Longinotti
Volunteer Hours Karen Pleasant
Computer Coordinator Steve Schoen
Webmaster John Farias
Perennials Jean Kitchen/Joan Foley
Young Master Gardeners Ruta Warren
Master Gardener Coord Karen Pleasant

(Continued from page 1 President's Comments)

who owned the gutters.

Now what to do: several gardeners suggested using a product that contains cayenne pepper. It was expensive but I was determined to win this battle so I sprinkled the powder liberally over the strawberries. Here comes Baxter. After burying his nose into the gutter soil he jumps up, grabs his nose with his two front paws and begins to sneeze violently for about 30 seconds. He repeated this ritual at least five times. Just when I'm feeling victorious he looked at me, and smiled as only a squirrel can do, then buried his peanut. Just to aggravate me, he walked away slowly as arrogantly as possible.

Several months later I put in about 3000 square feet of sod. It was a beautiful green oasis that I was very excited about until the next morning when I went out to admire my new addition. One side of my yard had the sod completely rolled up. I suspected my neighbors had struck again until I found out it was raccoons looking for grubs. (I also had a serious beaver problem but that is for another story.) Sometimes you just cannot win as Baxter so thoroughly taught me!!

The Spring Garden Fair was a phenomenal and record setting success! Thanks to Charlie Newsom and his team, all the volunteers from perennials, the greenhouse crew and the tree experts, our Josephine County MG's broke all records for sales. All of our student and senior volunteers did an excellent job providing advice and answering our community's gardening needs. The following Sunday, Charlie and Pete Pernarelli then proceeded to entertain us with a very successful auction which also raised records funds for our Club. Thanks to everyone who participated in one or all of the activities.

(Continued from page 2 Raffle Thank You)

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't thank the lucky winners who decided that they didn't need all of the contents of their baskets - and they donated some things back so we could resell them at the auction the following weekend.

Pat Etchells, Raffle Chairperson



(Continued from page 3 Garden Ponderings)

to contribute to educating people in our community about gardening, please talk to me and we'll see what we can work out. Thank you for all that you do. I am proud to be associated with such a wonderful group of volunteers. Keep up the good work...you all are awesome!

PERENNIAL MUSINGS

FOR SALE

We want to remind everyone that we are still open for sales every Tuesday from 9-11am. We have an ample supply of geums, campanulas, statice, hostas and geraniums - a must for every Grants Pass garden! We also have a varied assortment of annuals as well as other perennials, and of course, feel free to peruse the tree and shrub area. A "bargain" section has been added for bulbs that have already bloomed and other miscellaneous items that need a good home.

There has been a steady flow of plants to divide and propagate. The cold frame looks a little bare as most of the plants have been moved outside for the upcoming summer season. The shade cloths have been placed over the greenhouses and the cold frame, and the automatic sprinklers have been activated. Plans are well underway as we prepare for the next perennial sale on Saturday, June 20th.

We want to thank all of you who volunteered at the Spring Garden Fair. A sign-up sheet will be available at the June BOD meeting for the June 20th sale. I also want to extend the invitation to those students who might want to earn more hours. Please feel free to contact Jean Kitchen or Joan Foley aka, J & J.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Bobbie Johnson/Kathleen Campbell (3), Guy Young (7), Cheryl Holt (11), Susan Ellsworth (18), Ruth Monical/ Cherrie Lynch (21), Ida Toro (22), Lana Johnson (30).



YOUNG MASTER GARDENERS

The season is done - that is the Young Master Gardeners 2014-2015 season. "Strong roots for growing minds" is the YMG motto and this past year we have seen that occur with many different topics and plants: water conservation, microgreens, carnivorous plants, hydroponics, geraniums, fava beans, propagation techniques, etc. The YMG'ers have brought their plants they have cared for to "show and tell" and they have earned 85 books for their efforts.

Please thank Megan Beasley and Barry Burnside who have stepped up to take over the coordination and curriculum roles so that YMG can continue. Their work has already been greatly appreciated.

On a personal note, I thank everyone who has helped the YMG'ers learn and grow and plant and understand. You have donated time and supplies, your expertise, your humor and your energy. It has been a true community effort with Master Gardeners and Josephine Community Libraries and it has contributed to the growth of YMG over the past 5½ years. According to Cicero, "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." Thank you for everything. *Ruta Warren*



Insect Field Trip in April



SAT. MAY 30TH

PLANTING DAY

Volunteer at Raptor Creek Farm and plant veggies for the Josephine County Food Bank!

Want to help feed our community? Come on out to the farm from **8am-12pm** and help us get our plants in the ground in order to provide thousands of pounds of produce to the Food Bank.

Volunteers will help ensure a successful season! Please remember to wear closed toed shoes and bring sunscreen, gloves, and a water bottle. Thanks!



The Josephine County Food Bank is an equal opportunity employer and provider. For more information on how you can help or receive emergency assistance, please call 541 479-5556.

Raptor Creek Farm grows thousands of pounds of produce for the JoCo Food Bank

Help us kick off the season!

Plant a row for individuals and families in need of food assistance

Tomatoes, peppers, squash, melons and more

Your help is deeply appreciated!

RAPTOR CREEK FARM

3658 Upper River Rd
Grants Pass, OR 97526

Directions or questions contact:
emily.melvin@ucancap.org
(541) 671-3141

May 30th 8am-12pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 2 9:30 MG Meeting
- June 2 Sprinkler Scheduling class
- June 4 Bingo
- June 6 Tomatoes & Tomato Products class
- June 13 Container Gardening 101 class
- June 13 Beyond Drip Irrigation class
- June 18 Jam it Up! class
- June 18 Bugs or Thugs? class
- June 20 Newsletter Deadline
- June 20 Pressure Canning Class

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Master Gardener classes on page 8 of this Newsletter.

MASTER FOOD PRESERVERS **JUNE CLASSES**

Tomatoes and Tomato Products, Salas, Pickles & Relishes class will be held on Saturday, June 6 from 9am to 3pm. Learn why Salsa is one of the most dangerous foods made at home. We will teach you how to be safe and why it is so important to use approved recipes when canning homemade salsa, pickles & relishes and tomato products. Cost: \$20.

Pressure Canning class will be held on Saturday, June 20 from 9am to 3pm. You will learn the proper step-by-step method of pressure canning low acid vegetables, meat and fish. Cost: \$20.

Jam it up! Class will be held Thursday, June 18 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Jams-butters-conserves and hot water bath canning. Also learn how to make sourdough bread that you can use with your preserves. (Bring a 1/2 pint jar). Cost: \$5 per person. Class will be held at: RCC/Belt Building 24353 Redwood Hwy, Kerby.

BINGO

We are having another of our popular Bingo events on Thursday, June 4 at noon. Further details to follow!

That's all the information at press time.

The Editor



INSECT FIELD TRIP

On April 23rd, nine MGs went on a field trip to Fish Hatchery Park to learn about and practice methods for collecting insects including a special session with Terry Ruiter on how to collect aquatic insects. Even though the weather was cool and cloudy we saw a good variety of insects in their various micro-climates. We found cicadas, predaceous diving beetles, immature grasshoppers, and bark beetles, using nets, beat sheets, sweep nets, and bark removal. Billie Townsend shared her knowledge about the recent increase in bark beetle outbreaks and found a pitch plug formed by a tree trying to protect itself which, nonetheless, had been penetrated by a beetle.

At the end of the trip, we discussed ways to help our efforts to make a reference collection for the Plant Clinic with several MGs expressing interest in becoming more familiar with certain families and orders of invertebrates while Barry Burnside assisted by photographing our activities and in consulting on types and sources for inexpensive dissecting and compound microscopes for the clinic.

This summer, I will be taking one or two people at a time into the field to look for specific orders or families or invertebrates followed by training on processing and curating our catch. For those who have expressed a specific interest, I will be contacting you directly to set up these trips/sessions. If you are not sure that I am aware of your interest please contact Judi Maxwell at jmaxwell9335@gmail.com and 701-202-1521. We will also need assistance in developing our own computer reference module with photos and descriptions of the most common invertebrates encountered in the Plant Clinic as a further tool for rapid identification. Please let me know if you can assist with this.

JUNE 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.

Sprinkler Scheduling for the Urban Landscape class will be held on Tuesday, June 2 from 6-8pm. Instructor is Dave Searcy, member of the American Water Works Assoc. In this water budgeting class you will learn when, how long, and how often to water along with horticultural and sustainable practices to manage your garden and urban landscapes during the hot summer months. Cost: \$10/MG free with Badge.

Container Gardening 101 class will be held on Saturday, June 13 from 10-11:30am. Instructor: Joan Foley, MG. This is a class for beginners or those who wish to review the basics of container gardening. Cost: \$5/MG free with Badge.

Beyond Drip Irrigation class will be held on Saturday, June 13 from 1-2:30pm. Instructor: Bob Brindley, MG Douglas County. This presentation will include solutions, both new and ancient, to deal with drought conditions and enhance our efforts to use water, a limited resource, more efficiently. Cost: \$10/MG free with Badge.

Bugs or Thugs? class will be held on Thursday, June 18 from 6-8pm. Instructor: Judi Maxwell, MG. Whether you have a tiny garden or a large farm, beneficial insects can help lighten your work load by providing such services as pollination, pest control and recycling. This class will provide you with information on creating food resources and nesting habitats to attract beneficial insects & discuss the pros & cons of different pest control methods. Cost: \$5/MG free with Badge.

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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