

The Gardener's Pen

A Publication of the Oregon Master Gardeners™ Association in Cooperation with OSU Extension Service™

Growing Gardeners - G2



July 12-14, 2018

This year's OMGA's G2 educational conference is being specifically planned to stimulate your passion for gardening in Oregon. Master Gardeners from across the state will be able to attend classes (most will earn you your required CEU's for recertification), enjoy wonderful cuisine and share friendship and knowledge in an academic setting on the campus of Linfield College in McMinnville. Plan to attend and maybe invite a friend to come along to share the experience.

The OMGA website will be up and running soon with all the pertinent details of the G2 conference with a link to registration. Please keep an eye out for it. An email will be sent out when it is active again. Some of the basic information for the G2 conference is listed here:

- ◆ The G2 opens Thursday night with the **Volunteer Appreciation Reception** from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM.
- ◆ Onsite conference check-in will begin on Thursday afternoon from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM along with campus housing check-in.
- ◆ The **Awards Banquet** will be held Friday night on the lawn with a reception, music and beverages starting at 5:30 PM.
- ◆ The conference program is shaping up well. See program details on page 4.
- ◆ Other familiar activities that will make a repeat appearance are: Silent Auction, Send-A-Friend Raffle (a beautiful quilt plus much more), Hands-on Workshops, Advanced Classes, and Tours.
- ◆ Linfield College is opening both **dorms and apartments** for those who would like to stay on campus. This is the most economical housing arrangement. You can choose a single or share a room in the dorm or have a single room in a 4 person apartment. Prices and instructions for making your reservations will be posted on the conference website and communicated via email to all chapters.
- ◆ There are still opportunities to support the success of G2 conference by volunteering. You may contact us at: G2.GrowingGardeners2018@gmail.com or indicate your interest during the registration process.
- ◆ Registration will be available in early May. An announcement will be sent to all chapters.

APRIL 2018

"Beauty of Spring"



OMGA™

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**The deadline for the August 2018 issue is:
July 16th, 2018**

**"Growing Gardeners"
Send your articles to:**

GardenersPenNewsletter@gmail.com

OMGA oregon
master
gardener™
ASSOCIATION
we grow gardeners

from the President's desk..



I love this time of the year when green shoots begin peeking through the soil (even that annoying Bittercress) and the flowers start blooming. It is such an exciting time – my favorite plants are returning to life and there are so many new plants to try.....

As you may have noticed the OMGA website is down. It is not repairable. We need to find a new web hosting service and rebuild the pages. The bright side of this problem is that we have the opportunity to give the website a fresh new look and clean up the multitude of documents that either need to be archived or reorganized. I've asked a small group of Master Gardeners with expertise in this area to create a concept that our Webmaster can use to develop the new OMGA website. In the meantime, we'll be using other methods to communicate with you. Thanks to the generosity of many, information will also be available on other websites. We will keep you updated on where you can find the information as well as the progress in the development of the OMGA website.

Now is the time to begin working on your Chapter applications for the various OMGA grants.

Karl Carlson Memorial Fund: Among other things these grants are intended to help in the implementation of new programs or projects. For example, these funds could assist you in the development of a Junior Master Gardener program or in purchasing the software and a printer to create tags for the plants you sell at your plant sale.

Extension Educator Grant: Aids in the development of programs to enhance public education in area of home horticulture.

Search for Excellence: The quarterly chapter reports are full of information about the amazing programs and projects that all of you are creating and implementing. I hope some of you will consider submitting your project for this award.

It is also time to begin working on your chapter's nominations for both the State and County Master Gardener of the Year and the State and County Behind the Scenes Awards. All of our chapters have outstanding members who deserve a special Thank You. Let's make sure they receive it.

More information about these grants and awards is available in this newsletter.

Finally, I hope you have **July 13 and 14, 2018** marked on your calendars to attend the Annual Master Gardener educational event – **Growing Gardeners - G2** (formerly known as Mini-College). It will be held at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon. If you have been to the campus you know that it is beautiful and the staff and facilities are excellent. Many interesting and exceptional speakers have accepted the invitation to present at G2 and many of the presentations will be on advanced topics. It is also a great opportunity to visit with old friends and to meet new ones from across the state. I am looking forward to visiting with you there.



OMGA Grants and Awards info

Marje Luce Search for Excellence (SFE)

Search for Excellence (**SFE**) is the recognition program of Master Gardener volunteer work, both throughout the United States and Canada and across the State of Oregon within the OMGA. If your MG chapter has a project that you would like to have considered for a SFE award, please do not hesitate to apply. Recipients of SFE awards will receive a cash award for their chapter.

Submissions can be made in one of seven categories: Youth Programs, Demonstration Garden, Workshops, Community Service, Innovative Project, Special Audiences, or Research.

The **judging criteria** are: simplicity, practicality, originality, consistency with MG mission, clarity and completeness, significant learning and number of people impacted. We will have as many submissions as possible give a short presentation at Growing Gardeners aka G2. Notification will be made by June 14th. All submissions are asked to have a MG available during G2 to discuss their SFE project with attendees. SFE winners will be announced and given recognition at the G2 Awards Banquet.

Due Date for Submission is May 15, 2018

Committee Chair: Chris Rusch, Douglas
email: crusch@hughes.net

Master Gardener Individual Awards

Each year, at the OMGA Annual Education Event, the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program and the OMGA recognize **County Master Gardeners of the Year** and **County Behind the Scenes Award** as well as the winners of the **Statewide Master Gardener of the Year** and **Behind the Scenes Award**. County Master Gardeners of the Year are cooperatively selected by local Chapters and their Master Gardener Program staff.

The **Statewide Master Gardener of the Year** and the **Behind the Scenes Award** will be selected, from all applications that are received, by the Awards Committee. This eight-person committee will use a set of standard criteria to review all applications.

Due Date for Submission is May 15, 2018

Committee Chair: Gail Langellotto, OSU
Statewide MG Coordinator,
email: Gail.Langellotto@oregonstate.edu

Extension Educator Grant

The OMGA Extension Educator Grant Program has funds to help OSU Extension Community Horticulture Agents, Program Assistants or designated OSU Extension Staff responsible for County MG programs to enhance their ability to educate the public in home horticulture.

Due Date for Submission is June 1, 2018

Committee Chair: Eric Bosler, Central Gorge
email: ericbosler@hotmail.com

Karl Carlson Memorial Fund

OMGA, in cooperation with the OSU Extension Service, oversees the Karl Carlson Memorial Fund. It commemorates the life and work of Dr. Karl Carlson, and serves as a tribute to his dedication to the OMGA and to the OSU Extension Service.

The purpose is to enhance the OSU Urban Horticulture Program by making available Oregon Master Gardener funds to help OSU MG Chapters in the following ways:

- In the establishment of new OSU MG Chapters.
- To assist new or struggling OSU MG Chapters become better established.
- Implementation of new programs/projects related to urban horticulture when financial assistance is needed.

Due Date for Submission is May 15, 2018

Committee Chair: Barbara Casteel, Tillamook
email: bcasteel97141@gmail.com

Longevity Recognition

The purpose of the OMGA Longevity Award is to honor and thank Oregon Master Gardeners who have been loyal and dedicated volunteers for 20, 30, 40 or more years. Too often these amazing dedicated volunteers are taken for granted. These awards are one way to say THANK YOU.

Each Oregon MG who completed Master Gardener Training, 20+years ago and who has continuously paid their dues is eligible to receive this award. All award recipients will receive a certificate, and the 20-year members will receive a "Twenty Years of Service" service bar for their badge, whereas the 30-year and 40-year members will receive a unique recognition pin.

Due Date for Submission is May 15, 2018

Committee Chair: Marcia Sherry, Yamhill
email: msherry114@gmail.com

All of the application forms are available at:

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/2018/03/15/master-gardener-awards-season/>



G2 Breakout sessions info

ASSOCIATIONS THAT ROCK!!	GROWING MASTER GARDENERS
Mutual Benefit: OSU/OMGA/Chapter Relationship, Joy Jones, Tillamook Extension	The Latest Research at the North Willamette Research/Extension Center Mike Bondi, NWREC Director/Clackamas Extension (Tour to Follow),
Community Garden Development/Operations (Tour), Heather Stoven, Yamhill Extension, Alan Wenner and Linda Mason Yamhil MG's	The Latest Research at OSU, Brooke Edmunds, Linn/Benton Extensions
Project Evaluation, Amy Jo Detweiler, Deschutes Extension	Plant ID Using a Dichotomous Key, Linda McMahan, Yamhill County Professor Emeritus
Break Free from PowerPoint, Rachel Suits, Hood River Extension	Gardening with Children (2 Sessions), Kelly Noack, Jim Liskey, Marion Extension
Promoting Demonstration Gardens, Oregon Garden Tour	Home Garden Research, Mykl Nelson, OSU Grad Student
	Garden Bees of Western Oregon, Gail Langellotto, OSU MG State Coordinator
GARDEN PIZZAZZ	ECLECTIC ELEMENTS
Native Plants of PNW, Aaron Anderson, OSU & Willamette Valley Native Plant Society	Oregon Citizen Scientist Program, Brooke Edmunds, Linn/Benton Extensions
Growing and Pruning Roses, Katherine Johnson, Portland Rose Society	Rain Gardens , Bruce Bennett, WSU/King County MG, 2 sessions
Orchids 101, Sue Volek, Past President Oregon Orchid Society	Is Your Garden Safe?, Sara Runkel, Douglas Extension
Beginning Iris for the Garden, Chad Harris, Greater Portland Iris Society	Don't Touch or Eat that Plant! Janet Weber, Clackamas MG
Alliums, Pat Patterson, Lane County MG	Seed to Supper Programs, Oregon Food Bank
Backyard Wine Grapes, Steve Renquist, Douglas Extension	Unusual Edibles, Phil Gouy, One Green World
Gardening Trends in 2018 Ethan Hockstein, Monrovia (Tour)	Seed Saving, Rose Marie Nichols, Nichols Nursery
GARDEN MARAUDERS	OH, WHAT FUN!!
The Latest on the Japanese Beetle, Clint Burfitt, OR Dept. of Agriculture	Workshops:
Current/Future Exotic Pest Incursions in OR, James LaBonte, OR Dept. of Agriculture	Nature Printing, Heather Fortner, Lincoln County MG
Slugs, Rory McDonnell, OSU	Succulent Frame Garden, Marcia Sherry, Yamhill County MG
Weed Management and Control, Chip Bubl, Columbia Extension	Build a Birdhouse, Seamus Ramirez, Clackamas County MG
Organic Pesticides, Kaci Buhl, OSU	Flower Arranging, Carole Schuldt



Denotes a TOUR



Denotes a Hands-on Workshop



silent Auction News!

G2 on the Mind

Spring has sprung, and while you are out digging in the garden or moving some plants, get your creative juices flowing and dream up a creative donation for the Silent Auction at OMGA Mini-College or G2 as it has been dubbed this year.

G2 is scheduled for July 12-14 at Linfield College, and will be here before you know it. **Each master gardener chapter is asked to donate 10 items with a value of at least \$25 each.** Never-used or "very gently used" items are welcomed. Would you like to receive the item you are donating? If so, then it will probably be a good item for the auction.

The Silent Auction is the **primary money-raiser** for OMGA, so we hope you will help make this year's auction the best yet! Your chapter OMGA representatives will be gathering your donations.

Thank you for your help with this fun and vital project for OMGA! We look forward to sharing some fun with you come July!

Silent Auction



OMGA oregon
master
gardener™
ASSOCIATION
we grow gardeners

Your Silent Auction committee:

Jan Coleman - douvote@frontier.com

Diane Lockwood - mikedianel@msn.com

Shari Hari - s.hari6070@gmail.com

Tobi Habeck - wutnxt@msn.com

News from the OMGA President-elect....Eric Bosler

2nd Quarter OMGA Leadership Forum



Most Oregon MG chapters have a Demonstration Garden and most of us have struggled with some aspect of it at some point in time. The focus of the 2nd Quarter Leadership Forum (on Friday, June 1st) will be **"Ways to Generate Master Gardener Interest in Demonstration Gardens"** - ways to create, develop and manage our demonstration gardens as well as ways to maintain the chapter's interest in the garden once it is developed. Finding ways to incorporate educational components, how to make the garden accessible to multiple groups, how to showcase new gardening methods and marketing your garden will also be included. Also included, will be a tour of the **Douglas County MG Discovery Garden.**

The forum will be held at the **Douglas County Master Gardener Discovery Garden** on Friday, June 1, 2018 from 1:00 PM to approximately 4:00 PM.

We hope to see you there for information on a topic of interest to all of us.



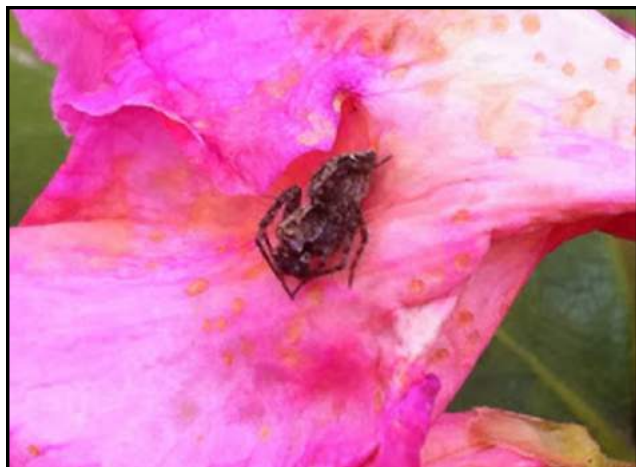
• Six ways to Reduce Your Pesticide Use

A new gardening season is upon us! Since the Extension Master Gardener Program focuses on sustainable gardening, I thought I would offer up six ways that you can work towards reducing your pesticide use. Some of these approaches require nothing more than a shift in perspective. Others will take more time and effort. All are capable of having the effect of reducing pesticide use, which can benefit the health of our environment, pets and families.

1. Stop acting like organic pesticides aren't pesticides. Many people believe that anything labeled with the term 'organic' equals 'no pesticides'. They mistakenly believe that organic produce hasn't been sprayed with pesticides. They mistakenly believe that they can use a pesticide labeled as 'organic' with total impunity. And unfortunately, some folks tend to use *more* pesticide, simply because the pesticide is labeled as 'organic'. As a general rule, pesticides ~ including organic pesticides ~ are formulated to kill or deter something. Stop spraying it everywhere, thinking it's safe. All pesticides should be used judiciously and thoughtfully ~ taking care to limit use only to when and where needed.



Organic pesticides are still pesticides ~ formulated to kill something. Use judiciously.



Lynx spider in an azalea blossom.

2. Make peace with spiders. I adore spiders. I think they're absolutely adorable! If you have a chance to look at them under a microscope, you'll see that they're cute and fuzzy ~ not unlike a teddy bear. And, they're great allies in natural pest control. But I get that some people are seriously arachnophobic. If you simply can't tolerate spiders, please don't reach for a pesticide. The thought simply breaks my heart. Instead, try to get the spiders to relocate. If they're on your porch, try installing an ornamental porch bracket that will take away anchor points from web-building spiders. Or, consider installing a yellow-hued porch light. Yellow lights attract fewer night-flying insects, which will attract fewer hungry spiders.



*Porch brackets can take away web-building sites for spiders.
Source of image: <http://victorianrevival.wordpress.com/>*



continued...six ways to Reduce Your Pesticide Use

3. Build diversity into your garden. Diverse gardens, with an array of plant families, shapes, colors, sizes, and bloom times also tend to have a diversity of insect herbivores (sometimes called pests). But, the trick is that even though diverse gardens tend to have a *greater diversity of pests*, these pests tend to be at *lower abundance*! Why? It may be that a diversity of natural enemies keep them in check. It may be that a diversity of plants keeps them from exploding in abundance on a single plant type. Or, it's more than likely a combination of these factors.

4. Rethink your approach to early-season lawn weeds. Are dandelions really all that bad? Not if you love bees. Our research has found that gardeners who tolerate early-season lawn weeds are likely to have a greater diversity of bees than those who keep totally pristine lawns. And, recent research from Massachusetts has shown that gardeners who mow their lawns every other week have more bees than gardeners who mow every week. Why? In early spring, very few flowers are in bloom that offer spring pollinators access to

nectar and pollen. Dandelions and other lawn weeds help early season pollinators get a jump on their season. If you want to keep your lawn dandelions in check, try to dig this perennial weed out, so that you get the entire taproot. Target young dandelions before they set seed and before they have a chance to grow a large taproot that will nourish them for many years. Make sure your lawn is healthy and full, to crowd out dandelions. Or, plant a dense flower bed, with no bare spots where dandelions can flourish. Another option is to adjust your tolerance, and recognize that a dandelion isn't the worst thing that could grace your garden. Invasive plants, such as



Marion Garden in Salem, OR



cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) or butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*) are much more damaging to the environment and to local economies than are a few dandelions. It would be much better to target your weed-hating energy towards these plants, than towards dandelions.

5. Take regular walks in your garden. This will help you notice when things 'don't look quite right'. Regular walks in your garden are not only good for the soul, but their good for an **IPM approach** to managing pests in your garden. When you notice that something doesn't look quite right, stop and take a closer look. Often, you'll catch a pest problem in its early stages ~ when it will be easier for you to manage the problem. Problems caught early usually require fewer (or no) pesticide, compared to those that are allowed to grow out of control. A corollary to this suggestion is to keep a garden journal. This will help you track (and remember) the seasonality of pest problems in your garden, so that you'll be better poised to respond quickly.



Marion Garden in Salem, OR

6. Talk to the professionals who maintain your lawn and garden. Ask them if they use an IPM approach to pest management. Ask them if their employees are up to date on certifications and continuing education requirements. Ask them what the major pest issues are in your lawn and garden. Discuss non-chemical options for managing these pests. If they don't know about IPM, and aren't aware of non-chemical options for dealing with common garden pests, you might want to look for a better-educated lawn care company.



central Gorge's New Greenhouse

What You Can Accomplish with a Group of Dedicated Master Gardeners!

It does not require much motivation for Master Gardeners to take advantage of opportunities to dig in the dirt..... and that is exactly what Central Gorge Master Gardeners did! Since 2012, CGMGA has been allowed to use the greenhouse on the Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center property to start vegetable seeds for our annual plant sale in May. We have always been dependent on how much of the greenhouse was needed by the researchers for the fruit crop experiments in the Hood River Valley, but have always been lucky to have access to much of the greenhouse space every year.... until 2017. Last year the entire space was needed by researchers which stimulated some serious discussion about 'could we build our own greenhouse?'

Financially, CGMGA was in good shape to do this as we have been the beneficiary of an endowment that has built some equity for the organization. So in the Fall 2016, we researched options and financial considerations, presented a plan to the membership, and got approval for up to \$45,000 to go forward with the project. We also received the OMGA Karl Carlson and Extension Educator grants.

Approvals and permitting by the County and OSU seemed to take forever, but by August 2017 we had all permits and approvals in hand. We had concurrently gotten bids for the excavation, concrete slab, electrical, and plumbing, so digging started in September.



Main parts of the puzzle...including MG-power



Completion of a days work with MG-power!



Rolling out the Solexx



It was really a group effort!

Greenhouses come in kit form with lots of options available. We chose a Junior Teaching Greenhouse package from International Greenhouse Company, 18' x 36', with a product called Solexx for the covering. By mid-October, we were ready to start work parties to actually build the structure. Sandi Rousseau and Eric Bosler led the project...Sandi spearheading the paper/permits/people part and Eric serving as construction manager.



Creative way to work the roof



...continued from CCMGA Greenhouse

We had 20 work parties with larger groups of volunteers....up to 18 Master Gardeners on any one day in the initial phases of construction.....and several other smaller work parties to accomplish some more technical aspects or smaller projects. We have had 32 Master Gardeners participate in the project. Several have been to almost every work party creating a core greenhouse group.

Our greenhouse is equipped with two swamp coolers, motorized inlet shutters, exhaust fans, automatic thermostats, propane heat, electrical outlets, water access inside and outside, four lights, and a polyethylene covering (Solexx).

Our ultimate timeline was to have the greenhouse ready for seed starting in mid-March 2018, and we met that goal....even with a few snow events! The ground surrounding the greenhouse was prepped with weed barrier cloth and 25 yards of gravel for our perennial plant storage (also a part of the annual plant sale).



OSHA approved activity



*Eric Bossler and Sandi Rousseau -
Project Co-Leaders*



First seed starting - March 14th, 2018



Oh, the tedious jobs...

The project was a large one, but exciting to see the structure go up! As in any construction project, there were hitches along the way that had to be overcome, but we figured out the solutions with the help of a lot of good Master Gardener heads contributing their knowledge and expertise. Total cost to date is approximately \$39,000.

We will be dedicating our greenhouse as the Dorothy A. Metcalf Master Gardener Greenhouse since it was the endowment from this person that allowed us to build it. We are excited that we will always have a greenhouse to use now for our plant sale and can expand and use with other projects for community service.



Inside with handbuilt tables

Hello Oregon Master Gardeners,

*I always appreciate your willingness to share articles such as the Central Gorge's submission of "What You Can Accomplish with a Group of Dedicated Master Gardeners!" and also about projects and events in your local chapter. And yes, **pictures are great** to include with your article. Please keep them coming. Information on how and when to submit will be located on the **OMGA webpage**.*



A Garden Tour in Tillamook County

It's 2018 and the year for another of Tillamook County Master Gardeners Association's (TCMGA) **Spade and Wade Garden Tours**. From the foothills east of Tillamook to the shores of the Pacific, visitors have the opportunity to visit **six spectacular and varied gardens** in Tillamook County.



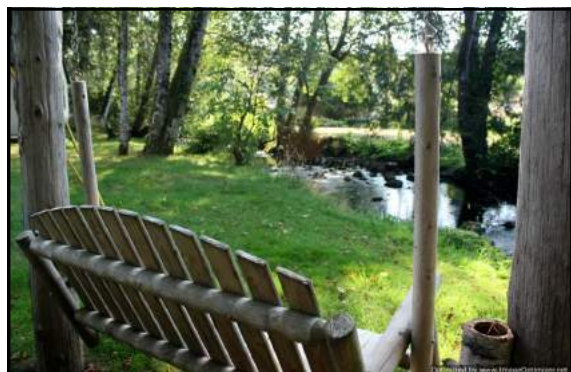
Visit a garden which includes a serene woodland alongside a vegetable garden worked the way a garden should be, with annual charts to insure crop rotation and pest control. **A master of bonsai will show off her collection as well as give demonstrations on how to create these gems.** A garden is created for birds and bees – and humans – with a wide variety of ornamental shrubs and perennials as well as vegetable crops. Take a river walk along a property with areas creating

several different gardens: natural areas along the river, berry and vegetable gardens, areas for ornamentals, and a greenhouse to get the plants started.

Travel to the Coast. Set high on a hill overlooking the Pacific is a **"his" front area**

planted to survive the ubiquitous deer and elk in the area as well as withstand the salt air from the ocean. And in the back is **'her' garden** with unusual plants for the area: hardy begonias, a prostrate coast redwood, winter hardy palms, a mature Mexican Palm. Nearby this garden one can take a walk in a woodland through an old growth forest planted with a variety of ferns and with examples of **nurse logs**. This is only a short description of all you can see on Tillamook County educational and unique tour.

And Tillamook County has lots to offer with the Cape Meares Lighthouse, Tillamook Creamery, Kilchis River Reserve, the Pioneer Museum, TCMGA's Learning Garden, Munson Falls, great fishing, and so much more. Come and make a weekend of your visit or even stay a week.



Here are the details:

Date: July 21st, 2018 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Tickets: \$10.00 each. Children under 16 free.

Contact: Karen at ksarnaker@gmail.com for questions

Check the TCMGA Facebook page for more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/tillamookmastergardeners/>

For information on Tillamook County:

<https://tillamookcoast.com>



COOS county Pollinator Garden

The **Pollinator Garden Project** began with two retired schoolteachers who just graduated as Master Gardeners from Coos County OSU Extension. Nancy Galbraith and Christine Hall connected with Darcy Grahec, a Master Naturalist for Bandon School District. Meeting with a fifth grade teacher on the last day of school in June was the beginning of a nine-month project.

During the summer the two teachers designed a curriculum for what we hoped would be for 25 eager fifth graders. The plot of ground was in front of the school. We came to look at it and were stunned to see that during the summer

it was bulldozed and sat forlornly with mud and rocks and adorned with a large utility box.

The teacher who volunteered her class said, "We need to do something **NOW!**" And so the lesson plans were set aside and a crash course in planting ensued. A simple task of removing a plant from a pot, or digging a hole in rocky soil, or carrying water from a hose too short for watering the new plants became insurmountable obstacles for the class.

If kids haven't planted anything before or never worked in a garden, it is safe to assume they know nothing and a teacher really has to start from the basics. Again, the lesson plans we developed were severely modified. **"This is how to remove a plant from a pot."**



So the first lesson was planting and then the second lesson was measuring the piece of ground we were to transform. Backwards from how it should be, but we were treading water. Nancy and I were under the impression the garden was going to be a 10' x 10' area but after the dozer eliminated all former plantings, it expanded to 40' x 15'. Picture if you can, teams of three kids measuring and recording the length and width of an odd shaped rectangle. The kids never used a tape measure before that day. **Again back to basics.**

With a couple of rough initial sessions, things were on track. But another hitch developed. The culmination of a 9-month pollinator garden project was to end with a field trip to Elkton's Butterfly Garden. Because of scheduling issues and when the butterflies would be flying, the field trip planned for May became modified for late September just after school started.

The class loved the field trip and really became dedicated to continue to build an even better pollinator garden. **So maybe not so bad after all.**

The class had lessons on what the pollinators were, how plants were pollinated and slowly **became pollinator advocates**. They learned to follow the direction of the sun and wind and the impact on the garden. The high school shop class got involved and built a bench for the garden.

In the end, some of the lesson plans we designed actually were implemented. What really mattered was that what we created was an amazing experience for 25 kids that they will remember for years. Just ask them.



Gardening Gloves



Choosing the Glove that Fits

Gardening can be rough if you are not properly protected. Investing in one or more pairs of gloves will protect your hands from blisters, thorns and cuts while tending to your garden. Use these tips to choose the right gloves for the task at hand.

Choosing the Right Glove: From light to heavy weight, the variety of gardening gloves is vast.

- Cotton and cotton-polyester gloves are an all-purpose glove for light gardening chores.
- Leather gloves are also all-purpose but are recommended for pruning and bush removal. Look for quality leather with a cloth back; this will let the gloves breathe and keep your hands cool, dry and comfortable.
- Grip-enhancing gloves provide extra gripping power, such as those with rubber dots. These can be used for raking and digging.
- Chemical-resistant gloves should be used when spraying pesticides, herbicides, acids, oils or other chemicals. Look for gloves made of neoprene for the best protection.
- Light cotton or fingerless gloves may be useful for transplanting seedlings. They will allow more dexterity and help prevent small roots from being crushed.
- Nitrile-coated gloves are puncture/chemical-resistant and offer a natural feel and touch.

The Perfect Fit

Remember to get the gloves that fit **your** hands the best. The right size is important. You don't want the gloves to be too tight, constricting your movement. You also don't want the gloves too big or you will not be able to grip tools properly and dirt will fall inside, irritating your skin and performance.



To determine the best fit possible:

- Try the gloves on both hands
- Make a fist
- Imitate movements you make when gardening
- If there is no pinching or slipping, you have found your match!



Keep it Clean

In order to extend the life of your gloves and keep their effectiveness, it's important to keep your gloves clean. When shopping, look for gloves that are easy to clean. Read the label to see if gloves are fast-drying and can be hosed off when you are finished using them. Hang wet gloves to dry.

REMEMBER!

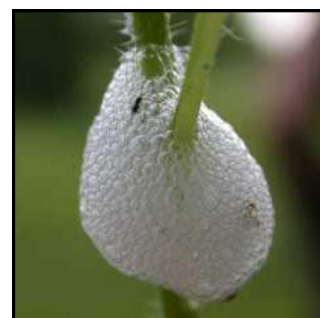
Don't forget to protect yourself from the sun. Wear wide-brim hats, lightweight long-sleeved shirts and sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher!



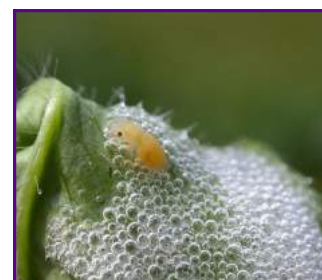
Let's have a little fun...

SPRING SPRING SPRING

E P E E R D A L I E T S P R I N G
 Z U E P E H R E R E T A R O S E S
 I R E E B A O O L R G M E N U R P
 L P S S D U B D T E S A N B S V P
 I L A I N E D S O G Z C G S E O Q
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 S L A R N S E L A S T N A L P A O
 C C S G N I L D E E S D E E W R M



Spittlebug foam



Orange nymph emerging from protective foam



Adult Spittlebug on leaf



What's that spit-like stuff on my plants? Spittlebug Foam!

Meadow spittlebug, *Philaenus spumarius*, can be a pest on a variety of ornamental plants particularly herbaceous perennials and herbs. **Heavy** feeding by spittlebugs can stunt plant growth and commonly causes distortion of the new growth on which they feed. But for the most part, this mass of white foam on your plants is not known for causing injury, which can eliminate the necessity to apply pesticides.

Meadow spittlebugs overwinter as eggs that have been laid on host plants in the fall. Tiny orange nymphs emerge from the eggs in the spring. While feeding, the nymphs produce a foamy spittle or froth that protects them from predators and drying out. Adults are variable in coloring, brown or tan, and often mottled.

ALLIUMS	FERTILIZE	RHODODENDRON
AZELEA	GLOVES	ROSES
BEES	HELLEBORE	SEEDLINGS
BUD BREAK	MOSS	SEED
BULBS	PEAS	SLUG
CAMAS	PLANT SALES	SOIL TEST
CAMELIAS	POLLINATOR	SPITTLEBUGS
CLOCHE	PRUNE	SPRING
CROCUS	PURPLE	WEED
DANDELIONS	RADISH	WILD IRIS
DIVIDE	RAIN	



Radish Flowers (*Raphanus sativus*) – Depending on the variety, flowers may be pink, purple, white or yellow, and will have a distinctive, spicy bite (has a radish flavor). Source: whatscookingamerica.net/EdibleFlowers/



Plant Sale Time!

Benton County Plant Sale and Clinic

Saturday, May 5th: 9 AM - 3 PM
Benton County Fairgrounds
110 SW 53rd Street, Corvallis

Josephine County Plant Sale

Saturday, May 12th: 9 AM - 4 PM
OSU Extension Office
215 Ringuette, Grants Pass

Central Gorge Plant Sale

Saturday, May 12th

Lane County Plant Sale

Saturday, April 28th: 9 AM - 3 PM
Lane County Fairgrounds in Eugene

Central Oregon MG Plant Sale

Saturday, June 2nd: 9 AM - 12 PM
Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center
3893 SE Airport Way, Redmond

Lincoln County Plant Sale

Saturday, May 19th: 9 AM - 2 PM
Lincoln County Fairgrounds
633 NE 3rd Street, Newport

Clackamas County Spring Garden Fair

\$5.00 Admission

Saturday, May 5th: 9 AM - 5 PM
Sunday, May 6th: 9 AM - 4 PM
Clackamas County Event Center
694 NE 4th Ave. Canby

Marion County Plant Sale

Friday, May 4th: 10 AM - 7 PM
Saturday, May 5th: 9 AM - 4 PM
Oregon State Fairgrounds, Columbia Hall
2330 17th St NE (Red Gate Entrance), Salem

Clatsop County Spring Garden Seminar And Plant Sale

Saturday, May 12th: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Clatsop County Fairgrounds
92937 Walluski Loop, Astoria

Multnomah County Plant Sale

Saturday, May 5th: 10 AM - 3 PM
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1624 SE Hancock Street, Portland

Columbia County Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, April 14th: 9 AM - 3 PM
Behind Scappoose High School
Highway 30, Scappoose

Polk County Plant Sale and Clinic

Friday, May 11th: 9 AM - 4 PM
Saturday, May 12th: 9 AM - 4 PM
Polk County Fairgrounds
520 S. Pacific Highway W (99W), Rickreall

Curry County Plant Sale

Saturday, May 12th: 10 AM - 4 PM
Gold Beach High School
29516 Ellensburg Ave., Gold Beach

Tillamook County Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 5th: 9 AM - 2 PM
Tillamook County Fairgrounds
4603 3rd Street, Tillamook

Douglas County Plant and Garden Expo Admission \$2.00

Saturday, May 5th: 9 AM - 4 PM
Douglas County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
Exit 123 off I-5, Roseburg

Jackson County Spring Garden Fair \$3.00 Admission

Saturday, May 5th: 9 AM - 5 PM
Sunday, May 6th: 10 AM - 4 PM
Jackson County EXPO
1 Peninger Road, Central Point

Yamhill County Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 12th: 9 AM - 3 PM
Sunday, May 13th: 11 AM - 2 PM
Yamhill County Fairgrounds
2070 Lafayette Avenue, McMinnville



splinters from the Board



1st Quarterly Board of Director's Meeting March 3rd, 2018 at Marion County



The Leadership Forum topic was Junior MG Program led by Jim Liskey and Kelly Noack from Marion County. They presented an outline of the program and involved members in many of the activities that students perform in learning about horticulture.

Eric Bosler, Central Gorge, was elected as OMGA President-Elect.

Ann Geyer, Lincoln County, has plans well under way for Growing Gardeners at Linfield College, McMinnville, July 12 to 14th, 2018. Pricing is not yet determined. Ann is asking for volunteers in many areas. She emphasized that it is important for OMGA chapter representatives to keep their members informed about plans.

Jeanine Johnson, Central Oregon Chapter, has been working to arrange speakers for G2 and has many confirmed. Tours and workshops are also being planned.

There will be a Silent Auction again at G2 - Growing Gardeners co-chaired by Jan Coleman, Yamhill County. She is asking for chapters to consider items to donate.

Future Leadership Forums will focus on outreach and community involvement and how to increase communication between OSU and OMGA chapters.

Future projects for OMGA are:

1. Develop a mission statement.
2. Revise the OMGA Representatives handbook.
3. Create a Road Show in which representatives from OMGA would visit chapters throughout the state.

The Memorandum of Agreement between OSU and OMGA was presented and voted on and passed.



2018 OMGA Meetings:



Executive Committee Meetings

May 4th, 2018 - 2nd Quarter
Linn County Extension Office

August 3rd, 2018 - 3rd Quarter
Linn County Extension Office

October 5th, 2018 - 4th Quarter
Linn County Extension Office

Leadership Forums

June 1st, 2018 - 2nd Quarter
Hosted by: Douglas County

Sept. 14th, 2018 - 3rd Quarter
Hosted by: Benton County

Nov. 2nd, 2018 - 4th Quarter
Hosted by: Multnomah County

Board of Directors Meetings

June 2nd, 2018 - 2nd Quarter
Hosted by: Douglas County

Sept. 15th, 2018 - 3rd Quarter
Hosted by: Benton County

Nov. 3rd, 2018 - 4th Quarter
Hosted by: Multnomah County

Send-A-Friend (SAF) is a revolving fund and works this way.....the funds donated last year will be used to make awards to applying chapters this year. Monies donated to the fund this year 2018, will be used to make awards for the 2019 Growing Gardeners aka G2 educational event. The **"SAF Scholarship"** will be awarded to counties on a first come first served basis. There is funding for 10 Chapter's to receive a \$200.00 scholarship for **G2** in 2018. This scholarship is to be used to help fund one or more of your OMGA Chapter MG's so that they may attend the 2018 G2 conference. Another way to utilize the scholarship is to send your Chapter's **"MG of the Year"** or **"Behind the Scenes"** recipient to G2 so that they may be recognized at the Awards Banquet on Friday evening.

Due Date for Submission is May 15, 2018

Committee Chair: Marcia Sherry email: msherry114@gmail.com



Did you know? also some useful hints...

10 Essential Spring Gardening Tasks

1. Time for a spring inspection.
2. Address hardscaping issues first, then your planting beds.
3. Do a thorough spring cleanup.
4. Test your garden soil.
5. Feed your soil.
6. Get a sharp pair of pruners, might have to sharpen, first.
7. Divide perennials and plant and transplant shrubs.
8. Put out any necessary supports like trellises and stakes.
9. Plant your spring containers and borders.
10. Be ready to take cover if freezing temperatures are in the forecast.

Tough Weed Solution

Weed seeds can find their way into the smallest spaces — even the crack of a sidewalk or driveway. But there, hand pulling can be tedious and painful if you scrape your knuckles trying to get out all of the roots.

Just use needle-nose pliers, instead, just like you see at left. This way, it's easy to grab hold of and pull the smallest weeds.



From GardenGateMagazine.com



Purple is the 2018 Trending Color

(Pantone "Ultra Violet" #18-3838, to be specific)

To see how Proven Winners do it, go to:
provenwinners.com/learn/early-spring/four-ways-color-your-garden-purple-2018

or to Turf Magazine's "10 New Plants for Pantone's 2018 Color of the Year" :
turfmagazine.com/nurseryplant-materials/2018-pantone-color-ultra-violet-plants/



My favorite is the
Echinacea purpurea "Green Twister"

We are online at: www.omga.org

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The Gardener's Pen Newsletter
is published three times per year:
April, August and January
by the Oregon Master
Gardener Association.

Deadline for the August 2018 issue is:
July 16th, 2018.

Theme: "Growing Gardeners"
Please send your articles and photos to:
Marcia Sherry, Managing Editor

GardenersPenNewsletter@gmail.com

OMGA™

2018 OMGA Executive Committee

President:	Sue Nesbitt
President Elect:	Eric Bosler
1st Vice President:	Vacant
2nd Vice President:	Jeanine Johnson
Secretary:	Marcille Anson
Treasurer:	Katherine Johnson
Past President:	Seamus Ramirez
Database:	Seamus Ramirez
Historian:	Barbara Davidson
Newsletter Editor:	Marcia Sherry
Statewide Coordinator of the Oregon Master Gardener Program:	Gail Langellotto