The Gardener's Pen

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

2016 State Master Gardener of the Year

Jim Liskey of Sublimity was honored as the **2016 State Master Gardener of the Year**. During a 10-year stint in the program, Liskey has held an array of leadership positions at both the county and state level, including president of OMGA. He's been chair of the OMGA Mini-College, Search for Excellence Committee and Leadership Day. From 2008 to 2011, Liskey was responsible for the Marion County demonstration garden and currently serves as garden maintenance chair and safety coordinator.

The Master Gardener veteran has served as a mentor for four years, helps out at the Plant Clinic desk and has written articles and has been interviewed by the local newspaper. He is currently involved with the Junior Master Gardener program, and was extensively involved in the Citizens for Marion County group, which was instrumental in passing the Extension Service district measure in 2015.

"He has served OSU Extension and the Marion County MG's in so many fundamental ways that it is hard to imagine the program without him," said Gail Langellotto, statewide coordinator of the MG program.

Congratulations, Jim!

2016 State Behind the Scenes MG of the Year

Congratulations, Marsha!

Marsha Waite, an accomplished amateur entomologist, has taught MG's in entomology and integrated pest management in Jackson County for many years. Her enthusiastic contributions to the program help people better understand insects so that they can make informed decisions about pest management in the garden. Waite, a **MG for 21 years**, teaches gardeners that by appreciating beneficial insects and recognizing that not all insects are pests they can reduce pesticide use in the garden.

Edited from article by Kim Porkorny, a communications specialist with OSU Extension Service, August 24, 2016

SEPTEMBER 2016

"Those Pesky Pests"

OMGA™

Inside this issue:

President's Message.....	2
OMGA Information.....	3
Mini-College Memories.....	4
Mini-College Thank You.....	5
Awards.....	6
20-30-40 Year Awards.....	7
Chapter Awards.....	8
IMGC 2017 Update.....	10
Japanese Beetles in Oregon.....	11
A Demo Garden Metamorphosis.....	13
Shakespeare's Plant Clinic..	14
Let's Talk Pests.....	15
Splinters from the Board....	17
Cleanup Ideas / Info.....	18

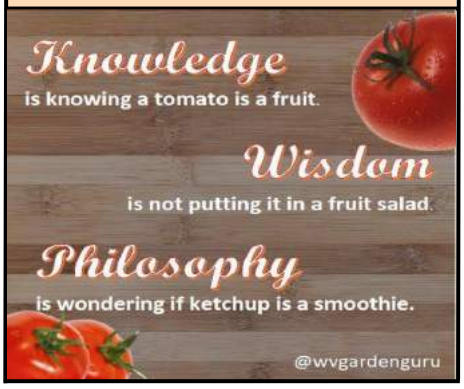
The deadline for the December 2016 issue is: November 15, 2016

Theme:

"Ways of Indoor Gardening"

Send your articles to:

GardenersPenNewsletter@gmail.com



from the President's Desk

...by Marilyn Scheffler

IS MINI-COLLEGE ALL THAT IT CAN BE?

OMGA has just finished another successful Mini-College and everyone has reason to be proud. For years Mini-College has provided our Association with the opportunity to help subsidize OMGA with funding for our Grant and Scholarship programs that are so needed each year. It provides access to educational classes for re-certification. And just as importantly, it has given our attendees a chance to re-connect with friends and fellow members from other chapters to see what everyone is doing in their part of the State.

Most people are aware that because of the International Master Gardeners Conference is being held next year in Portland, there will be no Mini-College next year. Having a year off from planning our very time-involved event allows OMGA time to step back and re-examine our annual Mini-College. We get to determine whether or not Mini-College is as good as it can be, or how we can make changes and what would those changes be? Considering this opportunity for refocusing Mini-College, an Ad Hoc Committee has been organized to study this in-depth for all possibilities. There are three OMGA members who have accepted the challenge to form a study group. This refocus group will be contacting all chapters for information, observations and opinions. Their responsibility is to consider suggested options and possibilities determine what would or not work for OMGA's Mini-College.

This will be a year-long study or more with quarterly updates to the BoD. We are asking that every chapter be involved with this study by providing this committee with information about your Association's educational events that most chapters have each year. Such as *'Is there something that you found that is particularly successful? Has your association met with some obstacles that needed serious rethinking to make your event work?'* Your thoughts and opinions on Mini-College mean a lot to OMGA and this is the opportunity for everyone to have a voice in the future growth of Mini-College. The study group will be contacting each Association for input and it will be very important to the success of the study to have input from everyone.

OMGA has developed our OSU sponsored educational conference to be a successful and beneficial event. But we now have an opportunity to determine whether **it is all that it can be**. Perhaps it is now time to put a fresh face on it or to look at the program differently and put a different finesse to it to hype it up for everyone. I anticipate that The group will be very intense and determined to seek out all possibilities for the future of Mini- College. The new members of this study group will be introduced to the BoD at the November Board meeting. This is an opportunity we cannot ignore and I am asking for everyone's involvement in making this study successful for 2018.

In every gardener there is a child who believes in the seed fairy. – *Robert Brault*

OMGA INFO

In accordance with OMGA Bylaws, it is time to solicit nominations for the elected positions on the Executive Committee. Anyone who is a member of OMGA and in good standing with their chapter is eligible for nominations. These important, leadership positions for 2017 require your response:

- **President**
- **President Elect**
- **1st Vice President**
- **2nd Vice President**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**

To submit a nomination, please include the candidate's name; phone number; e-mail address and a short biography indicating their roles and involvement in your local chapter or OMGA. All nominations are due no later than October 15th, 2016. Elections will be held at our November Board of Directors Meeting.

Position descriptions are on the web at:

http://omga.org/executive-committee/

Please send your nominations to: Marilyn Scheffler at:

mfscheffler@yahoo.com

Tillamook Coast
it's the natural choice

The Tillamook County Master Gardeners Association (TCMGA) will be hosting the

OMGA Leadership Forum and Quarterly BoD Meeting

on Friday and Saturday, November 4 and 5th, 2016

We hope you are making plans now to attend these meetings as well as spending a few extra days in Tillamook County to take advantage of the many activities in the area. Here is a list of fun things you can do:

Visit the TCMGA Learning Garden and Doug Holman Greenhouse

Visit Tillamook Creamery and sample ice cream and cheese

Visit Cape Meares Lighthouse

Take a scenic drive along the Coast on 101 and climb Neahkanie

Follow the Quilt Trail in Tillamook County

Bring your boat and go fishing or go on a charter fishing trip

Visit Latimer Quilt Center

Visit Cape Lookout State Park

Take a drive along the Three Capes Scenic Loop

Visit Pacific City and Cape Kiwanda and hike the dunes

Visit Tillamook Forest Center

See lots of cows AND Eat lots of fresh fish

If anyone wants more information about what to do, contact the Tillamook Chamber of Commerce at (503) 842 7525 or info@tillamookchamber.org

TCMGA will be sending out more information in October about the meeting.

Mini-College Memories

Mini-College Thank You's

Thank you to everyone!

A **big thank you** goes out to all who attended Mini-College this year. We could not have succeeded in this endeavor without our **many volunteers** who assisted our speakers, helped with the **Silent Auction** and **Leadership Forum**, donated cookies for all to munch on during the breaks, the wonderful conference and banquet decorations, documented activities with photographs and to all of the others who stepped up when they saw a need and did the job. And especially to **Barbara Davidson** from Jackson County for providing us with a stellar group of speakers, **Linda Coakley** from Yamhill County who hung in there and rounded up all the speaker assistants and door monitors for all the classes and **Polly Blum and crew** for organizing such a delightful Volunteer Appreciation Social at the Yamhill County Community Garden. Mini-College cannot occur without each and every one of our **many volunteers**. Chapter Sales were once again included this year and Third Street Bookstore offered many new versions of garden-related books.

Linda Coakley

Silent Auction Team: Jan Coleman, Sue Nesbitt and Diane Lockwood

Beth Garcia, Event Planner at Linfield College, Katherine Johnson, OMGA Treasurer and Janette Woosley, Mini-College Registrar

Barbara Davidson

Educational and Recognition Awards

Karl Carlson Grants

Marion County *(no picture)*

Douglas County

Lane County

Extension Educator Grants

Wasco County

Douglas County

Curry County

Central Oregon

Search for Excellence Awards

Marion County

Benton County

Yamhill County

Clatsop County

Lane County

Cathi Block Nominee

David Rugg Nominee

Lynn Trimpe Nominee

Katherine Johnson Nominee

State Master Gardener of the Year Nominees

Cathi Block ~ Lincoln
Jane Collier ~ Clackamas
Sandy Japely ~ Washington
Jim Liskey ~ Marion
David Rugg ~ Jackson
Lynn Trimpe ~ Benton

State Behind the Scenes Nominees

Sharon Andrews ~ Clackamas
Katherine Johnson ~ Columbia
Carol Ross ~ Washington
Marsha Waite ~ Jackson

All Nominees have been listed, but pictures are of those present at the Banquet.

20 - 30 - 40 Year MG's

For the past several years, OMGA has recognized our Master Gardener members who have generously supported the Master Gardener program by remaining a member of the OMGA and volunteering their services and expertise in their communities for 20 years or more. This year we are honored to add several more members to this prestigious list. The following members were recognized at our annual Awards Banquet on Friday night at Mini-College:

20 Year Recognition Awards

Signe Danler ~ Benton
Robin Wyrwitzke ~ Clatsop
Julie Barnas ~ Lane
Richard Lemon ~ Lane
Eileen Brixley ~ Lane
Molly Myers ~ Lane
Joanne Van Datta ~ Lane
Cindy Wise ~ Lane
Margaret Bayne ~ Washington
Cheryle Douglas ~ Washington
Catie Anderson ~ Yamhill
Barbara Boyer ~ Yamhill
Barbara Grossmann ~ Yamhill
Bob Grossmann ~ Yamhill
Gale Price ~ Yamhill
Keith Wingfield ~ Yamhill

30 Year Recognition Awards

Janet Throop ~ Benton
Ellen Scannell ~ Jackson
Ed Orth ~ Lane
Shirley Chase ~ Lane
David Hoffman ~ Lane
Cheshire Mayrsohn ~ Lane
Helen Howard ~ Marion
Laurelyn Schellin ~ Marion
Barbara Watson ~ Washington
Patricia Martinelli ~ Washington

40 Year Recognition Awards

Juanita Manley ~ Lane
Patricia Patterson ~ Lane
Phoebe Staples ~ Lane
Denise McDonald ~ Washington

Thank you! For your many, many years of service to the OSU Master Gardener Program. You are much appreciated!

2016 MG Chapter Awards

County MG's of the Year

Benton County: In 2011, Kathy Clark of Corvallis started a xeriscape demonstration garden at the Benton County Fairgrounds. Now she leads teams that plan to add pollinator, deer-resistant and low-maintenance demonstration gardens. She has taught the Plant Problem Scenarios committee, was plant sale chair and co-chair and served on the MG Board. She has shared her gardening expertise through talks to MG's, community garden clubs, service clubs and the general public.

Central Gorge: Laurel DeTar and Kathy Lien are co-recipients of this year's award. DeTar became a MG in 2009 after participating in planting the Japanese Heritage Garden in Hood River. Lien became a MG in 2013. DeTar and Lien are co-leaders for the annual plant sale. DeTar oversees the potting parties. Lien organizes the vegetables and other edibles for the plant sale. They also mentor new Master Gardeners.

Central Oregon: Jan Even of Edmond has taught the MG beginning vegetable gardening class and is responsible for spearheading efforts to teach this class in Spanish. As county VP, she organized educational offerings, recruited many of the presenters and came up with a speaker's tool kit. Even provided leadership at the Central Oregon Home & Garden Show and the High Desert Garden Tour. She came up with innovative ways to combine publicity for projects and educational events, which saved money and increased publicity.

Clackamas: Since becoming a MG in 2010, Dee Linde has volunteered many hours serving clients at the Oregon City Farmer's Market. In 2014, she served as Clackamas County MG chapter VP, was on the annual picnic and the budget and finance committees. In 2015, Linde served as chapter president and is on many committees, including the program, audiovisual, membership and nomination and awards.

Clatsop: A MG from Alaska, Pam Holen took the Clatsop County MG classes within weeks of moving to Astoria in 2009. She built the curriculum for the Growing Healthy Kids gardening program and assisted staff with classes. She managed the animal shelter's pet friendly garden and started the HS's Fresh Start project. She is now working on a biodiverse garden at Columbia Memorial Hospital. She has had an impressive run as CCMGA's treasurer, state representative, VP and president.

Coos: Since completing their 2010 MG training classes, Donna Rabin and Steve Richardson have been involved in the plant clinic, Coos Bay and Bandon Farmers' Market clinics, summer kids program, plant sale, school garden grants, mentor program, Fertilize Your Mind seminar and soil testing committees. As the contact for the Coquille Indian Housing Authority, Donna consults on landscaping and vegetable gardening. Steve served as chapter president in 2014/2015.

Curry: After quickly becoming a MG after moving to Gold Beach in 2012, Carol Hobbs became a driving force in the Riley Creek School Garden. She taught the kids how to propagate succulents and assisted them in making Mother's Day planters. Hobbs volunteers at the high school greenhouse, teaching students how to propagate and care for plants. She coordinates helpers, leads students and others in making garden art, and takes on tedious tasks such as watering and making plant labels.

Douglas: Since becoming a MG in 2009, Toni Rudolph of Roseburg has put in more than 1,500 hours of volunteer service. She has worked in the plant clinic and a satellite clinic at Kruse Farms, the booth at the Douglas County Fair and helped with the annual Spring into Gardening Seminar. For five years, Rudolph has been very active in the Victory Garden, where all produce is donated to the local food bank. She has served as a class mentor and helps with hands-on trainings at the greenhouse. On the board, she has served as chapter treasurer for three years.

Jackson: For five years, Scott Goode of Central Point supported MG education by helping others understand soils and the relationship between healthy soils and successful gardening practices. He taught community education courses to MG's in basic training classes. He has co-presented on soil alchemy at the Winter Dreams annual gardening symposium and was site manager for the 2016 Spring Garden Fair, where he helped establish free walk-in soils testing services. Goode is a member-at-large on the JCMGA Board and assists with water systems management for the demo gardens.

Josephine: Retired entomologist Judi Maxwell of Grants Pass became a MG three years ago and began teaching classes about insects to MG's and the community with the goal of promoting reduced insecticide use through better understanding. She also supports new and veteran MG's in the plant clinic and leads educational field outings to collect insects that are used in displays and for educational outreach. Maxwell was instrumental in establishing an Insect Specialist MG track.

Klamath: For three years, MG Patty Suprenant has been a big part of Mills Community Garden in Klamath Falls. Together with Dewey Moore, Suprenant transformed the garden into a fun site with lots of activities. She even helped to organize a late-night earwig party at the garden. Suprenant helps other groups who are interested in starting community gardens by providing advice during the planning stages.

Lane: An active MG since 2007, Barbara Dumensil of Eugene is a regular volunteer at the plant clinic and an active member of the compost specialist committee. She is a plant diagnostic specialist and has helped to train new MG's on diagnostic procedures. She has served as a Lane County MG officer for five years as secretary, president-elect, president and past president.

Lincoln: Heather Fortner of Toledo became a MG in 2013 and has served as county co-VP and is currently OMGA representative. She leads the ornamental section of the spring plant sale and has been instrumental in bringing back the monthly newsletter Coastal Currants. As co-VP, she focused on organizing field trips and hands-on workshops. She scheduled a computer class for MG's who wanted to learn PowerPoint to help them teach classes.

Linn: After becoming a MG three years ago, Ranee Webb of Albany has been involved in almost every project that Linn County MG offer. She was the driving force behind the creation of a new, free garden workshop series at the demonstration garden and a major contributor to the BEEvent Pollinator Conference and mason bee educational activities. She has been a mentor coordinator and is leading new MG's at the help desk.

Marion: Carol Anne Armstrong of Aumsville has logged close to 2,000 volunteer hours in her 13 years as a Master Gardener. She has been involved in the plant sale for seven years as the perennials chair. She is constantly in the garden grooming, sorting and gathering perennials for this event. She served as secretary and member-at-large on the MCMGA Board. She coordinated the speaker's bureau for three years, taught classes and wrote many articles for the monthly Garden Gate newsletter.

Tillamook: Debbie Lincoln has served as secretary, VP and treasurer of the TCMGA since becoming a MG in 2011. She has helped expand outreach activities in Tillamook County by securing a booth for the Birding & Blues Festival in Pacific City, the Tillamook Home and Garden Show and the Pacific City Farmer's Market. She works in the Extension office, writes newsletter articles, has worked in the Learning Garden and been a fair host.

Union: Gerry Zastrow of Cove, Oregon, is a new Master Gardener volunteer but already her commitment to research-based diagnoses and thoughtful recommendations benefit the local Extension office and the community. In addition to plant clinic work, She works at the Farmer's Market and in MG classes.

Wasco: In four years, Bob Bailey of The Dalles has held the offices of president-elect, president and past president. He is currently acting as the project coordinator and program coordinator for the WCMGA. He works with plant science students at The Dalles High School, who have adopted beds at Imagination Garden as a school project. He was a team leader for the 4th grade Seeds and Soils program, and is the current Wasco County OMGA representative.

Yamhill: Past president Gene Nesbitt of Newberg has worked to add more educational material to the Yamhill County Demonstration Garden and has organized educational events there. He has worked to start Seed to Supper in Yamhill County, already organizing the program at Newberg Head Start and Grande Ronde. By including instruction in Spanish in Seeds to Supper and other educational programs, Nesbitt has expanded the reach of the MG Program into new Yamhill County communities.

County Behind the Scenes Awards

Benton County: Sophie Grow and Christina Clark. Grow, who became a MG's in 2014, helps organize and participates in the Corvallis Edible Front Yard Garden Tour. She led the Philomath Seed to Supper class for the past few years and has partnered with Strengthening Rural Families to offer a youth education component to the class so that families can garden together. As a MG for four years, Clark has coordinated the plant sale "dig and divide" parties. She spearheaded a movement to create Neighborhood Planters' Kiosk (NPK), partnering with multiple community organizations to post gardening information in busy neighborhoods.

Central Gorge: Becki Montgomery and Helga Reece. Montgomery became a MG in 2014 after moving from Arizona where she was active in community gardens. She volunteers at the One Community Health Garden, and has put many hours into helping at the Learning Garden. She is an instructor for the Seed to Supper Program, and is actively involved with the mentor program and plant sale. During her first year as a MG, Reece put in well above the required volunteer hours and was hospitality chair during the winter training.

Clatsop: Pam Trenary, who has been a MG since 2013, recognized that Clatsop County's most visible outreach projects are the information and plant clinic booths set up at local farmer's markets. To draw attention to the booths, she suggested featuring a common problem such as slugs at the booths. She made a giant slug poster, printed OSU-approved slug control information sheets, and featured slug-damaged plants at the booth. That week, the booth recorded four times more traffic than usual. Other featured subjects included deer-resistant plants, powdery mildew and garden bees.

Josephine: Ida Toro has coordinated logistics for the annual Spring Garden Fair by identifying vendors, scheduling volunteers and training cashiers. She has also played a large role in beautifying the Agricultural Building at the Josephine County Fair by organizing MG's to decorate the building to support the fair theme.

Lane: Four-year Master Gardener, Robbin Spraitz of Eugene is an original member of the Demonstration Garden committee. Together with two other MG's, she designed, planted, maintained and is reporting on the outcome of a four-seasons, low-maintenance garden. She was also a member of the political action committee that helped bring more secure funding for Extension to Lane County.

Lincoln: Becky and Web Stiles of Newport received a county Behind-the-Scenes award. Becky has been a MG since 1986. Web joined her 10 years later in 1996. As the news media team, they write articles, collect pictures, coordinate with the local newspapers and MG activity leaders, to promote Lincoln County MG programs and events. They volunteered as MG's in Montana, Washington and California before moving to Oregon.

Marion: Richard Clarkson is from Stayton and attends all MG training classes and attempts to answer any questions students may have. This year, he worked with a student to assist her on a class she had missed to bring her up to speed on the class content. He fills in for mentors in the Plant Clinic and works the desk about once a week.

Polk: Harry Legleiter and PJ Plunkett of Dallas each received a county Behind-the-Scenes award. Both Legleiter and Plunkett have served on the steering committee for the Polk County demonstration garden and assist with the annual plant sale. At the Inspiration Garden in Independence, Legleiter loads mulch, totes gravel, digs holes, carries packages and explains planting methods. Plunkett is on the social committee, locates plants and identifies plants for the garden map. She created a website for the garden, and is working on q-codes that can be used for easy plant identification.

Yamhill: As a MG mentor, Lynn Pollock is dedicated to making sure the trainees have a positive experience, can successfully navigate the training program and become effective and active MG's. Lynn also works the plant clinic desk, providing assistance to the public with gardening questions.

Edited from article by Kim Porkorny, a communications specialist with OSU Extension Service, August 24, 2016

IMGC 2017 Update

...by Gail Langellotto, Statewide MG Coordinator

Early bird registration opens for the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference on October 10, 2016. Discounted registration for MG's, as well as for those who register early (between October 10th, 2016 and January 13, 2017). Hotel reservation codes will also be released on this day.

The schedule of concurrent session and keynote talks has been set, and includes a 'who's who' of horticulture! Our schedule has a good balance of fantastic speakers from Oregon (to show off what Oregon has to offer) as well as renowned speakers from further afield that will be new to most Oregon MG's. For example, Lee Reich is a former horticulture professor at Cornell and currently is a well known garden writer and speaker. His talk about 'weedless gardening' really changed the way I approach my own garden (I saw him at IMGC in West Virginia in 2011).

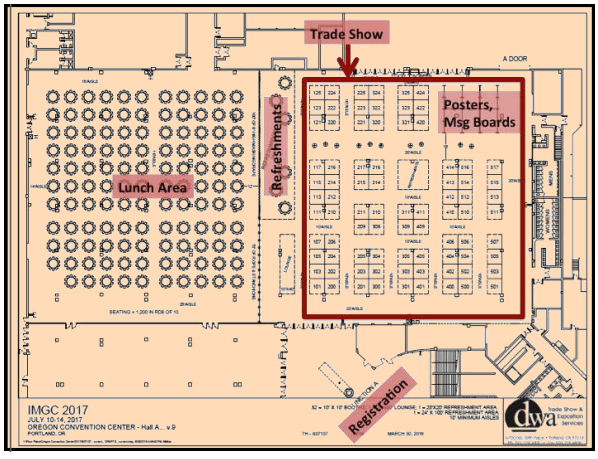
Lee is just one of six speakers who are being sponsored by Timber Press, which will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2017! Timber generously stepped forward to fund the travel and lodging expenses of several of their authors, so that we can bring new and exciting talks to IMGC attendees. The six Timber Press-sponsored authors are:

- Dan Hinkley, author of 'The Explorer's Garden; rare and unusual perennials'
- Lee Reich, author of 'Uncommon Fruits for Every Garden'
- John Fisher, author of 'The Book of Gardening Projects for Kids; 101 ways to get kids out side, dirty and having fun'
- Mark Turner: author of 'Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest'
- Thomas Rainer: author of 'Planting in a Post-Wild World; designing plant communities for resilient landscapes'
- Linda Beutler: author of 'The Plant Lover's Guide to Clematis'

Special thanks go to Amy Jo Detweiler and the speaker's committee for assembling such an amazing group of conference speakers.

Trade show registration will also open on October 10th. If you or someone you know are interested in having a trade show booth at the 2017 IMGC, you can find out more about the trade show on our web-site (http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/trade-show/). The trade show is a great opportunity to showcase your products and services to roughly 1,200 Master Gardeners from the across the US, Canada and South Korea. The trade show layout is the result of many, many thoughtful conversations on how to maximize exhibitor exposure and business. The trade show is adjacent to the lunch area, and we will be hosting coffee service in the trade show area, to further drive traffic. Search for Excellence posters and message boards will also be in the trade show area. Special thanks go to Pete Jacobsen and Marcia Strader for putting together a great layout for the trade show.

The overall conference layout is compact: no more than 300 steps from registration to the Oregon Ballroom, where the keynote talks and Search for Excellence presentations will take place. We want the conference to be comfortable and convenient for attendees, and this small footprint will help make moving among different conference areas more manageable.



Mark your calendars for early registration on Oct. 10th, and if you haven't already done so, please sign up for the 2017 IMGC newsletter. Sherry Sheng and crew have been doing a great job of publicizing this event with lots of informative notes and beautiful photos.

For more information, go to:http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/files/2016/04/Slide2.jpg

Japanese Beetles in Oregon

...by Gail Langellotto, Statewide MG Coordinator

The headline from the Oregonian announced 'Invasive Japanese Beetles detected in Portland, Washington County' ~ and I couldn't help but feel a mix of nostalgia and dread. Nostalgia, because Japanese Beetles (Scarabidae: *Popillia japonica*) were a fixture in the Mid-Atlantic region, where I grew up. I distinctly remember practicing my tennis swing and having batting practice with the sturdy adult beetles, as a young kid. Dread, because I later learned how damaging groups of Japanese Beetles can be to turf and to ornamental plants, and how much pesticide is used to keep the beetles in check in urban and suburban landscapes.

History and Background

Japanese beetles hail from (surprise!) Japan, where they are not much of a pest, in part because natural enemies help to keep them in check and in part because turf and lawns (the larval habitat for Japanese beetle) are not as prevalent in Japan. When they arrived in the United States (probably around 1911), they were greeted by a favorable climate and no natural enemies to keep them in check. When American lawn culture took off in the 1950s and 1960s, Japanese beetle numbers increased dramatically.

This summer, 265 Japanese beetles have been trapped in Oregon, mostly from the area where Washington County meets Portland. But, this is not the first time that the beetle has been found in Oregon. In 2015, four beetles were collected at and near PDX airport. In 2014, 12 beetles were collected, and in 2013, 32 beetles were collected, once again at or near PDX. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) acted quickly to eradicate the invasive pest with Acelypryn (active ingredient Chlorantraniliprole), a commercial-use insecticide that is commonly used to control beetle grubs on golf courses. ODA continued to work closely with the Port of Portland Authority to prevent and eradicate Japanese beetle at PDX. Unfortunately, in 2015 USDA-APHIS reduced funding for its Japanese beetle airport monitoring program at several eastern airports, which might have allowed the beetle to find its way into Oregon, from an unmonitored cargo route.

Identification

Adult Japanese beetles (~3/8" in length) have a dark green metallic head and metallic tan elytra (e.g. forewings). Key characteristics include two white tufts at the rear of the adult beetles, and five white tufts of hair along each side of the abdomen (See Figure 1). Adults feed on plant foliage, skeletonizing the leaves by feeding between leaf veins (See Figure 2).

Japanese beetle larvae (also known as 'grubs') have the typical 'C' shape of scarab beetle grubs. These types of grubs are also known as 'white grubs', because of their creamy, almost translucent coloration (See Figure 3). Grubs live in the soil and feed on grass roots. Because of this feeding habit, grubs leave large dead patches of grass in their wake.

Figure 1. *Adult Japanese beetle Popillia japonica. Japanese beetles have two white rear tufts and five white lateral tufts of hair. Adults can be found feeding on a wide variety of plants, including roses, grapes, maples and corn. Photo courtesy of Dr. Vera Krischik, University of Minnesota.*

Figure 2. *Japanese beetle damage, showing the characteristic 'skeletonization' of the leaf. Photo Credit: Steven Depolo. Photo shared courtesy of Creative Commons attribution 2.0 generic.*

Photo source location: https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevendepolo/3823497672.

Figure 3. *Japanese beetle larvae. Note the 'C'-shape and creamy coloration. Photo credit: USDA APHIS. Photo shared courtesy of Creative Commons.*

Photo source location: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jblarva.jpg.

Life Cycle and Scouting

Because Japanese beetle is so new to our region, we don't yet know the timing of the beetle's life cycle. But, we do know that the beetle will overwinter as a grub, and that grubs are closest to the soil surface in the fall and in the spring (Figure 4). If you suspect that you have Japanese beetle grubs, sample an area adjacent to the dead grass. In the fall and in the spring, you shouldn't have to dig too far down to find them, if they are present.

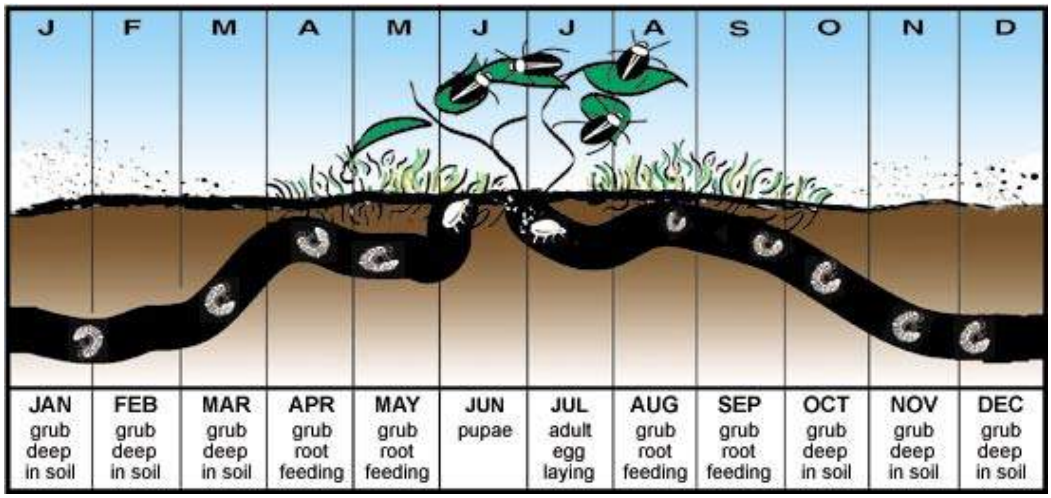


Figure 4. *General life cycle of Japanese beetle: egg, grub, and adult stages. In June, the grub turns into a pupa. It emerges from the soil in late June and July as an adult, to mate and lay eggs. Females live for a few weeks feeding on trees, shrubs and roses in the morning, returning to the turf in the afternoon to lay more eggs. Eggs hatch in July and grubs are almost full grown by late August. Grubs dig deep in the soil for the winter months and then move upward in spring as the soil warms. Grubs do best in warm, slightly moist oil that has plenty of organic matter and tender grasses. However, they can survive in almost any soil. Courtesy of Dr. Vera Krischik, University of Minnesota.*

The adult beetles will appear in the summer, if they are here to stay in Oregon. These beetles are very strong fliers. Thus, if you see adults in your garden, it doesn't necessarily mean that you have the grubs. The adults may have flown in from another location, and may not choose to lay eggs in your lawn. Adult females prefer to lay eggs in warm, slightly moist soil with lots of organic matter.

Reporting Suspicious Beetles

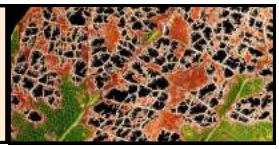
Because the Japanese beetle has *just* arrived in Oregon, early detection and rapid response to eradicate this pest is the best defense to keep this invasive from becoming established in Oregon. If you suspect that you have this new pest in your yard or garden, bring in a sample to your local Extension office for identification. Or, you can report the suspicious beetle to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, online at oregoninvasiveshotline.org, or by calling 1-866-INVADER. Your keen eyes and a timely report could be exactly what is needed to keep this pest at bay.

Control Measures

Let's say that the Japanese beetle becomes established in Oregon. What are your control options? To treat Japanese beetle grubs, it is best to apply insecticides in the fall, when the grubs are smaller and more susceptible to control. Granular, systemic insecticides such as imidacloprid can be used against beetle grubs. These insecticides are watered into the lawn, where they are taken up by the roots on which the grubs feed. However, systemic insecticides can also be taken up by flowering lawn weeds, and may have negative impacts on non-target insects that visit weeds in bloom. One study has found that you can mitigate this issue by mowing lawn weeds after imidacloprid application.

Control of Japanese beetle adults can be done by hand. You can physically shake infested plants and plant parts over a jar of soapy water to remove and kill the beetles. There are several synthetic insecticides that you can use for adult control, but many of these are organophosphates, carbamates and pyrethroids that may harm bees. For this reason, avoid spraying plants when in bloom. Biorational insecticides, such as insecticidal soaps, aromatic oils and neem are generally ineffective against the adults.

Did you notice the leading banner on top each page in the Gardener's Pen Newsletter reflects the theme of each issue? This one is the type of damage insects like the Japanese Beetle can cause on rose leaves.



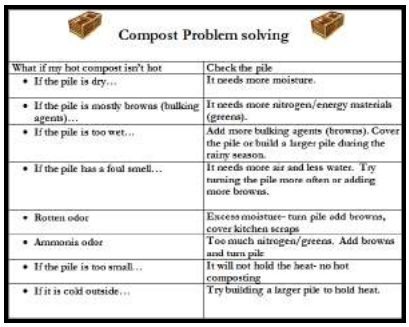
A Demo Garden Metamorphosis

...by Ranee Webb, President Linn County MG Association

Metamorphosis is a good description of the Linn County MG's Demon Garden for the past two seasons. Like a butterfly emerging, it is transforming. Our Demo Garden covers many of types of gardening: a native garden, a shade garden, a cottage garden, gardens with vegetables/fruit/berries/grapes, a herb garden, floral gardens (easy care, pollinator, fabric dying plants, etc), and a great compost area with several types of bins including worm bins. We decided that we can always do a better job of imparting educational information and especially when master gardeners are not present to talk about and answer questions about their projects. Being able to change the signage regularly makes information more relevant during the changes each season. We were very pleased to hear all the wonderful comments from visitors during the Mother Earth News Fair, the LCMGA Garden Tour and the Linn County Fair, but were especially delighted when MG's from other chapters appreciated the educational signage and planned to add more signage to their demo gardens.

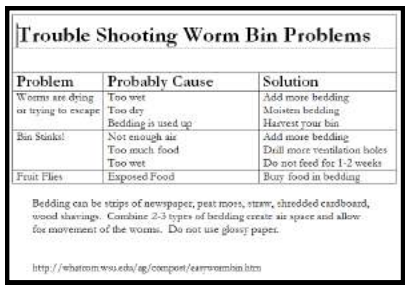
In 2015, we applied for a Karl Carlson Memorial Fund grant through OMGA and were very pleased to receive this grant. We used the grant to purchase an inexpensive laminator ($50 on sale), lots of stakes (builder stakes work well) and laminating sheets (approximately $12-15/100 sheets). We also put up some permanent signage. The LCMGA Board now provides an annual budget for Demo Garden signage to help fund this educational project.

We have a lovely Demo Garden, but sometimes it lacked plant identification and did have not enough information to teach people how to grow the various plants. Not everyone knows the difference between a determinant and non-determinant tomato or what to do if your composting is not working well. While some of our signage is general information, some is specific to what is being grown in the beds. Most of the signs are replaced each year and as the vegetable beds change with the seasons. After a year, weather has some affects on most the signs as well.



Compost Problem solving

What if my hot compost isn't hot	Check the pile
• If the pile is dry…	It needs more moisture.
• If the pile is mostly browns (bulking agents)…	It needs more nitrogen/energy materials (greens).
• If the pile is too wet…	Add more bulking agents (browns). Cover the pile or build a larger pile during the rainy season.
• If the pile has a foul smell…	It needs more air and less water. Try turning the pile more often or adding more browns.
• Rotten odor	Excess moisture- turn pile add browns, cover kitchen scraps
• Ammonia odor	Too much nitrogen/greens. Add browns and turn pile
• If the pile is too small…	It will not hold the heat- no hot composting
• If it is cold outside…	Try building a larger pile to hold heat.



Trouble Shooting Worm Bin Problems

Problem	Probably Cause	Solution
Worms are dying or trying to escape	Too wet	Add more bedding
	Too dry	Moisten bedding
	Bedding is used up	Harvest your bin
Bin Stinks!	Not enough air	Add more bedding
	Too much food	Drill more ventilation holes
	Too wet	Do not feed for 1-2 weeks
Fruit Flies	Exposed Food	Bury food in bedding

Bedding can be strips of newspaper, peat moss, straw, shredded cardboard, wood shavings. Combine 2-3 types of bedding create air space and allow for movement of the worms. Do not use glossy paper.

http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost/earthwormbin.htm

If you decide to add more signage to your Demo Garden here are some hints: Staple in the area where there is no paper (if you staple through the paper, water is likely to leak onto the paper and cause damage). You can cut off excess white areas to give you more stapling space away from the paper inside. Color fades fairly quickly, so in general just do black and white signs. You can add some black and white photos for interest. Keep the information basic and add links to OSU publications for more detailed information.

Here are some examples of what we post in the Demo Garden: *Links to Composting with Earthworms, Composting Problem solving, Growing Peppers and Don't take the plant tags - take pictures with your camera or phone.*

The Linn County MG Demonstration Garden is located at 3700 Knox Butte Road in Albany (on the north side of the Linn County Fair/Expo Center and behind the hotels on Knox Butte).

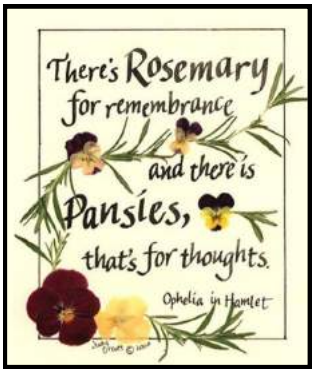
We encourage others to visit and copy our signage project to make your garden more educational.

Shakespeare's Plant Clinic

...by David Rugg, Jackson County

Four hundred years have passed since Shakespeare's death. To commemorate this, I thought it appropriate to look at his take on gardening. So, let's get in our time machine, go back to 1616, and ask yourself what would it be like to work in a plant clinic in Will's day? What would you need to know?

Forget 10-20-10 fertilizer; the natural stuff is just fine. You would till raised beds of neat piles of rich soil, mounded high, sprouting greens and root vegetables for tonight's stew. Raised beds back then? Yes, in Plymouth, Massachusetts there are raised beds reproducing 1620s gardening by Pilgrims.



Plant identification wouldn't call for the PNW, rather you would need to know what the plant symbolized. "*Plants were the stuff of not only romance and passion, they were also emblems of despair, fear, and decay*," notes a reviewer of his works. His use of plants as symbols "reveals how our association with plants has changed" in the last 400 years. So be prepared to inform your plant clinic client that rue represents repentance, fennel is flattery and deceit and rosemary brings to mind **faithfulness and remembrance**. One could also offer a pansy for your thoughts. (The small self-seeding Viola tricolor, not today's hybrid.)

Consider this challenge for plant propagation: "*Are our carnations and streak'd gillyvors,/Which some call nature's bastards: of that kind/Our rustic garden's barren; and I care not/To get slips of them*." *The Winter's Tale*

Kate DeSimone, Penn State MG, writes a great article about how gardens and flowers abound in his plays. Kate notes that "*young people flee from the social constraints of the city into the liberating countryside. Intrigue, romance, and comic plots are set in motion in walled gardens, labyrinths, shady bowers, and on rose-vined balconies*." Sounds like your plant clinic advice on landscaping will need sharp focus.

Shakespeare often likened weeds and noxious insects to political and moral decay. He says of the inept Richard II, "Our sea-walled garden, the whole land,/Is full of weeds, her fairest flowers chok'd up." Weeds also represent madness and despair. Ophelia dies in a garland of "crow-flowers, nettles, daisies, and long purples." Not to be outdone, King Lear decks himself out in "rank fumitor and furrow-weeds,/With burdocks, hemlock, nettles, cuckoo flow'rs,/Darnel and all the idle weeds that grow/In our sustaining corn." I know the plant clinic is supposed to be political-neutral, but here is a great opportunity to make a statement.

Want to honor Will in your garden? For some fun, place plant-related quotes from Shakespeare on plant markers. You'll need plenty of stakes. Henry N. Ellacombe in 1884 counted well over 200 different plants in Shakespeare's works.

Need more info? Just Google "Shakespeare garden plants". Here you'll find lists of the plants he knew, recreation of Shakespeare Gardens and speculation on how much Shakespeare actually dug in the dirt. (For example there is a Shakespeare Garden in Central Park, created in 1916. It included a graft from a mulberry tree said to have been grafted from one planted by Shakespeare in 1602.) No one can prove it one way or another, but it sure looks like he was a gardener.

Let's Talk Pests!

...by Ann Acton, Clatsop County

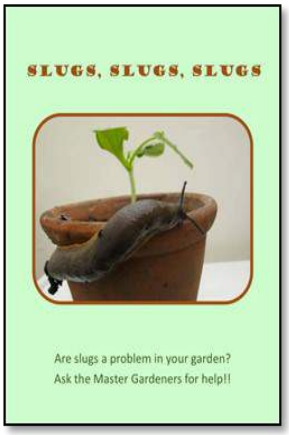
We are all aware that one of the ever-present challenges for master gardeners is just attracting people to the MG booth at farmers markets and fairs in order to engage in gardening conversations. Often those walking by don't have a question to begin with, but once a conversation has begun, things come to mind and voilà! we give out some useful information. Lassoing people as they walk by, the challenge remains to pique their interest to just walk slower, or better yet, stop and chat. Here in Clatsop County, we've created some eye-catching posters (both 8x10 and 11x17) that we believe help attract people to at least pause and offer a comment about these common garden pests.

There is real excitement when a client brings in a leaf with some mysterious spots that we need to identify, or a weed that we've never seen before, but reality is that the majority of problems that we solve are very basic, involving some sort of pest. As we know, the definition of a pest covers all manner of animals, plants, pathogens or other organisms that negatively impact water quality, animal and human health, and of course desirable plants in our surrounding ecosystem. A pest can also be just a plain nuisance. To break it down for the community we service, we've chosen prevalent pests in our midst – **Powdery Mildew, Slugs, Knotweed** and **Deer** – and created corresponding posters.

To paraphrase Robin Rosetta, OSU Extension Entomologist, "The best way to control a pest is to make them unhappy by messing with the environment where they thrive."

This time of year, with warm days and cool nights paired with high humidity, is happiness for the fungi that causes **Powdery Mildew** to thrive. Everybody's got it, but what to do? As the **2007 OSU publication** we hand out to clients states, prevention comes first in the form of garden sanitation, good air circulation for the plants, and if possible, choosing mildew resistant veggie seeds and starts. And we should never tire in passing on the "Right Plant, Right Place" mantra and advice about adhering to a plant's sunlight and water requirements. There are also other publications online discussing powdering mildew specifically on grapes and roses.

What is it that we hate the most about **Slugs**? Their slimy ugliness? Their insatiable appetite for everything? Or is it that no matter how much beer or bait we scatter around, we can't manage to stay ahead of their voraciousness? It's fuel for great conversations! Fortunately, we're coming into the time of year – late summer, early fall – when cooler temperatures and moist conditions trigger mating activities. This is the time to set out bait – initially making the slugs happy – to not only attempt to reduce the adult population and maybe interrupt mating, but to also destroy the young'uns before they get too far into satisfying *their* appetites. The 2013 OSU Publication we offer as a handout, has several other strategies for making one's garden less hospitable to the slimy critters, such as watering in the morning instead of evening and using copper barriers around containers.



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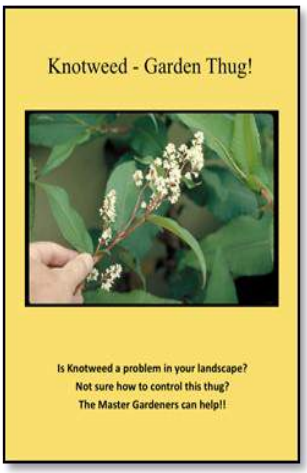
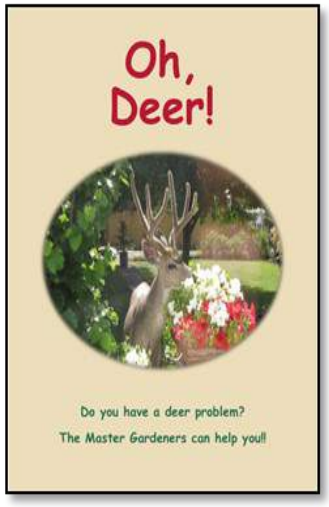


Yes, **Knotweed** is a pest, an ongoing problem for many parts of the world, and here in the Pacific Northwest several knotweed species are on state and county noxious weed lists. This weed heavyweight is controlled only by being observant to new growth, and by using proven chemical applications – no mechanical eradication has proven effective, no preventative measures are knowable and biologics are still in the research stages. It's not hopeless, though; the handouts we give to patrons are heavy on **identifying the knotweed species** (OSU publication PNW 610), and then more **specifics on management** (EM 9031). For the homeowner, the most important advice is, "We do not recommend cutting, pulling, or mowing because these practices only encourage denser new growth" however, late summer and early fall, before leaf fall, is the best time to apply herbicides. So there is hope. We also direct patrons to our Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District, who can help with eradication of large stands of knotweed, and especially those found in riparian areas.

Our "favorite" thing to talk about is wildlife in the garden – elk and deer – pests to be sure. Elk will of course eat and trample everything they come in contact with and a tall, sturdy fence is the only recourse. With deer, however, messing with an environment they love, is a gardeners delight – plant what the deer don't like, knowing that there are no guarantees when it comes to what deer will and will not nibble on. Top on the list is anything with an aroma: rosemary, thyme, juniper and lavender, all listed on one of our **handouts**. The other handout is an extension publication list of **deer resistant plants** compiled for Central Oregon, however, it works well for our county as well including vine maple, Korean dogwood, *Mahonia* and *Rhododendron.*



With a mission to reach out into our communities with research-based horticultural advice, we must be creative in contacting that community. We believe our posters and handouts are the right tools to help us do that.

Guttation: See those beads of water on the margins of these leaves? That's caused by a process called guttation, in which water droplets are pushed out along the edges of a plant's leaves by root pressure because the plant is over-hydrated. This phenomenon typically occurs in the evening or when the air is very humid and the plant cannot release fluid by transpiration.

Want to know more about the differences between yellow jackets and the gentle, beneficial umbrella wasps? Go to: www.keepingbackyardbees.com/theyre-here-yellow-jacket-season-is-upon-us/

- as submitted by Seamus Ramirez

Splinters from the Board

...by Sue Nesbitt, Yamhill County

3rd Quarterly OMGA Board of Directors Meeting

August 4th, 2016 at Mini-College

- There are 3,594 MG members including the trainees in the OMGA.
- The end of the year report will have a comparison to the previous year and the budget, be the expanded version and thus, include all the detail that was previously part of every quarterly financial report.
- Katherine sends the financial report to all Representatives and Alternates. Representatives need to distribute it to the other members of their chapters. In the future she will divide the report in two parts to make it easier for members with an ISP that prohibits large documents to receive them. She will also send an email to alert everyone alerting them that the financial statements are being sent.
- For future leadership forums, Dave Rugg, Past President, presented a survey that he would like each chapter too complete and return to help determine both the topics and the delivery method for the 2017 Leadership Forums. .
- For the IMGC2017 the decorating theme is "Bicycles and Roses". Chapters are asked to find a bicycle and decorate it not only with roses; but, also with items that represent activities and programs in which they are involved. Six chapters have already volunteered. More information is available on the OMGA website: omga.org.
- An e-newsletter about the IMGC 2017 conference updates is available. Subscription information can be found at: http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/.
- Katherine Johnson, Treasurer, reviewed the 2017 budget in detail. The shortfall of $5,471 will be taken out of OMGA savings.
- A non-profit attorney is writing a letter that will explain the process we need to use to resolve the liability insurance issues for all the chapters in Oregon. OMGA will pay the costs of resolving this problem. There will not be a dues increase.
- Two new policies were added to the OMGA Policies and Procedures. They are items 1.29 and 1.30. both relate to including OMGAs name when the funds for the project is provided by OMGA.:
- Marilyn Scheffler, President, asked Board members to either volunteer or to assist in finding people interested in serving on the Board in 2017 and 2018. Two people are needed to lead a committee to evaluate Mini-College and propose a new direction for it in 2018.

2017 Meeting Schedule and Locations

Executive Committee	Leadership Forum	Board of Directors
Feb. 3, 2017	March 3, 2017,	March 4, 2017,
May 6, 2017	June 2, 2017	June 3, 2017
Dates to be Determined		
Oct. 7, 2017	Nov. 3, 2017	Nov. 4, 2017

Good Idea to Help Cut Back on Cleanup

Set up a mess-free spot for quickly planting up containers! Put an old oven rack over your wheelbarrow to create a level surface for planting, just like you see at right. Plus, potting mix simply falls through the slats and into the wheelbarrow for simple cleanup without any waste.

Did you know there is still time for your Chapter to participate in the "Bicycle Display" project for IMGC 2017? One Chapter is even going to put their project on permanent display at their Extension location after the conference!

For more info contact Marcia Sherry at:

msherry114@aol.com

-for more ideas like this one, go to: GardenGateMagazine.com

Less Mess at the Feeder

Stop seeds from falling out of bird feeders and you won't have to clean up the mess below or worry about seedlings sprouting there. Simply make a hanging tray, like you see here, to catch the seeds that get kicked out while birds eat.

Use a box cutter to make four slits in the rim of a medium-sized plastic saucer. Next, loop a 4-inch zip tie through each opening and then link a large paperclip to each zip tie. This way, you can easily hook the tray to the bottom of the feeder and remove it before a storm, so it doesn't fill with water.

The space between the feeder and hanging tray will let some birds fly in and eat the seed from the flat surface.

We are on the web at: www.omga.org

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

Deadline for the December 2016 issue is: November 15th, 2016.

Theme: "*Ways of Indoor Gardening*"

Please send your articles and photos to: Marcia Sherry, Managing Editor

GardenersPenNewsletter@gmail.com

OMGA™

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