

April, 2016



# THE MASTER GARDENER™



Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Terry Ruiter, President



Congratulations to the Class of 2016 for completing your class work...the first step of the Master Gardener program. Now comes the really fun stuff in the Plant Clinic, the Growers Market and sales!

The Master Gardener plant sales come with the spring. I hope you were able to get to the perennial sale in March. If not, the Spring Garden Fair on 23 and 24 April will have more perennials as well as annuals for sale. The greenhouses are filling with a bountiful array of flower and vegetable plants to entice you and get the new season going well.

As I wrote earlier, several chapters of the Oregon Master Gardener Association, including Josephine County, have identified a variety of issues and strife within their organizations. On 9 March, we had a meeting in Grants Pass with Sam Angima (OSU Department of Agricultural Sciences, Assistant Dean for Outreach and Engagement) and Dan Edge (OSU Department of Agricultural Sciences, Associate Dean) who are responsible for the Master Gardener program in Oregon. They met with Josephine County Master Gardener Association members to hear our thoughts, appreciations, concerns, and joys directly. The meeting was well attended and the comments were frank on a variety of topics. Sam and Dan stated the meeting was intended to be a listening session for them. They will return in late April or May with information and suggestions in response to the stated concerns. We will send a general notice of that meeting and I urge you all to attend and be involved. If you have additional thoughts you would like to give to Sam and Dan, you can send them by email to [sam.angima@oregonstate.edu](mailto:sam.angima@oregonstate.edu) and [Daniel.Edge@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Daniel.Edge@oregonstate.edu).

Speaking of involvement, Jeffrey Bellamy, First Vice President,

(Continued on page 4)

## GREENHOUSE REALITY By Peter Pernarelli

By the first week in April, we will have planted over eleven thousand seeds to be germinated. If all of them had germinated successfully and grew as expected, we would have approximately \$13,000 of marketable product. However, as anyone knows, not every seed germinates and not every seed transplants and lives to be sold. So, we will still have lots to sell but not 100% of what we planted. Then there is the market itself. Even though we will have over fifteen hundred plants representing sixteen different varieties of tomatoes, not everyone will want Amish Paste or Jelly Bean Red and Yellow varieties. Regardless, we will have variety to suit most gardeners in both vegetables and flowers. My sincere thanks to everyone who had been and continues to be involved in this operation.

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### Special points of interest:

- *2016 Elected Officers*
- *2016 Appointed Coordinators*
- *Calendar*
- *Editor Notes*
- *Birthdays*

## PERENNIAL MUSINGS

The Oregon weather Gods were shining upon us as we held our first plant sale of the season last Saturday, March 19th. We were just a day ahead of the rain, not too hot and not too cold.

We managed to really clear some of our tables, and our inventory is low, so if you have something to bring to us to divide or transplant for future sales, we accept donations early on Tuesday mornings. It's a perfect time to divide hostas, daylilies, phlox and asters. We have had requests for native bleeding hearts and bears britches, and Bergenia, so if you are willing to share, we are willing to accept. We do want you to know that we are no longer accepting houseplants due to the amount of care they require.

We had a wonderful compliment of trainees to help us on Saturday. Thank you to all of you who were so willing to participate and work with your fellow Master Gardeners. The total sales for the day, including March perennial sales and the trees, was \$2,019.00. We are off to a good start! The hanging baskets are thriving in the cold frame and we are now preparing for the Spring Garden Fair in April. We never can thank you enough! *Jean & Joan aka J/J*



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### STATEMENT OF POLICY

Information provided by the Josephine County Master Gardener Newsletter is accurate to the best of our knowledge. However, readers must assume all responsibility for their own actions based on information found in this publication. If, and when, a company or product is named in an article, it is not an endorsement from the Master Gardeners, Josephine County, or the OSU Extension Service. Alternate gardening methods are sometimes presented for your information and consideration, but they are not necessarily the only approach to gardening problems.

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### EDITOR NOTES

Please submit notices and articles to the editor, Ruth Reel.

You can always e-mail to the editor:

**reelsox9@gmail.com**

Or mail to: 3990 Galice Rd., Merlin, OR 97532.

Or call at: 541-479-7702

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**Come and pick up your new 2016 Directory at the MG meeting on April 5th.**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By John Etchells, Treasurer

Cash and savings totals: As of 02/29/16

Checking: \$8,617

Savings: \$31,367

CD: \$3,615

Total Assets: \$43,599\*\*

Total Income: \$3,281. This comes from Dues (\$1,720), Perennial Sales (\$557), Spring Garden Fair (\$470), Member Purchases (Aprons & Vests) (\$357), Donations (\$92) and Plant Clinic, Garden Guides (\$85).

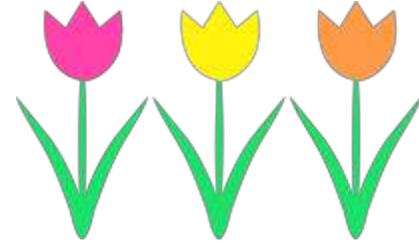
Total Expenses: \$3,194. This comes from: Member Purchases (T-Shirts & Aprons/Vests) \$2,230, Greenhouse (\$748), Seeds of Spring (\$126), Newsletter (\$51) and Spring Garden Fair (\$39).

\*\*These figures are based on reconciling checks and depos-

its to the 02/29/16 bank statements.

\*\*Reminder - 2016 Dues are now past due as of January 1, 2016 and are \$20 per member. Please make checks payable to Jo. Co. Master Gardeners, **NOT OSU EXTENSION**. You may mail checks to OSU Extension Office or drop off in Treasurer's In Box.

\*\*Reminder #2- When shopping at the Grange Co-Op & Fred Meyer Rewards Programs, don't forget to have them credit your purchases to Jo.Co. Master Gardeners.



## **GARDEN PONDERINGS BY KAREN PLEASANT, MG COORDINATOR**

As I write this article the Master Gardener training classes are almost over for another year and I wanted to take a moment and send a hearty thank you to all the Master Gardeners who helped with the training in one way or another, big or small. Your effort has really helped to make the training a wonderful experience for the members of the Class of 2016. There are so many people who deserve huge kudos for their contributions this year (I apologize ahead of time if I accidentally forget anyone). It really does take a "village" to certify a Master Gardener as evidenced by the many people who gave of their time and knowledge to the trainees this winter. The mentors, plant clinic scenario participants, instructors, and hospitality hosts represent the first wave of Master Gardeners in our "village" to work with trainees and many more will be involved in the next wave as the trainees work to complete their volunteer hours.

**Mentors:** The mentors are such an important component of the training

program as they encourage and support the trainees under their tutelage from day one until they graduate. My admiration goes to Joan Foley, who is doing a great job as the mentor coordinator along with a group of fantastic mentors (John Struzik, Jeffrey Bellamy, Mary Florance, Mike Zerwer, Candace Bartow, Nancy Pyle, Joan Foley, Coleen Anderson, Cheryl Holt and Mark Schallheim). Thanks also go the mentor subs (Brad Florance, Susan Morrison, Terry Ruitter and Diane Wickstrom) who stepped in with only a moment's notice to work with the trainees if their regular mentor couldn't be there. Special attention goes to Mike Zerwer who has shown extraordinary effort every week. She comes early and helps set up and is always the last one to leave as she ensures that I have help getting the cart back to the office.

Greenhouse mentors: you rock as well! (Sunday), Jean Schorr, Nancy Tenove, Billie Townsend, (Monday) Pat Siler, Steve Schoen, Wanda Babcock, Stan Bryant, Kathleen Campbell, Dianne Cooper, (Tuesday) Craig and Pattye

**It Takes a "Village" to  
Certify a Master  
Gardener!**

Ingram, Judy Anzalone, Rachelle Gunderson, (Wednesday) Jim and JoAn McManus, Byron Coulter, Terry Ruitter, (Friday) John and Pat Etchells, Pam Barnett, Hank Smith, and (Saturday) Mike Anzalone and Mark Schallheim. Your work will continue until the Spring Garden Fair and your effort and dedication are commendable. Kudos to Peter Pernarelli, the Greenhouse Manager, for ordering seeds, dealing with mice chewed plants, and tons of behind the scenes work that keeps both plants and people happy and growing in the greenhouses.

**Plant Clinic Scenario Participants:** So many people participated as clients to help the trainees practice their Plant Clinic skills that (Continued on page 4)

**2016 ELECTED OFFICERS**

- President ..... Terry Ruitter
- 1st Vice President ..... Jeffery Bellamy
- 2nd Vice President.....Diane Wickstrom
- Secretary ..... Pat Etchells
- OMGA State Rep..... Linda Dean
- OMGA Alt. State Rep..... Jim Porter
- Past President.....John Farias

**APPOINTED COORDINATORS**

- Treasurer.....John Etchells
- Green House Manager .....Peter Pernarelli
- Plant Clinic ..... Wilma Christian
- SOS Garden Seminar..... Terry Ruitter
- Communications ..... Brad Florance
- Spring Garden Fair.....Sybil Longinotti
- Newsletter Editor .....Ruth Reel
- Hospitality Chairman.....Breezy/Mark  
.....Schallheim
- Special Projects.....Sybil Longinotti
- Publicity.....Art Reel
- Historian.....Nancy Pyle/ Linda Price
- County Fair.....Charlie Newsom
- Growers Market.....Hank Smith
- K-12 Program.....Lilly Pattee
- Mentor Committee.....Joan Foley
- Volunteer Hours..... Karen Pleasant
- Computer Coordinator..... Steve Schoen
- Webmaster ..... Pat Etchells/Darcy Heater
- Perennials .....Jean Kitchen/Joan Foley
- Young Master Gardeners.....Cally Baker/  
..... Megan Beasley
- Membership.....Ruth Reel
- Master Gardener Coord.....Karen Pleasant

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(Continued from page 1 President’s Note)

has identified several committees for coming events for which he would like some more volunteers. Come to the general meeting on 5 April, 9:30 am, or give Jeffrey a call to get involved. These activities all involve a high level of fun in addition to a bit of work and will give you the opportunity to meet other Master Gardeners.

The annual Fred Meyer Fuchsia Day will be on 9 April. Josephine County Master Gardeners have been working this event for several years. It’s an opportunity to put lots of plants in a diverse array of containers and talk with members of the public about their intent for those plants. It is an energizing way to spend the day and gives us the chance to see how other gardeners are thinking about their gardens. Contact Jeffrey Bellamy to sign up for this event, too.

As you can probably see, I think that one of the best things about Master Gardener events is the opportunity they provide to talk with other gardeners and hear what they are doing in their gardens this year. It is amazing how someone else’s solution to a completely different problem can trigger an answer to a perplexing issue...and gardeners always seem ready to share their insights and solutions! I hope this April provides all the plants and solutions you need to get your gardens going!

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(Continued from page 3 Garden Ponderings)

I’m sorry if I miss anyone, but your efforts are appreciated. Thanks go to Pat Etchells, Brad Florance, Rachelle Gundersen, Cherrie Lynch, Susan Morrison, Marilyn Ormsby, Lori Pernarelli, Terry Ruitter, Hank Smith, Diane Smith, Diane Wickstrom, Breezy Schallheim, Jeana Schorr and Karen Zoufal. Special thanks go to John Etchells for coordinating the scenarios and keeping everyone organized and on track. This is the first year we have conducted several sessions of scenarios and I’m anxious to see if the trainees are more comfortable once we get them in the Plant Clinic (beginning March 21st).

**Instructors:** Mike Zerwer (*Sustainable Landscape Design*), Phil Damewood (*Home Orchards/Fruit Trees & Hands-On Pruning*), and Judi Maxwell (*Garden Entomology/Insect Identification and Integrated Pest Management*) are all Master Gardeners who shared their knowledge and expertise with the trainees this year. They represent a wealth of knowledge and we are lucky to have them as instructors in the program. Kudos to Nancy Pyle for setting up the panel discussion on the last day of training and to Phil Damewood, John Etchells, Diane Smith and Karen Zoufal for being the

trainees took turns and shared food each week and everyone enjoyed the snacks. It added such a nice touch to the training program to have scrumptious food to keep our brains fed for all the learning that happened every week!

Now that the classroom portion of the Master Gardener training is behind them, the trainees are ready to VOLUNTEER! This year they received temporary orange OSU trainee badges upon passing the take home exam and completion of the weekly classes. The trainee badges have been temporarily labeled with their names and will be re-used each year. The members of the Class of 2016 will turn in their trainee badges at the graduation banquet and receive their final badges that signify they are officially certified Master Gardeners.

For the trainees it is on to Phase Two of the Master Gardener certification process: completing the seventy hours of volunteer service. In addition to the people named above, many more Master Gardeners from the “village” will be involved with the trainees as they work with veterans at the Extension Office plant clinic, Growers Market plant clinic, school gardens, Young Master Gardeners, Seed to Supper program, Fuchsia Days at Fred Meyers, and the Spring Garden Fair to name a few of the many volunteer opportunities.

So you see, it takes all of us working together (the “village”) to certify a Master Gardener! There are over fifty trainees relying on us to help them become certified Master Gardeners and I know they are in capable hands with all of you by their sides.

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### **YES, WE HAVE NO TOMATOES**

I moved down here from the cool summer north Willamette Valley in the hope of growing really ripe juicy flavorful tomatoes. Home gardeners grow more tomatoes than any other garden plant because commercial growers insist that a “ripe tomato” must be able to withstand a 4 ft drop from a display onto a concrete floor and look like nothing happened.

So, why were you Master Gardeners asked to participate in this Bumble bee survey? Several events made us in the insect group ask “where are the Bumble bees?” The first was the disturbing drop of more than half of the blossoms on my own tomatoes last summer. I finally resorted to a small paintbrush, and hand pollinated the blossoms. We had learned of buzz pollination by Bumble bees last spring in our MG class, and on looking around in my own yard I found 2 sometimes 3 Bumble bees in a day. Plenty of

honeybees, and the peas and other garden plants were pollinated. Where were the Bumble bees? I started making lists of Bumble bee plants to add to my garden. On July 9th, the week after I had taken pollination into my own hands, the insect group was up on the west slope of Mt. Ashland in a glorious blooming alpine meadow alive with bees of all kinds, many of them Bumble bees. Dr. Judi said just in passing that we were going to catch and release any Bumble bees unless they were plentiful and necessary for the plant clinic collection. She said that this was the area where the last Franklin Bumble bee was sighted, and the bee was probably extinct, but it didn’t hurt to look. Extinct. This appeared to be perfect Bumble bee habitat, what went wrong? Extinction is usually caused by habitat loss. I also knew that our common local Western Bumble bee was in steep decline. Habitat didn’t seem to be changing as rapidly as the bees were disappearing. Certainly we all had enough Dutch Clover in our lawns to keep them happy.

So, some further research became necessary. Bumble bee decline has been attributed to several causes. First, diseases brought in by the importation of farmed Bumble bees used to pollinate greenhouse tomatoes, and second, the early emergence of the queens, before there is sufficient food to support their early spring tasks. Or perhaps the queen had gone to ground without sufficient stored food in her body to get her through the winter. Unlike other bees that store up a food supply for the upcoming brood, Bumble bees rely on the queen alone to start the new colony in the spring. Finding a new colony site, building the first brood chambers, stocking them with food for the eggs she lays, and providing for the first generation of workers that will take over the task as they mature. A lot to do for a single bee. Judi had recommended several strategies for helping these queens along, if they were found exhausted in the spring. They’d been doing it for millennia so what is different now.

How soon they emerge and what they had to eat was one question we could ask, and the Master Gardeners were the perfect group. As those January seed catalogs roll in we all want to get out on those early sunny days, just stretch our legs and plan for the spring. If there were big queen Bumble bees roaming around, our Master Gardeners were likely to spot them. We agreed that we wouldn’t see much activity before March. So the map went up and we started monitoring the email. The literature states “The actual cues for emergence are not

well understood, thought they are suspected to be related to air temperatures or carbon dioxide levels in the soil.” Moving out of the ground where microbes are starting to metabolize, absorb food and produce CO2 is probably a good idea. Holding still in microbe active soil can swiftly turn you into compost. That process may be temperature driven as well.

The first Master Gardener Bumble bee sightings were on Feb. 9th!?! We were stunned. They were showing up on European Erica carneas, those pink and white winter heathers, then the following week they were feeding on pansies and planted violas as well. Then the early blooming fruit trees, none of the bees’ native foods. Oregon Grape, willows, Big-leaf Maples, Manzanita, Western Red currant. They were all weeks away from bloom. These native plants probably rely on day-length to trigger their bloom cycle, and the poor bees are pushed out of the ground by those early warm days of February, followed by our predictably miserable March. We don’t know if they are hard wired to continue the brood producing process regardless of weather and are doomed to starve, or if they can go back to ground and wait out the rain. We just know that Bumble bees need some help and understanding. Planting early bee feeding flowers in sheltered areas and other bee friendly varieties that bloom up into the fall certainly will help. Avoiding the cultivation of the soil unless absolutely necessary. There are lots of beneficial ground-nesting insects in addition to the Bumble bees that need some undisturbed ground. And watch those tomato blossoms this summer. If the Bumble bees continue their decline we all may be using a paintbrush.

*By Phylis McIntosh, Master Gardener*

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**APRIL CLASSES**

Friday, April 22. **Hands-on Flower Baskets/Container Class & Field Trip to Ashland Greenhouses**, Kelly Brainard, Owner. Time: 10 to 11:00 am.

Bring your container and learn about combining plants to reach your desired effect. Kelly will walk you through her processes in selection and placement. This is a hands-on class for Master Gardeners that enables you to plant your container right there in the greenhouse with expert help. Cost: MGs with badge - \$5 per container plus the cost of your plants (all payable at Ashland Greenhouse). Soil provided at no additional cost. Limit: 15 MGs only. Pre-registration required. We will meet at the Ashland Greenhouses at 10 am. You can arrange your own carpool if you like. Directions will be provided upon registration.

Thursday, April 28, **Raised Bed Construction** class Brad Ross, Master Garden, is the instructor from 6 to 7:30 pm. Cost: \$10/MGs free with badge.

Most gardeners are aware that plants grow better in raised beds simply because they warm up sooner in the spring. Materials and strategies for raised beds: from mounding up dirt, to wood, concrete and rock frames, will be discussed in this session. Tips will be given for site location, gopher-proofing, water systems, soil preparation, and maximizing early veggie production using raised beds. Call Sharon at 541-476-6613 for more information.

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**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Happy Birthday to Jan Quintens (2), Joni Sager (3), Carlanda Williamson (6), Annette Roeyer (7), Hilda Schaefer (8), Linda Dean (13), Mike Becker/Karen Zoufal (20), Sue Lundberg (23), Kathy Sullivan, (26), Steve Schoen (29).



# April 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1  
April Fool's  
Day

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3

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5  
9:30, MG  
Meeting

6

7

8

9  
Fred Meyer  
Fuchsia Day

10

11

12  
Perennial  
Tuesday

13

14

15

16  
Growers  
Market

17

18

19  
Perennial  
Tuesday

20

**Newsletter  
Deadline**

21

22

23  
Spring Garden  
Fair

24

Spring Garden  
Fair

25

26  
Perennial  
Tuesday

27

28  
Raised Bed  
Construction  
Class

29

30  
Growers  
Market

## ITALIAN SAUSAGE AND PASTA SOUP

By Pattye Ingram and submitted by Nancy Pyle both Master Gardeners

2 lbs hot or mild Italian sausage	2 cans (15oz) cannellini (white) beans rinsed & drained
3 carrots (12oz) chopped	1 tbs dried basil
1 onion (12oz) chopped	2 cups dried large pasta shells
4 cloves of garlic chopped	12 oz spinach leaves
3 qts of fat skimmed chicken broth	Salt and Pepper
2 cans (14 1/2oz) diced tomatoes in juice	1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Brown sausage, drain fat, all but 1 tbs. Add carrots, onion, and garlic, stir until onion is transparent, 5-7 minutes. Add broth, tomatoes, including juice, beans and basil. Bring to a boil. Add pasta, reduce heat and simmer covered stirring occasionally (about 10 minutes). Skim and discard fat. Stir in spinach and cook until wilted about 30 seconds. Salt and Pepper to taste. Offer Parmesan cheese. Note: I usually serve the spinach on the side so that those who want it can have it, those who don't won't.

Sunset magazine Jan of 03      397 calories per serving

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OSU Extension Service, Master Gardener™ Association - Josephine County, Oregon, 541-476-6613

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**THE MASTER GARDENER**



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