

February, 2018



THE MASTER GARDENER™



Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Pamela Zaklan, President

Welcome new students to the Master Gardener Training! It's been a busy month so far but we are off to a great start. This newsletter article will highlight the activities and components of becoming a Master Gardener.

Congratulations on pursuing this course. Becoming a Master Gardener is all about helping people in our community find information and resources they seek regarding residential horticulture. Master Gardeners don't have all of the answers, but we do know how to find them. What you learn in training will prepare you to ask the right questions, do the research, and provide guidance to the home gardener. You will put these skills into practice as you staff the Plant Clinic or encounter the public at other various Master Gardener events and activities. In these classes you will learn information on; certification requirements, reporting hours and contacts, and training in the Plant Clinic and Greenhouses. Other approved activities such as working on site at the OSU extension will round out your experience. A designated MG communicator sends out email correspondence during the month which includes the latest information on activities and classes which may count towards your service hours. Generally, you are encouraged to start recording your hours as soon as training begins in January.

When you become a veteran, you will receive a permanent MG badge that identifies you, shows the year you completed the training and recognizes you as a certified OSU Master Gardener. New badges may be requested when lost. Upon completing the required hours to maintain Master Gardener certification; you must fill out an annual agreement form every year stating that you wish to continue to be a MG. The Master Gardener (Continued on page 4)



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PERENNIAL GREENHOUSE

The perennial greenhouse will open on Tuesday, January 30, for general clean up. The following Tuesday will be the BOD meeting and then we will resume full schedule starting February 13th. Please bring your gloves, your scissors or little clippers. Plant donations will be accepted from 9am to 9:30, or by previous arrangement, so we will have ample time to do the divisions. Just a reminder to dress for the weather.

Joan Foley, Perennial Manger

Special points of interest:

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

BUMBLE BEE SURVEY, 2018

She was perfect, not a hair out of place, her wings were a bit akimbo but she was dead after all. She was a fresh newly emerged Queen Yellow-Faced bumblebee that Guy Young brought into the office. He found her dead on his driveway in late December. Guy often brings in wonderful insects and spiders he's found around his home. But she, sadly, was special. A dead bumblebee this time of year is a fertile Queen and she is all that is left from her mother queens' previous colony. She needed nectar to survive and start a new colony, and none was to be had. New colony lost. We don't know what brought her out so early, but she was a reminder that for the third year it is time to ask you Master Gardeners to report the first Bumblebee you see around your home. In the past they've been found on early non-natives. Winter heathers, Rosemary, Japanese Quince, Violas and pansies, primulas and crocus. Report just the first one please.

We need Date, Location, Plant it's feeding on (we hope it's feeding), and a Description of the bee if possible. If you have your phone handy, a photo would help. Four things to jot down. There is a form below and there will be forms in the plant clinic if you'd like to fill one out, or you can email the Four pieces of information directly to the JoCo Master Gardeners website. Someone from the Insect Working Group will be checking the email frequently from now on. The map will again be back in the IWG area with pins to mark the location and date. We'll report back our findings in March. Thank you all for looking out for those first Queen bumblebees.

SPRING 2018 BUMBLE BEE SURVEY FORM

Name _____

Location/Address _____

Date of first bumble bee sighting _____

Plants the Bumble bee was feeding on _____

Description of bee if possible _____

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.

Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities and materials without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability and disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer. OSU Extension programs will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with physical or mental disabilities. If you need particular accommodations, please call our Extension Office at (541) 476-6613 at least 3 weeks prior to the event.

EDITOR NOTES

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

You can always e-mail to the editor:

reelsox9@gmail.com

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

Or call at: 541-479-7702

Please let the editor know if you have changed your address, phone # or e-mail address.

BE SURE TO PAY YOUR 2018 ANNUAL DUES IF YOU ALREADY HAVE NOT PAID THEM.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By John Etchells, Treasurer

Cash & Savings totals as of 12/29/17

Checking: \$1,758.30

Savings: \$32,230.78

CD: \$3,622.14

Total Assets: \$37,611.22**

Total Income from December 1st through December 29th: \$570. This comes from Donations (\$550) & Plant Clinic Garden Guides Sales (\$20).

Total Expenses December 1st through December 29th: \$5,135.57: This comes from Greenhouse (\$3,041.07), Communications (\$699.84), Member Purchases [Soil] (\$539.98), Newsletter (\$310.49), General Advertising (\$250), Administrative Items [Awards Banquet Decorations & OMGA Lunch-

eon (\$173.44), Perennials Supplies (\$76.59), Demonstration Gardens (\$22.60), Trees Supplies (\$12.77), Treasurer - Stamps (\$9.80), SGF [Raffle Supplies (\$5.99), Social - Meetings (-\$7).

**These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 11/30/17 bank statements.

**Reminder - 2018 dues are now due. Membership remains \$20 per person. Dues can be paid at the Feb. meeting or dropped off at the Extension Office.

***Reminder-While shopping at the Grange Co-Op and/or using the Fred Meyer Reward Programs, don't forget to have them credit your purchases to Jo.Co. Master Gardeners. Also if you shop using Amazon online, please go to **Amazon Smiles** and select "**Master Gardener Association - Grants Pass**" as a charity.

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HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER HEATER By Nancy Pyle, Master Gardener

Heaters for birds? Seriously, an acquaintance wanted to place heaters in her trees during wintertime so the birds would be warm. She never could figure out how to do that, so she gave up.

Of course, we all know birds don't need heaters in trees. However, with the cold winter months and freezing nights, and with Anna hummingbirds residing here all year long, you may want to consider making a "hummingbird feeder heater" to keep the syrup from freezing.

A few years ago we had this dilemma including the hassle of trying to remember to either bring the feeder in every night, thawing it out in the early mornings or having a spare feeder handy. We went online and were quite surprised to find several different "Do it Yourself" methods to keep the syrup from freezing. We especially liked the ease of obtaining the materials locally and the easy instructions with the method we chose to use.

Also, if you're into recycling, it's a

good way to use items you may have around your place. Since we'll probably have a few more of those freezing nights ahead, here are instructions on how to make a hummingbird feeder heater.

Supplies:

A hummingbird feeder with a perch ring/foot rest to hang the heater

One standard-size recessed can light fixture

One 60 watt ceramic infrared heater, screw-in type, (also referred to as a reptile heater) - at local pet stores

Three - 10" long pieces of 16-gauge galvanized wire

Hardware cloth - 1/2" squares, 6" x 15" formed into a tube

One Thermo Cube thermostat that heats at 35 to 45 degrees - Grange Co-op or Home Depot

One 5' three-prong extension cord, to be wired to the light box

Using a 1/8" drill bit, drill three holes, spaced evenly apart, in the top rings of

Hummers will thank you

three 10" wires through the holes and form the wires into hooks at opposite end. Form the hardware cloth into a "tube" so it fits into the can light fixture. Wire the 5' extension cord to the can light box. Screw the ceramic heater into can light socket as you would a light bulb. Hook the 10" galvanized wire pieces to your completed heater fixture onto the perch ring/foot rest of your hummingbird feeder. Plug extension cord prongs into Thermo Cube and then plug Thermo Cube into your wall socket. The Thermo Cube automatically clicks on when outside temps drop to 35 degrees, warming the syrup, but not too hot for the hummers.

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2018 ELECTED OFFICERS

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

APPOINTED COORDINATORS

Treasurer.....John Etchells
Green House ManagerDavid Coon/John
.....Etchells/Pat Etchells/Terry Ruitter
Plant Clinic..... Wilma Christian
SOS Garden Seminar Terry Ruitter
CommunicationsJohn Etchells
Spring Garden Fair....Sybil Longinotti/Mike
.....Zerwer
Newsletter Editor.....Ruth Reel
Hospitality.....Breezy/Mark Schallheim
New Projects .Sybil Longinotti/Joan Seward
Publicity.....Jeana Schorr
Historian.....Nancy Pyle/Linda Price
County Fair.....Pamela Zaklan
Growers Market.....Hank Smith
K-12 Program.....Charlotte Hutt
Mentor Committee.....Joan Foley
Computer CoordinatorSteve Schoen
Webmaster..... Pat Etchells
PerennialsJoan Foley
Young Master Gardeners.....Sayaka Lean/
..... Barry Burnside
Membership.....Ruth Reel
Seeds to Supper.....Breezy Schallheim

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yearly dues are \$20. These fees help finance MG activities and other MG projects.

Master Gardeners have a booth on Saturday at the Growers Market in Grants Pass spring through fall. Volunteers are responsible for setting up the canopy, table and resources prior to the market opening at 9:00am. Shifts run until 1:00pm. Volunteers will answer questions about home gardening from the public using the resources contained in traveling boxes. You may also bring a phone or tablet to access internet resources approved by OSU.

Josephine County Fair and Plant Clinic

During the 4 days of the Josephine County Fair held in August, MGs help with the setup of the Horticultural building including decoration, displays, and greeting the general public. Within the area is a question and answer plant clinic staffed by Master Gardener volunteers. Shifts are generally 2 hours. Lots of help is needed during the fair!

Special Projects are a part of the MGA. As requests are received for a project, volunteers are sought to take supporting or leadership roles in responding to these requests. Recent examples include the Demonstration Garden and the Native Bee Citizen Science Project. If you have ideas for a project, indicate your interest to a Mentor or MG board member for guidance in this process.

The Master Gardener Foundation of Josephine County is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the citizens of Josephine County grow healthy food and enhance the beauty of their gardens. Its projects are designed to raise funds to support the Master Gardener program and other local garden programs such as School Gardens, Young Master Gardeners, Seeds to Supper and many others.

Any Master Gardener may volunteer for a position on the MG Board. You are welcome and encouraged to attend MG board meetings and other committee meetings as announced. The Board volunteers must be a certified MG member to assume a position. Attending monthly meetings may be counted towards your service hours. Meetings are held the First Tuesday of each month - 9:30 a.m.

Gardening is a common bond among Master Gardeners, but the OSU Master Gardener Program is about much more than gardening. Like all OSU Extension volunteer programs, our primary purpose is community service through education. But as you will see, there are numerous fun activities scheduled throughout the year. In the case of OSU Master Gardeners, we serve the community through (Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4 Message from the President)

the education of gardeners and potential gardeners. In return, we hope OSU Master Gardeners find enrichment from the educational, personal growth, and volunteer service opportunities provided.

If we just wanted to garden, we could do that. However; through the MGA, citizens and politicians will see us addressing critical issues in our community and really making an impact. Observations and data will show the value of the OSU Master Gardener program as a model of efficient and effective communication and use of tax dollars. As a result, the Master Gardener Association will continue to receive support. Each and every volunteer is valued for their dedication and support committed every day. Thank you all for all you do!

(Continued from page 3 Hummingbird Feeder Heater)

It will automatically shut off at 45 degrees. When changing the syrup, simply unhook the unit from the top hooks at the perch ring/foot rest.

Our hummers enjoy the warm syrup and we enjoy not having to remember to bring the feeder in every night. When the weather starts to warm up again, detach the beater and store it until next winter.

To view a photo of our finished “hummingbird feeder heater” go online to the Master Gardener Association website and to our newsletter. You will find the photo at the end of the newsletter.

And since we can’t take credit for this fabulous idea, we credit Jeff Bauer of Portland, OR for creating this wonderful hummingbird feeder heater. You can find his video on the internet - (Google him - Jeff Bauer, “How to make a heated hummingbird feeder,” YouTube.) We enjoyed playing the video several times as his hummingbirds came to the feeder while he was filming and talking baby talk to them. You will also notice that his hummers were obviously not afraid of his close proximity.

If you have any questions or need help on how to make the heater, you can call me - (Nancy Pyle) I’m listed in the Master Gardener Membership Directory.

HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER SYRUP RECIPE

The standard recipe is 4 parts water to 1 part sugar, or 1 cup of water to ¼ cup of sugar. Red dye is not necessary as many hummingbird feeders are mostly red. Boil the water and then add the sugar, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Cool the syrup at room temperature before placing in feeder and outdoors. During warm weather clean the feeder and replace with fresh syrup every 3 to 4 days. We place our feeder in a shady area or under the roof eaves for protection from rain. Some feeders include a “rain shield” on top of the feeder or you can create one by using a large round piece of clear plastic from clamshell containers that some restaurants use as “take out containers.”

(Continued from page 3 Treasurer)

Then every purchase you make will be credited to us. Amazon is a company that makes charitable donations based upon the percentage of Smile sales from an organization. This is similar to the Fred Meyer Rewards Program.

***When you have bills for payment, please be sure to complete an Authorization for Payment/Reimbursement Form and have it signed by the committee head or officer responsible for the item. Failure to do so will delay payment of your expenses.

2018

The 2018 class of Master Gardeners is now in session. I want to personally thank all of the 56 seniors who came and showed their support for the new class. As always, the pot luck was delicious and everyone enjoyed the selections. I think your dedication to the Master Gardener Program is AWESOME! What a great way to earn educational hours by coming to the future sessions, especially on these dreary days of winter. I’m looking forward to seeing you again at another session. Be sure to welcome the new students as they pass by.

Joan Foley, Mentor Coordinator



NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

Diane Wickstrom and the Native Plant group working on the Demonstration Garden would like some help. Some of you are blessed with native plants growing on your property. If you feel like you could spare a few we're asking that you dig a few for the Demonstration Garden. We'd like collecting done only if you have a plentiful population of the particular plant, and feel pretty confident that you can collect it safely. Please try to get a bit of the soil surrounding the roots and try to keep the root ball smaller than a 2 gal. pot. We'll need a minimum of 3 and a max of 5 of each plant. Please contact Diane or Phylis via email if you can provide any of these wonderful plants. We want to keep from over-collecting. Best digging time will be before March.

We've tried to choose plants that are perennial, have a longer bloom season, have a significant amount of foliage and will withstand the full sun and heat. (Irrigation will do only so much.) None of these plants are lilies or have bulbs. Maybe next year if we're successful with the perennials, we'll try to add a few of native lilies. Let us know if you have any other plants you'd like to add to the list that our members might have growing and can collect. We know that some of these plants are not common, but we thought we'd at least fish for them.

Mules Ears or Balsamroot, *Wyethia or Balsamorhiza*

Any Fleabane, *Erigeron*

Coast or Bolanders Sneezeweed, *Helenium bolanderi*

Coyote Mint, *Monardella*

Mahala Mat or Prostrate Ceanothus, *C.prostratus*

Buck Brush, *Ceanothus cuneatus* (a small one)

Siskiyou Iris, *I.bracteata* (the yellow one)

Any of the native Sedums, *S.divergens*, *S.aphathulifolium*, or *S.stenopetalum* (was *S. douglasii*)

Scarlet Gilia, *Ipomopsis*

Checkermallow, *Sidalcea sp*, Perhaps *E. umbellatum*

Henderson Shooting Star, *Dodecatheon hendersonii*

Red Larkspur, *Delphinium nudicaule*

Elegant Brodiaea (yes it's a bulb, but pretty common...)

SPRING GARDEN FAIR

The Master Gardener Spring Garden Fair is on the weekend of May 5-6, 2018, with set up on Friday afternoon.

It takes all of us to pull off a project like the SGF. Do you need hours? Volunteers are needed in all areas. The next SGF meeting is February 6, 2018, immediately after the general meeting. You are welcome to come and see what is happening and where hands are needed. We welcome all ideas and opinions.

Come to the meeting and help make the SGF successful. *Sybil Longinotti, Mike Zerwer*

THE JOYS OF AN OVERPLANTED GARDEN

At this time of year, I'm always thankful that I have overplanted my garden, that I don't have that innate desire to quickly tidy up the grounds, and that I have left an abundant source of berries and fruits dangling from the trees and shrubs for my feathered friends to enjoy.

As I look outside my window, I'm indulgently delighted as I observe them dining during the early morning smorgasbord. Some days this feast turns into an all-day affair. The weather doesn't seem to dampen their spirits as I quiver and rub my hands while my eyes focus on the number 38 outside.

Nothing seems to phase them as they forage for food. The towhees look as though they are playing hopscotch in reverse; the robins beaks are coated and dripping with persimmon and apple pulp, the juncos are dining on the barberries while a large raven is standing guard on the overhead post, awaiting his turn. The ever so faithful Anna's hummingbird is upright in position, patiently ready to accept a seat on the feeder, despite the chill on the perch. The Jays are eating eggshells that have been cleaned and crushed that I have placed on a container that sits on the deck rail. The chickadees and finches seem to favor the seeds of the Amur maple and it won't be long before the titmice, the flickers and the woodpeckers come for dessert, or just to enjoy the experience of being with one another and sharing a meal.

The well placed leaves which lay dutifully on the ground stretch out to provide a golden avian carpet. The birds seem to romp and play with delight as they dance in, under, around, between above, and below in their search for hidden treasures. (Continued on page 8)

February 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<p>Happy Groundhog Day!</p> 		<p>1</p> <p>Class</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30, MG Meeting</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Happy Hour at Spurlocks Class</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Build Hydroponics System Class, 9 to 12</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Lincoln's Birthday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Class</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>President's Day</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Washington's Birthday Class</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Bingo - Taco Bar, OSU Ext. Auditorium</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>			

(Continued from page 6 Joys of an Overplanted Garden)

I would like to think that we, as humans, could take a lesson from these tiny creatures, and observe how they live in harmony with one another, as we share our own personal fruits and treasures with one another. Sometimes the most simple and profound messages can be found in your own backyard.

Joan Foley, Master Gardener

MG MEMBER CALENDAR

February 8, JoCoMG Happy Hour at Spurlocks (4:15 to 6 pm), wineandbrushevents@gmail.com, <http://www.spurlockartandwine.com/> Address: 202 Redwood Hwy, Ste C, GP

February 24, Bingo - Taco Bar at OSU Extension Auditorium (11 am to 3 pm)

March 1, JoCoMG Happy Hour at Spurlocks (4:15 to 6 pm), wineandbrushevents@gmail.com, <http://www.spurlockartandwine.com/>



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

Our email address is: josephinemg@oregonstate.edu

Our Web Site: <http://www.jocomastergardeners.com>



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