

April, 2018



# THE MASTER GARDENER™

Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Pamela Zaklan, President

### Life in the Garden

Oh glorious sunshine! As I write this the sun is warming up to 70 degrees; trees are popping out all over, my daffodils are in bloom, spring flowers are cheerfully greeting shoppers in every store, and my husband is out mowing the lawn. A sure sign spring is just around the corner. The sun is stretching longer into the day and as gardeners, we are all getting excited to get our hands dirty.

As we spring forward, I like to check the “Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley”, a year round, month by month guide published by the Jackson County OMGA. Copies are available in the plant clinic for reference or to purchase. This is a handy guide I refer to every month to refresh my memory as to what I **should** be doing on our farm. For example, the month of March suggests what to sow for transplanting, what you can direct seed in March such as *Kale: all month and through April*, as well as what to transplant, fertilize and prune. It’s one of my most valuable resources guiding a gardener throughout the year.

As we *March forward*, the year thus far is looking very productive. This year’s students are joyfully learning about all things gardening related and are a very enthusiastic and energetic group. The greenhouses are in full operation taking great care to nurture every seedling into a successful plant for sale at the Spring Plant Sale May 5th and 6th. This is an important event for our students, greenhouse mentors and all OMGA volunteers. It is traditionally the only time of the year when the community turns out to see what our OMGA volunteers have accomplished and to evaluate the purchase our plants. Thus, it’s critical we have plenty of participation from members and time to prepare for this (Continued on page 4)



## SPRING GARDEN FAIR

Have you signed up for any of the work shifts for the Spring Garden Fair? The fair is on Saturday, May 5th, and Sunday, May 6th. The dates are coming up fast! Sign ups will take place at the Master Gardener Association Meeting on April 3rd and at noon at the Master Gardener Training classes. Please bring your calendars with you to these sign-up days.

See you there!

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### Special points of interest:

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

## SAVE THE DATE

Oregon Master Gardener Association, Growing Gardeners Annual Conference, the 35th Annual Training Conference (formerly Mini-College) is from July 12 - 14, 2018, at Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon.

Classes:

- 7 tracks
- 42 sessions
- 25+ advanced
- Workshops & tours
- More information coming

Lodging: Stay on campus in dorm room or apartment, Red Lion Hotel, other local hotels of your choice.

How to keep informed

- [Omga.org/G2conf](http://Omga.org/G2conf)
- OMGA facebook
- OMGA newsletter, or Ask our state rep

Other favorites: Silent Auction, Send-a-friend raffle, First night get-together, Award Banquet, Volunteer recognition  
See you there!!

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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](mailto: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.**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By John Etchells, Treasurer

Cash & Savings totals as of 2/28/18

Checking: \$5,192.51

Savings: \$32,230.78

CD: \$3,624.85

Total Assets: \$41,048.14\*\*

Total Income from February 1st through February 28th: \$2,719.67. This comes from: Membership Dues (\$1,260), Member Sales [Soil & Aprons] (510.50), Greenhouse Sales [Bulbs] (\$504.50), SGF [Vendor Rental](\$250), Garden Guides (\$135) and Donations (\$59.67).

Total Expenses February 1 through February 28th: \$724.90. This comes from Demo Gardens (\$269.42), Greenhouse [Heating Mats ,etc(\$213.95), Advertising (\$120)

YMG(\$83.61), SOS (\$43.60), Newsletter (\$30.32), Plant Clinic [Shipping Beatles to OSU (\$24.80) Administrative Items [Mentor Exp] (\$4.50), and Hospitality (\$-65.30).

\*\*These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 1/31/18 bank statements.

\*\*\*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. Then every purchase you make will be credited to us. Amazon is a company that makes its charitable donations based upon the percentage of Smile sales from an organization. This is similar to the (Continued on page 4)

## THE IDES OF SPRING

By Shirlene Ferguson, Master Gardener

The swallows returned March 19 and my heart sang and danced with joy watching their aerial acrobatics. Nothing says "spring" to me like the return of the swallows. Of course, that also means that the maple beetles will be hatching out, but I have noticed since we got the guineas, we have fewer beetles. Let's hear it for the guineas! Hip, hip, hooray!

I love watching God's plan for the universe, as old as time and as young as a newborn, unfold again and again, with uncanny and perfect timing. New life springing up everywhere. Flowers perfuming the air, leaves unfurling, seedlings "ta-da-ing" through the soil and new-born babies everywhere. I visited some three-day-old colts. A symphonic assemblage of long, spindly-legged curiosity and frisky, puppy-dog-wagging tails, running and bouncing like baby lambs. God's beauty in action.

My "kitchen" garden by the back deck, consisting of twelve, two-foot-square sections, has Swiss Chard, Pak Choi, spinach, parsley, Rosemary and

oregano growing, and two kinds of lettuce and Red Russian Kale are dotting the ground with tiny green leaves. Two squares have been left open for tomatoes, which won't go there until the last of May, but their space is reserved. A few sunny days and I was able to remove the chicken's galoshes and water wings.

I don't know where I am going to plant them but I got carried away (as usual) and seeded three each of eight different varieties of heirloom tomatoes. Even with a 2200 square foot garden, I'm not sure where I'll put all of them. And harvest? Maybe open a roadside stand.

Oregon Giant Podded Peas are sprouting, along with multiple varieties of sweet peas. That should bring in those crazy bees. One raised bed and half of another is planted with asparagus, which will require a lot of patience before a crop is ready to harvest, and Walla Walla onions are set out. Giant garlic that was planted last fall, has climbed out of hibernation and is stretching toward the sunshine, and we have been enjoying green onions, tur-

## NEW LIFE SPRINGING UP EVERYWHERE

greens. How blessed we are to have access to fresh organic produce, almost year round.

Spring revitalized the gardening soul that has been dormant all winter. Blossoms are popcorn-ing out all over the trees, sluggish bees searching for nourishment are erratically flying around as though they've been nipping at the brandy, the first batch of chicks are hatching, and I'm doing a Snoopy dance all through my garden, sort of an Ides of Spring ritual to make the garden grow.

Or Kadiddlehopper neighbors, watching though their Venetian blinds, can be heard commenting, "Thar she goes again, Clem. Crazy as a loon!" (Continued on page 4)

**2018 ELECTED OFFICERS**

- President.....Pamela Zaklan
- 1st Vice President .....Mark 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 Manager .....David Coon/John  
.....Etchells/Pat Etchells/Terry Ruitter
- Plant Clinic..... Wilma Christian
- SOS Garden Seminar ..... Terry Ruitter
- Communications .....John 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..... Vacant
- Mentor Committee.....Joan Foley
- Computer Coordinator .....Steve Schoen
- Webmaster..... Pat Etchells
- Perennials .....Joan Foley
- Young Master Gardeners.....Sayaka Lean/  
..... Barry Burnside
- Membership.....Ruth Reel
- Seeds to Supper.....Breezy Schallheim

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(Continued from page 1 Message from the President)

important public relations event.

We are excited to greet Sara Runkel as Josephine County’s new Agricultural Extension faculty member. Please join us at the April 3rd meeting to help us give her a warm welcome to our OMGA community. We will strive to create a productive support system for Sara as she becomes acquainted with her new position in the Valley.

And finally, before you start grabbing those primroses or pansy’s at your local market, think about what they might need to become a successful planting.

Happy Spring and Happy Planting!

\*\*\*\*\*

(/continued from page 3 Treasurer)

Fred Meyer Reward Program.

\*\*\*When you have bills for payment, please be sure to complete by the committee head or officer responsible for the item. Failure to do so will delay payment of your expenses.

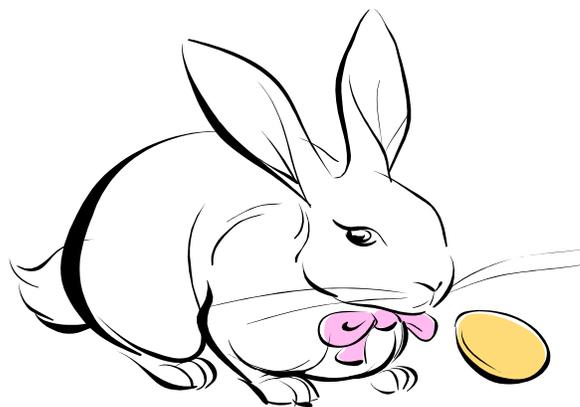
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(Continued from page 4 Ides of Spring)

Better call the paddy wagon!”

Yup! Spring has arrived so stop resting on your winter laurels and get busy.

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## 2018 Growers Market - Seniors

It's time to start thinking about staffing the Growers Market for 2018 for seniors and I am looking for volunteers.

It will run every Saturday from mid April to the end of September with the exception of the plant sale and Josephine County Fair weekends. For the seniors it is from about 8:15 to 1:00.

I will have a sign up at the monthly board meeting and will answer any questions about what is expected, etc. You can also email me at [hanksmith@msn.com](mailto:hanksmith@msn.com) any time. I would like to have at least two seniors each week.

Remember last year's students are now seniors and can help with this. If you like, I can try to team you with a veteran, just let me know.

If you have preferred dates let me know that as well as any other issues or concerns that you might have.

I will be also starting to sign up the students in the next few weeks during class. As you know the student size is smaller so we will have to work around it.

Thanks,

*Hank Smith*

\*\*\*\*\*

## FRED MEYER FUCHSIA DAY

It's that time again! Fred Meyer Fuchsia Day is just around the corner, and we need MG volunteers. The Fuchsia Day is April 7th (7 am to 4 pm). Last year the Grants Pass store won the trophy for the Best Fuchsia Day of all Oregon Fred Meyer stores (most sales, best overall presentation, and customer feedback). JoCoMG played a big role in making it a success for Grants Pass, and the Master Gardener program gets known more by the local community.

As of today, 16 MG slots on the schedule have already been filled (only 42 more to go). **If you can, you are welcome to sign up for multiple time slots.**

We need to fill 3 different positions (and approx. 14 volunteers per 2 hour time slots), but we are always flexible during the event. The volunteer positions are: Line Management (holds back the line, and helps to direct customers to a planting table); Planting (stands at a table and plants the customer's purchased plant into a pot that they bring); Soil support (helps the Planting table volunteers by keeping their table soil containers filled).

Feel free to sign up for multiple shifts. It's always been a party atmosphere, and it should be fun this year, as well - a number of us have stayed all day in the past.

The weather can be a challenge, so wear layered clothing, and be prepared for rain. We have canopies for planting stations and the Plant Clinic. Lunch will be provided by Fred Meyer.

Please let me know with what shift(s) you want to work, preferred position, and a contact number. You can also email me at [jocomg-1stvp@gmail.com](mailto:jocomg-1stvp@gmail.com) or call me at 541-479-3652.

Thank you,

*Mark Schallheim*

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## INTERESTING

- The average person spends 6 months of their lifetime waiting on a red light to turn green.
- The average person walks the equivalent of three times around the world in a lifetime.
- The chance of you dying on the way to get lottery tickets is actually greater than your chance of winning.
- You breathe on average about 8,409,600 times a year.
- One fourth of the bones in your body are located in your feet.
- Blue-eyed people tend to have the highest tolerance of alcohol.
- A flea can jump up to 200 times its own height. That is the equivalent of a human jumping the Empire State Building.
- A ball of glass will bounce higher than a ball of rubber.
- The tongue of a blue whale weighs more than most elephants.
- Taking fruits in an empty stomach can prevent graying hair, nervous outbursts, bald and dark circles under the eyes.
- A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one known why.

**GUIDANCE FOR VOLUNTEER HOURS**  
**REPORTING**

**REMINDER**

To all Master Gardeners - Veterans & Students

Here is a reminder of how to report some common items.

Greenhouse maintenance = educational garden (maintenance)

Instructing or guiding new trainees in greenhouse = educational garden (instructor)

Spring Garden Fair = fundraiser

Setting up or taking down for a class, including the MG training series = educational event planning

School garden instruction = educational garden (instructor)

School garden maintenance = educational garden (maintenance)

Any maintenance work in any of the gardens at the Extension Office, including the new demo garden, the Krull garden, the planters in front of the office = educational garden (maintenance)

Attending an MG monthly meeting or something similar = MG Association - Support

And, if you're in class as a Mentor, you can also claim appropriate recertification hours.

*John Punches*

\*\*\*\*\*

The Plant Clinic is now open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BROCCOLI CHEDDAR SOUP**

Ingredients:

1 cup onion, chopped

1 cup carrot, shredded

1 ½ teaspoon butter

2 cups broth, any flavor

2 cups broccoli, chopped (fresh or frozen)

1 cup nonfat or 1% milk

1/4 cup flour

1 cup shredded reduced fat cheddar cheese (4 ounces)

1/8 teaspoon pepper

Directions:

In a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, sauté onion and carrot in butter until onions begin to brown. Add broth and broccoli. Simmer until broccoli is tender, 5 to 7 minutes.

In another container, slowly stir the milk into the flour until smooth. Stir the milk mixture into the soup. Bring to a boil and continue stirring until slightly thickened, 3-5 minutes.

Add cheese and pepper. Heat over low heat until cheese is melted. Serve hot.

Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cooking time: 15 minutes

Makes: 4 Cups

Enjoy!!

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# April 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 <i>Easter</i>	2	3 <i>9:30, MG Meeting</i>	4	5	6	7 <i>Fred Meyer Fuchsia Day</i>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21
22	23	24	25 <i>Plant Identification Workshop</i>	26	27	28
29	30					

## APRIL CLASS

**Wednesday, April 25, Plant Identification Workshop: Tips, Tricks, and Techs (Technology and Techniques),** Instructor: Dr. Melanie Link-Perez, Curator & Instructor OSU Herbarium. Cost: \$30/\$25 if pre-registered/ MG: \$25/\$20 if pre-registered. Pre-registration required/Class limited to 24 paid participants. This class will begin with a two-hour workshop in-doors. We will start with a presentation about herbaria, relationship between taxonomy, classification, and identification, and a discussion about nomenclature and why plant names change. This will be followed by hands-on practice using a dichotomous key to identify fresh plant material brought in for this (training) purpose. The indoor activity will be followed by a field excursion that will demonstrate proper collection of plants for herbarium specimens or submitting for identification, etc.

Call 541-476-6613 or register online: <http://bit.ly/plantidworkshop18>

Class is held at the OSU Josephine County Ext. Auditorium, 215 Ringuette St., Grants Pass

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

Our email address is: [josephinemg@oregonstate.edu](mailto:josephinemg@oregonstate.edu)

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

**THE MASTER GARDENER**



Master Gardener™ Association  
OSU Extension Service  
215 Ringuette Street  
Grants Pass, OR 97527