

Coastal



Currants

Newsletter of the Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Association

JULY 2016

President's Notes

Greetings, Lincoln County Master Gardeners, Apprentices, and Fellow Gardeners!

Summer is here — officially. We have reached the halfway mark for this year. The gardens are all in full swing and apprentices are stepping into the role as researchers by answering questions that increase both their knowledge and community connections.

Looking back, we started with some lofty goals and many challenges for the Board. We have come a long way. There are now 6 months left. What do you want to do next?? What dreams do you have?? Be a part of your dreams becoming reality. Attend a Board meeting to be a part of this experience.

We should be very proud of our success at the Annual Plant Sale as we are one of the few chapters who grows nearly all of our plants from seeds/cuttings. Again, I would like to thank all of you for the countless hours involved in making it happen.

Now is the time when we can increase our personal knowledge and enthusiasm with other MGs throughout Oregon. Mini College is August 4, 5, and 6 at Linfield College in McMinnville. LCMGA has set up its own fund to financially assist local members who would like to attend. Called "Send a Friend" applications are required and funds are available on first-come, first-served basis. Contact me if interested.

Also I would like to include my appreciation to all of you who actively participate in our chapter activities such as plant clinics/help desk, farmers market, scholarships, demonstration/community gardens, round tables, and so many other events. We have achieved much so far this year; and yet there is more to do. Please make time to smell the roses and enjoy the fruits of your labors. Always remember our legacy needs to be nurtured and enhanced.

Happy Gardening!

Donna Davis
LCMGA President 2016

July Activities Calendar

Activities

July 9-and 10 — 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Midsummer Madness

Cascade Nursery Trail

Nurseries will be serving their favorite desserts with summer offerings for your garden in flower and foliage. See website for individual nursery locations (www.cascadenurserytrail.com).

July 15, 16, and 17 — 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Art Fair Plant Sale

Salem Bush Pasture Park

Near Bush House

Sponsored by Friends of Bush Gardens

No admission, Visa and MC accepted, easy pick-up by car. See website for more information (friendsofbushgardens.org).

July 18 — 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

PIZZA PARTY and Board Meeting

South Beach Community Center

Details to follow!

Don't forget!

August 4, 5, and 6

Mini College

Heroes for Horticulture

Linfield College

McMinnville

See website for further information (omga.org/mini-college-2016).



Pollinator Plant Profile with Anne Schatz

Chamerion angustifolium Fireweed

Fireweed is a native wildflower from the evening primrose family, occurring throughout the United States, except in the Southeast and Texas, and in many parts of Europe and Asia. It is particularly abundant in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

This herbaceous perennial sends up a stalk, topped by a spike of pink flowers, from late June until September. This stately plant is normally 4- to 6-feet tall, but can attain 9-feet of height in ideal conditions. The plentiful flowers, up to 50 per spike, open from the bottom up allowing for a long and glorious bloom period.

Each plant can produce up to 80,000 seeds, each will a tuft of silky fibers that the wind carries far and wide. The fibers react to humidity by losing loft to deposit the seeds in a good place for germination.

Fireweed prefers a moderately moist, well-drained, sunny location although it will tolerate some shade. As a native, it's not too picky about soil type or fertility and has few pest issues. Deer and elk will graze them, which is a good thing because it slows their exuberant growth and creates secondary branches of flowers.

Fireweed name is derived because it readily colonizes disturbed sunny areas – such as after a forest fire. Its seeds remain viable for many years in the soil seed bank waiting for conditions to give them the space and light they need. When this happens, they germinate and form large colonies through rhizomes until landscape succession brings shrubs and trees that eventually shade them out.

I saw this myself when I removed some trees to create a sunny space for a beehive. The whole area became a sea of fireweed, to the delight of the bees. A meadow filled with fireweed is a beautiful sight – a backyard takes a bit more tolerance to enjoy.

It's a great landscaping plant, if you don't mind keeping it under control (a machete is helpful), and I plan to always leave space for some.

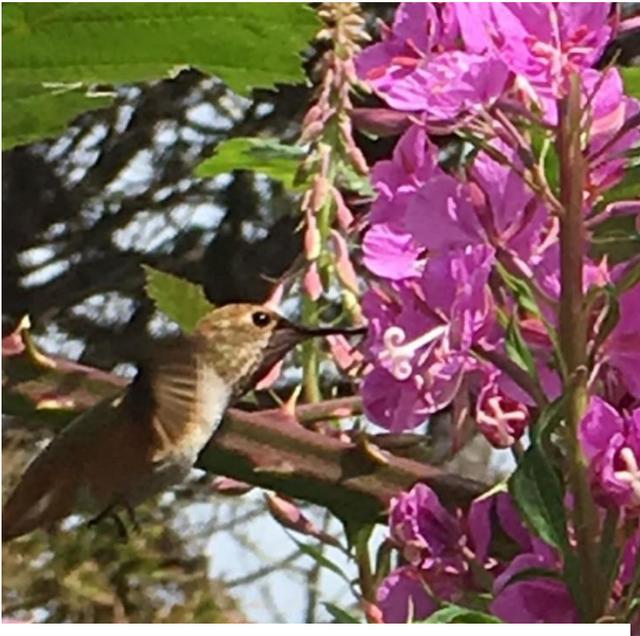
There are dwarf varieties (*Chamerion latifolium* is one and grows 1-2 feet tall) if you prefer something a bit less statuesque.

Not all humans share my enthusiasm for this plant, but pollinators and hummingbirds do! They love the big patches, long bloom, abundant nectar, and unusual blue-grey pollen. Honey bees make a prized water-white honey from fireweed. You can



Notice the filled pollen basket on the right rear leg of one of my girls.

tell which bees have been in the fireweed by the pollen color in their carrying apparatus (on the back legs for bumble bees and honey bees). Any patch of fireweed blooms will be filled with riotous activity on a sunny day.



When hunting a bee picture, a hummingbird just had to get in the action. So much life in the fireweed patch (ignore the blackberry cane).

Besides the lure of pollinators and hummingbirds, fireweed has many rewards for the tolerant gardener. The young, spring shoots make a nice vegetable, either raw or lightly cooked. The older leaves make a tasty and healthful tea; and the blossoms make a great jelly. There are many recipes available online. Before harvesting for edible use, particularly the spring shoots that look similar to some toxic lily varieties, be sure to get an accurate identification.

Fireweed makes this easy by having a unique vein pattern in the leaves. Leaf veins are circular and don't terminate at the leaf edges, but form circular loops and join together inside the outer leaf margins. There are medicinal benefits to this plant, as well, but I'll leave you to research those on your own.



If you have a sunny, unused area in your yard (unused acreage would be even better), consider fireweed. You can control its spread by mowing, if you catch it before it gets too tall, and you'll have a carefree area of pollinator support. In the winter, the hollow stalks left behind are perfect for solitary bees so be sure and leave them some. Each year, you'll be providing nectar, pollen and nest sites for pollinators while having beautiful flowers, frolicking pollinators, playful hummingbirds, and edibles to enjoy yourself. Just keep your machete handy.

Anne Schatz

Anne has been a Master Gardener since 2008, is enrolled at the Journey Level in the Master Beekeeper Program, and is an avid pollinator enthusiast.

Coordinator's Corner with Liz Olsen

Master Gardener Program Quick Stats

OSU Extension Master Gardeners™ Make a Difference!

Statistics for the 2015 reporting year (November 2014 - October 2015).



In Oregon, there were **3,323** Active Master Gardener Volunteers.



These volunteers donated a total of **215,599 hours**, in support of OSU Extension Master Gardener Program.



Master Gardeners had **170,696 public contacts**, via Plant Clinics, public gardening classes, demonstration days, and other activities.



The monetary value of this service is nearly **\$5.0 million dollars**, and translates into an additional **104 FTE** to OSU and OSU Extension. (FTE stands for full time equivalent, and is used as a measure of full-time employees.)



Master Gardeners donated an estimated **48,491 pounds** of fresh produce, harvested from Master Gardener-managed community and demonstration gardens, to local food banks and food pantries.

Our LCMGA Board of Directors with Cathi Block

Any non-profit 501-C3 organization must have a board of officers with at the very least a president and a secretary. Our LCMGA has a full board including a past president, vice president, treasurer, historian, and a state representative.

I have attended board meetings since being a student in 2009. Sometimes these meetings are intense; sometimes they are very fun; but mostly they are informative. I began going because I was interested in everything the Master Gardeners were doing and the meetings are the best place to keep up on what's happening. Decisions are made about how monies are allocated for the gardens, projects, membership, scholarships, and fun activities. The group discusses options and ideas and everyone can be heard whether you're on the board or not. It's really amazing how much our little organization does in Lincoln County especially when you realize we are just volunteers.

Being on the board is an honor and allows you to vote on the motions presented. It's a great way to be involved and continue to be active within the organization.

As the state representative, you attend 4 meetings within the year in various locations and then bring back information to the board on what is happening at the state level. There is some travel involved, but you are reimbursed for your expenses.

The historian attends many of the activities and workshops that are offered throughout the year, takes pictures, and later puts together a historic album to share with the membership. This can be really fun if you enjoy scrapbooking!

The treasurer is LCMGA's bookkeeper so this person would likely have a solid background working with numbers. A financial report is presented at each board meeting to keep everyone informed.

As vice president, you get to arrange all the fun stuff! Field trips, barbeques, garden tours, craft or art workshops, general meetings, apple squeezes, and potlucks. You have a budget to work with and it's up to you what you'd like to offer the membership.

All of what happens at board or general meetings is recorded by the secretary. Most often they are busy taking notes but sometimes a tape recorder has been used. The secretary creates the minutes for every meeting so there's always documentation of the proceedings.

The members of the board change often. Any position can be shared or have two people working together. It's wonderful to work with such dedicated, selfless people who are passionate about what they do for LCMGA.

Demonstration Gardens Highlighted

-michael-christy

Newport Demonstration Garden

This is the fourth article of our five-part series highlighting the Lincoln County Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens.

This garden is located at the Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC) in South Beach. The garden is one of three Lincoln County Master Gardener demonstration gardens constructed in 2010.

The garden consists of a greenhouse powered solar roof panels, a water collection system, a rock garden, raised beds for vegetables, herb beds, one cloche for growing tomatoes, potato mentored by our growing bags, wine barrels filled with flowers, a raised



accessible bed for growing herbs, and trellis beds for peas and beans.

Also included is a large dedicated 3-bin educational compost area.



Here are a few of our Master Gardener Apprentices, from the class of 2016, working the garden; mentored by our tenured Master Gardeners.



OCCC
400 SE College Way
South Beach, OR
Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

July LCMGA Board Meeting Agenda
July 18, 2016
South Beach Community Center

Call to Order (10:00)	Donna D.
Approval of Minutes	Karen J.
Treasurer Report	Emily B.
June end-of-month report	
Plant Sale Update	Cathi B.
Scholarship Report	Dawn H.
OMGA Update	Heather F.
Demonstration Garden Reports	(Written Reports)
Yachats	
Yaquina Bay Lighthouse	
OCCC South Beach	
OCCC Lincoln City	
Oceanview Adaptive Garden	
MG Program Coordinator Report	Liz O.
Seeds to Supper Program	
MG Week	
2017 SFE	
Fair Update	Cathi B. and Dawn H.
New Business	
Adjournment (11:00)	

LCMGA Officers — 2016

President	Donna Davis	lcmgdonna@gmail.com
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Co-Treasurer	Vacant	
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OMGA Representative	Heather Fortner	heatherfortner@hotmail.com
MG Program Coordinator	Liz Olsen	Liz.Olsen@oregonstate.edu



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