

Coastal



Currants

Newsletter of the Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Association

October 2016

President's Notes

October—a time when we look back at the past months to see how things have progressed and start planning for next year. A time to celebrate our successes and review setbacks.

I am looking forward to reports from the students' projects this year and celebrating with them when they receive their OSU "Certified Master Gardener" badges.

We will soon have a Website!

Ann Geyer has been working with a software company (WIX.com) to develop a prototype of our new website, which she presented at the last month's Board meeting. Everyone was excited about the possibilities available. The professional look and user-friendly menus were well received.

Funds (\$400) are available and we hope to have Board approval of any contractual agreement at the October Board meeting.

Ann and Nancy Kloak are setting up training classes for MG members who are interested in maintaining content on the sections within the site. In addition, two to three people will be cross trained on the administration of the site.

Judie Rickus has agreed to accept the duties of Budget Committee Chairperson. Who would like to assist in decisions using current/future funds to advance the LCMGA Mission in 2017?

This is also the time to look at next year's officers. The 2017 slate of names will be presented; and the final vote will be at the last General Meeting which will be held in November.

Donna Davis
LCMGA President 2016

**"It is the greatest of all mistakes, to do nothing because you can only do little."
- Sydney Smith**

Donna's Alley Garden

Located in the parking lot behind the Antique Mall/ Big 5 building on Highway 101. It started as a challenge from the Lincoln County facilities manager to clean up an eyesore area between the County shop building and parking lot/alleyway behind the Mall. This picture was taken July 9, 2016, two years after I started. No funding, donated materials, and plant leftovers.



October Activities Calendar

Activities

October 15 — 10:00 - 2:00 (no early birds, please)

APPLE SQUEEZE!!

Loyd and Verna Collett's Home
105 SE Easter Valley Road, Tidewater

This wonderful tradition continues. So, bring a brown bag lunch and a jug for fresh-squeezed apple juice. We will squeeze apples until noon, eat our brown bag lunches, and have a short General Meeting. At the General Meeting, the nominees for the 2017 Board of Directors will be presented.

Apple etiquette: Please take only one jug of juice until everyone has had the opportunity to get some. Loyd and Verna say it is okay with them if the last person empties the barrel. Unless someone has to leave early, it is best to have all the juice remain in the barrel until squeezing is completed. That way everyone receives the same blend of juices.

There will be an opportunity to purchase several varieties of fall apples for fifty cents per pound.

It isn't fall until you have attended the Apple Squeeze!

Elsewhere Close By

September 19 – October 2

34th Annual Western Regional Rhododendron Conference

Best Western Agate Beach Inn, Newport

Presented by The American Rhododendron. For more details, check out American Rhododendron Society: Willamette Chapter, activities link.

October 15 — 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Petal Heads Nursery at Connie Hansen Gardens

1931 NW 33rd Street, Lincoln City.

PERENNIALS, Dave and Annalise Doolittle will present their picks of the choicest plants available for fall planting. Along with tips on growing them and the story behind the plants. A truck load of these plants will be available for sale.

Save the Date

International Master Gardener Conference

July 10-14, 2017

Portland, Oregon

Pollinator Plant Profile with Anne Schatz

Hedera helix

English Ivy

(Boo!... Hiss!...)

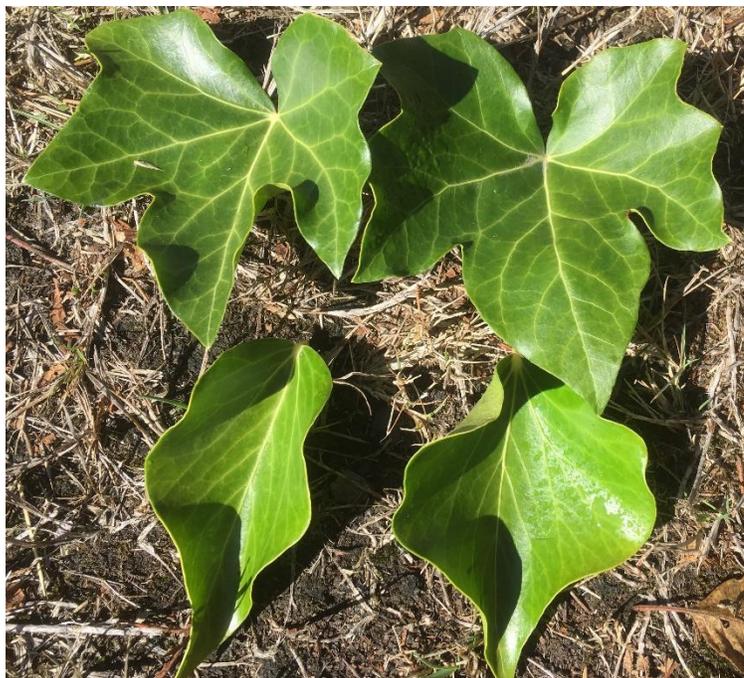
Yes, I know.

English ivy is one of the biggest villains of all the coastal invasive plant species. As Master Gardeners, we all know how it contributes to tree wind damage and death; and we hear the laments of habitat destruction by those concerned with native ecosystems. So we curse this plant.

But I'm suggesting that, for six weeks each year (late-September into November), we instead embrace what we seem to be stuck with. Because when ivy blooms, the pollinators rejoice!

Ivy blooms? If you haven't seen this, fret not. To spot ivy in bloom, you have to know what to look for and then seek it out. And only English ivy that has reached a maturity of about ten years will bloom. So, seek out plants that have been in place for some time.

The key is to look for clustered leaves that have lost their lobes and have become sort of wavy. Then in September, start looking for the blossoms riding above the wavy leaves.



Ivy leaves showing the immature, lobed leaves on top and the mature, wavy leaves below.



Example of ivy growing showing the mature leaves and blossoms on the left and the immature leaves on the right. Initially, the difference is subtle but as you practice it becomes obvious.



Ivy blossom just starting to open, with buds and wavy leaves in background.

Find a nice, sunny patch of ivy blossoms. When the blooms open and the pollinators find them, ah, that's when the fun begins! This is the best time to see every pollinator out there, happily frolicking in one place.

Most solitary bee species spend a few short weeks in their adult form, so as spring progresses through summer into fall, the observant eye will see a parade of species. Each species has preferences, but the lack of other forage and the quality of the ivy as a nectar source mean that everyone shows up to this party. Set up a chair, grab your binoculars, and settle in for the show. And if you're a beekeeper, you and your honeybees will be just as happy with this late season nectar flow.

One of the best places to get a good view is where ivy is used as a ground cover, particularly in a sunny spot. And if you have one of these yourself, you can ease your conscience by trimming off the immature berries before the birds can get to them and spread the seed.

Because English ivy is so well adapted to our area, seed can sprout wherever it finds itself. Once that seed sprouts, the plant has few predators (although I hear goats find this a nice nosh) and can out-compete most other plants.

Alternately, it is shallowly rooted and has strong stems so pulls out without too much difficulty. The key is persistence. Once it's gone up a tree or structure, it must be cut away all the way around the base of the tree creating a bare band at least a foot wide to kill it and then must be monitored otherwise it will grow back.

So, yes, it is a problem. But right now, let's enjoy the silver lining.

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.

That Was the Lawn that Was with Julie Cook

I wasn't happy with my lawn. It was flat, which was good. In fact, other than the floor of the house, the front lawn was about the only flat space we had. The way it extended out from a cement patio to a circle of heather at the far end looked like a layout from *Sunset Magazine* in the '50s. A *Sunset* garden gone to seed, with the only green patches being the weeds.

I, on the other hand, was a frustrated vegetable grower, an embracer of the slow food movement, who wanted her garden to be her pantry. That was not happening here. I had a couple of minuscule planter boxes, one that grew beets the size of dimes and one a mass of peas and string beans.



I added a cloche for tomatoes and a couple more boxes for broccoli and cabbage, but I longed for a vegetable garden. By the end of last summer, I knew what I had to do.

The lawn had to go. My husband agreed, so long as we left enough of it for the dog. So we got out the hula hoes and got to work removing the grass. Our enthusiasm didn't last long. It turned out that the people back in the '50s who put in the lawn had gone for sod. We had about six inches of compacted roots completely imbedded in a plastic mesh; too much for us. In order to get the sod pliable enough to roll up, we had to put in so much water that it became too heavy to lift. We knew our limits.

We called Oswald, and got on his list. By the time our number came up, it was the week before Thanksgiving, and the rains had come. Oswald and the guys removed the old sod, leaving us enough mud for mud wrestling. The dog went out frequently, and brought lots back into the house with her.

Last winter seemed very long. It was March before we could do anything but plan; April before we could work the soil. Luckily the soil here is very sandy and drains well. But that would be a problem once I planted, as water went through it like it was a sieve. I needed organic material, and I needed it now, but anything that wasn't packaged was too wet to put down.





I ended up using bags of Harvest Supreme™ from Grandpa's Feed. By the time I was working on the last beds, I was begging my husband to make the trips to Grandpa's for me because I had bought such an embarrassing amount.

I laid my garden out with little beds. It may not be the most efficient way to do it, but I wanted flowers mixed in with my vegetables, and this plan fit my vision. While I started dozens of seeds, my husband Dave put in a Dripworks™ watering system.

We finished up at about the same time, and I was able to plant my seedlings, and you can see the results. We're getting a little tired of vegetables!

Coordinator's Corner with Liz Olsen

Spread the Word!

2017 Master Gardener Program

Registration will begin in October.

Classes held Tuesdays beginning January 10 through March 28, 2017.

Cost is \$220 with volunteer service (2 commercial spots available; cost \$450; no service commitment)

A couple of partial scholarships are sponsored by LCMGA.

Contact Extension Office for more details [541-574-6534](tel:541-574-6534) x57410

MG Advanced Training Session

Twenty-four Master Gardeners, plus three visitors, availed themselves of a Master Gardener Advanced Training session on August from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Neil Bell, OSU Polk and Marion County Horticulture Agent/faculty, led us through Plant Problem Diagnostics. Neil is a renowned OSU specialist in this field.

He provided instruction on online resources, for example PNW's and how to utilize them. Then on to interactive plant problem scenarios to research and provide the diagnostic.

LCMGA supported the Lincoln County Extension training by providing the funding for this event.



Seed to Supper Program

First pilot launch of the Seed to Supper program in Lincoln County in partnership with Oceana Family Literacy center, Ridge Apartments, OSU Extension, and LCMGA. Donna and me, along with Juan Perez and Vickie Ahrens (Oceana Family Literacy), were the trainers for this launch.

We have found the way to effectively communicate through gardening and our success is showing. We hope to partner with other organizations in our county next season.

For more information on the program contact Liz Olsen or Donna Davis.

Highlights:



Seed to Supper tomato planting instruction by Claudette Schroeder.





Seed to Supper soil making and tomato planting session. Pictured: Donna, Juan, Eulalia, Vickie, Carmela and Catalina and of course. Claudette Schroeder was the S2S Instructor that day.



Seed to Supper Instruction by MG Anna Russo
in container gardening
with herbs session



Final Harvest Supper was held on August 30.
Presentation and healthy feast provided by our
OSU Nutrition team of Jennifer Pettit and
Beatrice Botello.

Volunteer Hours Reporting

Come on, Master Gardeners, please let's make a good showing to OSU, our statewide MG Program, to our local, county and statewide representatives, and our audiences at large.

Please take the time to report all your volunteer service hours, continuing education, client contacts and pounds of produce donated

Our reporting period is November 1, 2015 through October 31, 2016. Please make sure you are reporting in the correct year.

Categories have been greatly streamlined from prior years so be sure to select the best fit. Estimate if need by the number of contacts, hours, and pounds donated.

Please take a moment-here is the online link: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/vrs>

I know our MGs are a very supportive group and volunteer a lot of their time in our communities. I am proud of the Lincoln County Master Gardeners and all that they have accomplished.

How We Spent Our Summer!

Community Gardens



Beautiful butterfly in the Yaquina Bay Community Garden. A bit of beauty on the coast and encouraging that our pollinator garden is so attractive to all.



Oregon Coast Community College Community Garden – South Beach



Oceanview Adaptive Community Garden



Yachats Demonstration Community Garden.
Loyd Collett conducting grafting demonstration.



Lincoln City Demonstration Garden



Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Demonstration Garden



Master Garden Week
Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Community Garden
Drum Circle Event

Lincoln County Fair



Veggie Display



The long-awaited tomato tasting



Benny Beaver getting creative with Wonder board



Wide shot – Fair Activities



MG Static Display-Gardening Tips and Pollinators



Young and old getting creative with Wonder boards.





Adaptive Gardening Display

October LCMGA Board Meeting Agenda

October 10, 2016

Newport Public Library — Lower Level Meeting Room

Call to Order (10:00 a.m.)	Donna D.
Doors open at 9:30 a.m.	
Announcements	
Judie Rickus Budget Committee	
Chairperson confirmed	
Audit Chairperson (?)	
Approval of Minutes	Karen J.
Treasurers Financial Reports	Emily B.
Demonstration Garden Reports	(Written Reports)
Yachats	
Yaquina Bay Lighthouse	
OCCC South Beach	
OCCC Lincoln City	
Oceanview Adaptive Garden	
Bylaws Committee Report	Pat S.
Slate of Officers for 2017	Cathi B.
MG Program Coordinator Report	Liz O.
Volunteer hours reporting	
Graduation/Potluck	
MG Class of 2017 update, Class	
Schedule, Demo Gardens, and	
Farmers Market Coordinators	
Graduation/Potluck/Student Presentation	
MG Class of 2017 Update	
New Business	
Adjournment (10:00)	

LCMGA Officers — 2016

President	Donna Davis	lcmgdonna@gmail.com
Past-President	Pat Shaw (Lincoln City)	shaw.pat25@gmail.com
Vice President	Dawn Henton	dawn.henton@gmail.com
Secretary	Karen Jones	karenjon@gmail.com
Co-Treasurer	Emily Blume	sparkse12@hotmail.com
Co-Treasurer	Vacant	
Historian	Mary Ellen Townsend	maryellentownsend@gmail.com
OMGA Representative	Heather Fortner	heatherfortner@hotmail.com
MG Program Coordinator	Liz Olsen	Liz.Olsen@oregonstate.edu



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