

Coastal



Currants

Newsletter of the Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Association

March 2016

President's Notes

Our goals for 2016 are becoming a reality faster than expected. The demonstration garden brochure is in draft phase with the first edition coming out soon for review. Monthly items from each garden will be included in the *Coastal Currants Newsletter*. The information gathered from the brochure research will be used to meet a dream of Cathi Block: to have the demonstration gardens be part of the *Oregon Coast Quest Handbook* so that visitors to the area can enjoy the gardens in our county. All of this will further support our mission.

The annual LCMGA member directory is getting a face lift with the addition of a color picture and statement of garden specialty. So smile when Heather or Mary-Ellen ask to take your picture. Also think about the knowledge you have to share with others. All members who have paid 2016 dues by the end of March will be included in the directory. Students' dues are paid as part of their tuition. Funding is in place to have a professional printer handle the final publication.

A Power Point class at Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC) was well attended with nine MGs in attendance, along with a couple of regular students from OCCC. Some of us were a little slow, while others got the hang of it right away. All were happy that they participated and look forward to continued improvement.

Are there suggestions for additional classes??

Bulbs are popping out everywhere, and my bulbs are in bloom. The days are longer. Spring is so close you can taste it in the afternoon breeze. Get out and grab a mouthful. Get your hands dirty!

Donna Davis
LCMGA President 2016

Coastal Currants Articles

Now that *Coastal Currants* is off and running again, let's make our newsletter helpful, fun, and interesting. The contents are a result of all Master Gardeners. Please share your comments, suggestions, and items of interest with Nancy Kloak, Editor, at nkloak@gmail.com.

- Suggestions for regular features
- Articles about your specialty with a photo
- A review of an interesting book
- An article on a personal gardening experience
- A specific topic or theme you wish to explore
- Photographs of Master Gardeners in action

Swap and Share

There is a "Swap and Share" board in the Master Gardener Office. Anyone is welcome to post items they have to share or things they are looking for. Instructions are on the board.

March Activities Calendar

Activities

March 16 — 10:00 - 12:00 Noon
First General Meeting of the Lincoln County
Master Gardener Association of 2016 and
Second Annual Seed Exchange with Cookies!!!

South Beach Community Center
 3024 Ferry Slip Road
 South Beach

We will have a short business meeting to vote on the budget for this year before exchanging seeds and eating cookies. Copies of the budget are available in the MG Office and will be available for viewing at the meeting. Don't miss this opportunity to try different seeds and feed your sweet tooth. Please RSVP to Dawn Henton, Vice-President, at dawn.henton@gmail.com, to make sure we have plenty of cookies. Hope to see you there!

March 29 — 10:00 to 12:00 Noon
Sedum Workshop

South Beach Community Center
 3024 Ferry Slip Road
 South Beach

This unique workshop will be led by our talented Master Gardeners Jill Johnson and Betty Orr. Plan on making two sedum pots: one for you and one for the MG Plant Sale. All pots, soil, plants, and accessories will be provided. You may bring your own plants, but sedums only. Members and students only for this workshop! Space is limited to 12. You must RSVP to Dawn Henton, dawn.henton@gmail.com, to save your space.

Round Tables

March 10 — 10:00 a.m. to Noon
Coastal Perennials

Newport Public Library
 35 NW Nye Street
 (Corner of NW Nye and W Olive; meeting room,
 lower level)

Master Gardeners Betty Bahn and Heather Fortner will lead the discussion. We encourage folks to bring in samples of things that are in bloom. Heather is putting together a slide show presentation; Betty will have several handouts.

All members, students, and public are invited. This program is free to all, but please call the OSU Extension office (541-574-6534) to reserve a place and ensure adequate materials.

March 24 — 10:00 a.m. to Noon
Using and Understanding Fertilizers and
Growing Potatoes and Alliums on the Coast

Newport Public Library
 35 NW Nye Street
 (Corner of NW Nye and W Olive; meeting room,
 lower level)

This is a two-part round table. On the panel will be Master Gardeners Sally Reill and Claudette Schroeder (our vegetable gurus!). Cathi Block will have several types of seed potatoes available for sale at cost.

Elsewhere Close By

March 11 — 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and
March 12 — 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Marion SWCD Native Plant Sale

Bauman Farms
 12989 Howell Prairie Road
 Gervais

No pre-orders are available for this sale. Payment by credit card, debit card, check, or cash.

March 12 — 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Spring into Gardening Seminar
Yamhill County Master Gardeners

Home Landscaping...Small Changes...BIG IMPACT,
 McMinnville Community Center
 600 NE Evans Street
 McMinnville

Eight speakers on various themed topics. \$15 registration with lunch included.
 \$25 walk in-fee.

ycmg.org/events/2016springintogardening

March 12 — 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
BEEvent Pollinator Conference

Holiday Inn Express
 Albany

Four sessions from local experts and a vendor fair. Cost is \$25.00. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn/beevent>

March 18 and 19 — 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Deepwood Native & Companion Plants Sale

1116 Mission Street SE
 Salem

Annual event in the greenhouse with Deepwood Gardeners hosting nature walks on the trails to see plants in their natural environment.

Pollinator Plant Profile with Anne Schatz

Berberis darwinii **Darwin's Barberry**



Ah, March. Spring is in the air!

And soon that air will be buzzing with pollinators. This month we look at another evergreen shrub: *Berberis darwinii* or Darwin's Barberry.

There are about 450 species of barberry in the genus *Berberis*, many of them strikingly beautiful, but this time of year *darwinii* stands out.

It doesn't have the fancy colored foliage of many barberries, but makes up for it by its tall stature, small dark-green leaves that stand up to coastal winds, and dense form that slows the wind down, allowing pollinators to get to the best part: the wall of yellow to orange flowers this plant produces just as last month's plant, *Viburnum tinus*, is winding down.

Berberis darwinii is an upright shrub to 10 feet tall and wide, but is easily controlled with pruning after flowering (mind the spines!). It comes from Argentina and Chile, where it was discovered by Charles Darwin during his epic voyage upon the *HMS Beagle*. It has since received the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.

Darwin's Barberry is best planted in full sun for optimum pollinator support and for the ¼-inch blue-black fruit that supports wildlife in summer.

Although it will tolerate some shade (which is a boon in the Fog Belt), full sun will help keep the form dense and more compact. It is hardy in

Zones 7-9, tolerates sandy and clay soils, (in fact, it seems to grow in any well-drained soil), grows at a medium to fast rate of up to one foot a year, is drought tolerant once established, is bothered little by pests (and is vigorous enough to shrug off any pests who do want a nibble), and is deer resistant. The salt wind seems to have little effect and it provides a dense visual



screen. All of these traits make it particularly well suited for our coastal environment.

If placement is well planned, its spiny branches can help keep unwanted animals and people from wandering where you don't want them. The spines and height also deter cats, making it a safer plant than many for hummingbirds that love the blooms.

The bloom time can be quite variable. Most frequently it blooms in March, but I've seen it bloom as early as January in particularly mild years.

Propagate by seed or by semi-hardwood cuttings. There are some named varieties that have slight variances in bloom color and a compact form that grows to three feet. I've read that the berries can

cause mild stomach upset and that they also make a nice jam or preserves – so please do your own research if you plan to use the fruit. Birds will love the fruit you leave for them!

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.

MG Class Schedule — March

March 1, Tuesday

9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Coordinator Presentations: Demo Gardens Office Help Desk Plant Sale Farmers Market Clinics	Coordinators
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:00-4:00 p.m.	Seed Starting and Propagation	Susan Coast

March 8, Tuesday

9:00 a.m.- Noon	Plant Pathology	Cynthia Ocamb
1:00-4:00p.m.	Plant Problem Diagnostics	Cynthia Ocamb
4:15 p.m.	Wrap-up	

March 15, Tuesday

9:00 a.m.- Noon	Final Exam	Liz Olsen
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Potluck	LCMGA Board and MGs
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Graduation	
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Demo Gardens Office Help Desk Plant Sale Farmers Market Clinics	All Coordinators and Office Scheduler
4:15 p.m.	Wrap-up	

March 22, Tuesday

Students will sign up for either morning session or afternoon session

SESSION 1 9:00 a.m. – Noon	Office Orientation & Plant Clinic Help Desk at Extension Office Signups for Help Desk, Demo Gardens, Markets, and Plant Sale	Holly Brandwen, Bill Hutmacher, Liz Olsen, and Coordinators
SESSION 2 1:00-4:00 p.m.	Same	Same



Have Trowel will Travel

We all know that there will be a lot more space for the Plant Sale at the Fairgrounds this year and we are trying to expand the offerings in the Ornamental and Native sections. If you have a plethora of suitable plants, but can't (or don't want) to pot them up for the Plant Sale, just call or email Heather Fortner or Dawn Henton. We will be glad to pick up what you have dug up or pulled out, and pot them up. (We'll even dig things up if you want!)

Contact Heather at 541-270-9697 or at heatherfortner@hotmail.com; or Dawn at 541-270-3037 or at dawn.henton@gmail.com. We want to start now to get great-looking plants by May 21.

Coordinator's Corner with Liz Olsen

Sharon Fuller is truly a “Behind the Scenes” volunteer; always there playing an important role year-in and year-out but seldom seen and never in the spotlight. She has attended every class for years, attends membership meetings, and participates in the plant sale and other events to ensure things run smoothly.

Sharon was an integral part of the hospitality team, always arriving early to do the room set-up, and managing and obtaining the supplies needed. She always made sure everything was available for the hospitality and comfort of the participants. Then, when the class or meeting was over, she stayed to put things back in order.



For four years, Sharon organized and set up the booth at the Newport Farmers Market. In all kinds of weather, and sometimes staffing the booth alone, Sharon was ever dependable with this important function.

The “schlepping” stuff back and forth to get the booth set up and functioning can be difficult, but Sharon never complained. (2015 LCMGA Nominating Committee)

Sharon has always been my right and left hand, handling our MG Class Hospitality team, making sure all the details are covered without ever being asked. She approaches what she does with a smile, and a level of organization that makes things run smoothly. She shies from the limelight but quietly leads, as seen by her commitment in manning the Farmers Market Help Desk on weekends for the past five years and being present at every MG class for 12 weeks for years now. You will typically find Sharon taking charge behind the scenes and getting others to also pitch in. If no one is available that does not stop her; she will accomplish the task herself. She does not drop the ball. She sees a need and just takes care of it. (Liz Olsen)

We are so thrilled to see your smiling face again. May health shine over you.

Many thanks from Liz Olsen, OSU Lincoln County Master Gardener Program Coordinator, and the Lincoln County Master Gardener Association

Annual Scholarship

Many promising students find it difficult to continue their education because of rising college costs and a student-loan debt that is now greater than our national credit card liability. With that in mind, the Lincoln County Master Gardeners have raised enough money through plant sales, donations and other projects to award a \$1,000 annual scholarship to a qualified Lincoln County resident. An important goal of the Lincoln County Master Gardeners Association is to help educate and support the gardening public. Providing an annual scholarship for a deserving student is one way to further the group's educational objectives. This newly created scholarship will be awarded in May for the 2016-17 school year.

From Web and Becky Stiles

March LCMGA Board Meeting Agenda
 March 16, 2016
 South Beach Community Center

Call to Order (9:00)	Donna D.
Approval of Minutes	Karen J.
Treasurer Report	Emily B.
Corrected budget vs. actual	
February end of month	
CD Renewal	
Audit Report	Judie R.
New Business	
Additional Goals	
Adjournment (10:00)	

At a recent MG class, Sharon Busby brought in some amazingly good cheese cracker snacks. Try them; they're yummy!

- 1 stick (1/2-cup) butter
- 1/2 pound grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 1-1/2 cups flour

Mix all ingredients well. Roll out or smush flat; cut into cracker shapes. Bake on cookie sheet at 375 degrees or 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown.

LCMGA Officers — 2016

President	Donna Davis	lcmgdonna@gmail.com
Past-President	Pat Shaw (Lincoln City)	shaw.pat25@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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