



Garden Clippings-April 2012

McMinnville Garden Club, PO Box 386, McMinnville 503-434-4344

Monday, April 16, 2012 – MEETING

Hillside Retirement Community

“Activity Room” at the Manor

900 N. Hill Road McMinnville, OR 97128

9:30-10 am Social Time

10-10:45 Business Meeting

12:00-12:15 Closing and Raffle!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PARK IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT

**11:00 – 12:00 Lucy Hardiman,
“Beyond Plants”**

President’s Message

The days are getting longer, the daffodils are in their full glory, and the fragrances fill our gardens and our vases. Spring has arrived and not a moment too soon. I admit that I had grown impatient with its delay. Fortunately, recent garden club events have really helped us all to get through the waning days of winter. Doris Crain and her husband, Michael, have hosted two amazing craft events at their house with a special luncheon each time. Participants carried home beautiful bird feeders and bird baths to beautify their gardens. Two more events are lined up for April (see below)...Don’t miss out on the FUN, fellowship, and fantastic food!

We’re thrilled to have several new members this season. These wonderful folks bring new energy and many new talents to our organization. We are very fortunate that they chose our club to participate in, and we so appreciate their friendship and assistance.

I look forward to seeing you all at the April meeting when our speaker, Lucy Hardiman, will combine the two most requested topics from the membership: “Gone to Pots” and “Beyond Plants.” A longtime northwest horticultural treasure, Lucy Hardiman is a nationally recognized garden designer, writer, teacher, and speaker, as well as the owner of the award-winning Perennial Partners, a collaborative garden design group in Portland, Oregon. Visit her web site at http://lucyflora.com/about_lucy.html.

Thanks to all the volunteers and to Michael and Doris Crain who helped make our booth at the Daffodil Festival in Amity a success. The folks in the booth spread the word about our club in a grand way. If you were not able to assist, another opportunity will be April 27-29 at the McMinnville Home and Garden Show. If you can help, please contact Patty Sorensen.

SAVE THESE DATES:

April 2, Monday 8:55AM **Annual Downtown Cleanup!**

Meet at the parking lot across from Macy & Son's Funeral Home on 2nd and Evans. We’ll break into groups at 9AM. Anyone arriving later will find us on Third Street. Bring gloves, pruners, battery-operated blowers, utensils to dig into bark with like worn-out screwdrivers, water for you, and buckets for debris. Wear aprons. Golden Valley is providing lunch. Thanks, Peter! The community really appreciates our work. C U there?

April 5, Thursday 10AM **Plant & Seed Exchange at Merle Dean's home
Bring Salad or dessert if you wish to stay for lunch. We'll discuss good fertilization practices, seed planting and transplanting and propagation. Please bring **HEALTHY** plants or starts to share if you have them (not mandatory, just fun)! Houseplants and seeds are also welcome in the exchange. We would appreciate good 4" square pots you wish to recycle.**

April 16, Monday **Club Meeting: Speaker, Lucy Hardiman, "Beyond Plants"
MGC Tour Committee Leaders meet afterward**

April 19, Thursday **Pioneer District Luncheon, must pay Mike Stewart by April 10.**

April 23, Monday 10AM **Arts & Crafts: Stepping Stones at Jacci Reed's home
(9:30AM: carpool meets at Bethel Baptist church lot)**

April 26, Thursday **Field Trip: Wild Ginger Farm, Beaver Creek and Bosky Dell Nurseries (9:30AM: carpool meets at Bethel Baptist church lot)**

April 27-29 **McMinnville Home & Garden Show at Community Center
(Volunteers needed to man our booth!)**

April 28 Yamhill County Master Gardeners' [Annual Plant Sale](#) (fairgrounds)

"The Art of Gardening" Garden Tour Update

Thanks to all who signed up to help make this year's Garden Tour a huge success! If you missed out, volunteers are still needed, and you'll have another opportunity to sign up at the April 16th meeting. Remember that some tasks occur before the day of the Tour, so it is feasible to work in a garden and help out before **Tour/Faire Day, Sunday, June 24.**

Committee Leaders: We'll have our second group meeting April 16 after the regular club meeting. Please come prepared to report on your committee's progress so far, along with any questions/concerns. We'll try to finish in an hour, but bring a snack if needed.

- **Elsie Carpenter and Judy Wilkerson**, Garden Tour Coordinators

Horticulture: Greenhouse History 101

by Cindy Flake

The history of the greenhouse has been traced to three millennia ago in Jerusalem. Out-of-season plant cultivation was studied in Athens and Rome around 300 BC. Growers in China, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, Greece, and Rome grew plants outdoors in pots and wheelbarrows and carried them indoors at night for protection during cold seasons. These cellar-like storage units were known as wintering sheds.

The ancient Chinese were among the first to use passive solar, which consisted of a brick wall oriented east to west with a southern exposure, covered with an oil paper and bamboo sticks. The brick worked as a heat sink to radiate warmth at night. Rush mats were added to the paper windows for thermal insulation during cool evenings. In Pompei, Italy, a stove-heated greenhouse with built-in hot-air flues and masonry plant tiers was found by archaeologists in 1962. The front was made of talc (mica). Sheet-glass was later developed in the 3rd century.

There are practically no records of greenhouse existence in Europe from the end of the Roman Empire to early Renaissance era. Over the centuries, more people traveled long distances and carried seeds, plants and

knowledge to new areas. Orangeries, which had heat sources and only large south-facing windows, replaced the dark wintering sheds in the early 16th century for European trendsetters. Henceforth, the race was on to provide the best out-of-season produce to kings, queens, and other wealthy patrons. The first U.S. orangery was built in 1674, by Jacob Beekman in New Amsterdam, now known as New York.

Higher temperatures and more light were required to grow tropical fruit and greenhouses replaced orangeries during the 17th century. The first opaque-roofed greenhouses were constructed in Chicago and Boston between 1710 and 1720. Industrialization in the 19th century led to rapid greenhouse technology development.

For the affluent population, the focus shifted to appearances, as, Joseph Paxton exemplified by his construction of a massive conservatory-style greenhouse from 1836-41. In 1851, he built another elaborate structure, the Crystal Palace, in London, which included 83,610m² of glass.

Thermal insulation by double-glazing was described by Moll in 1829. In 1834, an overhead irrigation system was created by Loddiges and after 1833, larger thicker sheets of glass were available due to advances in the manufacturing process. Electric heat wasn't used in greenhouses during the 19th century, although Hare had invented it in 1831.

In the 20th century, automated (electric) climate controls, including vents, forced circulation heat, irrigation, and shade systems were added. Alternatives to glass and its fragility have been considered since 1917. Japan and the U.S. became the first to use plastic greenhouses by 1950. Plastic film has since been improved to include anti-condensate, UV stabilizer, and light transmission properties. What the next century will bring?!!

Wildlife Habitat: Which Bird is the Most Intelligent?

By June Benson

Picture this: a traffic light crossing on a university campus in Japan. The humans line up patiently, waiting for the traffic to halt; the birds are waiting in the trees. When the lights change, the birds hop in front of the cars and place walnuts, which they picked from the adjoining trees, on the road. After the lights turn green again, the birds fly away and vehicles drive over the nuts, cracking them open. Finally, when it is time to cross again, the crows join the pedestrians and pick up their meal.



Many consider the American Crow and the Common Raven to be the smartest of birds. However, they are also loud, big, and annoying. This baby bird looks sweet but I have to agree with Poe: ravens and crows look menacing, even a bit creepy! They will invade bird feeders and sometimes snatch the peanuts I put out on our deck before the Jays find them. Despite all of that, crows and ravens are fascinating birds because they are intelligent, bold, playful, and often are doing something worth watching.

The crow and raven are not the same bird species. Although they are in the same genus (*Corvus*), they are different birds. Think of leopards and tigers; they are in the same genus too but they are distinct animals. There are subtle differences in flight, in calls, and in appearance. The biggest difference is size. The raven is larger, about the size of a hawk; crows are smaller, about the size of a pigeon. However, unless they are standing together, how would you know which bird it is? Ravens are not as social as crows and you may see them alone or working in pairs, but you can't depend upon this behavior to identify them with certainty. Both are all black and year-round residents. Although they do often live side-by-side, ravens prefer wilder areas, so I would guess we have crows in the city limits of McMinnville.

Just how clever are they? Crows sometimes make and use tools. Examples include a captive crow using a cup to carry water over to a bowl of dry mash or shaping a piece of wood and using it to search for food.

Scientists believe that crows are inquisitive and highly social birds who work together, devise solutions to problems, and recognize unusual sources of food. Crows are crafty foragers who steal food from other animals as well as people. Crows have been known to steal fish from ice fishermen by using their beaks and feet to pull up the lines when the men were not looking. They can work together and drive off predators. Scientists in England have compared the intelligence of crows to that of apes and chimpanzees. There are several ongoing research studies in the United States examining the intelligence of crows. In the case of ravens, many believe they are also among the smartest of all birds. A recent Wyoming study led to the conclusion and ravens can put together cause and effect. During hunting season, the sound of gunshot draws ravens to investigate a presumed carcass, whereas they ignore sounds that are just as loud but harmless, such as an air horn or car door slamming. Ravens work together to solve problems. They have followed researchers as they set up artificial nests, raiding them soon after the researchers have left! Young ravens just out of the nest pick up and examine almost anything new they run across as they learn what's useful and what isn't.

Young ravens are fond of playing games with sticks in midair, repeatedly dropping them, and then diving to catch them. Ravens can mimic the calls of other bird species, and when raised in captivity, they learn to imitate human voices. One was taught to mimic the word "nevermore." A recently posed Internet video, shows a Russian crow "sledding." It repeatedly grabs a jar lid, flies to the top of the roof, stands on it, and slides down the roof. Whatever it's doing, it's doing on purpose, and the purpose seems to be having fun. Truly crows and ravens are remarkable birds and I admire their intelligence and resourcefulness. Now, if only they would respect me, and leave the peanuts I set out for the Jays alone!

Bird Walk! April 24 9:30 Wortman Park Park on street near Senior Center or at the park.

As a follow up to our March presentation on Bird Identification, members and friends are invited to join Carol Karlen, local birder extraordinaire, on a bird identification walk. Bring your bird ID books, binoculars (there will be extras to borrow) and dress for the weather. If it is rainy that day, please check our website or call Patty Sorensen to check on cancellation.



Thank-you Notes & Excuses

by Rosemary Vertregt

Re-entry from Kauai to Oregon isn't easy, you know, especially when one is greeted with a three-hour time difference and falling snow --- and, then there's my serious planning-ahead problem. OK, so that's the real reason there's no "Roving Reporter" article this month. However, there are two "first class volunteers" to be thanked for assuming my secretarial duties: Evelyn Mundinger, who took notes and wrote up the Minutes for the Executive Board meeting and the March meeting---and Beryl Anderson, who had volunteered earlier to take on these duties, but was not at the February meeting when I asked forgetfully: " Who was that nice person that offered to fill in for me?", and was greeted with silence --- and a sudden flush of embarrassment on my part. Waving arms and a far-away voice caught my attention, and it was Evelyn to the rescue! Thanks to you two willing volunteers!



April Arts & Crafts **MOSAIC STEPPING STONES**

\$5.00 per stone **Reservations required**

April 23 at Jacci Reed's place. We will carpool from the Bethel Baptist Church at 9:30.

← Design stage prior to application to stone
12" stepping stones and mortar supplied for \$5 fee.

Class rotation: Due to large numbers, we need to do this activity in two sessions. Please sign up at the April meeting for the time that best fits your schedule. (It takes approx. 2 hours to do one stepping stone.)

Session I - 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m Lunch for all 12 noon (Potluck)

Session II - 12 noon - 2:30 p.m.

You should bring: 1--Cardboard Tray, 2-Bubble Wrap – optional, 3-Duct tape - if you have , 4-empty plastic cottage cheese container - 16 oz. +, 5-plastic grocery bag, 6-waterproof gloves, 7-safety glasses, 8-hammer if you have AND 9-materials for mosaic: colorful plates, marbles, 3/8 inch tiles, sea glass, rocks, etc.

May Arts and Crafts

May 23, Wednesday after May 21 Club Meeting

Miniature Gardens at Jean Lierman’s house again! We had so much fun doing this last year that we are repeating. More info to follow. Incahoots/Kraemers have “fairy garden” miniature items which will fit in ours.



Green Basket Time!

With flowers popping out in our yards, it’s time to bring out the club’s green flower basket to fill. Please cut some flowers from your yard and bring them to the April 16 meeting with you. We will arrange all that arrive in the green flower basket then draw for a lucky winner to take the bouquet home!

Hellebores and Hydrangeas in Bouquets

Hellebores and Hydrangeas are notoriously difficult to condition when very fresh. Both will benefit from boiling water treatment as follows: Add about an inch of boiling water to a jug, then place the stem ends in the water for around 1 minute. This will force out the air from the stems and allow better uptake of water. Take them out of the hot water, then re-cut the stem ends and put them into water up to their necks or immerse them completely overnight before arranging. A more foolproof method for Hellebores is to wait until they have formed (or are beginning to form) seed pods. At this stage they will condition very well and last a long time. For Hydrangeas, it is better to wait until they are mature and turning slightly papery before picking as very young flowers often don't condition well.

Websites to Explore:

State Garden Club Website’s EVENTS page: <http://oregongardenclubs.org/Events.htm>

Garden Palooza: <http://www.gardenpalooza.com/>

The Dollar Stretcher: <http://www.stretcher.com/menu/topic-g.htm#gardenpest> (scroll down to Gardening)

Gardens to Visit in the NW <http://www.halcyon.com/tmend/gardens.htm>

Starting Seeds <http://www.gardeners.com/When-to-Start-Your-Seeds/5215,default.pg.html>



April is a promise that May is bound to keep. ~Hal Borland