



Garden Clippings

McMinnville Garden Club, PO Box 386, McMinnville, OR
November 2011 503-434-4344

Monday, November 21, 2011 – MEETING

Hillside Retirement Community “Activity Room” at the Manor
900 N. Hill Road McMinnville, OR 97128

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PARK IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - Social time

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Business Meeting and FUN

**11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. – Speaker, Penny Durant, Red Ridge Farms
Growing Olives - Lavender Care**

President's Message

Merle Dean Feldman, mdfeldman@frontier.com

What a wonderful long fall we have enjoyed. The trees and shrubs are so stunning, dressed in their autumn colors. With their magnificent display, it is difficult to get going in the morning. I just want to stare out the window. It is hard to believe the roses, cosmos, and campanulas are still in full bloom. Are you already dreaming of what your spring garden will be? I am filled with anticipation. I quickly forget the hard work.

If you were at the last meeting, you could have bought some of the Mitsch Farm daffodil bulbs that Evelyn Munding arranged for us to buy. If you did not, I will be sure and share, if mine turn out as good as I think they will. We are fortunate to have two famous daffodil hybridizers, the Havens, in our valley. We live in a great, prime horticultural spot.

The district luncheon was fun and we met many new friends. We'll have another in the spring, for those of you who missed it. Thanks to all who donated items for the Pink Panther sale. The buyers thought we had good stuff and we raised \$63.00 for our club. Carol Adelman taught us nearly everything we have ever wanted to know about peonies. MGC is honored to have both the Pioneer District President (Gaye Stewart) and Treasurer (Mike Stewart).



Gaye presented Sally Thompson (see photo) with the “Award of Honor” and her Book of Evidence for her numerous and impressive achievements through years of garden club work. Gaye said that she could not fit them all into the allotted space in the book. Many MGC members will remember Sally, as the president from 1991-93. She went on to form a garden club in Newberg and Sherwood. Congratulations Sally! We are proud of you!

Mark Your Calendars:

November 21, Monday: Speaker: Penny Durant, Red Ridge Farms, Dundee, Oregon.

Ken and Penny Durant are the owners of Red Ridge Farms and have spent the last 11 years establishing their wine, herb and olive businesses. Presently, the farm encompasses the nursery, the olive mill, an event facility, a gift shop and overnight accommodations, in addition to 60 acres of vineyards and 15 acres of olives. Penny will speak about the olive industry in our valley. She will highlight their retail olive tree business and discuss planting and growing ornamental and production olive trees. In addition, Penny will give a brief presentation about planting and caring for lavender.

NOVEMBER HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE: We will once again collect food items for the YCAP holiday food drive. The most needed items are canned fruit, canned meals (chili, stew), canned veggies, dry beans, packages meals, pasta, peanut butter, rice, soup, spaghetti sauce, tomato sauce and tuna. Also needed are condiments like flour, sugar, salt, ketchup, salad dressing. Please bring items to our November meeting. The board will deliver them to YCAP.



November 25, Friday: Rakettes join together for the annual Christmas Parade. If you missed the last monthly meeting, you missed a wonderful presentation by our Rakette leaders, Norma Parker and Jacci Reed. If you did not sign up, there is still time. Do not miss this fun. It is one of our club highlights of the year. We are so appreciated by the crowd. Gathering place will be announced at the November meeting. Please come with your Garden Club aprons on, rakes decorated, and dressed for the weather. If you do not wish to do the fancy stepping, then we need folks that can help pass out birdseed packets to the parade attendees. We also will be giving wrapped candy to children standing by. If you have left over Halloween candy to donate, please bring it to the general meeting Nov. 21. **After our November meeting, we will fill the bird seed bags for the parade.** Be sure and get your apron ready to wear. Mike Stewart has extra to sell if you do not have one already.

November 28, Monday: Winter Hanging Basket Making



November 29, Tuesday: Holiday Wreath Making

It's that wonderful time of year again. Our arts and crafts activities in November will again include making beautiful holiday hanging baskets and wreaths. You can join us for TWO creative days and make all of your holiday greens decorations for a fraction of the cost of buying them. Jacci Reed will be talking more about these events at the November meeting

with samples on hand for viewing. Both days, we will meet at the Bethel Baptist church at 9:30a, dressed for the weather, and will travel to Merle Dean's in Yamhill, to assemble our baskets and wreaths. You may bring any boughs you wish to use or share. There will be lots of greens in case you do not have any. We will be putting our masterpieces together in the greenhouse again. If it is too cold, then we can set up in Merle Dean's older ranch house. So, don't stay home if it is cold! We will stay warm. **Bring your pruners, gloves, and decorative items. Be prepared for lots of FUN! Cost is about \$3.00 for the wire frames for the wreaths and about \$3.50 for each basket and hanger. Bring the same supplies to both workshops, but add potting soil for the basket workshop.** Soup and fresh homemade bread will be provided. Please bring snacks if you wish. Coffee will be available.

December 19, Monday: Our Annual Holiday Luncheon at Hillside. The cost is \$16.00 and the staff at Hillside has put together a wonderful menu for the event. The menu will be available at our November meeting. It will be a wonderful day and we hope all of you can attend. **Reservations should be given or sent to Mike Stewart by December 12.** We hope the weather cooperates. There will be no speaker, so that we can have quality time together. Patty is working on the fun. Don't miss it.

Horticulture, Mt. St. Helens

By Cindy Flake



My husband, Jeff, and I took a helicopter tour over Mt. St. Helens recently. Rebirth and renewal has occurred for that which was lost some thirty-one years ago as the mountain top became a molten slide and left 600 feet of ash in the path where the river once was. The sheer magnitude of the remnant was breathtaking. Our pilot explained that a 10-mile radius had been directly affected and that the damn, that had been built to contain the ash, filled up within six days, and has been reworked several times since. Thousands of petrified trees stand as evidence of the brutal event,

while logs float like match sticks around the perimeter of each lake. As we hovered over the cinder cone, we learned that it is still smoldering and growing approximately five feet per day.

The river has since carved out a new channel, conifers and willows now dot the landscape, and elk and other wildlife have returned to inhabit the area once more. Hundreds of forested acres have been replanted and hikers can be seen enjoying the numerous trails. If you gain an opportunity to experience this wonderful, evolving landscape, don't miss it!

American Robins are familiar backyard birds with their distinctive orange breast. However, this common bird still has secrets to reveal. If a robin is seen early in the year, we assume spring is early. Wrong. Robins spend the whole winter in their breeding range right here in Oregon. Perhaps because they spend more time roosting in trees and less time in your yard, you are less likely to see them. Robins appear to be large, strong birds. Life should be easy, right? Apparently not. Only 40% of nests successfully produce young. Only 25% of these survive to November. From that point on, only about half of the robins alive in any year make it to the next. The robin population turns over an average of every 6 years. Females generally choose nest sites in trees. However, they also nest in gutters, eaves, and in outdoor light fixtures. They have been known to build nests on the ground on the prairie and on buildings in Alaska. More surprising facts: Robins are very territorial and have been seen fighting their own reflection in windows. During mating season, males grow black feathers on their heads to attract females. After the breeding season is over, these feathers are lost. Finally, because the robin forages primarily on lawns, it is vulnerable to pesticides and can be an indicator of chemical pollution.



Meet Joanne DeWitt

{Written by Joanne, who suspects her story is boring. Roving Reporter, Rosemary Vertregt, thinks otherwise!}



I was born and raised in Momence, Illinois, a small town 50 miles south of Chicago. Aunts, uncles, and cousins lived in the same town, and another raft of relatives, including Grandparents on my Mother's side, lived 40 miles away in Indiana. It was a pleasant way to grow up. My training was in the Office/Secretarial field and I worked in that capacity until my first child was born, after which I decided to be a stay-at-home Mom. I had married a guy from my neighborhood that I'd known most of my life. We had five children--Garry, Kurt, twins Mark and Melissa, and Joe. I lost Mark 17 years ago in October.

My Dad had always dreamed of moving to the West Coast, and often talked about the beauty of the Northwest. So, one by one, over a period of about ten years, we all migrated west with our families---first my two brothers, then my two sisters, and finally, my family and my parents!

I went back to work as a Secretary until my husband was transferred to Bend, where I decided to try my hand at selling real estate, since I would have the freedom to work on my own terms. It was there that I met Leonard, the love of my life, and left a rocky marriage behind.

We traveled a quite a bit, and spent about 15 years in Arizona, where we golfed a lot, and in general, had a lot of fun! In addition to square dancing and dancing at parties, I was involved in tap dancing and clogging. My favorite pastime was clogging--and I still can't part with my shoes. {Roving Reporter here, "Clogging is not ordinary, nor is it boring!"}

After my daughter started her family, we followed them to the Rogue Valley in Oregon. Within two years, my son-in-law was transferred to McMinnville, and they took our two little grandchildren with them! So, that was an easy choice---move again! I soon joined the Garden Club, delighted to find such a great group. The years I spent working on the Garden Faire were very rewarding, and I enjoyed the challenge. Now I want to use my time for my husband, whose failing eyesight has curtailed his activities. {Joanne's husband, Leonard is being interviewed by a military historian who intends to write a book about his World War II experiences.}

Website Links to Explore:

[Make a Living Picture](#)

[Thanksgiving Decoration Ideas](#)

[Fall Garden Chores](#)

[Caring for Your Garden Tools](#)

Suggested Readings

James Whitcomb Riley, et. al. "Out To Old Aunt Mary's." The Complete Poetical Works of James Whitcomb Riley, U.S.A. Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1978. Pp. 441.

Horan, Richard, *Seeds: One Man's Serendipitous Journey to Find the Trees That Inspired Famous American Writers*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2011. Print.



Garden Quote – “My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant’s point of view.”

H. Fred Ale