



Garden Clippings-May 2012

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

Monday, May 21, 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 Kym Pokorny “Hard Working and New Introduction Plants for Your Garden”,
Oregonian Home and Garden Writer.**

President’s Message

Merle Dean Feldman

If I could make a wish come true for you---it would be that you could spend a peaceful, relaxing two hours in a garden not your own, because, in your own garden, you would feel compelled to hop up and DO something --- about the giant weed you see among the lovely sedum, or the drooping clematis, or the empty space that calls out for a new plant you forgot to settle in there.

This wonderful wish for me came from MGC’s own Rosemary and I thought I would pass the wish forward to all of you fantastic and generous folks who have given so many hours to help our garden club in so many different ways. These are hours you would have spent in your own gardens, if you had not been volunteering them.

We have a special luncheon with a very special speaker planned for our last meeting in June. Read the details in the ‘Save These Dates’ section and be sure to add this to your calendar. It would also be a wonderful time to invite guests. We hope to see you there to celebrate our wonderful year together.

“We can’t enchant the world, which makes its own magic; but we can enchant ourselves by paying deep attention.” – Diane Ackerman, from “Dawn Light - Dancing with Cranes and Other Ways to Start the Day.”

Breathe deep to catch those wonderful last fragrances of daffodils and viburnums that only come our way this time of the year! May your summer be as sweet as these dear flowers.

SAVE THESE DATES:

May 21, Monday

Club Meeting: Speaker, Kym Pokorny, “Hard Working and New Introduction Plants for your Garden”

May 23, Wednesday

10AM Arts & Crafts: Miniature gardens, Jean L’s home

May 31, Thursday

Field Trip: Arbutus Garden Arts Nursery, 24639 Gerrish Valley Rd, Yamhill (9:30AM: carpool leaves Bethel Baptist church lot)

June 18, Monday

McMinnville Garden Club luncheon/installation of new officers at Hillside, cost: **\$11.50 due by June 1. Bring your check to the May meeting or send it payment to Mike Stewart. John Karseboom will present, “Creating Amazing Hanging Baskets and How to Care for Them.” John was featured in a recent edition of the Oregonian Home and Garden section.**

June 19-21

Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs’ State Convention, Wilsonville [More info](#)

June 24, Sunday

McMinnville Garden Club Tour and Faire

Tour and Faire Update “The Art of Gardening”

We are thrilled with the all of the sign-ups sheets at our April meeting, but there are still a few opportunities to help at the club’s Tour and Faire, our only fundraiser – and have fun, at the same time! You may sign up at the May club meeting, as you pick up your ticket packet.

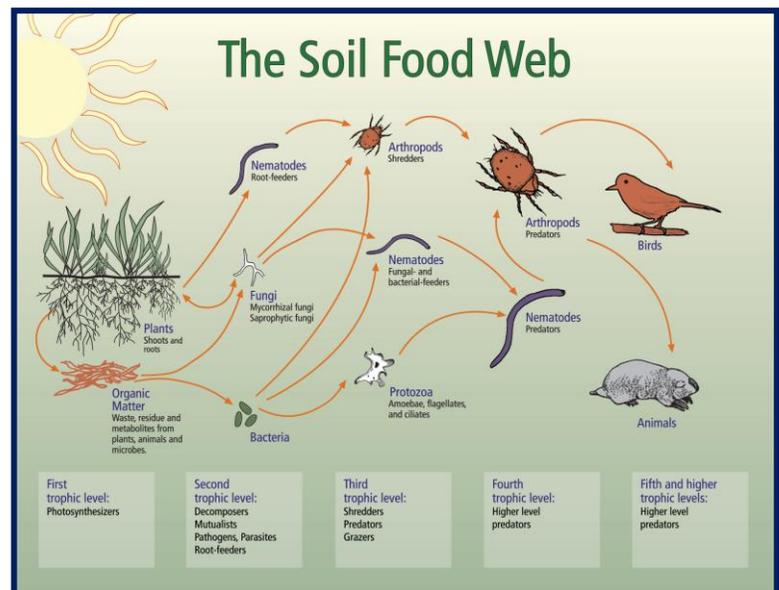
Committee Leaders: Our third group meeting is May 21, after the regular club meeting. Please come prepared to report on your committee’s progress, along with any questions/concerns. We’ll try to finish in an hour, but bring a snack if needed.

Elsie Carpenter and Judy Wilkerson - Garden Tour Coordinators

Horticulture: What’s in YOUR Rhizosphere??!

Cindy Flake

Scientists have classified soil biota (microorganisms) into groups according to their function and taxonomy, particularly size. Larger soil inhabitants, such as earthworms, termites, mites, and millipedes (macrofauna, > 2mm in diameter), are in the organic matter shredding and distributing...aka...waste management/soil clean-up division of labor. These and other insects are also responsible for bioturbation or the development of open spaces throughout the soil that facilitates gas and water exchange and as a result, provide habitats for even the smallest of soil organisms. These channels are also created by plant roots and contribute



greatly to soil structure. Bioturbanators start the clean-up process in contaminated soil such as petroleum product spills, pesticides, you name it, and they eat it! If not for this unseen community, we'd be up to our hip-boots in more than a few millenniums of debris!

The next smaller-sized microorganisms are nematodes and protozoa (microfauna, <200 micrometers in diameter). These microorganisms are the limiting factor in nutrient cycling that bacteria (microflora, also <200 micrometers in diameter) are responsible for, since overall decomposition occurs to some degree, in a "chain of events" pattern. Carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and sulfur alone have at least twenty microorganism functional group members that use these elements for nutrient sources. This is called nutrient cycling. While specific groups of bacteria are responsible for specific elemental cycling, they do not use organic matter for food.

Scientists have found that there is yet a deeper level of diversity for bacteria in the kinetic, physiological, and niche areas and that all of them together play an important role in the big picture of ecosystem functioning. Each larger functional group member has a specific role in decomposition of organic matter and each successively smaller organism often relies on the larger ones to complete their task and/or their life cycle to assure their own survival. Mycorrhizal fungi develop symbiotic relationships with plant roots for nutrient trading and are sized between rhizobial bacteria and protozoa. Most fungi typically fit into the microflora category (<200 micrometers in diameter).

Given that few scientists agree on methodology, soil scientists have managed to consistently discover new soil organisms by using existing culturing and molecular means. These processes have been considered to be selective by other scientists, thus the number and taxa of soil organisms have not been fully described. Since 1997, the number of soil organisms counted exceeded 140,000, which pales in comparison to the numbers, as much as 90 to 99 fold more, which have been debated to exist in the soil. Just ONE gram of soil may contain thousands of bacteria species and millions of individuals. That is JUST the bacteria! While the number of all soil inhabitants will likely remain a mystery, we can certainly appreciate their existence.

Read on at: http://www.soils.usda.gov/sqi/concepts/soil_biology/soil_food_web.html.

Wildlife Habitat: Snowbirds

June Benson



Dark-eyed Juncos do not necessarily fly between Oregon and Arizona like your friends and relatives do, but Juncos are considered the "snowbirds" of the middle latitudes. Most are migratory, following the food supply south, but many will overwinter if there is an adequate food supply. Some Oregon birds are residents but may migrate either north-south or up-down in elevation for breeding.

Dark-eyed Juncos are flashy sparrows that have bright white tail feathers they habitually flash in flight. They are a medium sized bird and have short, stout bills and fairly long tails. They are most comfortable on the ground hopping (not walking) around the bases of trees and shrubs. They scratch with both feet to look for fallen seeds or insects. I like to think they feast on weed seeds! They have a rigid pecking order and dominant birds do chase away others.

Dark-eyed Juncos breed in forests across much of North America and at elevations ranging from sea level to more than 11,000 feet. During winter they use a wide variety of habitats including open woodlands and brushy areas found in towns, gardens, and fields. A recent estimate of the Junco's total population in North America was approximately 630 million individuals. It is therefore no surprise that, according to Project FeederWatch, Juncos are spotted at more feeders than any other bird in North America! Although they are primarily ground feeders, it's not a good idea to scatter seed on the ground because it can absorb moisture and spoil. Platform feeders are better for Juncos. They enjoy millet and sunflower seeds.

Identifying which subspecies of Junco you see is a challenge since there is a huge range of geographic variation with 15 subspecies. Also, in the 1970's, seven different species were lumped together under the name Dark-eyed Junco. The "Oregon" Junco is the most common type in the Pacific Northwest and has a dark hood and brown back. You may also see a "slate-colored" Junco which is the most widespread and most often observed species in the east; this Junco has dark gray all over except for a white belly. Both Juncos have those distinctive white outer tail feathers. Others may also be seen in Oregon during winter. Your bird field guide or favorite website is probably the best place to look for a complete description of ranges and plumages. When I see a bird at a feeder that I cannot identify, I confidently announce to my husband, "It's a Junco!"



Meet Julie Hughes...She's not just a Big Bird Person! Roving Reporter, Rosemary Vertregt



Julie and husband, Don moved from Arcata, California to McMinnville six years ago, after searching for a new home that met certain criteria: West Coast, near mountains, access to parks, a college, not too far from a major airport, etc. High on their list was a place that had a real community-feel to it, and no surprise, they decided on our wonderful town!

Julie was born in Burns, Oregon, lived in Seattle, then settled in the San Francisco Bay area. Working as a lab tech and deciding there must be something she would find more interesting, she went back to school for a teaching credential.

She and Don met, became partners, joined the Peace Corps, and were sent to a small island in Fiji for two years to work in rural development. They helped local people get AID grants to build water catchment tanks; this meant the women did not have to spend long hours fetching water. Julie also aided the women with health issues, since there was only one nurse on the island; in exchange, they taught her how to fish for octopus..... in a dress, at low tide,

look for areas with many broken shells, reach in, grab octopus head, yank it out quickly, turn it upside down, toss in basket! She says she's able, not quick---octopus bite!! Don and Julie have traveled far & wide: Tanzania, where they went on a safari and climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,340 feet); Guatemala, Belize, Argentina, AND they have cycled across the United States!!

Miniature Gardens Arts & Crafts Returns

Join us on **May 23**, the Wednesday right after our May meeting at Jean L's house at 10 AM to create our cute miniature gardens again. Bring your container, décor and plants! One small plant can be divided into several clumps for this tiny garden. This year you can find supplies locally too in addition to Al's in Sherwood. Kraemer's has miniature/fairy garden plants and some décor. Incahoots has a large selection of fairy garden décor. Web sites for additional information and samples of miniature gardens can be found on the Garden Club web site at: [Mini Gardens 2012](#)



Miniature Gardens Supply List

Dirt will be provided. \$1 each **Container:** Pot saucer, bonsai size ceramic planter, etc. Size of any decorations you have will determine the size of the container. http://mcminnvillegardenclub.org/Macgcinformation_files/mingarden2012/mingardenidnex.htm

Plants: small size leaves, bonsai plants, small sedums, etc. Patty S. has about 8 small maple trees ready for bonsai pots she will share. Take a look at the pictures of ideas and you will see some plant samples. Trimming will be vital to keep plants within the size of your container. Check out list too at: <http://www.miniature-gardens.com/fairy-plants.html> **Décor:** Incahoots, Kraemers, Al's Miniature railroad shops should also have some items for sale that would work in a miniature garden. Xmas village sets also come with "tiny" items.

Rocks: you may want decorative rocks to use as boulders, paths, walkways. Aquarium rocks work great!

Weblinks

Patty Sorensen

Pioneer District Newsletter <http://oregongardenclubs.org/pioneer/>

State website <http://oregongardenclubs.org/default.htm>

[Calendar](#) of Oregon garden events

Kim Pokorny's [articles](#)

May Garden [Chores](#)

Moss [Removal](#)

Flowers Depart When We Hate to Lose Them;
Weeds Arrive When We Hate to Watch Them Grow