



Garden Clippings

McMinnville Garden Club, PO Box 386, McMinnville, OR

October 2011 503-434-4344

Monday, October 17, 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- Marianne Klekacz, Poet

“Every Garden Is a Journal and Every Journal Is a Garden.”

Mark Your Calendars:

October 16, Sunday: Fundraiser for National Garden Club’s first VP, Oregon’s Linda Nelson. Location: Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street, Eugene Oregon 97401. Her installation will be in 2013 as National President! \$15.00 donation. If you can volunteer or bring a favorite sandwiches or dessert, contact Sharon.wilson@yahoo.com.

October 17, Monday: **MGC MEETING:** Speaker: Poet Marianne Klekacz, explores ways in which gardening and journaling complement each other. "Every Garden Is a Journal and Every Journal Is a Garden." Learn how to get a jump-start on your journal and how writing about your garden (or anything else) can enhance your appreciation of your growing things. We'll do a writing exercise. **Bring paper and a pen.** No computers, please.

A hearty thanks to all club members who've paid their 2011-12 membership dues. Approximately 30 members still need to give dues (\$15) to Treasurer, Mike Stewart today. Please make checks payable to McMinnville Garden Club. If mailing, address to: McMinnville Garden Club, PO.B. 386, McMinnville, OR, 97128.

October 20, Thursday Instead of our monthly field trip, everyone is invited to attend the **Pioneer District Garden Club’s Meeting and Fall Luncheon.** MGC Treasurer, Mike Stewart needs \$15.00 for your luncheon reservation by October 5. This is an excellent opportunity to make new gardening friends. The theme is **“Picnic at the Pumpkin Patch”** and is hosted by the Cedar Mill and West Point Garden Clubs. Speaker is Carol Adelman of Adelman's Peony Gardens. This is also a fund raising opportunity for our club. Patty Sorensen is collecting donations for the **Pink Panther Sale.** Please bring your final donations to the

October club meeting. Please, no large items or furniture. Profits from our sales goes to our club.

October 24, Monday Arts and Crafts Project – Making Hypertufa pots at Rosemary Vertregt’s house. Carpool leaves Bethel Baptist Church at 9:30a. Cost \$3 per container. Bring your own plastic gloves, small bucket, box lid and a container for the mold of your hypertufa pot. Samples at the meeting on 17th. It is an outdoor activity, so wear warm clothes that can get dirty. Sign up at the October meeting so we can have enough supplies for everyone.

November 21, Monday Meeting – Red Ridge, Oregon Olive Farm will give a presentation and olive oil tasting.

November 28, Monday Arts and Crafts–Holiday Basket -making, Jacci Reed

November 29, Monday Arts and Crafts – Holiday Wreath-making, Jacci Reed

President’s Message

Merle Dean Feldman mdfeldman@frontier.com

This has been an exhilarating month. We have experienced interesting and fun trips to gardens and nurseries, made new friends and cherished old ones. I am very honored to be your new president and to participate in such a wonderful organization. It is so amazing to witness the love of gardening that our members have and then see how they share it with their community. There is such an exciting future ahead for our club and its place in making McMinnville a place where folks love to visit and want to stay to become a part of our town. Thanks again to those who have continued to give of their time and talent to make our club a special group.

Looking ahead, this promises to be another year filled with interesting speakers and subjects. We are hoping that all of you can join us in the fun. For those of you who did not get to go on the most recent field trip to Edelweiss and One Green World, here is what you missed: We were treated to an informative talk by Urs Baltensperger, a tour of the nursery, and then cookies and coffee while we shopped. Down the road, Lorraine, one of the owners, at One Green World, gave us a tour of their greenhouses and fields, where we saw wonderful and unusual fruited trees. Then on the Arts and Crafts day, Evelyn Munding taught us how to do leaf casting so we can fill our gardens with great and imaginative garden art. Thank you Evelyn!



Wildlife Habitat: Bird Identification

By June Benson

Can you identify this bird? (Answer below)

When I saw this bird at the Baskett Slough Wildlife Refuge near Salem, it looked so exotic that I assumed it had escaped from a bird cage! So you know I am no expert, but I have discovered a few tips and rely on some good resources that

help. To identify birds it helps to note several things:

1. What **color** is it?
2. What **size is it**? Is it as big as a robin (up to 10" from tip to tail), as small as a sparrow (6"), or as large as a crow (18")?
3. What does the **bill** look like? Is it curved or straight? Thick or thin? Pointed or blunt?
4. What is the bird's **territory**? Is it a year-round resident?

You may use other clues like the size and shape of the wing, unique flight patterns, habitat, or food source. Once I have a mental picture of the bird, I use a good print resource.

Good resources are plentiful and you may already have a favorite. Available resources include websites like my favorite Cornell University's www.allaboutbirds.org. Digital field guides are also available for your iPhones and even allow you to play bird songs. For an up-to-date comparison of digital bird apps, see www.ibird.com. I'm rather old-fashioned and prefer a book in hand! I like the Birds of Oregon Field Guide by Stan Tekiela because it organizes Oregon birds by color. For me color is a good place to start. I am also content knowing my mystery bird is a Sapsucker. On the other hand, if you need to know if the Sapsucker is a Red-breasted, Red-naped, or Williamson's species, you would probably be happier with the more comprehensive Peterson's Field Guide to Birds of Western North America. Peterson's guides are the best-selling field guides of all time and this 4th edition was just published last year.

I think which source you use may not be as important as its publication date. If you are relying on an old source, you may not find that small sized yellow bird because it only migrated to Oregon in very recent years. "Feeding Frenzy," a recent article in the National Wildlife magazine, discussed how backyard bird feeders help to contribute to the spread of bird species. So birds (in part thanks to our feeders!) change their territorial range. The blackcaps, for example, now migrate to the United Kingdom rather than to its ancestral wintering grounds in Spain and Africa. In earlier years these birds would have starved; now they not only thrive, but they reach their summer breeding grounds much faster. Happy bird watching!! If you can recommend additional resources, send me a note at junebenson@comcast.net.

Answer: American Goldfinch, also referred to as a Wild Canary. No, I have never seen it in my backyard. Although I had no book with me, my husband knew what it was immediately!



Meet Cozette Caster

By Roving Reporter, Rosemary Vertregt

Cozette was born in Long Beach, California, while her father was in the U.S. Navy there, but she was raised in Gold Hill in southern Oregon. Always interested in art, and having a mother who was an artist, Cozette was involved in art and drama in high school, where she received an

award for artistic talent. Encouraged by this, she attended The College of Arts and Crafts in Berkeley, California. While living in the Bay Area, Cozette was married to a fire Captain, and they had a daughter and a son. She was active in the Junior Auxiliary of Oakland Children's Hospital and worked in the local K-8th grade school library. Later, the family enjoyed living in the town of Arnold, in the beautiful Sierra Nevada foothills.

After a break-up, Cozette worked at jobs that were many and varied, while raising the children in and around Sacramento and the Central Valley--at one point, she says, she was "stuck in Lodi"! Attending her 25th high school reunion, Cozette re-met former classmate, John Caster, who now had three teen-agers. Soon thereafter there was a wedding in Jacksonville, Oregon, uniting them all into a family of seven!

Having family in McMinnville, including a sister, Cozette was happy to move here, and her new husband was employed at Chemeketa Community College in the agriculture department.

His job included taking agriculture students on tours of parts of the U.S. and several other countries. Cozette has been able to go along, visiting Chile, Germany, and The Bahamas, among other areas. She also kept busy working several places on Third Street, including as a buyer for Thrifty Drugs, and Mac Prescription Shop.

Cozette's mother had been a member of a garden club, and she had thought of perhaps joining our club herself, so, when her neighbor, Sylvia Sproed suggested she join us--she did! She is "open to donations" of plants and information about gardening, being rather a "newbie" at this, and she has lots of space to fill. She is having fun, especially visiting our president, Merle Dean's wonderful garden and doing "leaf casting" --- and, as you know, she is our new Vice President, so she will be keeping busy! And, "Thank you" Sylvia!

Horticulture: Flowers are good eating, but watch for the poisonous ones! Merle Dean Feldman

Summertime gardens produce not only wonderful vegetables from our gardens, but a vast array of edible flowers to decorate our food and salads with. If you want to try using some, but do not know exactly how to go about it or have questions about safety, you can visit your local extension office for information or access the Oregon Extension Service on the web. Another favorite site from Colorado State University contains excellent information about bloom time, taste, fragrance, growing tips and uses: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden/07237.html>.

When used in salads, flowers are beautiful, alluring and captivating, and can even replace the bouquet on the table. I usually toss my salads with the dressing or oil and then before serving, I place the flowers on top so their beauty is not spoiled. Calendula petals, nasturtiums, pansies, violas, dill and broccoli flowers, borage, geranium and rose petals, and the flowers of many culinary herbs add color, interest and beauty to your salads. Just make sure you

thoroughly inspect the flower for insects. I prefer to cut the spurred throat of the nasturtium so I can see all the way in and detect any hiding insects. Wash and dry the petals thoroughly. Above all, make sure you are not using flowers that have been sprayed with any toxic chemical. Let me know if you're interested in attending a program on this subject. I'd love to share my flowers with you.

The Oregon Garden

by Rosemary Vertregt

And off our members go on another field trip! But there are only three of us this time! It's Merle Dean, Myrna, and Rosemary on a lovely sunny day. Before we even entered and paid our admission, we detoured into the "Plants for Sale" area for what we would call "very conservative plant purchases". Myrna and Rosemary each bought New Zealand Hair Sedge (*Carex comans*) --just \$6 per plant, and Merle Dean bought a cute little blue/green conifer, *Picea pungens* (Colorado Spruce) for \$15. At the admission desk, a very polite clerk asked: "Are there any seniors"? Polite or political?? Anyway, we each saved \$1 by being old enough. We started off by taking the tram for an overview; the tour comes with admission, lasts 20-30 minutes, and can be left or boarded at any of its stops. The driver does a good narration, explaining the high points of each area. We began, and ended our walk by visiting the conifer garden, and fortunately we had Merle Dean to point out, explain, and tell us stories about many of the plants there, as she is truly an expert on conifers. That made them seem all the more beautiful and interesting to us, even though they don't have flowers! We had quickly learned that none of us had brought a camera! Too bad, Myrna and Merle Dean proceeded to demonstrate exercises to stretch various walking muscles on a grassy patch. Rosemary refused to join them because she was worried her tan pants might get grass-stained---or something like that. We continued walking here and there, enjoying, following scents floating in the air, loving color combinations, and trying--in spite of temporary memory glitches--to identify plants that we knew we knew!! Luckily, many plants are labeled. Beautiful water lilies, large and luscious, bloomed in the ponds, leaves ruffled in the welcome breeze, and the three of us did a great deal of laughing! It was a very special day. When we arrived back at our meeting place, we learned that it was indeed special, as Merle Dean said: "I have something to tell you--this was the best 70th. Birthday I've ever had!" More laughing followed---and hugs.

Websites to Explore:

Pioneer District Newsletter

<http://oregongardenclubs.org/pioneer/>

State Website

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

Hypertufa instructions: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcRJ2XbPA3I>

Garden Quip – New gardeners learn by trowel and error.