

Adventures in Gardening from the Ground Up

May 30 was the first gathering of our Woodside Ranch Homeowners Association gardening group (after an earlier planning meeting in April). Danielle and Dan Sullivan hosted **over 20 people** to talk about “gardening from the ground up.” The Sullivans gave us a tour of their raised bed garden and discussed how they amend their soil, specifically from the horse manure that their horses provide! They also showed us their compost pile and the techniques they use. Even a neighbor cat seemed interested in the pile! We were also shown their vermiculture (worm composting) set-up.

Then, after tasty refreshments inside, we discussed soils, fertilizers, compost, the weather/growing season, and resources to help us out (OSU Extension, books, handout, etc.). The evening was a mix of questions and ideas of people from the neighborhood. Our group is for people with little experience gardening in the high desert to people with a lot of experience - a great way for us all to share.

Here is the OSU Extension information - a big help to all gardeners!:

- 1) Ask an OSU Master Gardener....Weed, insect, or disease problem?
- 2) Call Monday-Friday at 541-548-6088
- 3) Visit: 3893 SW Airport Way, Redmond (Deschutes County Fairgrounds)
- 4) Web site: oregonstate.edu/deschutes (Click on “Home, Garden, and Landscape” to get lots of help including: OSU Master Gardener Program, High Desert Gardening Newsletter, Commercial Green Industry, Garden Classes, Horticulture Resources, and Garden Publications. The garden publications are excellent for the home gardener. Many of these are available as free printed copies at the Extension Office.

Frost free dates for Bend according to the National Weather Service in Pendleton, based 110 years historical record of the city:

July 10, 20, 24, 30, 31 and August 4, 10, 11, 12.

We also discussed other ideas for the gardening group. Here are a few of things we plan to do (and if you have other ideas, let's add them to the list):

1. **Next gathering: June 28, Thursday, 7:00 pm at the home of Ann and Grant Hall.**
We will get to see their new “invisible” deep fence. We’ll share ideas about dealing with **“critters”** - deer, chipmunks, ground squirrels, rock chucks, insects, etc. Bring your ideas and stories. More information will come soon.
2. August 1, Wednesday: Woodside Ranch annual summer social at the home of Lynda and Skip Paznokas (6:00 pm). Perhaps there’s something we want to share with the group. Ideas?
3. We talked about field trips for anyone who might want to go. Ideas included the lavender farm out by Lake Billy Chinook (Culver) and L&S Gardens in La Pine that specializes in cold-hardy plants for our region.
4. August (no date yet): A “progressive tour” from home to home (of those who wish to be included) to stop briefly at the homes to either see something that’s “working” or to show the group a “problem” and use the collective wisdom of the group to come up with solutions. Is there someone who would like to organize this?

5. September (no date yet): Harvest potluck dinner at the home of Chris and Ray Miao to share food that either we've made from our garden OR that could have been grown in a Bend garden.
6. Other ideas? What about July? Send your thoughts to Lynda Paznokas: lpaz@bendnet.com

In the future, those on the **Woodside Ranch gardening e-mail list** will receive notices about upcoming events. E-mail blasts to *all* homeowners will be saved for very special occasions. Information will also be posted on the website. Encourage your friends to get on the gardening e-mail list, even if they don't know how often they will attend, so they will receive notices about events. Have them e-mail Lynda Paznokas (lpaz@bendnet.com, 541-317-4658) to get on the list.



Danielle Sullivan showing the group their raised beds for vegetable gardening.



Much of their compost is from their horses...how appropriate that one walked by right at that time!



Danielle showing their compost pile



Danielle showing their vermiculture system, worm composting their daily produce waste



Danielle showing their compost pile.



Danielle showing their vermiculture system (worm composting their daily produce waste)



Woodside Ranch gardeners enjoying snacks in the Sullivan's kitchen.



After the garden tour, we discussed soils, fertilizers, compost, the weather and more.



Danielle showing the group their raised beds for vegetable gardening