



Q&A

with

Marlene House and
Walter John

The garden as teacher

Q: Many of us see the master gardeners plot at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds. Who takes care of it? Where does it fit in the master gardeners program?

A: The master gardeners take care of it. It is one of our community projects that master gardeners use to fulfill their community payback time. You are required to pay back what you got for training, which is roughly 60 hours. It is also used for recertification.

We have an announced work day. In summer it's usually Wednesday from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. In June and July, we're getting it ready for the County Fair.

Q: How big is the plot?

A: Roughly 50-by-120 feet. It was established in 1998.

Q: What is in the plot? How did the group decide what it would plant?

A: We have roughly 100 different types of plants, between perennials and annuals.

How did we decide? Two criteria: What we thought would grow well here and what we thought people would like to see. There are some unusual plants there.

Basically, it's a demonstration garden — teaching how to plant trees and shrubs and plants and also how to divide and transplant. If you go to the garden, you'll see that there's a lot of mistakes we made over the years. And a lot of things are coming into play now — potential problems we didn't foresee.

Tillamook has renamed its garden the Learning Garden. Ours has been a great teacher for me.

Q: Describe the pleasure that you and your fellow master gardeners get from working on this plot.

A: Gardeners are friendly and happy people. When they're out there getting dirty, they have smiles on their face. There are pleasant meetings of the mind.

There is also is potluck — a lot of good food and great

**Gardeners
are friendly
and happy
people.
When they're
out there
getting dirty,
they have
smiles on
their face.**



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Master gardener Walter John at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

company. We enjoy that the pubic enjoys and learns from the garden. They love to see plants that they might want to buy but were not sure would work in this area. The public also learns about pruning, planting, dividing and, of course, weeding.

Q: What is a gardening book that is popular among the Oregon State University master gardeners?

A: There are many. Gardeners collect plants and they

collect almost as many books as they have plants. One I find useful is the "Sunset Western Garden Book." It covers just about everything.

One of my favorites, which I got years ago, is "Right Plant, Right Place."

Marlene House and Walter John, who are master gardeners, answered questions about the Oregon State University master gardeners demonstration plot at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

THE SHIP REPORT

What kind of sailboat is that?

By JOANNE RIDEOUT
Special to The Daily Astorian

I learned a lot from my father as a kid; being Daddy's Little Girl has its perks. For instance, I rode around in the car with him on weekends, and by the tender age of seven, could tell a Ford Fairlane from a Chevy Impala, no sweat. From cars it was a natural progression to learn about boats.

Dad's been a sailor since way before I was born, and at some point when I was around 10 years old he got the urge to own his own boat. Eventually he decided to build his own sailboat in our backyard. (That's a story for another day. Suffice it to say my mother was a saint). During this process and for many years afterward, we spent a lot of time in boatyards, talking with his friends who were sailors, talking about boats, and endlessly fixing them.

To this day, I get nostalgic when I stand in a ramshackle old boat shed that smells of oiled dirt

and aging wood. I remember the barn swallows swooping out of the rafters while we were prepping our boats for launch day. The wind whistling through the reeds in the brackish estuary that fed into the Great South Bay.

That's the nautical melting pot where I grew up, in Long Island, N.Y. It's where I learned to tell sailboats apart. That's where I learned the difference between some basic types of sailboats you'll see around these parts, and pretty much everywhere: namely the sloop, the ketch, the yawl, and the schooner. They differ in the way they're rigged and the types of sails they carry.

The sloop is the most common type of recreational sailboat around. Sloops are the bulk carriers of the recreational sailing world — they're everywhere. If you go down to any marina in the U.S., most of the sailboats will be fiberglass sloops. A sloop is a sailboat that has one mast. Its sails are triangular (Marconi-rigged) usually. This means that looking at it

from land, what you see is a boat with a tall pole sticking up out of its deck, and two triangles suspended, one in front of the mast (a jib) and one aft (the mainsail), catching the wind.

You can see sloops in action in the spring and summer in the waters off Astoria, downstream from the Astoria Bridge. The Astoria Yacht Club racing fleet is made up mostly of racing sloops called Olson 30s. Usually when they are heading downwind they'll fly a big balloony sail called a spinnaker. It can really catch the wind and make a boat go fast.

Another less common but certainly not unusual type of recreational sailboat is one with two masts, where the after mast is shorter than the main mast. This type of boat is usually either a ketch or a yawl.

At first glance they can look identical, but when you look closer (as all good boat geeks do) you can see a difference that is unmistakable: the small (or mizzen)

mast on a ketch is in front of the rudder post (and usually in the cockpit where people sit), while the mizzen mast on a yawl (pronounced y'all, as in, "Hi, y'all!"), is usually on the after deck behind the cockpit. Both rigs carry a small jib up forward, a mainsail, and a small sail on the mizzen mast, called, appropriately, a mizzen.

Most of the time the sails on sloops, ketches and yawls are triangular, but some have trapezoidal-shaped mainsails that have a bar on the top of the sail. These are gaff-rigged boats and the bar at the top of the sail is called a gaff.

Last but not least on my short and not terribly comprehensive list is the schooner. Schooners have more than one mast as well, and can have multiple masts. I've seen them with five masts, but that kind of boat requires a big crew to sail it. The recreational schooner often has just two, with the shorter mast this time being toward the front of the boat. Schooners can be Marconi or



ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian

KMUN General Manager Joanne Rideout is the voice of The Ship Report.

gaff-rigged, and are a lovely sight to see under sail. There are tuna schooners that you occasionally see plying the waters of the Columbia River. They go far afield in the Pacific catching fish and storing them on ice in the hold. The U.S. Coast Guard likes them because they don't necessarily need to be rescued when their engines fail — they just sail home.

There are other types of sailing craft seen on the river that we could talk about, but I'll leave you do to some research on your own. The lovely Lady Washington is a sailing ship, a square rigger, whose sails are mostly square instead of triangular. There is another

intriguing rig called a Chinese junk, for the country where it originated. I've heard that junks are uncomplicated, easy to sail and lots of fun. Occasionally, you'll see one on the Columbia.

Joanne Rideout is general manager of Coast Community Radio (KMUN-FM) in Astoria. She's also the creator and producer of The Ship Report, a radio show and podcast about All Things Maritime. You can hear The Ship Report on Coast Community Radio at 8:48 a.m. weekdays at 91.9FM, streaming at www.coastradio.org. Podcast available on The Ship Report website at www.shipreport.net.

our coast

M A G A Z I N E



GET YOUR COPY TODAY!

DiscoverOurCoast.com