**Every Tuesday morning from 9am to noon:** Greenhouse seed starting and transplanting for Spring Plant Sale. Yamhill Co. Fairgrounds.

**Thursday, April 6, Insect Committee Meeting. 10am MG Clinic Room.**

**Tuesday, April 11, YCMGA Board Meeting, 3:00-5:00pm, PWA, All YCMGA members welcome!**

**Friday April 14, Deadline for the May Tiller.**

**Thursday, April 20, Insect Committee Meeting. 10am MG Clinic Room.**

**Saturday, April 29, YCMGA Spring Plant Sale, 9am - 3pm, A-Dec building, Yamhill Co. Fairgrounds.**

**Other Events**

**Cheamill Chapter NPSO Meetings & Program**

**Thursday, April 6, 7:30 pm Gathering Moss: Lessons from the Small and Green.** Robin Wall Kimmerer, an Associate Professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, will give a slide presentation on mosses at the Linfield College Campus. Graf Hall 101.

**Thursday April 27, 7:00 pm Changing Flora of Portland, Oregon, 1875-2005** Wetlands ecologist, John Christy, speaks on botanical factual oddities recovered from 100-year-old publications and specimens documenting Portland’s flora, Carnegie Room, McMinnville Public Library.

**Saturday April 29, 9 am - 4 pm, Workshop & Field trip: ‘Bryophyte Basics’** Wetlands ecologist John Christy; sponsored by the Linfield Biology department. Cost is $40. Participant numbers are limited. Pre-registration is required, send check payable to ‘Cheahmill NPSO’ to Susan Williams, 29601 NE David Ln., Newberg 97132. For more info pn NPSO events, call Susan at 503-538-1865 or email to helgesusan@comcast.net.

**Sunday, May 7, 11 am-3pm** Coldwell Banker Executive Realty will be sponsoring a second semi-annual Garden Swap. Plant drop-off will begin at 9am that morning. For further info, contact Nancy Flynn, Van Keck or Sarah Hecht at (503) 472-9477. This event is absolutely free to the public. 2077 N Hwy 99W, McMinnville. Mg Clinic is part of the event, certified MG volunteers needed.
From the President by Pam Dowling

Despite the cold weather for the two Saturdays of our Bare Root Tree Sale, we still took in over $5000 for trees. A big thank you goes to Bailey Nurseries for donating the trees again this year. Thanks also to all the YCMGA volunteers who made it happen, especially Alan Wenner who will be retiring this year from the sale. The net proceeds of this sale will fund scholarships to graduating seniors this year that will be furthering their education in a horticulture related field. Our scholarship committee is already hard at work distributing applications to all county high schools. We also include in this process the private high schools and home schooled children.

Our Appreciation Luncheon was well attended on March 1. Over 40 people enjoyed great food and showed our gratitude to our benefactors for last year. The support from our community helps us carry out our programs.

The plant sale is this month on Saturday, April 29. There are plenty of opportunities to help in whatever capacity you are able. The sign up book is always in the MG Clinic Room at the Extension office or just show up at the greenhouse or any other of the work parties. Remember - we always need your perennials. You can bring them to the greenhouse the week of the plant sale for pricing.

Linda's Corner by Linda McMahan, Community Horticulture Faculty, OSU Extension Yamhill County

New Season, New Ideas

Spring is one of my favorite times of the year. That new emerging growth seems to correspond with the generation of some new ideas. Or maybe it is just because Master Gardener™ training season is coming to an end and I finally have the time to focus on other things.

We have implemented some changes to the plant clinic and have some plans to increase the flexibility of serving on the desk. These new options will be available whether you are doing desk duty for payback, for recertification, or just because you like providing the service to our gardening clients in the community.

First, we have extended possible hours to all day on Monday and Wednesday; pick any time during those days and stay as long as you wish. Tuesday and Thursday afternoons remain as options. Generally, the clinic will be closed on Friday, but if that is the only day you can make it, just let me know.

We are adding some remote options as well. We are still putting the details together, but both options will be available soon. First, if you would like to do some research from your home computer, especially during the more busy times of our year, we will forward questions to you for research. We will get the intake form added to our website so you can print out a copy any time from home. To make this easier and to protect your private email, we will provide instructions on how to access the master gardener email from your home computer. Look for this option soon.

Another option will be to check out a cell phone for a specific time span. When the clinic at the office is not open, we will forward the master gardener phone to this cell phone. You will have the choice of leaving the phone on and taking information directly, or leaving it off and checking messages periodically. All of your time on the phone and doing the research online will count as desk time.

We will do press releases to the community newspapers urging people to either call or email questions or visit our website for additional options.

With the change of season and the shift to clinic duty rather than training, we also need to pause and thank everyone who has made this year’s training so special. So, thanks to Judy Anderson and Gloria Lutz who coordinated an outstanding mentor program for the Yamhill County Master Gardener training. Thanks to our Mentors as well. A special thanks goes to George Migaki who made many gallons of coffee, loaded hundreds of mugs into the dishwasher, set up the microphone and other equipment every week, and asked many provocative questions of our speakers. Finally, thanks to our instructors, especially the Yamhill County Master Gardeners who contributed to the success of the program. In 2006, they are Kuon Hunt, Gail Price, Norm Jacobs, Anna Ashby, Bob Grossmann and Alton Cronk. Thanks, and Happy Spring.
Insect Intake Insights, 2006!

So, an insect specimen is brought into the office by a client and you are the MG on duty that day. What do you do with it?

Most insects and other arthropods are brought into the office live, in jars, by the clients. If you do not know what the insect is, try to identify the specimen using the Insect Reference Collection in the insect cabinet so that you can give an answer to the client as soon as possible. If you cannot identify the specimen, leave it for the Insect Committee to identify and we will give the information to the client. (The Insect Committee meets the first and third Thursdays of the month).

If leaving the specimen for the Insect Committee, specimens should be killed and preserved by pouring rubbing alcohol into the jar. This is especially true for soft bodied insects and spiders. Once in alcohol, the specimens can be left in the wire intake box on top of the collection cabinet. Be sure to tape a label on the jar with the client’s name and telephone number. The jar should be tightly covered to prevent the alcohol from evaporating. If a client has brought in a jar with holes punched in the lid (most do this), simply tape over the holes to close them off. Hard bodied insects and moths and butterflies can be placed in the freezer of the refrigerator in the MG clinic room or the kitchen. Do not tape specimens to the intake form! The tape covers important ID characteristics and, if the tape is removed, the specimen is “torn asunder”. If you need a small container for the “bug”, there are empty plastic film containers available on the cabinet. Caterpillars should be kept alive so that we can raise them to adulthood to get a positive ID. Put some food in with them also (find out from the client on which plant they were found).

Be sure to fill out an intake form for each specimen with the following info:
1. Your name (MG on duty)
2. Client's full name (important!)
3. Client's address
4. Client's telephone number (also important)
5. Where the specimen was found (e.g., under fir tree, kitchen cabinet, etc.)
6. Note on the intake form where the insect is located (on cabinet, in freezer, or ?) so that the committee can find it. Always label the container with the clients name!
7. Leave the intake form in the wire “in” box on top of the insect cabinet.

Taking these steps will make it much easier for the committee to answer the clients questions.

Your efforts are always appreciated!

By the way, we can always use new members on the Insect Committee! We have a great deal of fun, learn a lot and do a tremendous service for our customers. The committee meets from 10 am - 12 noon the first and third Thursdays of the month in the PNW Auditorium. Hope you can and will join us!

Your Service Opportunities Await You! ... by Ray Van Blaricom

For those of you that didn’t get to the OMGA quarterly meeting we just hosted, you missed a great opportunity to see what goes on with your membership fees. I give thanks to the many volunteers that helped decorate and organize this fun event. The Oregon State Master Gardener™ Association is celebrating the 30th anniversary since establishment. This summer's Gardener's Mini-College will be a great learning experience. The Garden Party Saturday afternoon, July 29th, celebrates many great atmospheres of the reason we grow foliage. Check in with your Representatives, Al Hanks and Karen Payne for more information. Linda McMahan, our Extension Agent, can direct you to applications and information.

I also give thanks to everyone signed up to assist with the coming plant sale April 29. We still need people to step up with perennials for sale, and to transport plants Friday morning, April 28. There will be a schedule posted on the bulletin board at the Office after Spring Break. It will give times and places that assistants should arrive, and the sign up book is in the MG clinic room. YCMGA is giving a grant to 4-H this year for assistance as plant moving and as helpers Saturday. After all they will someday be the next Master Gardener generation. So, if you haven't made plans to take part in one of the great social events in YCMGA, then you are wasting your membership fees because belonging to a volunteer organization and not doing the fun part, and not getting your money’s worth is a choice you shouldn’t make.
Did You Know ...  by Beth Durr

As the Oregon Master Gardener™ Association celebrates its 30th anniversary, fellow MG George Migaki shares some information he found in Washington State Magazine.

The Master Gardener Program was started in Washington in 1971. Extension agents in King and Pierce counties were being overwhelmed by homeowner plant questions. These agents decided to hand-pick and train volunteers who would in turn help the general public. By 1973, they were off and running.

These rigorous clinics were so successful they drew attention from other states. Following Washington’s example, Illinois started its own Master Gardener Program in 1975, and soon after followed us in Oregon trailed by Oklahoma and Florida. Today every state and four Canadian provinces have Master Gardener Programs, and an estimated 60,000 people have been trained as Master Gardeners.

This program has extended beyond answering plant questions. Master Gardeners are teaching parents and children about plants, harvesting vegetables for food banks, and coordinating volunteers to teach adaptive gardening skills to people with physical limitations. People are learning how to start their own seeds, proper pruning practices, Integrated Pest Management, and sanitary greenhouse practices. Some off-shoot services also include restoring wildlife habitat, building and maintaining demonstration gardens, and teaching low-income families to grow their own healthy food.

It is no wonder that Washington Magazine headlined their article as “Healing Communities” as we as Master Gardeners provide a valued Annual Report of Yamhill County Master Gardener Program for 2005

Annual Report of Yamhill County Master Gardener Program for 2005

Linda McMahan—excerpts from the report to the Horticulture Department

Congratulations OSU Master Gardeners™ from Yamhill County. In 2005, you reported a combined total of 4,560 hours!

The Class of 2005 graduated 9 new OSU Master Gardeners. These nine individuals reported contacts of 1171 clients and served a total of 677 hours. Desk and clinic hours totaled 256, Community Service Education 262, and Yamhill County Master Gardener Association activities 159. New class members took additional classes totaling 22 hours above their Master Gardener training classes.

Thirty six veteran OSU Master Gardeners recertified in 2005, which is higher than in previous years. An additional 5 veterans reported hours but did not recertify. Together, veterans reported contacts with 1,530 clients (vastly under-reported since only 17 people filled out this column). Veterans served 1,213 hours on the desk or at clinics, 520 hours of community service education, and 2,150 hours in Yamhill County Master Gardener Association activities. Our veteran Master Gardeners are “hungry” for knowledge, and they showed this by enrolling in 536 hours of advanced education courses.

In 2005, Yamhill County Master Gardeners were involved in many community educational activities. These included working with elementary school students in a learning project sponsored by a nonprofit group in Newberg, after school programs in Sheridan and elsewhere, and working with clients of Habitat for Humanity. Great job!

OMGA QUARTERLY MEETING

The OMGA Quarterly Meeting was held in Yamhill County on March 4, 2006. We had a great turnout of around 60 people, lots of great door prizes were given out, and great box lunches were catered from Jake’s Deli. The business meeting was run in an systemic and organized fashion by President Sam Sadtler. In the morning session, each county representative gave their county reports with a two minute limit. These County Reports are an important piece of information. We like to share what the counties are doing and what is successful and how they support the public. The Association’s business meeting was held in the afternoon, with emphasis on Gardener’s Mini College, Karl Karlson Fund, McNeilan Scholarship applicant and the Endowment Program. Preparations for Gardener’s Mini College are well under way, and this year’s mascot is “Doug Fir”. Mini College is held the last week in July. The theme is “Celebrating 30 Years,” and each chapter was given a packet from Doug Fir, with the assignment & participation of each chapter.

The next OMGA meeting will be held June 3 in Tillamook. Everyone is encourage to attend. Al and I will be representing the Yamhill County.

Karen Payne Alt. Rep
Perennials, perennials, perennials - think perennials! These plants are what we need for the plant sale. I knew I should have potted more perennials for the sale last fall. It would have been so much easier during nice fall weather to work outside than it is now in this perpetual winter we have been having. Oh, when will it ever warm up!

I know the daffodils are blooming and their delightful yellow heads are bobbing around in the breeze (wind). I don't think they care how cold it is. Freezes don't seem to faze them. They must be more light sensitive than they are cold sensitive. They get the daylight they want and just go ahead and bloom.

I still have things I need to dig and I also have pots of plants that need to be divided. I am really late getting at these projects. As I have mentioned to you before, the sooner we get our plants in pots, the better they will look for the sale. I am a little worried that we will be lacking perennials for the sale this year. I'm hoping all of you will find something to donate.

If you find some plants to share just before the sale, don't forget the category of “clumps and bunches.” These are the things that you dig and divide a few days before the sale and don't have time to pot. Just divide them into saleable portions and put them in plastic grocery bags to sell “as is.”

All the plants that you donate need to be labeled. Information about plants is very important so you will want to include the name of the plant and such things as moisture needs, color, height, light requirements, etc. We have label blanks to give you, so stop by the greenhouse and pickup what you need. Remember, we are there every Tuesday morning if you need help.

Recently, Doris and I went up to Kuon Hunt's Windy Hill Farm Nursery with our pickups. She filled our trucks with some wonderful donations from her greenhouse “spring cleaning.” We are going to miss Kuon as one of our vendors this year but we will still have some of her wonderful plants. We appreciate so much what Kuon has done for us at the demo garden and for the plant sale. Thanks a lot, Kuon!

While I am extending thank yous, I want to include one to Alton Cronk. Recently, Al installed our new greenhouse fan. This was a major project that he took on nearly single handedly. The fan is huge. On the day that the fan was to be lifted into place, he went to his favorite coffee shop and conned a couple of his coffee drinking cronies into visiting the greenhouse. I'm not sure they knew what they were getting into but, between them and a drywall lifter, they hoisted the fan into place. At least I think that is how the story goes. Anyway, many thanks to Al Cronk and his friends!

We are going to be needing that fan soon (I hope). It doesn't take much solar energy to heat up the greenhouse. In fact, we have been quite comfortable working in there on these cool days. We have been transplanting seedlings as they became ready since March 7th. Each week something is ready to be moved from the seed trays to pots. Our plant benches are beginning to fill up. On April 4th we will be transplanting approximately 1200 tomato plants. Any extra help on that day would sure be appreciated.

When I started this article, I was talking about perennials. I will end it that way too. I can't emphasize enough how important your perennial donations are. They make up a large percentage of our profit. As I have mentioned before, our customers love to see what wonderful plants they can get for bargain prices.

I also want to remind you NOT to bring your plants to the greenhouse until the week of the sale ---April 22-28. We are not able to take care of extra plants until that time. The pricing committee will be available on those dates and will be able to help keep the plants watered.

We are looking forward to a wonderful plant sale. Think SUN!

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Join a group of 12 women in exploring the Cotswolds of England from Friday, September 15 through Saturday, September 23, 2006. The tour is organized by Doris Cruicksank and her gardening friends. The proposed itinerary includes Upton House, Hidcote Manor, Kiftsgate Garden, Mill Dene Garden, Kelmscott Manor, Buscot Park, Snowshill Manor, Stanway House, and Chastleton House. We will be visiting

English Garden Tour

the houses that are open as well. The tour also includes walking the countryside and exploring villages and towns. Visit our website for a look at the area. <http://homepage.mac.com/twowomeninbritain/PhotoAlbum1.html>http://homepage.mac.com/twowomeninbritain/PhotoAlbum1.html. For more information please contact: Doris Cruickshank 503.864.4027, dcruckshank@spessart.com
PLANT SALE WEEK
ACTIVITIES AND SCHEDULES

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY - April 22-23
MG’s begin bringing plants to the pavilion area at the fairgrounds.
Please have them pruned and labeled.

MONDAY - April 24
Pricing committee 10 AM-NOON - greenhouse area. Sorting, Identifying, Pricing.

TUESDAY - April 25
Pricing committee 10 AM-NOON - greenhouse area. Sorting, Identifying, Pricing.

WEDNESDAY - April 26
Pricing committee: 10 AM-NOON, greenhouse area. Sorting, Identifying, Pricing.

THURSDAY - April 27 - 8 AM – NOON
Pricing committee at Bailey Nurseries in Yamhill.

THURSDAY - April 27 - NOON – 2 PM
Pricing Committee: greenhouse area. Sorting, Identifying, Pricing.

THURSDAY - April 27 - NOON-2 PM
Setup committee, Extension Office attic. Retrieval of all plant sale supplies and signs.

FRIDAY - APRIL 28 - 9AM until finished
Set up A Dec Building: – Bring your garden carts, wagons, wheelbarrows, etc.
NOON – 5 PM
Pricing Committee – Sorting, Identifying, Pricing.

LAST DAY TO BRING PLANTS TO SALE – NO SATURDAY DELIVERIES

SATURDAY — APRIL 29 — 7:30 AM
Kitchen personnel – Kitchen opens – 8:00 AM – Bring your food
Parking lot open – 8:00 AM
First shift Plant Sale personnel meeting – 8:30 AM
Cashier personnel meeting – 8:45 AM
Doors open – 9:00 AM
Clean up begins – 3:00 PM – until finished. Many hands makes short work.

As you can see, it takes a lot of people to make our sale successful. You can just show up for any of these activities and your help will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions on the above, please contact the Plant Sale Co-Chairs Ray VanBlaricom (503) 550-3544 or Al Hanks (503) 852-9591.

Master Gardener™ trainees Jennifer, Kate and Deb, volunteering at the water testing clinic, March 2006.
April

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

• Early April: fertilize lawn, let spring rains carry the fertilizer into the soil.

• If lawns are becoming thin and sickly, consider over-seeding with a mixture of perennial ryegrass and fine fescue.

• Protect dogwood trees, as they begin growth, against anthracnose diseases. Apply a copper fungicide or Daconil. Rake and destroy fallen leaves spring through fall.

• Help youngsters start a garden this year with carrots, chard, lettuce, onions, and peas.

• Bait for slugs; iron phosphate baits are available that are safe for use around pets. Clean up hiding places for slugs, sowbugs, and millipedes.

• Allow foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to brown and die down before removing.

• Prune and shape or thin spring-blooming shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.

• Control rose diseases such as black spot and powdery mildew. Remove infected leaves. Spray as necessary with registered fungicide. Prune ornamentals for air circulation and to help prevent fungus diseases.

• Prepare garden soil for spring planting. Incorporate generous amounts of organic materials and other amendments as needs are shown by soil analysis.

• Plant early broccoli varieties for western Oregon: Green Valiant, Premium Crop, Packman, or Rosalind.

• Use floating row covers to keep insects such as beet leaf miners, cabbage maggot adult flies, and carrot rust flies away from susceptible crops.

• Monitor strawberries for spittlebugs and aphids; control if present.

• Cut and remove weeds near the garden to remove sources of plant virus diseases.

• Spray for apple scab, cherry brown rot, and blossom blight. See EC 631, Controlling Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards.

• Apply commercial fertilizers, manure, or compost to cane, bush (gooseberries, currants, and blueberries), and trailing berries.

• Plant gladioli, hardy transplants of alyssum, phlox, and marigolds, if weather and soil conditions permit.

• Prepare raised beds in areas where cold soils and poor drainage are a continuing problem. Add generous amounts of organic materials.

• Place compost or well decomposed manure around perennial vegetable plants.

• Watch for botrytis blight on peonies.

• Check started seeds for damping-off.

• Cover transplants to protect against late spring frosts.

• Plant these vegetables: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, endive, leeks, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, spinach, turnips.

Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Always identify and monitor problems before acting. First consider cultural controls; then physical, biological, and chemical controls (which include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, organic and synthetic pesticides). Always consider the least toxic approach first.
Yamhill County OSU Master Gardener™ Newsletter

Sustainable Practices Tip

Ways to recycle and reuse garden catalogs

- Cover pots for indoor plants
- Wrap small gifts
- Customize note cards
- Shred pages for packing materials
- Make paper chains for Christmas tree
- Make a garden piñata
- Bookmarkers
- Decoupage a picture frame