

The Tiller



Yamhill County OSU Extension Master Gardener Newsletter

This Month's Master Gardener™ Calendar

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 2 From the President
Linda's Corner

Page 3 Buggy Bits
Talk to Daryll

Page 4 From the Greenhouse
Greenhouse Photos

Page 5 Committee Clippings

Page 6 Plant Profile
Chemeketa Winter Term

Page 7 Members at the Gate
Planning Session Cuttings
Extension Garden Calendar

Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association Executive Board

President: Pam Dowling
Vice President: Tom Jellison
Secretary: Ruth Rogers
Treasurer: Anna Ashby
OMGA Rep: Al Hanks
Alternate OMGA Rep:
Karen Payne
Members at Large:
Joyce Hammerschmith
Kathleen O'Brien-Blair

No Insect Committee Meetings in December!

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6 pm

MG Class of 2006 Graduation Potluck Dinner and Awards Ceremony at the PW Auditorium

All MGs and their families and friends are invited.

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6 pm

Come and cast your vote during the MG graduation ceremony for the YCMGA executive officers.
PW Auditorium

Volunteer Hours Sheets

You've done the work, now get some credit! Remember to submit your volunteer hours for 2006 before the awards ceremony on Dec 5. Forms are in the office and due November 30th.

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 10 am

YCMGA Board meeting. Voting to adopt the new 2007 budget. Everyone welcome.
PW Auditorium

December 18, McMinnville Garden Club

The McMinnville Garden Club meets the third Monday of every month from September through May and visitors are always welcome. For more information please call 503.434.4344 or go to <http://mcminnvillegardenclub.org>.

The 2007 OSU Master Gardener training class will start in January. This is a reminder to contact any potential candidates about completing an application for the new class.

YCMGA 2007 Dues Renewal

Renew your YCMGA membership for 2007. Dues are \$10. Form enclosed.

Jan. 9, 2007 Chemeketa Winter Term Begins

Horticulture classes available. See page 6.



Linda R. McMahan, Yamhill County Extension Faculty for Community Horticulture



President's Message *by Pam Dowling*



Our planning session last month was very productive with lots of new ideas for programs and sales for next year. A major theme of recruitment and retention of members will be a priority. As this will be a multi-year process, we will be trying

various activities to see what is the most effective. It was strongly felt that our presence at the McMinnville Farmer's Market was productive from a recruitment perspective as well as maintaining community involvement.

The 2007 slate of Executive Voting Officers was presented as follows -

- President – Karen Payne
- Vice President – Ray VanBlaricom
- Secretary – Sue Trombetta
- Treasurer – Anna Ashby
- OMGA Rep – Darryl Alt
- Alternate OMGA Rep – Cathy Burdett

- Member at Large #1 – Joyce Hammerschmith
- Member at Large #2 – Kathleen O'Brien-Blair

This slate will be voted on at the December 5 graduation/meeting. We will also accept nominations from the floor on that night.

At the planning session, we also prepare a budget for next year. We try to adequately fund our ongoing projects so each committee chair has the financial resources to complete his/her tasks. Our budget is obviously based on the proceeds from our sales. Our preliminary budget will be voted on at the December 12 Board meeting with the idea that we review it again in May or June after we have the proceeds from our sales. A copy of the preliminary budget will be posted in the Extension Office on the MG bulletin board in the hallway outside the MG room for examination.

If any member has any comments or suggestions for 2007, please contact any Board member.

Have a safe, warm and wonderful holiday season.

Linda's Corner *by Linda McMahan*



Time to Celebrate

Please come to our graduation and awards ceremony the evening of December 5, 2006. This is our annual potluck and celebration of the successes of 2006. It's the time we congratulate the graduating class of 2006 and declare them officially "OSU Master Gardeners." It's also the

time we recognize people who have provided exceptional service to the Yamhill County Extension Master Gardener™ Program and to the Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association. Look for the "official" invitation coming your way soon in the mail. No RSVP needed, just come and join the celebration.

Hours, Hours, Hours. I need your final hours as soon as possible. My report to the state Master Gardener Program is due very soon. Although it is great to get your volunteer hours, the other reason is that OSU uses these to show the state legislature and other funding programs the valuable contribution that you and other volunteers make to our programs. Hours forms are available right inside the front door, or download a PDF copy off of our website. Please have them to me by November 30 at the very latest!

Recertification. Please remember to recertify. Active Master Gardeners are necessary to keep our outreach program running smoothly. You need 10 hours on the desk and 12 recertification credits. If you have any questions or need to ask for an exception, please call or email me as soon as possible and we will work something out. Linda



GARDEN QUOTE:

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." --Abraham Lincoln

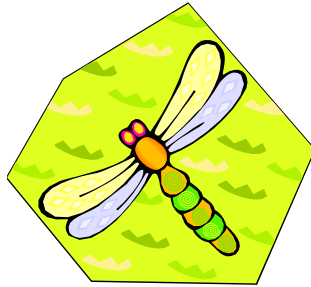
Buggy Bits *by Bob Grossmann*

Long Ago, but Not Far Away!

Insects have been around a long time - a very, very long time! Insects developed when living forms first moved out from the oceans of our planet and began to live on land. This was a time called the Carboniferous era, the time when great quantities of plant life lived and eventually produced the large expanses of coal we use today.

The first insects were very primitive, tiny, lacking wings or complicated body structures. Over eons of time, however, insects grew larger in size and numbers of species. By the time the early amphibians were developing, winged insects were all over the place. Giant dragonflies with a two and a half foot wingspan (the largest insects in the world) were common. Cockroaches dominated this period and are the most abundant of insect fossils we have found from that time. The period is sometimes called the "Age of Cockroaches". Species of scorpions and spiders and other invertebrates were also quite common.

The Carboniferous period gave way to the age of dinosaurs and with it the rise of insect orders that we would recognize today. The true bugs, beetles, wasps, aphids and other groups were very common. Insects and plants began to develop close relationships. Flowers were pollinated by various insects and the flowers, in turn, provided food for those insects. This was a time when trees exuded a lot of sap that would eventually become amber. Many



insects were attracted to the sap and became mired in it. We are able to study fine details of the body parts of these insects entrapped in the amber. Recently, a new species of butterfly was discovered in amber from that time.

As time marched on, climatic changes occurred over long periods of time, causing insects to disperse as "cool" adapted or "warm" adapted species.

The changing climates caused diversification in the numbers and kinds of insects in a particular region. During the Pleistocene era, the great ice age occurred. Temperatures fluctuated through extremes from very cold, with great ice sheets, to warm interglacial periods. This tremendous fluctuation caused insects to redistribute throughout the world. Since we are still in the Pleistocene, we are probably in one of those interglacial periods.

Today we have about 90,000 species of insects that live in North America, but throughout the world there are over 800,000 species that have been identified. This is quite different from the few primitive insects that first developed on earth over 200 million years ago. So, I guess we must say about insects, "You've come a long way, baby!"

The development of insect species and groups is a dynamic that continues to evolve. New species and subspecies are constantly being discovered.

Insects have been very adaptable for a long, long time!

Talk to Daryll *by Daryll Alt (503) 835-6430 or harmony_haven@hotmail.com*

Interest Group (Eating What We Grow)

Master Gardeners who are interested in forming an Interest Group that would meet monthly (beginning in January) to share recipes and thoughts on the food we grow...ok, and to eat.

The Desk Library

A recent audit of our Resource Library found over fifty books had migrated off to other places. Please note that all books in the Resource Library need to stay with their friends so we can all use them when we are on the desk. Amnesty has been declared and we are asking members to search their own bookshelves to see if maybe one of these books followed you home. Returns will be welcomed with gratitude and without question. Your Library Committee

Contact Daryll at the numbers above if you would like to follow up on any of these notices.

Public Awareness Committee???

At the November Board Meeting, a number of us expressed interest in forming and developing a "Public Awareness Committee". The purpose of this group, while still in the seedling stage, would be the development and promotion of public awareness and educational outreach in a variety of ways. Some of our goals we talked about include: to expand our presence in the community; become more familiar to and accessible to every part of the county; develop our role as a resource and to promote and encourage involvement from new members. This is a seedling we are just planting and only with your involvement will it grow.

State Level Brainstorming Session is Open to all MG's

First Session is on Saturday, December 2nd from 9:30 am to noon in the Tillamook area. Master Gardeners Janna & Danny Crabb will open their Miami River B & B to us for our informal session (The room accommodated a Tillamook chapter meeting of 25 members). Coffee, tea, bagels and muffins will be provided. If you are planning to arrive Friday, please call Janna directly at your earliest convenience to reserve a room. Janna & Danny Crabb, Innkeepers, 13555 Ekroth Road, Bay City, OR 97107
Toll Free: 1-800-313-5824, Phone: 503-322-0291 - Fax: 503-322-2076 <http://www.miamiriverinnbb.com>
Anyone interested in traveling with Daryll Alt and Kathleen Blair-O'Brien to this session on Dec 2, in Tillamook County, please let Daryll know if you are interested in carpooling. I have a van that will carry seven all together. There are two of us, so far. Or, if you can not attend and would like to send along any thoughts, comments, concerns or ideas, I would be happy to carry them along.

From the Greenhouse *by Gail Price*

Well, dear readers, I let it happen. I didn't clean out my flowerbeds when I should have because I still had good color. Then we went on a week's vacation, and while we were gone, there were two mornings of frost. And then the rains began – MUSH! YUK!

I finally have all of the annuals pulled out and most of the perennials cut back. I can finally see the soil again. I must say it is sort of restful to see things folding up for their winter's sleep.

I still have time to move a few things around. As plants have matured I realize they are not quite in the right place. They may be taller or shorter than I anticipated. Or in their maturity, they have grown too close to another plant. I hope to fix some of these problems in the next few weeks.

As shrubs and trees lose their leaves, I can get a better look at their structure and start planning some of the pruning I will do to improve their shapes. Pruning is always something we are a bit afraid of. We are afraid we won't do it right or we might kill something if we cut it back too much. I suppose that it is possible but probably not likely. Shrubs and trees are pretty resilient. (They have to be to survive all these so called "landscapers" out there whacking away.)

I recently bought a new pruning book by Cass Turnbull. It is the second edition of her *Guide to Pruning*. Seattle-ite, Cass Turnbull is the founder of Plant Amnesty, a group with the serious mission of teaching people how to prune their trees and shrubs. As Ann Lovejoy says in the book's Forward, "she does this with grace, wit, and sparkling humor." I have seen some of the brochures from this group and they are great fun to read and learn from.

Part One of the book is called "The Basics". In nine chapters it discusses things that most pruning books

touch on such as types of pruning cuts, techniques, timing, tools, deadwood, and water sprouts and suckers. She also includes landscape renovation and design errors in this section.

These areas are all interesting and important, but what I really like is Part Two of the book. It gets down to pruning specific plants. She has chapters on how to prune mounding-habit shrubs like *Abelia*, burning bush, *Spirea* etc., cane-growing shrubs – *Nandina*, Oregon grape, *Hydrangea*, roses etc., Tree-like shrubs – *Camellia*, lilac, *Viburnum* etc., vines – *Clematis*, *Wisteria*; Trees – big trees, fruit trees, Japanese maples, etc., and groundcovers. Certainly, not every tree or shrub is mentioned by name, but enough of them are so you can apply what she tells you to other plants in your yard.

I have really become interested in pruning correctly as I see so many plants pruned badly. Cass Turnbull calls it *mal-pruning* and says that 80% of what homeowners and professionals do fit into this category. It is obvious. You can see mal-pruning all over town.

I learned recently from Daryll Alt that there is a Pruning Certification Program out there. It seems someone in Lane County teaches it. I'm sure we will let you know as we learn more about the class. Hopefully, we can get it taught up here.

When they show up, don't let the good days in December get away from you. There are still bulbs to plant and plants to move around. You can prune a few things and plan for the January-February pruning projects. The arrival of seed catalogues is not far off and plans for next spring can dance in your head – along with the sugar plum fairies.



Greenhouse Committee



Look at all those plants!



Committee Clippings *by Cathy Burdett*

This month, we are featuring the dedicated, hard-working **GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE**. This group's main purpose is to produce, from seed, the plants that are sold at YCMGA's annual plant sale. Proceeds from the sale support YCMGA's varied activities. The members also maintain the greenhouse structure and equipment located at the Yamhill County fairgrounds. Check out the details below produced at the 2006 sale.

These garden enthusiasts meet every Tuesday from February through April.

Vegetables from Seed
Bell Peppers
Broccoli
Cauliflower
Jalapeno Peppers
Leaf Lettuce
Parsley
Romaine Lettuce
Tomatoes
Eggplant
1,389 4" Pots
101 6-packs

Duties involved in seed propagation for the YCMGA sale
Selecting seeds
Purchasing seeds & supplies
Planting
Potting
Monitoring
Watering (constantly)
Pricing
Labeling
Color coding plant tags
Maintaining quality control
Transporting to the sale
Setting up sales & displays
Working on sale day
Cleaning up after the sale
Distributing remainder plants to community organizations

Flowers from Seed
Dahlias
Lobelia
Marigolds
Petunias
Salvias
Statice
Swan River Daisy
Zinnia
319 4" Pots
751 6-packs

Produced by Gail Price at home:
 Allysum, Coleus, Dusty Miller & Heliotrope
 330 4" pots & 42 6-packs

TOTALS
 2707 4" pots
 894 6-packs
 (5364 plants)

Produced by Doris Crimmins at home:
 Chrysanthemums, Delphiniums, Dianthus, Geraniums, Linaria, Monarda & Penstemons
 534 4" pots

Produced by Gail Bennett at home:
 California poppies, Cup & Saucer vines, Nasturtiums, Sweet Peas & Red poppies
 135 4" pots

Many gardens in Yamhill County produce beautiful flowers and healthy, tasty vegetables because of the dedication of this committee. **Awesome Achievement!**

Thank You Greenhouse Committee!

Gail Price—Chair, Gail Bennett, Polly Blum, Sylvia Connor, Doris Crimmins, George Migaki, Susan Randall, Ray VanBlaricom and many volunteers.

Plant Profile: Blanket Flower—*Gaillardia* by Linda McMahan



For bright color, it's hard to beat these yellow and orange members of the sunflower family. Choose from several botanical species and a host of hybrid cultivars, designated *Gaillardia x grandiflora*. The "x" indicates it is a hybrid and the many varieties include a short one, called 'Goblin' which you can see in the WaterWise landscape in front of the Extension Service office. Plants can be purchased ready to plant, or you can grow them from seed or by dividing an existing plant during the spring. Full, or nearly full sun, is a must, but once established you only need to add water when the plant looks stressed. In fact, blanket flower tends to be short lived in rich, wetter soils, but thrives in the dryer conditions of a WaterWise setting. In fact, many websites recommend treating these as annuals—but most of those sites are in the East where summer water is more abundant than here in

western Oregon.

The natural drought tolerance comes from the wild species. Many wild species—some annuals and some perennials, are native to much of the American west. These include the annual *Gaillardia pulchella* and a perennial, *Gaillardia aristata*. The hybrid (*G. x grandiflora*) is a cross between these two wild species. The hybrids and the species all have their own charm, so go ahead and try them out in your own garden. Although the hybrid is commonly available "ready to plant," you may have to purchase seeds of the other two and grow your own.

For some very nice photographs, try these websites:

http://www.sbs.utexas.edu/bio406d/images/pics/ast/gaillardia_pulchella.htm

<http://biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/imagecollection.php?Genus=Gaillardia&Species=aristata>

http://hflp.sdstate.edu/ho311/plant_list_2_2002.htm

Chemeketa Offers Horticulture Classes Winter Term

In anticipation of offering a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree in Horticulture beginning Fall Term 2007, Chemeketa Community College will expand its offering of Horticulture classes this winter and spring terms. Courses offered winter term at the Salem-Lancaster campus start on January 9 and include:

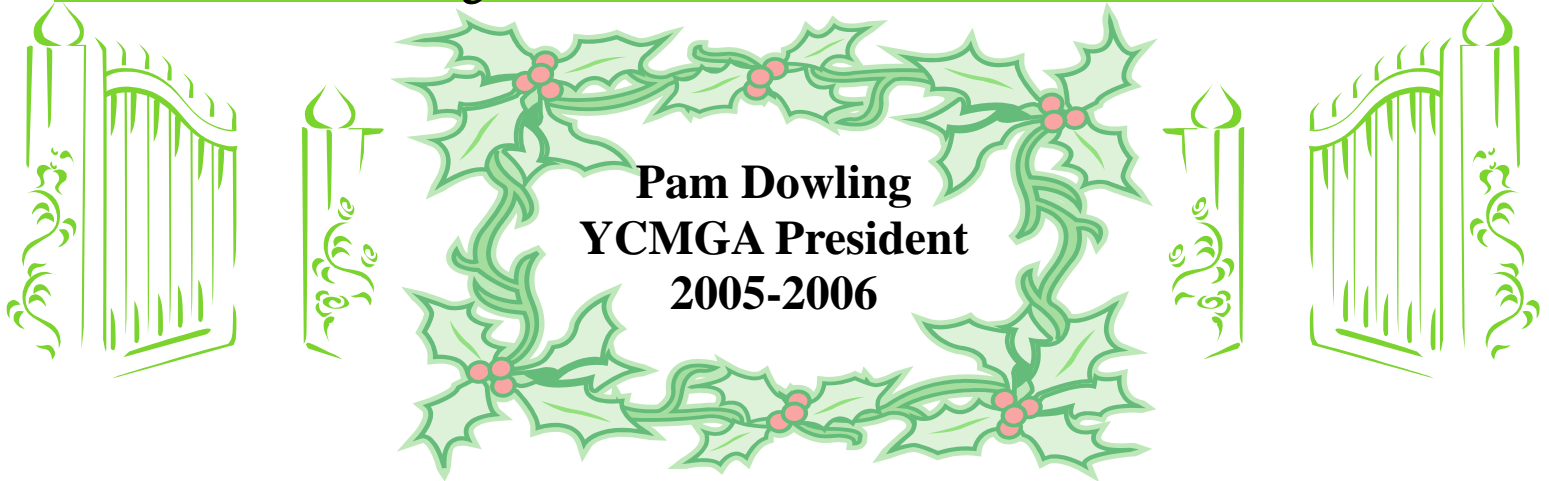
Introduction to Horticulture HOR111 (*CRN 55804-lecture and CRN 55805-lab, register for both*) Explore the world of horticulture in this introduction to one of Oregon's most important industries. Acquire an understanding of the basics of plant growth, function and identification. Discover how soil, fertilizer and pests affect growing crops. Study the environmental, economic and social aspects of horticulture. Includes hands-on experience working with plants in Chemeketa's greenhouses and one Saturday field trip visiting horticultural operations in the area. Accepted by OSU as a transfer course for HORT 111. Gail Gredler, instructor. 4 credits. 2-4:20 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. One Saturday field trip. \$232 plus \$49 fee.

Plant Propagation HOR211 (*CRN 52837-lecture, CRN 52839-lab, register for both*) Discover the art and science of plant propagation by hands-on techniques using seeds, cuttings, division, layering and grafting in Chemeketa's greenhouses. Explore techniques of tissue culture of plants. Gain knowledge and experience with the equipment, materials and environmental conditions used in commercial propagation and visit the propagation facilities at several area nurseries. 3 credits. Gail Gredler, instructor. 6-8 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. \$174 plus \$43 fee.

Identification of Woody Plants II HOR227 (*CRN 55871-lecture and CRN 55877-lab, register for both*) Identifies species and varieties of landscape trees and shrubs, focusing on conifers and broadleaf evergreens with ornamental value. Presents plant identification techniques that rely on recognition of form, structure and visual details of leaves, needles, cones, fruit and bark. Plants will be identified by their common and scientific names. Labs include identification of trees and shrubs at local nurseries, The Oregon Garden, Chemeketa campus, and other area locations with a diversity of plant material. Weekly field trips. (Identification of Woody Plants I, II, and III can be taken independently or in any sequence.) 3 credits. Gail Gredler, instructor. 2-4:20 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. \$174 plus \$54 fee.

To register, go to <http://www.chemeketa.edu/exploring/started/index.html> or call 503/399-5139.

Meeting Members at the Garden Gate

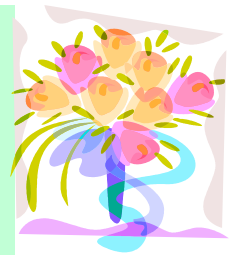


Outgoing president Pam Dowling has made substantial impact on the YCMGA and its membership.

- A “**cream of the crop**” accomplished administrator at board meetings
- An energetic, enthusiastic ambassador “**sowing YCMGA seeds**” at various community activities and events
- “**Busy as a bee**” in appointing strong, productive committee chairs
- “**Propagating**” monthly communication by writing articles for the Tiller
- “**Cultivating**” encouragement, participation and growth of YCMGA members
- “**Perennially**” cheerful



*Thank you Pam—
YCMGA continues to “blossom and
flourish” because of your influence.*



Cuttings from the YCMGA Planning Session *by Cathy Burdett*

YCMGA held their annual planning session on November 13th. This session substitutes for the board meeting in November.

- ◆ YCMGA and board members attended the annual planning session
- ◆ Reviewed YCMGA programs and activities from 2006, discussed successes and not-so-successes
- ◆ Suggested potential plans, programs and ideas for 2007
- ◆ Proposed the slate for the board of directors for 2007
- ◆ Formulated a proposed budget for 2007
- ◆ Suggested budget and board nominations will be submitted for appropriate voting at the December 5th and 12th meetings —plans and programs will be discussed at early 2007 board meetings. Please plan to attend!



OSU Extension Gardening Calendar

What to do in your garden each month

Go to: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening>
and click on the link to the Gardening Calendars



OSU Yamhill County Extension Office
2050 Lafayette Avenue
McMinnville, OR 97128-9333



Holidays are usually times of joyous celebration with families and friends. It is comforting to note that although our gardens are in a dormant state, Master Gardeners throughout Oregon and the nation are enjoying seasonal delights and surprises. Why not surprise a YCMGA or OSU member with some expression of good wishes for the holiday season and the new year?

Yamhill County OSU Extension Office
2050 Lafayette Avenue
McMinnville, OR 97128-9333
Phone: 503-434-7517
Email: yamhillmg@oregonstate.edu

We're on the Web!
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill>

THE TILLER

The *Tiller* is published monthly by the Yamhill County OSU Extension Office in cooperation with the Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association, 2050 Lafayette Avenue, McMinnville, OR 97128-9333. (503) 434-7517. For free subscription by email, send request to: yamhillmg@oregonstate.edu

General meetings of the Yamhill County Master Gardeners™ Association as announced in the *Tiller*. Open to the public.
OSU Master Gardener™ Program Director: Linda R. McMahan, Ph.D.
Editor: Cathy Burdett
Contributors: Pam Dowling, Linda McMahan, Bob Grossman, Gail Price, Cathy Burdett, Daryll Alt

