FEBRUARY 2007

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Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Board
President:  Karen Payne
Vice President:  Ray VanBlaricom
Secretary:  Susan Trombetta
Treasurer:  Anna Ashby
OMGA Rep:  Daryll Alt
Alternate OMGA Rep:  Cathy Burdett
Members at Large:  Joyce Hammerschmith
   Kathleen O’Brien-Blair
Past President:  Pam Dowling

This Month’s Master Gardener™ Calendar

February 3-9
Volunteers needed to help set up the
Bare Root Tree & Shrub sale.
See page 10

February 8, Thursday
Deadline for submitting plant orders for
the YC SWCD Annual Native Plant
Sale.  See page 9

February 9, Friday
Dirt Day at the MG Greenhouse on the
fairgrounds.  Call Gail Price
(503)-472-1417

February 10 and 17, Saturdays
10 am—3 pm YCMGA Annual Bare
Root Tree and Shrub sale at the YC
Fairgrounds.  See page 10

February 14, Wednesday
NOTE NEW DAY & TIME!
YCMGA Board Meeting, 1-3 pm
PW Auditorium.  All members
welcome

February 15 & 16, Thursday &
   Friday, 9 am—6 pm and February 17,
   Saturday, 10 am—3 pm
   SWCD Annual Native Plant Sale
   2200 SW 2nd St., McMinnville
   www.yamhillswcd.org

YCMGA Dues Reminder:
   Renew your YCMGA membership
   today!  Forms in the Extension office
   or online

February 16, Friday
Deadline for the March Tiller

February 20, Tuesday
9-11 am.  Greenhouse committee will
meet every Tuesday until the sale

February 22, Thursday
7 pm, Cheahmill Chapter NPSO
   The Nature Year on Mt. Adams presenta-
   tion by Paul Slichter.  Views of the
   spectacular scenery and fauna of Mt.
   Adams.  Carnegie Room, McMinnville
   Library, 225 NW Adams St.  Call
   Susan for more info:  503-538-1865 or
   email:  helgesusan@comcast.net

No Insect Committee Meetings
in February!

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

By Linda McMahan

**Exciting New Class for 2007**

We have a large and very active class for 2007 or 37 new Master Gardener trainees. Thank you to all of you who stepped forward to be mentors and especially to Kathleen Obrien-Blair for coordinating this year’s mentor program. Also thanks to Daryll Alt, Ray VanBlaricom, Kate Cushman, Cathy Burdett, and Kathleen Obrien-Blair and the mentors for helping with setup, cleanup and running the video camera each day. We are off to a great start.

**Recertification**

Master Gardener trainees are “certified” as OSU Master Gardeners™ for the first full year after they complete training and volunteer service. However, the second year is the time to begin thinking about recertifying for the next or third year of their continuing service. The same requirements apply to anyone who has completed the training, no matter how long ago. Recertification is required for any Master Gardener who makes recommendations to members of the public so it is required if you serve at the desk, at an offsite clinic such as the farmer’s market, become a mentor for a new class member, or even if you teach in the community as an OSU Master Gardener and give any advice. The requirement is in place to assure that the Master Gardeners who represent Oregon State University in the community remain qualified with up to date information.

Requirements for recertification in Yamhill County are 10 hours of service on the desk or at a clinic and 12 hours of recertification credits or approved continuing education. The education requirements can be earned through attending the starred “*” classes in the new class training, through approved courses at Gardener’s Mini College, or other training if I approve them (note: I approve most of these requests, so please feel free to ask). You can substitute the education requirement (but not the desk portion) by taking a recertification “review exam” which is open book and requires you to track down an approved source of information to answer each question. You fill out paperwork for recertification on the same sheet you use for recording your volunteer hours. They are always available right inside the front door of the Extension Office or on the Yamhill County Extension website. Please call or email me with any questions you have. As already trained Master Gardeners, you remain a valuable resource to our community and OSU Extension.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

I would like to welcome all the members of the Board and look forward to an exciting year promoting our wonderful organization.

We have a busy month this month with the Bare Root Tree & Shrub sale at the fairgrounds. Let’s pray for good weather. The sale is Saturday, February 10 and 17 from 10 am through 3 pm. Don’t forget that we have shrubs this year.

Thanks Pam for a wonderful 2 years.

If you have any questions or ideas, give me a call or email me: 503-554-8433 or jakapa@onlinenw.com
The Secret Lives of Termites

When we think of termites, we usually concentrate on their destructive nature. We think of homes, barns and other wooden buildings that are attacked by these ravenous little insects. They carry on their work hidden deep in the structures that they are feeding on. Actually, what we don’t see is the vastly complex society that takes place in a termite mound.

Termites look like white ants, but their nearest relatives are actually the cockroaches. Ants are all females, except for the time when males are needed to procreate. Termite workers are male or female, and the royal family consists of both a male parent and a female egg layer. A king and queen if you like. Also, the eggs hatch into nymphs, small replicas of the adult insects that can carry on the functions of the colony. Ants have grub-like larvae that need to be constantly cared for.

To start new colonies, fully formed reproductive, winged males and females swarm out of the nest by the hundreds. After pairing off, they fall to the ground and pull off their wings. The wings are equipped with a special suture which allow this to happen easily. The pair then searches for a suitable location to start a new colony.

Eggs are laid and the colony grows. Chambers of the nest are enlarged and expanded. Termites are great builders, and despite the workers being blind, are able to measure precisely with their antennae and build complex structures using wood scraps, earth and saliva. Some tropical species build skyscraper mounds that can reach as high as ten feet.

Inside these mounds are a myriad of “apartment” chambers. Even ventilation is provided by numerous ducts that lead to the outside of the mound. One Australian species is called the “compass termite”, as it builds long narrow mounds in an exact north-south orientation. Since the sun travels from east to west, one side of the mound is constantly in the shade and is therefore cooler. The termites can move from one side to the other to regulate their environmental temperature.

Termites are divided into castes within the colony. There is the royal pair, the workers, and two types of soldier termites that protect the other individuals. One type of soldier has an enormous head and massive jaws that can be used to defend the others. I sort of refer to these as the “big guns”. The other class of soldiers are the nasute warriors. These have a bulbous head with a pointed structure that can exude a sticky toxic substance that tangles the antennae and legs of an invader such as an ant. You might compare this to chemical warfare.

A termite colony is like a very large bustling city, its inhabitants constantly on the go, doing the work that sustains the individual as well as the group. Termites are destructive, yes! They are also very fascinating creatures that help to break down fallen trees and other wood so that new plants are able to utilize the materials that are produced from their labor.
Welcome MG Class of 2007! By Cathy Burdett

OSU and YCMGA welcomes the 2007 Master Gardener™ class. As “special seedlings”, we trust that your year of training, education and involvement in community activities will “bear productive fruit”. This year as you enjoy “a vigorous growth”, remember to have fun and develop friendships with other Master Gardeners!

2007 MG Class Roster

Joe Arnold (McMinnville)        Antoinette Marcel (McMinnville)
Jean Azlein (McMinnville)       Beverly Norman (McMinnville)
Kathleen Bennett (Dayton)       David Norman (McMinnville)
Leslie Buchholz (McMinnville)   Jay Nunley (Sheridan)
Bernae Carr (Sheridan)          Shelley Olson (Newberg)
Barbara Clark (Newberg)         Sherilyn Overstreet (Newberg)
Julie Ann Dean (Sheridan)       Susan Park (McMinnville)
Colleen Donovan (McMinnville)   Marie Schreiber (Dayton)
Tina Enomoto (Newberg)          John Shaffer (Newberg)
Janet Gahr (McMinnville)        Barbara Smith (Willamina)
Joyce Gerhardt (Amity)          Janice Sprecher (Newberg)
Patti Gregory (Newberg)          Bryan Stewart (Newberg)
Vivian Gregory (Dayton)         Hannah Swanson (McMinnville)
Doris Hasson (Yamhill)          Penny Todahl (Willamina)
Cindy Kinnaman (Dundee)         Rosalind Turner (McMinnville)
Steven Klass (Dayton)           Marion Vail (Amity)
Georgia Landon (McMinnville)    Deborah Van Noord (Newberg)
Marlene Lee (McMinnville)       Casey Wallace (McMinnville)
Suzanne Litviak (Newberg)

2007 Mentor Photos

Not pictured: Dianne Stillion
Meeting Members at the Garden Gate by Cathy Burdett

Kathleen O’Brien-Blair

♦ 2006/2007 YCMGA Board “Member at Large”
♦ 2007 Mentoring committee chair
♦ 2006/2007 Salvation Army community garden coordinator
♦ 2006/2007 Carlton Grow project advisor
♦ 2007 YCMGA Plant sale co-chair
♦ A whirlwind of energy and enthusiasm

Kathleen—We appreciate all your varied involvement on the behalf of OSU/YCMGA. Thank you!

Committee Clippings by Cathy Burdett

This month we emphasize the work of the Mentoring Committee. Their purpose is to support the Master Gardener mentees in completing classes and payback hours. In addition, they help to facilitate the transition from mentee to active YCMGA member. (See pictures, page 4)

The following MG’s will serve in the role of mentors for the new 2007 class:
  Kathleen O’Brien-Blair, Committee Chair
  Daryll Alt
  Cathy Burdett
  Doris Cruickshank
  Marcia Garrick
  Tracy Grimstad
  Sharon Gunter
  Kate Parker
  Dianne Stillion
  Ray VanBlaricom

Cuttings from the YCMGA Board Meeting by Cathy Burdett

♦ Linda McMahan proposed changing the month of the MG Graduation and Award ceremonies. YCMGA’s Board agreed to change graduation to January 2008 in order to accommodate both the 2007 and 2008 classes attendance at the event.
♦ Kathleen O’Brien-Blair presented an update on the “Carlton Grows” project
♦ The Board voted to create a “Public Awareness Committee”
♦ A process for implementation of “YCMGA’s Golden Trowel Award” was proposed and adopted. See page 11 for more information and nomination form.
♦ Pam Dowling requires assistance from YCMGA members, as work crews, prior to the Bare Root Sale on February 10th.
Catalogues, catalogues, catalogues! Seed and plant catalogues, I mean. Once you get on somebody’s list, you start getting bunches of them. They start coming in December and continue through the first of the year. Actually, they can come throughout the year.

When seed and plant catalogues come in the garden doldrums of winter, they bring an anticipation of spring and summer gardening. They stimulate planning for the gardening season to come.

We on the plant committee for the spring plant sale have our favorite catalogues. Anything from Oregon and Washington usually are the best seeds for our area. At the top of our list is the catalogue for the Territorial Seed Company in Cottage Grove, Oregon. We get a few flower seeds from them but our largest purchase is for tomato seeds. We grow 1200 tomato plants for the sale and their Oregon tested seeds do well in our area.

Nichols Garden Nursery in Albany, Oregon is another good local source for seeds. Both Nichols and Territorial are stronger in the vegetable seed area than they are in flowers. However, they do have a fair number of flowers and also lots of herbs.

Our favorite catalogues for flower seeds are Harris Seeds in Rochester, NY and the Park Seed Company in Greenwood, SC. I know they are not northwest companies but they have a large variety of flower seed and we have had good luck growing them. They are also nice people to work with if there is a problem.

And speaking of problems the main ones with most catalogues are the number of seeds per packet (not many) and the cost of the packets. Some packets may have 100 seeds or more but most likely there will be 50 or less. Some packets may only have 5 or 10 seeds and cost upwards of $5.00/pkt. I sure hope you are good at seed starting to buy seeds at that price.

We on the plant committee have had good luck with seeds that Lily Miller and Ed Hume put out. These seeds can be purchased at local stores. These companies have also reduced the number of seeds per packet and have raised their prices. However, they still seem to be a better bargain than catalogue seeds and you don’t have to pay shipping and handling fees which definitely adds to the cost of catalogue seeds.

To save money on seed purchase, we also use seeds we have saved from our own gardens. If the seeds are heirloom or open pollinated (not hybrids), they will come back true to the mother plant. We have had good luck with Salvia, Nicotiana, Swan River Daisy, Lobelia, Cosmos, snapdragons, some petunias and others. Plants that reseed themselves readily are good candidates for seed saving. George Migaki saves the heirloom tomato, Brandywine, and we have had good luck growing those. There is a process to saving tomato seed so ask George about it.

The plant sale chairmen, Kathleen O’Brien-Blair and Daryll Alt have been getting the plant sale organization up and running for over a month now. The plant committee is always planning for the next plant sale. We met after the sale to discuss what went well and what didn’t, which plants to grow again and which ones not to grow again. In January we met again to look at our plant list and add or subtract from it. After that meeting we get our orders off to the seed companies. We also make plans for our starting date which should be on Tuesday February 20th beginning at 9:00am. We will meet every Tuesday morning after that until the sale.

All help is appreciated.

The plant committee is also responsible for getting the perennial plant donations for the sale. This is something I will be reminding you of in columns to come. You should be thinking now of what you plan to donate as it won’t be too long before your fingers get itchy to get out in the dirt.

As usual we have pots to share at the greenhouse and we will be getting potting soil about the middle of February. I am looking at Friday February 9th as “dirt day” when we will go to ProGro and get the soil. It is important that you pot up your donations as soon as possible so they will settle into the pots and look nice for the sale.

We hope all of you will have the plant sale on your minds in the coming months. It is a great project for us to work on as a group, so consider joining one of the committees.
A WaterWise Fern?

Several ferns are WaterWise and can be grown in dryer conditions locally. Perhaps the most versatile is our very own sword fern, *Polystichum munitum*. This species grows in many habitats in the Pacific Northwest, but is perhaps most prevalent in shaded forests. However, in gardens, the sword fern can also tolerate moderate to nearly full sun. Once established, additional water is not necessary, although the plants may look more attractive if given a little water during particularly dry times. As with all plants, additional water during the establishment phase is important. For some nice photographs, including the one shown here, go to the OSU plant identification website:

http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/3plants.htm#pomu.

That site also mentions a subspecies, *Polystichum munitum* var. *imbricans*, which is a shorter form that actually prefers sun over shade.

Sword fern is evergreen, with new fronds unfurling each year during the growing season. For esthetic reasons, some people prefer to prune out the old fronds each year, or even cut back all foliage before the new fronds emerge. This produces a smaller plant overall, which some people prefer as a management tool. On the other hand, it is an extra garden chore (a matter of personal preference) and does remove hiding places for amphibians and beneficial insects.

Fun with Vegetables

Vegetable “beasties” created by the 2007 MGs during their class on Botany. See more on page 6.
Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District’s

Annual Native Plant Sale

Proceeds will benefit Miller Woods, Yamhill Basin Council and your watershed

Thursday & Friday, February 15 & 16
9 am—6 pm
And
Saturday, February 17
9 am—3 pm
2200 SW 2nd St., McMinnville

Volunteers needed as follows:
February 7, 8 & 9 (times available 9 am—5 pm)
Jobs: labeling plants, setting up tables & materials for the sale
February 12, 13 & 14 (times available 9 am—6pm)
Jobs available: fill pre-orders. Outside work, not overly strenuous
February 15 & 16 (times available 9 am—6pm) and
February 17 (times available 9 am—3 pm)
Jobs: sale days—help customers pick plants and find pre-orders. Mostly outdoor jobs, but some indoor.
* You can volunteer for all or part of a day
Helping for even a few hours on one day will be appreciated!

To volunteer or get more information, contact the Yamhill Basin Council 503-434-7447 or YBC_OUTREACH@co.yamhill.or.us
YCMGA ANNUAL BARE ROOT TREE & SHRUB SALE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17
10 AM—3 PM
AT THE YAMHILL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS HORTICULTURE PAVILION IN McMINTON

Volunteers needed on sale days and FEBRUARY 3—to unload plants at the fairgrounds
FEBRUARY 8-9—starting at 9 am—tagging trees & shrubs at the fairgrounds

For more information, call Pam Dowling 503-864-8057 or email dowling1290@msn.com

Net proceeds from this sale benefit the YCMGA Scholarship fund.
YCMGA announces a new awards program.
If you would like to make a nomination, the form is outlined below.

Statement of purpose: To recognize Yamhill County Master Gardeners who have shown, through dedication, commitment, and/or outstanding contributions toward accomplishing the goals and purposes of the YCMGA.

Nominations: May be submitted by any active member

Process: YCMGA Executive board to review all nominations and select a monthly awardee(s). Notification of awards will go to the Tiller and to the McMinnville News Register.

Forward completed nomination forms to Karen Payne, YCMGA President. Printed forms can be sent to Karen’s attention at the Extension office, 2050 NE Lafayette Avenue, McMinnville, OR 97128, dropped off at any YCMGA board meeting, or nomination information can be emailed to jakapa@onlinenw.com

YCMGA
Golden Trowel Award
Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: ________________________________

Today’s Date: ________________________________

Outline of Contributions:


Submitted by: ________________________________

Reviewed by: ________________________________

Status: ________________________________
Your family and your love must be cultivated like a garden—Jim Rohn

Happy Valentine’s Day

THE TILLER
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General meetings of the Yamhill County Master Gardeners™ Association are announced in the Tiller. Open to the public.

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