Yamhill County OSU Extension Master Gardener Newsletter

This Month’s Master Gardener™ Calendar

February 11, Wednesday
YCMGA Board Meeting, 1 pm in the PW Auditorium. All members welcome.

February 21, Saturday
9th Annual Extension Small Farms Conference, 9:30am-5pm on the Corvallis campus. Register online at http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/or call the Benton office 1-800-365-0201.

February 12-14, Thursday-Saturday
Yamhill SWCD Native Plant Sale 9am-6pm (3pm on Saturday). Volunteers needed, call Josie 503-472-6403.

February 16, Monday
Deadline for submissions to the March Tiller.

February 27-28, Friday & Saturday
YCMGA Tree and Shrub Sale, 9am-3pm at the Fairgrounds. Volunteers needed. Call Alan 503-435-1131.

March 18, Wednesday
Appreciation Luncheon At Yan’s Oriental Restaurant in McMinnville. RSVP by Friday, March 13 to either Pam Dowling or Alan Wenner. See page 5.

Get Ready!
The YCMGA Annual Plant Fair and Sale Saturday, April 25 9am-3pm at the Fairgrounds Lots of volunteers needed. Sign up book in the MG office

2009 YCMGA Dues!
Membership dues for 2009 are due! $15. Please return the form on pages 10 & 11.

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

Class of 2009 in Full Swing.

January sure started out quickly as usual with a new class of aspiring Master Gardeners. This is the first year we are trying a blended approach to Master Gardener training. For 17 of the traditional 22 class times, we are doing it in the traditional way—trainees come to class and learn from an instructor. The other 5 sessions are online—that is, the resources and powerpoints are on websites and participants are given links and passwords to complete the training on their own.

It works like this: Class members or recertifying Master Gardeners click on the link in the web page and enter a user name and password that can be obtained from Deb Zaveson. Then go to a site called Slideshare to view the PowerPoints and have the capacity to download them to their own computer if they wish. The file sizes are much smaller than those used for the in-class training, but work well when viewed on a computer. In addition, there are other assignments and a learning quiz which is intended to be fun and provide opportunities to explore and test self-knowledge. Upon completion of the modules, the trainee goes to yet another website and certifies they have completed the unit. For recertifying Master Gardeners, this happens when you fill out your recertification form and record trainings taken toward the required 12 hours. For the new class and for mentors, we have also set up a “private” group on Facebook where we can exchange information, ideas, and pictures.

If you wish to recertify using one or more of these modules, please contact Deb or me to find out more information. If you don’t have high speed internet access at home, we can provide you with a computer to use here at the office. Again, contact Deb to reserve a space here for that purpose. This is a test of a new way to deliver the information and comments and observations are welcome. As with any new idea, we will run into glitches and perhaps a slight bit of confusion, so your input is welcome. For those of you participating in this training, thanks for trying this out—we hope you are enjoying the experience. Linda

Sewing YCMGA Seeds in Friendship

This month we celebrate two important events on February 14, 2009. We trust that you will participate in some way in both events.

Oregon, nicknamed the “Valentine State” on February 14, 1859, officially joined the United States of America as a state. So this month we celebrate our state’s 150th birthday. Our state is rich in agricultural and horticultural diversity with a multitude of businesses, organizations, projects and programs that support this focus.

HAPPY 150th BIRTHDAY – OREGON! We “love” living here!

Valentine’s Day is nationally celebrated as an opportunity to express our appreciation, caring and love to others. Take the time to scatter “seeds of friendship” among other Yamhill County Master Gardeners’ and watch your “friendship garden develop, grow, and mature”.

Remember to support and work at the annual “YCMGA Tree/Shrub sale” on February 27-28, 2009. This committee works very hard to ensure that the event is well organized with generous donations of beautiful trees and shrubs from local businesses. This is an opportunity to invest your time and energy in a YCMGA project that benefits educational and scholarship programs to students in Yamhill County.

Also, the event allows you to “scatter friendship seeds” because many veterans and new class members will work together selling trees and shrubs and finding “new homes for them to live in”. I “love” working at the sale— it is so much fun, and I get to play with my friends!

Let us love winter, for it is the spring of genius. Pietro Aretino
**Webs of Deception**

Spiders produce web material from glands in their abdomens that are connected to external structures called spinnerets. The spider can manipulate these spinnerets to produce a surprising variety of webs. We think first of the insect catching variety that many types of spiders spin. One of the most geometric of these is made by the orb spinners. This is the type we see on fences and trees on a dewy morning that causes us to stop and admire the engineering skill of its maker. The web is really a net, of sorts, with tiny sticky web globules spaced along its entire length. An insect runs into the web, and the rest is history. The sticky web holds the insect in place until the spider can reach it and wrap it in another type of web consisting of fine strands. These envelope the prey like a mummy until it can be devoured. Some large tropical orb spinners construct a web strong enough to capture small birds.

Another type of web made by spiders protects the female’s eggs from being eaten by predators. This web has the consistency of a cotton candy ball and forms a lattice work that deters any critter that might want to eat the spider’s egg mass. The eggs are laid at the center of the puffy structure and the spider remains confident that the eggs will develop undisturbed.

Many spiders use strands of silk to sail them to new environs. On some warm, breezy days, hundreds of fine strands fill the air, and are referred to as gossamer. These are actually the long strands that small spiders use to “balloon” from one place to another on the wind. These spiders can sail for miles before coming to rest in a place they are hoping will have plentiful game for them to hunt.

Some spiders use their silk to make structures for protection and to remain hidden from their prey. Most notable are the trapdoor spiders. They dig a burrow almost a foot deep and then line it with silk. At the top of the burrow they form a lid that consists of soil held together with silky strands and is attached to the main tube by a hinge of silk. The spider is well hidden and, if it feels threatened, it will hold down the “trapdoor” with all its might. It also uses the door to hide until some hapless insect wanders by for dinner. The spider leaps out on the prey and drags it down into its burrow. We have a relative of this spider here in the Northwest. It is sometimes encountered when we dig in our gardens. It is large, with black legs and a brown body. It is harmless, however, and should be encouraged to remain on site.

As you can see, spiders use silk for a variety of reasons. They are fascinating creatures that we should recognize and appreciate as being a part of our gardening environment.
Welcome Master Gardener Class of 2009! Pictures by Judy Zettergren

Preparing For the First Day of Class
Thank You 2009 Mentors by Cathy Burdett

Mentors are very crucial in the success of the Yamhill County Master Gardener program because they introduce the “new class” to possibilities for service in Yamhill County. Mentors provide educational materials, stability and support as the students are challenged educationally in the class room. Mentors are a bridge into the new OSU/YCMGA enriching experience.

Without your assistance as mentors, the experience for a “new student” could be less enjoyable and meaningful. Thank you, each one, for contributing your valuable time and energy because you do make a difference to the 2009 OSU/YCMGA class. Co-Chairs of the Mentoring Committee are Polly Blum and Alan Wenner who have worked diligently and efficiently to make the whole process work so effectively.

Daryll Alt & Suzanne Litviak
Marcia Sherry & Polly Blum
Kathleen Bennett & Cathy Burdett
Pam Dowling & Alan Wenner

Ray VanBlaricom & RoseMarie Caughran
Doris Hasson & Doris Cruickshank
Sylvia Connor & Helen Lee

2009 Appreciation Luncheon

Get ready for the 2009 Appreciation Luncheon. This annual luncheon is our YCMGA thank you to all of the people, groups and organizations who have contributed to our association over the past year.

This year, the luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 18th, at 12:15 pm. The location will be the popular Yan’s Oriental Restaurant in McMinnville.

The cost per person is $10.00 and includes your meal, dessert and gratuity. Members are welcome to bring guests. Please RSVP by Friday, March 13th to either Alan Wenner (503-435-1131 awenner@hotmail.com) or Pam Dowling (503-864-8057 dowling1290@msn.com).

Volunteers will also be needed to help with this event. Contact Pam or Alan to volunteer.

Volunteer Opportunity

Master Gardeners and MG trainees are invited to help with the McMinnville Community Garden at the Salvation Army on 2nd St., near Hill Road. This garden was started seven years ago to help families in need to grow some of their own food. MGs are needed to assist with garden operations, advising and helping “Personal Row Gardeners”, growing food for the Food Pantry and fundraising. If you are interested, please contact David Norman at 503-435-1560 or mac.community.garden@comcast.net
Among the many native plants becoming more common in horticulture are the grasses and sedges. Since many of these species are widespread, check the source of the plants if possible—the closer of origin to your home, the better adapted and more appropriate it will be. All three of these are WaterWise plants—there are more native grasses available, but most are restricted to wetter prairies and require additional water in a landscape. Although sources of plants may be difficult to find, check with native plant nurseries that may be able to help you locate some plants or do a web search. I was successful at locating several Oregon nurseries that carry plants or seeds by searching on the web.

Idaho fescue (Festuca idahoensis) is one native grass that is relatively commonly available. In its true form it is a bunch grass, but can be mowed if the mower height is kept high. It is native to much of the western United States. A rarer form, F. idahoensis ssp. roemeri, often called Roe-mer’s fescue, is becoming more commercially available every year from Willamette Valley sources. Sometimes it is referred to as Festuca roemeri. The subspecies has a nice blue-green appearance. Photographs and more information can be found at http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=FEID

Prairie Junegrass, Koeleria macrantha, is a widespread grass in North America—Oregon is within its natural range. Junegrass typically grows here in upland prairies, which is an increasingly rare habitat. It grows as a perennial bunch grass, meaning that it forms clumps instead of spreading out as would a typical grass found in lawns. It grows 1-2 feet tall with silvery foliage and attractive flower heads. More information is available at the plants database for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=koma and a Natural Resources Conservation Service fact sheet at http://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_koma.pdf.

The upright Santa Barbara sedge, Carex barbarae, is a third choice. Native to just California and Oregon, it comes highly recommended as a garden ornamental although sources of plants are scarce. More photographs and information can be found at http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=1520.

Cuttings from the Board by Suzanne Litviak

Meeting, 14 January 2009

- Kathleen Bennett reported that the next quarterly meeting of the OMGA will be hosted by YCMGA. Representatives from 26 chapters and the OMGA Board will gather on 7 March in the Public Works Auditorium.
- The YCMGA annual calendar is nearing completion, as Marcia Sherry finalizes data collection for inclusion in the 2009 calendar. The new calendar will be made available online in PDF format so that members may print as many individual copies as needed.
- Ray VanBlaricom and Alan Wenner have completed a project to reorganize all of the archived MG materials, located “upstairs” at the Extension Office. Everyone is welcomed to take a peek at the results of their yeoman efforts, especially if you have never visited the Archives!
- Patti Gregory submitted a list of proposed clinics for community retail businesses in Newberg and McMinnville, to be held in April and May. Judy Zettergren has joined Patti to work on the Clinic Committee, but the help of a third master gardener from the Newberg area would be appreciated.
- There appears to be increased interest in community gardening in Yamhill County, as reported by David Norman. David said that recently he made presentations to two local housing groups interested in how to go about setting up a garden for community use.
- Our eldest active YCMGA Master Gardener, Bernice Brown, was recently honored at an open house birthday celebration at Hillside Community Manor in late January. Bernice celebrated her 100th Birthday. Happy Birthday Bernice!
I don’t think I will ever wish for a white Christmas again. It was really something being snowed in for nearly two weeks. We had about 20 inches of snow out here and I don’t remember that happening since I was a kid living in Northeast Portland.

My greatest fear during that time was that my two favorite greenhouses would cave in. We managed to keep the snow brushed off our greenhouse here at home. There were a couple of days when it snowed nearly all day and all night. At that time we had to brush the snow off two or three times a day. The greenhouse at the fairgrounds is just too high to do much about the accumulation of snow on it. We just held our breath in hopes it was strong enough to hold up, and it was.

Nurseries in the area were not so lucky. There was quite a bit of damage to greenhouses all over the area. One huge greenhouse near us became a pile of metal and plastic. It wasn’t just a hoop house either. It included electrical mechanisms, fans, water and automatic side openers.

It is going to be interesting to see how our plants fair through all of this. We had quite a cold snap that I wrote about in my January column (written in mid December). At that time we had cold enough temperatures to set some plants back or even kill them. Now, with this last weather event we have to contend with damage to plants and trees caused by the weight of the snow and ice. I’m sure we all have some breakage that will have to be pruned out.

We always worry about how our hazelnut trees will make it through such storms. They were sure weighted down by the snow and then ice on top of the snow and then more snow. Some of the branches were caught by the ice and stuck to the ground. When the thaw came we were pleased to see that most of the tree limbs bounced back. We did have some breakage though and we have pruned that out already. One tree however split in half!

Well, it is still cold but then it is winter and it is supposed to be cold. That doesn’t stop the early bulbs from coming up. Some of you may have snow drops in bloom, and daffodil tops have been showing for a few weeks now. The days are getting longer (slowly) and more light will make other plants wake up and think spring.

We MGs also have to start thinking spring – the spring plant sale! The greenhouse and plant committees have been getting ready to start plants for the sale. We have been cleaning the greenhouse and making sure all our equipment is in working order. We have purchased some seeds, ordered plant plugs, pots and soil. We will begin working in the greenhouse on February 17 from 9:00 to noon and every Tuesday after that until the sale on April 25th.

The first couple of Tuesdays we are scheduled to plant some seeds which does not take too much time or manpower. However, beginning the first part of March there will be some transplanting to do. Toward the end of March, we will have the plant plugs to transplant and soon after that the tomato starts will need to be transplanted. These will be very busy times and lots of hands are needed. If you are interested in helping out, you might mark some time for greenhouse work on you calendar.

Of course, weather permitting, your fingers will get itchy to get out in the dirt. Hopefully, your perennials will be recovering from the cold and you can plan on what you might donate to the sale.

Our sale season is beginning – tree and shrub sale in February and plant sale in April. There is lots to do. Join us.

More Thank Yous by Cathy Burdett

Thank you to Les Buchholz and Al Hanks for being the Hospitality Committee for the new class…they have done an excellent job in keeping the kitchen clean and tidy. They are there at 8 am to make the coffee and after the class to clean up.

Thank you to Ray VanBlaricom and Alan Wenner for cleaning and reorganizing the YCMGA “upstairs archives”. What a difference! The varied supplies that are used for YCMGA events are now neatly stored and labeled in plastic containers.

Thank you to Judy Zettergren who has faithfully assisted Linda McMahan each Thursday morning in attaching cords and miscellaneous electrical plugs in order for the classroom presentation equipment to operate. She also has contributed her expertise to “new students” who are involved in this first “blended class”.

From the Greenhouse by Gail Price
I Begin My Quest—

The California Green Schools Summit, December 2008

The state of California is the leader in efforts to develop an environmentally sustainable urban society. With that in mind, I decided to attend a three-day conference last December at Anaheim, California, to find out what I could about what California was doing with their schools. The conference was attended by 2,000 participants, 200 exhibitors, and a number of California state government and business leaders.

The definition of green school is still not settled, but it includes these “pillars” as enumerated by the California Superintendent of Public Instruction:

1. The school strives to be free of toxic substances, whether they be building materials, cleaning supplies, site location, lighting, air flow, etc.

2. Schools are designed to assure energy efficiency and efficient use of materials (reduce, recycle, reuse). That would include efficient water use in landscaping and choice of plants.

3. Green schools create and plan for healthy spaces, which include green schoolyards and gardens. That also includes eliminating junk foods from on campus, and actually producing some food items in the school garden for school use. In fact, California is now mandating that all new school construction includes a school garden.

4. Green schools teach about the environment as part of their curriculum, and involve students in substantial hands-on learning in the environment.

It didn’t take me long to convince Daryll Alt to drive down with me, and on his own, Daryll arranged to participate in one of the sessions as a speaker. Daryll teamed up with two staff from the LA Unified School District to make a presentation on school gardens, and immediately became fast friends, as only Daryll can do. The first staffer was Mud Baron, the LA District School Garden Program Specialist and full-time fundraiser for garden projects. He led a very useful discussion about how to get financial support from local communities and businesses for school gardens. The other was Tonya Mandl, a teacher and advisor responsible for coordinating garden curricula for the school district. The two of them oversee more than 500 “accounts” (garden projects) in the LA area which potentially serve the full school district of nearly 700,000 students.

People who attended our garden session included teachers, community workers, a nurseryman and two architects. (One teacher from an inner-city school district was a California Master Gardener, as well as a “Master Composter.”) We had a great time among friends and agreed to continue to network after the conference.

The California government has mandated that all new schools will include gardens from now on, so we expect gardens to play a much bigger role after-school and in school curricula. Some participants had already found that gardening was great for getting kids off the streets and into productive activities after school—it was mentioned a couple of times that working in gardens had already become a socially acceptable thing for some inner city youth to do together after school.

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Most people, early in November, take last looks at their gardens, are then prepared to ignore them until the spring. I am quite sure that a garden doesn’t like to be ignored like this. It doesn’t like to be covered in dust sheets, as though it were an old room which you had shut up during the winter. Especially since a garden knows how gay and delightful it can be, even in the very frozen heart of the winter, if you only give it a chance. Beverley Nichols
It’s that time of year again—time to renew your membership in the Yamhill County Master Gardeners Association! New 2009 trainees receive their first year membership free. Lifetime members are also free. For everyone else, the annual dues are $15. Please detach and fill in the form below, come in to pick up a form in the office or download a form from the YCMA website at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/yamhill-county-master-gardener-association

YAMHILL COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

2009 YCMGA DUES RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

RENEWAL DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2009

Dear Members,

It is time for renewal of your Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association membership for the calendar year of 2009. The dues are the same as 2008 at $15.00 per member. $5 of this amount goes to the OMGA for statewide programs. The remaining $10 remains in Yamhill County and goes to:

- Membership in an organization that directly contributes to your neighborhood greenscape
- A monthly newsletter with personal profiles, interesting articles and schedules of events
- Access to the research and resource library
- Association with garden minded people like yourself
- Opportunities to learn new skills and gain new knowledge while having fun and making a contribution

The coming year promises to be an exciting one. Classes for prospective Master Gardeners begin January 8, the Tree & Shrub sale February 27 & 28, the Annual Plant Sale in April, and OMGA Mini College in the summer. Please volunteer to help with any of these events or any of the many on going projects. Fill in your interest on the reverse side of this renewal form. Part of our responsibility in being a Master Gardener is continuing to volunteer our time in some way to help educate the public. This can be done directly or indirectly (as support). Join in the fun, Keep your brain cells active, Get involved!

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the OSU Foundation and/or the YCMGA in addition to your dues please check the box below and indicate the amount you wish to donate.

Please complete the form below so that our database information and addresses are updated. You may bring this form along with the dues to the OSU Extension Office in Yamhill County, or send a check made out to the YC Master Gardener Association to:

Membership Chair, YCMGA  C/O OSU Extension / 2050 Lafayette Avenue/ McMinnville, OR 97128

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<th>Lifetime members please check here and THANK YOU for your service! Your membership is free.</th>
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| I wish to make a tax deductible donation to: |
| THE OSU FOUNDATION in the amount of $____ |
| YCMGA in the amount of $____ |
| (these must be separate checks) |

ANNUAL DUES RENEWAL – YEAR 2009

Name ____________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

City ______________________ State ______ Zip _________

Phone(s) ________________________________

Email __________________________________________

Please print carefully. Remember to fill out the reverse side of this form then return with your check (made payable to YC Master Gardener Assn.).

(503) 434-7517  2050 NE Lafayette Avenue, McMinnville, OR 97128  FAX (503) 472-3054
Volunteers in partnership with the Oregon State University Extension Service
Yamhill County Master Gardener Association

Name ________________________________

This list outlines the annual events, the committees and projects of the YCMGA. It also lists some of the talents and expertise we need to help make the organization work. The results of this survey are used in planning, recruiting and just finding out what special talents we have in our organization. Please check the lists carefully and mark any and all items that interest you and all areas where you have expertise to share. Thank you!

### EVENTS AND COMMITTEES

- Appreciation Luncheon
- Demonstration Garden
- Greenhouse
- Insect
- Library
- Mentoring
- Native Plant Garden
- Annual Plant Sale (April)
- Publicity
- Scholarship
- Tree & Shrub Sale (February)
- Volunteer Coordination

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- New Class Board Members
- Amity Daffodil Festival
- Desk Captain (new class member)
- Historian
- Program Committee
- Tiller Newsletter
- Hospitality
- Membership
- Mini College Chapter Display
- Annual Plant Sale (April)
- Search for Excellence
- Tree and Shrub Sale (February)

### INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE

- Computer
- Photography/Video
- Publicity/Media Experience
- Board member/officer
- Garden Tours
- Public Speaking
- Teaching
- Working in Greenhouse/Garden
- Coordinator
- Event Labor

**OTHER**

______________________________________________________________________________________
Don’t forget our first big fundraiser of the year! This is a great chance to volunteer and also to get some nice big plants to add to your garden (or a friend’s). If you would like to volunteer, please call Alan Wenner at 503-435-1131 or email him at awenner@hotmail.com.

Yamhill County Master Gardener™
2009 Tree and Shrub Sale

FREE
Planting & Care Instructions
Rose Pruning Demonstrations
Tree to each person under age of 17
FREE
Tree Care Answers
Tree to each person under age of 17
Rose Pruning Demonstrations

Friday and Saturday
February 27 & 28
9 am to 3 pm
at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds
2070 NE Lafayette Ave. in McMinnville

Bare Root and Container Grown Trees and Shrubs
All Plants Donated by Oregon Nurseries
All Plants priced at $10, $15 and $20 plus many special bargains

100% of net proceeds to scholarship programs for Yamhill County high school and college students

For more information, call 503-434-7517
THE TILLER

If apples were pears/ And peaches were plums/And the rose had a different name/
If tigers were bears/And fingers were thumbs/I’d love you just the same.

Return Service Requested

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

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General meetings of the Yamhill County Master Gardeners™ Association are announced in the Tiller and open to the public.

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HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY!