This Month’s Master Gardener™ Calendar

January 1
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 4
Welcome to the 2007 Master Gardener Trainees!
Classes begin today.

January 9, 10 am
YCMGA Board Meeting
Public Works Auditorium
All YCMGA members welcome

January 12.
Deadline for the February Tiller

January 15
OSU Extension Office Closed for Martin Luther King Day

February 10 & 17, 10 am—3 pm
Annual Bare Root Tree Sale (and shrubs too this year!)
YC Fairgrounds

No Insect Committee Meetings in January!

Have you completed your YCMGA dues renewal?
Please take a moment to fill out the form and bring it to the Extension office today.

Linda R. McMahan, Yamhill County Extension Faculty for Community Horticulture
It's Time for Honor Roll

Kudos to all of you who worked so hard in 2006 to make the Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Program such a success.

First our Graduates. We have graduated 7 new Master Gardeners in the Class of 2007. They are (fanfare!) Kate Cushman, Cathy Burdett, Marcia Garrick, Jennifer Brown, Deb Hakala, Stanca McKitrick, and Daryl Alt. Congratulations and welcome to our Master Gardener team. All have worked hard this year. Marcia completed a project on tips for gardening activities that are “friendly” to people with disabilities. Many did extraordinary hours on the desk. Cathy, Kate and Jennifer did our “Bee Dances” project this year in McMinnville after-school programs. Daryll and Cathy completed the most hours of service; Cathy’s final hour count was an outstanding 201.5 hours, with Daryll coming in second at 165.

Recertifying Master Gardeners for 2007 in no particular order are: Doris Cruickshank, Carol and Lynn McKibben, Pam Dowling, Sylvia Gappa, Kate Parker, Mary Hultgren, Vern and Ruby Isaac, Janet Hansen, Kathleen O’Brien-Blair, Ruth Rogers, Rose Marie Caughran, Karen Payne, Sharon Gunter, Linda Foley, Diane Brown, Judy Anderson, Diane Stillion, Craig Markham, Ray Van Blaricom, Robert Grossmann, Cindy Bellville, Anna Ashby, Sandra Thomas, Beth Durr, Alton Cronk, Jane Bardolf, Sylvia Connor and Bill Roll. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication.

Thanks also to our 2006 Mentors, George Migaki and others who helped in managing and teaching the classes in 2006, Bob Grossmann and his extraordinary insect committee, the library committee, and to Ray Van Blaricom and other Master Gardeners for recruiting new students and answering questions at the McMinnville Farmer’s Market.

In total, Master Gardeners reported about 3600 hours, contacting 5714 people. In addition, Master Gardeners in 2006 took 397 hours on advanced education courses. Great job. Thanks.

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

Marcel Proust
Eating What We Grow-
An Interest Group that wants to (eat) share food from our gardens, recipes, ideas, and fellowship will meet on January 17th at Daryll Alt's house (we will rotate gardens), from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. We'll be digging and preparing mangels. Contact Daryll at 503 835-6430 for more info and directions (and to find out what a mangel is).

Old Time Garden Show-
You are invited to join other interested MG's in putting together an "Old Time Garden Show", both for the radio and for TV production, as well as video segments to build a lending library. The next meeting will be Monday, January 22nd, at Daryll Alt's house, from 7:00 pm till 8:00 pm.

Daryll's address: 8220 SW River Bend Road in McMinnville

Flash Dance
Camouflage coloring in insects combined with bright colors that can be “flashed” when they feel endangered is a great escape ploy. Many groups of insects exhibit this characteristic, but it is especially prominent among the butterflies, grasshoppers, stick insects, true bugs and members of the order Homoptera. Most insects that show this phenomenon have dull or camo colored forewings and brightly colored hind-wings. The forewings normally cover the hindwings until the deception and color is needed.

The so-called “underwing” moths have mottled, drab forewings that resemble the bark of the trees on which they rest during the day. If they are discovered and disturbed by a predator, they immediately take wing, flying fast and displaying the red, orange, yellow, blue or white of their hind wings. Since this flight is begun with a burst of speed, the bird or other predator is confused and startled, just long enough for the moth to escape and find another tree trunk on which to rest and conceal itself anew.

Slower moving insects, like the “giant silk moths” do not have the escape speed of the underwing moths and therefore must rely on another method of keeping a predator at bay. Many of these moths have large eyespots on their hind wings that are partially covered when the moth is at rest. If disturbed, the moths will “pump” their wings up and down, causing the eyespots to appear to be blinking. Since these moths have a wingspan of six or more inches, the sight is very impressive and could represent an owl or other animal that could attack the attacker of the moth, thus giving it a chance of survival.

The tropical owl butterfly (wingspan about 4-5 inches) has similar eyespots on its hind wings, but this time on the underside. With its wings closed over its head, it has a camouflaged appearance, much like a dead leaf. It normally will rest on a small twig in its jungle forest home. If it is discovered, it will open its wings while resting in an upside down position. This displays the eyespots as if it were an owl sitting on the branch.

Some insects have special body designs to assist in their flash dance. A tropical Homopteran, similar to our cicada, has a curiously shaped peanut-like head that is marked in cryptic colors and patterns that resemble a snake or lizard head. This alone would indicate that the creature is not what it really is, but rather a reptile bent on attacking whatever would want to make a Homopteran a meal. To add to this effect, however, the insect has eyespots on its hind wings that it can flash when disturbed.

The world of insects demonstrates a tremendous variety of methods to survive. Camouflage, scare tactics, chameleonism, and flash dances all seem to have their part in the success of the class “Insecta”. After all, the insects outnumber us about a million to one. Dance anyone?

Buggy Bits by Bob Grossmann

Talk to Daryll by Daryll Alt

Daryll says, “May your gardens grow lush and bring you blossoms of joy this year.”

Daryll says, “I am your Captain---Desk Captain, that is, and I would like to ask every Veteran to start thinking about including your time on the desk in your schedule for 2007. I am also looking for someone to help with the scheduling for next year and for each veteran MG to spend some desk hours with members of the new class.

Daryll says, “May your gardens grow lush and bring you blossoms of joy this year.”
Pearly Everlasting

As the name suggests, this wildflower with a sometimes “bad” reputation, is one of the best garden plants we have for dried flower arrangements.

Pearly everlasting, known botanically as *Anaphalis margaritacea* (try to say that fast!), is known from moderate climates in the northern hemisphere. Even though it comes from many places in Europe and North America, it is also native to much of the American West, including Oregon.

OK, so it’s a great dried flower, but what about its reputation? If you give pearly everlasting a lot of supplemental water, it runs aggressively underground in a garden. Instead of fearing this trait, count it as in the “positive” if you have a WaterWise or drought-tolerant garden. Under WaterWise conditions with only occasional summer water or in some cases no water at all, this normally aggressive species is nicely behaved. It is often available in nurseries or at plant sales and grows readily from seeds. This species even appears on some lists of deer-resistant plants, such as that of Colorado State University:


Drying the flowers is relatively easy. Wait until the flowers are full and open, but not beginning to fade or wilt. At that time, cut long stems, bind them together with string or a rubber band, and hang the bundle upside down in a cool and dry location. Garage rafters or a nail on the wall of a utility room are just a few places that might work. It’s that simple.

An excellent fact sheet on how to dry flowers and which are appropriate can be found at the University of Nebraska at http://lancaster.unl.edu/factsheets/091.htm


Cuttings from YCMGA Board Meetings by Cathy Burdett

December 5, 2006 (Awards Dinner)

- Nominated candidates for Executive YCMGA Board were voted into office

December 12, 2006 (PW Auditorium)

- Approved a 2007 budget
- Linda McMahan submitted tentative yearly statistics
  * New MG’s trained—13
  * Graduated new class—7 completed volunteer hours
  * Veteran MG’s—32 turned in hours (all volunteers have not yet submitted their hours)
  * Hours volunteered/submitted:
    * Desk/Clinic—1224
    * Educational—710
    * YCMGA Activities—1624
    * Continuing Education—397
  * TOTALS: 3558 Hours and 5714 Contacts

I live in the garden, I just sleep in the house. Jim Long
Pictures from the 2006 MG Graduation & Potluck Dinner

2006 MG Graduates (from left)
Jennifer Browne
Kate Cushman
Daryll Alt
Stana McKitrick
Marcia Garrick
Cathy Burdett
(not shown - Debra Hakala)

YCMGA president Pam Dowling with Ray VanBlaricom, 2006 YC Master Gardener of the Year

Beth Durr, Award for service on the YCMGA Tiller Newsletter

Cathy Burdett, Extra Special Early Bird award winner

Sylvia Connor, 2006 YCMGA Behind the Scenes award winner

RoseMarie Caughran, One of the 32 MG’s who recertified for 2006.
YCMGA's membership has a rich legacy from its diversified heritage and an abundance of horticultural expertise.

Thank you for your generous investments!

Nominee OSU MG of the Year

(2004)

Karen Payne
Karen Payne

- Incoming YCMGA President for 2007
- Volunteered over 1000 hours and a Lifetime member of YCMGA
- YCMGA Executive board member 2001-2006
- Alternate OMGA member 2006
- OMGA State Secretary 2003-2005
- Participated and contributed many hours in hospitality and food service at Mini College 2003-2006
- Nominee for OSU State Master Gardener of the Year 2004

Karen, congratulations on your election as YCMGA President for 2007. Your credentials and experience in the activities of YCMGA and OMGA indicate that you will be an effective leader.

**2007 YCMGA Executive Board**

To protect and preserve the rich legacy of the YCMGA, the following Executive Board has been elected:

- **President**: Karen Payne
- **Vice President**: Ray VanBlaricom
- **Secretary**: Susan Trombetta
- **Treasurer**: Anna Ashby
- **Member at Large**: Joyce Hammerschmith
- **Member at Large**: Kathleen O’Brien-Blair
- **OMGA Rep**: Daryll Alt
- **Alt. OMGA Rep**: Cathy Burdett
- **Past President**: Pam Dowling

2006 YCMGA president Pam Dowling passes the gavel to new 2007 president Karen Payne
The last time I wrote I mentioned how nice it was to see the soil again. Wintertime gives us a chance to look at the bones of our planting areas to see if the permanent plantings are placed with some sort of balance in mind. The foliage and color of summer can mask problems we may have built into our gardens. I suspect some of these problems are the result of our “plantaholicism.” (Is that a word?) We buy plants we must have without knowing where we will plant them. We end up just putting them in where there is a space and not until winter do we see they are out of place.

Not to worry!! We can move things around. However, if some of our permanent plants have gotten quite large, it may be very difficult to dig them up without a backhoe or tree spade. Maybe we need some other large plants placed on the opposite end of the bed or yard to bring the whole area into balance and thus harmony. I see this as another opportunity to visit a great nursery. (I’m always looking for excuses to visit a nursery – aren’t you?) It is also possible that a piece of garden art could help balance things out too. Found items or purchased ones, garden art is always fun to look for.

Other areas to look at in the winter are the sizes and shapes of the planting spaces. We tend to be afraid to have wide borders. Our borders can be puny and out of proportion to the house, fences, and walkways. Since I can’t water our lawn in the summer, I take great delight in digging up as much of the yard as I can get away with and making more space for plants. A 3-foot wide border which is what many people have is much too narrow. How about a 6-foot border, an 8-foot border, or a 10-foot border! Just think what you could plant there. Each year I try to take out more of the grass and expand a border or make an entirely new bed.

As I have expanded the borders, I have tried to add interest by creating curves to the borders. Making curves can be kind of tricky. The tendency is to make the curves too tight. They can end up looking like “rick-rack” if you don’t watch out. Make them sweeping – make them large! The beds will look really neat and the lawn that you do have will take on a dramatic look too. To see what you might like, use a hose to outline your design. When you like the shapes, kill the grass and start digging or rototilling. It is great fun.

It is also fun to cut planting beds out of the middle of the lawn. Again, you need to watch your proportions. A tiny little bed in the middle of a large expanse of grass looks odd. It seems to me the larger the bed the better – more plants! Your grassy area could even become pathways between the beds. If you do have grass pathways make sure they are easy to mow.

Ah yes, the bleakness of winter can stimulate us to make more garden plans. Plans that might include plants with plenty of winter interest to make our winter gardens as satisfying to us as our summer gardens are. Go for it!!

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**Online Resources excerpted from the MG Resource Manual**

**Public Gardens to Visit:**

**Classical Chinese Garden:** NW 3rd and Everett, Portland  
www.portlandchinesegarden.org

**Portland Japanese Garden:** (503) 223-1321  
http://www.japanesegarden.com

**Houseplant Help:**

**From the Texas Master Gardener Handbook,** compiled at Texas A&M University:  
http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/houseplant/houseplant.html

**Houseplant pests** (with pictures and information about life cycles) and how to respond, from Washington State University Extension:  
http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb0695/eb0695.html
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<td>Becoming a MG</td>
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<td>Botany for MGs 1</td>
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<td>Houseplant Care &amp; Diagnosis*</td>
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<td>Mediterranean Plants*</td>
<td>Neil Bell</td>
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<td>Home Orchards*</td>
<td>Jeff Olsen</td>
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<td>Lawns*</td>
<td>Barb Fick</td>
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<td>Soils*</td>
<td>Pat Patterson</td>
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<td>Vegetable Gardening</td>
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<td>Berries &amp; Grapes</td>
<td>Bernadine Strik</td>
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<td>Robin Rosetta</td>
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<td>Controlling Wildlife*</td>
<td>Chip Bubl</td>
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<td>Gardening by Streams*</td>
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<td>Disease &amp; Diagnosis*</td>
<td>Jay Pscheidt</td>
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<td>Working with Youth</td>
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Each class begins with meetings in Mentor Groups from 9:00-9:30 am.
Classes marked with * qualify for recertification training for veteran Master Gardeners.
December 9, 2006

Dear Yamhill County 4-H Master Gardeners,

On behalf of the Yamhill County 4-H members and leaders, we want to thank you for involving our program with your annual Master Gardener Plant Sale. We appreciated the opportunity to provide 4-H members that could help with set up, clean up, and assisting plant sale customers, as a 4-H fundraiser.

This letter is our way of saying “thanks” for this opportunity and to tell you what we were able to do as a result of this fundraising activity. The $500.00 we received, in exchange for working at the Master Gardener plant sale, was used for two major fair improvement projects:

1) Upgrading all of the exhibit items used to display 4-H project work in the Adec building and Wiser horticulture pavilion. You can see this somewhat in our first two pictures (pictures are not reproduced in this newsletter-Editor). Display walls were built, framed and painted as were display tables and sandwich boards. Funding helped pay for all of the necessary lumber, materials, and paint. The result was a uniform, professional and coordinated look to all of the 4-H exhibit areas—very impressive and very much enjoyed by our youth.

2) Enclosing the Cruickshank and Nyberg barns which were designated in 2006 as the new location for all small animal exhibits during county fair. Our efforts on this project are pictured in the additional eight pictures (also not shown here-Editor). As you can see we needed to literally “wrap” the barns in wire so that no small animals could escape. In addition we suspended new cages from the ceiling so there was no need for saw horse tables. Funding helped to pay for the wire. Additional resources were raised through other means to fully fund this project. The buildings worked out beautifully for fair.

We thank you again for this opportunity and we hope that you will consider making this an annual opportunity for 4-H to be an active partner in your Master Gardener Plant Sale. We are very efficient at making dollars stretch, so this fundraiser can go a long way in supporting youth in our Yamhill County 4-H program. Thanks again for the opportunity!

Signed: Sincerely, Ali McLeod, 4-H Member, Correspondence Secretary, Yamhill Co. 4-H Advisory Council
And Tammy Bernards, 4-H Leader, Correspondence Secretary, Yamhill Co. 4-H Advisory Council
An untilled, unplanted new year awaits our innovative activity. Let’s initiate a spirit of renewal, hope and growth by sharing this exciting new YCMGA year together!

Happy New Year 2007