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Congratulations Board

This Month’s Master Gardener™ Calendar

No Insect Committee Meetings in January!

January 3, Thursday
Mentor Training, 9 am-Noon
PW Auditorium

January 9, Wednesday
YCMGA Board Meeting, 1-3 pm
PW Auditorium
All members welcome

January 10, Thursday
2008 MG Training classes begin
PW Auditorium 9am-5pm

January 19, Saturday
Free pruning class 10 am –noon.
Pruning Apples & Peaches at
Thistledown Farm, 91455 River Rd.,
Junction City

January 21, Monday
McMinnville Garden Club Question &
Answer panel. An experienced panel
will answer your gardening questions.
11 am, Hillside Retirement Community
Activity Room

January 24, Thursday
Annual Graduation and Awards
Ceremony and Pot Luck Dinner, 5 pm
PW Auditorium

January 26, Saturday
Native Plants Workshop, 9am-1pm at
the SWCD. Counts as recertification
credit for veteran MGs

February 7, Thursday
Last day to submit pre-order forms for
the SWCD Native Plant Sale (Feb. 14-
16). See more info, page 2

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

My bulbs are beginning to sprout, which is always a good sign that spring will indeed return once again. As I recall, the first early crocus will begin blooming in early February. By that time, our graduation and awards ceremony will be past and a new class of 2008 OSU Master Gardeners will already be almost half way through their training. As of now, Alan and Polly have put together a great group of mentors, and planning is well underway for the remodeled tree and shrub sale. Jane is working on a calendar for the year, and others are planning what and when to plant or purchase for the ‘08 plant sale. Ray tells me work has already begun on tearing down the horticultural pavilion to make way for a new one. Patti has an impressive year of plant clinics already lined up in many locations in Yamhill County. As the year progresses, you will be hearing from these people and more as plans continue to develop and as new projects begin. The annual cycle of plants, gardens and master gardeners doesn’t really have a beginning or end. Regardless of this, we still take the opportunity every January to celebrate our successes and say thanks to everyone who has helped. Please remember to join me on Thursday evening January 24th for potluck and recognizing those of you who have made our program so successful. My best wishes for the year to come.

Yamhill SWCD Annual Native Plant Sale

The Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will hold its annual Native Plant Sale February 14-16, 2008. Pre-order forms for their extensive list of native plants are available in the Extension office, or can be filled out and submitted online at www.yamhillswcd.org. The deadline for submitting pre-orders is February 7th. Quantities are limited, so order early for the best selection. A list of plant descriptions is also available, including the preferred light conditions and special uses for each plant. Proceeds will benefit Miller Woods and the Yamhill Basin Council.

This group can always use some volunteer help preparing for the sale and helping out on the sale days. They are also requesting nursery containers that are 4 gallon or larger (drop off behind the USDA bldg. at 2200 SW 2nd St.). MG payback hours are available for this service. If you are interested, please contact Katie Anderson at 503-472-8222 or email: info@millerwoods.org

The ‘B’ team is in Training !!!

Last week my four-year-old grandson, Parker, hit me up for a big surprise question. He wanted to know when it was time for him and me to start planting seeds for this years April Plant Sale. It was so off the wall and matter of factly stated I had to think a minute about what we had done and when. Last year I had him over for an afternoon, to save his hide from sister, and we had planted a bunch of seeds in February. We tried morning glory, alyssum, Gerber daisy, and sunflowers. All to soon for anything to last till Spring but entertaining none the less.

Shazam! Stuff grew and he was so proud that he told his sister about the “project” he and I had going. Then the “project” needed to have some focus because now sister was in on it for real. I hesitated to give them both a trowel and stand between them, that seemed like a bad idea in lots of ways. I armed them with plastic spoons and started filling four inch pots. It looked safer for all especially me. I was quite surprised to see someone so young being so tender with getting all the roots in the finger hole to transplant. The morning glories did best so we started three to a pot and watched them take off. In three weeks the plants were starting to take over the potting bench so we started them again, and included sister in the plan. This time we let them go for a week longer and made little teepees out of sticks and the plants went right up the sticks. There were three dozen or so that went to the plant sale. I was gone on vacation but their mom took them to the sale to pick up her tomato starts, and sure enough Parker saw his morning glories.

Point of this whole tale is Parker is planning ahead for YCMGA’s April plant sale. He’s four years old. What are the rest of you planning to share from your perennials this year? Just curious, no hurry yet, but start walking around your yard and see if anything needs sharing, color changing, or maybe you just want something new in that spot. As it gets closer to sale time we’ll give you how to’s and what not to’s in the March Tiller. Stay tuned…… Spring is only three months away.
“Lookin’ for Bugs in All the Wrong Places....”!

Many insects are very predictable as to where they live. Tropical insects tend to be either brightly colored or camouflaged and secretive in the lush growth. Some insects have specific seasons when they can be seen, and some, like the boxelder bugs are abundant on our houses in fall and again in spring. These are not the type of “bugs” that we want to focus on in this article. There are many insects that have unusual life histories or habits that make them seem like they should not be where they are.

One of the creatures that pops up unexpectedly is the scorpionfly, which is neither a scorpion nor a fly. This curious insect is in the Order Mecoptera, a rather primitive group that has an elongated face and males have an unusual upturned end of the abdomen with a bulbous tip that gives them the appearance of a scorpion with wings. The strangest thing about them is that they emerge as adults during the winter months and sometimes can be found crawling about on snow a foot or so deep on sunny winter days.

Another unusual place to find insects is at Mono Lake in California. The lake is so saline and full of minerals that large structures (tufa) consisting of salt and minerals grow out of the water. The environment hardly seems to be a place where insects could grow, but there is a species of fly that lives as larvae in the mineral mud and emerge as adults in the summer of the year. Shorebirds flock to the location to gorge on the myriads of brine flies that are present at that time.

Some arthropod residents of unusual places are not actually insects, but spiders. Pycnogonids, or sea spiders live and breathe in the oceans. These creatures have bodies that are very tiny compared to the size of their legs. In fact, the body is so small that the digestive organs cannot fit inside. Instead, the stomach extends into the legs of the spider so it is able to utilize its food. Imagine, a spider living in salt water with a very unusual body plan!

A subgroup of the beetle order, the Stylopids, are quite minute in size, but where they live is very strange. They are parasites on bees and wasps, burrowing into the skin of the hosts between the abdominal segments with only a portion of their bodies exposed to the outside. The male Stylopids have wings and are able to fly about seeking mates. The females, however, do not have legs, wings or eyes and remain attached to the host throughout their lives, producing eggs that hatch into larvae within their bodies and eventually escape to parasitize larval bees and wasps.

As we study nature, we find that the places that some insects reside becomes more and more strange. As Alice in Wonderland said, things just keep getting “curiouser and curiouser”!

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**Educational Gleanings**

**PLANTS MAKE NATURAL ANTIFREEZE TO COPE WITH WINTER’S WRATH**


**KEEP YOUR GARDEN DRESSED FOR WINTER**


**HOW TO KEEP SQUIRRELS OUT OF YOUR BIRD FEEDERS**

Graduation & Awards Night

Potluck, Friends and Fun!

Thursday, January 24th
at 5 pm in the PW Auditorium

2007 class members, veterans and their friends and families should mark this event on their calendars. This is a great opportunity to congratulate the graduates and members who have made special contributions and to welcome the new 2008 class.
Plant Profile: *Camellia sasanqua* by Linda McMahan

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**Camellia sasanqua**

A Google image search for this camellia brings up over 12,000 responses, so I’ve picked a popular plant for this month’s profile. Often simply called the Sasanqua Camellia, it’s “winning” photographs shows colors ranging from white, which is typical of the species, to varying shades or pink and red, with colorful cultivar names as well—‘Yuletide,’ ‘Maiden’s Blush,’ ‘Hot Flash,’” and ‘Cleopatra’ to name a few.

*C. sasanqua*, unlike the even more familiar cultivars of *Camellia japonica*, blooms in December. The one in my front garden—the species type one with pure white flowers—is in full bloom as I write this and will continue to bloom through much of January. There are single flowered forms, double forms and other special flower forms to choose from. If you could unfurl a tea leaf, it might look familiar, since *Camellia sinensis*, the commercial tea plant is another member of the genus.

The OSU plant identification site ([http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/casa.htm](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/casa.htm)) notes that *C. sasanqua* is a shrub, 8-10 feet tall, native to China and Japan. For lots of pictures and more information, visit the plant ID site or do your own web search. With more delicate flowers and a more open habit, this species provides additional garden choices—besides, it’s hard to argue about gardening with plants that bloom in the middle of winter!

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Cuttings from the Board by Cathy Burdett

- Meeting, December 12, 2007
- Linda McMahan presented colorful tags, stickers and cards (with a short list of plants) that are part of a “Waterwise” design program. Yamhill county and two other counties are testing these. If successful, they may be introduced to nurseries for labeling “Waterwise” plants.
- Alan Wenner gave a list of potential mentors for the new class. He also distributed a list of information on the February tree and shrub sale.
- Patti Gregory submitted a list of proposed clinics for 2008: a total of 40 clinics plus 16 Farmer’s Market dates.
- Al Hanks has contacted “Carlton Grows” coordinator, Jennifer Lemelson. They need assistance and Al and Doris Crimmins will schedule further meetings and advise the Board.
- Bryan Stewart is introducing composting to Newberg High School students and partnering with Newberg Garbage Service.
- Polly Blum is the coordinator of the “Mike Brott Memorial” project. More information at a later date.
- Jean Rieher requested that YCMGA partner with Soil and Water Conservation on a plant workshop on January 26. The Board voted to do so.

After the Executive Board meeting, a general membership convened to vote on the proposed amended YCMGA bylaws and the nominating committee’s recommendations for the 2008 Executive Board. The bylaws and nominations were voted on and approved by the attending YCMGA members.
Catalogues, catalogues, catalogues --- seed catalogues that is! I have already received a few but I am expecting many more after the first of the year. I will be pouring over them for the plant sale committee -- and also for myself. Even if you don’t order out of them, they are a great inspiration for the new growing season.

The greenhouse committee got together recently to make a list of the plants we plan to grow for the April plant sale. We will be growing plants from seed in the greenhouse as usual but this year we are also going to purchase plugs from a professional greenhouse. Plugs are seedlings that are already growing in a flat that can hold up to 400 plants. When we receive them we will transplant the seedlings to the pots in which they will be sold.

This process saves us the step of starting our own seedlings some of which are difficult to start or once germinated, grow very slowly. We also will not have to start working as early in the greenhouse when it is still can be quite cold. Because we have no heat in the greenhouse, we have always held our breath for fear of freezing our seedlings or having the seedlings damp off before we can get them big enough to transplant. Oh, the joys of growing plants in a cold greenhouse!

My husband keeps track of weather statistics and was commenting the other day about how the temperatures will start going up -- ever so slightly -- as the days begin to get longer. Our plants, trees, and shrubs will start responding to these changes. We will soon be into pruning season as the buds on the plants begin to swell.

We have been pruning our filbert orchard. It is a major project for one person to prune 25 acres of nut trees so John usually starts in early November when most of the leaves have fallen and he can see the scaffold of the tree branches. He prunes to keep the tree canopy open as good light is necessary for nut production. He also prunes out lower branches that threaten the tractor driver as he cultivates the orchard.

This year he has also been cutting out lots of Eastern Filbert Blight. This is a devastating blight that has infested the whole Willamette Valley nut industry. It will eventually kill the trees. Growers slow down the process by cutting out the infected branches which are identified by rows of dark pustules along the branches that spew out spores that continue to infect the orchard. Sprays of a fungicide at bud break are also affective at slowing down the process but are not a cure.

There is no cure for EFB. Trees that are immune to the blight are the only answer. Oregon State University has been trying to breed EFB immune filbert cultivars for many years and there is hope on the horizon as a number of cultivars are showing immunity to the disease. Some hazelnut growers are starting to take out their old trees and planting the new ones.

We don’t know if we are getting too old to start this process again. However, this fall we took out an acre of highly susceptible trees (Ennis variety) and we will replant this area with one of the immune varieties. It will be a difficult decision about when to start taking out and replanting the main orchard. (Remember, we are getting old!) Even with the disease the trees continue to produce nuts and we had a good harvest this year.

You are probably going to get tired of hearing about my next topic as I will be repeating it in future columns – plants for the plant sale! Please, remember as you begin to get out in your gardens, to share some of your plants with us. We won’t have soil at the greenhouse until the middle of February so you will have to make do, but there are some pots to share. If you have questions, don’t hesitate to give me a call.

The birds are gone, the ground is white,
The winds are wild, they chill and bite;
The ground is thick with slush and sleet,
And I barely feel my feet.

Winter Poem
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 JAN</td>
<td>9:30 am-12:30 pm</td>
<td>Becoming a Master Gardener</td>
<td>Linda McMahan</td>
<td>EM 8749  Intro to MG</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Botany for Master Gardeners 1</td>
<td>Linda McMahan &amp; Mike Knutz</td>
<td>Ch 1 Botany Basics</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 JAN</td>
<td>9:30 am-12:30 pm</td>
<td>Botany for Master Gardeners 2</td>
<td>Linda McMahan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Master Gardener Resources*</td>
<td>Linda McMahan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>24 JAN</td>
<td>9:30 am-12:30 pm</td>
<td>Berries and Grapes</td>
<td>Diane Kaufman</td>
<td>CH 11 Berry Crops</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Propagation of Plants</td>
<td>Gail Price, Norm Jacobs &amp; MGs</td>
<td>CH 3 Plant Propagation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 JAN</td>
<td>9:30 am-12:30 pm</td>
<td>Soils</td>
<td>Joy Jones</td>
<td>Ch 2 Soils &amp; Fertilizers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Home Orchards*</td>
<td>Jeff Olsen</td>
<td>Ch 10 Home Orchards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 FEB</td>
<td>9:30 am-12:30 pm</td>
<td>Waterwise Gardening</td>
<td>Linda McMahan</td>
<td>Ch 8 Herbaceous Ornamental Plants</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Vegetable Gardening</td>
<td>Anna Ashby, Daryll Alt &amp; Mike Knutz</td>
<td>Ch 7 Vegetable Gardening</td>
</tr>
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<td>14 FEB</td>
<td>9:30 am-12:30 pm</td>
<td>Lawns*</td>
<td>Barb Fick</td>
<td>Ch 12 Lawns</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Pruning Woody Plants</td>
<td>Neil Bell</td>
<td>Ch 4 Pruning</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 FEB</td>
<td>9:30 am-12:30 pm</td>
<td>Controlling Wildlife*</td>
<td>Chip Bubl</td>
<td>Ch 18 Vertebrate Pest Mgmt</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
<td>MGs and Mike Knutz</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 FEB</td>
<td>9:30 am-12:30 pm</td>
<td>Insect Identification*</td>
<td>Bob Grossmann</td>
<td>Ch 14 Basic Entomology</td>
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<td>1:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Trees: Biology &amp; Ecology</td>
<td>Brad Withrow–Robinson</td>
<td>Ch 9 Woody Landscape Plants</td>
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<td>6 MAR</td>
<td>9:30 am-12:30 pm</td>
<td>Disease &amp; Diagnosis*</td>
<td>Cindy Ocomb</td>
<td>CHs 15 &amp; 16 Plant Disease &amp; Diagnosing</td>
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<td>1:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Weeds &amp; Weed Management*</td>
<td>Susan Aldrich-Markham</td>
<td>Ch 17 Weed Management</td>
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<td>13 MAR</td>
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<td>Water Quality Friendly Gardening</td>
<td>Jacqueline Fern</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Pesticides &amp; Their Use*</td>
<td>Linda McMahan</td>
<td>Ch 19 Understanding Pesticides</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 MAR</td>
<td>9:30 am-12:30 pm</td>
<td>Integrated Pest Management*</td>
<td>Linda McMahan</td>
<td>Ch 20 IPM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Desk Practices</td>
<td>MGs and Linda McMahan</td>
<td>MG Manual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Counts as Recertification Training for Veteran Master Gardeners

9:00-9:30am  Meet in Mentor Groups before each class session

Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour.

John Boswell
A year’s membership in the Yamhill County Master Gardener Association
A year’s membership in the Oregon Master Gardener Association
A year’s subscription to the monthly YCMGA newsletter — The Tiller
A year’s subscription to the OMGA newsletter, The Gardener’s Pen, published quarterly
Connected to OSU resources through being a member of YCMGA/OSU Extension
Connected to other county extension agencies in Oregon and the United States
The joy of participating in an organization that serves the community with educational/science based information about horticultural subjects
Access to educational articles, class seminars, research libraries focusing on gardening and horticultural topics
Having fun and developing friendships with other Master Gardeners
YAMHILL COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

2008 YCMGA DUES RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dear Members,

It is time for renewal of your Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association membership for the calendar year of 2008. The dues have increased to $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 10th, the Tree & Shrub sale February 29-March 2, 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

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

ANNUAL DUES RENEWAL – YEAR 2008

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) 434-7317 2050 NE Lafayette Avenue, McMinnville, OR 97128 FAX (503) 472-3054
Volunteers in partnership with the Oregon State University Extension Service

This form is also available to download and print from the YCMGA website:
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/mgsite/ycmgaorg.html
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  --- Native Plant Garden
--- Demonstration Garden  --- Annual Plant Sale (April)
--- Greenhouse  --- Publicity
--- Insect  --- Scholarship
--- Library  --- Tree & Shrub Sale (February)
--- Mentoring  --- Volunteer Coordination

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE**

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

**OTHER**
The following YCMGA members have volunteered to be mentors for the MG Training class:

Ray VanBlaricom
Pam Dowling
Alan Wenner
Polly Blum
Jane Price-Hensley
Al Hanks
Daryll Alt
Doris Hasson
Kathleen Bennett
Cathy Burdett
Alternates or Substitutes:
Sharon Gunter
Rose Marie Caughran
Hospitality Host: Aileen Smith

Congratulations to the NEW YCMGA Executive Board

President: Ray VanBlaricom
Vice President: Alan Wenner
Secretary: Pam Dowling
Treasurer: Anna Ashby
OMGA Rep: Cathy Burdett
Alt. OMGA Rep.: Kathleen Bennett
Members at Large: David Norman & Al Hanks

Thank you for volunteering your time and experience to guide and inspire our organization through 2008!
Then sing, young hearts that are full of cheer, With never a thought of sorrow; The old goes out, but the glad young year comes merrily in tomorrow.

Emily Miller

Welcome 2008 MG Class!

YCMGA members welcome the “new” class and trust that the experience will be educational, enjoyable and enriching!