This Month's Master Gardener Calendar

**Thursday, July 6, Insect Committee Meeting; 10am MG Clinic Room.**

**Tuesday, July 11, 3pm. Board meeting, Scholarship recipients will be recognized. All YCMGA members welcome, PWA.**

**Tuesday, July 11, 9am-1pm. “Plant Identification Session III” taught by Linda McMahan as an Advanced Training opportunity. We will cover five new plant families and learn some new identification methods. Each session is “stand-alone” so feel free to enroll even if you missed the first two sessions. Fee of $5 cash or checks made out to “ARF,” to cover materials and supplies. Please register by calling the Extension Office at 503-434-7517, by email (Debra.Zaveson@oregonstate.edu) or stop by the office to register. Qualifies for re-certification credit. PWA**

**Tuesday, July 11, 6:30pm to 8:30pm, “Planning a Winter Garden” Speaker will be Josh Kirschenbaum from Territorial Seed Company. PWA, All YCMGA members welcome!**

**No Board meeting in August.**

**Friday, Aug 18, Deadline for the September Tiller.**

**Thursday, July 20, Insect Committee Meeting, 10am MG Clinic Room.**

**Other Events**

**July 29, 4pm-10pm, "Twilight Celebration in the Garden". Honoring the 30th Anniversary of the OMGA. This unique garden celebration will be the grand finale of the four day mini college at OSU by the state OMGA. (For more info see pg 7).**

**July 24 – 29, OSU Master Gardener Week in Oregon. Congratulations to all OSU Extension Master Gardener and dedicated volunteers, faculty and staff in the Governor's declaration of OSU Master Gardener Week in Oregon. We celebrate 30 program years from 1976-2006!**

**Wednesday-Saturday, July 26-29, 23rd Annual Gardener’s Mini College, OSU Corvallis.**

**Saturday, August 12, 4pm, Pig roast at Al Cronk’s. Bring a dish to share. Drinks and pig provided. (See info on pg 8).**

**Saturday, September 9 from 8:15 am to 4 pm, 4th Annual Fall Fling-A Gardening Festival, hosted by the Polk County OSU Master Gardeners the Dallas High School. Pre registration before August 31 required. To register call 503-623-8395.**
From the President by Pam Dowling

As I write this we are finally going to have some summer weather. Maybe now the vegetable starts in my garden will take off.

Thanks to Doris Cruickshank, Polly Blum and Ray VanBlaricom for spending the day at the Benton County Extension office to prepare the Gardener’s Pen for mailing. Since our county didn’t have enough help, the good folks at Benton County got on the phone and had a steady stream of MG™s in all day to assist!

Our pig roast on August 12 is a must to attend. What better time for a potluck than when our gardens are in the peak of production. Al Cronk does a wonderful job in roasting the meat. His property is gorgeous with gardens, orchards and berry patches. The guys usually enjoy themselves drooling over his workshop. No need to sign up - just come and have a great time.

Linda's Corner by Linda McMahan, Community Horticulture Faculty, OSU Extension Yamhill County

Two Months of Summer? July and August 2006 are here soon. It’s time for vacations with our friends and families and enjoying our great summer weather, a delightful balance for our wet winters and springs. Which brings me to two topics.

First, even though we are busy, the gardening public still brings in many samples for identification or diagnosis. There have been days lately when the table in the Master Gardener clinic room is piled with samples, and no one is scheduled to arrive to take care of them for a day or two. Please remember to sign up for some desk time so we can complete our main job—serving the gardening public of Yamhill County through our desk clinic.

Second, many of us in the Horticulture Department at Oregon State University, both on campus and off campus, are moving toward more education in Water Wise gardening, a common sense kind of gardening that reflects the unique climate of our region. We will soon be introducing enhanced training opportunities in this area, along with opportunities for you as OSU Master Gardeners to help spread the word to our community. It’s still in development, but may include additional opportunities for demonstration gardens, neighborhood activities, talks in the community, and others that will emerge as we expand this part of our program.

2006 Master Gardener Mini-College

Thirty years ago, Oregon State University Extension agents in Clackamas and Lane counties introduced the Master Gardener program to Oregon gardeners. Since starting with fewer than 50 volunteers in the mid-1970s, the program has blossomed.

“In 2006, we trained 820 new Master Gardeners,” said Jan McNeilan, OSU Extension consumer horticulturist and statewide Master Gardener coordinator. “Master Gardeners are active in 30 of Oregon’s 36 counties, giving to Extension more than 3,000 active volunteers to help solve horticultural problems.”

Over the spring and summer, OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers and staff are inviting interested persons to help celebrate their 30-year anniversary. Part of the celebration includes the 2006 Master Gardener Mini-College, held on the OSU campus July 26-29 at the CH2M-Hill Alumni Center.

The mini-college features three-plus days of seminars, workshops, tours and other learning experiences, along with a silent auction. Attendees will stay in OSU residence halls and feast on barbecue. OSU Bookstore will have a presence on-site, selling a diverse array of gardening books. There will be daily prizes and exhibits as well.

“You don’t need to be a Master Gardener to attend, but the time spent associating with these volunteers will likely make you want to join,” said McNeilan.

On the final day of the mini-college (July 29), the Linn and Benton Master Gardeners will host a closing ceremony called “Twilight in the Garden” at Holstein House Gardens, southeast of Corvallis. Maps will be provided. This closing event, from 4 to 10 pm will include no-host food and wine, surrey rides, games and live music. All proceeds go to the Oregon Master Gardeners.

Mini College continued on page 3
You Can Do It!
It’s that time of year when a lot of insect questions are directed to our office. Almost always, the MG™ on duty will take in a specimen or write down the information about an insect problem, and it is left for the committee to Id. or solve the problem. I know that most MG’s are not budding entomologists, but it is always an excellent learning experience to attempt to identify insects or give the client information about keeping the house and garden free of insect pests. Why not try to solve the problem for the client immediately? Since the Insect Committee sometimes doesn’t meet for about three weeks, the client is left for that long without a solution. I guess what I am saying is “You CAN do it!”

We have a collection of insects that can help greatly in identifying “bugs” that are brought in. Once identified, the card catalog on top of the insect cabinet will have data about the insect. If that information is not enough, there is a set of excellent books on the shelf to assist you.

There is also the PNW Insect Control Handbook in the MG office, and this is also online. There are a lot of insect publications stored in the main office for distribution to the public. If the client already knows what the problem is, but needs a solution, these publications (some quite specific) are available for their use. I went to a physical therapist when I had a back problem and the subject of carpenter ants came up in our conversation. I explained the life history and damage caused by carpenter ants, and he was very interested because he had seen them in his garage. I also told him that I would drop off some written information at my next visit. He was anxious to get something in writing. This was a good opportunity to make certain he had information in hand that he could use. The committee often sends out these info sheets to clients. The benefit of getting information to the public in a timely manner outweighs the extra time it may take to research an insect problem. Questions about carpenter ants, aphids, craneflies, hobo spiders, and other common insects can be answered easily when you are on duty. There is a looseleaf folder with the text-type books on insects that has been compiled and produced by Jake Hurlbert of our committee. If you have some time, take a look at this folder. It has a great deal of information that could be very helpful when you are on duty. Not only that, but it is a fun publication to look at.

If you are going to leave specimens for the committee, please be sure to place them in alcohol or freeze them. Also, leave a note for the committee as to where they can be found in the office (refrig in kitchen, shelf rack on top of insect cabinet, etc.). Be sure to label the specimen with the client’s name.

Get that special feeling of accomplishment by giving a client an answer to an insect question. Remember: YOU CAN DO IT!
“Sit quietly for awhile and contemplate that precious stillness, that lovely, mysterious and awesome space. Enjoy yourselves.” This quotation by Edward Abby graces the brochure the Yamhill County Park System puts out to celebrate its 50th anniversary. This is a great time for all of us to check out our local parks. This includes enjoying the natural landscaping and support the appreciation of green spaces and promoting public lands.

The County Parks have taken a lesson from the Europeans and have set up a sort of treasure hunt for local people to explore nine out of the fifteen parks in the county. Ideally, you use the Passport Book issued by the Parks to record your exploits and observations. Each park has a "Tanglebox" that includes a rubber stamp and other documentation items. The "Tanglebox" lies under the clues that each park lists in the Passport Book. For more information, visit www.tanglebox.org or www.co.yamhill.or.us/parks.

The County Parks featured in the Passport Book include Blackwell, near Willamina; Dayton Landing; Deer Creek near Sheridan; Ed Grenfell on Baker Creek Rd.; Huber, also off Baker Creek Rd.; Lafayette Locks; Menefee, out of Yamhill; Roger’s Landing in Newberg; and Stuart Grenfell near Sheridan.

Our own fellow MG, Al “The Treeman” Cronk, is actively involved with the entire celebration. He provided the clue for Menefee Park, which includes trees! “There are cedars and maples and firs quite a few, some alders and brush but only one yew, whose roots are growing over a stump or two.”

The entire celebration culminates in Ed Grenfell Park on Sept. 10th. So if you enjoy a challenge and like scavenger hunts, this will provide hours of fun with outdoor activities and educational opportunities for the entire family.

For us gardeners, this is a great way to gather inspiration to create our own private sanctuaries. Plus the general appreciation for what Mother Nature creates and Mankind (and Womankind!) tries to preserve.

## Cooking From the Garden

### SQUASH RELISH

6 C. chopped yellow squash
6 C. chopped zucchini
2 C. chopped onions
1 T. canning salt
3 C. white vinegar (5%)
4 1/2 C. sugar
2 tsp. celery seed
2 tsp. mustard seed

Chop squash and onions. Sprinkle with salt. Let stand 1 hour. Drain and pack into pint jars. Bring vinegar, sugar and seeds to a boil. Pour into jars and seal. Process in boiling water bath for 20 minutes.

Hamilton Farms, Clinton, Arkansas

**Editor note:**
*Make sure you use 5% vinegar. Check the USDA website or home canners can get answers to questions by calling the OSU Extension Food Safety/Preservation Hotline at 1-800-354-7319, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. except holidays. Website: [http://uga.edu/nchfp/publications/publications_nchfp.html](http://uga.edu/nchfp/publications/publications_nchfp.html)*

### CHERRY TOMATO PASTA SAUCE

1 lb. any type of cherry tomatoes, cut in half
1/2-3/4 C. any combination of chopped: onions, garlic, celery, mushroom and/or pepper of contrasting color
Olive oil
1/2 C. chopped basil
1 T. sugar
Salt, to taste
Freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Saute all the vegetables in a small amount of olive oil until they are just tender. Add a generous amount of chopped basil, sugar and salt. Serve over pasta with freshly grated Parmesan cheese.

Friends of Four Springs Farm, Royalton, Vermont

*These recipes found in “One United Harvest”, creative Recipes from America’s Community Supported Farms. Published 2005.*

Submitted by Beth Durr
Okay -- I have to revisit the blue jay situation. Remember last month I said that I had never seen a jay’s nest or even knew where they nested. Well, I know where a pair are nesting now -- in their favorite food source, a hazelnut tree!

We were sitting on our front porch and two Stellar’s jays were flying back and forth across the front yard with sticks and stuff in their beaks. We watched them go in and out of the filbert orchard. We spotted the tree and checked out the nest. It is a fairly large nest and it seems they like to use lots of small sticks. The sticks stick out all over making the nest look a bit messy. This is the only nest we have seen so I guess the rest of the jays are off in the woods somewhere.

Speaking of birds (remember, I am not a birder), we have had a pair of Black-Headed Grosbeaks camped out in our backyard. They arrived with the bloom of the hot pokers which they proceed to eat as fast as they could. The pokers are gone but the birds are still here enjoying a daily bath. I think they may have a nest in the fir trees and they seem to be happy. One or two of them sang all day yesterday and they were up before the chickens today twittering away.

It is nice to be loved by the wildlife but I don’t garden for them. We have been visited by skunks, raccoons (they are not cute!), and deer lately. We woke up this morning to see a buck and doe in our yard. I’m not sure what they were planning to eat this time but I shooed them away only to see them a little later browsing our apple trees. A doe and about a week old fawn (a Bambi look-a-like) scurried through the orchard in front of the house a few days ago, and I think they spend lots of time in the area just beyond our backyard fence.

Back to birds again -- I want to bring you up to date on my new bird scare -- the hawk kite. I now have the kite hanging over my raspberry and blueberry patch. I think it is definitely helping to keep the birds away from the berries. I must admit that I am also using bird netting that I put on originally to keep the deer from browsing the raspberry foliage. And I have the bushes decorated with the bird scar flashing tape. This tape is all silver and it is wider than usual -- about 1” wide. I got it at the vineyard supply store. Crimany!! What we go through to have berries around here!

I don't want to forget to mention the demo garden as we hope you will visit the garden sometime this summer. We have pruned up the beds with a new covering of mulch -- a Greenlands donation. The perennial plants, shrubs and trees are looking nice and the annuals are coming along. By the middle of July the annuals should be filled out and blooming profusely. The fair this year is the first weekend in August and the garden should look very nice for that occasion. By fair time our new garden signs will be up and all the plants will be identified. Please stop by.

Last but not least I want to bring you up to date on this year’s scholarship recipients. Money from the winter tree sale supports these scholarships. This year five area students will receive $1,000 toward their college tuition. This money can be used at any Oregon college. The students do need to meet the criteria of going into an agricultural, horticultural or environmental field of study.

This year's recipients are Danielle Murphy and Jami Sellars from Yamhill-Carlton H.S., Lindsay Vial from Newberg H.S., Travis Stolk from Amity H.S., and Helena Verduyn currently attending Southern Oregon State University. Congratulations to these students. We are happy to help them continue their education.

This $5,000 and the $11,000 given the two years previously, totals $16,000 that the tree sale has provided to help area students with their college expenses. Those who work hard on the tree sale committee can be very proud.

The next Tiller will be the September issue. I hope our summer isn't too hot but I am not holding my breath. Stay cool and enjoy your gardens.

And to learn more about the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener program, visit: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg or contact your local county office of the OSU Extension Service.

By: Carol Savonen, Source: Jan McNeilan
July
Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

- Control hollyhock rust by sanitation, picking affected leaves, or spraying with a recommended and registered fungicide. Read and follow label directions.

- Early morning is the best time to water vegetable and flower gardens to reduce evaporation. Water deeply and infrequently.

- Hanging baskets of flowers or vegetable plantings need careful attention to watering and feeding during extended periods of hot weather.

- Watch for cutworm damage in garden. (In July, climbing cutworms become a problem and large portions of foliage will begin to disappear on established plants.) Use barriers, remove by hand, use beneficial nematodes when soil temperature is above 55°F, or spray with Bt according to label directions.

- Midsummer plantings of beets, bush beans, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce, kale, and peas will provide fall and winter crops.

- Place traps to catch adult apple maggot flies. You can use pheromone traps to monitor presence of pests.

- July 10: spray filbert trees for filbertworm.

- July 10-15: spray peach and prune trees for root borers.

- July 17-23: third spray for codling moth in apple and pear trees.

- Cover blueberry bushes with netting to keep birds from eating all the crop.

- Stake tomatoes, watch for blight (prune for air circulation, pick off affected leaves, treat with approved fungicide).

- Monitor camellias, holly, maple trees for scale insects. Treat if necessary.

- Monitor rhododendrons for root weevil adults. Look for fresh evidence of feeding (notching). Try sticky trap products on plant trunks to trap adult weevils.

- Check leafy vegetables for caterpillars. Control with Bt or Sevin. Never use Sevin during bloom period or in the presence of bees.

- Mound soil up around base of potatoes, gather and eat a few “new” potatoes from each hill.

- Weed and fertilize rhubarb and asparagus beds, water deeply to develop crowns for next year. A mulch of compost or rotted cow manure works well.

- Mulch to conserve soil moisture with paper, plastic, sawdust, etc.

- Spider mites can become a problem on ornamental plants, vegetables, and fruit plants during hot, dry weather. Watch for dusty-looking foliage, loss of color, presence of tiny mites. Wash infested areas with water or spray with appropriate pesticides.

- Dig spring bulbs when tops have died down; divide and store or replant.

- If a green lawn is desired, make sure lawn areas are receiving adequate water. Deep watering less often is more effective than frequent shallow watering.

- Stake tall-growing flowering plants such as delphinium, hollyhocks, and lupine.

- Aerate lawns for more effective water and fertilizer usage.

Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Always identify and monitor problems before acting. First consider cultural controls; then physical, biological, and chemical controls (which include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, organic and synthetic pesticides). Always consider the least toxic approach first.
August

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

• Check apple maggot traps; spray tree if needed.
• Make compost of lawn clippings and garden plants that are ready to be recycled. Do not use clippings if lawn has been treated with herbicide, including “weed-and-feed” products.
• Control yellow jackets and wasps with traps and lures as necessary. Keep in mind they are beneficial insects and help control pest insects in the home garden.
• First week: spray for walnut husk fly.
• First week: second spray of peach and prune trees for root borers.
• First week: second spray of filbert trees for filbertworm.
• Check for root weevils in ornamental shrubs and flowers; codling moth and spider mite in apple trees; scale insects in camellias, holly, maples. Treat as necessary.
• Plant winter cover crops in vacant space around the vegetable garden; plan winter kale, Brussels sprouts, turnips, parsnips, parsley, and Chinese cabbage.
• Dampwood termites begin flying late this month. Make sure your home is free of wet wood or places where wood and soil are in contact.
• Watch for corn earworm on early corn, treat as needed.
• Begin soil preparation for planting new lawn.
• Fertilize cucumbers, summer squash, and broccoli to maintain production while you continue harvesting.
• Clean and fertilize strawberry beds.
• Control caterpillars on leafy vegetables, as needed, with Bt., or by hand picking and removal.
• For mite control on ornamentals and most vegetables, hose off foliage, spray with miticide if necessary.
• Monitor garden irrigation closely so crops and ornaments don't dry out.
• Use mulch to protect ornamentals and garden plants from hot weather damage.
• Camellias need deep watering to develop flower buds for next spring.
• Prune raspberries, boysenberries, and other caneberries after harvest.
• Corn may need protection from earworm. Spray new silks with appropriate pesticides if necessary.

"Twilight Celebration in the Garden" July 29, 4pm-10pm. Honoring the 30th Anniversary of the OMGA. This unique garden celebration will be the grand finale of the four day mini college at OSU by the state OMGA. It will be held at the historic Holstein House Gardens, a garden event venue seven miles SW of Corvallis. The Linn and Benton County MG Chapters are co-sponsoring this Victorian theme garden celebration and many of the hosts will be dressed in period clothing. This celebration honors the 30th anniversary of the OMGA and the membership of all Oregon Master Gardeners, past and present. The focus will be upon the evening lights throughout the gardens as dusk settles at approximately 9:00pm. However, as we await that magic “twilight hour”, we will be entertained with A Bite In The Garden by way of refreshments from booths of local restaurants and wineries and live music will be performing.
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The Tiller

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We’re on the Web!
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/pages/ycmga.html

Yamhill County OSU Master Gardener™ Newsletter

All YCMG members are invited to a PIG ROAST
at Al Cronk’s place.
9415 SW Trestleview Lane,
McMinnville.
Saturday August 12, 4 pm
Pig and drinks provided.
Bring your favorite potluck dish.

Directions: Drive South out of McMinnville on OR 99W - 1.9 mile, then Turn RIGHT onto SW Trestle View Lane.
Call Al at 503 835-8412 for more info.