**Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter**

This Month's Master Gardener Calendar

**Thursday, June 1, Insect Committee Meeting; 10am MG Clinic Room.**

**Saturday, June 3 YCMGA Program meeting; this program will qualify for recertification. The speakers will be:**

- **Lon Rombough - Author of The Grape Grower, 10am to 12:** He will cover home garden wine and eating grapes of the newer hybrid types. His book will be available for purchase.
- **Gail Gredler - composting 1 to 3pm** she will include worm composting in the presentation. PWA, the public is welcome.

**Tuesday, June 13, YCMGA Board Meeting, 3 - 5pm, PWA, All YCMGA members welcome!**

**Friday, June 16, Deadline for the July/August Tiller.**

**Thursday, June 15, Insect Committee Meeting, 10am MG Clinic Room.**

**Other Events**

**Saturday, June 3, 10am “Making an English Cottage Garden” Learn what a cottage garden is and how to design one. Bonny Bowen OSUMG and Holstein House Gardens.**

**Sunday, June 25th. The McMinnville Garden Club, 6th Annual Garden Tour/Faire.** Five gardens ranging from a 4.5 acre property with greenhouse, knot gardens, fruit trees and more down to a compact, eclectic garden designed for low maintenance. Tickets available, at Kraemer’s Garden Center, Roth’s Market, Incahoots, Oregon Stationers or thru the McMinnville Garden Club; $10 donation requested.

**The Garden Faire, 10am to 5 pm;** over 37 vendors will offer rare plants, artwork, garden structures and accessories. Cowls Street between 2nd and 3rd, free admission. For more information, visit the McMinnville Garden Club booth at the Farmers Market, McMinnville starting June 1st, call their information line of 503-434-4344 or visit their website at http://mcminnvillegardenclub.org.

**Wednesday-Saturday, July 26-29, 23rd Annual Gardener’s Mini College, OSU Corvallis.**
From the President by Pam Dowling

Congratulations to our two Yamhill County award winners who were selected at the last Board Meeting. Ray VanBlaricom is our Master Gardener of the Year for all his hard work and dedication on the plant sale and OMGA quarterly meeting this year. Sylvia Connor is our Behind the Scenes recipient for all her numerous hours spent in working on the demo gardens and taking over the greenhouse activities. Both of these persons will be recognized at Mini-College this summer.

A big THANKS to all who helped with another successful plant sale this year. We grossed over $7,000 which will be used to fund our educational horticulture programs. With additional outside help, our facility management was much easier. We appreciate the young people (and parents) from the 4-H program who helped carry plants. In turn, we donated $500 to the 4-H program.

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

Check it Out! We have a new front office landscape that is designed to demonstrate plants for Water-Wise Gardens. Thanks especially to Glora Lutz, Doris Cruickshank, Daryl Alt, and Kate Cushman for helping plant the plants. Together we did it all in 3.5 hours. A brochure is being developed to explain the new landscape as well as an update to our website, which will be available soon.

The concept and plant list have been several years in the making. Bonnie Bayard from the southern part of Oregon helped with design principles. She included some ideas for a few new trellises to balance those already in place—they will be installed later, but we already planted the purple leaf ornamental grape that will climb over them once installed. Neil Bell provided a list of California lilac (Ceanothus) that did well in his hardiness trials at The Oregon Garden. They have yet to be obtained and planted, but appropriate size spaces have been left for their arrival. Some larger native flowering shrubs—oceanspray and mock orange, have been planted against the wall as taller backdrops. Smaller shrubs, such as a number of Hebe and Berberis are already in place. Also planted are many plants of the “subshrub” group. These are plants that appear to be herbaceous but on close examination can be found to have woody bases that produce new foliage each year. Included in this group are Epilobium canum (formerly known as Zauchneria californica) the California fuchsia, with its fiery orange-red flowers. A penstemon native to the Willamette Valley, Penstemon serrulatus, is also in this group, as are the rock rose (Cistus).

All of the plants in the garden are either native, Mediterranean in origin, or are proven drought-hardy plants from other areas. Herbaceous material dominates, at least for now until the shrubs grow, and include those planted in the small rock garden created by gathering all of the loose rocks together at the north end of the strip (thanks for Daryl Alt who provided the muscle for their transition!). The small rock garden includes the native Sedum oreganum and outstanding cultivars of the native Sedum spathulifolium, with silvery or purple fleshy leaves. Both are commonly available at nurseries.

Other herbaceous plants include many cultivars of coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) native iris, including ‘Pacific Coast Hybrids’ now blooming, small but bright-flowered sun rose (Helianthemum sp.) black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckiasp.), sages, lavenders, creeping thyme, goldenrod (Solidago sp.) and others. In the fall we will add bulbs to the garden to provide early spring color; most bulbs originate in Mediterranean climates and are adapted to dry summers.

We purchased most of the plants for the garden with well over half of the plants coming from local nurseries, so most are readily available to the shopper with water-wise plants on their lists. Others will take a bit of “searching for;” but we will provide a helpful source list on our brochure to help guide people to good sources.

We will be watching to see what does well in this tough gardening spot. We will be watering the plants this year (by hand as needed), but by next summer, they will be largely “on their own” except when they show stress. The goal is to fill the space completely to help control weeds and protect the root zones, which should take 2-3 years. Thanks again to everyone who helped make this happen. Linda
Water Features (or Creatures!)

Now that summer is here and it is dry, we think about the cooling effect of water - ponds, streams, rivers and such. There are many insects and their relatives that depend on water for their survival. Without water, this would be a dead planet, but with it, we have an astounding variety of life. One important insect that is keyed to our ecology is the caddis fly. The adult caddis are food for many fish species, including trout and salmon smolts. Ask a trout fisherman about the flies he uses for fishing, and the word “caddis” will undoubtedly come up. The most interesting of the life history of the caddis are the larvae. They are an aquatic, worm-like critter that builds a house for itself as it grows. Caddis larvae can produce silk like a caterpillar or spider. They use this silk to gather in tiny sticks, sand grains and other bottom debris and build a protective tube around their soft body. Crawling along the bottom of a stream or lake, they become invisible to predators by using this camouflage to conceal themselves.

Stoneflies are another favorite food of fish and other pond creatures. The immature stonefly has a flattened body and the legs project out to the side to give it a very thin profile. Stonefly larvae live under rocks on the bottom of streams and lakes. Being secure under the rock, the stonefly (aptly named, don’t you think?) can carry on its life history relatively undisturbed, except for the fish that feeds by overturning rocks for finding prey.

Mosquitoes are a scourge to man and beast, but their life history depends upon water. They don’t need much of it, but they need to remain submerged in order to feed as larvae. The larval form feeds on algae and other detritus in shallow, stagnant water. Any water will do, even that left by the imprint of a cow or horse in a pasture as long as it fills with water. The pupa also needs water to remain viable. But, once the adult emerges from the pupa, well, we all know what that means. We are vulnerable!

Not all water creatures are insects, however. In the bottoms of streams and ponds, living in the mud, are other forms of life. Horsehair worms are long, thin roundworms that, as their name implies, are about the diameter and length of the mane hair of a horse. Sometimes they can be seen at the bottom of a clear pool, undulating out of their burrows in the mud while feeding on microscopic life floating in the water. Early observers, looking in their rain barrels and seeing these worms, thought that horsehairs floating in the air had settled in the water and changed into worms.

Certainly, there are a myriad of creatures that depend on water for their existence, we among them. The balance of life on this planet is dependent on a number of factors, but water is the most significant for life as we know it! Have a great growing season, and don’t forget to water your plants (and animals)!

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**Book Look** ... by Doris Cruickshank

**Abiotic Disorders of Landscape Plants**
**A Diagnostic Guide**
University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resource, Published: 2003

This excellent book describes the strategies, techniques, and tools used in diagnosing plant problems. Included is a step-by-step diagnostic strategy which provides a guide for questions to ask our clients when they come in with a plant problem.

For each abiotic disorder the book covers the cause, symptoms, occurrence, look-alike disorders, diagnosis and remedies. Plentiful color photos aid the reader. Easy to use summary tables are included. One valuable table lists problems by symptom. Other extensive tables are for salt and boron tolerance and for pH tolerance. Included are a glossary and an extensive index.

Treatment is not the focus of this book and the plants are those found in California. However, this is an easy to use book with great information and will fill an information gap in the Master Gardener™ Library.
Salad Burnett - An Herb ... Ruth Rogers

Frilly plants such as ferns are very attractive to me which is the reason I purchased this herb. It is one of the earliest greens in spring. It is a perennial which grows wild all over France. This is very understandable as it reseeds readily. Cut back flower heads to keep it contained.

Red & green flowers are borne in midsummer on tall stalks. It is a chenopod, a member of the goosefoot family. In Tudor times, early settlers from Britain brought it to this country. Since I am not a fan of cucumbers, except in pickles, I can not attest to the fact that it has a similar flavor, but this is what I have read. Use young leaves raw, or scattered over salads, or chilled soup. It is supposedly good in cucumber sandwiches to enhance the flavor I would guess, also good in scrambled eggs, and it makes a good vinegar. It can be cooked as a green with young leaves being the most tender. I purchased it as a small start as it is an attractive plant. You may also start from seed in the spring.

It is nutritious, rich in Vitamin C & minerals. Leaves fresh or dried can be used to make an infusion good for prevention of infectious disease, gout, rheumatism, & helps one perspire if a fever is present. Infusions may act as a tonic, an aid to digestion, or a mild diuretic. Fresh leaves may be used as a poultice to promote wound healing. Salad Burnett has been used medicinally to prevent infections and aid digestion. That’s all I know so I will leave you to try some of these suggestions. I myself am just going to enjoy the lovely plant.

Community Garden ... by Beth Durr

Community gardens are sprouting up all over the place. Traditionally, these gardens have provided an outlet for those who want a garden and have no place to grow things. Many churches and inner-city groups have started their own. Three years ago, an empty lot behind the Salvation Army in McMinnville grew into a viable and successful project.

This year Master Gardeners are helping the on-going project, located off of W. Second St. Kathleen O’Brien-Blair has spearheaded this years garden in conjunction with previous heads, Gary and Jan Nolan along with Maj. Trimmer of the Salvation Army.

This is a community self-help project that provides an opportunity and space for low-income renters, yet is open to the entire community for use. Kathleen O’Brien-Blair jumped right in and took over this year when there was no leadership. She reports that Green-lands supplied the compost; Sam Kotka tilled - Dick Majors used the backhoe from the Masonic cemetery where he caretakes to spread the compost. The garden is equipped with drip and overhead watering. Gary and Steve Baker maintained the current water lines. Also Maj. Trimmer reports that a gentleman showed up with 50 beefsteak tomato plants to donate to the gardens!! Currently this year 6 families have signed up to grow their own stuff. Part of their contract is to provide ten percent of their harvest to the Food Bank, which is operated by the Salvation Army.

Master Gardeners who are involved are, of course, Kathleen O’Brien-Blair, Cathy Burdett, Beth Durr. Other contributors are Gail Price and Gail Bennett. For further info, contact Kathleen at (503)434-9780 or ktho@comcast.net.

Use Caution When Choosing Products For Your Garden ...Susan Trombetta

One of the clients of a dog rescue group experienced a tragedy and wanted me to pass a special message along to all of my dog loving friends and family.

Their client was the doting owner of two young Lab/Golden Retriever mixes. Over the weekend, they purchased Cocoa Mulch from Target to use in their garden. They loved the way it smelled and it was advertised to keep cats away from their garden. They set the bag in their yard. Their dog, Calypso, decided that the mulch smelled good enough to eat so she broke into it and devoured a large helping. She vomited a few times which was typical of her when she would get into something she shouldn’t. She was not acting lethargic in any way.

The next day, the client woke up and took Calypso out for her morning walk. Half way through the walk, she had a seizure and died instantly.

Although the mulch had NO warnings printed on the label, upon further investigation on the company’s website, this product is HIGHLY toxic to dogs. The dog’s owner wanted this information passed along so no one had to experience the same tragedy she went through.

Cocoa Mulch is manufactured by Hershey’s, and they claim that “It is true that studies have shown that 50% of the dogs that eat Cocoa Mulch can suffer physical harm to a variety of degrees (depending on each individual...
Well, I'm finally glad I can write about something other than the plant sale. I do want to extend another thank you, however, to all those who helped in the greenhouse and to those who made perennial donations. There would be no sale without you -- Thanks again!

This month I would like to talk about birds. First of all I am not an avid bird watcher like so many people are these days. I do like to attract MOST varieties of birds to the yard and to that end, I provide water and plants that birds like. We do have an outdoor cat so we don't have a feeding station.

You might have noticed that I emphasized the word “most”. There are some birds we are not crazy about. Being hazelnut farmers you can imagine that Scrub jays and Steller’s jays are not favorites of ours.

Right now the jays must be off having babies because there are not many around. I am assuming they are in the woods of the foothills someplace. I don’t think I have ever seen a jay’s nest. Where do they nest and what does the nest look like?

Actually, we still have a few picking around in the flowerbeds trying to remember where they hid the nuts last fall but basically they have “flown the coop.” I know they will be back with a vengeance about mid summer because that is when the nuts on the filbert trees start to fill out. They will then boss all the other birds around until next spring. It is hard to believe that before we had a nut orchard, we hardly ever saw a Steller’s Jay.

A couple of other birds we are not crazy about are Red-shafted Flickers and the really nasty Starlings. Oh, I guess flickers aren’t so bad. They seem to follow the jays around pecking at the ground. I think they are looking for insects and I hope they eat a few crane fly larva. But they do like to peck on the sides of buildings, drilling holes in nice cedar siding and other woods. Sometimes they beat their beaks on metal. Why, I don’t know. Maybe they like the sound or just like to drive humans nuts.

Well, you know how awful starlings are. They find any kind of hole in buildings, trees or birdhouses and think that is where they should live. If the hole isn’t big enough for them to get into, they just keep working at it until it is big enough. They also raid other bird’s nests throwing out the eggs or babies and taking it over. Who the heck introduced them to this country anyway!

Both the flickers and the starlings have become nuisances in our pole building. They have picked the insulation out of the peak of the ceiling and the starlings have been nesting there. The flickers and other birds roost on the cross pieces so you know what the equipment stored below looks like -- white washed!

So what are we going to do about our bird problems? There is not much we can do about the jays, but we think we are getting a handle on the pole building problem. First we tried the flashing bird scare tape. It did not faze the birds. In fact, I think they thought we had decorated for a party. Then we got to thinking about what really scares birds. Hawks!! Boy, when a hawk flies through here all the birds scatter.

We needed something that looked like a hawk. We thought that maybe a kite that looked like a hawk would work. When we were down at the beach a few weeks back, we checked out a kite shop but they didn’t have a hawk kite. Then some relatives came by for a visit and we took them to the Evergreen Aviation Museum. Hey, hey, hey! While looking around their gift shop we came upon some kites. And yes! They had a kite that looks like a hawk. It is an eagle kite with a wing span of 55”. On the package it says the kite flies like a real bird and it sure does. We have tied one on the barn and one in the pole building. They move in the slightest breeze.

We still have a few birds around the barn, but they no longer live in the pole building. I have another eagle kite ready to hang in the berry patch when the berries start to ripen. Along with some bird netting, I’m sure I will have a few more berries this year.

I sure wish eagle kites would scare off the deer!

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**Thank You Master Gardeners!!** Especially Kathleen, Stanna, Ray, Beth and Glenda, your knowledge and even smart guessing was truly helpful and appreciated by all who attended our Garden/Plant Swap on Sunday May 7. We have scheduled the Fall Swap for Sunday October, 29th. Please consider volunteering to help again. We need and value your time to provide community service. Even the rain did not keep folks from bringing and taking all kinds of garden related stuff. Yours truly, Van Keck Cochairman Coldwell Banker Garden Swap
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dog). However, 98% of all dogs won't eat it.”
Cocoa Mulch, which is sold by many garden supply stores and chains, contains a lethal ingredient called “Theobromine”. Theobromine is the ingredient that is used to make all chocolate — especially dark or baker’s chocolate — which is toxic to dogs & cats.
Just a word of caution — check what you are using in your gardens and be aware of what your gardeners are using in your gardens.
Cocoa bean shells contain potentially toxic quantities of theobromine, a xanthine compound similar in effects to caffeine and theophylline. I’m sure there are many gardeners who never thought the odor of the cocoa mulch could cause death to their pets.”
If you have any questions or need something more on this, please let me know.

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**Desk Duty**

This year, desk hours have been changed to ALL DAY on Mondays and Wednesdays and 1-5 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Friday coverage is available if it is your best volunteer opportunity.
Please sign up for some desk time to help out our clients with their plant and soil questions. Remember that they can now submit questions with the new online form as well.
**June**

*Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent*

- First week: spray cherry trees for cherry fruit fly and brown rot if fruit is ripening.
- First week: spray for codling moth and scab in apple and pear trees. Continue use of pheromone traps for insect pest detection.
- Apples and crabapples that are susceptible to scab disease will begin dropping leaves as weather warms. Rake and destroy fallen leaves; spray with summer-strength lime sulfur, wettable sulfur, Immunox, or Captan.
- Plant insectory plants to attract beneficial insects to your garden. Check with local nurseries for best selections.
- Plant dahlias and gladioli.
- Learn to identify beneficial insects and plant some insectary plants (Alyssum, Phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow, dill) to attract them to your garden. Check with local nurseries for best selections.
- Lawn mowing: set blade at 0.75 to 1 inch for bentgrass lawns; 1.5 to 2.5 inches for bluegrasses, fine fescues, and ryegrasses.
- Spray with Orthene to control adult root weevils in rhododendrons, azaleas, primroses, and other ornamentals. Or, use beneficial nematodes if soil temperature is above 55°F.
- Remove seed pods after blooms have dropped from rhododendrons, azaleas.
- Prune lilacs, forsythia, rhododendrons, and azaleas after blooming.
- Fertilize vegetable garden 1 month after plants emerge by side dressing—alongside the rows.
- Harvest thinnings from new plantings of lettuce, onion, and chard.
- Construct trellises for tomatoes, cucumbers, pole beans, and vining ornamentals.
- Use organic mulches to conserve soil moisture. An inch or two of sawdust, barkdust, or composted leaves will minimize loss of water through evaporation.
- Pick ripe strawberries regularly to avoid fruit-rotting diseases.
- Blossoms on squash and cucumbers begin to drop: nothing to worry about.
- Control garden weeds by pulling, hoeing, or mulching.
- Control aphids on vegetables as needed by hosing off with water or by using insecticidal soap or a registered insecticide.
- Watch for cabbage worms, 12-spotted beetles on beans and lettuce, flea beetles in lettuce. Remove the insect pests or treat with labeled pesticides.
- Spray peas as first pods form, if necessary, to control weevils.
- After normal fruit drop in June, consider thinning the remainder to produce a larger crop of fruit.
- Late this month, begin to monitor for late blight on tomatoes.
- Birch trees dripping means aphids are present. Control as needed.
- If indicated, spray cherries at weekly intervals for fruit fly.
- Last week: second spray for codling moth and scab in apple and pear trees.
- Move houseplants outside for cleaning, grooming, repotting, and summer growth.
- Make sure raised beds receive enough water for plants to stay free of drought stress.

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.
Before planting tomatoes, put some egg shells in the hole to prevent blossom end rot.