

The Tiller

Yamhill County OSU Extension Master Gardener Newsletter

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Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association Executive Board

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

Linda R. McMahan, Yamhill County
 Extension Faculty for Community
 Horticulture

This Month's Master Gardener™ Calendar

June 7, Thursday

Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am
 PW Auditorium

June 9, Saturday

Urban Mulching Techniques, 10 am–
 noon at the PW Auditorium. Presented
 by Darol Funk of Western Oregon
 Waste. Open to the public and counts
 as recertification credit for MGs. For
 more info contact Ray at 503-550-3544

June 9, Saturday

The first "Fruits of the Season" seminar
 at OSU. 10 am at the outdoor Bee Lab,
 850 SW 35th St. in Corvallis. See page
 3 for more details

June 13, Wednesday

YCMGA Board Meeting, 1 pm
 PW Auditorium
 All members welcome!

June 21, Thursday

Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am
 PW Auditorium

June 22, Friday

Deadline for July Tiller

June 24, Sunday

10 am–4pm. McMinnville Garden
 Club annual tour of 6 gardens and a
 Garden Faire of over 30 vendors. For
 more info: 503-434-4344 or
www.mcminnvillegardenclub.org

June 26, Tuesday

Native Plant ID class at Clackamas
 Comm. College, taught by Elizabeth
 Howley. Learn how to use plant keys
 and visit plants in the area. \$72 cost
 503-657-6958 X2389 or email
ehowley@clackamas.edu

IMPORTANT!

Be sure to read the June
 issue of the OMGA
Gardener's Pen for information
 about the upcoming Master
 Gardener's Mini College in
 Corvallis in August.





From the President *by Karen Payne*



We had a very successful YCMGA Plant Sale with gross receipts above last year's totals. Great job!

The ADEC building at the fairgrounds looked like a utopia. Although the building is large, it always fills up and provides adequate space for plants and vendors displaying their products. A huge "THANK YOU" to all Master Gardeners and helpers who made

this sale so profitable.

The food was wonderful this year. Thanks to Vi Nisley and crew.

We also did a garden emporium this year (like a garage

sale) and that did well too.

It is a busy time of year trying to get gardens planted between sunny and rainy days.

We are still busy staffing clinics and the MG office is quite busy answering interesting questions from the public we serve.

We will also be at the McMinnville Farmers Market this year.



Linda's Corner *by Linda McMahan*



The Biggest Event of the Year

Once again this year I was reminded of the special nature of the plant sale. With proceeds bigger than ever, it reflects that our community also feels this is a special event. Since I joined OSU Extension in 2000, I have been impressed with the way all of the Yamhill County OSU Master Gardeners

the last two years. Like many of you, she did this without being asked, just to make the event a little bit better. As always, the food area for the volunteers and vendors was excellent—I think I had the best piece of coffee cake I've eaten in my life in that crazy and wonderful kitchen—thanks to whoever made it for the great treat. I think you will all agree that Vi Nisly does a very nice job of care and feeding.

In my view, it is the enthusiasm and professionalism of all of you that make this one of the most important community events in our county. Through this sale, we are reaching infants to our older generation, gardeners and their families, and helping all of our clients understand the advantages of gardening. Thanks to all of you.

band together year after year to make it happen. And each year, you carefully look at what worked and what needs improvement. It almost feels like an "organic" process, sort of like magic, but I know it really comes down to a lot of people who care and who step into the jobs that need to be done. The general atmosphere is one of excitement and activity, and the professionalism you all display is evident. The gardening public responds enthusiastically.

Of course, it takes many Master Gardeners to make an event like this a success. I'm not going to mention everyone because that might take the entire newsletter. However, a few people deserve special thanks. First, our co-chairs—Kathleen and Daryll--did a tremendous job of making it all come together. As in the past, the entire board acted as the main "committee" for the plant sale—I think all board members were involved significantly. Cathy Burdett added her special decorating flair to the Master Gardener educational area, which she has done for



Living Jewels

Some of the colors seen in our gardens can be attributed to the large variety of butterflies that visit our nectary flowers. Our gardens come alive with these colorful insects that delight the eye and the soul with images that remind us of our childhood.

The spectacular swallowtails, with the black and yellow contrasting stripes on their wings, dine on the nectar provided by the many varieties of flowers that we grow. The butterfly flutters delicately as it passes from one flower to another, pausing just long enough to take a sip of the sweet liquid the plant offers. It's large size makes it an attention getter!

White cabbage and veined-whites flit around plants of the mustard family, looking for suitable places on leaves to deposit their eggs which will become the next generation of vivid white butterflies.

Orange and black mottled fritillaries also add some striking color to the picture. The undersides of their wings have creamy or silver spots, and when they alight they truly appear to living jewelry. The larvae feed on violets of various species. If you want to attract more of them, a patch of violets somewhere in the garden can do wonders.

Small blue butterflies add another dimension to the mix, flying among the flowers and becoming a sky-blue contrast to the other garden visitors. The life histories of some of these blues are even more spectacular. Some species larvae are actually cared for by ants, offering protection and food for the developing caterpillar. The caterpillar pupates in the ant hill, and upon hatching, crawls out of the opening, spreads it's wings and flies away.

Small orange and black skippers move with great speed among the flowers and above your lawn. These one inch wingspan creatures look like a cross between a butterfly and a moth. In fact, at rest, the skipper holds it's front wings up like a butterfly and the hind wings more horizon-

tal like a moth. The larvae feed on grasses and are curious in that they have a constricted collar around their neck. Sort of reminds one of formal wear on an insect!

If you have a patch of nettles nearby, you probably will see the colorful red admiral butterfly visiting your garden. They have a black-brown ground color with white and orange contrasts. The most spectacular color, though, is the bright red stripe crossing the forewings. In Europe the name is a little different. There it is called the red admirable, and truly, when sighted, is an admirable thing to behold!

As you work in the garden this summer, keep an eye out for the living jewels that come to visit. You will be delighted by their presence, and you will feel like you are witnessing the "crown jewels" on the wing. Happy gardening!



Fruits of the Season Seminars at OSU

Now gardeners can talk directly to experts about fruit through a new series of seminars entitled *Fruits of the Season*. These seminars will be scheduled to coincide with fruit ripening times during the summer so attendees can taste the fruit at its peak. Each seminar will be held where the fruit is grown and will include a walking tour, identification of problems, discussion of fruit spacing, varieties, diseases and soils. Instructors will be experienced experts in the field.

The first seminar in the series is really a "honey of a deal". Dr. Michael Burgett, OSU Emeritus Professor of Entomology/Apiculture and renowned bee authority, will discuss pollination and pollinators, how to begin keeping your own bees, the art of attracting wild bee species to your orchard and the colony collapsing phenomenon. A tour of the OSU Bee Lab and hives will follow. Dr. Burgett will also have honey served on freshly baked goods for a sweet end to the seminar.

Saturday, June 9 at 10 am. Pre-registration is required by June 8th. \$10 per person fee. Held at OSU's Outdoor Bee Lab. Park at 850 SW 35th St., Corvallis (public parking), then follow the signs 1/2 block to the Bee Lab entrance. Registration is available online at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/Benton> or by mail to OSU Benton County Extension, 1849 NW 9th, Corvallis, OR 97330. Make checks payable to ARF. For more info, call 541-766-6750



Meeting Members at the Garden Gate *by Cathy Burdett*



Alan Wenner

- YCMGA President—2002
- YCMGA Master Gardener of the Year—2003
- Volunteered over 2000 hours to YCMGA
- Lifetime YCMGA member
- Bailey Nursery’s teacher/trainer of international interns in Oregon
- Walks 5 miles every day
- Designed, supplied and maintained landscaping in front of the Extension Office for many years
- Loves to receive desserts that are homemade



Alan’s work

*Thank you, Alan, for all you continue to do for YCMGA
Perhaps you could make a list of the desserts you would like to receive?*

Correction!

In the May Tiller, we published an article about the Greenhouse Committee and listed the names of the greenhouse crew—but we missed one name—**Susan Park** (class of 2007). Susan, Susan, Susan—how could we have omitted your name from the crew working in the greenhouse? Please accept our apologies. Your involvement is certainly appreciated!

Plant Profile: *Disanthus cercidifolius* by Linda McMahan



This shrub has the most spectacular fall color I have ever seen. You may have to look around a little for it, but redbud hazel, sometimes called heartleaf disanthus (*Disanthus cercidifolius*) is worth a special place in your garden where you can partake of its beauty each autumn. Unlike recent features of these profiles, *D. cercidifolius* does not meet the definitions of Waterwise, but then again, sometimes we just have to break the rules for special plants.

Native to Japan and China, *D. cercidifolius* shares habitats with many rhododendrons and appreciates similar soil and water conditions, including regular water during our summer drought months. It is a member of the hazelnut family, related not only to one of Oregon's most successful nut crops but the witchhazel

(*Hamamelis* spp.). Although references say it can grow to 10 feet wide and tall, the plants I have seen are much less robust.



It's the foliage that makes this plant special. Blue-green, heart-shaped leaves emerge each spring, followed by tiny dark purple flowers. In the autumn, it all breaks loose, however, with the green giving way to yellow, orange, brilliant reds, and purple—all on the same bush! As the leaves fall to the ground, they continue to stun the viewer with their variety for a week or more.

Noted by some as somewhat difficult to establish, it may need some extra special care its first year or so in the garden. Plant in a partly shady location, out of the wind, in acid soil enriched with lots of organic matter. Be sure to provide summer water regularly, at least for the first few years.

For photographs and more info, go to the OSU Plant Identification website at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/dicer.htm> (oddly, no pictures of fall

color here) or to <http://depts.washington.edu/wpa/albums/October2006.htm> for a fall color picture.

Cuttings from the Board by Cathy Burdett

- ◆ Daryll Alt mentioned that the McMinnville Farmer's Market was going to charge for space this year
- ◆ Linda McMahan presented info about the new OSU State MG Co-Ordinator, Gail Langelloto, who will be at Mini-College this year (and also at the June OMGA meeting)
- ◆ Pam Dowling was voted to be YCMGA 2007 Master Gardener of the Year
- ◆ Charlotte Earl was selected and voted as "Behind the Scenes" YCMGA candidate for 2007
- ◆ Pam Dowling and Charlotte Earl will also be submitted to OMGA to be considered as MG State nominees for 2007

The board meeting was concise because immediately after there was a debriefing and discussion about the plant sale. Many new and veteran Master Gardeners attended. Daryll served as moderator and requested comments from each of the committees.

Many contributed their observations and constructive criticisms. A follow up meeting in November is scheduled to review specific topics.

Educational Gleanings by Cathy Burdett



Editors note: Every month a new "Educational Source" column will be added to the Tiller. We trust you will find it a useful tool and welcome submissions and suggestions.





I love spring bulbs – especially daffodils. They last a long time, the deer don't eat them, and the underground critters don't like them either. But the foliage seems to last forever. I know you are supposed to let the leaves die back naturally – no tying them in cute little knots. Also, you are supposed to plant things in front of them so the new growth from these plants will hide the dying foliage.

Do you do that? I don't. I do try to let the leaves remain on the plants as long as I can stand them messing up the flowerbeds. I try to at least let them go about six weeks. I then figure they are fair game to whack off. It doesn't seem to bother them as they come up the next spring as robust as ever.

My real problem with daffodils is that they multiply fairly quickly. It seems that I just get a bunch divided and they need to be divided again.

You may remember a column that I wrote sometime back where I told you I was planting my extra daffodils along our property line and the road in front of our farm. That has been working out well. I have even moved a few out there this spring and I will do more in the fall. I also will have plenty to share at the fall plant exchange.

My husband has a little trouble with my roadside plantings, however. He likes to keep the grass and weeds mowed along the road and I won't let him mow down the daffodils for that six week period. He manages to mow and leave the row of daffodils until I give him the "go ahead."

There are a couple of other bulbs that give me heartburn when it is time to get the beds ready for some annuals. They are grape hyacinth, (*Muscari*) and bluebells, (*Scilla*). Even though these are pretty to have growing in the spring, they have gotten to be a real nuisance in my yard. They

were here when we bought the place 18 years ago and they are next door to impossible to get rid of.

Some of the bluebells must be buried 10 feet deep because I sure can't find them when I try to dig them up. Even though I whack the foliage back long before the bulbs gain energy for next year, they come back with a vengeance. I guess they don't need any new energy!

And grape hyacinth – my crimany!! Digging them just spreads the bulblets around and you have twice as many next year. I just pull off the foliage and plant my annuals

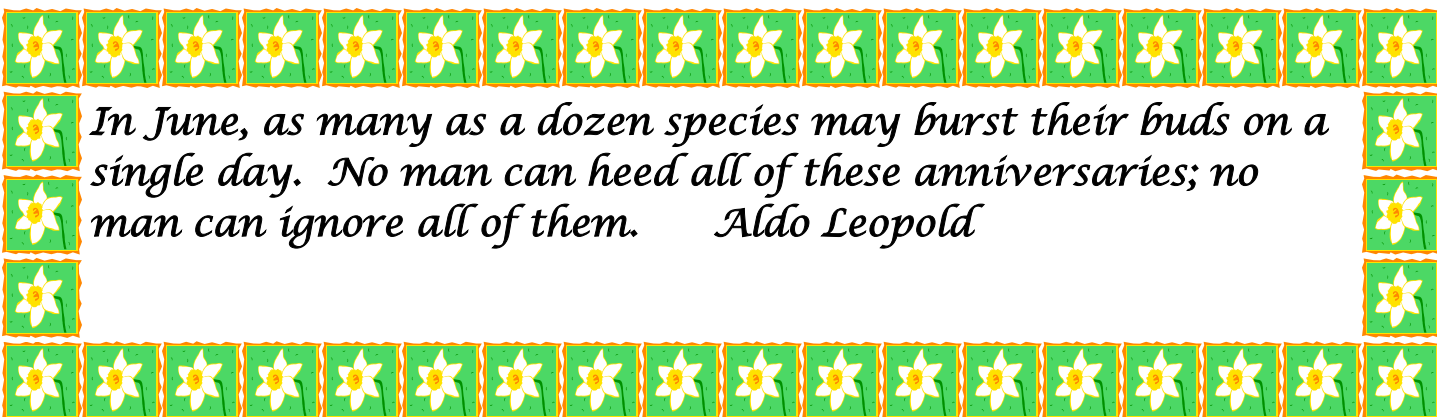
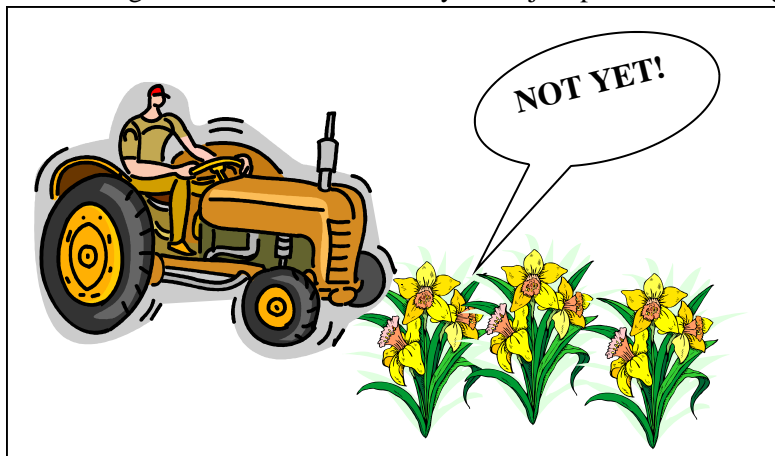
over the top of them. There doesn't seem to be any competition as the bulbs don't grow again until next year.

I can hardly wait to get all of the annuals I have grown from seed out of the greenhouse and into the ground. I always grow more than I need so I can share with my daughter and friends. The plants are

fun to grow but when they start getting root bound in their pots, they need to be watered more often which can be time consuming.

I'm glad we no longer have plants in the MG greenhouse. That is a real watering chore. We finally got all the plants we grew for the demo garden and the extras from the plant sale planted. The garden should begin looking really good about the middle of June. You will have to come down and see the large variety of plants that we have this year.

Again, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the old and new MGs who helped with the greenhouse this spring. As you know the sale made more money than ever before. And what would a plant sale be without plants – you did it!



In June, as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day. No man can heed all of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of them. Aldo Leopold

Golden Trowel Award: Gail Price by Cathy Burdett



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- ⌘ Selected by the YCMGA Executive Board
- ⌘ Gail was also featured in the May edition of the Tiller Newsletter
- ⌘ Loving grandmother
- ⌘ Devoted and caring friend
- ⌘ Over 1000 plants from her greenhouse were donated to the annual YCMGA plant sale this year
- ⌘ Gail is the expert coordinator of choosing and purchasing seeds for the YCMGA sale
- ⌘ Gail is an exacting scheduler of when each packet of seed should be planted
- ⌘ Gail's husband, John, is the coordinator of "Dirt Day" and a YCMGA "Auxiliary"

*Congratulations Gail and John!
Thank you for your devoted work for YCMGA*

Community Clinic Scheduling

The community clinics have been very successful. We still need some volunteers to fill out the June clinics. Remember that you receive payback and/or recertification credit for this fun service! Please contact Patti Gregory if you would like to sign up (503)-537-8201 or Barbara Smith for Wilco clinics (503-472-6154).

FRED MEYER GARDEN CENTER in Newberg

Saturday, June 2nd 10 am—1 pm

Signed up: Ray T., Suzanne L., John S., Tina E., Patti G.

WILCO FARMERS in McMinnville

Friday, June 15th, 2-5 pm

Topic: Waterwise Gardening

Signed up: Pam D.

KRAEMER'S GARDEN CENTER in McMinnville

Saturday, June 16th, 10 am-1 pm

Topic: Garden Pests

Signed up: Marcia G., Anna A., Steven K., Suzanne L., Patti G.



It's Farmer's Market time! The YCMGA will have a space and we are looking for volunteers.

The Farmer's Market is on Thursday afternoons from May 31st to mid October in downtown McMinnville and we would like to have 3 people in the booth from 1:30—6:00 pm.

The booth staff will answer gardening questions for market shoppers, but it is also an excellent opportunity to recruit new MGs.

Time spent in the booth will count as payback and/or recertification credit, besides being a lot of fun.

For more information, contact Daryll Alt at (503)-835-6430 or CELL (971) 241-1529
Email: harmony_haven@hotmail.com

Sign up sheets for the market are on the bulletin board in the hall outside the MG office.

Waterwise Garden



The new Waterwise garden in front of the Extension office is beginning to bloom. Come by and check it out!



The **Pricing Committee** is an extremely valuable sub-committee of the Plant Sale committee. This year, **Jane Price-Hensley** was the patient, tireless working chairperson of pricing plants for the YCMGA sale.

Some of the duties and responsibilities that Jane and her wonderful crew supervised included:

We do not have a list of the names of Master Gardeners who actually assisted Jane in this endeavor, so...

- ✿ Pricing thousands of plants **prior** to the actual sale date
- ✿ Using different color coded tags for each plant
- ✿ Each color-coded tag represented a price, e.g., the color yellow could represent a plant that cost \$1.00
- ✿ Reviewing each plant to make sure there were two tags in the pot: a specific price color-coded tag and a tag listing the plant name
- ✿ Prepared large color-coded signs for the plant tables so customers could tell each plant's price
- ✿ Prepared small color-coded pads for use by each cashier
- ✿ Many plants are left at the agriculture pavilion prior to the sale and have to be re-potted, priced and often identified and tagged with the plant name.

We do not have a list of the names of Master Gardeners who actually assisted Jane in this endeavor, so...



*Thank you, Jane Price-Hensley, and your wonderful pricing crew—
You all helped to make the sale a success!*

June 2007 MG Desk Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Ray T. Library Comm.	5 Doris H.	6 Tracy Tina E. Janice S.	7 Janet G. Barbara S.	8 Kathleen B.	9
10	11 Joe A. Bernae C. Daryll A.	12 Cindy K.	13 Tracy Tina E. Janice S.	14 Janet G. Jean A.	15 Ray V.	16
17	18 Ray T.	19 Doris H.	20 Bernae C.	21 Janet G. Barbara S.	22 Ray V.	23
24	25	26 Cindy K.	27	28 Janet G. Jean A.	29 Vivian G.	30



*Pam Dowling
YCMGA Master Gardener
of the Year 2007
and
Charlotte Earl
YCMGA "Behind the Scenes" Award winner for 2007*

Both nominees will be submitted to OMGA for consideration.

Pictures from the Newberg Public Works Day



Thank you, Bryan Stewart and crew: Cindy K., Patti G., Suzanne L., John S., Barbara C. and Pam D., for all your involvement in the Newberg School Project and Newberg Public Works Day.

Community Clinic at Kramer's Nursery



If a June night could talk, it would probably boast it invented romance. Bern Williams

**OSU Yamhill County Extension Office
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McMinnville, OR 97128-9333**

*The air is like a butterfly with frail blue wings.
The happy earth looks at the sky and sings. Joyce Kilmer, Spring*

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We're on the Web!
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill>

THE TILLER

The *Tiller* is published monthly by the Yamhill County OSU Extension Office in cooperation with the Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association, 2050 Lafayette Avenue, McMinnville, OR 97128-9333. (503) 434-7517. For free subscription by email, send request to: yamhillmg@oregonstate.edu

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

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Tiller Editor: Cathy Burdett
Contributors: Linda McMahan, Bob Grossmann, Pam Dowling, Karen Payne, Gail Price, Steven Klass, Daryll Alt, Cathy Burdett



*Roses are red,
Violets are blue;
But they don't get
around
Like the dandelions do.
—Slim Acres*