June 2008

This Month’s Master Gardener™ Calendar

**June 5, Thursday**
Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am
PW Auditorium

**June 11, Wednesday**
YCMGA Board Meeting, 1 pm
PW Auditorium.
All members welcome

**June 14, Saturday**
Bailey Nursery Rose Tour and Social, Noon. At the nursery in Yamhill.
RSVP by June 11. See page 11

**June 19, Thursday**
Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am
PW Auditorium

**June 20, Friday**
Deadline for submissions for the July Tiller

**June 22, Sunday**
McMinnville Garden Club Tour and Fair—“Something Old & Something New”, 10 am—4 pm $10. Tickets available at several locations. For more info, call 503-434-4344 or go to http://mcminnvillegardenclub.org

**June 30, Monday**
Speaker’s Bureau Meeting, 7 pm
PW Auditorium. All welcome.

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Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Board

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

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

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McMinnville Farmer’s Market
Every Thursday afternoon from Noon till 6 pm on Cowls St. off 3rd St.
Volunteers Needed!
Sitting in the monthly YCMGA board meeting for May made me think a lot about energy. What I observed during that meeting was the commitment and energy that board members, committee members, and association members bring to YCMGA and to Oregon State University. Ray described the final work on the horticulture pavilion at the fairgrounds, a project which has certainly used a lot of his energy. The discussion on providing additional assistance to the project was thoughtful and respectful, which I really appreciated. Wrap up discussions about the plant sale and updates on the community projects in Newberg and updates on the highly successful clinics around the county and results of the scholarship committee just continue to impress me.

Then during the meeting, three guests from other organizations or concerns came to request expertise of the Master Gardeners on working on new projects in the community. These requests have trickled in before, and I don’t believe it is just coincidence that they happened all at once this spring. I believe they are a direct result of the successes of the past few years and the growing visibility that OSU Master Gardeners have in the communities in Yamhill county. It also comes to mind that a few years ago, several Master Gardeners got together and decided to recruit new Master Gardeners by appearing at the McMinnville Farmer’s Markets. Talk about energy! From the beginning these Master Gardeners focused on service to the community as the major goal of the Master Gardener program, and it worked. The classes for the past two years have brought us higher numbers of Master Gardener trainees, each with a commitment to our community. Many are continuing their service commitment past the hours required in the first year. They are active Master gardeners who are helping with existing projects of the OSU Master Gardener Program and the YCMGA, and creating new ones as well.

So congratulations and thanks to all of you. Our county program is strong because of you.

It has been twenty years since my wife and I have been further east than the city of Bend. So we decided on a spring road trip. A couple of reservations and plenty of time between them was our only plan for the week. We left early Sunday morning and took over 12 hours to drive across Oregon to Baker City.

Spring flowers are out in full bloom everywhere because there has been plenty of moisture assisted by plenty of sunshine.

While my wife now knows about Antelope, Fossil, Spray, Dayville, Sumpter, and Haines, we both now have a new respect for miniature dashes of color between lava boulders painted with fossils. As we crested Dixie Mountain Pass there were large lupines growing beside the road just yards from left over deep snow drifts. It was very relaxing to see new spring happenings everywhere.

As travel gets more expensive it is good to remind ourselves of the beauty we have in Oregon. The contrast of green meadow grasses at 5000 feet elevation surrounded by snow and walled in by chartreuse green larch needles is a sight to behold.

This summer if you get a chance, investigate local gardens, or drive over to the coast via a gravel road through the forest. I think we need an advertising campaign--something like "Picnic Local" --the color will do you good...

Retirement
Susan Aldrich-Markham, Crops faculty member and Weed Expert Extraordinaire, will be retiring from OSU at the end of June. She is looking forward to a trip to Africa.
Please stop by to wish her well.
“Wings of Wonder”

In May, the Insect Committee made a field trip to a local butterfly breeding facility near the Buena Vista ferry in Independence. Bob and Betty Heriford own the business known as “Wings of Wonder”, and have been working on the spacious greenhouse, in which tropical butterflies roam free, for over 4 years. They also have a special building devoted to breeding butterflies. This building is like a sterile environment laboratory so that no diseases or insects can go in or out of the breeding area. The facility is inspected by both state and federal agencies who make sure that the integrity of the sterile environment is not breached. Special permits from the USDA allow Bob and Betty to import certain species from throughout the world. Most of these are in the pupa, or resting stage, which makes transportation to their facility by air a little easier.

The greenhouse is a wonder in itself. It is a 2400 square foot glass enclosure with a temperature controlled environment (at 80 degrees) and a humidity control to allow the dampness of a tropical rain forest. The greenhouse is filled with jungle plants, and it seems as if you have just been transported to Costa Rica or other tropical place as you enter. The amazing thing is that the place is loaded with tropical butterflies, freely flying in all directions. There are nectary plants that allow the butterflies to feed as they float about in the air.

Sometimes one or another will land on a visitor, especially if they have on a bright shirt or blouse.

The breeding lab is 1152 sq. feet and is also climatically controlled.

The air is kept in a sterile condition so that no contaminants enter or leave the building. You can see larvae of some species growing in one area, notably feeding on artificial food that Bob makes up from a formula. Another area is what they call the honeymoon suite, in which newly emerged butterflies mate and then lay eggs. The eggs are kept sterile on the outside by dipping them in a special solution to kill bacteria, then they are transported to the caterpillar growing area.

Still another area holds pupae of the tropical species that will be released into the greenhouse when the adults emerge.

While we were there, several species had just emerged and were expanding their wings, showing off their beautiful, fresh colors.

If you are interested to find out more about this unique facility, you can phone Betty and Bob at 1-503-838-0976 or e-mail at: betty@wingsofwonder.us and to visit their website log on to: www.wingsofwonder.us

The trip was a wonderful experience for the Insect Committee, and several people commented that they had grandchildren and would like to take them there to see the free flying butterflies. Sort of like a tropical jungle experience in Oregon without the airfare!
25th Annual Gardener’s Mini College  by Cathy Burdett

Going Green on Our Silver
OSU Extension Service
Master Gardener™ Program
1976-2008
July 23-26  OSU Campus/CH2M Alumni Center

Please try to attend!
(Remember that YCMGA gives scholarships to attendees.  New trainees receive $50 and veterans $100)
♦  Carpool from Yamhill County for the day or 3-day event
♦  Meet Master Gardeners from around the state
♦  Attend classes delivered by experts in home horticulture
♦  Go on garden related tours
♦  See chapter displays
♦  Bid on Silent Auction items

The actual registration packet is in the June issue of the OMGA “Gardener’s Pen” newsletter and is also available online at:  http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/mini-college
From this website, you can access the complete registration packet for the 2008 Gardeners Mini-College.  The packet includes information on lodging, meals, parking and Mini-College events (e.g. Seed Exchange, Silent Auction, Bookstore, etc.), as well as a complete list of speakers/tour leaders, class and tour descriptions, and workshop information.
Hopefully, many YCMGA members will attend—I know I plan to be there!

Donations Needed for Mini-College  by Cathy Burdett

During Mini-College in Corvallis, the OMGA conducts a Silent Auction with donations from chapters throughout the state.

Last year, proceeds from the Silent Auction amounted to $4800, which helped to offset some of the costs and expenses of Mini-College.
Can you donate items for this event?  We do not need the actual donations until July 20th,—only the fact that you intend to make a donation.

The following are some suggested donation guidelines:
•  Item with a minimum value of $25
•  Items new or almost new condition
•  Items can be garden related or not (MG’s are a diverse group)

Last year Yamhill County donated a large group of items, for example:  Plants/Books/Wishing Well/Baskets filled with garden related products and tools.  Please contact Cathy Burdett (503-434-5742) with a list of any items you wish to donate.  A deadline date of June 26th has been given when the intended donation forms are to be submitted to OMGA.
So, in review, I just need a list of any donated items by June 26th and then the actual donations by July 20th.  I will arrange for the items to be delivered to the Silent Auction at Mini-College.  Thank you!

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
President Ray reported on the financial success of the annual YCMGA plants sale plus the “Greenhouse Clearance” sale conducted by Alan Wenner.

Cathy Burdett advised that the OMGA President, Marcia Grubb had resigned. Bill Eller, OMGA Vice President, has been appointed as president.

Linda McMahan presented to the Board a new publication that has been created and to which she has contributed. The booklet “Garden Smart Oregon, a Guide to Non-Invasive Plants”, is now available at the Extension Office.

President Ray requested an additional amount from the Board to pay for the concrete at the renovated Horticulture Pavilion at the fairgrounds. Originally $1000 was donated to the project. Now an additional $500 has been approved.

Several local organizations provided the Board with possibilities to consider for 2009 projects and payback opportunities for YCMGA members:

David Norman reported on the planning and organization at the Community Garden on W. 2nd St. in McMinnville at the Salvation Army site

- Tim Stieber of Yamhill County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) with upcoming projects at Miller Woods/Natural Connections-Chegwyn Farms/Schedwinn Farms
- Annely Germaine of Horticulture Therapy Gardens
- Opportunities available for horticultural teachings to “Habitat for Humanity” families in 2009

Patti Gregory updated the Board on the success of local clinics. Also, the Newberg High School projects continue to expand. NHS students had a class trip to Terra Nova, the Oregon Garden and Al’s growing facility. The students also generated funds from their plant sale.

**Meeting Members at the Garden Gate**

- Class of 2001
- Faithful committee member of the Bare Root Tree sale
- Provided invaluable expertise in building for the renovation of the Horticultural Pavilion
- Participates in many areas during the annual YCMGA plant sale
- Created and constructed YCMGA signs used at various events
- Assists during OSU training session in tree ID because of his vast knowledge in that field
- Active in Yamhill County Soil and Water Conservation and Yamhill County Parks Boards
- YCMGA Lifetime member
- Has an unusual sense of humor that cannot fail to bring a smile or laugh!

*Thank you, Al, for everything you continue to do for YCMGA and for all the smiles!*
New "GardenSmart Oregon" Publication Offers Ecological Alternatives to Invasive Plants

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Oregon's varied climates allow a wide variety of plants from around the world to flourish and nursery crops have become Oregon's number one commodity. Unfortunately, this growing paradise allows some widely used plants in gardens and landscapes to perform too well and cause serious ecological harm by "escaping," or naturalizing into the wild.

A few of these "botanical barbarians" include Scotch broom, purple loosestrife, English ivy and knapweed.

To help home gardeners and landscape designers make sound ecological choices about what to plant in their gardens, the Oregon State University Extension Service has developed a 52-page color publication called "GardenSmart Oregon" in cooperation with several other public and private organizations. The photo-illustrated publication discusses and 25 of the most commonly invasive plants in Oregon and provides non-invasive alternatives. Available online or in print, this booklet offers gardeners, landscape pond owners and landscape designers many choices of non-invasive plants for Oregon's growing conditions, while protecting the health and beauty of Oregon's natural lands and waters.

For example, butterfly bush, also known as summer lilac, has been widely planted as a flowering shrub in the Pacific Northwest. In milder regions of the state, it has escaped, forming crowded stands along riverbanks and in harvested forestlands, pastures and open waste areas. It spreads by broken stem fragments and by wind and water dispersed seeds.

In place of butterfly bush, GardenSmart recommends planting non-invasive flowering shrub alternatives including native red flowering currant, mock orange or blue elderberry or ornamentals such as eastern ninebark, beautyberry or Korean spicebush viburnum.

"Invasive plants can become serious problems that threaten water quality, wildlife and our economy by crowding out native plants, changing stream flows, increasing erosion, competing with crops or creating fire hazards," explained Sam Chan, aquatic ecosystems health educator with the OSU-based Sea Grant program.

"Every Oregonian can do something to safeguard what we love about our state," said Chan. "The first step is to avoid purchasing, planting, or growing invasive plants."

GardenSmart Oregon is available online at: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1620.pdf

Or call 1-800-561-6719 to request a printed copy of GardenSmart Oregon ($3 per copy shipping and handling fee). Local county offices of the OSU Extension Service will have copies available for no charge.

GardenSmart Oregon was created by the cooperative efforts of the City of Portland, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Association of Nurseries, Clackamas Community College, Oregon Public Broadcasting, OSU Extension Service and OSU Sea Grant.

Oregon Garden Field Trip

WHAT: YCMGA field trip and guided tour (Rain or Shine)
WHEN: Monday, June 30, 2008
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY JUNE 25TH.

Contact Person is Anna Ashby. 503-537-9225 or ashashby@verizon.net

YCMGA will pay the cost of admission to the Garden and provide bottled water. You can either bring a lunch or purchase a boxed lunch for $5.25 at the Garden.

Carpool and leave McMinnville at 9:00 am and join others at the Newberg Wilco parking lot at 9:15 am.
Consider new Ceanothus varieties for tough, dry locations

*Ceanothus* is a genus of native North American shrubs with about 60 species. The name *Ceanthus* comes from the Greek name *keanothos*, spiny plant. The shrubs are commonly thought of as California native, hence the common name on the west coast of ‘California lilac’. About 36 of the species are found only in California, but there are several *Ceanothus* species that range over the western, mid-western and eastern United States and southern Canada. *C. americanus* is native to a wide area of the east and is known as ‘New Jersey Tea’.

Virtually all the western species are found in very dry habitats. *Ceanothus* inhabit scrub and woodland on exposed, dry slopes from mountains to coastal regions. *Ceanothus* can grow on poor soils as they have nitrogen-fixing bacteria that form nodules on the roots. As a result, the characteristic that the species of *Ceanothus* share, and for which they are often known, is tolerance of poor, dry soil. It is in these sorts of situations that the plants are best utilized.

The most commonly grown *Ceanothus* in the PNW are ‘Victoria’ and *C. gloriosus*. These two are very different in habit, the former being a rounded shrub to 8’ tall, the latter having a low, widely spreading habit and so is used principally as a groundcover. Both are hardy and attractive varieties. Yet these two only offer a fraction of the range of size, habit, color and texture that the genus has to offer.

There are plenty of other, less-commonly grown cultivars that are well-adapted to our region and worth growing. *Ceanothus cuneatus* var. *rigidus* ‘Snowball’ grows to 3’ tall and 6’ wide, with gray foliage and white flowers in April, and makes a great groundcover. A larger-growing plant, ‘Wheeler Canyon’, has a mounding form to 4’ tall and 8’ wide with blue flowers and would be excellent as a large-scale evergreen groundcover. ‘Blue Jeans’ is a smaller evergreen plant to 4’ by 4’ with small, tough medium green leaves. It is one of the earliest *Ceanothus* to bloom, usually in April.

Marcia Sherry and Judy Zettergren, assisted by Cathy Burdett, prepared the educational display boards and clinic area at the annual plant sale.

The actual clinic and soil pH testing were handled by:

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<th>Doris H.</th>
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This crew was busy all day responding to horticultural/gardening questions from the public and the educational exhibit featured native plants.
Committee Clippings by Cathy Burdett

Thank You...

...to the many sub-committees who quietly organized, planned and performed their varied duties and responsibilities with expertise and professionalism that contributed to the success of another YCMGA Plant Sale!

Plant Sale Committees
- Greenhouse
- Plant Procurement
- Pricing
- Repotting
- Plant ID
- Plant Clinic
- Box Collection
- Parking & Signs
- Garage Sale
- Cashiers
- Vendor Selection
- Kitchen & Food
- Setting Up
- Cleaning Up
- Publicity
- Photography
- Record Keeping
- Manual/Sign Up Book
- Moving Plants
- Customer Service

Yes, we made money to support YCMGA programs and projects, but... on the day of the plant sale, we also had fun!!!

Assistance Needed in Newberg

Do you live in the Newberg area? Bryan Stewart, Newberg High School Project Coordinator, could use your assistance. There are many on-going projects and this would be an opportunity to accumulate pay back hours. Please email Bryan if you are interested. Bryan.Stewart@ci.newberg.or.us
First it is too cold and the plants won’t grow in the greenhouse, then it gets so hot everything fries. Plants are finally ready to go in the ground and then it is too hot to put them out. Welcome to spring in the Northwest.

To top it all off we are going on a trip the last week in May – a time when we should be getting the vegetable garden in. (We will be celebrating my husband’s mother’s 103rd birthday and we can’t miss that!) I am planning to get a few flowers in the ground before we leave but don’t want to have too much in that my neighbor has to water for me.

In my last column I wrote about two of my favorite trailing plants, Creeping Zinnia and Swan River Daisy. This time I want to write about two of my favorite bedding plants, coleus, *Solenstemon* and heliotrope, *Heliotropium arborescens*. I raise these two plants for the plant sale every year and they are very popular with the customers.

Coleus have evolved over the recent years into very colorful plants. In the past they were considered old fashioned and house plants. Coleus are definitely more than just house plants. They are beautiful in the summer landscape. Because they come in such an array of colors, it is fun to match them up or contrast them with other plants or groups of plants. Coleus are also great in planters adding height and color.

Most often you are instructed to plant coleus in mostly shade. However, they are tolerant of a good amount of sun. In fact, sun seems to make the colors even brighter. They even seem to be tolerant of a little dryness between waterings but they are not drought tolerant. To make the plants last the whole summer it is suggested that you pinch out the blooms which aren’t all that nice anyway. Later in the summer I let mine go to seed so I can collect the seed from the prettiest ones. The plants I brought to the sale this year all came from my own saved seed.

Heliotrope is another old fashioned plant that has become popular again. From what I have read, there are some varieties that get very tall. It seems, however, that the variety seen in the garden centers and in the seed packets is the dwarf marine variety. I have had no luck collecting seed for this flower. I have had a volunteer or two come up the following year near where the plants grew. I will have to continue to try and harvest the seed.

When people think of heliotrope, the purple-blue flowers come to mind but there is also a white variety. The dwarf plant gets to be a foot to 18 inches tall. The flowers are in large clusters and with deadheading will bloom all summer. The flowers have a somewhat vanilla scent in the evening.

The foliage on the heliotrope plant is nice too. The leaves are sort of stiff and veined. They are dark green with black or maroon overtones which look very nice planted among other plant colors and textures. Also, I have not had deer problems with them.

Every spring when I plan my flower beds and planters, I have to include heliotrope and coleus. It is a good thing they go with so many other plants – particularly my other two favorites, Creeping Zinnia and Swan River Daisy.

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**The Berry Grower’s Companion** by Barbara Bowling, 2005, Timber Press

This is a great addition to our library because all the information is in one book, instead of each volume on individual topics, without compromising the depth of information. Although it offers limited 'local appeal', it gives us one of the better resources in the Nuts and Berries Section in the library.

Each chapter, broken down to Strawberries, Brambles, Blueberries, Grapes and Minor Crops, is also broken down to easy to understand sub-categories. As a reference book, this is not only full of interesting berry facts. There are diagrams for pruning in each chapter, and excellent photos. For those who want to know about cranberries, p.241 tells you about highbush cranberries.

There are several great lists of various cultivars in each chapter. Included is the raspberry “Amity”.

The book describes Integrated Crop Management (ICM), as it evolved in 1976, based upon the pessimism with pesticides. For us Master Gardeners, this translates into what we know as IPM. This organic approach to berry crops should help our understanding of growing healthy berries.

Other Library notes:

- Start Looking for RED stars on the book spines for books with a Northwest interest.
- Look for new books on Vines; Time-Life Pests and Diseases; Ferns; and a NW Regional Garden Guide
- Please continue to observe the "No Removal" rule.
Patti Gregory has done an excellent job of organizing the monthly community clinics—thank you, Patti!

**Community Clinics** by Cathy Burdett

**Kraemers—McMinnville**
Saturday, June 21, 10-2
Ray V.
Marian V.
Judy Z.
Laurie D.

**Wilco Farmers—McMinnville**
Friday, June 13, 2-5
Pam D. Kathleen B.
Nancy N. Bobby W.

**Fred Meyer—Newberg**
Saturday, June 7, 10-2 and 1-4
Patti G. Linda L.
Helen L. Linda C.
Ray T. Peggy K.

**Farmer's Market—McMinnville**
June 5
Judy Z. Torrey S. Laura T.
Kim B. Susan S. Dick P.

**MG Desk Calendar for June**

Note: Desk Captain Marcia Sherry requests the assistance of YCMGA members to help in the MG office during “peak periods” of service to the public.

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Bailey’s Rose Tour and Social Event

Bailey Nurseries Inc.
Tour and Social

A 2 hour tour of the Bailey Rose Breeding and Propagation Departments and the Rose Garden, plus lunch.

Saturday, June 14, 2008
at Noon

Car pools to leave the Extension Office at 11:30 am. Meet at the nursery at 9855 NW Pike Road, 1 1/2 miles west of Yamhill. (Go west from the Shell station on Hwy 47 at the north end of Yamhill.)

YCMGA members and their guests welcome.
Zippy’s Pizza and beverages will be provided for lunch, courtesy of Bailey Nurseries.

RSVP PLEASE, by June 11
to Alan Wenner, 503-435-1131
awenner@hotmail.com
THE TILLER
The Tiller is published monthly by the Yamhill County OSU Extension Office in cooperation with the Yamhill County Master Gardeners™ Association, 2050 Lafayette Avenue, McMinnville, OR 97128-9333. Phone: (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.

OSU Master Gardener™ Program Director: Linda R. McMahan, Ph.D.
Tiller Editor: Cathy Burdett
Contributors: Ray VanBlaricom, Linda McMahan, Bob Grosmann, Beth Durr, Gill Price, Cathy Burdett, Neil Bell, Carol Savonnen, Steven Klass, Torrey Smith

No price is set on the lavish summer;
June may be had by the poorest comer.
James Russell Lowell

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We’re on the Web!
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill