**This Month’s Master Gardener™ Calendar**

**June 1, Tuesday**
YCMGA monthly dinner meeting and program, 6 pm at Chan’s Restaurant in McMinnville. Speaker will be from Red Pig Tools to talk about the right tool for your gardening jobs.

**June 3, Thursday**
Insect Committee meeting, 10 am in the PW auditorium.

**June 5 & 6, Saturday & Sunday**

**June 9, Wednesday**
YCMGA Board meeting, 10 am in the PW auditorium. All members welcome!

**June 14, Monday**
Last day to register for Mini-College with early bird discount. See page 5.

**June 16, Wednesday**
Landscaping with Edible Plants at the NWREC in Aurora. See page 9.

**June 16, Wednesday**
Flower Arranging Class taught by MG Josie McGill. 7 pm in the PW Auditorium. Free. See page 9.

**June 17, Thursday**
Insect Committee meeting, 10 am in the PW auditorium.

**June 19, Saturday**
Second Annual Chicken Coop and Garden Tour. Starting at 11 am. See page 4.

**June 22, Tuesday**
Mac Garden Club lunch presentation: Karen Hoyt on Sky Hunters (Raptors). Meet two birds of prey in person. 11 am in the Hillside Activity room.

**June 26, Saturday**
Tomato growing techniques (a British method) taught by David Norman at the McMinnville Community Garden. 10 am—3 pm.

**June 27, Sunday**
Linda’s Corner  by Linda McMahan

Summer at last.  I know it’s not official until late June, but it is beginning to feel like summer.  Already, when the sun does decide to shine, it warms more quickly than just a few weeks ago.  I even got a slight sunburn last weekend from being out in the garden just a bit too long without a hat. The plants know the difference too—they are starting to grow more vigorously, perking up—trees and shrubs are in that luxurious growth stage where it looks like the sheer weight of the new leaves will bend the branches to the ground.  My farm relatives tell me that the 1st of June is a good time to plant many vegetables—in Corvallis where I live, the locals say to plant tomatoes when the snow is gone from Mary’s Peak.  That’s just about now.

Just as the plants are growing, gardeners are emerging from hibernation and getting out into their gardens more often. We are starting to get numerous questions on planting trees, strawberry problems, fungal disease, weed identification, weather damage and so on—sometimes many intakes in a day. Master Gardeners have been very busy answering these questions. Many of you have already signed up for desk duty, but a few slots still remain for June and the July calendar is wide open.  Like you, I’m enjoying seeing the new samples and questions that late spring and summer bring. So join the fun and sign up for desk duty soon.  Linda

Does it feel like summer is still around the corner, just taking its time getting here?  I think my newly planted veggies and flowers are rebelling and won’t grow until they are basking in the sunshine. Yes, after two summers of looking at my contractor planted beds and the numerous pots of plants I’ve been accumulating; the majority of them have found a home and are stretching their roots beyond their plastic pots. (My husband was so tired of the pots all in clusters under the sprinklers in the front of our house!) Most have survived. I’ve rediscovered a few and am learning about the others by being forced to look them up.

You all know about the right plant in the right spot. It took me this long to finally figure out what kind of garden I really wanted by watching the sun pattern for a year, learning about the invasives and native plants, how much it really rains here and when, what exactly fits my pocketbook and what really grows well here. Other things I thought about were: What wildlife will have an impact? How will the pests be managed and with what, what will I be able to maintain 5 or 10 years from now? Do I want to feed my family from the backyard? Where are the soggy and dry patches in each season?

One question led to another, and I knew I didn’t have all the information I needed to make the right decisions. The gardening decisions I made in other states do not necessarily work here in Oregon. Here’s where the master gardening program fit in.

While in architecture school, we were told the ideal way to design a structure on a given piece of land was to live on it, observe it and work with it for a year. That way, you will hopefully gain a respect for the land and what it has to offer in every season, its limitations and strengths. Though not a practical idea, I think it is a wise one. We, as master gardeners strive to become stewards of the land by learning how to respect it by learning about gardening in such a manner that it benefits both the land, wildlife, and people….and by spreading that knowledge to others through our clinics, workshops, farmer’s markets and even just talking to our friends and neighbors.

And as you network, now is the time to start recruiting for the class of 2011 by becoming a mentor outside of the classroom.

Happy Gardening!

There’s a New Pest in Town

You may have heard—our newest threat to berry and fruit crops is the Spotted Wing Drosophila--sometimes abbreviated as SWD. This fruit fly, Drosophila suzukii, was confirmed in Oregon for the first time in 2009, but is present in many other areas of the world. The first flies of 2010 have already emerged, and we can expect to get a lot of questions in the clinic about this fly. Unlike regular fruit flies that go after rotting fruit, this new fly likes them just about perfectly ripe—not good news for gardeners. If the female lays its eggs in the fruit, it quickly turns mush and inedible. To learn more, check out the SWD website at http://swd.hort.oregonstate.edu/gardeners. This site includes videos, identification information, and fact sheets for gardeners. A recent training by Gail Langellotto and Amy Dreves is being archived and will be available soon—stay tuned for details.
“Fly” me to the Food

Members of the insect Order Diptera (flies, mosquitoes and gnats) have astonishing adaptations with which they obtain food and carry on their lives. Their mouthparts vary greatly in shape and function, but are always of the sucking or piercing-sucking type. The intake of food is usually assisted by a salivary excretion the insect gives off or injects prior to feeding (think of a mosquito bite and itching).

Insects of the Order Diptera are designed to eat almost any kind of liquid or semiliquid organic substance. A very unusual example is a tropical mosquito in relation to its foodsource, ants. The mosquito gets in the path of an ant and “guides” it so that the ant must run underneath it. The mosquito then uses its front legs to drum on the ants head which induces it to exude a drop of liquid food the ant has eaten from its mouth. The mosquito then sucks the drop up. It does this time after time with other ants until it has had its fill.

Soldier flies are adapted to feeding on pollen and nectar. Their mouthparts serve two functions, to suck up nectar from flowers and to crush and eat pollen grains.

Robber flies are quite large and are predatory on other insects. They will even attack bees and wasps. The robber flies have a poisonous beak which injects a paralytic action on the prey in the soft parts of its neck. The strong legs of the fly keep the wasp or bee from stinging its attacker.

The horseflies and deerflies (family Tabanidae) are particularly disliked by humans as they are blood suckers and can leave a bloody wound on any unfortunate human they bite. The larger species (up to 1 1/2 inches) are particularly bothersome.

Less harmful bloodsuckers are the louse flies and relatives. Most species are very degenerate in body form and the females, as well as some males do not possess wings. Some louse flies are quite large (up to 1/2 inch) and live among the feathers of birds, especially hawks and owls.

The story could go on and on about the adaptations of this varied and interesting group of insects as they search for sustenance.
It has been an interesting spring weatherwise – a bit on the cool side with dry periods in between the rainy periods. The month of May did not have one 80 degree day and few days in the 70s which is a rare occurrence in the northwest. The dry periods were nice but didn’t last long enough before more rain made working in the dirt difficult. The soil has to be a little bit dry so that the beds and garden can be prepared to receive plants and seeds and mud doesn’t stick to everything you touch.

I still have lots of plants in and around the greenhouse waiting to be planted. All of them are about ready to burst out of their pots and need to be planted soon. This seems to happen to me every year. The plants are ready to go in the ground but the areas of the yard or garden where I want to put them have not been dug up. Just when I am planning to work in a particular bed it rains again and I have to wait a couple of days before it has dried enough to work there.

It is easier to work on the planters. They just have to be emptied of old potting soil and filled with new soil. If the rain soaks them, at least they dry out much quicker. I have my whisky barrel planters ready for soil. My ceramic pots still need to be emptied. However, I have a little problem there. Four of the pots have pansies in them and the pansies are finally blooming well after a very slow start. As always they seem to be at their spring peak about the time I want the summertime “thrillers” and “spillers” to go into the pots. I guess I just have to close my eyes and toss ‘em. They seem to do that at the entrance to Linfield off Baker St. One day you go by and the pansies are blooming profusely. A couple of days later the pansies are gone and the summer impatiens have been planted there. Oh well, I will just have to pick all the flowers and bring them in the house to enjoy.

Spring rain can be really great for the garden if you can get the seeds in just before one of the rainy periods. Rain does a great job of watering rows of seed crops – carrots, beets, beans, corn and such. If the sun should happen to peek out and warm the soil once in a while, all the better. The plants will almost leap out of the soil. We did our beets, carrots, and corn the other day and I expect to see germination soon.

A large acreage of alfalfa was put in across the road from us the other day. The farmer worked many hours preparing the soil and getting the crop in before the predicted rain was to arrive. He finished just in time and because of the rain, I expect to see a green covering other there very soon.

Right now we have a green covering at our house – the lawn! If you have a lawn, how often have you had to mow it lately? Around here it has been about three times in less than a two week period. Lawns love the kind of weather we have been having as does just about everything else. Everything is so green and lush. It is “so Oregon”!

We can credit the rain and cool temperatures for all this greenery. I just hope it doesn’t get hot all of a sudden as it has been known to do this time of year. The tender leaves would burn easily and those crispy edges would be with us for the rest of the summer. I would like to see the rain back off somewhat and the weather warm up gradually. I predict that summer will be here the day after the 4th of July!

Yamhill County Coop and Garden Tour 2010

**WHAT?** A free, self guided tour of six gardens and chicken coops in the Yamhill County area

**WHEN?** Saturday, June 19th from 11 am until 5 pm

**WHERE?** Register at the OSU Extension office and pick up your packet with list/map/address of the homes. Each packet contains a short bio from each home owner. A 4-H carpool group will meet and leave from the Extension office at 11 am, or you can register, pick up your packet and tour the homes on your own. Registration is open until the Friday before the tour.

**WHY?** It’s fun! Come and meet your neighbors and be inspired by their passion, creativity and ideas!

**Yamhill County Poultry—A Coop in Every Yard!**

Sponsored by Yamhill County 4-H, Stacey Lynns Farm and Slow Foods Yamhill County
Cuttings from the Board  
by Linda Coakley

The Board Approved supporting option two from the Memo of Understanding for Mini-College 2011 Talking Paper. OMGA Major increase in Mini-College tasks. Everything but the speakers. OSU promotes the event face-to-face. Endowment contribution voted on by OMGA Board annually.

The Board Approved the following:

MG of the Year Yamhill County: Judy Zettergren and Jane Price Hensley
State Behind the Scenes Nominee: Bryan Stewart
State MG of the Year Nominee: Allen Wener

The Annual Gardener’s Mini College will be July 28 – July 31 on the campus at OSU. The theme this year is Beyond Backyard Basics: The Science of Sustainability.

Classes to be offered are as follows:

**Dave Alba**, Oregon Tilth: The Oregon Tilth Accredited Organic Land Care Program: Improving Landscape Practices
**Sam Angima**: Composting*
**Nick Andrews**: Online Organic Fertilizer Calculator for Home Gardeners
**Neil Bell**, OSU Extension: Plant Problem Diagnosis.* and Waterwise Plants for the Willamette Valley
**Ryan Contreras**: Breeding Non-Invasive Ornamentals
**Amy Dreves**: How Gardeners Can Help Protect Oregon's Berry Industry from Spotted Wing Drosophila*
**Rob Emanuel** - Rain Garden Workshop, Part 1* and Part 2*
**Rob Golembiewski**, OSU Horticulture: Sustainable Lawn Care*
**Maurice Horn**, co-owner of Joy Creek Nursery, Horticultural Case Book: Psychiatric and Medical Disorders in the Garden
**Deborah John**, OSU Extension, Family and Community Health: Gardens for Healthy Aging*
**Linda McMaham**: GardenSmart Oregon - Protecting our Natural Areas from Invasives
**Weston Miller**, OSU Extension: Sustainable Landscape Design and Maintenance*
**Jean R. Natter**: Advanced Plant Clinic Techniques for Master Gardeners.* Check out Natter’s Notes in the MG Metro newsletter.
**Dean Sonny Ramaswamy**: The role of the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program in the transformed College of Agricultural Sciences
**Dr Ramesh Sagili**, OSU Horticulture: Current Challenges in Sustainable Beekeeping*
**David Sandrock**: Greenwashing Gardening Products and Services: How Consumers can make informed choices

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**Mini College Alert**

Gardener's Mini-College "Beyond Backyard Basics: The Science of Sustainability"
Wednesday, July 28, 2010 - Saturday, July 31, 2010  
Presented by the Oregon Master Gardener Association and the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program

CH2M Alumni Center, Oregon State University

Registration for the 27th Annual Gardener's Mini-College is OPEN!
Register by June 14th for your early bird discount. Registration closes on July 5th.

You can check out the link for our amazing line up of speakers, tours, meals and fun at:
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/mini-college

Register online at: http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=841944

Hardcopy registration forms are being sent with the next issue of the Gardener's Pen newsletter. You may download a copy of the registration form, as well as check out the complete Mini-College agenda, at:
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/sites/default/files/2010_minicollege_registration_mgwebpage.pdf

Questions? Email minicollege2010@gmail.com
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<td>1 9:00-11:00 AM Demo Garden 6:00 PM Dinner @ Chan’s</td>
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<td>8 9:00-11:00 AM Demo Garden</td>
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<td>15 9:00-11:00 AM Demo Garden</td>
<td>16 7:00 PM PWA Flower arranging Josie McGill</td>
<td>17 10:00-12:00 PM Insect Committee</td>
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<td>19 2nd annual coop and garden tour</td>
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<td>21 First Day of Summer</td>
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<td>26 Tomato Growing techniques 1:00-3:00 @ Community Garden</td>
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<td>28 29 9:00-11:00 AM Demo Garden</td>
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Newberg high school
Intro to Horticulture first, Greenhouse is second. Classes begin at 9:42 and 11:04 Dates are 1, 3, 7, 11, 15 except on Wednesdays which begin at 10:01 and 11:22 the 9th

* Qualifies for recertification *
# MG Desk Calendar: June 2010

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<td>Doris C.  9-12</td>
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## FARMER’S MARKET FOR JUNE (all Thursdays)

**June 3**
- **First Shift**
  - Daryll A.
  - Nancy F.
  - Alaric B.
- **2nd shift**
  - Stacey M.

**June 10**
- **First Shift**
  - Kareen S.
  - Marcia S.
  - Judy C.
- **2nd shift**
  - Daryll A.
  - Saundra C.

**June 17**
- **First Shift**
  - Kareen S.
  - Marcia S.
  - Kimberly C.
- **2nd shift**
  - Janet B.

**June 24**
- **First Shift**
  - Marcia S.
  - Linda M.
- **2nd shift**
  - Orla C.

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## RETAIL CLINICS

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<th>Wine Country</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June 5-6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tour &amp; Faire</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ray VanB. 6/5, 12:30-3</strong></td>
<td><strong>June 27</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Gloria &amp; Lee B. 6/6, 12:30-4</strong></td>
<td><strong>June C. 9:30-1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Stephanie J. 6/6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Linda W. 9:30-1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Nancy F. 1-4:30</strong></td>
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Given the soggy nature of our climate in general, and the endless rain we’ve endured this spring, rain gardening sounds like a slam-dunk. Where could there be a more inviting environment? Okay, there may be a few, but Western Oregon is definitely in the running! And rain gardens can be absolutely stunning. But as with any work of art, they take some planning and work.

For the uninitiated, a rain garden is a sunken area that captures runoff from surrounding impervious areas (such as driveways, sidewalks, roofs and compacted soil) and allows the water to soak in and go through a natural filtration before being reabsorbed into the watershed. They should be located away from buildings and large trees. Percolation tests can determine if there is adequate drainage to avoid standing water for long periods of time. Rain gardeners need to comply with local regulations concerning the watershed. Plans may require an inspection and/ or a permit.

Rain gardens can help restore the natural water cycle, according to Rob Emanuel and Derek Godwin of Oregon State University Extension and Oregon Sea Grant Extension. "They capture and redirect storm water from hard surfaces such as roof tops, driveways, parking lots and streets," Godwin said. "Rain gardens help keep watersheds healthy by filtering out toxins before they pollute streams and lakes, and they can actually recharge aquifers by encouraging water to soak into the ground.

Information and instructions can be found in a new guide, "Oregon Rain Garden Guide: Landscaping for Clean Water and Healthy Streams," written by Emanuel, Godwin and Candace Stoughton, who works for the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. It can be found online or ordered by calling OSU Sea Grant Communications at 541-737-4849. Copies are $4.95 each, plus shipping & handling. Copies are also available at the Yamhill County OSU extension office for $5.00. A full day workshop on rain gardens will be offered in October. Take the time to design your rain garden in detail. Put in the work and the results can be well worth it. Once established, rain gardens need minimal interference. Native perennials that can withstand both frequent wet and dry cycles create a garden that needs little fussing over. You end up with a beautiful, natural landscape that’s contributing to a healthy environment; a real win/ win situation.

Procedure for Spotted Wing Drosophila ID

Gail Langellotto submits the following information on the procedure we would like to follow for SWD Identification (Gail is an entomologist by training and degree):

1) SWD 'suspects' submitted by homeowners (non-commercial) are identified by local Master Gardeners, with assistance from local Extension Horticulture expertise, as it is available.

2) If verification is needed for non-commercial submissions, the Master Gardeners can submit samples (high quality photographs, showing key characteristics, as well as the entire sample) to Gail Langellotto. Actual flies can also be mailed to Gail, if they are properly preserved and prepared for mailing. Place the flies in small vials (dram vials) that can be completely sealed. Place the flies in the vials, and preserve them with Ethyl Alcohol, or Isopropyl Alcohol. Place the vials in a padded envelope, and include the following information in the mailing: date collected, where collected, contact information of collector.

3) If Gail can't definitively ID the flies, she will ask Amy Dreves, and other on-campus resources for help.
Plant Profile: Dusty Miller

by Linda McMahan

Senecio cineraria, dusty miller, is one of the most commonly available plants in retail nurseries. Although sometimes sold as an annual, this USDA-AS Zone 8-10 plant often overwinters well in our climate; my plants survived even this past very cold winter. It is relatively inexpensive, has striking silver foliage, and is a staple plant for the waterwise garden. One website notes that it “shows up well in the twilight garden” – how romantic.

The gray/silver foliage is a clue to its waterwise tendencies. The color comes from wooly hairs on the surface of the leaves, which also serve to hold in humidity close to the leaf. The reflective color helps keep the leaves from excessive heat in hot, dry climates. Indeed, it is native to the Mediterranean. It belongs to the sunflower family (Asteraceae) and bears bright yellow flowers in early summer.

Grow this plant alone or mixed with others in full or part sun. Use its colorful foliage to complement or set off other plants. In Western Oregon, it requires little if any supplemental irrigation, but watch the plants for signs of water stress like wilting.

For some good pictures, check out http://classes.hortla.wsu.edu/hort231/List01/Dusty.html at Washington State University.

Photo by Neil Bell

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Flower Arranging Class

Flower Arranging Class (FREE!)
Taught by MG Josie McGill
Wednesday, June 16 at 7 pm in the PW Auditorium

Don’t have any flowers to bring to class? No problem! We have several people bringing extra materials just for that reason. Don’t pass up this great opportunity just before County Fair! Learn how to win ribbons in flower arrangements.

Landscaping with Edible Plants

OSU Horticulture will be hosting an all day workshop on Landscaping with Edible Plants on Wednesday, June 16 at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora.

The program will feature:
- Al Shay, Instructor, OSU Department of Horticulture: A short history of landscape design
- Bernadine Strik, Extension Berry Crops Professor, OSU: Berries and grapes in the home landscape—Opportunities and challenges
- Steve Taylor, Sales Manager, Blooming Nursery: Herbs for flavor, fragrance and fabulous foliage
- Jim Gilbert, Owner, One Green World/Northwoods Nursery: New and unique fruits for Northwest gardeners
- Anita Azarenko, OSU Department of Horticulture: Fruit trees for the home landscape
- Jude Hobbs, Cascadia Permaculture Institute: Edible landscape design—growing food through Functional aesthetics

Seating will be limited to the first 60 registrants. The cost of the workshop is $75, which includes lunch. For more information, and to register, please visit: http://hort.oregonstate.edu/landscaping_with_Edible_Plants
A flower's appeal is in its contradictions - so delicate in form yet strong in fragrance, so small in size yet big in beauty, so short in life yet long on effect. ~Terri Guillemets