May 6-7, Thursday & Friday  
Mac High School FFA Plant Sale at the MHS greenhouse, 17th & Hembree. Student grown plants. Sales fund student learning activities. 9am-6pm.

May 7-8, Friday & Saturday  
Newberg High School Annual Plant Sale at the greenhouse, off 99W on Elliot Rd. All plants propagated and grown by NHS students. Noon-7pm on Friday, 8am-5pm Saturday.

May 8, Thursday  

May 11, Tuesday  
Online Spotted Wing Drosophila training, 10am-noon in the PW Auditorium or on your own computer. See page 4.

May 12, Wednesday  
YCMGA Board meeting, 10 am in the PW Auditorium. All members welcome.

May 13, Thursday  
Intro to Rain Gardens class taught by Linda McManus, 7:30-8:30 pm at the Extension auditorium. Free. See page 10.

May 13, Thursday  
YCMGA Oregon Garden tour. Meet at the Extension office at 9 am to carpool to Silverton. For more info, call Randy Williamson at 503-376-6299.

May 14-15, Friday & Saturday  
Newberg High School Annual Plant Sale at the greenhouse, off 99W on Elliot Rd. Noon-7pm on Friday, 8am-5pm Saturday.

May 15, Saturday  
Nominations for county MG of the year, Behind the Scenes and Statewide MG awards due. See the OMGA website.

May 17, Monday  
McMinnville Garden Club program: Linda Beutler on “A Garden Vase”. 11 am in the Hillside Activity Room.

May 20, Thursday  
Insect Committee meeting, 10 am in the PW Auditorium.

May 21, Friday  
Deadline for submissions for the June Tiller Newsletter.

May 26, Wednesday  
Hypertufa class, 1-4 pm in the PW Auditorium. Public welcome. Online registration available. See page 2 for more information.

May 27, Thursday  
McMinnville Farmer’s Market begins! 12:30 pm in downtown Mac. Sign ups needed. See page 7.

May 27, Thursday  
NPSO Program on native plants at the McMinnville library: Atop and Around Steens Mountain: A 20-year Retrospective with Kareen Sturgeon. 7 pm.
Last Saturday I attended the plant sale, not only to buy plants, but to once again participate in the electric atmosphere of the sale. I was not disappointed. On entering the parking lot, I encountered friendly smiles, waves, excited faces and truly dedicated volunteers who braved the rain-storms to help people find appropriate parking and answer questions. Inside the space, the energy was also obvious. Teeming with Master Gardeners carefully positioning the last of the hundreds of flats of plants, the auditorium was indeed buzzing. The smell of hot coffee and freshly made scones provided a sensory pathway to the kitchen where I found Vi, as usual, organizing the donated food and tending weary or hungry Master Gardeners as well.

Everyone seemed to know their jobs. Adjusting plants, bringing up flats from under the tables to replenish the rapidly declining inventory, answering questions from the public, and renewing or making friendships with other volunteers.

The educational volunteers provided soil pH testing and took intake forms with a number of “sick” plants for further investigation back in the clinic. And the checkout and assistance crew helped shoppers make a graceful exit.

Thanks to all of you for providing this wonderful shopping and learning opportunity to the public.
Insect Doctors?

Doctors can prescribe things that can keep us healthy. But, what keeps an insect healthy as it develops from egg through larva to adult? There is a solitary wasp called a beewolf that does just that. As the larvae develop in their underground burrows in individual brood cells, the females provide them with paralyzed honey bees on which to feed. The females also provide their offspring with a protective coat of antibiotic-producing bacteria.

The female wasps cultivate the bacteria in specialized glands in their antennae and secrete them into the brood cell. As the larvae grow, they take up the bacteria and coat the walls of their enclosure.

Scientists have shown that these secreted bacteria help the wasp larvae fend off infection, which is common in the warm, moist conditions of the cells. Scientists now know that the bacteria produce antibiotics that protect the larvae. There are 9 different antibiotics that are produced by the bacteria, which belong to the Streptomyces species. Streptomyces bacteria are commonly used by humans in the production of antibiotics such as tetracycline and streptomycin. The insects probably evolved symbiosis with the bacteria for this antibiotic purpose a very long time ago.

While the beewolf larvae enjoy protection from harmful disease organisms, the bacteria benefit from being placed in a new ecological niche, a place that they would normally not be found in nature. The study of this relationship between the bacteria and bees may lead to the discovery of new drugs to benefit humans.

Gaining a better understanding of the mechanisms and evolution of the symbiotic relation between the insects and bacteria might teach us a lot for advancing human medicine in the future. Do the bees consciously gather the bacteria? Probably not. But instinct developed over millennia shows how nature works in mysterious ways to keep everything in balance!

Could these be called insect doctors? Perhaps. Fascinating? You bet!

Cuttings from the Board by Linda Coakley

The Board approved new Guidelines for Granting Training-Program Scholarships to Potential Master Gardeners:

- Number of scholarships to be given determined annually at the November planning meeting
- Scholarships are to be granted on a first come, first served basis
- Scholarships to be granted at 2/3’s percentage of the total cost of the program.
- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older
- Applicant must pay for own training manual
- Volunteer payback hours are to be completed by the end of November following the student training program.

The May social will be held in Newberg at the Vineyard Steak House. Ridgeway/Cascade Water will give a presentation on drip irrigation and sprinkler systems.

OMGA has provided the 2010 PNW handbooks entitled ‘Disease Management’ and ‘Insect Management’ from the annual dues paid to OMGA.

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. Judy Zettergren would like people’s ideas for our Chapter Display for Mini College. She would also like some volunteers to help with the display.

The Newberg High School Greenhouse plant sale will be on May 7-8 and 14-15 at the High School Greenhouse; Friday 12-7pm, Saturday 8am – 5 pm. (Editor’s Note: See more on the Newberg High School Greenhouse, page 9)
First Federal and Commissioner Leslie Lewis Honored at OSU

McMinnville, Ore. – Commissioner Lewis of Carlton and First Federal were awarded the Oregon State University Extension Association Cooperator Award for outstanding support to the Yamhill County OSU Extension Service at an OSU Awards Program on Tuesday, April 13 at the OSU Alumni Center in Corvallis.

Leslie received recognition being an effective community leader and OSU Extension supporter. Commissioner Leslie Lewis has been the liaison to the Yamhill County Fair Board since her first year in office in 2001. Leslie lives by the principle that “When you find a problem, you own it.” One of the first problems she came to own was the Yamhill County Fair. She was instrumental in turning things around when the Yamhill County Fair was experiencing tough financial times. She has been a strong supporter of 4-H by sponsoring awards, purchasing animals in the Fair Auction, and paying for a vendor booth at the Yamhill County Fair every year.

First Federal Savings and Loan was represented by Community Relations Coordinator, Erin Stephenson and Amity Branch Manager Kristie Buxton. First Federal has established a formal community giving program since 1999 that has donated more than $1.35 million to non-profit organizations in Yamhill County. OSU 4-H has received more than $20,000 through the annual giving, sponsorship of County Fair Awards, and grants to 4-H and Master Gardener Projects. In addition, First Federal has been a buyer in the Yamhill and Polk County Fair livestock auction for over two decades.

Online Spotted Wing Drosophila Training by Gail Langellotto

Amy Dreves and Gail Langellotto will be hosting an online Spotted Wing Drosophila Training for Master Gardeners. The training will focus on identification, monitoring and management options for the home and community gardener. Master Gardeners will learn about the Spotted Wing Drosophila fly (morphology, life cycle, host plants), current monitoring recommendations, and current management options. We will also review how to report your monitoring data to the Spotted Wing Drosophila working group, so that you can help researchers and Extension agents from Oregon (as well as California and Washington) better protect our vibrant tree fruit and berry industries from this new and emerging pest.

Date: May 11, 2010
Time: 10am-12:00pm
URL: http://oregonstate.na6.acrobat.com/swd

Protocol from your own computer: Sign in as a ‘guest’, but type in your name and county, so that we know who we have online (e.g. Gail Langellotto (Benton)). You will need a computer with a monitor and speakers in order to view and listen to the presentation.

NOTE: An alternative to viewing this presentation on your own computer is to come to the Extension auditorium at this date and time. We will be connecting to the site and projecting this presentation up on the big screen for all who attend. This class qualifies for volunteer education hours.
The deadline for the May *Tiller* falls three days before the plant sale in April so I can’t report on how well we did. We have many flats of wonderful plants. If the plantaholics come as usual (and the sun shines even just a little bit), we should have another successful sale.

We have had lots of good help getting ready for this sale. The core plant committee has one or two planning meetings where we decide on plant selection and the number of plants needed for the sale. Some plant plugs have to be ordered from a nursery. Others grown from seed need planting dates decided upon. I have been the leader of this committee for a number of years, and I want this group of friends to know how much I appreciate them. I couldn’t and wouldn’t want to do this job without them.

When planting time comes we need help from veterans who like to work in the greenhouse and new members who want to learn how our greenhouse operates. We want to thank all the members who helped out this year. Those who came regularly and not so regularly were greatly appreciated.

As I have mentioned before we had more plants than we could hold at the fairgrounds greenhouse. Pam Dowling really helped out by providing greenhouse space to us. We thank her a bunch for the space and the care she gave those plants.

Another greenhouse that was put to good use was the one at Al Cronk’s place. Perennials that were started by the perennial propagation group were housed out there. A big thanks to him too.

Also a thank you to the propagation group headed by Patty Gregory who showed us how to propagate from cuttings and directed us through the transplanting of the rooted cuttings. I know she was disappointed by the number of plants we lost to last winter’s cold but we still have many plants that are looking wonderful right now and will be a hit at the sale.

We should also thank Newberg High School for giving us space in their greenhouses for our tender perennials. They were able to give the plants protection from the cold that we aren’t able to do.

Another thank you needs to go to Jane Price-Hensley and her pricing committee. They spend every morning the week before the sale pricing the plants that the members donate to the sale. A very much appreciated job that they do is to groom the plants so they will look their best. Often that involves repotting and consolidating plants together for a better looking display.

There really is a lot of work that goes into preparing for a plant sale as large as this one. Besides the plant committee there are committees for publicity – Ray V. and Alan W. (Alan also makes thousands of plant labels), vendors – Kathleen B. and Anna A., cashiers – Anna A., educational booths, parking – Ray V., food – Vi N. and Polly B., and boxes. Yes, we have a box committee! A committee of one, Charlotte Earl collects boxes from the grocery stores so that our shoppers will have something to carry their plants in. These boxes are stored in a huge truck trailer that is towed to the fairgrounds for the sale. Thank you, Charlotte.

Thanks also to the Co-chairs Kathleen Bennett and Cathy Burdett who see to the coordination of these committees and the behind the scenes activities of working with the fairgrounds to see that we get in and out of the A-dec building as efficiently as possible.

I think we are ready for this sale. We will be preparing the A-dec building during the next few days. Friday will be move-in day. At the end of move-in day I am always amazed at the vast display of plants and I know the shoppers will enjoy the amount and variety of plants they have to choose from.

Well, when you read this the sale will be over. I hope it was the success I anticipated. I think it will be. Thanks to everyone.

*Photos by Linda McMahan & Steven Klass*
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<td>McMinnville Wilco Farmers: MG Clinic 10:00-1:00</td>
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<td>9:00-11:00 AM Demo Garden 6:00 PM Dinner @ Newberg</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Mac Senior Center 11am for houseplant propagation and soil</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10:00-12:00 PM Insect Committee</td>
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<td>Newberg HS plant sale 10:00-6:00 PM Master Gardener Clinics each day 10:00-?</td>
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<td>Oregon garden tour 9:00 AM departure from OSU extension office</td>
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<td>Kraemer’s: Garden Center MG Clinic 10:00-1:00</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>1-4 pm Hypertufa class. Mac Senior Center 11am Garden Container class</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 3, 7, 11, 13, 17, 21, 25, 27 except on Wednesdays which begin at 10:01 and 11:22 the 5th, 19th
June Retail and Farmer’s Markets & Newberg Plant Sale

Newberg High School Plant Sale

May 7, 1-4 pm
Patty S.  Cathy B.
Carol P.  Tommy T.

May 8, 10am-1pm
Marcia S.  Maren D.
Saundra C.

May 14, 1-4 pm
Linda L.  Linda C.
Kim C.  Carol P.

May 15, 10am-1pm
Janet B.  Tommy T.
Saundra C.

Incahoots
May 8, 10am-1pm
Stacey M.  Marilyn G.

McMinville Wilco Farmers
May 1, 10am-1 pm
Dave T.  Linda W.

Kraemer’s Garden Pet
May 15, 10am-1 pm
Dave T.  Patty S.

McMinville Farmer’s Market
May 27

12:30-3:30 pm
Daryll A.
Nicholas S.
Evelyn LaM.

3-6 pm
Daryll A.
Stephanie J.
Angela B.

McMinville Farmer’s Market by Daryll Alt & editorial staff

This year the McMinnville Farmer’s Market opens on Thursday, May 27. This is a fun time for those of us who love the community that evolves around this ongoing downtown event. Opportunities abound for volunteer hours.

There is a special notebook to sign up for Farmer’s Market in the MG office. If you cannot come into the office to sign up for a shift (or two or three), please call the office and ask to be added for the dates of your choice. For each date, there are two shifts. We like to have a veteran MG and two or three trainees for each shift. We are asking the new MGs to get signed up for the June slots.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<td>Eileen McB. 9-12</td>
<td>Tony W. 1-5</td>
<td>Karen B. 9-12</td>
<td>Randy W. 1-5</td>
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<td>James G. 1-4</td>
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<td>Marvin P. 9-1</td>
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<td>Lesly C. 1-4</td>
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<td>Al H. 1-5</td>
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<td>James G. 1-4</td>
<td>Lynn C. 1-5</td>
<td>Judy Z. 9-12</td>
<td>Randy W. 1-5</td>
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<td>Lesly C. 1-4</td>
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<td>Nancy F. 9-12</td>
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<td>Eileen McB. 9-12</td>
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<td>Saundra D.</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Eileen McB. 9-12</td>
<td>Lee &amp; Gloria B. 9-11</td>
<td>Kim C. 9-12</td>
<td>Randy W. 1-5</td>
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<td>Tony W. 1-5</td>
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<td>Doris C. 9-12</td>
<td>Carol P. 1-5</td>
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<td>Terry H. 1-4</td>
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<td>Judy Z. 1-4</td>
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<td>Kim C. 9-12</td>
<td>Maren D. 9-12</td>
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<td>Rachael</td>
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<td>Nancy F.</td>
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MG Desk Calendar: May

This year the McMinnville Farmer’s Market opens on Thursday, May 27. This is a fun time for those of us who love the community that evolves around this ongoing downtown event. Opportunities abound for volunteer hours.

There is a special notebook to sign up for Farmer’s Market in the MG office. If you cannot come into the office to sign up for a shift (or two or three), please call the office and ask to be added for the dates of your choice. For each date, there are two shifts. We like to have a veteran MG and two or three trainees for each shift. We are asking the new MGs to get signed up for the June slots.
Master Gardeners work hard for weeks before the April sale and really move into high gear the day before and morning of the annual sale.
Thank you!!!

Our annual plant sale was a huge success this year because of our Master gardeners. Everyone’s enthusiasm was evident and contagious. Smiles were everywhere, even during strenuous exercise. Customer service was thrown out by the handfuls and the customers were smiling profusely as they gathered up their treasures this year.

The Greenhouse committee was very astute in picking the plants the public wanted and had all the plants looking healthy and ready to sell at just the right time.

The pricing and spit and polish committee was super-organized and worked very hard and fast the last week to get everything priced and ready to go.

The perennial committee, the new kids on the block, produced a whole new category of plants for our sale and fought Mother Nature to do it! What you produced was phenomenal!

The parkers (Thanks McMinnville HS Key Club), the Schleppers, the Advertising Committee, The Cashiers, The kitchen crew, The plant experts that manned the tables, The Food(!), Brian Stewart and his magic truck, and THE ARMY of dedicated Master gardeners who moved all the plants to the ADEC building and stayed on to clean up afterward, Thank you to you all. You are Heroes in the Master gardener History Book.

Local High School Plant Sales

Newberg High School Horticulture Students
Annual Mother’s Day Weekend

PLANT SALE

At the Newberg High School Greenhouse
Off 99W on Elliot Road (follow the sale signs)

Fridays, May 7&14, 12:00pm-7:00pm
Saturdays, May 8&15, 8:00am-5:00 pm

Hanging baskets
Flowering Annuals
Herbs & Vegetables
Hardy Perennials
Native Plants

All plants propagated and cared for by students of Newberg High School

Proceeds fund student learning activities!
If possible, bring boxes.
For more info, call Kerry Naylor  503-565-4200

McMinnville FFA Plant Sale
Thursday and Friday
May 6&7
9 am to 6 pm

McMinnville High School
Greenhouse
17th and Hembree Streets

Student Grown!
Berries
Perennials
Clematis
Patio Planters
Hanging Baskets
Bedding Plants
Veggies

Proceeds fund student learning activities!
**PLANT PHENOLOGY REPORT**

Department of Horticulture  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, Oregon

**April 7, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phenospecies</th>
<th>Date of 1st bloom</th>
<th>2009 season deviation*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'Redhaven’ peach</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>+13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-flowered currant (<em>Ribes sanguinium</em>)</td>
<td>3-3</td>
<td>+11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Akebono cherry (<em>Prunus yedoensis</em>)</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>+11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon grape (<em>Mahonia aquifolium</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese pear (<em>Pyrus pyrifolia</em>)</td>
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<td>+14</td>
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<td>'Anjou' pear</td>
<td>3-16</td>
<td>+14</td>
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<tr>
<td>'Bing' cherry</td>
<td>3-19</td>
<td>+14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese crabapple (<em>Malus hupehensis</em>)</td>
<td>3-21</td>
<td>+15</td>
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<tr>
<td>'Italian' prune</td>
<td>3-22</td>
<td>+9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flowering crabapple (<em>Malus floribunda</em>)</td>
<td>3-26</td>
<td>+14</td>
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<tr>
<td>'Gravenstein' apple</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Comice' pear</td>
<td>3-30</td>
<td>+10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*-13 = 13 days later than average; +13 = 13 days early, etc.

**Notes:**

This spring was consistently earlier than any of the last 20 years. Years 2006, 2008, and 2009 were later than average. Because of the very early bloom dates this year, harvest dates for all fruits in western Oregon will be earlier than normal.

Mel Westwood  
Professor Emeritus

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**Intro to Rain Gardens Class**

**Thursday, May 13**  
7:30-8:30 pm  
At the OSU Extension Auditorium  
2050 NE Lafayette Ave. in McMinnville

What is a Rain Garden?  
Rain gardens are a simple and beautiful means of helping protect our environment

Taught by Linda McMahan

Rain Gardens…  
Come in all shapes and sizes  
Can be designed for any site  
Are easy to install and maintain  
Are beautiful landscaping features  
Attract birds and butterflies

Learn more about the benefits of rain gardens by attending this free presentation—refreshments served!  
For directions & map, go to:  
[www.yamhillbasincouncil.org](http://www.yamhillbasincouncil.org)
Plant Profile: Camas by Lnda McMahan

Camas, in the genus *Camassia*, is a Pacific Northwest native plant found in seasonal wetlands. You may have already noticed it blooming in nearby fields or ditches. However, you may be surprised to learn that Camas species also fall into the WaterWise designation. This is because they are bulbs, and like other bulbs from summer-dry climates, these often go dormant in the summer, emerging again the following year. In fact, Camas can die if there is too much soil moisture in summer months, so I recommend little if any summer irrigation for parts of your garden where Camas is planted.

The bright blue flowers of this species make Camas an attractive addition to many gardens. It blooms in late April and early June, making it a good companion to the late-blooming daffodils. Several species are sometimes available: the most common one is the small camas, *Camassia quamash*. Colors range from deep blue to medium blue, occasionally white. Other species include the great camas, *Camassia leichtlinii*, and several other less-common varieties. In the fall, bulbs are sometimes available commercially; this is a good time to plant the bulbs. Some specialty nurseries may also carry mature potted plants as well. Camas grows relatively easily from seed if you find a place to purchase them. You will need to stratify the seeds by leaving the pot outside in cold moist conditions, or putting the pot in the refrigerator for 12 weeks or so before removing them so the seeds can germinate.

If you prefer to see camas in the wild rather than (or in addition to) in your garden, this is a good time of year to visit Camassia Nature Preserve near Oregon City. Information and direction can be found at http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/oregon/preserves/art6795.html. If you are lucky, you will see not only the Camas in bloom but one of perhaps hundreds of other wildflowers that occur in this preserve.

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Extension Master Gardener Blog (EMG)

Extension Master Gardener volunteers have a new communication tool to encourage interaction and sharing at the national, state and local level. Cooperative Extension Master Gardener (EMG) program coordinators are gearing up to launch the first national blog for EMG volunteers on Monday, May 3, 2010.

Blog posts can be found directly at http://blogs.extension.org/mastergardener or through the new national Extension Master Gardener website at http://extension.org/mastergardener. With over 94,000 volunteers contributing more than $100 million in service nationwide, the EMG program is hoping to take its volunteer program to a new level by increasing the social interaction of its participants.

Beginning Monday, May 3, EMG coordinators and guest contributors from various states will take turns sharing a weekly blog post on a topic geared toward the national EMG community. Master Gardeners will be encouraged to discuss items appearing in blog posts by submitting comments using the blog’s commenting features.

“While we don’t all grow the same plants or have all the same exact program needs, there is much to learn from each state,” said Rick Durham, Kentucky EMG Coordinator and current leader of the eXtension Consumer Horticulture Community of Practice. “Maybe the EMG blog will help provide a more freely flowing river of ideas within and between states,” he said.

Please help spread the word that on May 3, EMGs will be blogging live via http://blogs.extension.org/mastergardener.
I will be the gladest thing/Under the sun!
I will touch a hundred flowers/And not pick one.
~Edna St. Vincent Millay, "Afternoon on a Hill"

Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Board

President: Marcia Sherry
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Linda R. McMahan, Yamhill County Extension Faculty for Community Horticulture

I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers. ~Claude Monet