September 2007

Yamhill County OSU Extension Master Gardener Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 2  From the President
Linda’s Corner

Page 3  Buggy Bits
New Library Books

Page 4  Plant Profile
Book Look

Page 5  From the Greenhouse

Page 6  Meeting Members
A Special Thank You

Page 7  Golden Trowel Award
Educational Gleanings

Page 8  Mac Farmer’s Market
MG Desk Calendar

Page 9  Thank You!

Page 10  Mini College 07

Page 11  Committee Clippings
Mini College Awards & Recap

Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Board

President:  Karen Payne
Vice President:  Ray VanBlaricom
Secretary:  Doris Cruickshank
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

This Month’s Master Gardener™ Calendar

September 6, Thursday
Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am
MG Office

September 12, Wednesday
YCMGA Board Meeting, 1 pm
PW Auditorium

September 20, Thursday
Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am
Venue TBA

September 21, Friday
Deadline for October Tiller

September 29, Saturday
The Cheahmill Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon will present a free program on how to select native plants for the home landscape and other purposes from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. The program will include a tour of acreage where thousands of native trees, shrubs and other plants have been established. Society members will provide a free barbecue and potluck meal for visitors. Please RSVP to 503-472-6902 by Monday, Sept. 24.

September 30, Sunday
Fall Coldwell Banker Garden Swap
11 am—3 pm, Coldwell Banker
Parking lot, McMinnville
Bring your extras, your un-loved and no longer needed plants and garden supplies to trade for new goodies. Volunteers Needed! Contact Ray vanbla@verizon.net or 503-472-5385

September means—
School,
Effort, and
Play.
Trying your best
Each hour of the day,
Making new friends,
Being good as you can
Exciting discoveries,
Reading books with a friend.
Linda’s Corner by Linda McMahan

September is fast approaching and many people have already shown substantial interest in participating in the 2008 OSU Master Gardener training in Yamhill County. We will soon be putting together the new schedule and beginning active recruitment through press releases throughout the county for this program. This is in addition to the fine work of several of our Master Gardeners, led by the efforts of Ray VanBlaricom, to recruit new class members at the McMinnville Farmers Market this summer. Their clinics and information booth have continued to attract a lot of attention for the program. A side benefit of this is that more people are aware of the service you as Master Gardeners provide and we are having an unusually high number of samples coming into the clinic here at the office.

Now it is time to do your part to help us build a fine new “crop” for next year’s Master Gardener Class. Please try to remember all of those people who have talked to you in the past few years—friends, neighbors, relatives, and any one else—who has expressed an interest in the program in the past several years. Now is the time to give them a call, visit, or send an email to remind them of their interest and what a great program it is for learning and public service. We will be accepting applications throughout the fall in preparation for next year, and hope to create a class to equal the successes of 2007. I have you to thank for the successes of this year. Your continued presence at the farmer’s market has been very important, but so is the day to day contact you have with other people in the community. There is no way I could accomplish this alone and your commitment to the program has been exceptional.

With these thoughts in mind, I hope you encourage other potential OSU Master Gardeners to check out the web page and fill out an application, or at least to have further conversations. I will be happy to take any calls or emails from people interested in the program. My telephone number is 503-434-8910 and the email is linda.mcmahan@oregonstate.edu

Thanks to all of you.

The web page application can be found here: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/pages/mgs.html (then click on the Master Gardener Application link)

Linda’s Corner by Linda McMahan

What happened to our summer? It seems as though fall is almost here and we still have a lot of gardening, and harvests to do.

I regret to inform you that this is my last article for the Tiller. My husband and I have been transferred to Houston, Texas. Our home sold in 1 day and we will be building a new home in the Houston area. We will be all packed up and ready to go by the 13th of September.

It has been a pleasure to volunteer and be President of such a wonderful association. I will miss you all. Ray VanBlaricom will be filling in as President until the election. Please show him all the support you have shown me.

What a smash hit we were at Mini College! The Bee Dance was great. I heard a lot of buzzing through the rest of the conference. Our display was fabulous thanks to Cathy Burdett and all her hard work. We placed third, but won the ‘Peoples Choice Award’.

The rest of Oregon really got the message that Yamhill County does exist. Thanks to all for the hard work. Silent Auction made just over $6000, which was a record.

Looking ahead: November 3rd is our annual Retreat at First Federal Savings in McMinnville.

Have a great rest of the summer and when I finally get settled I will let you know. As they say in Texas “Bye yall.”

From the President by Karen Payne

September is fast approaching and many people have already shown substantial interest in participating in the 2008 OSU Master Gardener training in Yamhill County. We will soon be putting together the new schedule and beginning active recruitment through press releases throughout the county for this program. This is in addition to the fine work of several of our Master Gardeners, led by the efforts of Ray VanBlaricom, to recruit new class members at the McMinnville Farmers Market this summer. Their clinics and information booth have continued to attract a lot of attention for the program. A side benefit of this is that more people are aware of the service you as Master Gardeners provide and we are having an unusually high number of samples coming into the clinic here at the office.

Now it is time to do your part to help us build a fine new “crop” for next year’s Master Gardener Class. Please try to remember all of those people who have talked to you in the past few years—friends, neighbors, relatives, and any one else—who has expressed an interest in the program in the past several years. Now is the time to give them a call, visit, or send an email to remind them of their interest and what a great program it is for learning and public service. We will be accepting applications throughout the fall in preparation for next year, and hope to create a class to equal the successes of 2007. I have you to thank for the successes of this year. Your continued presence at the farmer’s market has been very important, but so is the day to day contact you have with other people in the community. There is no way I could accomplish this alone and your commitment to the program has been exceptional.

With these thoughts in mind, I hope you encourage other potential OSU Master Gardeners to check out the web page and fill out an application, or at least to have further conversations. I will be happy to take any calls or emails from people interested in the program. My telephone number is 503-434-8910 and the email is linda.mcmahan@oregonstate.edu

Thanks to all of you.

The web page application can be found here: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/pages/mgs.html (then click on the Master Gardener Application link)
The Year of the Hoppers!

It looks like this is going to end up being the year of the hoppers! Leafhoppers, that is! We have had clients bring in hundreds of the small creatures that have invaded their yards and homes for identification and advice by the Insect Committee. Because of the large number of requests, we can usually do the identification by just talking to the client over the phone and asking questions, even without a specimen in hand.

Leafhoppers belong to the insect Order Homoptera. They are usually small (a little more than 1/8”), have piercing, sucking mouthparts and hold their membranous wings tent-like over their bodies. The color varies with the various species, but is normally a dull brown color, although some species are very colorful with reds, greens and yellows in interesting patterns. Some even have bizarre shapes emanating from their thorax, causing them to be camouflaged from their enemies. Take a look at the book “Insects” by Simon and Schuster in the MG office to see some of these more unusual shapes.

The leafhoppers we see being brought into the office this year are of the non-descript variety. They seem to fly around day and night and are a real nuisance to residents in the county. They started showing up near the last week in July, and we have had as many as 8 samples at a time to identify at some of our meetings. They don’t bite or destroy garden plants, but enter the house through small openings and are a problem simply because of their sheer numbers.

The explanation of the invasion is rather simple. We had excess rain and heat when the grass plants in the farm fields were growing, causing a proliferation of leafhoppers (this variety feeds on the stems and leaves of grasses). As the summer progressed, the food supply began to dry up as the fields matured and were harvested, and the hoppers needed to find a new source of green grasses on which to feed. As flying adults, they began searching everywhere for this new supply. With thousands of adults seeking food, they entered the urban communities and became a pest swarm.

So, what do you do about them? Our advice to the people who call in or bring in specimens is to wait it out. Not finding an adequate food source, the adults will die out and the problem is over. Some have already said that they are finding piles of dead leafhoppers around their porch lights and other outdoor light sources. Eventually, the balance of nature will be restored for the correct number of leafhoppers in the area and we will be back where we were before the invasion.

Insects are opportunists, if we give them a chance to have access to a lot of food and reproduce indiscriminately, they will! If we interrupt their food cycle or reproductive cycle we are able to keep them in check. It is interesting that nature strives to keep a balance between the various living things on earth!

New Library Books by Doris Cruickshank

Here is a list of new books available in the MG Library. You are welcome to peruse them while visiting the Master Gardener office, but remember that they can not be removed from the room.

- Container Gardens, McHoy & Donaldson
- Rodale’s Vegetable Garden Problem Solver, Bradley
- Insect Disease & Weed I.D. Guide, Cebenko & Martin
- Timber Press Pocket Guide to Ground Covers, Mackenzie
- The Climbing Plant Specialist, Squire
- Blueberries, Cranberries and Other Vacciniums, Trehane
- Ornamental Bamboos, Crompton
- Encyclopedia of Garden Ferns, Olsen
- Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary, Harris & Harris
- Vines and Ground Covers, Sunset Books
- Hillside Landscaping, Sunset Books
Plant Profile: Philadelphus lewisii by Linda McMahan

Philadelphus lewisii—Our Own Mock Orange

According to Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, the genus Philadelphus contains 60 species from many parts of our globe. But when it comes to pictures, what did they choose? You guessed it—Lewis’ mock orange, or Philadelphus lewisii. That may be because many horticulturists consider it to have the most attractive and fragrant flowers of any member of this group. This species has a wide range through the west, and is reported from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and California. It is the state flower of Idaho. Personally, I’ve seen it in the woods of western Oregon, in full sun along creeksides on Oregon’s eastside, and in the Cascade mountains at relatively high elevation. Also, the specimens growing in my own garden are a delight as they bloom prolifically each spring.

Our species, a member of the Hydrangea family, is named for Meriwether Lewis of Lewis and Clark fame. To see a picture of Lewis’ original collection and a few historic tidbits, go to http://www.ucdp.uc.edu/lewisandclark/exhibits/botany/syringia.asp

It’s resemblance to hydrangeas can be seen in the 4-petal formation of the single-flowered forms, and it’s sweet fragrance and arching branches and pure white flower color has made the entire species popular worldwide in wedding bouquets and displays.

This species is commonly described as a multi-stemmed shrub to 10 feet, but I’m pretty sure a yard stick measure would find a greater height in my garden in Beaverton! In my case, I remove suckers and prune for height so as not to hide the view of cars approaching my driveway, however, it can also be pruned as any multi-stemmed shrub by removing about one third of the largest trunks each year. This practice will produce a bushy plant with a shorter overall stature and the arching branches and flowers more at eye level. Several cultivars of our native species are available—more information can be found on these in the following publications:

Check out a USDA fact sheet at http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_phle4.pdf and visit the OSU plant identification site for more information and pictures at http://oregonstate.edu/dept/lidplants/phle-i.htm

Book Look by Barbara Grossmann

Blueberries, Cranberries and Other Vacciniums by Jennifer Thehane.
(Royal Horticultural Society), 2004

Here is a wealth of information and advice on growing blueberries, cranberries and other vacciniums. Although many are grown for food production, many have ornamental potential. Some plants described have brightly colored young growth, flowers that are sometimes scented and either evergreen or deciduous leaves of brilliant fall color. Some become large shrubs, while others remain small and compact, making them ideal for containers and small gardens. In this book there is a range of plants suitable for each garden habitat. Detailing their cultivation, harvest and uses, Ms. Thehane offers expert guidance on pest and diseases while providing a fascinating summary of the commercial methods used to grow these wonderful plants.
Well, how was your summer? How did your garden grow? Did your tomatoes ripen or are they just now providing you with fruit? Were your flowers bright and prolific?

My summer was a bit different than usual. I spent June and part of July feeling crummy, as in sick. Oh, I went about the usual gardening activities but just barely. I jokingly said I must have “walking pneumonia.” Well, low and behold, about the middle of July I found out that I did have pneumonia and I spent the better part of nine days in the hospital. This is not a fun place to be at the height of gardening season. However, the best part of being sick and in the hospital is that your MG friends bring you flowers from their gardens. I had vases of sunflowers, zinnias, hydrangeas, roses, dahlias, purple cone flowers, and even a stalk of bear’s breech (Acanthus mollis) in one bouquet. The posy shops just can’t compete with flowers from real gardens. And of course, these flowers didn’t walk in by themselves. It is great to have friends who care about your well being. I so appreciated the flowers, visits and calls from my wonderful friends who are still giving me hugs and asking about my health.

While I was in the hospital my husband kept my flowers from dying for lack of water. Hand watering flowers is not something that comes naturally to him. That and bringing me McDonald’s milkshakes when I started to feel better, must mean that he loves me. Or maybe he just wanted me to get home quicker so I could water the plants myself.

If some of the plants had died I might not have minded. I was unhappy with some of the annuals I had started from seed. I used cheap seed from “the” big box store. The foliage on the plants looked fine but they did not produce many flowers. It was almost as though they were seed from hybrid plants reverting back to the first generation plant. Needless to say I will not buy cheap seeds again.

Did you notice an abundance of “spit bugs” this last spring? (I don’t know what their real name is and I’m not going to look it up.) I had them all over my emerging perennials. They can do damage to the young leaves by stunting their growth where the bugs coat themselves and the new leaf growth with “spit”. I tried washing them off with water but I am sure they just crawled right back on to the plant. As summer approached, I finally realized what spit bugs become. They become leaf hoppers – another scientific term – hh help Bob!! (see Bob’s column, pg 3)

I thought they were worse than mosquitoes this year. I’d go out to water in the evening and they would fly up out of the plants in a big mass and just bombard me. They collected on the house and if you opened a door or a window, in they came. To me they were as much of a nuisance as lady bugs or box elder bugs in the fall. Even though there were tons of leaf hoppers, I did not notice that they were damaging any of the plants once they left the spittle stage.

I hate to mention the weather because the tomatoes are not ripening very fast and the corn is also slow to mature, but I love the cool weather we have had this summer. I am just not a hot summer person. The cool weather has made watering so much easier. I also think the flowers look much better when they don’t have to fry in the hot sun. The demo garden has looked particularly colorful this year and we attribute it partly to the cooler weather. If you have time, you ought to drop by the fairgrounds and have a look at it before it fades with the arrival of autumn.

By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer’s best of weather
And autumn’s best of cheer.

Helen Hunt Jackson
Meeting Members at the Garden Gate

by Cathy Burdett

Doris Crimmins

♦ Past YCMGA President 1994-1996
♦ YCMGA’s Master Gardener of the Year 1993
♦ Volunteered over 2000 hours
♦ Life member of YCMGA
♦ Faithful member of the Greenhouse Committee and Demonstration Garden Committee
♦ Propagates hundreds of plants in her own greenhouse for YCMGA’s annual plant sale
♦ Has participated in the Yamhill County Fair Horticulture Floral entries for many years.

Thank you, Doris, for all you do for the YCMGA. We do appreciate it!

A Special Thank You to Cathy Burdett

The words "THANK YOU" just don't seem to be adequate for all of Cathy's contributions to the YCMGA at Mini College. What a dynamo!

♦ Prepared a nominating notebook for Charlotte Earl, Yamhill County Behind the Scene award winner and nominee for State Behind the Scene award
♦ Prepared a nominating notebook for Pam Dowling, Yamhill County Master Gardener of the Year, and nominee for State Master Gardener of the Year award
♦ Designed and created the “People’s Choice” award winning Yamhill County chapter display. Enlisted Al Cronk to produce the beautiful, everlasting wood signs included in the display
♦ Prepared and submitted the Bee Dance notebook which won Yamhill County a “Search for Excellence” award. She also created a wonderful display and wrote the skit for the Bee Dance presentation at Mini College. And she was a very gracious and regal Queen Bee (picture left)!
♦ Prepared many lovely gift baskets, using her personal items, for the silent auction
♦ Conducted the leadership training session on newsletters

Cathy—You are a very special lady. We can’t thank you enough!

From Pam Dowling and all of your friends in the YCMGA

Photo by Joyce Hammerschmith
Golden Trowel Award: Cindy Bellville by Cathy Burdett

- Graduated in YCMGA Class of 2004
- Member of the YCMGA Insect Committee since 2004
- Member of the original “Bee Dance” Committee
- Vendor coordinator in 2007 for the annual YCMGA Plant Sale
- Secretary of the West Valley Orchid Society
- Grew a 6-7 foot tall artichoke plant with 30 artichokes BEFORE becoming a Master Gardener
- Lived in Fairbanks, Alaska at the same time as Polly Blum, but never crossed paths
- Once saved a Japanese couple from drowning in a swimming pool while vacationing in Hawaii with her children. The trip had been a reward for the kids learning to swim and they had lingered in the pool (“Mommy, just one more time!”), so that Cindy was at the pool when the Japanese couple got into trouble
- Likes to hike and trek. Her highest points include South Sister in Oregon and the Himalayas in India and Nepal

Congratulations
Cindy!

You are an asset to the YCMGA!

Educational Gleanings

GARDENING NEWS FROM OSU EXTENSION SERVICE AND THE OSU AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

KNOW THY ENEMY—A PRIMER ON YELLOW JACKETS
Suggestions for safe and effective nest removal from OSU entomologists.
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/story.php?S_No=990&storyType=garden

PLANT DISEASE CONTROL GUIDE ONLINE
OSU Extension’s Online Guide to Plant Disease Control provides photos, symptoms, treatments and cultural practices for hundreds of diseases that plague many of our plants.
http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/

SUMMER HEAT BRINGS A HOST OF PROBLEMS TO THE TOMATO PATCH
OSU Extension Master Gardeners track the most common tomato problems and offer advice on what to do about them.
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/story.php?S_No=992&storyType=garden
McMinnville Farmer’s Market *photo by Steven Klass*

**Come join the fun!**

YCMGA has a booth at the McMinnville Farmer’s Market every Thursday afternoon from 1-6 pm.

- It is a fun opportunity to meet the public, network with other market participants, recruit potential new Master Gardeners and earn volunteer payback hours.
- Sign up on the sheet posted on the MG bulletin board in the Extension Office.

Dates available: September 6, 13, 20, 27 and October 4, 11

For more details, talk to Ray VanBlaricom, Daryll Alt or Patty Driscoll (pictured) and learn the MG can can!

---

**September Desk Calendar**

**September 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4 L. Buchholz</td>
<td>5 L. Foley</td>
<td>6 J. Gahr</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 J. Brown</td>
<td>11 L. Buchholz</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 L. Buchholz</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 J. Brown</td>
<td>18 L. Buchholz</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 J. Brown</td>
<td>25 V. Gregory</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*The goldenrod is yellow, the corn is turning brown*

*The trees in apple orchards with fruit are bending down.*

*Helen Hunt Jackson*
The two “Works of Art” that you created have been admired and appreciated. They were used as part of YCMGA’s Mini-College chapter display and Master Gardeners from other counties commented on their beauty. We plan to hang the large piece in the hallway next to the MG office. The smaller piece is on the table in the MG office.

Thank you for your artistic ability in drawing the dramatic tree that was the centerpiece of our Chapter display.

Your patience in cutting the “Story Boards” for the Chapter display was appreciated!

Karen Payne, Jacci Reed, and Al Cronk —you helped in making our YCMGA Chapter display a success!

In the garden, Autumn is, indeed the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil. And at no season, save perhaps in Daffodil time, do we get such superb colour effects as from August to November. Rose G. Kingsley
YCMGA Chapter Display Board won the “People’s Choice” award

Bee Dance Presentation

Karen performs the “round” dance

Pam performs the “waggle” dance

Daryll presents “Queen Bee” Cathy

Understanding Bee Dances
Display board won the “Search For Excellence” award
Karen Payne, YCMGA president, has appointed Cathy Burdett, Daryll Alt and Doris Crimmins to the **Nominating Committee** for 2008.

The Yamhill County Master Gardener Association’s Executive Board will change for the upcoming year. Some officers will remain on the board while others have completed their terms and will be replaced.

The Nominating Committee will seek assistance of the YCMGA membership in their selection process.

If you would be interested in serving on the YCMGA Executive Board for 2008, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

- Cathy Burdett (503) 434-5742
- Daryll Alt (503) 835-6430
- Doris Crimmins (503) 472-1996

---

**Mini-College Awards** by Cathy Burdett

YCMGA’s “Understanding Bee Dances” presentation at OSU Mini-College received a “**Search for Excellence**” award and a check for $100.00.

Our drama team of Karen Payne, Pam Dowling, Cathy Burdett and Daryll Alt gave an outstanding, interactive performance that delighted an audience of several hundred Master Gardeners.

The short “Educational” presentation erupted in bursts of laughter and smiles as “Scout Bees” performed two “Bee Dances” explaining how bees communicate with each other. Karen Payne demonstrated the “Round Dance”, which meant that there was a field of pollen close to the hive. Also, Pam Dowling danced the “Waggle Dance”, which indicated the location of pollen farther away.

Daryll Alt was the moderator, reading a prepared script, yet he could not refrain from laughing with the audience. Cathy Burdett was regally attired with jewels, crown and gold robe, representing the “Queen Bee”.

YCMGA was complimented on our educational, interactive, fun presentation.

(Note: We hope to post a video taken of this presentation on our Extension website.)

---

**Mini-College Recap** by Cathy Burdett

Enthusiastic YCMGA members attended the annual OSU/OMGA Mini-College in Corvallis August 1-4, 2007. Some members participated for the whole conference while others were only able to attend for one day.

YCMGA was represented by:

- Linda McMahan
- Cathy Burdett
- Patti Gregory
- Sandra Thomas
- Norma Parker
- Pam Dowling
- Ray VanBlaricom
- Doris Cruickshank
- Alan Wenner
- Karen Payne
- Daryll Alt
- Beth Durr
- Joyce Hammerschmith

The classes were interesting and educational. Karen Payne donated a large volume of items for the silent auction. Joyce Hammerschmith, Cathy Burdett, Linda McMahan, Ruth Rogers and Bailey Nurseries also donated items for the event. According to OMGA, a total of 226 items were donated to the “Silent Auction” with final receipts totaling over $6,000. Thank you!
I trust in Nature for the stable laws of beauty and utility. Spring shall plant and Autumn garner to the ends of time.

Robert Browning