This Month’s Master Gardener™ Calendar

September
Master Gardener Online Training program begins for pre-registered students

Thursdays through September
McMinnville Farmer’s Market, 1-6 pm Downtown Mac, off 3rd Street. Volunteers Needed!

September 1, Monday
Labor Day Holiday

September 4, Thursday
Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am PW Auditorium

September 10, Wednesday
YCMGA Board Meeting, 1 pm PW Auditorium. All members welcome

September 13, Saturday
Annual Pig Roast and Tomato Judging at Al Cronk’s, 4 pm. Pot luck side dishes and desserts, YCMGA supplies beverages

September 14, Sunday
Annual Coldwell Banker Garden Swap, 11 am-3 pm, Hwy 99 in McMinnville

September 18, Thursday
Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am PW Auditorium

September 18, Thursday
OSU University Day on campus

September 19, Friday
Deadline for submissions to the October Tiller

September 24 & 25, Wednesday & Thursday
Advanced Insect ID Class, 9 am—1 pm PW Auditorium
Linda’s Corner by Linda McMahan

The action in the plant clinic office has been fast and furious this summer. With your dedication, we have kept up (most of the time anyway) with the flow of samples coming into the office and managed to have all of those clinics offsite at the McMinnville Farmers Market as well as many retail nurseries. “Extending” information to the public in this way is the “E” in OSU’s Extension Service, and fulfills our broader mission admirably. Thanks to you, it is possible to provide reliable gardening information to the public of Yamhill County.

This time of year, people bring in their apples for identification—a nearly impossible task for most of us, and even though they rarely get the answers they seek to these questions, more samples arrive each summer. As with all questions, we give the most helpful answer we can, but rarely to the exact variety. Plant identification questions are still arriving, as well as the dreaded and usual tomato diseases and maladies. A few days ago, the question was “Can I just cut off the black spot on the end of the tomato and still eat it?” The answer is yes if the rot hasn’t spread very far and it still smells strongly like a tomato after the surgery. This strategy works better for the paste type tomatoes and less successfully for those big juicy varieties. This time of year, I’m always amazed at how many people bring in herbicide damage but swear they never use herbicides. This is a tough one, but we keep patiently explaining all of the possible ways they could have unintentionally harmed their own plants and reassure most of them that the plants will be OK once they outgrow the damage. One of today’s sample was a big, but very unhealthy tomato that the person tried to grow in unamended subsoil, and added overhead irrigation to the mix. We advised him to do exactly the things he had been thinking about—amending the soil with organic matter, raising the soil level above basic ground level for improved drainage, and adding appropriate fertilizer.

The catalog of plant ills goes on and on, and the cycle repeats each year. Our newest Master Gardeners and many veterans are patiently answering these questions, and learning new things at the same time. I myself learn something new by stepping into the clinic almost every week. Over time, I actually think I’m beginning to be an expert, and then a new surprise arrives.

Please remember that plant samples will continue to stream in until the weather turns cold and rainy, so we still need your assistance in the clinic. When Deb sends out an email reminder, that means we really need you to sign up. If you don’t get email, give us a call or stop by the office and sign up anyway so we can continue to meet our commitment. Again, thanks to you all. Keep it up—our clients have come to expect it and usually leave with smiles on their faces. Linda

From the President by Ray VanBlaricom

Ok, ladies and gentlemen, summer is almost over so now we taper off and plan for next year. It has been a great season for YCMGA and we have—you have, accomplished a bus load of activities. It was really fantastic to see the number of people traveling to Mini-College, the bunches of people that have helped with the Farmer’s Market and summer clinics, the few that got involved with the Lavender Fest and the Historical Society Harvest Fest. It is all part of the Master Gardener experience, and it is all good.

But, and there is always a but, we are not DONE yet. I haven’t heard from everyone how you are doing with getting the volunteer hours in for the year and that causes me to have some concerns. I guess it will take a direct phone-call to each and every trainee to see what you need to finish because there are only five more Farmers markets and that’s it. I’ve been very pleased to see the number of MG’s attending our social functions. I’ve enjoyed getting to know some of you that much better and I can tell the one’s that will help YCMGA progress into 2009. It is going to be a hoot working with you and planning next year’s programs. Our fabulous little organization is getting known around the area in a very good way.

The big planning retreat is set for November 1 at the First Federal Board room on Third St. between Adams and Baker. The time is from 9am till noon. Start making notes about what you want done, done differently, or left off the program for next year. Keep in mind that we are well funded and need to spend it on as much community education as we can dream up. I love that part! Everyone is invited to the planning session because my brain is tired, my feet hurt and I get to slither off into the shadows Dec 31st. Trust me I will slither quickly too. It’s time for new personalities to do their thing. Don’t be shy, be creative. Think up new opportunities for your next class to be involved with so they have the same or better learning experiences in 2009.
SLIME WARS (reprinted from February 2001)

“Long ago and far away!” . . . wait, I digress! We are involved in a war here and now! An invading army is among us! It is attacking our plants, our shrubs, our very existence as Master Gardeners! Our invaders come in many forms, mostly at night, as an army that can wipe out our garden in a single swoop! We retaliate with poisons and traps, but the invaders persist!

In order to deal effectively with our enemies, we need to know more about them—a dossier, so to speak. The enemies I refer to are the slugs and snails, both known as prime devastators of our gardens. As everyone knows, an army moves on its stomach—quite literally with slugs and snails, which are classified as Gastropods, meaning “stomach foot.”

The muscular, undulating, slime producing foot of gastropods allow them to glide easily over the ground—even over the sharp edges of razor blades—without damaging their soft skin. You might think of this as a “bullet-proof” vest. They also have periscopes to view us, retractable eyes on long upright stalks. The armored division—snails—has strong, almost impenetrable shells that protect them as they foray over the countryside. All have “aqualungs,” (internal gills) that assist in crossing rivers, streams, and wet areas.

The invasive hoard reproduces quickly. Both male and female organs are found in every soldier gastropod. Mutual impregnation assures that each is capable of producing hundreds of hungry offspring! No wonder it is so difficult to win the war!

How do we counterattack the invasive hoard? We do have a few tactics that are effective. A person I knew, I think his name was “Luke Slugwalker,” uses a pair of “slug boots,” rubber boots used to stomp on the insidious creatures. Other methods are not as direct! Since we know that rogue slug and snail warriors are insatiable drinkers, we can set up “slug bars,” containers full of beer, that attract reveling gastropods and allow them to drink ‘til they drown. We can also set up electrical barriers that consist of 3-inch copper strips set into the soil to keep them from entering our beloved gardens. Slugs touching the strips get an electric shock to turn them back. Chemical weapons can be used, but many of them are toxic to us or our pets. One that is not is a product called “Sluggo.” It is safe around pets and humans. Other methods of control and more information about slugs can be found in the publication Field Guide to the Slug in the General Pest Control section of our MG book collection.

As we continue our quest for the perfect garden, remember the words of Obiwan Kenobe, “May the force (to battle slugs) be with you!” Good luck with your gardening this year.

South Forty by Torrey Smith

I enjoy a privilege. That privilege is to be a Master Gardener. If it weren’t for a chance meeting at the closing of last year’s Plant Sale, with the cleanup crew for MGs, my wife and I would not have even known about the Master Gardener program. Today a vast world of knowledge has been opened to us as well as the chance to meet an absolutely great bunch of people. The experience of meeting and helping people in ways I would not have imagined a year ago. The people you meet in and out of this organization stretches your life experiences.

As I said in the beginning, I enjoy the privilege of being a Master Gardener. As I sit preparing the Tiller I review a lot of things, one is the Desk Calendar and Farmers Market schedules. August appears to be a difficult time for almost any organization and there were times when the Desk was dark, but when I saw September I wanted to cry. It was like watching Monday Night Football with only two players in the game. Several times I came in to work on the Tiller and found some of the old guard working, with some of the new people, but most time by themselves trying to clean up the backlog of MG intake forms. Granted there are times you might count the pin holes in the walls for something to do but, and as Ray says, there is always a but, it’s a perfect time to be curious about questions you might have. You have at your fingertips a great wealth of knowledge lining the walls of the MG office.

The public needs us to be there to answer their questions. I encourage all of you, new and old timers alike, to review your personal calendars and please try to fit in time to enjoy your privilege of being a

MASTER GARDENER.
Yamhill County had a large group travel to Corvallis to attend the 2008 OMGA Mini-College. The “Newberg High School Project” received the highest score and a first place rating, a certificate and a $100 award in the “Search for Excellence” category.

Anna Ashby, assisted by many willing helpers, created a “historical” vegetable display and gave a well-received presentation. Over 110 attended the event and vegetable handouts, a Territorial catalog and 2 plants were distributed to each person.

YCMGA members in attendance at Mini-College included:
- Ray V.
- Pam D.
- Daryll A.
- Polly B.
- Bryan S.
- Marcia S.
- Joyce H.
- Judy Z.
- Greet D.
- Janet G.
- Alan W.
- Suzanne L.
- Doris C.
- Cathy B.
- Susan R.
- Jewel C.
- Jane B.
- Doris C.
- Sandra T.
- Charlotte E.
- Peggy K.

Thank you, Mini-College Donators by Cathy Burdett

The following YCMGA members donated items for the annual 2008 OMGA Mini-College auction in Corvallis. Karen Payne sent a box of books from Texas (they were included as items in the donated baskets)
- Alan Wenner (Plants from Bailey Nurseries)
- Janet Gahr (Gift bag and plant from Incahoots)
- Deb Zaveson & Norm Jacobs (a plant from Arbutus Garden Arts)
- Kathleen Bennett (Door prizes)
- Linda McMahan
- Pam Dowling
- Gail Price
- Joyce Hammerschmith
- Cathy Burdett (many individually designed gift baskets)

Also, thank you to Marcia Sherry, Judy Zettergren and Daryll Alt, who provided transportation of the donated items to OSU. YCMGA donations contributed to the auction’s financial success.

More Thanks: Marvin Penrose

Thanks to Marvin Penrose, MG Class of 2008, for volunteering to spruce up and maintain the WaterWise garden strip in front of the Extension office. The garden has been growing vigorously and Marvin has done a great job of trimming, pruning, taming and keeping the plants neat and tidy so they can be appreciated by our clientele.

California Lilac, Silver Senecio & California Fuchsia

Sages and Hebe
Pictures from Mini College 2008 by Linda McMahan

Newberg High School Project displays and award

Anna A. with her winter vegetable display

YC “Going Green” display

Cathy B. is everywhere
Farmer’s Market & Desk Calendars

Farmer’s Market

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MG DESK

HELP NEEDED! No one signed up:
Sept. 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 16, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30

- Sept. 2  Judy Z. am
- Sept. 9  Vicky W, Joan L. am
- Sept. 15 Judy Z. pm
- Sept. 17 Torrey & Susan S. pm
- Sept. 19 Judy Z. pm

MG’s at the Lavender Festival photos by Al Hanks
Is *Anaphalis margaritacea* a wildflower? Is it a flower for floral arrangements? Is it a Superweed? The answer is all in your perspective and the way you grow it. My own answer is that *A. margaritacea*, commonly known as pearly everlasting, is an attractive native plant that grows very well, and even “behaves itself” in the appropriate garden setting. Also, it is drought tolerant, making it appropriate for a WaterWise garden.

In fact, pearly everlasting is native to much of North America, found in most western and northern states as well as Canada and Alaska. The species exhibits many signs of its drought tolerant nature. The leaves and stems are grayish from fine white hairs. These hairs help regulate moisture levels near the plant’s surface and the color reflects some of the sunlight. It can be found blooming for most of the summer in our area, with clusters of yellow and white flowers heading up each stem and branch.

The end of the bloom season, however, does not mean that they do not remain attractive. Since this is an everlasting flower, often used in floral arrangements, the flowering heads remain on the plant for a long time. Harvesting them is relatively simple; cut the stems while the flowers are still attractive, remove the leaves if you wish, bundle them together, and hang them upside down to dry in a cool and dry location. For information on drying cut flowers and which different ones might be appropriate, visit this website from the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service:

http://lancaster.unl.edu/factsheets/091.htm.

All sources recommend cutting flowers at their peak of beauty for the best dried flowers. I have seen pearly everlasting used successfully in dried flower wreaths as well as dried flower arrangements, and the flowers hold up well over time.

Growing pearly everlasting is not particularly tricky, but use common sense in choosing your location. This species propagates readily through underground shoots and can colonize an area quickly, especially if you supply ample irrigation. Choose either a site where this characteristic is desired, or plant in a location receiving only limited water. Spread can be managed by hand pulling plants in undesirable locations, but withholding water in the first place is more economical.

For some additional photos of pearly everlasting in wild settings, visit:

http://www.malag.aes.oregonstate.edu/wildflowers/species.php/id-25
for locations on Oregon’s East side, and
for photographs from western Washington.

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**Thank You Marcia & Kathleen** by Cathy Burdett

Marcia Sherry was appointed as “Send a Friend” coordinator by OMGA. This responsibility includes organizing a special fundraiser at Mini-College. The funds collected are used to pay for a chapter member to attend Mini-College in subsequent years. County chapters can apply each year for “Send a Friend” scholarships.

This year, Marcia purchased a large tool-type carrier bag and filled it with gardening related items. This bag was raffled off. Thank you, Marcia, for your time and effort on behalf of the “Send a Friend” project.

Also, Marcia arranged to transport all the items needed for our chapter display because Kathleen Bennett was out of state. Thank you, Kathleen, for designing the wonderful display which featured the theme “Going Green on Our Silver”.

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**Desk Adventures**

You spend volunteer time on the desk and at clinics. You hear some amazing stories. You get some confounding questions. You learn something new and wonderful. Please share your experiences with our gardening community. Take a minute to send an email or make a call with a little tidbit that happened while you were volunteering. These items will be featured as “Desk Adventures” in upcoming Tiller newsletters.
During Daryll and Kim Alt’s country garden potluck in August, Annely Germaine gave a talk on therapeutic horticulture to about 20 people. She answered questions and gave tips that helped everyone have a better understanding of the value of therapeutic gardening.

Horticultural therapy usually takes place in a rehabilitation setting. It involves groups or individuals. It stresses activities for physical, mental and social benefits in recreation, leisure, and social programs. The results are much the same as the therapeutic value that we get from our personal gardens. Annely emphasized that there is no right or wrong in the process of therapeutic horticulture when people are learning about nature.

The main objective of therapeutic gardening is to achieve restorative and horticultural therapy with a plant dominated landscape. Annely explained that this objective is obtained by scheduled activities and improving accessibility to gardens for the disabled so that touch and small are possible. The therapeutic garden should have defined perimeters so that the focal points and displays within the garden stimulate interest and interaction between plants and people. She added that a profusion of plants is necessary to stimulate interaction in all seasons so that a continual meditating environment is created.

There are a host of physical benefits such as motivating clients with pleasurable physical activities; mental benefits such as stimulating the understanding of abstract concepts as time, growth, death and change; social benefits such as promoting healthy interdependence; and emotional benefits such as building self-esteem.

Annely stressed that developing a positive experience in the first 24 hours is critical when people are admitted to a care facility or new residence. Success is achieved when people experiencing horticultural therapy are taken back to pleasurable childhood experiences. Many who are treated become more independent and require less care from staff and nurses.

Annely has been a Master Gardener since 1991 and has a Master’s Degree in Counseling and Psychology. For more information on therapeutic horticulture, you can contact Annely at annely.germaine@gmail.com or call her at 971-237-5862.

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**YCMGA Annual Social Event**

2008 YCMGA Pig Roast and Potluck Social

Saturday, September 13th
Social Hour begins at 3 pm

Held at Al Cronk’s house off Hwy 99 W between Mac and Amity
(see directions below)

YCMGA supplies the pig, plates and utensils, non-alcoholic drinks & ice
You bring a potluck dish and drinks (BYOB)

**Tomato Tasting!**

Bring your favorite tomatoes from the garden for a fun tasting.

Annely Germaine will organize the tasting and provide prizes for those voted the best.

Directions: 9415 SW Trestleview Lane, McMinnville: take 99W south from McMinnville toward Amity. Go past the Bayou Golf Course, over the bridge, then turn right just before the railroad trestle. Go straight west to the end of the road.
Even though we had a couple of short hot spells, the spring and summer have been fairly cool. Fruit ripening has been behind schedule as have some of the warm weather crops in the garden – beans, tomatoes, corn and squash.

Keeping things watered has not been too much of a problem even in the heat. Because my beds are sort of spread out, it has not been easy for me to use automatic water systems. I pretty much use soaker hoses, a couple of drip arrangements and I hand water a lot. Nothing is automated except me and I just have a daily routine going from one area to another.

Because of my watering routine, the garden and flowerbeds made it through the hot spell in pretty good shape. The plants themselves look very good as do most of the blooms. Some flower petals got a little crispy on the edges and some flowers faded a bit in such hot sun. My echinacea tended to fade in the sun. When it gets that hot most plants would benefit from a little afternoon shade even if they are full sun plants.

One of the plants I have enjoyed for a number of years and which did great in the heat is the Lady Series American Marigold, a Burpee catalogue seed. I have grown it in my greenhouse and it makes a husky plant that gets to be 18”-20” tall. In fact, the plant gets very large before it starts to bloom but when it does bloom it really puts on a show. In a very short time it is covered with large compact pom-pom blooms that last a very long time. I have counted 35 and more blooms at one time covering the plant. My favorite colors are the bright yellows, Primrose Lady and 1st Lady. Both are wonderful in containers and in the borders.

*Rudbeckia hirta,* Black-eyed Susan, is another flower that really gives spark to a mixed bed of flowers and loves the sun. I decided to grow some from seed in the greenhouse this spring. I’m hoping they will winter over but if they don’t they are easy to start from seed and the plants get large and bloom well in one summer. In fact they were blooming by mid summer. I had so many I had to plant some in the vegetable garden. I’m hoping to put more in the flowerbeds this fall and to pot up a few for the sale next spring – if they winter over!

Last but not least of the flowers I am enjoying this summer is a geranium, Maverick Star, that Doris Crimmins grew from seed. This is not just any old seed geranium. The flowers are huge and very compact – very much like a zonal geranium. The plants are also huge and overflowing their containers. Each of the two plants I have has at least five blooms and there are more to come.

Doris raises these geraniums for the annual plant sale and those that don’t get sold often end up in the demo garden or going home with her friends. We have them in pots at the fairgrounds garden. If you haven’t seen that garden yet this summer, you had better stop by. It has wonderful color this year and was a very popular place during the Yamhill County Fair.
YCMGA Garden Tour Pix

Community Garden

Nancy Flynn garden

Norman’s garden
YCMGA at the Yamhill County Fair

David Norman won first place and Best of Show (annuals) for his sunflower

David Norman won several first places for vegetables and a Best of Show for his Yukon Gold potatoes

Beverly Norman won first place and Best of Show (annuals) for her sunflower

Book Look by Beth Durr


We picked up this book at the Mini-College Bookstore. The 10% discount helps fund the OMGA, so it's a win/win addition to our Library.

Ann Lovejoy is truly a joy to read. She hails from Washington, but is definitely a Northwest gardening diva. In the introduction, she says "my intent is to help you make a garden that becomes easier to care for each passing season." From there she covers design and maintenance and states "poor design creates a lot of work for the gardener." And that only covers the first 30 pages!

She covers landscaping (shade to edible), trees, shrubs, lawn care, common NW pests, native plants, soil types, natural plant care and weather patterns.

Then the lists kick in. At least 40 plus pages list plant categories we can actually relate to because of the NW focus.

There are just too many topics covered to mention. One of the largest values of this book is the emphasis on organic, natural sustainable gardening practices. Her up-front simple language makes this an easy-to-read, fun fountain of information.

Filed under General Gardening, look for the red dot on the book's spine to signify local interest.
“The breezes taste of apple peel. The air is full of smells to feel—Ripe fruit, old footballs, burning brush, new books, erasers, chalk and such. The bee, his hive, well-honeyed hum, And Mother cuts Chrysanthemums. Like plates washed clean with suds, the days are polished with a morning haze.”

John Updike, September