Hello to all master gardeners,

I trust you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and had an opportunity to spend time with family and friends. As 2018 begins to wind down, we can all take satisfaction in the projects that are ongoing and that have been completed this year. As my presidency also winds down, I wanted to tell you that I am very proud of what this organization accomplishes. Many hands are involved in a multitude of activities helping out the community and providing much needed education and expertise in many areas. Keep up the good work and know that it is very much appreciated.

The annual holiday party/awards banquet is fast approaching. It will be held in Harbor this year on Saturday, December 8th, at the Blue Light restaurant at the Harbor Shopping Center. If you haven’t already received an invitation and would like to attend, please email me at pamleslie555@gmail.com and I’ll send you the specifics.

The last two years as president of the Curry County Master Gardener’s Association have been both amazing and challenging, and it’s rather bittersweet to be moving on. However, I’m happy to announce that we have a new slate of officers that are very capable, motivated, and willing to make this association outstanding:

President: Lori Phelan
Vice President: Marna Williams
Treasurer: Barb Rylee
Secretary/State Rep: Jeffrie Hall
Historian/Brambles: Cathe Barter

Please give a hearty welcome to all the new officers and a special thanks to those continuing to serve (Barb Rylee and Cathe Barter).

I sincerely want to thank this year’s officers for all their hard work and participation. We just plain couldn’t have functioned without them. Tim Lyons, Vice President, who kept the meetings sane and jovial; Lana Larsen, Secretary, who just kept pumping out those minutes; Debbie Carroll, State Representative (and former President), who was and is involved in just about everything; Barb Rylee, Treasurer, without whom we wouldn’t be paying our bills; and Cathe Barter, Historian, who keeps us all in the know with her beautiful Brambles publications. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart!

If I don’t see you between now and the end of the year, please have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! Keep up the wonderful things you are doing and “Happy gardening in 2019.”

Pam Leslie, President, CCMGA
Another successful plant sale event! Master Gardeners participated in the Brookings Holiday Bazaar this past weekend (November 10th). We sold about 90% of the items we brought. Customers were very happy to talk about our contributions to the local communities. They loved the planters we created, many of them needing assistance to bring their purchases out to their cars.

Now back at the greenhouse we will continue to transplant cuttings into pots. Work to ready plants for our big sale in May 2019. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Bazaar a success.

Master Gardener booth at the Brookings Holiday Bazaar.

All set up and ready to go

\[\text{HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM RILEY CREEK GARDEN}\]

Ali Mramor mramorali@gmail.com
CCMGA Membership Meeting
November 20, 2018


A motion to accept the October 20 meeting minutes as published in the Brambles was made by Pam Leslie and seconded by Lori Phelan.

The budget through October 31 was presented by Barb Rylee then discussed among members for a thorough understanding.

Business Items:
2019 Budget was presented and discussed. Minor changes were made. Motion to approve by Ruth Patton, 2nd by Tim Lyons. All in attendance unanimously approved the 2019 budget.

2019 Officers - President-Lori Phelan, Vice-President-Marna Williams, Secretary/State Representative-Jeffrie Hall, Treasurer-Barb Rylee, Historian/Brambles-Cathe Barter. These officers were 'nominated' at the last meeting and published in the November 1 Brambles. Motion to accept 2019 officers by Pam Leslie, 2nd by Ruth Patton. All in attendance unanimously approved the officers for 2019.

Christmas Party on December 8 at Blue Water Cafe 5-8 pm. Please respond to Pam's email no later than December 1 with your choice of entree. Pay at the door. There will be a cash bar for drinks. A gift exchange of $10 or less will be part of the festivities. Significant others are also invited to attend.

Holiday Bazaar at Brookings - Successful again this year. Monies are still being totaled but approximately $900 was made.

Update Calendar - Ali now has the Christmas Party listed on the calendar. The classes for the 2019 trainings are posted as well.

Program Assistant’s Report:
Scott is completing the end of year report. If you have made any ‘in kind’ donations please let him know the amount(s) by Friday. There are 15 students so far enrolled in the 2019 session. Possibility of 3 more. The 2018 class, as of now, has 10 of the 15 attendees who have completed their training and hours and their badges have been ordered.

Committee reports:
Annual Plant Sale - Propagation is continuing. Plants are being moved into 4" pots.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Submitted by Lana Larsen, Secretary

HOW TO FIND OUT WHAT’S GOING ON
Contact Pam Leslie, find us on Facebook: Curry County Master Gardeners(OSU Extension

THE BRAMBLES NEWSLETTER
Emailed to active members and on www: http://extension.oregonstate.edu.curry
Editor, Cathe Barter at umpqua.barl@gmail.com

BOARD MEETINGS monthly 3rd Tuesday from 10 am to noon
OSU Extension (Gold Beach)
2930 Ellensburg Avenue, Gold Beach, meeting room {No Meetings in August or December}

Visit these sites to volunteer:
GOLD BEACH HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE
29316 Ellensburg (at the read of school)
Contact Carol Hobbs, 541-251-2422
*Annual Plant Sale Project* spoken here

RILEY CREEK GARDEN
94350 6th Street, Gold Beach
Contact Ali Mramor alilramor@yahoo.com

ABC PRESCHOOL
543 Hemlock St, Brookings
Contact Barb Carey barbcary15696@gmail.com

SHOP AND GIVE BACK TO CCMGA!
CCMGA has completed two "REWARD" program applications! This is your chance to give to our non-profit organization through your daily purchases.

The 1st rewards program is smile.amazon.com. If you have an Amazon account and purchase products from Amazon, connecting your account to Smile.amazon is easy. Go to smile.amazon.com and log in to your account. You will be asked which charity/non-profit you would like to support. You will find MANY Master Gardener Associations, so PLEASE select Master Gardener Association, Gold Beach, Oregon. It is on page three or four of their list of Master Gardener Assn. Then make your purchases...it is that simple. Amazon smile will donate .05% of your qualified purchase to CCMGA by direct deposit.

The 2nd rewards program is with Fred Meyer. Using this reward program is as easy as linking your Fred Meyer Rewards card with Curry County Master Gardener Assn., Gold Beach, OR. Set up a new account or sign into your existing account at fredmeyer.com, click on the 'Fred Meyer Community Rewards' link at the bottom of the page. type in 'Curry County Master Gardener Assn.' or the number ‘85441’, choose our organization, and click on ‘Enroll.’ Information about both the programs is available online at each business; check it out!
DECEMBER GARDENING TIPS

Maintenance and Clean Up
- Western Oregon: Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.
- Spread wood ashes evenly on vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 pounds/100 square feet/year. Don't use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.
- Protect new landscape plants from wind. Use stakes, guy wires and/or windbreaks as needed.
- Yard sanitation: rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds, and hoe or pull winter weeds.
- Turn the compost pile and protect from heavy rains, if necessary.
- During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tilling, ditching, and French drains are possible short-term solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales as a longer-term solution.
- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, and fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow or ice breakage.
- Western Oregon: Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water regularly during the winter.

Planting/Propagation
- Western Oregon: Good time of year to plant trees, and landscape shrubs.

Pest Monitoring and Management
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. Remove weeds to prevent rodents from using them as hiding places. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Avoid mounding mulching materials around the bases of trees and shrubs. The mulch might provide cover for rodents.
- Monitor spruce trees for spruce aphids. Treat if present in large numbers. Read and follow pesticide label directions.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening
- Protect poinsettias from cold, place in sunlight, don't let leaves touch cold windows; fertilize with houseplant fertilizer to maintain leaf color.
- Monitor houseplants for adequate water and fertilizer. Water and fertilizer requirements generally are less in winter.

WINTER GARDENS DON'T HAVE TO BE BARE OF FLOWERS

By Kym Pokorny-CORVALLIS, Ore. – Plants that bravely bloom in winter come into color when we need it most, so take advantage and plant plenty.

Many gardeners are familiar with late-winter bloomers like forsythia and crocus, but Oregon State University Extension experts suggest planting less-common trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants for all eye levels of the garden.

Some of the boldest are witch hazel, a small tree or large shrub with buttery yellow to red flowers that typically bloom in December, January or February in Oregon. Two species – American witch hazel (Hamamelis virginiana) and Ozark witch hazel (H. vernalis) – are natives, while H. japonica and H. mollis are from Asia.

Perhaps the most popular is the Chinese witch hazel (H. mollis) with its bright yellow flowers and colorful fall show. Hybrid forms also are available, such as H. x intermedia ‘Arnold Promise,’ ‘Jelena’ and ‘Diane.’ Plant witch hazel in full or filtered sunlight and provide summer irrigation for best success. They are hardy in USDA Zones 5 or higher.

For blooms in December and January, look for another small tree or large shrub, the sasanqua camellia (Camellia sasanqua). Unlike the more familiar Japanese camellias, the sasanqua camellia blooms earlier and grows in an open form. Like its more common relative, it has been bred for many colorful flowers, from pure white to pinks and reds. This evergreen shrub is hardy to USDA Zone 7; it prefers rich soil with regular summer irrigation.

Another large shrub called wintersweet is known botanically as Chimonanthus praecox. As the name suggests, this January bloomer produces a powerful and sweet fragrance. Its flowers are waxy and light-to-medium yellow. Wintersweet grows to USDA Zone 6, making it suitable for much of western Oregon and Washington. It is deciduous, grows from multiple trunks, and prefers sun to light shade and regular watering in well-drained soil.

For fragrance on a smaller scale, try sweetbox in the genus Sarcocca from China. Several species and hybrids are available, but the most common is sold as S. humilis or S. confusa. Though the flowers don’t make much of a visual impact, they are strongly fragrant and waft for yards on a winter day so plant this January or February bloomer near a walkway or doorway you use often.

The flowers are followed by attractive, shiny, black berries that persist for much of the year. These evergreen shrubs, which grow 3 to 5 feet tall, prefer part shade, rich soil and regular irrigation. They are hardy in USDA Zones 7-9.

Another shrub from China is winter jasmine, Jasminum nudiflorum. It blooms off and on between November and February. Some forms are hardy to USDA Zone 6, making it suitable for much of western Oregon. This species is not fragrant, but has bright yellow flowers and is deciduous and almost vine-like.

Hardy cyclamen (Cyclamen coum) flowers in November or December, followed by colorful variegated leaves. Flowers are a medium to deep pink, and each flowering stem uncurls like a corkscrew as it emerges. The plant grows from an underground storage unit called a corm, which is often sold with fall bulbs, but many nurseries offer them as potted plants as well. Make sure to shop by species names as less hardy species (often called florist cyclamen) also are available. This species comes from Middle Eastern countries and is hardy to USDA Zone 5.

Commonly called Lenten Rose or Christmas rose, hellebores come in several colors and foliage forms. They are sturdy and grow 1 to 2 feet tall, with large flowers in white, yellow, green, pink or purple. Some of the species are hardy to USDA Zone 4, making them suitable for gardens throughout most of Oregon. In most places, you can expect blooming to begin by late February.
**TIME SPENT IN THE GARDEN NOW SAVES WORK IN SPRING**

By Kym Pokorny; Source: Weston Miller--CORVALLIS, Ore. -- Don’t hang up your gardening tools just yet. There’s still plenty to do.

“It’s easy to forget gardening as we transition into fall, but work you do now will save you work next year,” said Weston Miller, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service. “For example, add compost and lime to the vegetable garden, cover with coffee sacks and the worms will go crazy and the soil will be great next year.”

While you’re thinking about the soil, turn your mind to mulch. Spreading carbon-rich woody mulches in landscapes now will protect the soil from compaction and minimize weeds. And speaking of weeds, as the current mulch started to break down, you might have noticed some new, little weeds moving in. Those are winter annuals, Miller said, and include chickweed, dead nettle, cardamine and speedwell.

“They’ll be green and they’ll be small,” he noted. “Use a scuffle hoe and put mulch on top. Or newspaper or cardboard and a woody mulch and you’ll smother them.”

If a new vegetable or flower bed is in your future, start now and the bed will be ready to plant in spring. Choose one of two ways. You can chip away the grass, dig in some compost and lime and cover it for winter. Or, scalp the grass with a weed whacker, add a little nitrogen fertilizer, cover with a thick layer of newspaper (no pages with color) or cardboard and enough compost to keep it from blowing away. Come spring, dig in the newspaper or cardboard and plant. Make sure to add fertilizer next spring.

While spring is the traditional season for planting, fall is a good time, too, Miller said. It’s not super hot so you won’t have to water a lot. The soil is warm so plants have more time to get their roots established. In spring, the soil is cold and people can forget to water when the rains subside.

It’s also a good time to transplant plants that need to be moved. Choose an appropriate place for relocating by thinking about sun exposure and the size of the plant at maturity. It’s best to plant it in the right spot and not have to transplant it later.

Be careful about trying to move established plants. Soil is very heavy and it is difficult to dig and move large rootballs. Consider hiring a professional landscaper with the right equipment if you think you need to move an established tree or shrub.

For transplanting smaller plants, dig the hole twice as big as the estimated rootball of the plant to be moved. The rootball is approximately the same diameter of the plant above ground. Prune the plant if desired and then, using a sharp spade go around the outside and score the roots. Get as many roots as possible. Pop it out, put it on a tarp and drag it to the new location. Plant it at the same depth as the top of the soil. Don’t plant it too deep. Water in and apply mulch.

Whether to cut back perennials now or in the spring is up to you, but birds and other wildlife will thank you if you leave them up. Besides, Miller noted, the garden will be less interesting if everything is cut back.

**Other jobs to do now:**

- Clean, sharpen and oil tools, including lawn mowers, edgers and weed whacker.
- Harvest and store squash and pumpkins; Dig and store potatoes.
- Build a cold frame and plant cool-weather vegetables like arugula, mache, mustards, radishes and turnips.
- Plant garlic.
- Bring in houseplants, fuchsias, geraniums, dahlias and begonias.
- Rake leaves into vegetable and flower beds.
- Start a compost pile.
- Bait for slugs.
- Flush out irrigation systems and turn off. Cover faucets to protect from freezing.
- Plant spring-blooming bulbs.
- Apply fertilizer to lawn for the last time this season.

---

**JUST SAY ‘NO’ TO BAD GARDENING PRACTICES**

By Kym Pokorny--CORVALLIS, Ore. -- No one likes to be told “no,” but sometimes you’ve got to buck up. Even the most seasoned gardener will admit to at least one or two bad habits. You know who you are; you haven’t cleaned your shovel all season. Well, we’ve gathered the expertise of eight of our Oregon State University Extension Service horticulturists to pave the way to the truth. Sorry, you’re going to read the word “no” a lot.

**NO:** Don’t prune your rhododendron and other spring-blooming plants (lilac, forsythia, azalea, etc.) during the dormant season or you’ll be cutting off the flower buds. Instead, prune right after the flowers fade in spring. -- Neil Bell

**NO:** Don’t plant a Sierra or coast redwood in your garden. Unless that’s the only thing you want in your garden. -- Neil Bell

**NO:** Don’t be ignorant of your plants’ water needs. “We deal with a lot of over-watering and under-watering issues, or as I like to tell folks that they over-love or under-love their plants,” said Rachel Suits, OSU Extension horticulturist. Understanding water requirements is not an easy task and is different for each plant, but simple observation and soil moisture monitoring can help gardeners get a better handle on irrigation, she said.

**NO:** Don’t plant something in the wrong place. You don’t want to plant your shade-loving hosta on the south-facing wall of your house. Remember: Right plant, right place. -- Rachel Suits

**NO:** Don’t plant aspen in or near turf grass. These trees create groves and suckers will come up through the lawn. Be sure you know that aspen create groves and have the space/room for them or select another tree for planting adjacent or near turf. -- Amy Jo Detweiler

**NO:** Don’t choose a plant based on what it looks like in the container at the nursery. Make sure you take into account how big it will be in 20 years. Too-big trees get topped, which looks bad and is not good for the tree because it leaves large pruning wounds ripe for disease and insect infestation. -- Heather Stoven

**NO:** Don’t rely on compost for everything. People assume that compost is fertilizer and provides all of the nutrients plants need, especially in vegetable gardening. Compost helps with soil structure but does not necessarily provide key plant nutrients. Buy fertilizer too and use it! -- Weston Miller

**NO:** Don’t overplant. Plan for the long term. Get a piece of gridded paper on which to plan out planting areas and count each square as a square foot. Research what the eventual size of your plant will become and plan accordingly. Especially important is to consider are the plants that you place close to the house. Meanwhile, you can fill the areas in with annuals and plants that you might be able to move to other parts of your landscape later on. You’ll have more mature plants at less cost! -- Scott Thiemann

**NO:** Don’t reach for a broad spectrum pesticide without identifying the problem first. Getting the problem diagnosed can save money by determining if there is a real pest issue and then tailoring the management to the timing and the method that works best. It protects the environment from unnecessary pesticide applications, too. Call or go see an OSU Extension Master Gardener, who can help diagnose your problem. -- Brooke Edmunds

**NO:** Don’t skimp on the requirements for planting a tree. Take the time to prepare the soil, plant at the proper depth, select the best type of tree for the location and give TLC for the first few years. The effort in establishing a tree pays off down the road. Take a look at the app Planting and Caring for a New Tree for more particulars. -- Brooke Edmunds
Have you seen the Curry County Master Gardeners website?
Extension.oregonstate.edu/curry/mg
The Brambles is usually posted there by the second of the month.

The last Monday of the month is the cut-off date for submitting articles for the Brambles. Email them to Cathe Barter umpqua.bart@gmail.com

This is your newsletter, if you have something to share please send it in. We will make every effort to include it.

Thanks to all of you who generously contributed to this edition of the Brambles. All submissions are gladly considered.

CCMGA Officers for 2018
President …………. Pam Leslie
Vice President…… Tim Lyons
Secretary……………. Lana Larsen
Treasurer……………. Barb Rylee
OMG State Rep…… Debbie Carroll
Newsletter Editor…… Cathe Barter
Historian……………. Cathe Barter
Past President……… Pam Leslie
OSU Program Asst… Scott Thiemann

To contact officers, leave a message at the Extension office 1-800-356-3986

Curry County Master Gardeners Association
PO Box 107
Gold Beach, OR 97444

Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran’s status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.