Ringing IN the OLD AND the NEW

As of the last week of November in which I find myself writing this, we have an almost-full class of new students ready to be making the pilgrimage into the Curry plant kingdom and all the learning involved along the way starting January 11th. As always, we also look forward to those of you who are veterans to come back and hone up your knowledge, and to make new friends among our trainees. Remember veterans, to be recertified, you only need 20 volunteer hours, spread equally between support and educational outreach—which can take place in a number of approaches and venues, and 10 hours of education (which = about 3 classes), and those can be ones you’ve taken before…or not.

Before proceeding, thanks much to our cast of officers who will be leaving the Board, including: Pam Leslie, President, Tim Lyons, Vice President; Lana Larsen, Secretary; and Debbie Carroll, State Representative (and former President). The dedication and care put into their volunteer support has helped the organization move forward in very positive ways; we could NOT have done what we have without all of you! And thanks to Barb Rylee, our treasurer, and to Cathie Barter, our Brambles editor and our historian and to the continuity you both are helping provide. SO important!

Welcome all of those who have just stepped forward—having just completed the 2018 training (!) to take on these positions: President: Lori Phelan; Vice President: Marna Williams; Secretary/State Representative: Jeffrie Hall. Again, the Board provides the glue, in what tend to be very focused—and also significant—meetings.

This is where we also look to our 2018 graduates to help mentor the new folks who are just joining in our program. What this means is to take on the responsibility of providing some basic guidance. This involves just checking in with the trainees you’ll meet in class regarding any questions or concerns that they may have a couple times along the way. This could be just discussing class materials or areas about which they might be uncertain or about the volunteer opportunities available for them once they finish the training. Heck, this might even mean just having coffee together or helping in each other’s gardens as a way to connect.

Final ‘paperwork’: One last reminder is to keep up with your yearly $20 dues to be sent to CCMGA—the Curry County Master Gardener Association, and you shall be receiving that email soon from Debbie Carroll, our membership chair. You shall also soon be receiving the one form everyone fills out yearly regarding OSU liability: the “Conditions of Volunteer Service”. We also are updating our background checks for those working with children who have not undergone this process for the past couple of years (NO fingerprints required the 2nd time around 😊!). We’ll soon be sending out that form and reference sheet to those of you who have worked with kids in the past and are willing to keep doing so.

~ Scott Thiemann
ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Carol Hobbs, 541-251-2422, Mailhobbs@yahoo.com
Questions? Give me a call or text

Working in a greenhouse during the cold rainy winter is not such a bad place to be. This year one of our purchases for the greenhouse was heat. We now have two heaters that are doing a great job keeping the Gold Beach High School greenhouse pretty cozy. The plants also are responding favorably.

We have planted all of this year’s cuttings into pots. For the next month we will water, fertilize and do general maintenance. Nothing exciting – but we all enjoy getting together weekly to check progress.

Have a great New Year!
Carol Hobbs

RILEY CREEK GARDEN ~ Ali Mramor
mramorali@gmail.com or amramor@ccsd.k12.or.us

As the weather has gotten colder and wetter, the activity in the garden has slowed tremendously. We did have a beautiful day on December 13 and the 6th grade Health class came out to learn about mulching, healthy soil, and planting cool season crops. They all helped spread 3 bales of straw on raised beds and plant spinach seeds in the greenhouse. They were a great help and enjoyed the hands-on activities. They also got to sample kohlrabi for the first time – it was a hit!

A rain barrel was also installed this month. It’s already full of course! If there are some handy people out there, we could use a little help securing it better.

There will be no garden activities during winter break December 21 - January 4.

Hoping to see more Master Gardeners in the garden come the New Year. We will be starting seeds before you know it! Please get in touch with Ali via email, text or phone call if you’d like to help out: amramor@ccsd.k12.or.us tele. 310-409-3496.

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!
2018’s Holiday Party With Gift Exchange December 8, 2018
Blue Water Café Harbor, OR

Socializing pre-dinner, dinner, post dinner
JANUARY GARDENING TIPS

Planning

- Plan to replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with resistant cultivars in February.
- Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs and trees for propagation.
- Have your soil tested in your garden plot to determine its nutrient needs. Contact your local Extension office for a list of laboratories or view EM 8677 online.
- Begin planning this year’s vegetable garden. Check with local retail garden or nursery stores for seeds and seed catalogs.
- Keep a garden journal. Consult your journal in the winter, so you can better plan for the growing season.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Place windbreaks to protect sensitive landscape evergreens against cold, drying winds.
- Reapply or redistribute mulch that has blown or washed away during winter.
- Clean pruners and other small garden tools with rubbing alcohol.
- Western Oregon: Water landscape plants underneath wide eaves and in other sites shielded from rain.
- Western Oregon: Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Scout cherry trees for signs and symptoms of bacterial canker. Remove infected branches with a clean pruner or saw. Sterilize tools before each new cut. Burn or send to landfill before bloom. See Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards (PDF - EC 631).
- Watch for field mice damage on lower trunks of trees and shrubs. Eliminate hiding places by removing weeds. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Use dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on roses for general disease control, or plan to replace susceptible varieties with resistant cultivars in February.
- Western Oregon: Moss in lawn may mean too much shade or poor drainage. Modify site conditions if moss is bothersome.
- Mid-January: Spray peach trees with approved fungicides to combat peach leaf curl and shothole. Or plant curl-resistant cultivars such as Frost, Q1, or late May.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don’t treat unless a problem is identified.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Monitor houseplants for correct water and fertilizer; guard against insect infestations; clean dust from leaves.
- Protect sensitive plants such as weeping figs from cold drafts in the house.
- Propagate split-leaf philodendrons and other leggy indoor plants by air-layering or vegetative cuttings.
- Plant dwarf annual flowers inside for houseplants, including coleus, impatiens, and seedling geraniums.
- Western Oregon: Gather branches of quince, forsythia, and flowering cherries and bring indoors to force an early bloom.

MASON BEES POLLINATE PLANTS BEFORE HONEY BEES GET BUSY

Author: Kym Pokorny; Source: Brooke Edmunds–CORVALLIS, Ore. April 3, 2015 —– The gardening season is young, but mason bees are out for their short but productive foray into the blooms of your backyard.

These solitary native bees – most commonly the blue orchard mason bee (Osmia lignaria) – get busy before honeybees and set to work on early-flowering plants like forsythia, pieris and especially fruit trees.

“Mason bees fill a spot in the season when other pollinators are not out,” said Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist with Oregon State University’s Extension Service. “They’re really important for fruit trees, especially in cool, wet areas.”

As honeybees continue to struggle for survival, mason bees take on a bigger role in the backyard garden, according to Edmunds. Both serious and casual gardeners welcome these earnest pollinators to get better yields of fruits, vegetables and flowers.

Mason bees are smaller than honeybees, have a bluish hue and are often mistaken for flies. Rarely do you have to worry about being stung because these unaggressive bees live alone and have no hive to protect. Unlike honeybees that fly up to four miles to find their preferred food, mason bees don’t go much farther than 300 feet. They move in a zigzag pattern, which makes them especially efficient pollinators for small spaces, according to Edmunds.

The single-minded bees live to bring nectar and pollen back to the nest for their larvae that hatch from eggs laid between walls made of mud – another material the female bees must haul back to the nest. Leaving patches of mud close to nesting areas in trees or other wood will help attract them, Edmunds said.

You can also encourage mason bees by creating a garden that includes plants that bloom during their excursions in March to mid- or late May. Consider plants such as crabapples, redbud, flowering currant, elderberry, huckleberry, Oregon grape and lupine. Even the often-dreaded dandelion is a great source of food.

If you want to introduce the bees rather than wait for them to arrive in the garden, she recommends purchasing a nesting house, which contains straws filled with cocoons that hatch in spring. They’re available online or at garden centers.

Alternately, you can drill holes into a solid piece of untreated wood. Make the holes five-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, six inches deep and three-fourths of an inch apart. Insert paper straws with cocoons inside the holes.

Whatever you end up using, hang houses or containers under eaves or other protected areas where they’ll be protected from wind, rain and sun. Some people will bring the cocoon-filled houses inside over winter to keep them out of reach of predators. They’ll also spend time removing cocoons and washing off mites or parasites and reinserting them into clean straws.

“There are two schools of thought,” Edmunds said. “Some people want to get into high maintenance and harvest, clean and store cocoons. But that’s not necessary. You can always buy additional cocoons each year. And, of course, give the bees the plants they need to keep them around.”
WINTER CARE OF PERENNIALS

Now that the temperatures are cooling off, or shall I say cold, it is time to put your perennials to bed for the winter. For the most part, perennials will overwinter here just fine by following these simple steps.

Cut

Once your perennials start to lose their leaves, die back and go dormant, you can go ahead and cut them back in late fall or early winter. By cutting them back to 6-8“ above ground the stem will be able to hold snow in place which helps to insulate your plants. You can also wait until spring to cut them back if you prefer, however mulch is easier to apply if they are cut back.

Mulch

Either way you’ll want to mulch your perennials with 2-5“ of mulch for the winter. The mulch can be any kind of mulching material such as hemlock mulches, pine post peelings, dried grass clippings, etc. It serves the dual purpose of keeping in winter moisture, and acting as insulation for the root system. Our perennials risk losing their root systems from tissue damage with our continuous freezing and thawing conditions. It is best to wait until the ground has frozen lightly before applying mulch, this insulation will keep the ground frozen.

Even though many plants appreciate protective winter mulch, there are some perennials that do better without additional winter mulch. These plants are intolerant of being too wet throughout the winter and risk root rot or losing their centers. On the flip side, some of our perennials are very tender and require extra winter mulch, five inches or more for adequate protection. Below are two lists of some of these perennials.

Water

Remember to provide winter water to all of your perennials during dry spells when the top portion of ground has thawed and can accept water. Water every 4-6 weeks during these dry periods where there is no snow cover. Keep in mind that your perennials will wake up at different times in the spring, so don’t give up hope if you don’t see signs of life right away!

### Perennials that prefer no additional mulch through winter

- Aster Aster spp.
- Basket of Gold Aurinia saxatilis
- Black-eyed Susan Rudbeckia fulgida
- Blanket flower Gaillardia aristata
- Creeping Phlox Phlox subulata
- Coreopsis Coreopsis spp.
- Daisy, Shasta Daisy Chrysanthemum spp.
- Daylily Hemerocallis spp.
- Delphinium Delphinium spp.
- Dianthus (Pinks) Dianthus spp.
- Evening Primrose Oenothera spp.
- Flax Linum spp.
- Gas plant Dictamnus spp.
- Gayfeather Liatris spicata
- Geranium Geranium spp.
- Geum Geum spp.
- Germander Teucrium spp.
- Globe thistle Echinops spp.
- Grasses – most ornamental grasses
- Hens & Chicks Sempervivum spp.
- Iris Iris spp.
- Lamb’s ear Stachys byzantina
- Larkspur Delphinium spp.

### Tender perennials that prefer extra mulch (5“ +) throughout the winter

- Ajuga Ajuga reptans
- Bergenia Bergenia cordifolia
- Bulbs
- Chrysanthemum Chrysanthemum morifolium
- English Daisy Bellis perennis
- False Mallow Sidalcea spp.
- Mexican Hat Ratibida spp.
- Pasqueflower Pulsatilla spp.
- Pearly Everlasting Anaphalis spp.
- Penstemon Penstemon spp.
- Poppy Papaver spp.
- Purple Coneflower Echinacea spp.
- Pussy-toes Antennaria spp.
- Rockcress Arabis spp.
- Russian Sage Perovskia atriplicifolia
- Salvia Salvia spp.
- Silvermound Artemisia schmidtiana
- Soapwort Saponaria spp.
- Snow-in-summer Cerastium tomentosum
- Spiderwort Tradescantia spp.
- Spurge Euphorbia spp.
- Stonecrop Sedum spp.
- Sulfur flower Eriogonium umbellatum
- Sunrose Helianthemum spp.
- Tansy Tanacetum spp.
- Thrift, Sea pink Armeria spp.
- Thyme Thymus spp.
- Valerian Centranthus spp.
- Yarrow Achillea spp.
- St. John’s Wort Hypericum patulum
- Lavender Lavandula spp.
- Pincushion Flower Scabiosa caucasia
- Plumbago Ceratostigma plumbaginoides
- Wallflower Erysimum spp.

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 2019
President ............... Lori Phelan
Vice President......... Marna Williams
Secretary............... Lana Larsen
Treasurer............... Barb Rylee
OMG State Rep....... Jeffrie Hall
Newsletter Editor..... Cathe Barter
Historian............... Cathe Barter
Past President......... Pam Leslie
OSU Program Asst... Scott Thiemann

1 - 800-356-3986

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

Curry County Master Gardeners Association
monthly meetings 3rd Tuesday, 10 am to noon in Gold Beach, OR

www.facebook.com/OSUExtCurryMG

Curry County Master Gardeners Association
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