Final Education Event ~ Scott Thiemann

Get those volunteer hours in!

I know nag, nag, nag, or is it HAUNT? I am obviously not your mother OR father. But, at this point, we are just two months, as hard as that may be to believe, from Halloween, and our haunting-end-of-year-reporting deadline…funny that those events take place at the same time!

At this point—and I know, because I just looked—roughly 2/3 of you have entered any of your hard-earned volunteer hours. Most of you—speaking veterans, here—have entered your continuing education hours already, but if you haven’t fulfilled that commitment (one of two requirements for your yearly recertification), you have another chance to earn at least HALF of those at the end of this month—but more on that later.

So, presently (and this is often the case in August) we’re at only the 1300+ level for volunteer support. There are still a handful of plant clinic slots, the by-far-largest opportunity is to help out at Riley Creek by contacting Ali Mramor (see calendar link: https://teamup.com/ksa7919614bd52037a), or call her at 310-409-3496. She will be thrilled to have your support! And there is ongoing potting up of cuttings for next year’s plant sale taking place weekly at the high school (contact Carol), or a few CCMGA meetings where new officers are needed to take over board positions for 2019 (contact Pam), OR you could always develop, advertise, and coordinate a fall gardening program for the public!!!

To get to the MG Volunteer Reporting System, simply follow this link: https://mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu/

You can record both your continuing education credits and volunteer hours here. Please include them in the proper category, e.g. PC would be a plant clinic or any other venue where you would have folks ask you garden questions you would answer or research, in other words ‘direct’, and, EGM, Educational Garden Maintenance would be a garden used for education in which you would provide support “behind the scenes”, in other words ‘indirect’.

To get on to our educational event for the fall—which also provides an opportunity for 5+ continuing education hours (which can be included in reporting, whether you need them for certification or not): Jacquie Fern, from the Dept. of Environmental Quality will be spending a day with us in Curry; she works with partners across Oregon to help protect drinking water sources from contamination. If you would like to participate, cost is only $10 for Master Gardeners and trainees (all who have your training hours amassed and most of whom now have the necessary volunteer hours for certification! 😊). Septic system issues and a site visit to conduct informal assessments of potential impacts on water resources and vulnerability of well water will also be discussed as time allows.

(Students can bring at least ½ cup of untreated well water for this activity. Instructor will provide samples to test for students not on wells).

You also have the opportunity for 3 one-hour webinars on August 30, October 22, and November 19 (which would count toward 2019 education hours). For more information, Ali has listed these on our calendar link.
Hope to see you in the garden!

RILEY CREEK GARDEN ~
Ali Mramor mramorali@gmail.com

This time of year, things tend to slow down in the garden. That being said we’ve been watching the pumpkins start to turn orange, the dahlias continue to bloom in all their glory, and we are still harvesting plenty of food. Summer school and the summer lunch program have ended so we’ve had fewer kids in the garden but we have had great support from volunteers. Most of the harvest has been going to volunteers and the excess to the Food Bank. We’ve begun planting some fava beans as cover crop in some of the beds and are starting to think towards Fall preparations.

Katie Struth, our FoodCorps service member, has been spending some time in the garden getting to know volunteers and the garden itself. It’s been great to have her on board so far. I’m excited to begin planning projects with her for the new school year.

Under the guidance of Mary Jacobs, we have begun the first planting of hydroponic lettuce in the greenhouse. Katie and Cathy Boden joined for a day of planting and will be implementing the same system at the Driftwood School Garden in Port Orford.

Katie and I spoke at the Rotary Club on August 22 for which we received great feedback and some possible new volunteers and collaborations. More of the Gold Beach community is learning about the garden and it being a resource for education and healthy food for all families.

We will be having a big work day in the garden before school starts so keep your eyes peeled in your inbox for that announcement.

Hope to see you in the garden!
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.bart@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 alimramor@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!
DROUGHT DRIVING MORE YELLOWJACKETS INTO BACKYARDS THIS YEAR

By Kym Pokorny; Source: Heather Stoven--CORVALLIS, Ore. – Yellowjackets zeroing in on your steak and fruit salad as you dine al fresco can be irritating, but don’t get out the pesticide yet.

“Yellowjackets have their place. Although they can be seen as pests due to their attraction to our food when we are dining outdoors, in typical scenarios they are beneficial insects, feeding on insects such as caterpillars that might otherwise damage your garden,” said Heather Stoven, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service.

People are seeing larger numbers of yellowjackets than usual in their yards and gardens this year, according to Gail Langellotto, an OSU Extension entomologist. “Oh, yes, they are cruising all over. It’s so dry in surrounding areas that gardens are providing them with things that unmanaged environments are not – like water.”

You’ll also see them bellying up to flowers to eat pollen, another behavior prompted by the dry conditions, and a big reason why Langellotto and Stoven urge caution if you use a pesticide.

“Bees are super concentrated, too,” Langellotto said. “Gardens are a really important resource right now. I’m not fan of the pesticides used to control yellow jackets. With a super-pressurized spray that can go 20 feet, so many things can go wrong.”

Certainly, caution should be taken around yellowjackets, especially if you find a nest in an area where you spend a lot of time. However, if a nest is in a location that is out of the way and unlikely to be encountered, the colony will be abandoned in the fall so these nest sites are best left alone.

Before trying to treat the insects, consider some other methods to reduce their presence such as keeping garbage covered and fallen fruit picked up, Stoven said. Also, be careful around water spigots and water features, where they congregate during the hot days of summer. Using traps around dining areas can help keep yellowjackets away from specific areas, but not large areas.

It's easier to deal with these wasps if you know how they live. Yellowjackets are heavy-bodied, with black and yellow or white markings and live in gray, papery nests, which are mainly located below ground but some are suspended above.

Worker yellowjackets hunt for insects, carrion or rotting fruit to carry back to the nest to feed their nest-mates. If you accidentally come close to or contact a nest entrance, you're likely to get stung. Workers vigorously defend the nest and queen. Their sting is more painful than honey bees and normally no stinger remains in the skin. A single yellowjacket may sting more than once.

A queen is the epicenter of each nest and her sole responsibility is to lay eggs. She begins a nest in the spring by laying a few eggs and raising the adults. Workers provision, expand and defend the nest.

As spring and summer pass, the nest grows and new workers assume their role. By the end of summer, nests may contain hundreds or thousands of workers. By August or September, their population is at its highest.

By fall, yellowjacket nests have produced a crop of new queens and males. By the first frost, most workers and queens leave the nest to find a protected spot to spend the winter. They emerge in spring to begin the cycle again. Only new queens survive the winter, however, and they almost never reuse the previous year's nest.

If you feel you have no choice but to destroy a yellowjacket nest, you must first locate its entrance, said Langellotto. Wear protective gear that covers your skin, and carefully mark the nest entrance. This will help you to find and treat the nest on a cool night, when workers are inside and relatively calm. Use an insecticide that is labeled for yellowjacket control, and follow all directions for use. A quick-acting, knockdown pesticide should be used, to keep yellowjackets from flying out of the nest. Do not use a flashlight when treating a yellowjacket nest at night. The wasps are attracted to light.

Use the least toxic product first; choose a product with “Caution” on the label rather than “Warning” or “Danger.”

Don’t pour petroleum products into ground nests. It is dangerous, environmentally harmful and illegal. Use products specifically made for yellowjacket control only. Be sure to read and follow the pesticide product label. Remember, the label is the law.

Non-toxic yellowjacket traps are available in yard and garden stores. The most effective use a synthetic attractant to lure worker yellowjackets into the trap. Fruit juice or meat can be used as attractants as well. Traps may provide temporary relief by drawing workers away from people, but they are not effective for area-wide nest control.

Persons particularly sensitive to yellowjacket venom should be extra cautious in late summer and early fall, when the insects are most numerous. Enlist the help of someone not as sensitive, if you need to spray a nest.

Other wasps are mud daubers and paper wasps. Mud daubers collect bits of wet soil to take back to their nests, usually a mud tube. Paper wasps build small, open nests that are suspended vertically from a horizontal surface, such as under an eave, bush or tree branch. Their long legs and thin "waists" distinguish paper wasps. Both mud daubers and paper wasps are less aggressive and normally will not sting or swarm when away from their nest.
Our summer party, August 11, was a grand success. Thanks to all 24 attendees and thanks to Lori Phelan for hosting the party, and thank you to all the members of Lori’s committee. Special thanks to Lori’s husband who directed traffic and barbecued the turkey and hotdogs. The food was wonderful, the company was great, the location stupendous. And, we even had an educational plant ID game that tested everyone’s knowledge - making it a true Master Gardener get together.

Summer party - socializing

Food, drink and friends gathering in Gold Beach

The Plant ID Game
This recipe was shared at the Coos County MGA Meeting and said to be easy, and ‘anything’ can be used as an ingredient

Pumpkin~ Zucchini~ Banana~ or… whatever~

MARY DIXON’S VERSATILE CAKE OR BREAD RECIPE

Ingredients:
3 1/4 cups whole wheat pastry flour
2 cups raw sugar
2 tsp baking powder
1-1/2 tsp salt
2 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp nutmeg
½ tsp ginger (optional)
½ tsp cardamom (optional)

NOTE: If you use acid fruit or fruit juice (see below), add:
1-1/2 tsp baking soda.

Mix or process Above ingredients together.

Process or mix the following into the dry mixture to create batter:
1 cup oil
4 eggs
2/3 cup water or juice
2 cups mashed or grated fruit and/or veggies

Then add, if desired:
1 cup chopped nuts (optional)
1/4 cup poppy seeds (optional)

Use one Bundt pan or two loaf pans (buttered and floured).

Bake one hour at 350 degrees or until done.

COAT SOILS WITH COVER CROPS

By Kym Pokorny; Source: Brooke Edmunds—CORVALLIS, Ore. – No one wants to go through the winter with no clothes, not even the soil that grows our plants. So jacket up the soil in cover crops.

If you’re not acquainted with cover crops, here’s the rundown: These hardworking plants can add organic matter and aerate the soil, protect it from compaction caused by rain, suppress weeds and reduce erosion – some even add nitrogen to the soil, according to Brooke Edmunds, an Oregon State University Extension Service horticulturist.

“They’re really nice,” she said. “You can plant them and forget about them and then kick them out when it’s time.”

Not a bad deal for an almost no-maintenance plant. All that’s needed is to seed it in fall, water a couple of times until the rains start, leave it through winter and dig or till it in spring. However, timing is key, Edmunds said. You want to get overwintering cover crops seeded by September or early October so they get established before the weather turns cold and wet. It’s also important that plants are cut or mown down in spring before they set seed. Do this about four weeks before planting vegetables again so the crop decomposes properly.

Cover crops, also called green manure, include grains like winter oats and cereal rye. Legumes, such as commonly used crimson clover, Austrian field pea and common vetch, are nitrogen “fixers.” Beneficial bacteria in legume root nodules take nitrogen from the air and supply it to the plant. When the cover crop decomposes, some of the nitrogen becomes available to other plants.

Edmunds particularly likes clover because it does double duty by providing nitrogen and providing sustenance to pollinators. Be sure to pull the plants before they go to seed.

Make sure when you plant that the seed has good contact with the soil. Larger seeds like peas, vetch and cereals should be raked in lightly. Mix small seeds with sand to make them easier to broadcast and then use a sprinkler to water in. If the weather is still dry, keep the seed bed irrigated.

When it comes time to incorporate the crop, shorter plants can be tilled right into the soil, Edmunds said. If the plant is too tall to turn under easily, mow first or use a weed trimmer. Tough-stemmed plants can be cut and left to decompose above ground. Or the tops can be carted to the compost pile and the roots dug in. Either way, let the turned-under material sit for about four weeks before planting.

For more information, refer to the OSU Extension guide Cover Crops for Home Gardeners. Or check out Cover Crops for Home Gardeners East of the Cascades and West of the Cascades, two publications by Washington State University with collaboration by Nick Andrews, small farms specialist for OSU Extension.

For beginners, Edmunds advises:

- Start with a cover crop that is easy to grow and manage. For example, crimson clover is relatively easy to incorporate into the soil.
- The first time you try cover crops, plant them in an area of your garden that you can leave for vegetables typically planted in late spring or early summer. This will buy you time to learn how to manage the cover crop residues in spring.
- Try another cover crop that fits in a different niche of your garden plan after you have successfully used one cover crop. Then when you gain experience, experiment with others.
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

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