The Grapevine

April 2019

The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners

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DISCOVER IN THIS ISSUE!

How to make a straw bale garden!

New Help Wanted Ads!

Pesticide Truths!

“Spring into Gardening”

YCMGA Photos

“CRIMES AGAINST NATURE”

“You idiots! ... We’ll never get that thing down the hole!”

https://ycmga.org/

Facebook.com/yamhillcountymastergardeners
HELP WANTED

(2) Clinic operators

Still looking for hopefully 2 Master Gardeners to operate the following clinics:

“Farm Fest” on Saturday, April 6, 10 am to 4 pm (hopefully in several shifts) at Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, Durham Lane, McMinnville. (An intriguing event featuring draft horse & mule plowing and competition, plus other displays and activities).

Camelia Festival on Saturday, April 13, at Chehalem Cultural Center, East Second St. in Newberg. Open 10 am.

Demo Garden Coordinator

Work with those Demo Garden committee members who have taken responsibility for various demo garden plots, to coordinate: irrigation, application of amendments, pest management, plant selection, preparation for public events, and any other tasks that affect the Demo garden as a whole. Also work with the Greenhouse and Propagation committees to coordinate purchases or allocations of any compost/soil and plants grown in preparation for the spring plant sale.

Gail Price at nutefarm@aol.com

Rose Aficionado

Work with a small group (2 or 3 people) to evaluate the present rose bed at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds and help create plans to rejuvenate and renovate it. Work with us to make the rose garden more educational and inviting and resistant to disease. Help develop a budget to accomplish that. Finally, join others in building the new improved rose garden. We would like to have the revitalized rose area ready for the 2020 bloom season, and plan our first meeting for mid-April.

Sue Nesbitt at: sue.nesbitt1231@gmail.com or call her at 503-883-9187.

Eager Helper

Do all kinds of physical work in the Community Garden, particularly on Saturdays. The staff promises to find something useful for everyone to do. Maybe even get a few free vegetables!

Alan Wenner at: awenner@hotmail.com
Yamhill County Master Gardener Calendar

April 2019

3 Wednesday

Education/Outreach Committee: Planning meeting, Public Works Auditorium, 10am to ?

6 Saturday

“Farm Fest”: Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, Highway 18, McMinnville. 10am to 4pm, including Master Gardener Plant Clinic

“Fuchsia Day” at Fred Meyer, Newberg. Master Gardener Plant Clinic 10am to 2pm (Help needed)

10 Wednesday

YCMGA Board of Directors meeting: Public Works Auditorium, Extension Office, McMinnville; 10am to about 12pm.

All Master Gardeners are always welcome to board meetings

13 Saturday

Camellia Festival: Chehalem Cultural Center, 415 E. Sheridan St., Newberg. Opens at 10am. MG Plant Clinic.

15 Monday

McMinnville Community Garden Fundraiser: Noon to 5pm at Walnut City Wineworks, 475 N.E. 17th St., McMinnville (See more information on this event on page 12 of this issue).

18 Thursday

Tour of Miller Woods: 10:30am at 15580 Orchard View Road, McMinnville. If carpooling, meet at Extension Office at 9:45am. Wear clothing for outdoors & hiking. Questions? Ask Polly at 971-563-2937.

26 Friday


27 Saturday

Work Party at Native Plant Garden: McMinnville Public Library, 9am to 11am. Try to bring gloves, gardening tools, and bucket.

Every Saturday 9am Listen to:

“To the Root of It” program @ 9:00 am. on radio KLYC AM 1260 with Sharon & Kyle.
During this year’s Master Gardener training, two instructors brought up the fact that whether you use organically derived pesticides or synthetic pesticides, you are still using chemicals.

Not much discussion ensued following those remarks; however, in the final class (on pesticides), a lively discussion arose. Of course the villain was for the most part glyphosate.

People have varying concerns with pesticides and often the words ‘safe’ or ‘dangerous’ can be thrown around with not much consensus on what we are talking about to start with. Are we talking about their effect on humans? On the environment? On our groundwater?

Cornell University took a stab at putting together all of the effects of pesticides into one formula to come up with what they call the “Environmental Impact Quotient (EIQ)”. They looked at the effect of pesticides on the farmer, consumers, and on the environment as a whole. They looked at chronic toxicity, dermal toxicity, leaching potential, effect on fish, birds, bees, beneficial arthropods and a host of other factors.

The formula was created to provide growers with data regarding the environmental and health impacts of their pesticide options so they can make better informed decisions regarding their pesticide use. And while the target audience was farmers, it is one more tool we can use to make choices that fit our lives.

In general, the lower the EIQ number the lower overall negative effect. What I find interesting are the scores that many pesticides are given and our preconceived ideas of what is safe and what is not. For instance, natural pyrethrins are derived from the Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium plant and have an EIQ value of 37.12.

The synthetic versions of pyrethrins are called “pyrethroids”. One of the pyrethroids, “resmethrin”, has an EIQ value of 29.01. So using this system, organic does not necessarily mean better.

Copper sulfate is used in organic farming systems and its EIQ value is a whopping 61.90. And where does the hated glyphosate rank? Well, it has a very low EIQ value of 15.33.

This formula is not the end-all answer. If you are using pesticide on non-food crops, this formula may not be relevant. If you do not follow the label instructions, the EIQ value is meaningless. But before you grab an organic pesticide and think it’s safe to use without reading the label, think again.

Remember, as Master Gardeners we need to look at the scientific data rather than reading blogs that offer answers that are parsimonious such as “glyphosate caused the cancer”.

Michael O’Loughlin

For a synopsis on how the EIQ is calculated go to New York State IPM at Cornell University.
“Spring into Gardening” Event

Evelyn, Becky, Candace & Pat V.

Raffle quilt created & donated by Lynette Horn

A few of the raffle baskets

Popular free seed table
Come to the Yamhill County Master Gardeners™ Annual

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 4th and Sunday, May 5th
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM and 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Thousands of plants at great prices

Plant Selection Assistance

Specialty Vendor Booths

FREE Soil pH Testing ~ Plant Help Clinic

Yamhill County Fairgrounds
2070 NE Lafayette Avenue, McMinnville

For more details, call 503-434-7517 or go to: ycmga.org

Due to overcrowding, please, no strollers or wagons will be allowed in the building.

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Try Straw Bale Gardening!

A straw bale garden bed starts with a bale of straw. It is important that the bale be straw and not hay, as hay includes large quantities of seed, whereas a straw bale should have very little.

**Advantages**

- An inexpensive way to create raised beds
- No digging or soil preparation is required
- Bales can be placed on concrete or asphalt.
- Bales are over two feet tall which makes gardening more accessible.

Locate a local source of wheat or oat straw bales. Locate your bales where they’ll get at least six hours or more of full sun. If you’re placing them on lawn or bare soil, place 4-5 sheets of newspaper on the ground under the bales, leaving several inches sticking out along the base of the bales. This helps prevent grass and weed growth at the bottom of the bales.

Place the bales so that the twine is on the side and one of the cut sides faces upward. Now it’s time to condition the bale.

**Conditioning**

First, water the bales thoroughly and keep them wet for 3 days. (Once the bales have been watered they will be very heavy, so be sure they are situated where you want them.) As the inside of the bales begin to decompose, they will start to warm up, which is part of the conditioning process.

**Days 4, 5, and 6:** Sprinkle the top of each bale with 1 cup of ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) or a half cup of urea (46-0-0), watering the fertilizer in well to speed up decomposition.

**Days 7, 8, and 9:** Halve the amount of fertilizer per bale.

**Day 10:** Stop adding fertilizer, but keep the bales moist.

**Day 11:** Feel the top of the bale to check for heat. If still hot, check daily until it cools down to body temperature or lower, still keeping bales moist.

Once the bales are cool to the touch, you can plant your bale garden. (Because the straw is decomposing, mushrooms may also sprout from the bale; there is no need to remove them).

Straw bales should be ready for planting three to four weeks after conditioning was begun. For transplants, dig a hole in the top of the bale, put in the plant, and gently firm the straw and some potting mix around the plant roots. For seeds, make holes in the straw and fill them with potting mix, then plant your seeds. Water immediately.

Straw does not provide all the essential nutrients for plant growth like soil or a premium potting mix does, so straw bale plants need to be fertilized once a week using a water soluble garden fertilizer containing nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium plus micronutrients.

Nitrogen deficiency is common when growing plants in straw bales, so watch for chlorosis in older leaves. Potassium deficiency will show up as a purpling of the leaves and brown leaf edges.

Bales will usually last for only one growing season, two at the very most. After the growing season is over and the crops have been harvested, the bales can easily be composted.
The warm weather has finally arrived and it appears that Spring is on schedule. I’m sure all of you are scurrying to take advantage of every minute of this beautiful sunshine and so are all of the hard-working Master Gardeners participating in the seeding and propagation activities at the Greenhouse & Pavilion.

This year’s annual Plant Sale will be the first weekend and Sunday in May, the 4th and 5th. Once again, the sale hours will be 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday in the Leslie Lewis Pavilion, and 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on Sunday at the Wiser Pavilion. (Both buildings are at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds in McMinnville).

Linda Coakley, her Greenhouse Staff and the eager 2019 class trainees got a late start seeding due to cold weather in February but have been a whirl of activity with the arrival of warmer temperatures. They have seeded and are transplanting all our favorite vegetables and annuals and have added some new surprises for everyone. Work will be ongoing every Tuesday from 9:00 to noon until the Plant Sale.

The Propagation Group, led by Ruth Estrada, is also working diligently to groom and label the plants that were previously propagated and transplanted. Grow Alley is brimming with one-gallon pots that are anxiously waiting their journey to the Lewis Pavilion sales tables. The fickle weather has presented some challenges here as well. The juvenile plants were enjoying the mild December and January months only to have to survive a reality check when February turned surly. Patti Gregory, who started our YCMGA Propagation program, works tirelessly to ensure our inventory will be ready to go. Tuesdays are Propagation Group work days every day until Plant Sale. All of the plants will need to be stuck with price tags and will require continual grooming until Sale time. As Ruth tells everyone, be sure to bring your pruners, forks, and warm clothes as we are working outside.

Plant donations will still be accepted this year provided they comply with OSU Best Management Practices. There is a tab in the Plant Sale Sign-Up book to let us know in advance. Note the days and times for donations – Tuesday through Thursday between 9:00 a.m. and noon the week preceding the Plant Sale (April 30th, May 1st and 2nd) at the Fairgrounds Wiser Pavilion. We will not accept any donations after that time because Friday all the plants will be transported to the Lewis Pavilion.

Remember, the Plant Sale is the primary fund-raising event for YCMGA. Proceeds from the sale provide scholarships, awards, and donations as well as operating capital for our organization. Bookmarks and flyers are available in the Master Gardener office so please stop by and pick some up to distribute throughout your community. Please refer to the Plant Sale Sign-Up Book or contact Tom Canales to distribute Posters, Countertop Cards and yard/street signs.

There are many other opportunities for volunteer hours as well. Check out the various tabs in the Plant Sale book always available in the MG office. You will be sure to find something that matches your
Happy spring everyone! I hope you were all able to enjoy some of our recent warm weather out in your gardens. The last month has been busy with the end of the Master Gardener training classes and Spring into Gardening. A big THANK YOU to our many Master Gardener volunteers who make these events successful. I am excited that our new trainees have finished the training classes and I want to thank our mentors and mentor committee for their hard work and commitment to the success of the program. Your mentorship and time spent with the trainees enhances our program through the sharing of your knowledge and experience. I was also pleased to see so many trainees at Spring into Gardening, both attending classes and volunteering at the event. Having the assistance of so many hands helps make this event possible. Thank you also to the Spring into Gardening committee for the months of planning and organization of speakers, sponsors, and registration. This is a wonderful public educational event that went off smoothly due to the efforts of so many. Thank you to all who were involved and I hope you have a chance to take a breather and enjoy the beauty of spring.

Keith Wingfield’s Bonsai Class at “Spring into Gardening”
Suffolk, England. Two pig farming brothers have planted 81 acres of nectar-rich flowers in a bid to feed a million bumblebees this year. The farm uses a seed mix including phacelia, clover, mallow, birds-foot trefoil, campium and vetch.

Two species of bumblebee became extinct in the UK in the 20th Century, and eight more are on conservation priority species lists, according to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

Worldwide, modern farming practices have caused the loss of 97% of flower-rich meadows since 1937, aiding the steep decline in bees. The brothers, working in partnership with a catering butcher, decided to increase their planting as a result of the interest shown by chefs during farm tours. They developed a rotational system for the farm’s pork production, allowing them to grow both grass and wildflower mixes while raising 500+ hogs annually for the catering market.

They now count 12 bumblebees feeding per square yard, and plan to eventually feed 1 million bees.

Donn Callahan
Now that we are out and about enjoying the first days of warm weather, so too are other creatures: shothole borers. There are a few different species of shothole borer (aka ambrosia beetles), although the primary species that causes issues is the European shothole borer.

While out on a walk during our first day of 70 degree weather, I spotted weeping sap coming from some small holes in a birch tree. For those of you that have been paying attention to birch tree health, you likely know of the bronze birch borer that has been causing tree death in our area lately.

These holes, however, were smaller in size at only 2 mm and round in shape. Shothole borers are small brown beetles, only 2mm long. They overwinter as adults and during the first days of warm weather in spring (above 65°), the female beetles become active and search for a new host. Preferred hosts include: maples, birch, beech, ash, magnolia, cherry, oak, elm and many others.

Females are attracted to weak or stressed trees, so perhaps this birch is already inhabited by bronze birch borer or is having other issues. After finding a host in the spring, females burrow into the heartwood, create galleries and lay 40-50 eggs within. The female cultivates a fungus (the ambrosia fungus) in the galleries for herself and her developing larvae to eat.

The larvae develop into adults in the summer and remain in the trees until the following spring. Trees affected by these borers often eventually die due to the interference of the movement of xylem and phloem within the tree, girdling it. So, now that you are running out the door to check the status of your trees, make sure you take a watering can – there isn’t much you can do to prevent this insect other than maintaining tree health and reducing stress.

For more information:
http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displaySpecies.php?pn=530
http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/Borers.html

Hoping your first days of Spring aren’t Boring!
McMinnville Community Garden plans on hosting 6 events in cooperation with OSU Extension and the Yamhill County Master Gardener Association. Events are planned for the 4th Saturday of the month from 11 AM to 12:15 PM. Admission for most will be $5; all are open to the public.

McMinnville Community Garden Fundraiser

Where: Walnut City Wineworks
        475 NE 17th Street
        McMinnville, Oregon

When: Saturday, April 13, 2019 Noon-5pm

Come out and taste local wines for $10/flight with proceeds going to fund the McMinnville Community Garden of Yamhill County, growing organic produce for those living in our county at nutritional risk, thru our partnership with YCAP.

Garden-related silent auction Noon-4pm.

Items for auction include handmade tomato cages, harvest baskets, and garden art.

Light appetizers provided. We look forward to seeing you!
Fact and Fallacy: Plant Performance Numbers

Linda Chalker-Scott, PhD. of Puyallup Extension, Washington State U. has researched dozens of plant topics. This article is an extremely brief synopsis of her work on various horticultural myths.

We’ve all experienced the frustration of comparing expected height or width of a plant. Labels and sources vary dramatically: which one is correct, or nearest what we should expect? And the answer is... None of them, really!

Take, for example, Gingko biloba (which consists of one species). Taxonomic references place maximum height at “less than 100 feet,” “more than 100 feet,” and “130 feet,” depending on which reference you are using. The height record-holders for each state vary from 80 feet (in Tennessee) to a whopping 24 feet in North Dakota! A nursery in Nebraska states the maximum height as 40 feet, but there is a Gingko in Japan which is 164 feet tall!

**THERE IS NO ONE “CORRECT” HEIGHT OR SPREAD FOR ANY SHRUB OR TREE.**

All these Variables affect Plant Size Projections

- Competition for water, light, and nutrients
- Soil type, including depth, drainage, and sun exposure
- Amount of precipitation and temperature averages in your climate
- Whether or not the plant is in its native habitat
- Individual plant genetics

So How do you determine future size??

- The best way is to observe local specimens in your microclimate, if possible. Of course, you will need to find mature specimens, and take environmental considerations into account.
- If that is not possible, the only other alternative is to average measurements from a number of reputable sources. If you are very lucky, you will find plants raised in nurseries very near your home, and you can believe their labels......mostly.

Donn Callaham
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Rekha’s raffle Indian dinner

Display Tables

More of the 50+ raffle baskets
The oval-shaped brain of a honeybee is roughly the size of a sesame seed and has fewer than 1 million neurons—compared with the 86,000 million neurons of a human brain. That means a bee brain is .0002 % of yours, yet they can do tasks a 2-year-old human cannot.

European scientists have found that bees can understand mathematical concepts which a pre-school human (and probably some adults) can just begin to comprehend. Until now little was known about how insect brains would cope with being tested on such an important numeric skill. People have long known that monkeys and birds understand number concepts, and probably many other species do so as well.

However, this is the first time people have known that an insect can understand these concepts. The honeybee is an exceptional model species for investigating insect cognition, with previous research showing they can learn intricate skills from other bees (including hive tasks and directional dances) and even understand abstract concepts like “sameness” and “difference”.

The fact that honeybees have these abilities does not preclude the distinct possibility that other insects are similarly “gifted,” as honeybees are to date the only insects that have been tested for numerical cognition.

Trained to pick the lowest number out of a series of options, a honeybee chooses a blank image, revealing an understanding of the concept of zero. Similarly, bees can add or subtract several digits, and keep learning as they practice.

Aside from the sheer wonder of this discovery, the function of a bee brain could be used in the development of artificial intelligence. After all, why use a human brain for a model when just .0002% of that works as well?

For an embarrassingly simple video explaining this experiment, go to this site: https://www.youtube.com/watch?

Donn Callaham
March 30th was the orientation day for all gardeners and volunteers. Several new gardeners and volunteers needed to learn the basics of raised bed gardening and especially organic gardening.

All the plants for the YCMGA Plant Sale are now transplanted and being closely watched for watering, disease and insects. We have enough extra tomatoes and basil to supply most of the needs of the “Seed to Supper” program.

The garden officially opens on April 6th for the gardening season although several of the Food Bank beds have been planted and we are waiting for the Walla Walla onions to arrive so we can plant that major crop. Our new multiple dibble (shown in the March issue of Grapevine) will be used for this and should greatly improve spacing, planting depth, and speed of planting.

We have 3 new Mason bee houses to put up when we have the time.

Several crops have emerged and are waiting for warmer weather. Lots of work to do and we hope that the new class will contribute some volunteer hours to learn and work.

Alan Wenner

FIRST RULE: Leave all chemicals—“organic” and synthetic—at home.
Solar Panel Discovery

Researchers at Oregon State University have accidentally stumbled on a new use for solar panels on farms and ranches.

Without initially doing any research on the subject, they found that on non-irrigated land the area beneath the panels actually is better for some plants than field exposure. They noticed the effect on grass beneath solar panels in a sheep pasture at OSU.

This is because the shade of the panels helps the soil retain more moisture, and is apparent from May through September. This effect actually produced double the amount of grass beneath the panels than around them. This is because grass uses water more slowly and efficiently when it has less light in which to grow.

In full sun the plants use the available water as quickly as possible, reach maturity quickly and then die. The plants in the shade are less stressed, and so they “sip” the water rather than “guzzle” it.

Now the researchers are studying ways to make the solar panel arrays more “farming friendly.” That is, they need to be situated so that the panels do not interfere with spraying, tilling, grazing and operating machinery. In a sheep pasture, this is no problem.

OSU scientists are now expanding the project to test different crops beneath the panels. Specifically, they will be experimenting with high-value crops such as berries or vegetables.

To make it possible to use farm machinery among the arrays, the panels could be mounted on posts to elevate them, and be able to tilt so equipment could get by.

This is the first time research has been done on managing sunlight to improve field crops, and to lessen or avoid irrigation altogether.

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Article from Capital Press November 16th, 2018 condensed & summarized by Donn Callaham
YCMGA Board Meeting Minutes  January 9th 2018

The President called the meeting to order at 10:02 am, on 2/13/19

Secretary’s notes for December: Susanne motioned approval, Carol seconded, all voted in favor.

Treasurer’s Report: All financial reports have been sent to officers, and we now have 70 members who have renewed. 59 people have signed up and paid for attendance at Spring Into Gardening, 31 of whom are Master Gardeners. Some people have been making out 2 checks, one for SIG and one for membership, and Carol would prefer they write just one check, since she is all the employees in our financial department.  As far as financial recording goes, dues paid by lifetime members (who are not required to pay dues any more) are recorded as contributions rather than dues. YCMGA still pays $7 to OMGA for every member, whether or not the member pays dues to YCMGA. Lifetime members need to notify Carol of their esteemed status. Now here is a legal statement: Pat Fritz (Past President) and Nancy Woodworth (former Vice President) are no longer authorized to handle money in any context; Rita Canales (President), and Susanne Beukema (President-elect) are now authorized to deal with checks. Members planning to go to the international MG conference in Pennsylvania are now Gene, Marcia, and Becky. Donn (after being prompted by Carol) made the motion to reduce the mini-college budget from $1600 to $500 (because there will be no mini-college this year). Nancy seconded that, and everyone approved. Happy news: the audit for 2018 was completed and all appeared to be in order.

President-elect report was very brief: we should set mission-aligned goals for 2019.

Heather-in-absentia report: We will now be using a program called “Teamup” for all online signups (for volunteering). Jade is setting this up. Exceptions will be the Plant Sale and Spring into Gardening, both of which will continue to use physical signups on real touchable paper, within a palpable notebook. Volunteers will be needed to man and woman the MG desk on a rotating basis. Gene (being the overachiever that he is) of course will be in charge of this, though he will need help.

Awards committee: Nancy Woodworth is still updating the plaques on the wall, and changing the divisions due to the change in requirements for lifetime membership. Cost of changing and replacing plaques is no object: this is considered by many a crucial part of the adventure of being a Master Gardener.

Education/outreach Committee: This committee is now working on planning 2019 clinics. A new program will consist of speakers at the Community Garden, one per month on the 4th Saturday of each month. The speakers will be Alan, Heather, Anna, and Janet from “Incahoots.” These educational events will be advertised to both the public and MG’s. An ice cream social is planned at Donn Callaham’s and Nancy Woodworth’s farm, and will include cowpie bingo, hayrides, and the ceremonial exhuming of decaying underwear.

McMinnville Community Garden: The Garden will begin functioning early March. Mac Power and Light did not approve running a water line to the garden, so the possibility of renovating the current well is being discussed with the landowner. Estimated cost would be $5000.

OMGA Reps.: Quarterly meeting will be March first and second, in Marion County.

Web/Publicity: SIG promotion is now in effect: TV stations and newspapers are being contacted, and MG newsletter editors of nearby counties are receiving promotional information. There will be a promotional table for the Plant Sale at SIG, and plant sale promo will begin as soon as SIG is done. First draft of our new website has been completed. The current logo is extremely expensive to print (many colors), makes very little sense, and is utterly cryptic to most viewers. Also, Copy Cabana owns rights to the old one, making it even more expensive to use.

Seed to Supper: The committee has met with all sponsors. The volunteer fair did produce volunteers for the program, and the structure will be changed to be similar to that of the Plant Sale: various subcommittees under the Seed to Supper committee, to better distribute the work. YCAP is no longer willing to sponsor, so another organization is sought for McMinnville. The sponsors have differing responsibilities: in some places the Master Gardeners do only the teaching, in others MG’s do all the planning and peripheral work, and in some the extension agent organizes it. It is not an OSU program, but the Oregon Food Bank must approve of the sponsor; no church can be a sponsor.

Mentoring Committee: The volunteer fair(s) were successful, and a public “thank you” was given the group.

Perennial Propagation: Planting bare-root is about to begin.

Scholarship Committee: Applications are being re-
received. There was a discussion re: can the scholarship be used for a Canadian university. At the end, Carol motioned that the scholarships be usable at any accredited university in the United States or Canada. Donn seconded the motion, and the board voted to approve the change.

**Spring onto Gardening:** All publicity has been distributed, and everything is ready to go. There will be a final meeting on March 3rd; people are being asked to sign up in the notebook to help on the day of the event.

**SIG Raffle:** In charge of this project are Nancy, Tonia, Jennifer, and Cynthia. At this point they have 45 filled theme baskets, not counting the more expensive items being donated by wineries and others. The group is planning on meeting again to condense the baskets down to about 25, which people feel is a maximum desirable number.

**Plant Sale Committee:** Artwork is finalized, and (celebration applicable here...) the contract with the fairground staff has been finalized and signed by all!

**Policies and Procedures Committee:** Tom is working on a colossal compendium of all the jobs of all the committees, describing in meticulous detail their responsibilities and organization. Included will be a succinct job description, an exhaustive job description, and a compendium of tasks to complete, month by month. There are still some positions left to include, including clarification of board member responsibilities. "Box Edit" will be used for everything in the interest of uniformity. Tom is advertising for some people to help by being responsible for the information for 2 or 3 committees each.

**Unfinished Business:** Board member liability insurance contract has been signed and paid for 2019.

**The Plastic Saga:** Susanne told us that Styrofoam recycling began at the end of December, but that the recycling company employees were unaware of it. Gloria Lutz is now working with Zero Waste McMinnville, and would like to have a booth at SIG (which would be very welcome). As far as planting pots go, they are not recyclable but we do reuse them until they are ratty. *People are asked to NOT leave pots at the greenhouse for MG use.* Polly stated that she will, of course, use up all the plastic items we now have in stock, but will then purchase only items which can be recycled, or at least are biodegradable.

**Fairgrounds Demo Garden Reorganization:** A coordinator for the garden is needed; Gail firmly reminded us that she soon will no longer be chairing the committee. Plans are to have people “adopt” a part of the garden, as described in last month’s report. Cynthia and Jennifer will do an annual garden, Sue (who needs 3 healthy helpers) the roses, and the perennial bed and pavilion need curators. Gail emphasized that this year there will be *no major changes,* just upkeep and planning for next year.

**A Considerable Request:** A local men’s homeless shelter asked YCMGA to possibly plan, grade, plant, and maintain their 3 properties with landscaping, gardens, an orchard, and a chef’s garden. We eagerly declined the offer, and instead will offer to teach the residents how to do the work themselves. The planning and installation of it all is definitely a job for a large commercial landscaping company.

24 MG aprons have been ordered, and now come in a slightly darker green than previously. However, the cost has actually gone down, for a net (and list) price of $11. each.

Adjournment was motioned by Carol, seconded by Susanne, and transpired at 11:52 am.

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**Editor’s Notice:**

The Secretary’s notes in the Grapevine are edited for brevity, space, and timeliness of contents. References to events that have already occurred have been removed. If you want to see the unexpurgated notes, contact the Secretary (who is also the Grapevine editor) at m42oneb@gmail.com to have a copy of the original complete notes emailed to you personally.