Giant Bee Re-discovered

Thought to be extinct in 1981, Wallace’s Giant Bee (Megachile pluto) was recently discovered flourishing in Indonesia. It is also known as the “raja ofu/rotu ofu”, of course. It is known as a “resin bee” and lives in abandoned arboreal termite nests. The researchers spent 5 years searching for the bee.
HELP WANTED

**Writer/Editor**

Looking for a few folks with **good writing, editorial skills** to help contribute to authoring a compendium of detailed Job Descriptions for the various Committee Chairs, Activity Coordinators, and Board Positions. You would select or be assigned a couple of committees or activities then **work with their current leaders** to produce a standardized document that would contain a short Job description as well as a section on responsibilities that would contain detailed tasks, timelines, procedures.

Tom Canales  
[canalest@gmail.com](mailto:canalest@gmail.com)  
209.470.3777

Susanne Beukema  
[rebeukema@gmail.com](mailto:rebeukema@gmail.com)  
435.658.5430

**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 [mailto:nutefarm@aol.com](mailto:nutefarm@aol.com)

**Bring Food for “Spring into Gardening”**

**Donate snacks** such as cookies, string cheese, and small fruit. Drop off at Extension Office Friday March 15th before 3pm, or bring to Community Center Saturday March 16th first thing in the morning.

*Sign up in the sign-up notebook in the Extension Office.*

**Help for “Spring into Gardening” setup**

**Help set up** tables and décor on Friday pm, March 15th, beginning at 4pm. Lasts for about 1.5 hours. Also need **help to disassemble** “Spring into Gardening” from 4pm to 5pm on Saturday March 16th.

*Sign up in the sign-up notebook in the Extension Office.*

**Drivers with Vehicles**

**Move flats** from Newberg High School to the Fairgrounds in early March. Contact: Ruth Estrada ([ruthestrada101@live.com](mailto:ruthestrada101@live.com)) or Patti Gregory ([agregory43@outlook.com](mailto:agregory43@outlook.com)) to volunteer.

*Remember “Spring into Gardening”*

Saturday, March 16. Be there by 8:45 am
Yamhill County Master Gardener Calendar

March 2019

1 Thursday

Native Plant Sale, Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District
9am opening & preorder pickup. Heritage Center, Hwy. 18, McMinnville. Master Gardener clinic all day.

2 Saturday

Native Plant Sale, Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District
9am opening & preorder pickup. Heritage Center, Hwy. 18, McMinnville. Master Gardener clinic all day.

7 Thursday

Master Gardener Classes:
9am to noon: "Vertebrates" by Dana Sanchez, OSU wildlife specialist
1pm to 4pm: "Organic Vegetable Gardening" by Weston Miller, OSU extension, Clackamas County

13 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

16 Saturday

Spring into Gardening Event: 8:45am to 4:00pm, McMinnville Community Center; Register at entrance.

We still need volunteers for this event: Sign up Now!

14 Thursday

Master Gardener Classes:
9am to noon: “Plant Problem Diagnosis” by Neil Bell, OSU Extension, Marion and Polk Counties
1pm to 4pm: ONLINE MODULE: “Pesticides and Pesticide Safety”

21 Thursday

Master Gardener Classes:
9am to noon: Clinic recap and Clinic/desk training
Noon to 1pm: Potluck lunch for all trainees and other M.G.’s
1pm to 4pm: Hands-on activities, and group activity

Every Saturday 9am Listen to:
"To the Root of It" program @ 9:00 am. on radio KLYC AM 1260 with Sharon & Kyle.
The person who is too old to learn, was probably always too old to learn.
(Amy C. is in Tom’s & Becky’s group)

Not Pictured:
Hector H.
BLOOMS FOR CRITICAL TIMES

Winter
Alder – Alnus (pollen)
Hazelnuts – Corylus (pollen)
Willow – Salix spp. (nectar and pollen)
Dandelions – Taraxacum officinale (nectar and pollen)
Crocus – Crocus (nectar and pollen)

2019 MG Classes
Insects & Propagation
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

Oregon State University Extension Service
Master Gardener

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

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2019 Spring into Gardening

Educational Gardening Classes
Presented by the Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association and OSU

Speakers and Topics

*All sessions qualify for Master Gardener recertification credit of 1 hour

**Slug Hunting: Know Your Enemy**
Claudia Groth, Clackamas County MG

**Native Plants and Pollinators**
Aaron Anderson, OSU Graduate Research Student

**Introduction to Permaculture**
Andrew Millson, OSU Department of Horticulture

**Climate Change in the Willamette Valley**
Edwin Squares, PhD Botany

**Organic Pesticides**
Kai BuN, OSU Associate Professor

**Managing Clay Soils**
Linda Brewer, OSU Faculty Research Assistant, Agricultural Sciences

**Bonsai - Gardening w/Living Art**
Keith Wingfield, Yamhill County MG

**Do you Need a Soil Test for Your Garden - If so, Now What?**
Anna Ashley, Yamhill County MG

**Irrigation**
Jeff Cope, Homer Grown Gardens

**Knee Deep in Weeds**
Chip Bubl, OSU Extension Service, Associate Professor

**It is Time to Take On Invasive Pests**
Joshua Vlach, Entomologist, Oregon Dept of Agriculture

**Grow Awesome Fruit Trees**
Joseph Tostman, USDA-ARS, National Goral Germplasm Repository

Saturday
March 16, 2019
8:45 AM to 4:00 PM
McMinnville Community Center
600 NE Evans Street

Regular Registration: $25.00/person
Master Gardener Registration: $20.00/person
Student - with ID: $15.00/person
Walk-in day of event: $30.00/person

Don't miss the RAFFLE - many items to win!

Major Sponsors:
Bailey's Nursery, Inc.
Battens Equipment and Events
Kraemer's Garden, Inc.
Recology Organics

Supporting Sponsors:
Allison Inn and Spa
Atticus Hotel
Red Ridge Farms
Wilco Farm Store
Willamette Medical Center
Ridgeway Supply

Betty Lou's
Bernards Farm
Doug Verigin
Les Schwab
(Newberg & McMinnville)
Reid Rental

Register online at: ycmga.org

A lunch is included in the registration fee. Snacks and beverages will be available during all of the breaks.

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I had the top 25’ of the tree next to my house break off in a windstorm a couple of years ago. That made me pay closer attention to the tree’s overall health. I have noticed that the branches have been folding down around the trunk instead of being held out away.

I have also noticed way more debris from the tree, both needles and cones. So when a large branch fell this summer without any wind or rain I decided to hire an arborist to diagnose the problem. I had three companies come out and look at the tree.

Arborist #1 – certified
Came out and looked at the “Western Red Cedar” (Thuja plicata), said that it had some sort of disease affecting the roots and it needed to come out. Said the branches were folding down because it was dying. Took less than four minutes. Asked no questions.

It was at this point that I started losing faith in professional arborists. What the first arborist thought were insect holes were in fact holes from a sapsucker. There were no other holes in the tree. The second arborist identified the tree as a Western Red Cedar; however it was an Incense Cedar (Calocedrus decurrens). It’s easy to tell them apart when they are side-by-side, which was the case. And the second arborist did not look at anything other than the drooping branches to make his diagnosis.

Arborist #2 – ISA member and certified
Came out and looked at the “Western Red Cedar” (Thuja plicata), said that it had some sort of disease affecting the roots and it needed to come out. Said the branches were folding down because it was dying. Took less than four minutes. Asked no questions.

It was at this point that I started losing faith in professional arborists. What the first arborist thought were insect holes were in fact holes from a sapsucker. There were no other holes in the tree. The second arborist identified the tree as a Western Red Cedar; however it was an Incense Cedar (Calocedrus decurrens). It’s easy to tell them apart when they are side-by-side, which was the case. And the second arborist did not look at anything other than the drooping branches to make his diagnosis.

Arborist #3 – not certified, but second generation arborist
He took one look at the tree and properly identified it as an Incense Cedar. He then began asking questions. Why am I concerned about the tree and when did I first notice the issues? How long has that patio next to the tree been there? How long has the perennial bed been under the tree? How much do you water? Have you increased how much you water? Can I see the branch and top that broke off? Any other trees showing the same signs? AFTER 15 minutes of gathering information he gave me his diagnosis.

“The good news is your tree is not dying and is healthy. The problem is the new flower beds and the increase in watering. Incense cedars are notorious for not being able to shed excess water from its needles. Because of that the branches get heavy and the weight is folding them down next to the trunk. They prefer little water once established. The excess needles and cones is because of the growth: however, that growth is heavy.

He showed me the broken branch ends – healthy. He showed me under the bark – healthy. He noticed the
sapsucker holes – not a concern. Then he showed me how much sap bleeds when a branch is broken. If it were a maple tree I would have had an instant jar full of maple syrup. The diagnosis was too much watering. And he sees it all the time.

This article is not to slam certified arborists. But the whole incident reminded me that as OSU Master Gardeners, we need to slow down and ask questions. It is not important how fast we answer questions; it matters that we get the answer right.

I suspect he knew by looking at the branch growth what was wrong the minute he saw the tree but he wanted to confirm his suspicions by asking questions.

Michael O’Loughlin

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Pesky Profiles
By Heather Stoven

At a Loss over Moss?

I often feel one of the benefits of living in the Pacific Northwest is the lush, green environs provided by all of our rainfall. One of the byproducts of all the rain and moderate temperatures is that moss grows really well here. The moss often does so well that it can outcompete the grass in lawns, causing homeowners distress.

So, what should one do when dealt this situation? The key is to encourage a healthy lawn by having proper drainage, fertilizing properly and mowing to a height of no lower than 2”. You may also want to prune trees to allow more sunlight or even remove some trees, since grass species used for lawns prefer receiving at least 4 hours of daily sunlight.

If you do get moss in your lawn, you can dethatch or use products such as potassium salts of fatty acids, and sulfur-based fertilizers which can help temporarily.

Unfortunately, these products will provide only a brief solution and proper cultural controls as listed above are the best long-term. Also, the sulfur products above will act to acidify your lawn over time, potentially causing a need to add lime if a soil test reveals the pH is too low (ideal pH varies for each grass species).

If dethatching or applying a moss herbicide, you may be left with some bare areas which will need fertilizing and interseeding (See EC1550, Practical Lawn Establishment and Renovation for more info).

In lawn care, as is true in many life situations, the easiest solution isn’t necessarily the best. Maintaining a healthy lawn is the most effective way to choke out moss.

Further information about moss control in lawns is provided in the listed fact sheets and video featuring Alec Kowalewski, turf grass specialist for OSU who also taught our lawns session for the Master Gardener training in past years.

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/how-get-rid-moss-your-lawn
https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9175/html
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHx6Mma-_fQ&feature=youtu.be
https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9175
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.

**Saturday, April 27:**
Garden Preparations, Organic Raised Bed Gardening and Innovations (Recertification Hours) CG Gardeners

**Saturday, May 25:**
Water Conservation Practices (Recertification Hours) CG Gardeners

**Saturday, June 22:**
Vegetable Variety Selection (Recertification Hours) Anna Ashby

**Saturday, July 27:**
Flower Arranging – Janet Gahr, Incahoots, OSU MG

**Saturday, August 24:**
Tomato Tasting and Silent Auction and Open House – No Charge CG Gardeners (This event will be held in the picnic area by the garden)

**Saturday, September 14:**
Plant Problem Diagnosis – Heather Stoven (Recertification Hours)

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In spite of our recent chilly weather Perennial Propagation is progressing – in fits and starts. On 2/19 a number of brave folks defied the cold and planted all our edible bare root plants. 400 strawberries are now potted up, as are the currants, raspberries, blackberries and rhubarb. We have started moving plants from the GH to Wiser Pavilion. The temperature in the GH & the Pavilion are the same so we are hoping for sun and warm temps to make everything grow BIGGER! Everything is rooted; the tops just need to fill out!

Hard to believe but the plant sale is just over 2 months away. Many plants have already been tagged with plant tags; next up will be price tags. Many hands make light work! These activities provide many hours of volunteer credit for veterans and trainees alike.

When working in propagation, please remember to **dress in layers** and **bring clippers, gloves and water.**
March is looking to be a busy month so far with numerous events occurring. This will be the last month of Master Gardener training, with the last class on March 21st. Upcoming classes include Vertebrate Pest Management, Organic Vegetable Gardening and Plant Problem Diagnosis.

As always we will also have a **potluck at noon on the last day**, so please plan to attend. We have our first desk clinic of the spring season occurring at the SWCD Native Plant Sale on March 1st and 2nd. Other clinics will be coming up in April such as the Farm Fest and Camelia Festival; watch your e-mails for details.

Lastly, our big education event of the year will be happening on March 16th - "Spring into Gardening". Along with a variety of volunteer opportunities there is also a selection of interesting presenters this year: come hear about topics ranging from soils to pests to fruit trees. There’s something for everyone! Let’s hope the event brings the spring-like weather we have all been waiting for!

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**Fact and Fallacy: Tree Wound Dressing**

*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.*

Tree wound dressing is a petroleum compound advertised as encouraging “healing” of wounds. But trees cannot “heal”; they can only *cover* a wound. Trees isolate damage by formation of lignified and suberized (cork-like) tissue that physically and chemically repels pathogens.

**What happens when wound dressing is applied:**

- **Seals in** moisture and decay.
- **Prevents** new wood from forming over the wound
- **Inhibits** compartmentalization of wound (by new tissue)
- **Supplies** a possible food source for pathogens
- **Eventually cracks**, exposing the tree to more pathogens

**Here is what you should do...**

- **NEVER** use any “wound dressing” compound
- Prune trees in winter, when disease transmission is less likely
- Use good Preventive Management practices (sanitation).
- If disease is likely, sterilize pruning tools (with *alcohol*, remember!)
The President called the meeting to order at 10:06 am, on 1/09/19
IN ATTENDANCE:

Donn Callaham
Nancy Woodworth
Polly Blunt
Marilyn MacGregor
Linda Mason
Terry Hart

Pat Fritz
Gail Price
Michael O’Loughlin
Tom Canales
Alan Wenner
Linda Coakley
Ruth Estrada
Susanne Beukema
Carol Parks
Rita Canales
Gene Nesbitt

Secretary’s notes for December: Susanne motioned approval, Becky seconded, all voted in favor. Actually, the secretary himself made the original motion, but was emphatically informed that he is not allowed to do so. Carol asked for a change to the November minutes: the wording “president-in-waiting” needs to be changed to “president-elect” for financial purposes. Carol motioned, Susanne seconded, everyone agreed.

Treasurer’s Report: Carol received flak for sending out all the financial reports under an email alias. However, turns out her email is now listed under some stranger’s name, but is actually still coming from her computer. She is doggedly trying to correct this. All financial reports were sent out, and we have $41,000 in savings.

Heather Report: Classes have started, and some applicants were put on a waiting list. Because there are 27 trainees, the auditorium is crowded and any MG’s attending classes are asked to tell Jade before showing up.

Announcements: Polly is on the Fairgrounds panel which picks the “Fair & Rodeo Ambassadors” (high school students). This year all 3 applicants were accepted.

BOD Decision: There was a question about Article 4, section B of the bylaws. To hold office or vote in YCMGA, it appeared that a member has to be certified, and one extraordinarily active member was not. However, it turned out that the requirement was that the person be “in good standing” but that does not necessarily mean certified. Therefore, the incipient problem was solved.

Awards committee: Nancy Woodworth has completed all the wall plaque updating, ordering, installation, and formatting. After Nancy had completed all that work, the President casually mentioned that she suddenly realized it was a job that she was supposed to have done when she was President-Elect. Excellent timing on her part.

McMinneville Community Garden: All’s quiet on the garden front. Because of the continuous drought, there is deep concern about the water supply for the garden (now on a well). Since the garden is outside the city limits, Water & Light does not run water there. There is the hope that the W & L Board to will make an exception to that at their next meeting. If that doesn’t work there are some possible actions, all of which are now being researched. The choices are: 1) have the existing well rebuilt or renovated 2) Have a new well drilled 3) Keep a large water tank, filled on a regular basis, on the premises. The current well has been dropping in output for a year, so the garden is switching to crops that need less water. The decision on what to do about the supply will depend on the results of the W & L Board decision, and then on the results of the research.

OMGA Reps.: OMGA has been organizing and preparing for “Mini-College” for a year now. To help minimize requirements for volunteers, they even decided to hire a professional to do registration and event coordination, but from all the chapters no one could be found to be in charge of the event. Therefore, Mini-College has been cancelled for 2019, and hopefully will reappear, reorganized, in 2020.

Web/Publicity: Again there was a discussion re: having the website made by an outside person, in the popular format “Wordpress.” [Details of that discussion are found in the YCMGA notes for November]. Tom asked for a budget for the new website, so Tonia Beebe motioned for that addition, Donn Callaham seconded, and all voted “yes.” Tom Canales will now get a firm estimate from web-builder Amanda Greene, but the new site will not be operative until after “Spring Into Gardening.” Kathleen Brown of YCMGA will now be working regularly with Tom in publicity.

Seed to Supper: Marilyn MacGregor is now co-coordinator of the program (along with Gene Nesbitt). Both of them are doggedly determined to create a committee to run the program, rather than having just one person doing nearly all the work. Classes are now being planned, with 4 or 5 of them this spring. Instructors have been obtained. An emphasis is being placed on having community partners become much more active.

Mentoring Committee: Rosemary and Gail Stolz are in charge of the “volunteer fairs” but neither was at the meeting to provide details.

Perennial Propagation: Plants from the Newberg High School greenhouse will be arriving in mid-February, and bare-rooted plants will also be arriving from the nursery about February 16th. Next week label-making begins for all the plants that will be at the sale.
Resource Manual: The manual is now complete, comprehensive, condensed from prior years, and online. Students will be referred to the online version, rather than providing each of them a paper copy.

Scholarship Committee: Two applications for scholarships for Master Gardener classes from two of the 2019 trainees were submitted, and both accepted. The committee is in the process of contacting every public high school and some private high schools in Yamhill County, to make them aware of the opportunity. For those who received scholarships last year, the students are being reminded to turn in their grade reports, as they get the scholarship money only after they have completed at least one semester of the relevant studies.

Spring into Gardening Event: All speakers are now reserved. Sponsors are the same as last year, totaling about $3500 in cash and in-kind items. Becky is a co-chair, and she now has the alcohol license. Major sponsors are those who have donated $500 or more, donors of $200 are Patrons, and the remaining are those donating less than $200. We will be going with the offer from Wilco, in which they will donate $300. and we will display their banner at the event. That donation will be in $100 gift cards, two of which will be used for SIG costs, and one of which is destined for a different (as yet unpicked) committee.

Spring into Gardening Raffle: The raffle is fully organized. Baskets of items are being assembled, and Master Gardeners are strongly encouraged to make and bring in theme baskets. They do not have to be garden-themed; books, kids’ items, food and drink, the beach - almost any theme can be used. There will now be two levels of tickets: $5.00 tickets for the “big” items, and $1.00 for all others. The cutoff values for “big” versus “normal” have not yet been decided. No one should feel shy about donating things for the raffle.

Plant Sale Committee: Publicity is now out. Pricing has been finalized (remember the prices have all been raised, per November Secretary’s notes). Volunteers are still needed for MG plant holding area, customer holding area, and “customer service representatives.” The last will be like personal shoppers, following along behind a customer and carrying plants. All positions are being listed in a sign-up book, not on the website. It is one of the jobs of the mentors to sell the idea of helping at the plant sale to all the trainees. Per Gail Stolz, the plant sale will have a special recruiting session with the captive trainees.

Unfinished Business: Carol will sign the application for the liability insurance for the Board of Directors (though she doesn’t actually know where to go to sign it). Rita motioned to increase the budget for insurance this year to $1210 total to pay for all the insurance; Tonia seconded the motion; the board voted for it.

Plastics Debate: The hope is to eventually phase out the use of all plastic dishware at MG events. This is to emphasize our preoccupation with sustainability. There was a rousing and lengthy discussion of which plastic products might be recyclable, and many theories were presented. (After the meeting, Nancy Woodworth went personally to Recology to get a list of acceptable and nonacceptable plastics, since the News Register had 2 articles stating that some plastic was being recycled. Interestingly, the people responsible for the program at Recology had never heard of it, had no literature, and wanted to see the newspaper articles to learn about the program! So much for going to the source...). Suggestions were made for people to bring their own cups or to use the ones in the auditorium, and hand-washing plastic plates was deemed not safe. (We unofficially agreed that we should not sicken or kill people - either ourselves or the public - in our zeal to limit waste). Rita promised to keep “harping” on this subject, and we know she will.

Fairground Demo Garden Reorganization: We were scheduled to discuss this, but those plastic plates took up all our time, and this will be addressed next month.

Susanne motioned to end the meeting.
Gail Price seconded the motion.
Rita terminated it at 12:05pm.