The Grapevine
November 2018
The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners

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Completely New Intake Forms now in use!

These redesigned forms are:
- Easily readable
- Have components in logical order
- Encourage issue analysis
- Encourage MG’s to fill out all needed information
- Help all MG’s do professional-quality client services
- Have what’s necessary, but no more

Much has been removed, and a number of items have been added to make the intake information more complete.

Get familiar with our new forms online!

Next Education/Outreach Committee meeting is February 8th, 10 a.m. at the Public Works Auditorium.

JOIN US TO HELP MAKE 2019 AN EVEN BETTER YEAR FOR MASTER GARDENER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT!

SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH MASTER GARDENER POTLUCK DINNER

Welcome back to “This Old Head.”
I love these renovation shows.

Facebook.com/yamhillcountymastergardeners
November is a big month for our program: we have a couple of big evenings coming up. On November 7th the SWCD annual dinner is taking place. The Yamhill Master Gardener Program is receiving an award for the education we provide to the community. Congrats to all of you! If you would like to attend the catered dinner, tickets are available online from the SWCD. The following week, on the evening of the 14th, is our Yamhill County Master Gardener graduation and awards ceremony at the Heritage Museum. Please RSVP to attend by the 5th of November. Also, remember this is a potluck dinner – our Yamhill MG’s are excellent cooks, and the food is always wonderful. I hope to see you all there!

Lastly, we are looking for assistance with advertising for the MG training starting January. There is a sign-up sheet and flyers in the MG room. We have been receiving some applications already, but I think some advertising within the county would help to make sure we get some good applicants again for next year.

https://jadewilson.wufoo.com/forms/zsja0ae19kx4y2/

https://yamhillswcd.org/event/2018-annual-dinner/

Recently the Oregon Department of Agriculture announced that brown widow spiders were found in Oregon City in September. The brown widow is similar to the black widow, both by having venom that can cause a medically significant issue, as well as in appearance. Typically they are more brown in color than black, and have a wider orange hourglass. However with the variability found in nature, they can be difficult to differentiate, especially as immatures. The best way to identify which widow was found is with the egg sac: the brown widow’s egg sacs are “spiny”, whereas the black widow’s are not. If you are working the MG desk and come across a spider which may be a brown widow, please let Heather know (but keep it well-contained!)

Yamhill County Master Gardener Calendar

November 2018

2 Friday

OMGA Leadership Forum  1:00 to 4:00 pm, Oregon Food Bank (near Portland Airport)

3 Saturday

OMGA board meeting, 10:00 am, Oregon Food Bank (Portland, OR.)

7 Wednesday

Heather’s presentation re: Northwest Plant Evaluation program (including missions to England and France). Public Works Auditorium, 10:00 am.

Yamhill SWCD Banquet, with award for Yamhill County Master Gardener Program

8 Thursday

“Spring Into Gardening” committee meeting: 10:00 am, P.W. Auditorium

14 Wednesday

Master Gardener Graduation and Awards event: 6:00 pm at Yamhill Heritage Center, Highway 18, McMinnville. Preceded by 1-hour YCMGA board meeting at same location.

Bring Some Food for this Potluck Event!

15 Thursday

“Conserving seeds for metro area parks” presented by native Plant Society. 7:00 pm, Carnegie room in McMinnville Public Library

19 Monday

Webinar: “The Weird and Wonderful World of Plant Galls” (on your own computer). 11:00 am. (Good for one hour MG educational credit).

Every Saturday 9am - Come help out at the McMinnville Community Garden.

“To the Root of It” program @ 9:00 am. on radio KLYC AM 1260 with Sharon & Kyle.
Biodynamics - Mysticism or Science?

Biological dynamic agriculture, a.k.a. "biodynamics", is a system of agricultural management based on a series of lectures given by philosopher and spiritualist (and self-proclaimed clairvoyant) Rudolf Steiner in 1924. It was the first modern alternative approach to agriculture, and has evolved over the last century to include some organic farming practices: "biodynamic" is now often used and confused with "organic" in peoples’ minds and in popular literature.

The practice of biodynamics is meant to be a holistic approach to farming, minimizing human-made chemical inputs. Emphasis is on soil health and production, not primarily production (as is the case with much of modern agriculture).

The original biodynamics is based on six compost preparations. (Fortunately for our olfactory sense, all but one are buried in the ground for a specified time). These are, in order: yarrow blossoms stuffed into urinary bladders from red deer (#502), chamomile blossoms stuffed into small intestines from cattle (#503), stinging nettle (#504), oak bark placed inside the skull of a domesticated animal (#505), dandelion flowers stuffed into the mesentery of a cow (#506), and fermented valerian flowers (#507). All are made with a "sensitivity to the rhythms of the sun and zodiac."

There are also numbers 500 and 501. Horn manure, (#500), is cow manure that’s buried inside a cow horn 30 cm. below the soil surface and fermented over the winter, then dug up and stirred in water in a process called “potentization” before being sprayed on the soil. Horn silica, or 501, is ground quartz crystal that’s buried in a cow horn through the summer, then sprayed on and around growing plants.

Upon building a compost pile, six holes are placed at 45-degree angles that all face toward the center of the pile. One teaspoon of the yarrow, chamomile, nettle, oak bark and dandelion preparations are inserted into their own holes. One-quarter teaspoon of the valerian preparation is stirred for 10–15 minutes in a gallon of good-quality water (rainwater is believed to be the best). The method of stirring is specific, repeatedly creating a vortex in one direction, followed by a vortex in the other direction. Half of this solution is poured into the remaining hole. All of the holes are closed, and the remaining ½ gallon of the valerian preparation is sprayed over the entire pile. (The loaded horns can be buried anywhere).

All these mixtures and how they are prepared are considered so exacting that usually mixtures are purchased pre-made from a supplier, and their use taught only by mentoring.

Followers of biodynamics believe this one “set” of preparations can treat up to 15 tons of material. Their literature states that these procedures make the soil more “sensitive to cosmic rhythms (especially those of the planets and the moon)” and that they “help balance life processes.”

Often these concepts are combined with proven organic methods, all of which people may refer to as “biodynamics.”

https://www.biodynamics.com/what-is-biodynamics
https://www.demeter-usa.org/learn-more/biodynamic-principles-practices.asp

Donn Callaham
**EYES LIKE AN EAGLE...**

- Eagles see 8 times better than humans.
- An eagle can see a mouse from 2 miles away, or an ant from the top of a 10-story building.
- “Buzzards” or vultures see equally well.
- Vultures soar just as well as eagles, using thermals.
- Vultures can smell a dead mouse over a mile away, and home in on it.
- Vultures never kill their “prey;” someone else has to do that.
- The bald eagle will scavenge dead food along with vultures.

(from Northwest Woodlands magazine, summer, 2018)

**NEW WEBINAR SCHEDULED**

**NEW! Monday 11/19 at 11am PT**

The Weird and Wonderful World of Plant Galls
Melodie Putnam (OSU Plant Clinic)  
https://learn.extension.org/events/3493

Missed a webinar?
Catch up with the 2018 series here: https://tinyurl.com/yczwxjvr (opens in YouTube)
**Facts and Fallacies: “Well-behaved” Ornamentals**

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.

**Be aware of “too-carefree” plants, because:**

- **They are tough!** Descriptions such as “fast-spreading,” “self-sowing,” “drought-tolerant,” “good in both full sun and shade,” and “tolerates poor soil” should warn of over-aggressive plants.

- **Most invasive “weeds”** we now fight were introduced to our country as promising panaceas for unfavorable conditions.

- **They can eliminate** native plants in natural areas, thus affecting wildlife by limiting food and shelter resources.

- **You can still purchase** many invasive species at nurseries throughout the U.S. Even weeds identified by a Department of Agriculture as obnoxious (such as ivy) are still often sold.

**So here’s how to help solve the problem:**

- **Never buy** or plant species that are potentially invasive.
- **Phase out** existing stocks of potentially invasive species.
- **As a Master Gardener, promote** noninvasive plant species.
- **Remove** invasive plants from your land; replace with suitable mild-mannered plants.
- **Work with neighbors** and in natural areas to eliminate invasive plants.
- **Learn about** invasive species at: [https://saveplants.org/invasives/codesN.html](https://saveplants.org/invasives/codesN.html)

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Invasive plants still available at garden centers:

Left to right: Butterfly bush; various brooms; holly; vinca minor
Many insects have either temporary or permanent homes that they construct to survive. We have all seen the homes constructed by hornets and bees that serve as nurseries and living quarters for successive generations during the year.

But other insects, mostly solitary, can’t chew up wood like hornets do to make their nests, nor can they produce wax to make combs as bees do.

Some insects are ingenious builders and construct protective homes for themselves. An example of such creatures are caddisfly larvae. They live in freshwater streams and in the immature stages are worm-like. They possess silk glands that they use to construct tube homes for themselves. Materials from the environment are cemented together to form camouflaged living quarters, which are expanded larger as the larva grows. Some species use bits of sand or other debris; others use bits of vegetation to make a “thatched roof” tube in which to live.

We’ve all seen the tent caterpillar webs which protect the larvae from being preyed upon by other insects and birds that would devour them. The caterpillars remain in their “tent” until after dark and then venture out to feed on the vegetation on which they live.

Many moth and butterfly caterpillars roll up leaves in which to hide and feed without being detected by marauding birds and other predators. The western tiger swallowtail butterfly larva goes a step farther. It rolls up the base of a leaf but leaves the apex un-rolled. It then sits in this nest with its anterior portion exposed. False eyes on its thorax make it appear to be a snake lying in wait. This frightens off any birds wanting to make the larva a meal. If that ruse fails, a special structure behind its head, called an osmeterium, is extended. This is orange, forked and resembles a snake’s tongue. The structure also gives off a disagreeable odor that discourages attackers.

Moths go through four stages in their life history: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The pupa, or resting phase, is very vulnerable to predation. Most moth larvae spin cocoons of tough silk that will protect this stage from being eaten. The cocoon is a temporary home for the developing adult moth.

Look at our insect collection in the MG room to see the cocoon of a ceanothus silk moth. Many other insects construct equally efficient homes to ensure their survival. I guess we humans do the same to keep us protected from the elements. Stay warm in your home this winter!
Ray McNeilan, the co-author of these books, passed away last month. After receiving his Masters in Ornamental Horticulture from OSU, he became the OSU Extension Service County Horticulture agent for Multnomah County in 1958. He took a hiatus from Extension to do seedling research for Crown Zellerbach, and revived two failing retail nurseries for them.

6 years later, he returned to OSU Extension. His 32 years with Extension led to the publication of newspaper columns, Extension bulletins, and books on the subject he loved. For 19 years, he managed and led the OSU Master Gardener Program, training thousands of gardeners in home horticulture.

The MG Library is fortunate to have both books that Ray co-authored.

The Pacific NW Guide to Home Gardening is an encyclopedia disguised as a textbook. The introduction reads like prose. "In this book we will explore the mystery and beauty and conflict of our Northwest gardens and help you make the most of it." (p. 5) The next 300 pages are filled with page-after-page of facts, charts, research, and at times, wisdom.

Even though the book may seem dated, it certainly isn't. The varieties of various crops recommended 35 years ago are still stars. This is a go-to book, if for any other reason than to learn something new of regional interest. From application rates of fertilizer to how to cross-pollinate gooseberries to saving your own vegetable seeds...it's all here, in one place!

The other go-to book that Ray (and his wife Jan) wrote is The Book of Lists. Again, all this information is Northwest-specific. Sometimes clients want to know what they can plant in the shade with poor soil. With over 200 lists, chances are you can find it! (P. 130) "Herbaceous Perennials for Shady Sites:" gives us over 40 plants. Noted is "...it's not only the shade that prevents the growth of plants, but the competition for water and minerals..." avoid the trees we listed in the tree chapter as being impossible to grow anything beneath..." (There's some of that wry humor).

You can also find Ray's name on an occasional OSU
These are the hand-outs found in the big drawers in the main office. These bulletins and many more can also be found in the White Binders on the shelves of the MG Library.

Dr. McNeilan was instrumental in putting together the first Master Gardener Handbook and getting the 1989 Second International Master Gardener Conference to Portland. He leaves behind more of a legacy in that he established the Statewide Master Gardener Endowment Fund. The Oregon Master Gardener Assn. offers an OSU Horticulture student a scholarship in his name. Plus, there are the countless lives he touched with his teaching, sharing, and giving. This man was truly a wealth of information. May he rest in peace.

Beth Durr
Two “Good Deals” for MG’s

#1, for YCMGA

Did You Know… that YCMGA is listed as a charitable organization in the “Smile.Amazon” program? When you join the Smile program, Amazon will donate 1/2 cent for every dollar you spend on Amazon.com to YCMGA. To participate:

- Go to “Smile.Amazon.com” and log into your Amazon account.
- Type in “Yamhill County Master Gardener (YCMGA)” in the search box. Hit “enter.”
- Click on “Select” and you are now automatically donating to YCMGA!

#2 is for You

Save 35% on horticulture books…

Timber Press of Portland Oregon gives a 35% discount to Master Gardeners. Here is how to get that discount, and free shipping as well:

1. Go to timberpress.com
2. Place your book order.
3. At checkout, use coupon code “MASTER” to get the discount.
4. Orders of $50. or more get Free Shipping as well.
Hedge "Pruning" on Highway 47, Carlton

Ice Cream Social, long ago in the summer (at fairgrounds)

Nominate Now!
Submit nominations for any YCMGA office NOW!
Nancy Woodworth
m42oneb@gmail.com

Plant Clinic Truth Revealed: pg.12!
DEFINING A “PLANT CLINIC”

It has come to the attention of the Educational Outreach Committee that many Master Gardeners do not know the answer to the question: “What is a Plant Clinic?”

We as Master Gardeners go to various community events throughout the growing season, in addition to operating the clinic desk at the Extension Office. We start off in March at the Native Plant Sale put on by the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Then comes the first Saturday in April where we have THREE events—The Camellia Festival, The Farm Festival and Fuchsia Day at Fred Meyers. On this one day we have 3 Plant Clinics.

Here are some of the other events where we have Plant Clinics: Newberg High School Plant Sale, Kraemer’s, MG Plant Sale, Harvest Festival, Community Garden Open House and every Farmer’s Market. At times we are asked to do other events.

At each event we set up a table with information pertinent to that time of year, put out display boards to attract the public, answer questions from the public and write up intake forms for issues we need to research (as we do at the Clinic Desk).

This year we are being given an award from the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District for all the education provided by us to the public of Yamhill County. This includes Seed-to-Supper, Spring-into-Gardening, Plant Clinics, the clinic desk, and educational events.

The Educational Outreach Committee helps to coordinate all these activities. Reaching out to the community is what Master Gardeners are all about. Come and help us to make 2019 an even better year for Community involvement.

MG Desk is only one of our many clinic options

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Rita Canales
Year-to-date produce donations to the Food Bank are over 16,500 pounds, an increase of about 18% from 2017. We are still harvesting so this total will increase slightly by year end. Most of the Food Bank beds have been covered with plastic to eliminate winter annual weeds. We are now at 238 raised beds and counting.

The primary strength of the garden is now the volunteer group, now numbering about 30 frequent volunteers and another 30 “sometimes” volunteers.

Most of the garden is now winterized but we still grow fall, winter and some spring veggies. The spinach and lettuce production continues in the greenhouse. Planning for 2019 planting is now the focus. We begin planting in February as many of our beds are ready.

2018 was a very good year for gardening with a minimal number of pests (maybe due to the high population of yellow jackets?). As our expansion is now nearly complete, we can focus on pest control and varietal selection to improve our performance. We will be using more diatomaceous earth and bacillus thuringiensis.

We will do trials on sweet potatoes, parsnips and celery as well as continued trials on winter broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. Tomato varieties will also change some as we search for a better combination for raised-bed production.

We continue our educational mission through the following activities:

⇒ Children’s garden
⇒ Seed-to-Supper program support
⇒ MG recertification classes
⇒ Assistance and advice to row gardeners
⇒ Educational work sessions for Linfield College and McMinnville Public School students
⇒ Yamhill County Public Health programs

Remember! Planting starts in February at the garden!

Alan Wenner
The President called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on 9/12/18

IN ATTENDANCE:

Donn Callaham
Heather Stoven
Ruth Estrada
Tom Canales
Carol Parks
Terry Hart
Pat Fritz
Marilyn MacGregor
Nancy Woodworth
Linda Mason
Cathy Burdett
Gene Nesbitt
Rita Canales
Sue Nesbitt
Susanne Beukema
Ruth Estrada

Secretary’s notes for July: Susanne motioned the notes for July be approved, Rita seconded, and no one objected.

Treasurer’s Report: Carol sent all the financial documents by email. In 2017 YCMGA received an award of $500 for the Seed-to-Supper program that was not used in 2017. Because we work on a yearly basis, the amount could not be transferred in QuickBooks to 2018. Tom motioned that the $500 be added to 2018 budget, Susanne seconded, and it was okayed. Pat reminded everyone to look at the budget for 2018, and see if the amounts allotted to each committee are accurate. If not, committee chairs should be prepared to make their case at the planning meeting next month.

President-elect report: Rita had nothing to report, though she did check to be absolutely sure that Pat does not want to be president next year. Sadly for Rita, Pat does not want the job again.

Heather Report: Heather credited the mentoring committee with helping push trainees to earn their hours. More veterans are needed to work the office desk when raw trainees are there, but by this time of year intakes are rare items. At the moment, the intakes consist of one spider waiting patiently in a jar. Therefore MG’s are requested to create some intakes, bringing anything we can find. Jade has designed fliers for the new upcoming classes, which will begin on 1/10. People are asked to distribute the fliers, and someone is needed to sort intakes and tally totals (per month, per subject, etc.).

Announcements: Pat announced the names of the MG’s who received awards at the G2 conference. From First Federal YCMGA received $276. this year for volunteer hours. Good, but this is the first year we got less than $500. Also, 4 people received scholarships to G2 this year.

Education/Outreach Committee: The Community Garden open house was very successful; the ice cream social on 8-11 was well-organized, but sadly attendance was minimal. The clematis tour was also successful, but only 4 people attended. Heather will be doing a presentation on the Northwest Plant Evaluation Program on 11/07. (This is the European plant search she and Neil Bell are doing).

Community Garden: There were 8 attendees at the “Raised Bed Organic Gardening” class at the Community Garden for G2. Linfield’s first class of volunteers worked in the Garden in August, harvesting of fresh produce to date is 14,268 pounds, and volunteerism at the garden has been amazing, and included many of the trainees. Spinach and lettuce have been planted in the greenhouse, and fall/winter vegetables are planted in the garden (including garlic for next year). Work now is focused on cleaning and preparing the garden for winter.

Fairgrounds Demonstration Garden: Gail is avidly seeking someone to be the leader for the garden. Gail wants to only help from now on. Ideas could be taken from the gardens in Lane and Douglas counties as both have outstanding gardens. Possibly responsibility for beds could be divided among people, but there would have to be a “Water Master” as well. Gene suggested the educational part for trainees: all this will be discussed at the annual planning meeting.

McMinville Farmers’ Market: The market is finished for this year. At the planning meeting we can discuss setup/takedown, and if the short season is acceptable.

Newberg Farmers’ Market: Attendance and vendors at the market are still shrinking. Peter and Ruth run the booth at the market, which is more than enough personnel.

Scholarship Committee: Carol informed us that the “problem” of one judge, which had been an issue at the last meeting, was not a problem because there are 3 judges. There is no protocol for scholarships for Seed-to-Supper nor for SIG. All trainees who helped at SIG received free admission to it. G2 scholarships were given to those who asked for it (2 people). Rita suggested that scholarships for SIG become a budget
item. According to the MG manual every trainee gets free admission to G2, and Marcia decides who gets the scholarships for Master Gardener training. However, the scholarship committee will probably take over that task. In fact, it is going to happen because Susanne motioned, Tom seconded, and everyone agreed that it become a committee duty.

**Web/Publicity:** All is quiet on the website. Paying for the website is a biennial affair.

**Seed-to-Supper:** There are presently 4 classes, with one more possible. Marilyn is helping coordinate, and Spanish-speakers are still needed. There are 19 new beds to build, and procurement of 20 containers, so Rita kindly motioned that S-S receive $1000 this year for that project; Tom seconded, and the board agreed. Donation of 25-gallon pots would be very nice.

**Perennial Propagation:** Everyone is welcome to help on transplanting, Tuesday at 9:00. A fence is needed for the Wiser Pavilion, and we were warned to NOT bring in any pots. (No more needed). **Plant Sale committee** is still dormant but will come back to life in December.

**Annual Propagation Committee** will come back to life in November.

**“Spring into Gardening” Committee:** Another co-chair is needed as now Becky is the only one. Rita made it brutally clear she is NOT a co-chair, and Gene really is eager to get out. He described the committee as “mature,” meaning it in a pleasant way in that it runs very smoothly. Next meeting is in November, and we were pressured to look aggressively for a “volunteer” to be co-chair.

**Resource Manual Committee:** The manual is now on an OSU resource-sharing document so that it can be edited at will. It is now basically complete and being proofread and “streamlined.” Finished product is needed by December first, which will happen. Pat will check it when finished, and then it will be in PDF format on the website, printed only as needed.

**OMGA:** Friday and Saturday of this week the OMGA representatives will be traveling to Corvallis. Tonia is unable to come, but Donn will go instead (but just as décor).

**Mentoring:** MG’s are cordially invited to join the mentoring committee. There are 4 people on it now, and they’re meeting on September 18th. They will be updating the mentor manual and schedule. Rosemary has been successful in her recruitment efforts: she has 3 new mentors and 5 alternates. Presentations by committee chairs are desired, and will be planned for this year.

**Unfinished business:** We discussed changing the line item for added expenses from $50 to $100 last board meeting, but didn’t finalize it. Scholarships should be on a first-come, first-served basis (dependent on the budget); mileage reimbursement for OMGA reps. will go from $.30 per mile to $.50 per mile, and daily per diem will go from $100 to $200 for any trip in excess of 150 miles from McMinnville. Tom moved to validate these changes, Rita seconded the motion, and the board agreed.

**As a Welcome Side Note** Sue informed us that the name of “G2”, formerly “Mini-College,” will be changed again because of the complete obliqueness and confusion of the “G2” moniker.

**BOD Candidate Nomination Committee:** Nancy is working on it with help to come from Tom and Donn.

**Plant Sale Tag Update:** Rita has the machine and materials, and passed around sample tags she has made. Masters of the tags will be kept in a database, and for once there actually are enough people volunteering to make the original tag masters. A dedicated laptop is needed to make the tags (and which would be kept at all times in the Master Gardener office). Susanne motioned that $1000 be used for purchase of a laptop: Carol seconded the motion, and the whole board agreed (as we always seem to do).

**Fall Budget Meeting:** (Formerly known by the deceptively glamorous designation of “Fall Retreat,” which it certainly never was.) It will be October 27th: be prepared with any new ideas, budget items, and perceived problems. Keep in mind that it will be potluck.

**Carol motioned for adjournment at 11:52, Susanne seconded, and no one even took the time to agree to it.**
The Grapevine is published monthly by the Yamhill County OSU Extension Office in cooperation with the Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association, 2050 Lafayette Avenue, McMinnville, OR 97128-9333. (503) 434-7517.

For free subscription by email, send request to above address.

General meetings of the Yamhill County Master Gardeners™ Association are announced in this newsletter and are open to the public.

Contributors vary by monthly edition.

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http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/

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