

**Yamhill
County
Master
Gardeners**

**December
2016**

The Grapevine

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

At the Master Gardener graduation ceremony on Dec. 14,
we will be voting for next year's Board of Directors.

President

OMGA Rep.

President-Elect

OMGA Alternate Rep.

Secretary

(2) Members at Large

Treasurer

Please contact Polly Blum, Rita Canales, or Nancy Woodworth to nominate someone.

LEARN ALL ABOUT YCMGA



Remember to access the YCMGA website for any information about our organization. Here is the link to the website: you might want to add this to your list of bookmarks, as well.

<https://ycmga.secure.omnis.com/>



IN THIS ISSUE...

- *Pleas for help* 1
- *Buggy Bits* 2
- *YCMGA calendar* 3
- *Garden rodents* 4
- *Coffee grounds* 5
- *Book Nook* 6
- *Community Garden* 7
- *Invasives!* 8, 9
- *Filaree & tree "feelings"* 10
- *Heather's Highlight* 11
- *Board minutes* 12, 13
- *Our future* 14, 15

The **Educational Outreach Committee** is looking for new committee members for 2017. This committee arranges outside speakers for presentations to our members, as well as to the public. We coordinate outreach clinics at businesses such as Wilco, Kraemer's and Fred Meyer. We also plan the monthly Educational/Social events (half an hour educational plus half an hour unstructured social time) for members.

Our next meeting is Dec. 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., which will be a wrap-up of 2016 and a time for the **introduction of new ideas for 2017.**

*Please contact **Rita Canales** or **Nancy Woodworth** if you would like more information.*

Please Join Us December 7th!

Bob
Grossmann's



Buggy Bits

Winter Doldrums

The gardening period for this year is over, the crops are in, our freezers are full of the produce we raised. It's time to relax and think about next year's endeavors in tilling the land. Planning ahead for next year is the gardener's joyful winter chore. What crops should I raise in the garden? What crops are insect resistant? What insects will I tolerate and which plants might set off a horde of six-legged creatures and other pests on my property?



We must remember that many insects and pests will be in some sort of resting stage now. Some over-winter in the pupa or co-conoon stage, like cutworms,

flea beetles and cabbage butterflies. Others diapause (that's a fancy name for the resting stage during winter) as eggs. Still others spend their time in the off-season as adults in secure safe places.

We all know that ladybird beetles and box-elder bugs hibernate, since we see them getting ready for that process in October of each year. How many reports do we get about the myriads of these creatures on and in houses in the MG office every year? A lot!

Some caterpillars also hibernate. Consider the woolly bear caterpillars. You know—those brown and black banded fuzzy little guys you see crossing the roads, crawling around our

yards, and in general going hell-bent for somewhere. They actually are just looking for a good, sheltered place to spend the winter. In spring, they resume activity and eat heartily to gain energy before they spin up a co-conoon and finally become a moth.

Another method of winter survival calls for drastic measures. Hornets, for example, allow all the workers to die off during the winter. The lone survivor is the mated queen. She finds a shelter from the elements for the winter. On my property it seems to be my garage! In spring, she begins building a new nest and, because she is still fertile, begins to construct a nest and lays eggs to form new workers. She finds food and tends the larvae until the workers emerge and reciprocate, taking care of her.

Insect lives are as varied as the soap operas on TV. Actually they are a lot more interesting than any of those shows, with truly real-life situations. The insect dramas go on year after year! Never a dull moment! Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in the Extension Office next year!



Yamhill County Master Gardener Calendar

December, 2016

December

7 **Education/outreach Committee meeting:** 10:00 a.m., PW Auditorium. *All members encouraged to attend, contribute ideas for 2017.*

14 **YCMGA Board meeting, Graduation Ceremony, Awards, and Election of 2017 officers;** Heritage Center on Hwy. 18.

Board Meeting begins at 5:00 p.m.

Graduation Ceremony and activities from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

January

5 **2017 Master Gardener classes begin:** 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Public Works Auditorium. *All members invited to attend.*

JACKFRUIT!

Grown mostly in southeast Asia, this mammoth fruit is an important food source in many countries. One mulberry-like tree will yield 100 to 200 fruits, often weighing 80 pounds each! (Had Isaac Newton sat under a jackfruit tree instead of an apple, we would have no Theory of Gravity).

Slightly sweet but otherwise bland, these fruits are used in nearly every kind of food imaginable: cooked or raw, in jam, juice, as a candy paste, as pastry filling, for flour, as soup or hard candy, canned in its own syrup or frozen. The texture and taste are compared to chicken.

Even the wood is unusual: it is termite-proof and considered better than teak for furniture and musical instruments; monks use the heartwood to make dye. Because of its versatility the fruit is also becoming more popular in the West, particularly in restaurants.



Insect Committee will resume meetings in late March or early April.

Most Saturdays: OSU Gardening Radio program "[To the Root of It](#)", 9:00 a.m., on radio station KLYC 1260 AM with Ray Van Blaricom and Sharon Dietrichson

UNUSUAL GARDEN VISITORS: PART I

In the last few weeks I have found eight species of rodent-like creatures in my garden. Five of them are the typical ones we all encounter, like the Deer Mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) pictured. However three of them are new to me. Sure I have studied them, but I have never seen them in the wild. So I thought I would do a three-part

Shrew Mole is the smallest species of Talpid in the world, measuring less than 5 centimeters and weighing only about 10 grams. Found in the U.S. from northern California to British Columbia, these adorable underground dwellers have smaller front paws than most other moles and a furry tail that is slightly wide and about half as long as the body.



Common Deer Mouse & Gardener's Hand

series on these unusual visitors.

Townsend's Moles (*Scapanus townsendii*) are the bane of many a gardener and a familiar site in Oregon yards. They belong to the family *Talpidae*. A couple of weeks ago I thought I found two baby Townsend's moles but on closer examination I could see that they were American Shrew Moles (*Neurotrichus gibbsii*).

They are the only member of the genus *Neurotrichus*. Their fur is similar to that of shrews but their large head is like a mole. The American

They prefer soils that are moist, rich in organic material and are easy to dig in. And while they are mostly found in our temperate rainforests here in the northwest, they can be found in gardens that have similar soil conditions. That is most likely why I have been seeing them this fall. For the first few years, I did not buy any plants – I spent that time amending my soil. That included not raking up the

leaves that fell to the ground from the large trees that came with the house. The shrew moles were most likely living in the riparian forest to the south of my lawn and moved in after finding the

Two Shrew Moles
(nose at top, tails
at bottom of photo)



conditions favorable.

They make a permanent tunnel network with burrows that are rarely deeper than 30 centimeters. In these tunnels the oxygen level is often low and the carbon dioxide level high so they have large capacity lungs to compensate. Females will have several litters of one to four young that weigh approximately one gram at birth.

The American Shrew Mole feeds on worms, snails, slugs, small salamanders and insects and is capable of climbing vegetation to get their prey. They will also feed on mycorrhizal fungi.

So the next time you think you see a mole, stop and see if it has a long furry tail. It just might be an American Shrew Mole.



Michael O'Laughlin

GROUNDS IN YOUR GROUND

Some Information about Coffee Grounds



Coffee grounds are about 2% nitrogen by volume. Grounds are not acidic: the acid in coffee is water-soluble so the acid is mostly in the coffee. Coffee grounds are close to pH neutral (between 6.5 - 6.8 pH). They also contain phosphorus and potassium, plus some magnesium, copper, and calcium. In fact, 25% to 35% coffee grounds in planting soil will supply enough of these elements for most plants.

Improving soil tilth or structure (after being mixed into the soil), grounds are an excellent nitrogen source for composting, having a C/N ratio of 20/1. And, they are a slow-release fertilizer, thus encouraging healthy plant growth and preventing burning.

In informal trials Compost Specialists found sustained temperatures of 140 to 160 degrees Fahrenheit for up to two weeks (when coffee grounds were 25% of the material in the compost pile by volume).

How Do You Use Coffee Grounds?

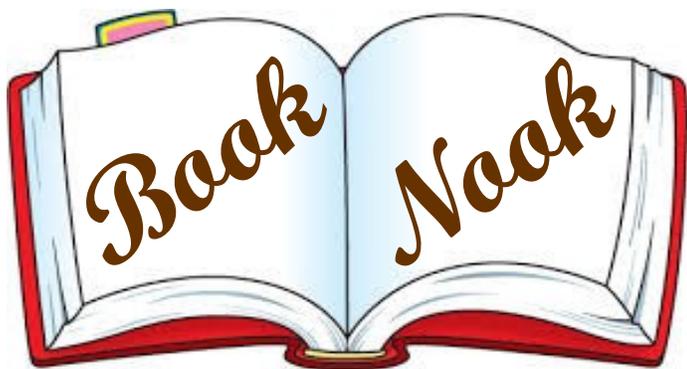


Spread the coffee grounds directly on the soil. Cultivate into the soil. If left to dry out they can repel water in much the same way as peat moss that becomes dry.

Spread on the soil and cover with leaves or compost or bark mulch. Incorporate directly into the soil, mixing in well, or lightly cultivating into the soil. Add to the compost pile by layering the ingredients using 1/3 leaves, 1/3 fresh grass clippings and 1/3 coffee grounds.

Add coffee grounds as part of a static compost pile, being sure to always add an equivalent amount of a carbon source such as

"Coffee Grounds" (continued on page 11)



December for Master Gardeners usually means thinking about graduation and preparing for next year's class. For the Library Committee, it means taking inventory of all our books. Our Library is said to be one of the best in the state! Because we are a Reference Library, it should be a no-brainer that all the books are there. Several years ago, when I first took the Chair position, we were missing over twenty books a year! Now, we rarely have a problem in that department.

We have a unique cataloging system that shelves books alphabetically by title. Doing inventory the first couple years was hectic. Books were out of order and hard to count. We added shelf markers (actually ping-pong paddles) and joyfully books were being put back where they belong and keeping track of them became easier. Also, monthly monitoring of the order also helped.

Here's a big thanks to all who use the Library and respect the standards we have set to keep the Library running smoothly!

December is also a holiday gift season. For readers, giving and receiving books is sharing adventures, experiences, personalities and total escapism. I love a good mystery. For those of you who like to escape to gardening mysteries, here's a quick list/guide to some of my favorite authors and sleuths:

- *Susan Wittig Albert*: China Bayles. She's an ex-attorney who owns an



herb store in the Texas Hill Country.

- *Kate Collins*: Abby Knight. Set in Indiana, she owns Bloomer's Florist Shop.
- *Anthony Eglin*: Lawrence Kingston. He's a British professor of botany.
- *Rosemary Harris*: Paula Holliday. Set in the Connecticut suburbs, she is a transplanted media executive who starts her own gardening business.
- *Janis Harrison*: Brett Solomon. She owns a floral shop in Missouri.
- *Joyce & Jim Lavene*: Peggy Lee. Her home is North Carolina and she's a forensic botanist and garden shop owner.
- *Ann Ripley*: Louise Etheridge. She hosts a PBS gardening show, while her husband works for the State Dept. They live in Virginia.
- *Heather Webber*: Nancy Quinn. She owns a landscaping company which specializes in "surprise garden make-overs."

There are also lots of other books that fit the bill. Included in these are Agatha Christie's Murder at the Vicarage, and Nemesis. Barbara Michaels has Vanish With The Rose. Ellis Peters has his whole Brother Cadfael series. Dorothy Sayers has Busman's Holiday, and Phyllis Whitney has Hunter's Green.

December is also a time for reflection. We evaluate the past year, make plans for next year, and plow through the holidays. So with this in mind, may Santa bring what you wish for. Hot cocoa and cozy mysteries are on my list.



COMMUNITY GARDEN OVERVIEW

Here is a brief overview of the history and accomplishments in the Community Garden. Taken from Alan Wenner's slideshow presented at the YCMGA retreat.

Garden Goals

- ⇒ To provide facilities for Yamhill County residents to **grow their own food**.
- ⇒ To **provide fresh produce** to YCAP to feed the hungry
- ⇒ To provide a **Children's' garden** for any group
- ⇒ To provide an **organic educational garden** for any group
- ⇒ To provide **accessible beds** for physically-challenged gardeners
- ⇒ To provide tools, supplies, and instruction to all garden members

Garden Timeline

It all began with Children's' Beds, with no irrigation, in an open field. There was almost no income; only some tomato plants were raised for donation to YCAP.

- 2013: Discontinued relationship with the former community garden.
- 2014: Built 8' tall deer-proof fence and added gates; grew a few tomatoes
- 2015: Built first raised beds; installed under-ground drip irrigation; installed ground cover in aisles; built compost bins; herb garden in production.
- 2016: Major expansion with new shed, new gate, accessible beds, greenhouse and 38 new raised beds, plus heavy fabric and then cedar chips on main aisles.
- 2017: Planned expansion with 40 more new raised beds, plus drip irrigation.
- 2018: Planning another 40 new raised beds

2019; Expansion complete: garden is now self-funding



Flowers grown for sale to florist

Accomplishments

In addition to the expansion, we also:

1. Harvested and delivered over 14,000 pounds of produce to YCAP food bank.
2. Hosted educational groups, including YCMGA Mini-College
3. Collected and delivered all green waste to Recology for green composting.
4. Started double-cropping the raised beds.
5. Made the garden weed-and-grass-free for year-round gardening.
6. We now have about 40 gardeners and volunteers involved with the garden.

Alan Wenner



The Invasives!

WHAT MAKES AN INVASIVE?

Invasive weeds are plants that have been introduced into an environment outside of their native range. In their new environment, they have few or no natural enemies to limit their reproduction and spread, and so they invade. Noxious weeds are invasives that have been legally designated as serious pests because they cause economic loss or harm the environment (and in fact, nearly all invasives cause one or both of these types of damages). *Why care about invasive weeds?*

Invasive weeds reduce not only crop yield, but also crop quality. In Oregon, cleaning of seed crops contaminated by invasive weed seeds represents a major cost of production, and of course these impacts are eventually passed on to consumers. In the grass seed industry here in the Willamette Valley weed control is one of the major expenses of production.

Even more important to us as Master Gardeners is the fact that invasive weeds reduce biodiversity and displace native plant and wildlife species. Invasive weeds are considered to be the **second most important threat to biodiversity.**

after habitat destruction. Two-thirds of all endangered plant and animal species are threatened by nonnative competitors, and in many areas of the Pacific Northwest invasive weeds such as yellow starthistle and cheat-grass now grow in monoculture (solid stands) on ground that was previously diverse and productive in plant species and wildlife.

These weeds also reduce land values. The value of cropland often is reduced by invasive species such as leafy spurge and Himalayan blackberry. In Klamath County, Oregon, for example, leafy spurge is so prolific in some areas that cropland has been abandoned. This in turn inhibits recreational activities and tourism.

WARNING

SEVERE NATIVE HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION

Invasive weeds such as gorse and Himalayan blackberry even act as physical barriers that prevent the use of land for recreational activities. (We all know what it's like to have blackberries running rampant in our back yard!)

Other impacts are the impeding of water flow, reducing water availability, and increasing soil erosion. Purple loosestrife, for example, impedes water flow in irrigation canals and streams, thus reducing the amount of water available for irrigation and increasing the risk of flooding. Many other invasives deplete water resources used by native plants and wildlife, simply by consuming rare water supplies.

Saltcedar (tamarisk), for example, can use up to 200 gallons of water per day. This means that dried brush and grass greatly increase the

chance (and the intensity) of wildfires. Dormant or senesced invasive weeds provide fuel for wildfires: cheatgrass, (downy brome) increases fire frequency of from once every 60 years, to once every 3 to 5 years.

Restoration and fire management in cheat-grass-dominated lands cost taxpayers millions of dollars per year. In 1936, gorse provided the primary fuel source for a fire that burned the town of Bandon, Oregon. Gorse is highly flammable and grows in densely populated coastal areas where property values are high.

Some invasive weeds are toxic to animals and humans. Several invasive weeds are not only unpalatable to livestock, but also can be toxic. The milky sap of leafy spurge, which dominates a large portion of pasture and rangeland in the western U.S., irritates cattle's eyes, mouth, and digestive tract. Tansy ragwort is prolific in pastures, and slowly destroys the livers of horses and cattle who eat it, causing their death.

Invasive weeds that are poisonous to humans are not uncommon. Giant hogweed, a weed found in residential areas, and Japanese knotweed, ironically were introduced as ornamentals. Unfortunately, the sap is an irritant that, when combined with exposure to sunlight, causes severe skin blistering.

Why are some nonnative plants invasive, while others are not? The most successful invasive weeds share quite a few biological characteristics:

- Specialized adaptations for spreading long distances by seed
- Seed dormancy that ensures germination and growth in environmental conditions that favor survival and reproduction
- Prolific reproductive capabilities—both as seed and as vegetative tissue (roots, rhizomes, etc.)
- Long seed life in soil or water

- Rapid early growth and expansion of a root system
- Rapid and early maturation
- Tolerance of low resource levels (e.g., nutrients and water)
- Absorption of excessive levels of nutrients and water that otherwise would be used by neighboring plants
- Genetic and environmental adaptability that ensures survival in a variety of climate, soil, and environmental conditions
- Ability to adapt to management strategies (e.g., to develop resistance to herbicides)

You probably noticed: invasive plants are the healthiest, fastest-growing, most "successful" plants of all!

Clearly, it is best to control these weeds as soon as they are seen, to prevent costly infestations. And since almost all invasive weeds have been introduced to their areas by human activity, being aware of them and careful not to spread them is vital.

Resources: USDA; Invasive Species Council; USC IPM program; US Forest Service; et.al.



Compiled/edited by Donn Callaham



PESKY PROFILES



By Heather Stoven

Red Stem Filaree

As you are dodging raindrops in your garden this winter take a minute or two to look down at the green below your feet and you may spot this winter weed.

The red stem filaree is an attractive small weed that is in bloom in disturbed areas now. It has fern-like leaves and pink flowers with five pink petals. The flowers look like a geranium since this weed is in the geranium family. Red stem filaree grows as a prostrate rosette.

The fruit of this plant is interesting in that it is long, narrow and needle-like and when humidity changes this seed can coil and loosen to drill itself into the soil. Just another of the interesting adaptation strategies that

plants have so that they can survive!

For more information:

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/WEEDS/filarees.html>



Trees Defend Themselves

Immobile and unintelligent, trees would seem utterly defenseless against deer and other animals that devour their leaves and snap their branches. But don't be fooled: they know how to fight back.

Researchers in Germany have found that wild maple and beech trees have evolved complex survival strategies to protect themselves, reports *The Washington Post*. Say, when their boughs break (perhaps because of a disease or gnawing insects) the trees release chemicals (called "jasmonates") that help them recover and also serve as a kind of alarm. If one tree sets off these "wound hormones" its neighbors do the same.

The German team noted that beeches and maples can also recognize specific threats and mount tailored defenses against them. After simulating grazing roe deer by snipping branches and dripping deer saliva on some leaves, the researchers discovered the trees produced bitter-tasting tannins to make their leaves less appetizing to foragers, and released the hormone salicylic acid, which promotes new growth. But if a bud or leaf snaps off *without* the deer being involved, the tree stimulates neither its production of the salicylic acid signal hormone, nor the tannic substances.



The Washington Post, week of 9/30/16

Heather's Highlights

I am very excited that the highlight of our Master Gardener season – the awards and graduation ceremony, is almost upon us! I hope to see all of you on December 14th to

recognize the achievements of many of our Yamhill County MG's!

This year we have 11 graduating class members and over 60 recertifying MG's. We will also recognize various awards from volunteer hours to achievement to one-of-a-kind awards. Come celebrate with us at **The Yamhill Valley Heritage Center** with the pot-luck dinner starting at **6 pm** (YCMGA board meeting is prior at 5 pm). I am looking forward to seeing you all and recognizing the achievements and volunteer service of our wonderful Yamhill County Master Gardeners!



"Coffee Grounds" (continued from page 5)

shredded paper or dry leaves. Mix together well. Coffee grounds are not a nitrogen fertilizer. In a germination test coffee grounds were mixed with potting soil at a ratio of 25% by volume. Lettuce seeds showed

A free slow-release fertilizer and soil amendment...

poor rates of germination and stunted growth compared to lettuce seeds planted in potting mix without coffee grounds. So, if incorporating coffee grounds directly into the soil, add a nitrogen fertilizer at the same time to compensate.

This is because coffee grounds encourage the growth of microorganisms in the soil, which use nitrogen for their growth and reproduction. While the grounds are being broken down by the microorganisms the additional nitrogen in the fertilizer will provide a source of nutrients for your plants. Paper coffee filters may also be added to the compost pile as a carbon source. Shred or tear them to speed decomposition.

Finally, coffee grounds do not "go bad". For future use store them in a regular plastic trash container near your compost bin or pile.

Sources: OSU Extension; Sunset.com; Puyallup Research & Extension Center



Nancy Woodworth



McDonald's® serves a lot of coffee. We would love to find a new life for our used grounds in your garden, instead of a landfill. Used coffee grounds can help to add nutrients to your garden or compost.

For more information on McCafé sustainability and sourcing, scan the QR Code or go to www.mcdonalds.com/usa/ourcoffee

Poster for "McDonalds" recycling

Yamhill County Master Gardeners Association

Executive Board & 2017 Planning Minutes for November 12, 2016

Meeting was called to order by Pat Fritz at 9:10 a.m. on above date.

Approval of Minutes for October was postponed, as the minutes needed to be displayed on our website before approval. It is now on the website and has been emailed to the board and can be approved in December.

Treasurer's report: Carol Parks has emailed the rough draft budget to applicable members, and Secretary possesses a hard copy. Carol emphasizes that this is a draft, as many changes were made to the finances today.

President-elects' Report: When asked for their report, Nancy and Rita (co-presidents-elect) just stared silently at each other for a rather long time. They then agreed with each other that they had nothing to report.

Correspondence: President Pat summarized a lengthy message from the Yamhill County Fair Board. It began with thanks for plants supplied by Master Gardeners, but the meat of it was a "community service request" from the board. They are asking YCMGA to, essentially, do all the work on all the plantings at the fairgrounds. (The original agreement 2 years ago was for YCMGA to plan and plant, and the fair and jail staff do irrigation, weeding, and other maintenance). They now request that we do all the work. Our reply will be a polite "NO." To temper the tone of the reply, our president will write them a letter suggesting a number of organizations which might be capable and willing to help. But we won't. This of course does not affect the demonstration gardens at the fairgrounds. Another communication was from the Benton County Master Gardener Association, asking for the mailing list for all YCMGA members. They would like to use this to inform us of their upcoming events. Jade will email their information to us.

Education/Outreach: There will be a planning meeting for this committee on December 7th, and all Master Gardeners are welcome. The committee is in charge of many educational events, all clinics, social events, and field trips. They would like any ideas from members as to activities members would like. The committee will plan the trips, and David Christie will make all the contacts. They have decided to have less clinics at the busiest times of year, and to not have 2 or more clinics on the same day. The last informational/social event (Oregon Flora Project on 10/20) was very successful, with attendance at 21 people.

McMinnville Community Garden: Linda Mason reported that the volunteers are trying to finish up for the year, and that the Linfield student volunteers are getting a lot done. They have planted 4000 starts now, and donated 14,142 pounds of produce (including winter vegetables) to YCAP. They are also working with Seed-to-Supper to supply raised beds for some of the Seed-to-Supper families who want to begin their own gardens.

OMGA representatives report: Several YCMGA members attended a leadership forum sponsored by OMGA recently. At this forum, an attorney who specializes in non-profits presented information and answered questions. Since there is no mini-college this year, OMGA is Asking for members to give input on whether or not there *should* be a mini-college, and if so what we think it should consist of. We are reminded that November 15 is the deadline for the *Gardener's Pen* newsletter, and Marcia is asking for members to write some articles for it. Gail Langelloto reported that for the international conference in Portland the motels are filling quickly. OMGA reserved blocks of rooms in various hotels, and some of those blocks are already sold out. Not too surprisingly, as the blocks fill the prices on remaining rooms rise substantially. The moral is: if you want a room, book it now! Finally, the OMGA positions of

secretary and historian are vacant; contact Sue Nesbitt if you know of someone who may be interested (including yourself).

The Web: Tom recently posted the updated (2014) bylaws and articles of association on our website. Policies and Procedures will soon be added, and there will be a "Spring Into Gardening" Paypal website also. He urged people not to get too excited, because as soon as YCMGA is incorporated, all the official documents will be obsolete, and new ones issued.

Spring into Gardening: Per Rita, this event is nearing complete organization, with only the list of official sponsors remaining to be done. All of the classes have been planned, and the instructors procured. An advertising poster has been made, and will be published as soon as the sponsor list is complete. Right now Rita is trying to obtain biographical information on all the speakers. This committee will meet at the end of November, and Tom was informed very clearly that he *would* be attending.

Seeds-to-Supper: Gene was not in attendance at this part of the meeting. Pat reported that the focus of the committee right now is in finding host agencies for the program in each participating town. McMinnville and Newberg classes are planned, but Willamina does not yet have enough participants.

Mentoring Committee: Committee co-chairs were listed as Lynn Pollock, Eileen McBride, and Sue Nesbitt. However, Sue is not a co-chair: it is supposed to be Terry instead. The notebooks for new members and mentors are almost finished, as is the Resource Manual. Posters and displays are needed (to be exhibited at the classes this winter/spring). The exhibits should help clarify the roles of Master Gardeners, and the various ways people can be involved. Veterans are strongly encouraged to attend the classes (as many of us already do) to show the trainees the purpose and comradery of Master Gardeners, and how we can be surprisingly friendly and inviting. Also needed are vets to work at the MG desk alongside trainees, to help dampen the trainees' fears of inadequacy.

Newberg High School Horticulture Program: Losing the use of the Newberg greenhouse if we don't supply enough help is no longer the scythe swinging above YCMGA heads. BUT, more MG's are needed to help more often. Patti strongly recommends that we come on field trips with the students, not just to help but because they are fascinating trips to places the general public never gets to see. She will supply field trip dates and destinations in time for publication in the *Grapevine* to give people enough notice to be able to participate.

Nomination (of new officers) Committee: Rita, Nancy, and Polly have completed their job, so that there are nominees now for every position. Of course, new nominees may still be offered right up until the voting.

Plant Sale: This year the Community Garden will not be holding a plant sale at their location, but instead will be selling vegetable plants in gallons at the MG Plant Sale. All the proceeds from the sales will go to Master Gardeners (not the Community Garden). The immediate question was, "What does the Community Garden get out of it?" Alan's only answer was, "You'll find out." Later, though, he presented a detailed PowerPoint about the Community Garden and its history. To replace their annual plant sale, the Gardeners will raise "super-veggies" in gallon containers to be sold at premium prices at the Annual YCMGA plant sale. Both staffs will work together, sharing resources. In return, the Garden is asking for a grant from YCMGA. Linda mentioned that the Plant Sale Committee needs to meet soon (tba) to determine what plants to grow. Greenhouse help will definitely be needed.

Plaques Needed: A plaque needs to be made to honor Greenlands as a major sponsor, as is done every year for one business. Plaques for "Golden Trowel" award (to be given at graduation) also need to be made. Apryl motioned that the Golden Trowel award be given annually from now on, and



Tom seconded that. Tom and Donn both offered to make the plaques (except for engraving): one plaque for the recipient, and another to hang permanently in the Extension Office. After dozens of suggestions of what the plaque should include, the topic was left for the artisans (Tom and Donn) to decide.

The Liability/Legality Issue: YCMGA, now, is an Unincorporated Volunteer Organization, also known (logically) as a UVO. It is not a legal entity, and so must incorporate. Cost will be \$175 for the "easy" form, plus approx. 8 lawyer hours. Bylaws and Articles of the Association must be rewritten: YCMGA will become an independent 501c (versus being a part of OMG as a 501c). We must be incorporated to have the plant sale, sign a contract with Yamhill County Fairgrounds, buy liability insurance, and do banking. This is expected to be accomplished by January 2017. Anna motioned that Pat, Linda, Carol, Apryl, and Sylvia be authorized to move forward on this and to pay necessary fees. Apryl seconded the motion.

Audit: Audit will be in January 2017, performed by Pat, Nancy, Rita, and Linda Coakley. Tom motioned to end the meeting, but Anna suggested we obtain magnetic nameplate holders for members. She plans to buy the magnetics, then resell them to members (at a minimal markup, we assume).

And now, on to our Future!

Changes in recertification credits: Heather spent some time explaining the new requirements (published in the October *Grapevine*) that Oregon State has mandated. A "Conditions of Volunteer Service" form will be mailed to every Master Gardener along with the annual dues renewal notice. Confusion has resulted from some of the terminology used: an emotional and lengthy discussion followed, so Heather plans to meet individually with committee members to jointly determine how to classify every activity (for accreditation credits). Basically, it comes down to a requirement of 10 hours *attending* educational events, and 20 hours of other activities. Heather also emphasized that:

- * It is critical that we staff our clinic desk (in the office) reliably and adequately.
- * This year will be "monitor-and-adjust" period, a time to make decisions and organize credit-earning.
- * All Master Gardeners are welcome to talk with Heather regarding these requirements and changes.
- * Processes are open to discussion: Heather will make reasonable adjustments for specific circumstances.
- * As Master Gardeners, we need to and should continue active learning as much as possible, both to improve ourselves and for professionalism in representing the Master Gardener organization.

Cathy reminded everyone that we are very fortunate to have the kind of director who gives us freedom to try things out and make adjustments. Our branch of the Master Gardeners is run in a truly democratic fashion, in contrast to chapters which are structured rigidly and do not allow for change and adaptation.

And for people concerned that it would be difficult to accumulate 10 hours of learning, Alan invited them to come to the Community Garden, where he would subject them to *at least* 10 hours of education.



Clinic Desk Staffing: Gene and Heather both are concerned that the MG desk at the Extension Office be staffed consistently. As of now it is quite random, and often there is no one there when there are intakes to be processed. This function is one of the core responsibilities of the MG's, and strongly reflects our professionalism (or lack of it). We are planning to staff the office with 2 people at a time (preferably a veteran and a trainee), each putting in a half-day shift. April through July bring in the most intakes by a large margin, with August through September second in volume. In the off months, one day of staffing per week should be sufficient. Fridays and Mondays are the most important: intakes from the

Farmers' Market should be processed every Friday. Our association processed 700 intakes last year, and that does not include all the informal contacts at various clinics. Patti suggested we might have a "satellite station" in Newberg, which Newberg residents could staff perhaps one day per week. Another call for "Desk Captains" was issued, this time with positive results! Eileen and Becky Karver (a 2016 trainee) have volunteered to share the job.

Community Garden Presentation by Alan was shown and discussed. A summary of the presentation is in the December *Grapevine* (page 7) to allow for more detail.

Budget Discussions: Rita needs \$150 to broadcast our events to everyone in the area (on Facebook), which people agreed would be well worth it. Donn requested about \$50. to buy 2 whiteboards, as he intends to build a new stand-alone double-sided whiteboard for the Farmers' Market clinics. Legal fees of about 8 hours (\$2400), a \$500 marketing increase, EOC requested \$250 but was allotted \$1000, Seeds-to-Supper \$750, Mentoring \$300, and an \$800 increase for SIG all tentatively approved.

The entire group went through the budget line by line, including next years' budgeted amounts. As we went, numbers were adjusted (*tentatively only*) to reflect new needs and changes in expenses and income. After the discussion Anna calculated the adjusted tentative numbers at 2:11p.m. and came up with income of \$35,155 but expenses of \$41, 010. Obviously, more adjustments will be made. Sue suggested we wait to make changes, but track the budget closely quarterly (rather than annually) and thus make adjustments all during the year. Also, OMGA experience has been that spending is always less than what has been budgeted. We did decide to commit today to \$3500 for the Community Garden, in addition to their \$1500 budget (for a total of \$5000). Linda moved to make the quarterly adjustments official, and Rita seconded the motion. Members voted "yes."

And that was it: The meeting was adjourned by President Pat at 2:19 p.m.

Donn Callaham, Secretary

November 12th, 2016

"ETERNAL" GRAPEVINE DEADLINE

**Please remember the 22nd of every month is the
"Grapevine" deadline**



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The Grapevine

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.

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