

# The Grapevine



The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners

December 2017

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Photos plus awards listed for Yamhill Master Gardeners (page 14)

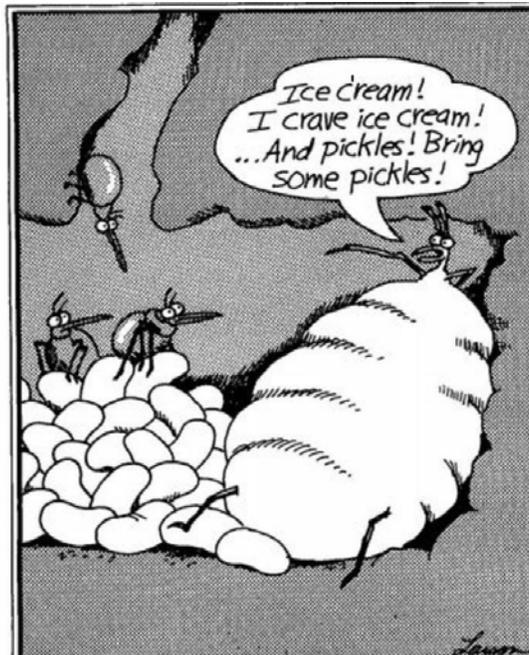
**NEW YCMGA REQUIREMENTS (P.11)**

**THE UGLY SIDE OF YOUR KITTY! (4)**

**LOTS OF MASTER GARDENER PHOTOS!**

**NEW MASTSER GARDENERS OF 2017!**

**NEW YCMGA OFFICERS REVEALED!**



The Termite Queen in her egg chamber

**WE ARE SEEKING** much more input from **YOU**, our Yamhill county gardeners. If you're an expert, expound. Had any dramatic gardening experiences?? Tell us about them, good and horrible. Win over a weed or dissed a disease? Others want to know your successes and secrets

*(plant-related secrets only, please).*

Discover any shortcuts or solutions, new tools or techniques? That's another thing that people want to hear about, so let your voice be heard!

**A short paragraph could make you famous!**

- YCMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:**
- Community Garden**  
Linda Mason
  - Demo Garden**  
Gail Price
  - Education Outreach**  
Nancy Woodworth
  - Newsletter**  
Donn Callahan
  - Farmers' Mkt. Mac.**  
Tom Canales
  - Farmers' Mkt. Newberg**  
Peter Steadman
  - Greenhouse**  
Pat Fritz
  - Hospitality**  
Polly Blum
  - Insect Committee**  
Robert Grossman
  - Library**  
Beth Durr
  - Photography**  
Nancy Woodworth
  - Plant Sale**  
Pat Fritz
  - Propagation**  
Linda Coakley
  - Publicity**  
Tom Canales
  - Scholarships**  
Susan Nesbitt
  - Seed-to-Supper**  
Gene Nesbitt
  - Spring into Garden**  
Gene Nesbitt
  - Social Media/Website**  
Tom Canales

(YCMGA officers listed on page 20)

## A RARE OREGON BEETLE

I was recently asked to check out a population of red-legged frog tadpoles *Rana aurora* that was not changing into adult frogs; a rare phenomenon. The tadpoles were in a pond on the north side of Chehalem Mountain at 1,300 ft. While exploring the site we found an unusual beetle that few people see. It is not that they are exceedingly rare. But, you have to be in the right place at the right time.

The beetle was a male rain beetle, *Pleocoma dubitalis* which is related to scarab beetles. They are found in NW Oregon and usually associated with Douglas fir trees *Pseudotsuga menziesii*. Males can be seen flying in the

morning just before dawn right after the first heavy fall rains. And that is how they got their name.

The males fly around seeking the flightless females to mate with. The males have large, unusual antennae (see photo). They use these enlarged antennae to detect pheromones being released by the females so that they can locate females who are waiting underground in a hole.

According to Bill Gerth, Faculty Research Assistant, OSU Plant Clinic "The larvae of these beetles live in the ground, feeding for 7-15 years on tree roots. Then they pupate and emerge as adults at this time of year when the fall rains start. Even though these beetles take years to develop, they do not have synchronized, mass emergences like some cicadas do. Instead, some adults emerge each year, and larvae of mixed ages remain in the ground at the same time."

While Bill and I could get the i.d. down to genus, Dr. Chris Marshall who curates and manages Oregon State University's arthropod collection, one of the largest collections of insects on the West Coast, pinpointed the species. He is doing a *Pleocoma* study and the beetle was sent to him for DNA



analysis. Here is a link to an interesting Oregon Field Guide video about Chris and the hunt for a new rain beetle:

<http://www.opb.org/television/programs/ofg/segment/oregon-state-university-osu-chris-marshall-rain-beetle/>



*Michael O'Loughlin*

### ***Pleocoma Fun Facts***

*The males can raise their body temperature to as high as 95 degrees Fahrenheit by shivering their thoracic muscles. This allows them to fly in the cool weather and makes them one of the few insects that can be active when it's cool. In fact, in the '70s there was a concerted effort to make the rain beetle Oregon's state insect. Do you know what finally became the state insect?*



*Joan looking at insect "treats"*

# Yamhill County Master Gardener Calendar

**DECEMBER, 2017**

- 13 YCMGA Board meeting** at Public Works Auditorium, 10 a.m.  
**ALL MASTER GARDENERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

**PLANT SALE COMMITTEE MEETS:** in the auditorium, 9a.m., before Board Meeting.

- 14 PROPAGATION WORKING GROUP:** work party to move plants and supplies to Newberg High School greenhouse, 9:00 a.m.

- 16 PROPAGATION WORKING GROUP:** work party for planting at Newberg High School greenhouse, 9:00 a.m.

**(End of December)** **PROPAGATION** GROUP meets to do inventory.

- 25 CHRISTMAS:** Extension office closed from 12/25 through 12/29m: no MG activities.



**Golden Trowel Award**

**Insect Committee**  
 will not meet again  
 until in mid-March.  
 Announcement will be  
 in March *Grapevine*.



**The Bottens (Rentals)**



**'To the Root of It'** @ 9:00 am. on radio KLYC AM 1260 with Sharon & Kyle.

**Insect Committee** meets every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month, 10 am to noon, auditorium

# The Invasives

Common house cat  
*Felis catus*

*First, the author's disclaimer...*

**This is NOT an anti-cat article, but a researched description of studies done regarding wildlife killed by cats. The author likes cats and most of them like him.**

Americans own about 86 million cats, or one cat for every three households. That makes cats more popular, petwise, than dogs. But not all pet cats are created equal. The majority of them—about two-thirds to three-fourths, surveys say—are the sweet, cuddly housecats which seldom set foot outside. Their instincts may be lethal, but they rarely get the chance to harm more than a house mouse.

The other one-quarter to one-third, though, aren't so harmless. These are outdoor pet cats and feral cats. Domestic cats (*Felis catus*) are predators that humans have introduced globally and that have been listed among the 100 worst non-native invasive species in the world. Free-ranging cats

on islands have caused or contributed to 33 (14%) of the modern bird, mammal and reptile extinctions recorded by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. And, evidence from three continents indicates that cats can also locally reduce mainland bird and mammal populations and cause a substantial proportion of total wildlife mortality. Unfortunately, most (about 66%) of the birds killed by cats are native, and usually songbirds.

To "control" feral cats many locales have "Trap-neuter-return" (TNR) programs. An example in McMinnville is the one behind Safeway where dozens of cats congregate. Often coupled with these programs are people who consider themselves cat advocates



and supply a colony with constant food and water

(as in McMinnville). Of course, that draws more stray cats to the area. It has also been found that any species (including threatened) in close proximity to a cat colony—including "managed" TNR colonies—face an especially high risk of mortality and extinction. In these areas *Felis catus* can easily be the most prominent cause for the decline of various species.

Many ecologists say flatly that TNR doesn't work.

The problem is that, for TNR to succeed in large populations, at least 75 percent of cats in a colony must be sterilized. That rarely happens. The trouble is that negligent pet owners continue to abandon pet cats, which then join existing colonies; additionally, non-neutered stray cats can wander in. Like efforts at vaccinating schools against chickenpox, just a few



## The Invasives

stragglers can undermine an entire TNR program. Any short-term reduction in colony size is therefore quickly reversed. A study conducted by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center did a "data-driven systematic review of studies that estimate predation rates of owned and un-owned cats, and estimated the magnitude of bird and mammal mortality caused by all cats across the contiguous United States (all states excluding Alaska and Hawaii). We estimate that free-ranging domestic cats kill 1.3–4.0 billion birds and 6.3–22.3 billion mammals annually, and that un-owned cats cause the majority of this mortality. This

**continued**

magnitude of mortality is far greater than previous estimates of cat predation on wildlife and may exceed all other sources of anthropogenic mortality of US birds and mammals."

Their conclusion was that "the magnitude of wildlife mortality caused by cats that we report here far exceeds all prior estimates. Available evidence suggests that mortality from cat predation is likely to be substantial in all parts of the world where free-ranging cats occur. This mortality is of particular concern within the context of steadily increasing populations of owned cats, the potential for

increasing populations of un-owned cats, and an increasing abundance of direct and indirect mortality sources that threaten wildlife in the United States and globally".

So what can you do if you are a cat owner? The answer is as obvious as the problem: keep your cat indoors. It is also much better for the cat as that will protect them from injuries and communicable diseases. A relatively new trend is for people to build a "catio" for their pet, where he or she can be outdoors without injury to any animal, including the cat. If you live with a cat (since no one can "own" a cat) consider it.

These resources (used in this article) provide much more detail.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/moral-cost-of-cats-180960505/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23360987>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms2380>

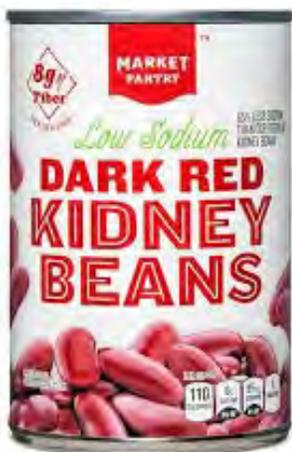


*Donn Callahan*

## **Beware the Kidney Bean...**

***(and 4 beans are enough)***

Red kidney beans are perfectly safe and healthy, *except* if eaten raw or undercooked. The harmful compound in kidney beans is called phytohaemagglutinin, and can bring on severe nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. People usually recover quickly, but it takes only four or five raw beans to bring on these extreme symptoms. The incomplete cooking of raw beans in a slow cooker is a common source of red kidney bean poisoning.



Source: "Wicked Plants" by Amy Stewart





## Forcing, Etc.

*The indoor gardener's guide to bringing bulbs, branches, and houseplants into bloom.*

**By Katherine Whiteside**

**T**his latest addition to the Master Gardener Library is a bargain-bin treasure. It also covers a timely topic for us gardeners who fight the winter blahs. This book is a valuable source of inspiration, because its information is presented in clear, precise language with loads of

**...a glossy coffee table book...full of inspiration and information**

beautiful photographs.

The glossy coffee-table look enhances the simplicity of the

transformation of bulbs, twigs, etc. A fun part of the book deals with one of four sections that includes hardy bulbs. Page 30 details "beyond the basics."

They emphasize the Big Four (hyacinths, crocuses, narcissus and tulips). Plus they also note several bulbous iris that are easy to

force. This section covers a variety of techniques for forcing blooms.

Potting them up in specially prepared soil (p.56-57) is one of the ways that include chilling periods and cold storage. Water forcing is another option and works best with hyacinths and crocus. The real trick to forcing bulbs is finding places where ideal temperatures can be maintained. A handy chart on p.39 gives you planting depth; cold, dark periods; and cool light periods.

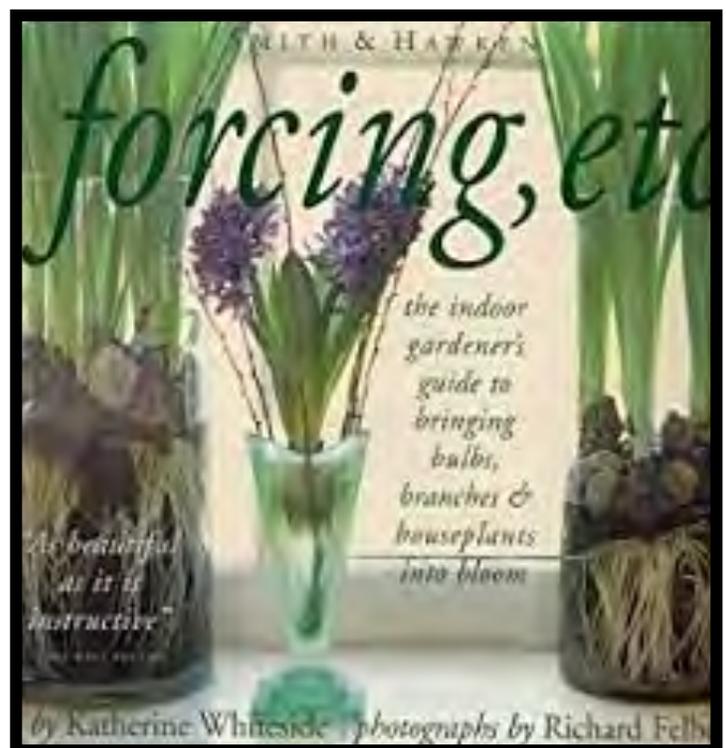
The next section deals with tender bulbs. These include clivia, amaryllis and even elephant ears. (colocasia)

These "tropicals" can really grow in non-tropical conditions. However, they are much more

fussy than their "hardy" cousins, and that is why this book can help you hone your indoor gardening skills.

Section 3 addresses house plants and their propagation. They spend three pages persuading us "the right plant in the right place." Yet if you don't have the right place, you can "fake it" with low-light loving succulents and other options.

[Note: The Library has



*(Forcing, Etc. continued)*

much better books on Houseplants than this one!] although the plant profiles of jasmine, staghorn fern, coleus, geranium and ficus are excellent. Over-watering and over-fertilizing are the two things that will kill houseplants.

Section 4 is "Twigs and branches: also forced." Page 116 tells us "Forcing branches is a simple technique that may be the easiest trick in the realm of indoor gardening." Favorites such as forsythia and witch hazel come to mind. However the author wants us to "branch out," and experiment with other garden shrubs.

Another handy chart on



p.125 is a branch-forcing timetable. Some familiar names such as spirea, pussy willow, wild cherry, pieris, sumac, etc. pop up on this chart and will give you an idea how long to wait before you start worrying you did it wrong! Then, there is the aesthetics of the whole thing. Choosing the right

container can bring elegance to the simple act of bud bloom.

The last section of the book deals with propagation and cuttings. Again, our Library has better resources in our Propagation section, so this is not one of the highlights of this book. However, pages 134-135 explain how you

can share a tender bulb that has become over-crowded with a friend. Hardy bulbs are a different story. Forcing wears them out and they become weak.

The book concludes "It's possible to experience the undeniable pull that links people to plants. So get going -- and get growing."(p.149).

You can find this book in our Bulb Section in the Library. We have several bulb I.D.

books. We also have a White Binder titled "Bulbs and Containers". This gem includes many publications and articles on forcing bulbs, fall planting and some orchid information.

Don't forget to look at these White Binders. They contain all the publications that are

in the drawers in the outer office. They also contain many other pertinent university and government publications. We are in the process of cataloging them and no-



tating if they are available on line. Unfortunately, some of these older publications are not cyber-friendly. There is a main White Binder on the MG desk by the main computer titled "Binder Index." This is what will tell you what publications are available and if you can find them online.

Using these binders as references is much easier than thumbing through the files in the over-sized drawers in the main office.

The Library Committee wishes everyone "Happy Holidays" and we'll see you next year!



*Beth Durr*

## WINTER FLOWERS FOR POLLINATORS

Bees and other pollinators out and about during the dark days of winter look to gardeners for the nourishment that keeps them going until the more abundant seasons of the year arrive.

"Black-tailed bumblebees are out as early as January," said Andony Melathopoulos, a bee specialist with Oregon State University Extension Service. "Native bees are just starting and will be seen more often later in February when the wild willow starts blooming."

Though there are winter-flowering plants growing in the wild, many pollinators don't live any-

where near them. That makes using cultivated winter bloomers an important consideration when planning a garden.

Even a small amount of habitat will sustain bees, even rare species. These are tiny creatures. Well-thought-out landscapes can provide all the food they need in winter, and gardeners can really help with that.

Granted, there aren't that many plants that flower in winter, but what's out there adds much-needed brightness to the garden and sustenance for pollinators. Here are some suggested winter-blooming plants.

<https://donate.seedmoney.org/1792/mcminnville-community-garden>

## Community Garden Crowdfunding Site

### McMinnville Community Garden

Campaign Donors 3 Updates 2 Comments

Contact Campaign Leader



3

Donors

\$27.00

Raised in 6 days

1%

Funded of \$2,000.00 Goal

22 days to go

This Campaign started on Nov 15 2017 at 12:00 PM EST and will end on Dec 15 2017 at 12:00 PM EST

DONATE

Please donate today to help this project win a \$400 SeedMoney grant. All donations are tax-deductible and go to the project even if the goal is not reached.

Share this campaign

Embed Code

Three years ago a number of Master Gardeners and other interested volunteers joined forces with a local

## WINTER FLOWERS FOR POLLINATORS

**Brassicas (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, mustard):** If left to bloom into winter (which they will), your brassica crops will attract a bevy of bees.

**Hazelnut (Corylus):** Members of the *Corylus* genus - including the popular contorted and weeping hazelnuts - are one of earliest sources of pollen for bees.

**Oregon grape (Mahonia):** No garden - or bee - should be without one of these evergreen shrubs, especially since it's designated Oregon's state flower. But an even better reason are the insanely yellow flowers that last for weeks.

**Heath and heather (Erica and Calluna):** Bees zoom in to heaths and heathers like they're approaching a runway. In shades from purple to copper to gold, these low-growing plants make a mat of color throughout the year, including winter.

**Winter jasmine (Jasminum nudiflorum):** Though it doesn't have the fragrance of other jasmines, this vining shrub has bright yellow flowers that are a welcome sight in winter.

**Burkwood viburnum (Viburnum x burkwoodii):** The burke Viburnum is best known for the clusters of fragrant white blooms that bees find irresistible.

**Sweet box (Sarcococcus confusa):** It's not the inconspicuous wispy white flowers that draw attention in deepest winter, it's the waft of fragrance that attracts both people and bees.

**Witch hazel (Hamamelis):** Bees get fired up over witch hazel with its crepe-paperlike flowers in colors of orange, red and, most famously, yellow.

*Kym Pokorny*

*January 17, 2017*





Brian



Fay



Sheila



Clay

# Newly-minted MG's



Kate



Gail



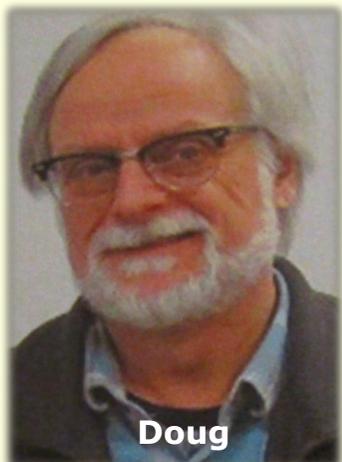
Franci



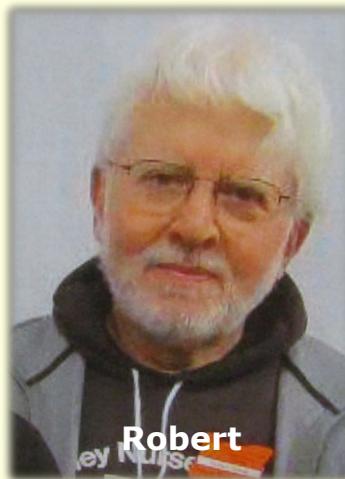
Tara



Susan



Doug



Robert



Rosemary

# YCMGA Graduates of 2017

## PESKY PROFILES



By Heather Stoven

It is unfortunate, but we have another invasive pest found in the area. One of our Yamhill County Master Gardeners brought damage from this pest to our office to identify, so it has been found in Yamhill County. I am referring to the Rose stem girdler (*Agrilus cuprescens*). Obviously its namesake is a pest of roses; however I am hearing more of it as a pest of cane berries.

The rose stem girdler is a borer which is metallic in color and is related to another invasive found in this area, the bronze birch borer. The female adult lays eggs on the cane surface and the larvae hatch and bore into the stem of the host plant. The stem is enlarged where the insect larvae is feeding and is often girdled, killing the growth beyond the galled area. Unfortunately management of this borer (as with many borers) is challenging. Cultural techniques are best – keep your plants well maintained and irrigated and cut out any enlarged areas below where the borer is feeding. *Dispose of the infected material properly so as to not spread it further.*



Jana

To learn more:

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/small-fruit/cane-fruit/cane-fruit-rose-stem-girdler>

**One of our graduates**



**Rose stem girdler damage**

## Heather's Highlights

As many of you probably know, last year was our first year implementing the new national Master Gardener recertification standards. Unfortunately, we had trouble filling clinic desk slots in the office and at farmers markets all season long; therefore I am reinstating a desk requirement for recertification.

This requirement does not add to the number of volunteer hours that need to be completed, it is just delineating that 5 of the volunteer service hours need to be completed at a clinic desk. It is not my intent to create confusion and I hope you all understand my need to add desk time to our

county requirements due to the importance of the desk clinic to our program. These new standards began November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Below is a breakdown of the new recertification hours requirement:

- \* (20) Volunteer Service hours. For the 20 volunteer service hours, you need:
  - (5) hours of Clinic Desk (Farmers' Market or Extension Office desk)
  - (15) combination of Direct, Indirect and Support hours (NO MORE than 10 hours of support will count towards recertification)
- \* (10) Continuing Education hours (This is the same as before)

I really appreciate your help and understanding in making sure that our desk clinics are well staffed during 2018 so we can best assist the public with their gardening questions.



# Vandalism at Weiser Pavilion, Repaired

**W**hen Susanne came to the fairgrounds Wednesday, November 8th, to take care of plants in the greenhouse, she saw that plants in the Weiser Pavilion had been vandalized.

Someone had dumped plants out of their pots, overturned plants, and even uprooted a few of the permanent shrubs there.

On Saturday, a crew got together and repaired all the damage. These photos show the original damage, and how it all looked after being cleaned up.



**THE DAMAGE**



## **AFTER REPLANTING**

**And the Master Gardeners who did the restoration.**

- Susanne B.**
- Rosemarie A.**
- Tom C.**
- Patty D.**
- Lynette H.**
- Linda M.**
- Mary M.**
- Ruta W.**
- Apryl G.**
- Gail P.**
- Patti G.**



# INSECT COMMITTEE FEAST

**F**or the last meeting of 2017, Nancy brought roasted insects for everyone to sample.

**FACT:** Insects all seem to taste the same.

**FACT:** They are all very crunchy.

**FACT:** They taste nothing like the package descriptions.

**FACT:** Grasshopper legs get stuck between your teeth.



**BIG** roasted diving beetle



*Clockwise from left: Crickets, diving beetles, grasshoppers*



*Sandra meditating, Nancy valiantly chewing*



*Grasshopper body, one leg attached*



*The attractive bug packaging*



*Joan recoiling in horror, Donn happily chomping*



# Master Gardener 2017 Awards



Jeff, Box Collector Extraordinaire



Gail and her Greenhouse



Honorary Master Gardener  
Paula Hart



Pat as Wonder Woman



# COMMUNITY GARDEN, THE FUTURE



- Adding and educating new gardeners
- Building 100 more rebar tomato cages
- Plus a myriad of smaller projects and tasks

Raised beds will be available to add more gardeners beginning about April 1<sup>st</sup>.

We will do our first outdoor planting in January with peas, both edible pod and shelling peas. Greenhouse growing of tomatoes will also begin in late January.



*Alan Wenner*

**F**or those of you just waiting for planting season in the garden, this is a refresher.

At the present time, we are planning for 2018 and another very successful year. Our project list for 2018 includes:

- Strengthening our Core team of volunteers
- Adding 38 more raised beds
- Installing drip irrigation in these 38 beds plus the 16 built in the fall of this year
- Growing 1100 Tomato and tomatillo plants plus 500 Basil plants for the YCMGA Plant Sale
- Growing about 14,000 pounds of vegetables for the YCAP Food Bank

## HELP MASTER GARDENERS REFORM!

**F**or the 2017-2018 Master Gardener year (November 1, 2017 - October 31, 2018), the Community Horticulture Advisory Panel has been asked to work on 're-envisioning Master Gardener training' with the goal of making trainings (1) more accessible, (2) more interactive, and (3) more fun.

You can learn more about our work at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/chap/>

Gail Langellotto would greatly appreciate it if you could take the time to fill out this very short, 4-question survey about your impressions of annual Master Gardener trainings. Your responses will greatly help to inform our process.

You may access the survey at:

[http://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9GM4fJ1ffbovX9j](http://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GM4fJ1ffbovX9j)

## WHO'S THE REAL GARDENER?



## THE 2018 OFFICERS

Here are the YCMGA officers who will be the Board of Directors in 2018:

**President: Pat Fritz** (again)

**Vice-President Elect: Rita Canales** (only one this year)

**Secretary: Donn Callaham** (again)

**Treasurer: Carol Parks** (again)

**OMGA Representative: Nancy Woodworth**

**OMGA Alternate Representative: Tonia Beebe**

**Member-at-Large: Tom Canales**

**Another Member-at-Large: Susanne Beukema**

**Past President: Gene Nesbitt**

**Past Treasurer: Anna Ashby**



Beginning in the January edition of the *Grapevine* you will see these officers listed each month, on the last page of that edition.

## AND NEW "GRAPEVINE" FEATURES!

In our intense effort to make this publication useful and relevant, the publishing staff is constantly making changes. You may have already noticed that:

- There is now a list of all the committee heads on the front page. If you want to contact one of them you will now know who is in charge of what, and look that person up on the "Members Only" portion of the YCMGA website.
- All of the Board of Directors officers are listed on the very back page (the page with the return address, logos, and various disclaimers).
- The "What's in this Issue" section has changed format. Now the articles are listed not in numerical order, but in order of significance and/or general interest. There is also a brief tantalizing blurb describing each article, with the page number.
- Finally, most issues will include the blocks containing the Extreme Topiary, an insect-related cartoon, and an example of criminally-inept pruning.

*Donn Callaham (who is also the entire staff)*



**YCMGA Board Meeting Minutes****November 15th, 2017****Meeting called to order by Pat Fritz  
at 5:05 p.m. on above date.**

(Seamus Ramirez, President of Oregon Master Gardeners, was also in attendance).

**September Secretary's report:** Approval of minutes was motioned by Donn, seconded by Rita, and agreed upon by everyone.

**Treasurer's report:** Carol Parks faithfully sent out all the financial reports and the draft 2018 budget a week ago. YCMGA ended October with a little over \$45,000 in the account, before accounting for the \$8000 to the Community Garden and \$2000 for FFA scholarships. At the planning meeting it was recommended that the \$8,000 proposed to be spent on McMinnville Community Garden improvements not be included in the 2018 Budget. After communicating with a CPA, Carol recommended that the amount be kept in the budget instead of being recorded elsewhere. The \$8,000 for the community garden and \$2,000 for McMinnville students' scholarships will come out of the savings accounts. Linda moved that this be accepted, Tom seconded the motion, and the members of the board all agreed, except for Pat who abstained.

**President-elect report:** Rita has distributed the surveys concerning the future of "Lunch & Learn," and made more available today. She also announced the presence of a sign-up sheet for Education/Outreach committee. Jobs that the committee would like to fill are: people to run clinics and McMinnville and Newberg Farmers' Markets; personnel for various workshops; publicity chair; sign-age for the Demonstration Garden. For this year's "Spring into Gardening" help is needed for the raffle, and an organizer of the non-profits.

**The Heather report:** No report as Heather was frantically preparing for the graduation and awards ceremony that night.

**Education/outreach committee:** See "President-elect report" above. Unfortunately, only one of the surveys for "Lunch & Learn" was returned, making it an approximately .35% (that's 35 100ths of one percent) success rate. No one signed up to help the group, so the sign-up sheet will be displayed and promoted at the upcoming winter classes.

**Community Garden:** Linda Mason reported that

13,918 pounds of food have now been donated to YCAP this year, in spite of a late start due to the abnormally wet spring. Even in November, though, the garden donated 2126 pounds of produce.

**OMGA representatives:** Our guest Seamus (pronounced "Shay' mus") Ramirez stayed for the evening. He is the President of the OMGA, effective January 1, 2017. The organization's quarterly meeting was November 4<sup>th</sup>, and the "Retreat" in December. All master gardeners are invited to attend this two-day event. If you cannot make it to the meeting, Seamus encouraged everyone to send any ideas relating to Master Gardeners to him via email. Mini-college has been named "Growing Gardeners" to make it more appealing to a broader audience. This has been shortened to "G2" to make it sound imposing and modern. It will take place July 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>, and a fourth day is possible.

**Publicity & Web:** Nothing new is happening in Tom's department. He has renewed the OMGA website. Seamus questioned the advertising efforts to attract more people to the organization. On the website for the public there is ample information on the classes and how to become a Master Gardener, and the classes are being advertised through the Extension Office.

**Seed-to-Supper:** Tonia told us that the classes in Newberg just ended, and there were 15 graduates. All graduates received either a raised bed or a container for gardening. Oddly, need now is for instructors in *English*. This spring classes will commence at the Tice Apartments in McMinnville in the Sue Buel attendance area.

**Spring into Gardening:** There will be a meeting of the committee on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m., at Rita's (and Tom's too) house. All of the speakers for the event have been signed up.

**Propagation:** There is a lot happening here. Ruth said that a day ago they received donated seeds, and Lady's Mantle plants plus bulbs for the sale. The table of native plants will be full. On December 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a work party, moving plants and materials to Newberg High greenhouse for planting. Another work party will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> for planting, and a final one near the end of December for inventory. As before, Rita has taken on the responsibility of making all the plant labels. The vandalism at the fairgrounds (see December *Grapevine* for details) has all been repaired. According to the fairground staff, there is no doubt that it was

deer who did the damage: they parked in the paved parking area, climbed through or over the fence, dumped plants out of their pots, and tore up some established plants. They even were careful to leave no footprints in all the soft earth. (Sounds like a Gary Larson cartoon, doesn't it?) Board members *seriously* doubt this, but are glad that we do not have such malicious deer in McMinnville. Since the pavilion is a public space, it cannot be closed off completely, so the rampaging "deer" could return. However, this is the first time in anyone's memory that there has been intentional damage to a Master Gardener project, and Rosemary said she will donate a trail camera to be installed in the pavilion. Members were divided as to whether or not it would be beneficial to have a warning sign re: the camera.

**Plant Sale Committee:** The committee will have their second meeting of the year on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the old public auditorium. Marilyn and Pat spent half a day in the attic of the Extension Office recently, looking for anything to do with the sale. Fortune smiled upon them, as they found a stuffed mole and stuffed gopher, and it was strongly suggested they (the rodents, not Pat and Marilyn) be put on permanent display. They also could be the basis for a great poster for SIG. Leaders want to somehow expand the available space inside the building (same location, though). Gary, the new manager of the fairgrounds, will be asked for the use of Cruikshank Building for storage of boxes. It is an open building, but only about 1/3 of it would be needed and the boxes would be protected from weather (but not ill-intentioned deer).

**Greenhouse Committee:** They have met, and are ordering seed to start their planting.

**Mentoring:** Terry reported that all of the needed mentors have been procured, some extras are in the wings, and classes for the mentors will be held. All the classes have been arranged and the location secured.

**Policy & Procedures Committee** now has 20 of the Committee guidelines and job details for the Board of Directors staff; Pat will contact committee chairs for the rest. All the material will be divided into 3 sections:

1. Committee guidelines written by each chairperson describing the functions of the group.
2. Details of each board of director's job, as written by current officer now holding the office.
3. YCMGA Policy and Procedure (mostly financial)

which must be approved by the Board. Board will not have to approve #1 or #2. There will be a notebook with material for every category on the website and in the Extension Office.

**Trainee Recruitment:** There are now 6 people signed up for the 2018 classes. Typically, classes consist of about 20 to 25 people, and most of them sign up at the last possible moment.

**Voting for 2018 Board Members:** This took place at 6:00 p.m. (same night) and had to be completed before people could eat. There were no nominations from the floor. The ballot included a space for write-ins, and were deposited in a flashy patriotic-looking ballot box crafted by Nancy. Fifteen minutes were allowed for the voting, and then two members who were not running for office, and not related to anyone running for office, and presumably upright citizens, counted the ballots. (See photo below as proof). Most of the present officers won by a landslide, since no one else wanted their positions. Susanne and Tom will be the members-at-large, Nancy Woodworth will be the new OMGA representative, and Tonia Beebe the back-up representative.

**Resource Manual** is now close to finished. It needs to be checked by Heather and then President Pat. It'll be online and on paper.

**Other business:** Next board meeting will be on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the usual day. (No one had a problem with the proximity to Christmas).

***Linda Coakley moved to end the meeting,  
Tom seconded the motion,  
ending the meeting at 5:40 p.m.***



**The two upright citizens counting ballots**



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## *The Grapevine*

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### **Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association Executive Board**

President: Pat Fritz

Presidents-Elect: Rita Canales  
 & Nancy Woodworth

Secretary: Donn Callaham

Treasurer: Carol Parks

OMGA Rep: Apryl Garmon

OMGA Alt.Rep: Linda Coakley

Members at Large: Tom Canales  
 Tonia Beebe

**Heather Stoven, Yamhill County Extension Faculty for Community Horticulture**

