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**NEW MASTER GARDENER CLASSES WILL BEGIN ON JANUARY 10TH AT 9:00 AM. FOR A LIST OF THE CLASSES AND MORE DETAILS, GO TO:**

https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/yamhill/how-join
Pesky Profiles

Don’t Sweat this Slime!

Slime molds are primitive organisms which can be found on lawns or other surfaces, causing unnecessary concern to those who are unfamiliar with them. They can be diagnosed as slime molds, rather than a fungal disease of lawns, due to the fact they are easily wiped off the surface of grass blades revealing undamaged leaves below.

Slime molds are not fungi; they are primitive organisms which are comprised of single cells which gather together for reproduction. When together as a group they creep on surfaces in a process called protoplasmic streaming, produce fruiting structures, and after reproduction, disperse and are no longer visible to us. Slime molds are commonly seen in moist, shady situations, often when weather is warmer.

They can be seen in the landscape on bark dust, lawns or other surfaces when these weather conditions coincide. Slime molds feed on small organisms they encounter and act as decomposers. They do not harm your lawn or other plants. Slime molds often disappear when weather dries and, if warranted, can be removed by raking. No fungicides are needed if this organism is spotted in your yard.

https://pnwhandbooks.org/node/3004/print
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Spring into Gardening committee meeting, 10 am, auditorium</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Plant Sale committee meeting, 9 am, before board meeting</td>
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<td>YCMGA Board Meeting: Public Works Auditorium at the Extension Office, McMinnville. Begins at 10:00 am, ends about noon.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>OMGA planning Retreat: Starting at 10:00 am each day, at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Clackamas County</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>OMGA planning Retreat: Starting at 10:00 am each day, at Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Clackamas County</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>GOOD Day to begin writing your article for the Grapevine.</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>ETERNAL DEADLINE for the submissions to the Grapevine.</td>
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**Upcoming Events for 2019**

- **Spring into Gardening 2019**
  Saturday March 16th - 8:45 - 4pm - at the MAC Community Center
  Registration coming soon!

- **Insights into Gardening 2019**
  Saturday March 9th - Benton County’s annual day of classes and 20+ vendors. Details in the January 2019 “Grapevine”

**Every Saturday 9am** Listen to:

“To the Root of It” program @ 9:00 am on radio KLYC AM 1260 with Sharon & Kyle.
A Great Opportunity that keeps on giving!

In 2018, the McMinnville Community Garden, a group of volunteers, enjoying the support of 30 local businesses and organizations fulfilled its mission to provide fresh produce to folks who are at nutritional risk. To this end, we provided 16,600 pounds of fresh produce to the local food bank, taught raised bed gardening to 66 community gardeners, including poor families in the Seed to Supper program and Master Gardener trainees, and to 16 children and 14 volunteers. We serve as a resource to the Yamhill County department of Mental Health for therapeutic gardening and a not-for-profit agency that serves folks who are emotionally disabled. To continue this effort into 2019 and to increase our numbers, we need to replace the compost in over 240 raised beds. This is an organic garden and the compost serves as soil amendment and fertilizer.

There are no administrative costs involved in this operation and 100 % of the proceeds go directly into garden production. These funds are matched by approximately 3000 hours of volunteer labor.

https://donate.seedmoney.org/2816/mcminnville-community-garden

Facebook: McMinnville Community Garden

Website: https://www.mcminnvillecg.org

Alan Wenner
At G2 I decided to focus on agriculture research and development. On a tour of the North Willamette Research and Extension Center of OSU, we learned that agriculture in Oregon is not like agriculture in any other state.

For starters, there are 227 commercial agricultural crops, and Oregon is the lead producer of many of them. I wasn't surprised to learn that Oregon produces 100% of the crop in hazelnuts and most berries, and that it also produces 85%-95% of the grass seed needed for both farming and lawns in the United States.

I was surprised to learn that Madras is a center for the production of carrot and onion seeds, making Oregon the #1 producer. In fact, Oregon is one of the three primary places in the world that produces the majority of vegetable seed for commercial farmers. (The other two are Skagit Valley in Washington and the country of New Zealand).

The afternoon was a tour of the Research Center, and on the way there Mike Bondi pointed out nurseries, berry farms, hazelnut groves, grass-seed operations, and fields of hops, and talked to us about each industry. There is obviously a close relationship between the Research Center and Oregon farmers.

At the Center we went on lanes and fields to take us to the research plots of berries (both conventional and organic). There were also test areas for Christmas tree development and trials for reduced water usage. A new crop of interest is quinoa, which is now being researched for higher production.

So, why is OSU interested in developing a blueberry tree? The simple answer is, to make harvesting easier. One of the most important issues for producers of Oregon crops is getting the necessary labor; anything that can make production more mechanical is a huge help. With a tree, no one has to go down low to harvest the berries (which is time-consuming). So a machine can be used to harvest, eliminating the need for large numbers of workers. (Our observation was that the blueberry tree has a way to go to become a producer of delicious berries).

The North Willamette Research and Extension Center holds field days throughout the summer on strawberries, caneberries, blueberries, and vegetables. Producers of these crops (and other interested parties) are invited to come to the Center.

At the open houses people can observe and taste varieties of the crops and learn of the latest developments related to growing them. Even the use of pesticides (organic and not) is covered.

In late July, NWREC holds an annual Community Open House to which everyone is invited; faculty and staff have displays and demonstrations of their work. For more information on these tours and open houses, go to this link:

https://extension.oregonstate.edu/nwrec

[This article was originally published in the "Gardeners' Pen" newsletter, and slightly edited here for space.]
One often hears “Always choose native plants for environmentally sustainable landscaping”. That is a common mantra in recent years, as people have become more interested in native plants and drought becomes the norm. The logical answer seems to be to focus on planting natives for all landscaping, for they evolved here and are well-adapted to our climate.

The reality is that there are some urban and suburban areas where many native plants just do not survive (or do so only with substantial maintenance). Many of the trees and shrubs native to our region evolved in thin, acidic soils with adequate moisture to maintain soil and plant water status. When these species are installed in urban landscapes with significantly different soil and water characteristics they are challenged by a new set of environmental circumstances.

The stress of being planted in an unsuitable site will weaken a plant’s natural resistance to local pests; witness the recent decline in our native Arbutus menziesii (madrone) populations. Also, many of the native shrubs naturally become quite large (often 8 or more feet tall) and really aren’t suitable for most home landscaping.

Each native plant has evolved in a highly specific environment, and barely survives (or dies) when planted in a different environment. An example is physocarpus (native ninebark). This shrub grows naturally only in very wet environments, on the edge of woods. Here it will grow 12 feet tall or more, become broad and very stemmy. It also self-prunes all branches not receiving direct sunlight, resulting in a green canopy over dead branches.

In a sunny and/or dry spot, though, it just barely survives, and never looks healthy (because it isn’t!)

**Many times natives do not do well in landscaping**

• Native, temperate forest plants are excellent choices for unrestricted sites with acidic, well-drained soils.

• For sites with limited, alkaline, and/or poorly drained soils, choose species adapted to environments with similar soils. Consider especially those species that tolerate clay soils.

• Don’t be afraid of using appropriate cultivars for a site: they should do well.

• Instead of installing large trees into limited sites, consider smaller trees or shrubs that can be arborized.

• Be sure to protect soils with mulch, especially where foot traffic causes compaction.

• Site considerations should always dictate plant selection.

**Here are hints as to what to plant, and where**

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.
After our excitement in November of awards ceremonies, things are slowing down at the Extension office. We are planning for the upcoming training season which starts in a little over a month now. Our training class for 2019 is about ½ full: however if you know of friends, family or neighbors who are interested send them our way. Thank you to those of you who have put out flyers advertising the program. I have seen some posted as I was out and about recently. Check out the link below for the schedule and the application form:

https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/yamhill/how-join

Also note, Jade has been working hard on returning the Master Gardener information to our new OSU Extension Yamhill County website. On the Active Master Gardeners page you will now find forms and information such as the link to VRS, recertification requirements, the criminal history form, etc.

https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/yamhill/active-master-gardeners

Wishing you all a warm holiday season enjoyed with family and friends!

Heather
Cass Turnbull was the founder of the Seattle organization “Plant Amnesty” and until recently was also the driving force behind it. (She died in 2018).

Turnbull was an avid promoter of skilled pruning, in contrast mostly to the horrors of careless hacking, over-pruning, and (worst of all) shearing. Though books on pruning abound, I prefer her clear, conversational perspective.

Hers is a two-part approach. The first 60 pages are devoted to the basics of pruning: basic cuts, suckers and water sprouts, timing, pruning tools, and five other similar topics. Then comes the rest of the book; types of plants and specifics on caring for and pruning each one.

First you will find detailed instructions for pruning types of shrubs. Shrubs are broken down into these categories: mounding-habit, cane-growing, tree-like, vines, trees, groundcovers, and then the oddballs.

(Since this is a book focused on landscape pruning, there is just a little information on pruning berries and fruit trees).

Before getting into the specifics of pruning, Turnbull holds forth on her opinions of various pruning “crimes.” She despises shearing, calls tree-topping “vandalism for hire,” and rhapsodizes about judicious and educated thinning.

Here is a typical quote demonstrating the informational but informal aspect of her writing. She describes getting your first good hand pruners (Felco #2 to start) as “the same exultation you felt as a kid at Christmas. Felcos are definitely the ‘Red Rider’ BB gun of the gardener’s world.”

*Cotinus coggygria* (smokebush) gives a good example of Turnbull’s detailed instructions for pruning. Three pages are devoted to this plant, and at the end she discusses what she does not know about pruning this bush.

“Nature abhors a garden.” This emphasizes an unpleasant truth: “Pruning, renovating, and all other gardening activities are unnatural acts!” By this Turnbull means that by nature plants will be messy, and that is to be expected. With the advent of using native plants in gardens, the problem gets much worse.

So the author goes into detail on the gargantuan task of “renovating.” This she considers the most challenging task of all, particularly when people plant natives. Here her detail on methods is valuable. Turnbull works diligently to dispense with the ideas of native plants not being superior, drastic pruning, and even removal of healthy but excess plants.

This is a book which anyone who loves landscape plants will refer to regularly and often. But much more than that, it is a book which one can read cover-to-cover just for the pleasure of it, like a novel. Just as with Michael Dirr’s writing, it is her obvious love and respect for plants and conversational language (and strong opinions) that set *Guide to Pruning* apart.
PlantAmnesty is an organization founded by author Cass Turnbull, who left the Seattle Parks Department in 1986 after 11 years to start her own landscape maintenance and consulting business. One year later, she founded PlantAmnesty, a private nonprofit organization that now numbers nearly 1,200 members in 46 states and five countries. PlantAmnesty has gained considerable local and national press as the organization strives to educate the commercial and public sectors on responsible, appropriate pruning and landscape management practices, establishing a standard of quality care for the urban ecology. Trees and shrubs are the focus.

To accomplish their mission, PlantAmnesty:

⇒ Supplies educational materials and literature, including how-to guides, YouTube videos, pruning tips, articles, essays, DVDs, and books.

⇒ Has pruning classes, lectures, and hands-on lessons, workshops, and demonstrations. Unfortunately for us, these are almost all in the Seattle area.

⇒ Has professional arborist and gardener-donated work days (again, in Seattle)

⇒ PlantAmnesty website

⇒ Takes part in parades, displaying banners promoting expert pruning!

⇒ Operates the Seattle “Heritage Tree” Program

Alerting the public to “Crimes against Nature” with a media campaign using humor, education, and controversy to raise public awareness, PlantAmnesty operates primarily in Seattle. There are active chapters in other cities, and plant enthusiasts are encouraged to join the organization. For more information, and to find out about membership, follow this link:

http://www.plantamnesty.org/

Donn Callaham
Heather receiving bouquet of flowers for running the Master Gardener show

Susanne receiving “One of a Kind” award for outstanding participation in many areas

Tom receives “Golden Trowel” award for years of work in the Community Garden

Karen Queen & Matt from Safeway Produce section.
Safeway received “Supportive Business of the Year” award for Karen’s supplying plant sale with 2000 boxes for customers

Marilyn receiving “One of a Kind” award for outstanding participation

Tonia receives “One of a Kind” award for Seed to Supper & Spring into Gardening

Awards at 2018 YCMGA banquet
YCMGA banquet
November 14, 2018

Plaque on MG Library door, honoring Grossmanns
Cranberries: just the word brings up an image of a flooded bog and berries being “herded,” but actually cranberry “bogs” are completely dry until flooded for harvesting.

Oregon cranberries (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) are raised in a small area near the Coast, mostly around Bandon. This area has the unique conditions required: deep sandy, acid soil and a long growing season.

The plants are small evergreen vines about 12 inches tall, grown in flat fields called “bogs.” They do receive irrigation during the (mild) summers, but are underwater only for harvest from late October through December.

In fact, some bogs never do get flooded. The highest quality berries (which are sold fresh or dried) must be kept dry to preserve color and texture. So they are harvested dry by machine, much as blueberries are picked.

The rest of the berries (which are floated for quick and complete harvesting) are sold for jelly, juice, and similar products.

Though we have all heard about and seen photos of the cranberry industry in Oregon, it actually has a very small output compared to the producers on the East Coast. Oregon produces about 5% to 7% of all cranberries in the U.S., and the growers here in Oregon are mostly small family operations.

So why are Oregon cranberries so well-known? The Bandon area has distinct advantages over the East, in that the summers on our coast are very mild, and we have no freezing weather at all. Thus the berries can be of a different variety, and most importantly, can ripen longer.

This means that Oregon cranberries are sweeter (around 9.5 brix versus less than 8.5 in other parts of the U.S.). Having ripened longer, our berries are also slightly larger, and have much darker, better color.

Though the Oregon cranberry industry is a very small one, their berries are world-renowned for their flavor and attractive appearance.

Donn Callaham

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**YOU’RE INVITED**

OMGA has scheduled its annual retreat and anyone interested in the Master Gardener program is invited to join us. We will discuss:

- **OMGA PLANNING**
- **OMGA OPERATIONS**
- **OMGA PROGRAMS**

We will review 2018, then discuss and plan 2019. December 10th and 11th at 10:00am Hopkins Demonstration Forest Clackamas County

[https://demonstrationforest.org/](https://demonstrationforest.org/)
In November Heather made a presentation on the Northwest Plant Evaluation Program. (She and Neil Bell are participants in it). The goal of the Northwest Plant Evaluation Program is to identify flowering shrubs suitable for use in landscapes of the Pacific Northwest, west of the Cascade Mountains. A priority of this program is to evaluate shrubs thought to not be particularly hardy in the region, but which offer compelling ornamental characteristics. The program is located at the Oregon State University North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC) in Aurora, OR.

Now the program focus is on groundcovers. Criteria are similar to the other tests, with the addition of height, and ability to act as a weed control. Results of this research are not yet in.

In November some Master Gardeners visited the Research Center: their report will be in the Grapevine in December.

Donn Callaham

**Goals of the program...**

To evaluate selections and cultivars for growing conditions in the PNW, for:

- Growth habit
- Flowering
- Cold hardiness
- Disease & Insect pest resistance
- Overall landscape quality
- (Using no irrigation, fertilizer, or pesticides.)

**Criteria for the program...**

To evaluate selections and cultivars for growing condition in the PNW, for:

- Evaluations focus on individual genera (some of which are already in cultivation).
- Evaluations are multi-year in-ground trials (conditions in which plants would be living when used in landscaping).
- Plants are collected as cuttings to maximize number of selections and cultivars included.

**Cistus test plot**

Neil & Heather collecting cuttings in Meze, France, for OSU drought-tolerant groundcover trial
The President called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. on 10/27/18

Donn Callaham
Heather Stoven
Linda Mason
Cathy Burdett
Nancy Woodworth
Glenda Hulett-Wenner
Gail Price

Pat Fritz
Marilyn McGregor
Susanne Beukema
Ruth Estrada
Chris Shenk
Linda Coakley

Gene Nesbitt
Rita Canales
Carol Parks
Terry Hart
Marcia Sherry
Alan Wenner
Apryl Garmon

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

Treasurer’s Report: Carol has sent all the financial documents by email. At present YCMGA has $46,000, though some of it is reserved. (More on the budget in notes for Planning Meeting).

Heather Report: Flyers advertising the 2019 Master Gardener classes are available for distribution. People are needed to distribute these in the “outlier” towns. There are about 10 new students signed up as of now. Heather reminded us of the award being given YCMGA by the Soil and Water Conservation Service, which will be performed on November 7th, and she will build a Powerpoint presentation extolling YCMGA virtues. Also, Jade will be out of the office November 8th through 13th, so anyone who wants something done had better hustle. Heather also mentioned the new intake form, which will be in use immediately. Unfortunately, MG’s have been doing a haphazard job of following up on emails sent to the office, and client phone calls. Both are important and must be addressed rapidly.

Education/Outreach committee: On November 7th, Heather will give a talk at 10:00 am in the Public Works Auditorium. Graduation is 11/14, and an RSVP is required by 11/07. The Plant Gall Webinar will be on 11/19 at 11:00 am. Rita made a point of ardently thanking Susanne for committing herself to be President-elect this year, and of course President next year. With all the fervent praise being strenuous, someone suggested that perhaps we should appreciate and thank Rita too!

McMinnville Community Garden: The garden had a very successful year with amazing turnout for help with harvesting. The Garden has given YCAP 16,557 pounds of produce so far this year, which translates to about 12,000 meals! Winter produce is growing, with lettuce and spinach in the large greenhouse. In March there will be an orientation for the 2019 gardening season. Idle beds are now covered in plastic to outsmart weeds; some Seed-to-Supper participants are growing winter vegetables.

OMGA Representatives: Because of the large amount of information brought back to McMinnville from the last OMGA meeting and the erratic scheduling of our board meetings, Nancy has already emailed a full report to all Master Gardeners. On 11/02 OMGA will host their Leadership Forum, at which Tom will give a presentation re: setting up a website, and Donn will give one on creating a monthly newsletter. The OMGA board meeting will take place 11/3, with Nancy and Tonia attending.

Web & Publicity: We found out that OSU will no longer support chapter websites: OSU is totally revamping their website, causing some functions to not function.

Perennial Propagation: (See notes under “2018 Annual Planning Meeting.”)

Plant Sale Committee: Linfield has been asked to provide some students to help during the sale, but we have received no reply. It used to be that students helped as part of their public service requirement, but the person in charge of that program is no longer there. So now the request will just be a posting at the college, and YCMGA will have to keep following up. First committee meeting will be on 12/05 at 9 am in the same old auditorium, and the group is already looking to train someone to replace Susanne in 2 years. The plant sale will be the first weekend in May (and hopefully stay on that weekend for the rest of the foreseeable future). Also, it has been decided that there will be a sale on Sunday in the Wiser pavilion. Gail would like to have a small regular group of students help; perhaps the horticultural program in the chemistry department of Linfield might get involved.
Annual Propagation: no comment.

Mentoring Committee: The first day of 2019 classes will be only half a day at the Extension Office so food will be called a “brunch.” All mentor slots have been filled, but there is a need for alternates. At the first class board members will introduce themselves, and someone will list the community services performed by YCMGA. There will also be a form of job fair with YCMGA job descriptions, held during different classes. Gail made a very organized chart showing all volunteer jobs, the person in charge of each committee, and contact information for the person. This was installed later in the YCMGA manual.

Resource Manual Committee: The manual is now completed online and is on autopilot. This is the time to give suggestions for the manual, before it is finalized for 2019.

Demonstration Garden (Fairgrounds): The garden has been put to bed and Gail is resting.

Nominating Committee: (This committee is charged with supervising nominations for board members). Susanne, Carol, Rita, Donn, Nancy, and Tonia all can stay in their positions, Becky will be at-large, and one more at-large person (nothing personal here) is needed. Everyone is willing to keep their jobs. The committee’s job was rather simple since nobody has expressed any interest in any position, and no one has nominated anyone.

Library Committee: Here’s a new one: the library committee wants suggestions for things they can do next year! They want project suggestions to focus on Oregon (such as the Flora and Bee projects). They have finished their White Binder project, wherein White Binders on the library shelves contain all the hand-outs in the main office, plus other resources. They have put together an index for each binder, and compiled a binder catalog. Each index has been researched to indicate whether or not it is online. They will be updated constantly. More space is badly needed, but demolition and construction are illicit in a rented building. Creation of a small plaque to honor Bob and Barbara Grossmann was suggested, to be placed on the door to the library. Susanne motioned to do this, Carol seconded, we all approved, and by now Efficient Nancy is all but finished with the job. There are 2 boxes of books in the library to be given as door prizes at Spring-into-Gardening.

Audit: A date will be set for a January audit. Present will be the President-from-the-Past, upcoming President, Carol, Donn, and (best of all) Carol’s dog.

Rita motioned at 10:18 to end this board meeting, the Secretary seconded it, and we all rapidly migrated towards the table of snacks.