

The Grapevine

ALL-NEW YCMGA FACEBOOK PAGE

Yamhill County Master Gardeners can now be found on Facebook. If you are ever on Facebook look for Yamhill County Master Gardeners. Pictures from 'Spring into Gardening 2015' have been added as well as the flyer for this year's "Spring into Gardening."

Help us get the word out! "Like" and share us on Facebook with all your friends. You tell 10 people, they tell 10 people, and the word gets around.

[Yamhill County Master Gardeners
https://www.facebook.com/
yamhillcountymastergardeners/?ref=hl](https://www.facebook.com/yamhillcountymastergardeners/?ref=hl)

If you find something on line that is appropriate for Master Gardeners let me know and we can share it. We want to not only inform the community about what we are doing but also give them great gardening information.

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I also recently shared a National Geographic post from November on "Can you tell a lily from a peony?" Beautiful flowers opening up from buds.

I am excited about this new Facebook page for YCMGA, and hope it becomes a place to educate and inform.

**Help me get the
word out!**

Rita Canales



REQUEST TO ALL...

Our Spring into Gardening Event is scheduled for March 12th and we have decided that our primary means of increasing attendance is through membership and friend involvement. By requesting members and friends to be our primary source of registration sales, we can save hundreds of \$\$\$ in advertising costs. Please do what you can! We Suggest:

- Register for yourself, friends, family and as gifts.
- Distribute copies of the flyer, registration form and door prize list (all included in this month's Grapevine) at work and church.
- Distribute at any meeting that you attend.
- Email copies of the flyer and registration form to all of your local contacts.
- Post on your Facebook account or other social media outlet

If all of us do our part, we can distribute literally thousands of flyers throughout our area.

Gene Nesbitt



Notice that the **Yamhill County Master Gardeners calendar** is now different from previous versions. The goal is to make it as easy as possible to read and follow. I left out the day of the week, but added the names of our speakers.

Please give me feedback if you have any ideas to make the calendar more benevolent to our members.

Donn Callahan, "Grapevine" Editor

ALL ABOUT THE NEW YCMGA "MEMBERS ONLY" WEBSITE

As many of you are aware we have initiated our "members only" website. The purpose of this website is to provide a secure location where members can easily find information we'd like to share with one another without making it available to the general public. For starters this will include:

- A simple member roster with contact information including: Name, Address, Phone number, and Email Address for each member.
- A simple way to find out what committee or activities exist, what they do, who's in charge, and which members participate.
- A simple way to find out other members interests and skills, and to indicate your own.
- A simple way to contact YCMGA officers,
- A simple way to view relevant documents and reports (Resource Guide, Flyers, Board Agendas and Minutes, etc.)

Quick access to other MG related sites.

You can get to the website by clicking going to <https://ycmgdb.secure.omnis.com/>

You'll see a welcome page that will ask you to log in.

Each member has a username and password that allows them to access the site. Your login username is the first letter of your first name followed by the first 10 letters of your last name (all lowercase, no spaces). So for example my username is **tcanales**. If you happen to have a long last name like Bud Johnsonville it would be truncated to be **bjohnsonvil**.

Your entry password will be '**changeme**'. If you login successfully, you'll see a screen like the one on the next page of the [Grapevine](#).

Your first order of business is to log in and change your password by selecting **Members->Change Password** from the menubar.

Next you'll want to verify your contact information by selecting **Members->Update my Profile** and update any incorrect information. Remember to select the **Update** button at the bottom of the screen to save any changes. *If you don't have or use a computer, contact a member of the web team (Jeff Fahey or me) and we can update this data for you.* Remember, all personal contact information will be viewable only to other YCMGA members and OSU staff but will not be made available to any outside people or organizations. A member may opt-out of sharing with other members by unchecking the "**Share my contact info with other members**" box located on the **Update my Profile** page. Contact information will always remain available to authorized OSU and YCMGA administrators.

You'll also want to visit the **Members->Update my Committees and Activities** and the **Members->Update my Skills and Interest** pages to insure that information is also correct.

Once you've updated all your information, explore the rest of the site. This is the first version of this website so none of this is written in stone. We can add, modify, or remove features as needed, eventually adding enhanced functionality like report generation for Officers and/or Committee Chairs, photo galleries, etc..

If you have any trouble, questions or feedback please email the web team at [mail-to:webmaster@ycmgdb.org](mailto:webmaster@ycmgdb.org) or call Jeff or Tom Canales.

Tom Canales - (209) 470-3887 Jeff Fahey - (503) 434-9904

AND HERE IS WHAT YOU WILL SEE IF YOU CORRECTLY SIGNED IN TO THE WEBSITE...

Yamhill County Master Gardener Association

Volunteers growing a better county

Sign out

Welcome, canalest



HOME MEMBERS + ACTIVITIES + SKILLS/INTERESTS + LINKS + DOCS + CONTACT

Welcome canalest to the YCMGA members' only website

This site is intended to provide a secure location Yamhill County Master Gardeners can use to find out what's going on within the organization, share information, coordinate activities, and maintain their own contact information.

The Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose purpose is to enhance and support the Yamhill County extension of the OSU Master Gardener™ program. We achieve this by:

- Assuming responsibility for performing special tasks and engaging in activities related to the program
- Promoting a wide dissemination to citizens of information available as a result of University study and experimentation. Such information shall be in accordance with Oregon State University standards
- Working with other organization to enhance and promote gardening in the community
- Providing scholarships for college level education



Visit our public site

© Yamhill Master Gardeners

Like us on face book



Comments or questions? Contact our web administrator



It may be hard to believe but spring really will be here before we know it! I've been getting seed catalogs in the mail and I bet you have too - so planning can take place soon. Speaking of planning here's a list of upcoming plant sales - they are primarily sales of ornamental plants: trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses and some very unique plants of all sorts. Watch this space for news of the upcoming Education and Social monthly meetings. These meetings were requested by the membership to have more educational credit opportunities, and even more time to visit with our fellow MG's! Fun to come!

Yamhill County Soil & Water Cons. District
Native Plant Sale (on *Grapevine* calendar)

N.W. Flower & Garden Show, Feb. 17-21
Seattle Convention Center www.gardenshow.com

Yard Garden & Patio Show
Feb 12 - 14
Portland Convention Center

Garden Palooza, April 2.
Fir Point Farms, Aurora www.gardenpalooza.com

Hortlandia - OHPS Plant Sale www.hardyplantsociety.org
April 9 - 10
Portland Expo Center
Over 100 specialty nurseries

Ruth Estrada



AMPHIBIANS IN THE GARDEN

Remember when your kids would go down to the local pond or stream and catch tadpoles to raise into frogs? It was summer and they did not have a care in the world. But truth be known, winter is a better time to find amphibians. The rest of the year they spend much of their time hidden or underground.

In the Willamette Valley, amphibians mate and lay eggs in the winter for the most part. I started seeing egg masses the first week in December. If you really want to get a sense of how many you have living in the area, now is the time to look.

Last week's rains and 45 degree nights was the signal to many species to head for breeding ponds – whether it's a water feature in your yard or pond nearby.

In one and a half days, four of us caught 540 amphibians and saw countless others. We measured and weighed them all for a study I am conducting. I estimate that there are more than 5,000 Long-Toed Salamanders (*Ambystoma macrodactylum*) alone breeding in just one of my ponds. Granted, I have 82 acres, but do not underestimate how many unseen amphibians you have in your garden. They often go unnoticed because they live a subterranean lifestyle.

So why should gardeners care? Remember I said they spend much of their time underground. While there, they consume large quantities of garden pests. They will basically eat anything that moves as long as it fits in their mouth. Being nocturnal, they emerge at night and consume the pests that come out to eat your plants. Do not despair if you live on a small lot in the middle of a development. You may still have [treefrogs](#) (*Pseudacris regilla*) and ensatina (*Ensatina eschscholzii*). Ensatinas have the best chance of survival in a development because they do not lay their eggs in water. They spend most of the day under leaf litter, in vole holes or under rocks.



If you want to increase your chances of having these natural pest control machines you must first think like an amphibian. They need year-round moisture but not necessarily a pond. They will travel up to a half mile to find a breeding pond only to return to your yard for the rest of the year. Consider leaving leaves on the ground to retain moisture and to provide cover for them to hide under along with logs and flat rocks. Even a board or piece of tin will suffice. They also love vole holes.

You might consider adding a water feature to your garden as a breeding site. But the most significant thing you can do is create a nature-friendly garden corridor for amphibians which will provide a protected pathway for them to move around your yard. A wildlife corridor is simply an area of habitat connecting wildlife populations separated by human activities or structures. Since amphibians do not move very fast, cover is important.

For more information on creating wildlife corridors check out this [article](#).

Setting up the right conditions in your garden is not very hard. And most of the improvements will enhance your landscape for you as well. Creating a more complete ecosystem where amphibians can thrive will allow you to take advantage of these pest-eating machines.

Michael O'Loughlin

Our 2016 Mentors & Mentees

Yamhill County Amphibians – these are the ones you're most likely to see:

Frogs

Pacific Treefrog

Pseudacris regilla

Red-legged Frog

Rana aurora

Bullfrog

Rana catesbeiana

Salamanders & Newts

Long-Toed Salamander

Ambystoma macrodactylum

Northwestern Salamander

Ambystoma gracile

Ensatina

Ensatina eschscholzii

Rough-Skinned Newt

Taricha granulosa

Ruth Estrada and Lynette Horn's Mentor Group:

(L to R) Michelle Long, Lynette Horn, Jennifer Frost, Becky Karver, Ruth Estrada, Jennifer Inmon-Bach, Tom Wozniak



Cheryl White and Donn Callaham's Mentor Group:

L to R: Cheryl White, Linda Ramirez, Tim Sullivan, Karen Manske, Carlos Mazuka, Donn Callaham



Lizzy Trickey, a 2014 Master Gardener, is back from her 48-state bicycle tour of the entire continental U.S.

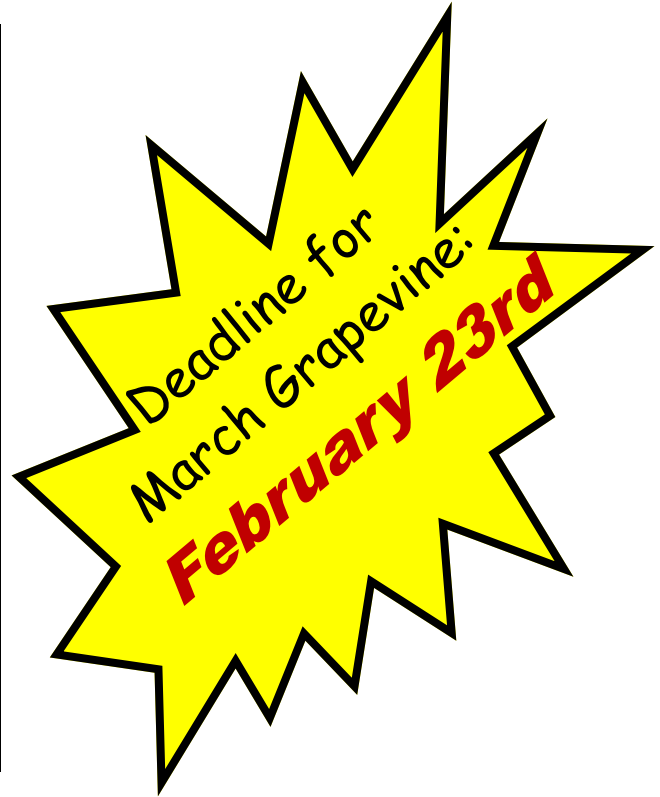
Since she left in early May, she completed the requirements for Master Gardeners in record time, and graduated in absentia while on her 10,000 mile trip. You can read about her trip by following this link to the *News-Register*.

[LIZZY TRICKEY](#)

And more Mentors & Mentees

Terry Hart and Nancy Woodworth's Mentor Group:

L to R: Mary O'Neal, Terry Hart, Cynthia Norcross, Cody Towsey, Kim Martin



Mary (L) & Kim holding pruned cherry tree

Michael O'Loughlin and Pat Fritz' Mentor Group:

L to R: Michael O'Loughlin, Marilyn MacGregor, Robin Packard, Susanne Beukema, Pat Fritz



"CH-CH-CH-CHANGES!"

The title of this article is inspired by a song, "Changes" performed by the late rock star David Bowie. The theme of the article is actually about changes that take place in insects as they progress through their life cycles. These changes are known as metamorphosis, from two Greek words "meta" (meaning "change") and "morphos" (meaning "form"). Not all changes in body form are accomplished the same way by various insects.

Basically, there are three major patterns in the life history of insects from egg to adulthood. The simplest form of development is actually no change at all except in size and maturity. This process is called "Ametamorphosis", meaning "no change in form". The young hatchlings from the eggs look exactly like the adults. Insects of this type of maturation process are very primitive, have no wings and have a very general body plan. Silverfish and firebrats (a silverfish relative) are examples of insects with this type of metamorphosis.

A second change of form is known as "incomplete" or "gradual" metamorphosis. In this process, the immature insect sort of resembles the adult, usually in coloration and body structures except for the fact that it has no wings. The adult is almost always winged. Insect examples are: grasshoppers, true bugs, mantises, dragonflies, mayflies and a great many other common insects we see in our gardens.

The third type of change, and perhaps the most fascinating is complete metamorphosis. There are four distinct body forms in the life cycle of these creatures. As with all insects, they start off as eggs which hatch into worm-like forms bearing auxiliary feet, chewing mouthparts and simple dots for eyes. This stage feeds voraciously and finally forms a resting stage, or pupa. Inside this pupa, the tissues of the insect transform into the adult form which looks nothing like the worm-like larva and has a completely different body plan. Probably the best example of this change is the life history of a butterfly, which begins life as an egg, hatches into a caterpillar, eventually forms a chrysalis, and then finally emerges as a magnificently winged creature. It has transformed from a lowly worm to an agile flying form with delicate scales on its wings, a straw-like mouthpart that can only feed on a liquid diet, large compound eyes and lives a life of grace and beauty.

Insects are very exceptional creatures that are fascinating, considering the variations in their life histories. Next time you observe an insect, think about what it went through to transform into what it is today. David Bowie's song was rather unusual and strange, but so are the changes that take place in the insect world.

Robert Grossman



Comfortable Mentors and Mentee Group

Three Cold
Pruners:
Gene, Donn,
& Ray



YAMHILL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 2** **Spring into Gardening meeting**, auditorium, 2p.m.
Greenhouse & Demo. Garden, cleanup day
- 4** **Integrated Pest Management** (Gail Langellotto), auditorium, 9 to noon.
Lawns (Alec Kowaleski), auditorium, 1—4 p.m.
Native Plant Sale (YCSWCD), now at Heritage Center, 10—4 p.m.
- 5** **Native Plant Sale** (YCSWCD), now at Heritage Center, 10—4 p.m.
- 6** **Native Plant Sale** (YCSWCD), now at Heritage Center, 10—4 p.m.
- 9** **Greenhouse & Demo. Garden** begin seeding for plant sale (Lewis Pavilion) 9 a.m.
- 10** **Plant Sale Meeting** (Linda Oakley), auditorium, 9 a.m.
- 11** **Urban Forestry** (Amy Grotta), auditorium, 1 to 4 p.m.
Vertebrate Pests (Dana Sanchez), auditorium, 9 to noon.
- 12** **Yard, Garden, & Patio Show** Portland Convention Center www.ygpshow.com
- 13** **Yard, Garden, & Patio Show** Portland Convention Center www.ygpshow.com
- 14** **Yard, Garden, & Patio Show** Portland Convention Center www.ygpshow.com
- 18** **Pruning** (Neil Bell), auditorium, 9 a.m. to noon.
Berry Crops (Bernadine Strik), auditorium, 1 to 4 p.m.
- 21** **N.W. Flower & Garden show** (Seattle Convention Center)
- 25** **Insects** (Our Own Bob Grossman), auditorium, 9 a.m. to noon.
Plant I.D. (Linda McMahan), auditorium, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Every Tuesday (starting February 2nd) **Demo. Garden Crew**, greenhouse 9 to noon.

Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday, **Herbarium Committee**, M.G. office, 1 pm. To 3 pm.

Every Saturday, **KLYC Radio Show: To the Root of it:** 9 am to 10 am.

MARCH

- 1** **Spring Into Gardening** meeting, (including all board members) auditorium, 2 p.m.
- 3** **Plant Disease** (Cindy Ocamb), auditorium, 9 a.m. to noon.
Plant Problem Diagnosis (Cindy Ocamb), auditorium, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- 9** **Plant Sale Meeting** (Linda Coakley), auditorium, 9 a.m.
- 10** **Weeds** (Chip Bubi), auditorium, 9 a.m. to noon.

Check out the YCMGA Calendar at www.ycmg.org for additional Continuing Education and volunteer activities

GREENHOUSE & NEWBERG HIGH

Regarding our perennial crop, we are dealing with the extended periods of cold successfully at both the fairground greenhouse and NHS. Thanks to our team of Crop Watchers who check weather forecasts, cover tender plants with frost cloth, close doors, irrigate plants and shut off the irrigation when needed. So far, so good! We have lost few (if any) plants! Thanks Stephanie, Margaret, and Pat!

The Propagation Group will be meeting on Tuesdays in February along with the greenhouse people. We have found that there are many benefits to having the groups meet on the same day even though it isn't great for those members who like working in both areas. There will not be a limit on the number of new members attending weekly since most of the Propagation work is done outside or in the pavilion area. Plant grooming and culling any inferior plants will begin in February. We will begin to move perennials outside on February 2, making room for the greenhouse folks to begin their seeding the following week. We still have some transplanting of 50-cell trays into 4" flats and transplanting of edibles once they are ready for pick-up from Week's Berry Nursery later in February, The plant sale this year will be in the Weiser Pavilion from 11 until 2 on Sunday, all day Saturday. Board members are warned that, being on the board, they are also involved in the plant sale. No choice there. Gail also strongly (though politely) emphasized that people who come to help in the greenhouse need to arrive on time. If they do not, everyone's time is wasted as instructions must be repeated.

Patti Gregory



Fuchsia baskets have recently been transplanted. We continue to transplant rooted cuttings and seedlings. YCMGA is sharing some extra perennial seedlings and cuttings with the high schoolers which would otherwise be tossed. (Editor comment: Presumably it's the plants, not the students, that would be tossed). In the classroom students are learning the 7 basic principles of successful greenhouse growing, and 3 of our hort. students are building a tissue culture lab for their senior projects.

We are again involved with growing Kincaid Lupine and hope to improve survival rates. We get better-than-average germination, but suffer losses at the transplanting stage. We plan to try using deeper cells or open trays without cells to improve survival. We have not gotten any suggestions or special from the experts as they struggle too with these same issues.

Patti Gregory



Spring into Gardening

'Gardening Basics' ~ YCMGA's Annual Educational Seminars

"Home Landscaping... Small Changes - Big Impact"



Saturday, March 12th, 2016
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

McMinnville Community Center
600 NE Evans Street, McMinnville, Oregon

Topics and Speakers

- ** Restoring Established Home Landscapes
by John Greer, owner of John Greer Landscape Maintenance
- ** New Directions for Clematis: Up is not the Only Direction
by Linda Beutler, lecturer and author and curator of Rogerson Clematis Collection at Luscher Farms
- ** Your Landscape-Pollinator Desert or Dessert?
by Anna Ashby, Journey Level Bee Keeper
- Hardscaping: Ten Steps on How to Install Paving Stones
by Western Interlock
- ** Using Native Plants in Your Home Landscape
by Jeanie Taylor, horticulturist and botanist, Taylor Gardens NW
- ** Not Your Usual Containers: Fresh Ideas, Culinary Combos & Creative Picks, by Crystal Cady owner of Sunflower Acres
- ** Waterwise Gardens for the PNW
by Rod Smith, Instructor at Portland Community College
- ** Designing an Irrigation System for the Home
by Gordon Kunkle of Clackamas Community College

** These sessions qualify for 1 hour of Master Gardener recertification credit.

Regular Registration:	\$20.00/person
Master Gardener Registration:	\$15.00/person
Student - with ID:	\$10.00/person
Walk-in day of event:	\$25.00/person

Registration forms are available online at:

yemg.org/events/2016springintogardening/

For more information, contact:

Yamhill County OSU Extension Office
by calling 503-434-7517

Boxed lunches will be provided.

Cost is included in the registration fee.

Snacks and beverages will be available during all of the breaks.

Presented to you by OSU Extension Service and Yamhill County Master Gardener's™ Association. Profits fund continuing education for Yamhill County residents and college scholarships for Yamhill County high school seniors.



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JOIN OUR GARDEN!

As we get into the New Year, activity speeds up and planning begins. The garden is located at 325 NE Burnett Rd. just off Westside Road and/or Baker St.

We are recruiting new gardeners as well as new volunteers to enjoy the benefits of the Community Garden. For the very low cost of about 25 cents per square foot of raised bed, the gardeners receive all of the following at no added cost:

- ➔ Deer proof fencing
- ➔ Organic gardening advice from experienced Master Gardeners
- ➔ Free compost to use on site
- ➔ Wheelbarrows and other tools
- ➔ Excess plants from our Plant Sale
- ➔ Working with a great group of gardeners and volunteers

To sign up as a volunteer, please contact Linda Mason at dad.mason@live.com. To sign up for a garden row or for more information, contact Linda or Alan Wenner at awenner@hotmail.com. We will begin with a maximum of (1) 4' X 24' raised bed per gardener; additional wants will be placed on a wait list.

Official opening of the garden will be on Saturday, March 19th at 9:00 AM. We expect a group of Linfield College students to assist us. We are planning on expanding the raised bed area in 2016 by adding 18 beds in the spring and 18 more in the fall.

Check out information on our Plant Sale on page 12 of this "Grapevine."

Winter gardening failed as 2 gates were left open in the deer fence and the deer had a feast on these small but delicious plants. This failure taught us a great deal and winter gardening will be done entirely differently next time.

Soon we will begin cleaning up the raised beds, improving the aisles, laying down landscape fabric between the beds and in the aisles and beautifying the present raised bed area. Lots of healthy outdoor exercise for many of us!



"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." Marcel Proust

Alan Wenner

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW

VOLUNTEERS INTERESTED IN GARDENING FOR KIDS AND TEACHING BASIC VEGETABLE GARDENING

We will be starting a Seed to Supper program at the Newberg Head Start School in early February. This is a 6 week class co-sponsored by the Oregon Food Bank and OSU Extension to teach low-cost vegetable gardening.

Our six classes of 2 hours each are tentatively scheduled to start February 9th 10-12 and continue each Saturday morning through March 12th. **Some** of the class attendees will be primarily Spanish speaking. We have been asked if we have a Spanish speaking Master Gardener who would be interested in teaching the classes along with the 5 other members currently committed. There is a Spanish course manual for the class attendees.

The Newberg Head Start School will be providing child care for the parents attending the class. In other counties, when soils are being discussed in the class, there is a soil activity for the kids. Resource materials are available.

There will be an instructor training class on Wednesday, January 27th in Newberg. I would like any veteran Master Gardener or new trainee interested in either of these opportunities (teaching gardening in Spanish or organizing children's garden activities) to contact me as soon as possible. I can send more background information and answer any questions.

Thanks

Gene Nesbitt

Email: ghnderm@gmail.com
Phone (cell): [207 310 8032](tel:2073108032)



PLANT SALE PREPARATIONS

This year's plant sale will be held from 9 am – 3 pm on Saturday April 30th in the Leslie Lewis Pavilion and from 11 am – 2 pm on 1 May in the Weiser Pavilion at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds in McMinnville. That is correct; we are trying a 1.5 day sale this year!

The greenhouse will start the seeding of annuals and vegetables in February for our annual plant sale. New class mentees will be given the chance to sign up for seeding 9, 16, and 23 February. Space is limited and so only four people will be allowed at a time. It will be held at our greenhouse located at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds. It is a great way to learn about starting seeds in a non-heated greenhouse.

Please be on the lookout for starts of non-invasive plants that you would like to donate to the plant sale. The plants should be labeled with the common name of the plant and the genus, species, and cultivar if you know it. **Genus** and **species** are the first and last names of the plant.

Additional information that may be helpful in selling the plant:

- *If the plant prefers sun or shade*
- *Color of the flower and/or foliage*
- *Water requirements*
- *Eventual height of the plant*
- *Spacing, or eventual spread of the plant*
- *And other pertinent information*

If you need some pots, please contact me and we can see what is available at the greenhouse. Once you have pots planted and watered in, you will need to take care of them at home until the week of the plant sale. The plants should do well outside as they will need little or no watering, unless it turns cold.



We will need lots of

help for this year's plant sale! The Sign-up book should be in the MG Office the first part of February. Please use **pencil** when signing up as you may change your mind.

You will have plenty of opportunities to volunteer from now until the plant sale.

If you have questions you can contact Sylvia Connor at connor6666@msn.com or Linda Coakley at lindadcoakley@comcast.net.



HELLO YCMGA PROPAGATORS!

Our perennial grooming and culling begins in February! Early in the month the perennials inside the fairground greenhouse will need to be moved outside or into the pavilion to make room for the seeding of annuals, vegetables and tomatoes. The move will be done over 3 or more weeks. If you cannot pick up the flats, that's OK; there are plenty of other jobs not requiring lifting.

We will meet on Tuesdays, 9:00 AM in the fairground Pavilion area during February. Always bring along your small hand pruners, a sturdy old fork and dress warmly! Tight fitting garden gloves or disposable gloves are especially helpful on these cool mornings. If you prefer to work seated, bring a chair or stool; there are table-height benches in the pavilion to accommodate you!

Please invite your MG friends to join us, and especially anyone in our 2016 class. There is no space limitation for Mentees: work will be outside and under cover.

Looking forward to working together with all of you again!

Patti Gregory



EARTHBOUND RODENTS



Moles, voles and gophers can drive homeowners crazy. Photo from Flickr, by Stephen Caspar, CC BY-NC 2.0.

Spring will bring buds and blooms, but it also brings moles, voles and gophers.

The small mammals take gardeners to their knees to peer down tunnels, set traps and toss in everything from kitty litter to gum. They wage war against the critters before they know what they're fighting, which can lead to frustration.

"How you deal with them depends on what you have," said [Dana Sanchez](#), a wildlife specialist for [Oregon State University's Extension Service](#). "The traps are different and so are the baits you would use."

Moles, voles and gophers all create tunnels and are active underground, but what they eat and the damage they cause varies. They all improve the soil by aerating it and mixing nutrients, but sometimes their habits get them in trouble with gardeners.

BACK AT WORK!

Gophers favor bulbs and roots. Voles go for grass, but also gnaw on shrubs and stems nearest their holes and runways. Moles, which are rarely if ever seen, prefer non-plant food.



"People say moles are eating my garden, but moles are adapted for swimming through the soil to hunt prey," Sanchez explained. "They just tunnel through looking for worms, grubs and insects."

Mole tunnels can cause damage to plants, though, when their runways create paths around roots. And the mounds of dirt drive homeowners crazy and interfere with mowing.

Gophers – about the size of ground squirrels -- will eat whole plants. "If you see a plant disappear," she said, "it's a gopher. They're famous for pulling things below ground."

Though voles live in little tunnels, they spend time above ground eating grass and nibbling on other plants. The mouse-size



Mole with Tasty Treat

Continued on page 14

RODENTS, CONT'D

voles leave a lot of small holes and connecting runways through the damaged grass they've been dining on.

You can tell you have a mole on your hands if the mounds in your yard or garden take on a volcanic, rounded shape. Gopher mounds, on the other hand, are flatter on top, fan-shaped with the hole off to the side.

"The important part is for people to assess the level of damage with the level of control," Sanchez said. "Is having a few holes in the lawn enough of a problem that you need to take action?"

For those who choose combat, stick to research-based controls, she advised. Gadgets and homemade recipes have not been shown scientifically to work.

Scissor-jaw traps are recommended for moles, while two-pronged pincher traps are effective for gophers, according to Sanchez. To figure out where to set traps, find an active tunnel by probing about six inches down

near a fresh mound. You can also push down on mounds to close them and wait to see where a fresh one appears. Set traps in a tunnel near a fresh mound.



The Dreaded Gopher

Learn more about moles in the Extension guide [Controlling Moles](#). More information on voles and gophers is available in the publication [Meadow Voles and Pocket Gophers: Management in Lawns, Gardens, and Croplands](#).

Scissor-jaw traps are recommended for moles, while two-pronged pincher traps are



effective for gophers, according to Sanchez.

To figure out where to set traps, find an active tunnel by probing about six inches down near a fresh mound. You can also push down on mounds to close them and wait to see where a fresh one appears. Set traps in a tunnel near a fresh mound.

Learn more about moles in the Extension guide [Controlling Moles](#). More information on voles and gophers is available in the publication [Meadow Voles and Pocket Gophers: Management in Lawns, Gardens, and Croplands](#).

Author: Kym Pokorny
Source: Dana Sanchez





Conservation Notes



Native Plant Sale Edition

December 2015

Yamhill County Soil & Water
Conservation District Native
Plant Sale: February 4, 5, 6.

EXCITING CHANGES FOR 2016 NATIVE PLANT SALE

If you have attended our native plant sale the past few years, you may have noticed we have outgrown our current location. The parking lot has served us well but we think you would agree, it is time for a change!

After careful consideration, the district will hold the 2016 Annual Native Plant Sale at the **Yamhill Valley Heritage Center**, just off Hwy 18 at Durham Lane in West McMinnville.

This location provides indoor shopping with ample space to browse selections. There is plenty of parking in a safe and controlled environment. We hope patrons will enjoy the change and have a great shopping experience.



Yamhill Valley Heritage Center

NEW ONLINE ORDER FORM & CATALOG

The 2016 Native Plant Sale welcomes another change. The district is introducing an *online ordering system* to make it easier for customers to place their orders. Visit

www.yamhillswcd.org.

Each plant selection will include detailed information, photos and quantity availability. We hope this will take a lot of the guess work out of your shopping as you consider

your purchases. No matter how you choose to order, as always, you will pay for your purchases at the time of pick-up. *See sale details on the back.*

PLANTING NATIVES WITH NATURE IN MIND

By Eileen Stark

Everyone with a patch of earth can help support local biodiversity. With a little planning, your yard can be beautiful but also ecologically enriched.

Our region has been impacted by agriculture, grazing, deforestation, fire suppression, invasive species, hardscape, and other development. Only small, isolated remnants remain of the Willamette Valley's original floriferous prairies and oak savannas, and the Coast Range's conifer forests have been intensively logged and managed. Many native plant communities and the wildlife that depends on them are becoming increasingly threatened. Fortunately, there is a renewed and growing appreciation for the diversity and beauty that these habitats bestow, and you can be part of it.

It is best to choose plants that are native to and propagated from sources in your geographic area, for several reasons. Local native plants are genetically adapted to environmental conditions (such as soil, climate, light, and topography) and will help ensure success in your landscaping endeavors.



Eileen Stark is a landscape designer and author of *Real Gardens Grow Natives: Design, Plant, and Enjoy a Healthy Northwest Garden.*

Visit www.realgardensgrownatives.com



Battling the Invasives! (the Gypsy moth)

In 1869, a French naturalist living near Boston imported Gypsy Moths into the United States in an attempt to breed them with silkworms. Some gypsy moth caterpillars escaped during his experiments, and these natives of Europe, Asia, and North Africa found the climate of Massachusetts excellent for their survival.

Descendants of those first gypsy moths currently infest all or part of at least 15 U.S. states, and are moving steadily across the U.S. The pest eats the foliage of many hardwood trees, especially oaks.

In 1993, a ship docked at Wilmington, N.C., and opened its cargo hold. Out flew dozens of Asian gypsy moths—Asiatic relatives of the European gypsy moth that share the same scientific name and look just like



Lymantria dispar asiatica
(male Asian gypsy moth)

the gypsy moths already common in America. This new pest is even more threatening to U.S. trees. It eats foliage from both hardwoods and conifers, making it dangerous to commercial softwood operations like Christmas-tree farms, softwood forests, tree nurseries, and parks and landscaping in the Northwest and the Deep South. Plus, female Asian gypsy moths can fly (European females cannot). This capability makes it much easier for Asian gypsy moth populations to spread quickly into non-infested areas. Since 1993, Asian gypsy moths have

emerged out of cargo vessels and cargo in port cities.

The gypsy moth has four life stages: egg, larva, pupa (cocoon), and adult. Larvae (caterpillars) are 1 to 2 inches long with "hairs" along their whole body. They are gray with five pairs of blue spots and six pairs of red spots along their back.

Adult female gypsy moths are white with brownish banding on their wings. Males are smaller and brown with bands of different shades of brown, and they have oblong brown antennae that look almost like little feathers. In appearance, the European and Asian strains of gypsy moth are almost identical. It is virtually impossible for anyone but an entomologist to tell them apart.

The current U.S. gypsy moth population can eat all the leaves on 13 million acres of trees in just one season. If they are present for two or more seasons, the trees will die. Gypsy moth caterpillars also crawl on homes, get on lawn furniture and in pools, and make outdoor activities hard to enjoy. Plus, they squish under your shoes or between your toes if you are barefoot. These twin terrors are eating their way clear across America. Port cities (such as Portland) often are the launching areas for new invasions.



From the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Aid #1665

Asian Gypsy Moth Update

Asian gypsy moths have been found near Portland in 1992, 2000, and 2009. And now they have appeared again, probably as a result of port traffic from Asia. The new infestation involves both the Portland metro area and the Vancouver area, both of which have ports. For a steady stream of cheap imported goods, this is one of the prices we pay.

Controlling the moths is critical because of their huge potential of destroying nursery crops, farm crops, forests, and urban trees, and of course wild-growing plants. The Asian gypsy moths consume over 600 species of trees and shrubs, starting with oak, larch, alder, poplar, willow, and evergreens. As those species disappear, they move on to others. However, the spraying must be done three times (each application separated from the others by one week) beginning in mid-April, and is sensitive because 8000 acres of cities and suburbs will be sprayed. Prior to spray-

ing, the Oregon Department of Agriculture will be intensely involved in environmental assessment, and public education and outreach.

Bacillus thuringiensis (referred to as "Bt") will be used, and though it is harmless to all but caterpillars, it is a concern that



Lymantria disparisaticata
(caterpillar stage, obviously)

individuals and environmental groups may attempt to block the spraying, thus letting the moth gain an irreversible foothold in Oregon and Washington. The financial cost of spraying will be \$5.5 million, which is a true bargain if successful in stopping the spread of this remarkably destructive species.

APHIS & Capital Press

For further information:

[APHIS: Asian Gypsy Moth](#)



CONSERVATION MOVIES CONTINUE

It's not just "Old McDonald" on the farm any more. All across the U.S. there is a growing movement of educated young people who are leaving the cities to take up an agrarian life. Fed up with what they consider corporate America and its influence on a "broken food system," they claim to solve some of the current systems inequities by growing what they term "clean, fair food."



At the Moonlight Theatre in downtown McMinnville
Second Tuesday in February at 6:30 p.m.

It's Free!



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



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

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