

**Yamhill
County
Master
Gardeners**

**November
2016**

The Grapevine

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

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

President

OMGA Rep.

President-Elect

OMGA Alternate Rep.

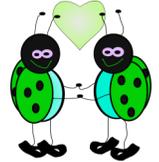
Secretary

(2) Members at Large

Treasurer

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

JOIN IN THE FUN



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

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

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



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MG's prove they have a special sense of style

*Bob
Grossmann's*



Buggy Bits

Winter Plant Pests

So, you have brought your tender, potted plants that have sat outside all summer long into your house, garage or greenhouse to spend a cozy winter until next spring.



You may have inadvertently also provided a comfortable environment for the pests that share their love for your plants as well. Those pests that normally would

hibernate during the cold winter weather do not need to do so now and can feed ravenously on your favorite plants in warm comfort.

One of the pests that may have hitched a ride on your plants are the aphids. Not only do they suck juices out of the stems and leaves, but the honeydew that they excrete can provide food for sooty molds that can damage the plant. Scale insects and mealybugs also can be brought in from outside and they also produce the honeydew that molds love to feed on, sometimes actually killing the infected plant.

Mites are frequently a problem for plants brought in for the winter. They are so small that they are many times overlooked until their numbers have exploded and the plant has lost its vigor and color and is in danger of dying. Telltale webbing on the undersides of leaves usually indicates the presence of mites.

Fungus gnats appear as tiny black flies, and even though the larvae feed on decaying matter in the soil, the adults are an annoyance when they emerge. Caterpillars that would normally spend the winter hibernating in the soil may also become active when plants are brought indoors. Chew marks on leaves would indicate these larvae are present and they can be removed and destroyed by searching the plant carefully for the little culprits.

Springtails can sometimes be found in great numbers because they reproduce so rapidly. They normally will feed on decaying plant materials, so periodic cleanups of the soil surface will normally keep their numbers down. They tend to be more of a nuisance than a real problem.

To prevent pests in stored plants, a careful observance of the stock during storage is imperative. For control hints and information go to the Washington State Extension bulletin 0695 "Houseplant Pests" at:

<http://140.254.84.215/cached.jsp?idx=O&id-33917>



Indoor plants in typical living room

Yamhill County Master Gardener Calendar

There will be No educational/social meeting for November due to the November annual retreat.

November

- 2** Newberg H.S. classes: 8:40 to 9:55 and 11:22 to 12:38a.m.
- 3** Newberg H.S. class: 7:40 to 9:00 a.m.
- 4** **Deadline for turning in "New Project Form" for financial requests**
Newberg H.S. field trip to Smith Nursery (contact Cindy)

12 **YCMGA Board Meeting, 9a.m. to 10 a.m., Public Works auditorium**
YCMGA Retreat, 10 a.m. until finished, same place

17 Newberg H.S. classes: 7:40 to 9:00 and 11:02 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,
planting fuchsia baskets

18 Newberg H.S. class: 7:40 to 9:00 a.m.

28 Newberg H.S. classes: 7:40 to 9:00 a.m. and 11:02 a.m. to 12:30

29 Newberg H.S. class: 7:40 to 9:00 a.m.

December

No educational/social meeting for December.

7 **Education/Outreach Planning Meeting for 2017: 10:00 to 11:00**

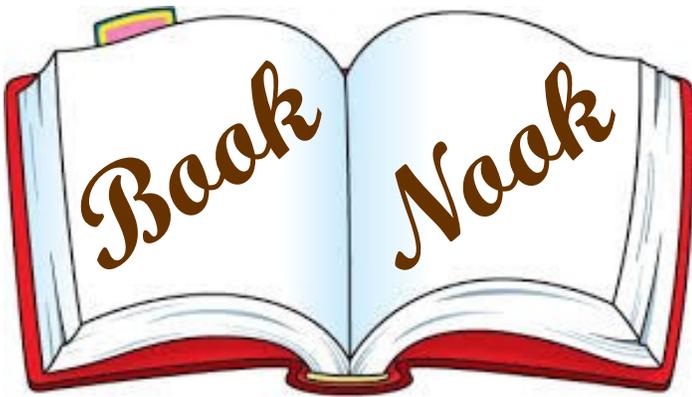
14 **YCMGA Board meeting, Graduation Ceremony, Awards, and Election of 2017 officers;** heritage Center on Hwy. 18.

Board Meeting begins at 5:00 p.m.

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

Every 1st & 3rd Thursday, Insect Committee, M.G. office, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Most Saturdays: OSU Gardening Radio program "**To the Root of It**", 9:00 a.m.,
on radio station KLYC 1260 AM with Ray Van Blaricom and Kyle Hunter



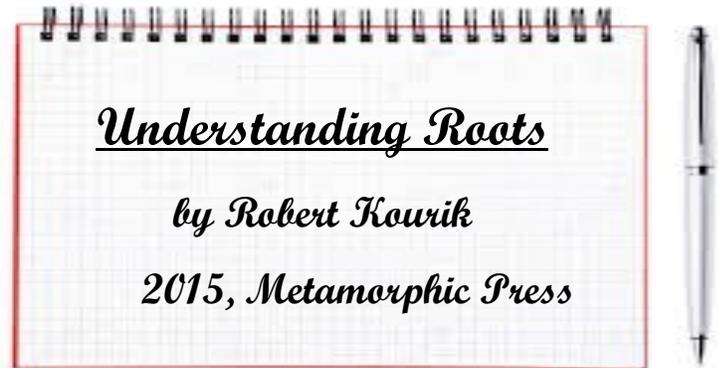
UNDERSTANDING ROOTS (Robert Kourik,
Metamorphic Press, 2015)

Roots—the “root of all life”—don’t get their due. Read this book and you will be root-conscious forevermore. How do you get to “understand” roots? A scientist in the 1930’s asked that question, so he did the obvious. He spent the rest of his life digging out various trees to clean and measure the roots. He drew his results, and those drawings are the most prominent feature in this book.

In doing this work, he and others discovered startling facts about roots. For instance, the “drip-line” is not relevant, because most root systems spread out 2 – 3 times the diameter of the drip-line; transplanting (bare-root or b & b) loses 98% of the root volume; the drier the environment, the shallower the root system; mycorrhizae mycelia link plants to one another in an actual communicating network. And that is just a taste of the fascinating facts you will find in Understanding Roots.



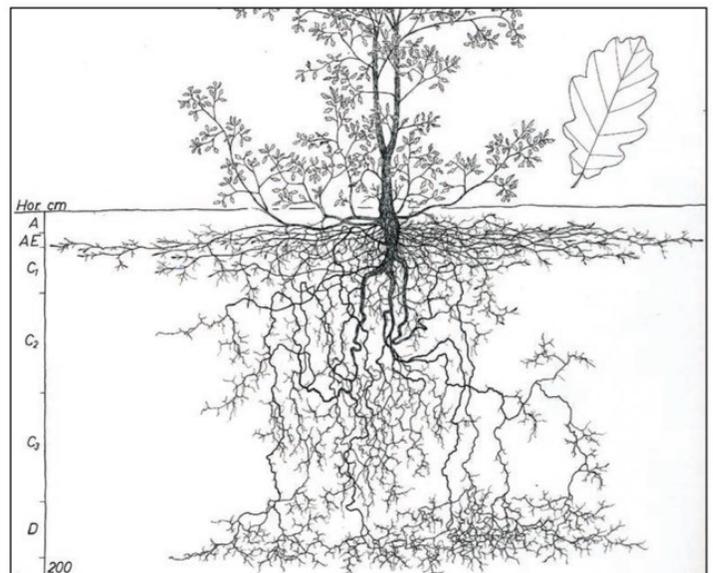
One-hundred and forty drawings of root systems fascinate and inform, changing the horticulturist’s view forever. Every one of the drawings was made by a scientist who dug a trench around a plant, teased out all the roots, and then drew them. These trenches were up to twenty feet deep, all hand-dug. Even in the 1930’s these pio-



neers realized the danger of being suffocated by a collapsing wall of soil. But did that stop them? No, they just kept on excavating and drawing, much like an archeological dig.

Once the true structure of the roots is visible, soil layers are discussed, showing what is going on in each layer. Coupled with that is detailed information on how to use this knowledge to water, fertilize, mulch, compost, and cultivate most effectively.

The primary purpose of this book, in fact, is to educate horticulturists about the intricacies of soil and the life within it, in order to better care for plants. At the same time the reader gets a fuller understanding of weeds,



Sketch of root cross-section (*Quercus rubra*)

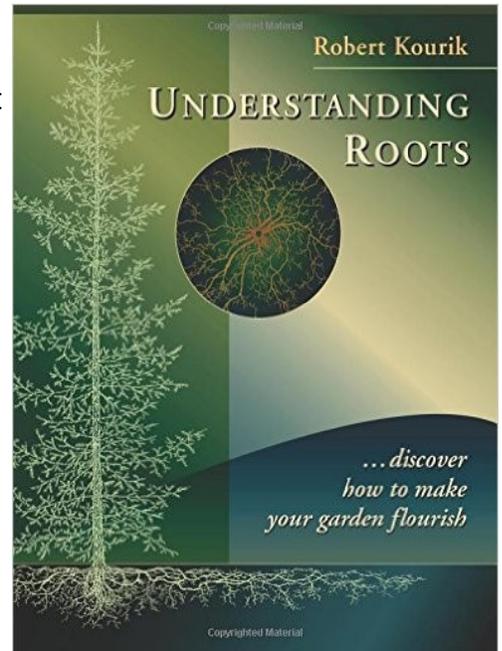
"Book Nook" continued...

and why they are so successful.

Transplanting is discussed in detail, and much of the information is unexpected. For instance, it's only the top 12 to 20 inches of soil which provide nearly all the nutrients and water, so only 2% of trees have tap roots. However, NO transplanted tree will ever have a tap root, because that has been trimmed when the tree was dug. Doesn't matter if it's a seedling or mature tree, either. Plus, the root system on every individual plant changes to adapt to its environment: the layers of soil, types of soil, plus soil composition and condition determine the extent and shape of the root system of each individual plant.

No-till gardening, drip irrigation, watering, mulching, and planting: it's all here. I found this book so intriguing that I read it through like a novel. I dog-eared so many pages that the top corner of the book was noticeably

thicker, and I'm still bursting out with "Did you know???" facts from Understanding Roots weeks after I read it. Even if you're not a gardener you should definitely put this one on your reading list.



Donn Callaham



This is an ***Amanita muscaria*** mushroom found alongside a Yamhill County road. Usually at the base of trees, it grows in clusters, striking in its beauty at all stages.

It is toxic—a hallucinogen. Though it is listed as "toxic" it is often parboiled in Europe, and eaten as a delicacy.

Also known as the "fly mushroom" because it has long been used as an insecticide specifically against houseflies.

People thought it killed flies, but most likely they (the flies) just became intoxicated for a few hours, then revived.

Nancy Woodworth

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT HONEY BEES?

What in the world is so great about honey bees (*Apis Mellifera*)?

The short answer is: Everything! Nearly every third bite of food you eat is possible because of bee pollination. Without bees life would be much less colorful and much less tasty. Even our beef and milk supply is at risk without this amazing pollinator as beef eat alfalfa pollinated by bees.

As a gardener, you should be aware of what plants you grow require pollination. Then, thank a bee for the success of your garden. Maybe consider raising bees yourself!

Honey bees live in a colony and each bee is positively interdependent from each other bee. This is what is commonly known as a superorganism. The only male bees in a hive are the drones that hatch from unfertilized eggs. They are responsible for fertilizing a virgin queen but not a queen from their own hive. In times of shortage the drones are considered expendable by the worker bees and the drone larva will be dragged out of their cells and the drone adults driven from the hive. I guess they think that they can always make more males if they need them.

All the worker bees in the colony are sisters. Each worker bee will perform many tasks during her lifetime. The job the worker does is determined by age and physical development.



Bees from one to three weeks old remain in the hive where they will do the following tasks progressively: Rest, feed larvae, tend the queen and spread queen pheromones (special identifying scent given off by and unique to each queen), clean cells and the hive, secrete wax

to build comb or to cap cells, guard the entrance, patrol the

hive to look for intruders, help heat or cool the hive, accept nectar from foragers, pack pollen and take brief orientation flights where they become familiar with landmarks near the hive.

Once the bees progress to the stage of being a forager, their lives are almost over. A forager bee collects honeydew, pollen, nectar



and water. They operate mostly outside the hive and they generally perform those duties for only three weeks, and then die.

The only other female in the colony is the queen who is the sole egg producer for the entire colony. Because she is the sole egg producer, she is responsible for the genetic traits of the colony such as temperament, work ethic, handling ease, honey production, plant preferences, tongue length, total hive population, brood pattern, swarming tendency, winter hardiness, hygienic behavior, disease resistance, mite tolerance and nectar-carrying capacity.

Any larva up to three days old can be turned into a queen by altering the larva's food. Flexibility, queen quality and division of labor are key factors in the ultimate success of a honey bee colony.

Oregon Beekeepers generally raise one or more of the three most common types of

"Honey bees" continued...

bees. They are Italian, Carniolan, or Caucasian Honey Bees. Some also raise Russian Honey Bees which seem to be a little more resistant to mites.

A condition called colony collapse disorder (CCD) has caused the bee population to plummet and put our food security at risk. Researchers and beekeepers are working together to determine the cause of CCD. It seems that this problem has many causes.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT HONEY BEES:

- ★ *The brain of a worker honey bee is about a cubic millimeter but has the densest neuropil tissue of any animal.*
- ★ *Nurse bees can make up to 7200 visits per larva.*
- ★ *Bees eat about 8 pounds of honey to produce 1 pound of beeswax.*
- ★ *The energy in 1 ounce of honey would provide one bee with enough*

energy to fly around the world.

- ★ *In a lifetime, on average a honey bee produces 1/12th*



teaspoon of honey.

- ★ *The daily death rate in a colony of 50,000 bees is about 500.*
- ★ *Forager bees sleep most of the night.*
- ★ *In Oregon, bees generally swarm in April and May.*
- ★ *Honey bees are the only insects that produce food for humans.*
- ★ *A lethal dose of venom is 10 stings per pound of body weight unless there is an allergic reaction to the venom.*



Cheryl White

Flora of Oregon Volume 1:

Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, and Monocots

The MG Library now has this book!

The Oregon Flora Project began in 1994 and has finally published one of three planned volumes. Research and field response provide the references to produce this "flora." A flora in this context is the primary resource for determining scientific names of plants.

Currently, they estimate there are approximately 4,650 species, subspecies and varieties of vascular plants in Oregon. Included in this volume are dichotomous keys; full descriptions; family and generic synapses; maps and illustrations. There are 73 color photos and also 521 pen and ink illustrations of taxa. The maps are dotted with locational sighting, so you can see if the plant in question even grows in your region.

This is a great addition to our Reference Library and will help with plant ID.

Beth Durr



An abstract of research...
The Invasives!
...from 15 organizations!

**HIMALAYAN
 BLACKBERRY**
(RUBUS DISCOLOR)

We in Oregon are all too familiar with the Himalayan blackberry. It is so prevalent now that eradication is no longer an option; most of the time it is just ignored. Forming a thicket 25 feet across in one year, it propagates at the end of every cane, from roots and root fragments, suckers, and prodigious seed output (of 13,000 seeds per square meter, every year).

Yet, this article is timely because this is the **only time of year** that the individual bushes can be completely killed. There are many ways to attack blackberries, but it's all in the timing.

The plants can be cut, then root crowns and major roots removed by hand, but this is very labor intensive. Repeatedly and doggedly cutting every few weeks is partially effective, but must be done for quite a few years and very regularly. (The best time of year to cut is when the plants begin to flower, as they have exhausted most of the food supply in their roots).

Goats are often used to consume the leaves of the plants. (If the vines are large, a heavy plank tossed into the bush allows the goats to access all the growth). Though goats are eating machines, they still do not kill all the plants. Besides, goats will consume every other herbaceous plant in the area unless strong wire fences, 6 feet tall, are built around each desired shrub or tree. And that is expensive!

It is also possible to mow all vines to the ground, then individually treat the stumps with herbicide. This treatment must be repeated annually for at least 3 years, and is time-consuming. Every cut stump must be treated within 30 seconds to 5 minutes (depending on

the source of information) of being cut. The only way to accomplish this is, after mowing, to snip off the remains of the plant with pruners and immediately treat that stump. Missed crowns and vagrant roots always form new plants in a month or so, and must be treated again.

The good news (finally) is that at this time of year blackberry plants are storing their energy in their root systems in preparation for winter. So foliar sprays with herbicides are particularly effective now, when at other times of year they often do not even stunt the plant. The bush must be sprayed from every side and the top; leaf undersides should be sprayed as well. If part of the bush is missed, that part (or even the whole bush) usually regrows enthusiastically.

You won't see results from this treatment for up to 6 months, but in the spring the bush is usually dead. Then it should be mowed thoroughly, getting rid of all the dead canes. Some sprouts may come up, and they should be allowed to grow to at least 18" before applying herbicide again.

An added bonus at this time of year is that while the blackberries have leaves now, most other plants don't, so most natives are not harmed by the spray.

And, now that you are gradually winning the battle, plant the area heavily in grass. In the grass herbaceous natives can be started, and escapee blackberries spot-sprayed. And remember that shade is anathema to Himalayan blackberry.



Donn Callaham

For more information than you can imagine:

<https://www.invasive.org/gist/>

EXPANDING COMMUNITY GARDEN

Year-to-date harvest by the Community Garden volunteers is now over **14,000** pounds. We had some help from the Linfield College students on this project. Dale Dehm planted most of this in the spring.

We continue to harvest broccoli, kale and swiss chard from our fall and winter garden. We have about 200 more starts to plant before our fall planting is done. We then have several hundred garlic cloves to plant for next summer's harvest.

On Saturday, October 22, 2016, we had a wonderful group of Linfield volunteers again and they cleaned out about 2 large truckloads of garden debris that was taken to Recology for hot composting. On the same day, the garden volunteers recovered the 20' X 30' greenhouse with greenhouse film donated by Bailey Nurseries, Inc.

The primary YCMGA members actively involved with the garden this year are: Linda Mason, Tom Canales, Tom Wozniak, Annelly Germaine, Tony Weddick, Glenda Hulett Wenner and Alan Wenner. These members have contributed at least 2000 total hours to the garden. This is the equivalent of 1 full time employee. We have several other super volunteers that help make it all work!

We are in the process of making expansion plans and garden planting plans for 2017 as we convert the garden from in-ground to 100% raised beds. The raised beds allow for year-around planting and harvesting. This is exciting but expensive. The drip irrigation is the biggest single cost and we are unable to do this without hiring most of the work done.



We will have a Power Point Presentation at the YCMGA retreat on November 12th to show the progress that has been made in our Community Garden in the past 3 years.

Alan Wenner

“ETERNAL” GRAPEVINE DEADLINE

Please remember the 22nd of every month is the “Grapevine” deadline

PESKY PROFILES



By Heather Stoven

The Western Conifer Seed Bug

Just when you've tired of boxelder bugs and brown marmorated stink bugs in your home, I'm here to report another home invader you may be less familiar with.

Occasionally, and this fall is no exception, we have a few people bring the western conifer seed bug into the Extension office. It is not a new pest, however it can be a nuisance to homeowners as it also searches for warm overwintering space this time of year inside homes and other protected areas.

The insects are true bugs (in the order *Hemiptera*), are somewhat sizable at $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long and are brown. In the spring adults emerge from overwintering sites, which is typically under bark or in dead Douglas firs, to feed on the needles of conifers. They will

lay eggs later in the spring/early summer and the hatched nymphs and adults will use their piercing-sucking mouthparts to then feed on conifer seeds once they become available. The insect has a single generation per year.

The western conifer seed bug does not bite or sting and control is similar to that of boxelder bugs: remove the insects and seal up entry points. Also note these insects stink when crushed, so do not squish them in the house!



Rare collectible carrot grown personally by Yamhill County Master Gardener David Norman.



Heather's Highlights

NEW RECERTIFICATION STANDARDS

Start November 1st!

OSU has adopted the national Master Gardener recertification standards in order to standardize requirements. For trainees the hours needed to graduate will not change. Recertifying MG's now need **30 hours to recertify**. HOWEVER, there are more volunteer activities that count towards recertification, so it should not be too onerous. Continuing education hours (attending educational classes) will be reduced from 12 required hours to 10. At least 10 of the remaining 20 hours are to be comprised of direct and/or indirect volunteer activities. The last 10 hours can be support hours (however, direct or indirect hours can substitute for support hours).

Direct hours consist of:

Plant Clinic – Office or outside clinic

Instructing a class - (seed to supper, Newberg High School, etc.)

Educational garden – this is teaching a course, leading a tour of an educational garden or preparing educational materials for an event at the garden

Writing an educational article – for the Grapevine or Gardener's Pen, etc.

Indirect hours include:

Educational Event Planning – planning Spring into Gardening, Mini-College, IMGC, etc.

Master Gardener Mentor – being a mentor for the MG training classes

Educational Garden Maintenance – maintenance for an outreach event. General upkeep should not be used as a major contribution of recertification hours.

Support hours include:

Fundraiser – working at and planning the plant

sale

MG Association – attending board meetings or OMGA meetings

The following volunteer activities should be placed into the "other" category in VRS and will count towards indirect hours:

Insect committee (unless replying to a client's intake – then time is Plant Clinic)

Herbarium committee

Library committee

Publicity

If you have questions about where a volunteer activity that you participate in gets placed let me know.

Note that next fall (2017) Jade and I will be evaluating how the year went to determine if we need to make modifications to the standards to better fit Yamhill County. I am quite concerned that the lack of hours specifically assigned to the clinic desk will result in our inability to support our trainees and handle the many intakes we get from our community during the growing season. Remember, assisting clientele is one of our main responsibilities as Master Gardeners and I want to be sure our service to these individuals does not suffer. Therefore if we do not meet the needs of the desk I may go back to the requirement that gives specific required hours working the desk clinic. So, even though there are alternatives to desk clinic time for recertification, I want to encourage everyone to still participate in this volunteer activity since it is such an important part of the work we do.



Heidi & Kim at Farmers' Market Clinic



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The Grapevine

THE GRAPEVINE IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE YAMHILL COUNTY OSU EXTENSION OFFICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE YAMHILL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION, 2050 LAFAYETTE AVENUE, McMINNVILLE, OR 97128-9333.

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GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE YAMHILL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS™ ASSOCIATION ARE ANNOUNCED IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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Rita Canales

Heather Stoven, Yamhill County Extension Faculty for Community Horticulture

