

The Grapevine

February 2019

The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Yamhill County

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MINICOLLEGE 2019

**DUE TO A LACK OF VOL-
UNTEER HELP, THERE
WILL BE NO
"MINICOLLEGE" FOR
2019. PERHAPS 2020?**

Welcome!
2019 Master
Gardener Trainees
Lots of MG photos coming
in the March "Grapevine"



MG Radio personalities Kyle & Sharon with "To the Root of It"

YCMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Community Garden
Linda Mason

Demo Garden
Gail Price

Education Outreach
Nancy Woodworth

Newsletter
Donn Callahan

Farmers' Mkt. Mac.
Tom Canales

**Farmers' Market
Newberg**
Peter Steadman

Greenhouse
Linda Coakley

Hospitality
Polly Blum

Insect Committee
Robert Grossman

Library
Beth Durr

Photography
Nancy Woodworth

Plant Sale
Pat Fritz

Propagation
Ruth Estrada

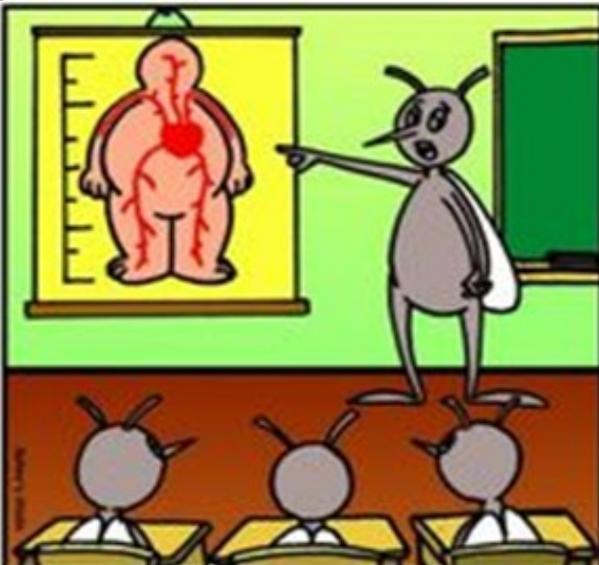
Publicity
Tom Canales

Scholarships
Susan Nesbitt

Seed-to-Supper
Gene Nesbitt

Spring into Garden
Gene Nesbitt

**Social Media/
Website**
Tom Canales
Kathleen Brown



Though you have to dig a little deeper in corpulent humans, their buttery blood makes it all worthwhile.

Correction from January Grapevine: Rita Canales is President for two years, rather than one.

PESKY PROFILES



By Heather Stoven

Fascinated by Fasciation

Fasciation is the term for the abnormal, often flattened growth patterns that sometimes occur on plant parts such as flowers or stems. This distortion occurs from the elongation of the apical meristem (the growing point at the tip of the plant), causing ribbon-like growth. The cause for fasciation is not well understood: it can be caused by environmental factors, chemicals, genetic mutations, plant hormones, infection

(by phytoplasmas, viruses, bacteria) or by feeding by predators. Although hundreds of plant species have been found with this abnormality, certain plant families are more susceptible such as the cactus, aster, bean and rose Families.

Some cacti and celosia, for example, are grown specifically for their tendencies to be fasciated, such as cockscomb celosia. Fasciation does affect plant appearance; however this abnormality of growth does not affect the overall health of the plant. Next time you are out in your garden or walking through the neighborhood keep an eye out for this interesting condition!

For more information:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/plants_with_abnormal_growths_the_interesting_phenomenon_of_plant_fasciation
<https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/resource-library/plant-week/fasciated-2-22-08.aspx>



Fasciation in a rose



Heather's Highlights

The Master Gardener training season is now underway, with week three upon us. We have some new instructors and topics this year which will be of interest. We have Signe Danler teaching 'Sustainable Landscape Design', and Richard Regan teaching 'Plant Nutrition'. Signe works with Gail Langellotto and oversees the online MG course: Richard Regan is retired from OSU and has decades of experience working with Extension and teaching horticulture students on campus.

Other instructors we have who are new to us (or topics are new) include Neil Bell teaching 'Plant Problem Diagnosis', Dana Sanchez teaching 'Vertebrate Pest Management' and Emily Braithwaite teaching 'Lawns'. If any of these topics are of interest to you and you would like to come in to receive continuing education hours for attending please contact Jade to sign up to attend. Hope to see you there!



"Red Hot Poker" Fasciation



YAMHILL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2019

4 Monday

- 🌸 **"THE STYROFOAM STORY"** STYROFOAM RECYCLING BY ZERO WASTE, 5:30PM TO 7:00PM, CARNEGIE ROOM, MCMINNVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

7 Thursday

- 🌸 **MASTER GARDENER CLASSES:**
9AM TO NOON: "PRUNING" BY NEIL BELL, MARION/POLK COUNTY EXTENSION
1PM TO 4PM: "WEEDS" BY CHIP BUBL, COLUMBIA COUNTY EXTENSION

8 Friday

- 🌸 **EDUCATIONAL/OUTREACH MEETING**, 10AM, PUBLIC WORKS AUDITORIUM

9 Saturday

- 🌸 **"INSIGHTS INTO GARDENING"** BENTON COUNTY MGA ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL EVENT, OSU CAMPUS (SEE POSTER PAGE 12 THIS ISSUE OF THE GRAPEVINE)

12 Tuesday

- 🌸 **"SPRING INTO GARDENING"** MEETING, 10AM, PUBLIC WORKS AUDITORIUM

13 Wednesday

- 🌸 **YCMGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: PUBLIC WORKS AUDITORIUM, EXTENSION OFFICE, MCMINNVILLE; 10AM TO ABOUT 12PM.**
AS ALWAYS, ALL YCMGA MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

14 Thursday

- 🌸 **MASTER GARDENER CLASSES:**
9AM TO NOON: "PLANT IDENTIFICATION" BY HEATHER STOVEN, OSU
1PM TO 4PM: "INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT" ONLINE MODULE

21 Thursday

- 🌸 **MASTER GARDENER CLASSES:**
9AM TO NOON: "LAWNS" BY EMILY BRAITHWAITE, OSU FACULTY ASSISTANT
1PM TO 4PM: "PLANT NUTRITION" BY RICH REGAN, HORTICULTURE OSU (RTD.)

28 Thursday

- 🌸 **NATURAL HISTORY OF HAWAII:** SEMINAR BY NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, 6:30 PM. SEE DETAILS PAGE 13 OF THIS ISSUE OF THE GRAPEVINE.
- 🌸 **MASTER GARDENER CLASSES:**
9AM TO NOON: "PLANT DISEASE" BY JAY PSHEIDT, OSU PLANT PATHOLOGY
1PM TO 4PM: "LANDSCAPE DESIGN" BY SIGNE DANLER, ONLINE MG PROGRAM

EVERY SATURDAY 9AM Listen to:

"TO THE ROOT OF IT" PROGRAM @ 9:00 AM. ON RADIO KLYC AM 1260 WITH SHARON & KYLE.



Creative Propagation

By Peter Thompson, 1999

Signs promising free plants cause accidents if we are driving. Yet actually, free plants are all over our own backyards. If you have been on the Greenhouse and/or Propagation Committees, you already have a step-up on techniques, and hands-on experience in magically reproducing plants. This book is the textbook for those of us who are unfortunate to not have a Zen Propagation Master.

This book fulfills two good criteria: 1) Good information and 2) ease of use. For in-depth information and specific details, it can be a great reference book packed with common sense advice and practical ways to propagate. For others, it is easy to understand, and covers all aspects of propagation, with an organized way of presenting it.

The chapters offer propagating information on all different types of plants. These include descriptions of methods of propagation from seed, from cuttings, and by division. They cover annuals, hardy perenni-

als, trees and shrubs, as well as conifers, heathers, alpines, and bulbs. The last 20 pages are a handy chart. This Propagation Table includes over 600 plants, and lets you know the best ways to propagate them.

The chapter on "Annuals and Biennials from Seed" explains seeds reactions and responses to water, soil, medium fertility, effects of oxygen and carbon dioxide, perception of light, effects of temperature on seed germination, and all other kinds of advice you might need. Not only are there timetables for sowing seeds, they discuss pests and diseases. The bottom line says if you are unsuccessful with growing from seed, you are doing it

Each chapter comes up with some surprising aspects. In the chapter on "Propagation of Hardy Perennials" on p.105, there is a sub-section of "Propagation of Ferns from Spores." With diagrams and a section on collecting spores, the mystery of fern reproduction is solved.

Another surprising aspect of this

book is the number of trees, shrubs and climbers that can be propagated by seed. (Albeit, patience is a virtue.) Page 67 lists over 20 conifers that can be grown from seed. Page 87 lists another 30 "Alpines that Germinate Easily." Alpines are noted as plants one may grow in rock gardens and can tolerate extreme temperature changes. Examples include yarrow, geranium, veronica, some poppies, pansies, and sedum. Shrubs that are easy to start from seed are on p.122. Surprises here might include rhododendron, hydrangea, and lavender. Again, p.157 lists over 40 trees that can be propagated from their seeds.

The

most fascinating chapter for me is Chapter 11 - "Propagation of Bulbous Plants." Again, there's a list of 'Bulbous Plants whose Seeds Germinate Easily' (p.155). Examples are gladiolas, hostas, iris, lily, agapanthus, crocosmia, red hot poker, etc. They proceed to explain different techniques for each bulb/corm/rhizome by using cuttings, scaling, and division. By the way, scaling is "shaving from two leaf scales united by a tiny piece of basal plate." Basically, it's slivers sliced from the bulb. Supposedly there are 32 sections you can derive from

**Remember our library mantra:
"We are a reference library, NOT a lending library!"**

wrong!!

"Book Nook" continued...

each bulb, but eight is the average. The best time to do this is July and August.

For those of you wanting to expand your propagating horizons, this book is for you. Even if you are vaguely curious about

the various ways to get "free plants" (without any accidents!), this book provides multiple pathways to explore.

It is on the *Propagation* shelf in the Master Gardener Library, nestled among many other

gems.

By the way, our library mantra is being observed: this year's inventory discovered only a couple of missing books.



Beth Durr

The Latest in Plant Sale Donation Requirements...

Plant sale requirements for Oregon have finally been organized for 2019. Here they are as approved by OSU (and the Oregon Nursery Association). Their purpose is to limit the distribution of vectors (particularly diseases, insects, and microbiota) within Oregon. You will notice that most should be "common sense" handling of plants.



- Sell only plants free from pests & disease.
- Start with clean containers, pots, or trays.
- Start with clean, *commercially-made* soil.
- Maintain a clean greenhouse & growing area.
- Propagate from clean, *non-patented* plants.
- Do not propagate or sell invasive plants.
- Correctly and accurately label plants.
- **Do not sell plants that contain native garden soil.**



Remember: "Native" soil = soil that is native to the area or has previously existed in your yard.

Rules for the 2019 plant sale ONLY:

This spring the Plant Sale Committee and Propagation *will* accept plants dug from MG's gardens. Plants dug from your garden should have soil shaken from them and be replanted into commercially available soil. This should be done ASAP so plants have a chance to root in before the sale.

This must be done sufficiently far in advance that the plants have time to settle into the pot (not necessarily root all the way in). Floppy, poor quality and un-named plants will not be accepted.

Rules for 2019 and Beyond

With any plants grown at home you will need to let Propagation know the genus and variety, quantity, and size of plants you are bringing in. This info needs to be provided 1 month prior to the plant sale so labels can be printed and plants added to inventory. Plants will get labeled when they are dropped off before the sale (usually 2-3 days before sale set up). Please contact Ruth with the names and quantities of plants you plan to bring in, so that they can be checked for duplication and invasive status.



Ruth Estrada

ruthestrada101@live.com

Facts and Fallacies: Adding Organic Matter

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.

THE MYTH: "WHEN TRANSPLANTING TREES OR SHRUBS IN LANDSCAPES, AMEND THE BACKFILL SOIL WITH ORGANIC MATTER."

Of all the fictions that abound in popular horticulture, none is as deceptive as this one. It stems from the old adage to "*dig a five dollar hole for a fifty cent plant.*" (Ideal soil contains 5% organic matter, and people are usually instructed to add 25% to 50% organic matter to the backfill).

Adding organic matter to a planting hole appears to be a logical step towards achieving that five dollar hole. It seems obvious that steer manure, peat moss, compost, etc. would improve poor soils by increasing aeration, nutritional value, and water holding capacity.

And *initially*, the organic matter does give the plant all those advantages.

But in reality, the practice of adding significant amounts of organic matter will slow plant growth, and often, after one or two years, kill the plant. (See why this happens, below).

Adding organic matter is still required in the specifications of architects, landscapers, and other groups. It is even recommended by garden centers and gardening articles. And there is a multi-million dollar soil amendment industry that has little interest in debunking this myth.



HERE IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN BACKFILL SOIL IS AMENDED:

- **Roots do grow well initially** but major problems begin right away.
- **Roots react to reaching native soil:** soil has less organic matter, fewer nutrients, is of finer texture, and less aerated than the soil amendment.
- **Roots do not penetrate the soil,** turning inward as if in a too-small pot
- **Root balls stay the same size** because they are limited by the soil interface.
- **Plant crown growth is limited** and the whole plant weakens or dies.
- **Watered plants don't get water** because the finer-textured soil wicks water away and will not release it to the organic planting medium.
- **During the wet season, water** pools in the planting hole and can drown the plant, and as the organic matter rots the plant sinks deeper in the ground.

THIS IS WHAT YOU SHOULD DO TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM:

- **Do NOT use amendments when backfilling planting holes.**
- **In extreme cases, replace the entire planting site with top soil.**
- **Mulch well with wood chips or another water-holding natural material.**

About Secretary's Notes...

The Secretary's notes in the Grapevine are edited for brevity, space, and timeliness of contents. I have removed references to events that have already occurred. If you want to see the unexpurgated notes, contact the Secretary (who is also the Grapevine editor) at m42oneb@gmail.com to have a copy of the original complete notes emailed to you personally.

"Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it."

"CRIMES AGAINST NATURE"



Extreme Topiary



2019 Spring into Gardening

Educational Gardening Classes

Presented by the Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association and OSU

Speakers and Topics

**All sessions qualify for Master Gardener recertification credit of 1 hour*

Slug Hunting: Know Your Enemy

Claudia Groth, Clackamas County MG

Native Plants and Pollinators

Aaron Anderson, OSU Graduate Research Student

Introduction to Permaculture

Andrew Millison, OSU Department of Horticulture

Climate Change in the Willamette Valley

Edwin Squiers, PhD Botany

Organic Pesticides

Kaci Buhl, OSU Associate Professor

Managing Clay Soils

Linda Brewer, OSU Faculty Research Assistant, Agricultural Sciences

Bonsai - Gardening w/Living Art

Keith Wingfield, Yamhill County MG

Do you Need a Soil Test for Your Garden - If so, Now What?

Anna Ashby, Yamhill County MG

Irrigation

Jeff Cope, Homer Grown Gardens

Knee Deep in Weeds

Chip Bubl, OSU Extension Service, Associate Professor

It is Time to Take On

Invasive Pests

Joshua Vlach, Entomologist Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Grow Awesome Fruit Trees

Joseph Postman, USDA-ARS, National Clonal Germplasm Repository

**Saturday
March 16, 2019**

8:45 AM to 4:00 PM

McMinnville Community Center
600 NE Evans Street

Regular Registration:	\$25.00/person
Master Gardener Registration:	\$20.00/person
Student - with ID:	\$15.00/person
Walk-in day of event:	\$30.00/person

Don't miss the RAFFLE - many items to win!

Major

Sponsors:

Bailey's Nursery, Inc.

Bottens Equipment and Events

Kraemer's Garden, Inc.

Recology Organics

Supporting

Sponsors:

Allison Inn and Spa

Atticus Hotel

Red Ridge Farms

Wilco Farm Store

Willamette Medical Center

Ridgeway Supply

Betty Lou's

Bernards Farm

Doug Verigin

Les Schwab

(Newberg & McMinnville)

Reid Rental

Register online at: **ycmga.org**

A lunch is included in the registration fee. Snacks and beverages will be available during all of the breaks.



Profits fund continuing education for Yamhill County residents & college scholarships for YC high school seniors.

Oregon State University Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, familial/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, genetic information, veteran's status, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by March 1st 2019 to Kelli Watcherson, 503.434.8916, kelli.watcherson@oregonstate.edu.

McMinnville Community Garden

After a few years of writing these articles, it becomes increasingly diffi-



cult to still do something original. Hopefully, a significant percentage of you readers are either new, never have read this before or have forgotten what I wrote 3 years ago.

February is a very significant planting month at the garden as the raised beds are all dry, weed free and have had the compost added. It is a great pleasure to get to the garden on these dry days and do something constructive.

We are facing a probable water shortage from our well this coming hot season and we are searching for a solution(s) to prevent a minor disaster. We are considering many options, the first being very strict water

con-
servation.

This is easiest in the Food Bank rows but very difficult in the row gardener rows.

The photo on the left is a photo of a planting board with multiple dibbles.

We have built one with 6" spacing and will build a second with 4" spacing.

We will use these for onions, garlic and sunflowers to control spacing without measuring. This will save a great deal of time, energy and space. The one shown is 3" spacing and was only used for an example. We plant several thousand of these cloves, sets and seeds and it is difficult for our planting crews to control spacing.

Fortunately, our volunteers are very skilled crafts people and are able to build the tools that we feel will help us improve our

operations.

We are very optimistic about our new trellising system for pea vines and pole beans and have now started to use with the early spring planting of peas.

We use 3 - 7' tomato cages per 16' bed and have 4 laterals of 3/8" rebar. Strings will run up and down for the vines to attach to. We plant peas first and when they are harvested, we will plant the beans to use the



same support system. These will look magnificent when the vines are grown and will greatly improve harvesting efficiency.



Alan Wenner



Don't enjoy Weeding? Solarize Weeds!

WHAT IS WEED SOLARIZATION?

It's a very simple idea: cover planting ground, when fallow, with clear plastic sheeting to let the sun's heat kill weed seeds, fungi, bacteria, and some nematodes and other pathogens.

However, only in the past 3 years has research been conducted on this method, and it was done in two commercial nurseries here in Oregon.



Like landscapes and gardens, nurseries raise a wide variety of plants, making it very difficult to use any herbicide. Besides, herbicide manufacturers cannot list their products for specific species in nurseries because of the cost of herbicide registration.

Soil solarization has been used successfully in Israel, Spain, and California, where hot and sunny conditions exist. Less is known about the effectiveness of this technique in the Pacific

Northwest, where environmental conditions are much more variable.

WHAT IS USED

The plastic sheeting used in these trials is not standard polyethylene. The film is 1.5mm thick plastic treated for anti-condensation, and optimized for maximum infrared solar transmission.

PROCEDURE

Before beginning the experiments, all weeds in the test plots were killed or removed (easily done when no desired plants are there). Counts on emerging weeds were taken 6 weeks after planting, and again in the spring after the tree seedlings sprouted. (See the chart on the next page to compare solarized and non-solarized weed counts).

THE RESULTS

It was found that at low and medium soil moisture levels, the plastic needed to be covering the soil for 6 weeks, but with high soil moisture only three weeks were required. Controlled experiments are underway to examine the interaction between soil moisture and temperature on specific weed species as well as plant pathogen species.

The efficiency of solarization at preventing weeds was surprisingly high (using no herbicides or hand-weeding, of course). Take a look at the chart on the following page to see the differences between solarized and non-solarized plots: the comparison is dramatic! Note the differences between treated and non-treated beds, and notice also that the results are for 16 very common weeds, plus other types.

THE DRAWBACKS

to soil solarization include the initial cost of equipment (around \$6,000) for laying the plastic *on a large scale*, the cost of the plastic itself (approximately \$490 per acre, for beds only) and environmental considerations associated with the manufacture and disposal of plastic. Fortunately,



On the right is the untreated plot in the spring, on the left is the treated plot. Both plots have been planted with Mazzard cherry trees.

solarization film can be recycled into agricultural plastics.

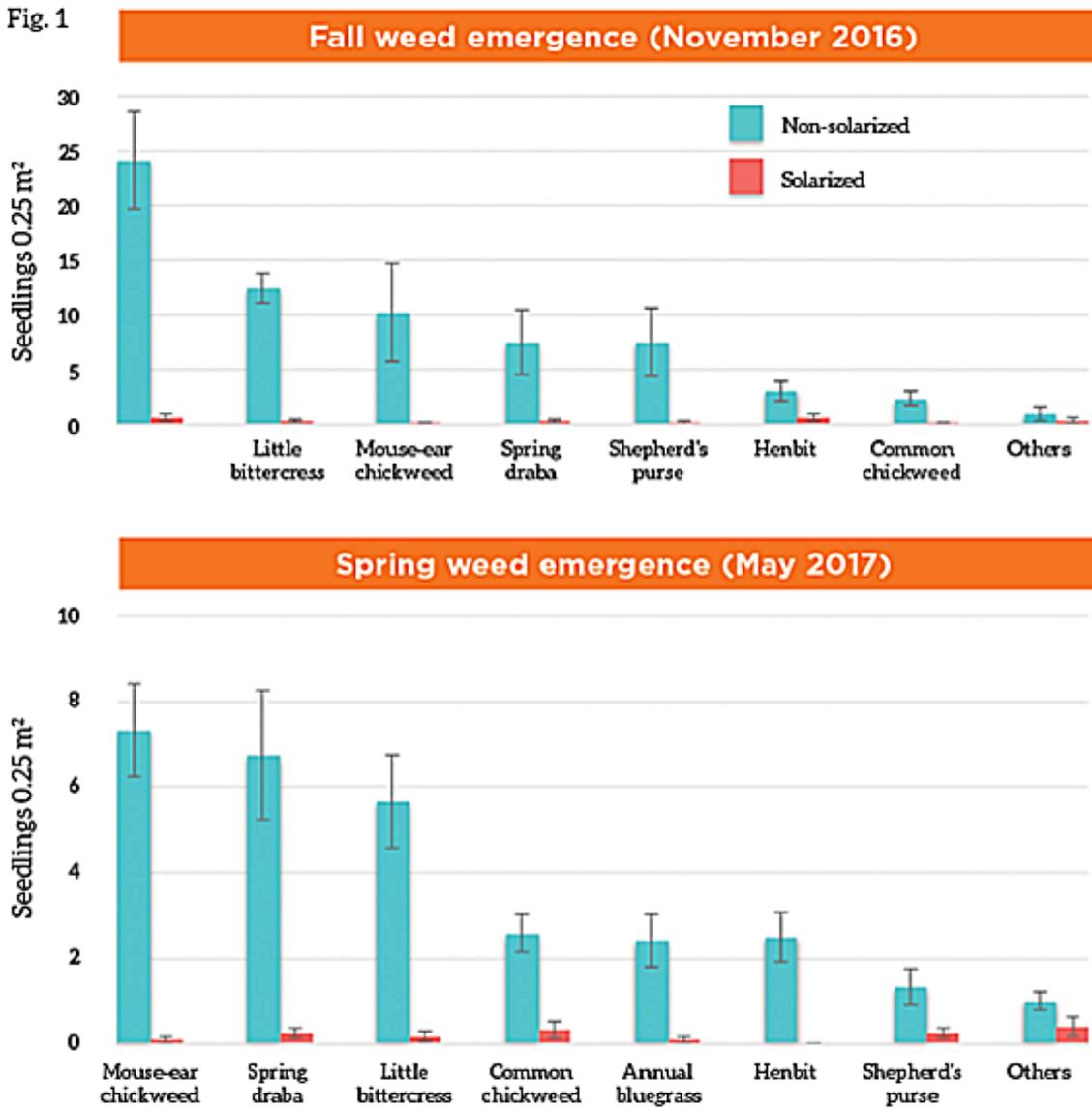
THE BENEFITS

of soil solarization include a reduced need for herbicides and reduced labor costs for hand-weeding, a reduced need for tillage (which should improve soil quality over the long term), and improved crop growth.

Soil solarization appears to be an especially good fit for fall-planted nursery crops in Oregon. One of the state’s largest producers of shade, flowering, and specialty ornamental trees, J. Frank Schmidt & Son, now routinely solarizes 100 percent of their fall-planted seedling beds.

If soil were solarized every few years, the researchers believe there would be a long-term reduction in the weed seed bank requiring fewer management inputs in the future.

Considering these benefits, soil sterilization may become a primary tool for nurseries, landscapers, and in particular individual gardeners.



This article is a *very* brief synopsis of an article in the *Digger* nursery trade magazine, plus of the research being done at OSU. For the full report, go to this website: <http://www.diggermagazine.com/here-comes-the-sun/>

Below is the name of the company to which OSU refers for more information on the specific type of plastic used for solarization. (#C-790, Ginegar Plastics, Inc., Santa Maria, California).



Comparison of weed emergence in May, 2018 at the Clackamas Co. nursery 9 months after the solarization trial. Beds were solarized for 6 weeks or were not solarized. Seeds of Mazzard cherry were sown in fall, 2017.

*Edited & summarized by
Donn Callaham*

INSIGHTS INTO GARDENING



Presented by

Benton County Master Gardener™ Association

Research-based Gardening Classes

20+ Exhibitors

Bookstore ♦ Raffle ♦ Silent Auction

For new and experienced gardeners!

Saturday February 9th, 2019

LaSells Stewart Center

875 SW 26th St.

OSU Campus, Corvallis



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener

extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/benton



Native Plant Society of Oregon

*Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation, and study
of Oregon's native plants and habitats*



Cheahmill Chapter invites you to enjoy free programs
in McMinnville during January, February, March and April 2019

Grand Ronde Ethnobotany

— Jan. 24



David Harrelson, Grand Ronde tribal member and cultural resources manager, will speak about the Indian way of doing things, called Shawash Kagwe, and the tools used by native people to manage the landscape in the Willamette Valley.

Exploring the Natural History of Hawaii

— Feb. 28



Dr. Frank Howarth, former entomologist for Bishop Museum in Honolulu, will speak about his research on the native insects, plants, and animals that have evolved



in the isolated environment of Hawaii, including lava tubes.

Growing Native Plants in the Home Garden — March 28

Joyce Eberhart, senior faculty research assistant at OSU, will share how to determine what is a native plant, why we should plant them in our home gardens, and how to select and care for them. She will also speak about landscape design as well as her favorite books and websites on native plants.



Joyce Eberhart
in her garden

Monitoring Flora in Northwest National Parks — April 25

Dr. Mark Huff, who directs long-term ecological monitoring for the National Park Service in the Northwest, will provide perspectives and insights on what we have learned from studying vegetation in these parks.

All programs start at 7 pm • Social time 6:45 pm

Carnegie Room, McMinnville Public Library

225 NW Adams St., McMinnville • Open to the public, free admission

Information: Cheahmill Chapter, 503-538-3976 • NPSO statewide, www.npsoregon.org

YCMGA Board Meeting Minutes

December 05th 2018

**The President called the meeting to order
at 10:10 am, on 12/05/18**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Donn Callaham
Nancy Woodworth
Polly Blum
Marilyn MacGregor
Linda Mason
Terry Hart

Pat Fritz
Gail Price
Michael O'Loughlin
Tom Canales
Alan Wenner
Linda Coakley

Ruth Estrada
Susanne Beukema
Carol Parks
Rita Canales
Gene Nesbitt

Secretary's notes for November: Rita motioned the notes for November be approved, Susanne seconded, and thus it was so.

Treasurer's Report: Carol has not yet sent the financial documents because the bank statements were late, leaving no time to send out the material. She will submit all paperwork asap. Audit will take place on January 12th.

President-elect Report: (First one for Rita). Rita said that people have been voicing concern that the Master Gardeners are using non-recyclable and non-compostable plastic plates, cups, and utensils for events. So, industrious woman that she is, she researched biodegradable products and even procured samples for us to inspect. (All of these are compostable, and the utensils are made from sugar cane!) Though these are much more expensive than the plastic products, most people at the meeting seemed to be strongly in favor of using them, since we are supposed to be setting an example for the public. A cost/benefit analysis will be done before purchase. An actual vote was not taken.

Jade Report: There are now 21 people signed up for the 2019 MG classes, which is similar to other years. Two of them, however, have paid extra and will not be becoming YCMGA members. There are only 4 more openings.

Announcements: Yamhill County Fairgrounds is looking for participants in their newly-formed "Holiday Light Show" competition at the fairgrounds. They want sponsors, a supply of food, and laborers to hang lights. All agreed that it was way too late (5 days after the event had already begun) to participate this year, and that there would be a *chance (though minimal)* of our considering it next year.

OMGA Reps.: Nancy reported. The OMGA newsletter editor (Marcia Sherry) has a strong need for

more articles for the *Gardeners' Pen*. OMGA is looking for locations to host 2019 BOD meetings, and will pay the hosting chapter \$300 for supplies. All officers have been elected, except for a First Vice President. Eric Bosler is the president for 2019. Kathryn Johnson has found a replacement for her treasurer position. Gail Langelotto spoke about the new "Best Management Practices" but at the end of the meeting the timeline for it was mired in fog. Nancy promised to push for more specific information on this at the next meeting she attends. There is a new OSU requirement for all Master Gardener Volunteers: we can no longer become violent while on duty. Tom adamantly asserted that verbal violence is not *real* violence; he was ignored.

Good news re: G2—the name of the event has been returned to "Mini-College" because of the nebulousness of the name "G2." The 2019 International Master Gardener Conference will be held in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

McMinnville Community Garden: The garden is closed down, and the spinach is slow (in growing). Alan and Mike are building/providing cedar harvest baskets for use by gardeners, in an effort to make harvesting even easier. Planting will begin in February.

Web/publicity: Tom is now working on registration for SIG. Tom is quite concerned that he is the only person able to work on our website, making him the weak link. He therefore is suggesting that YCMGA have a paid professional to design and operate our website, so there is always someone available. He spoke with Amanda Greene, who has done the (very attractive) website for Yamhill County Soil & Water Conservation District. Her estimate for a YCMGA website is in the neighborhood of \$1500, and any service after setup at \$35. per hour. The original cost would include training for MGs, and after construction the site should be run by our members. Tom would stay involved: the new site would use "Wordpress," which is a common and accessible site in wide use. The plan is to delve further into this after SIG registration is complete.

Seed to Supper: The program is wrapping up for 2018, having 115 participants this year. The raised beds and containers have been built or pur-

chased; most go to individual homes, but in Sheridan they will be in a community garden. The 2018 supplemental budget was used to purchase supplies, and Hampton Lumber and Recology both made donations of materials. There is still enough material in stock for 15 more raised beds. As with Tom and the website, Gene is concerned that the program is too dependent on him, and would not sustain itself without him. He is aiming to organize the program to be more reliant on multiple people.

Mentoring Committee: The mentoring teams are now set up, and there are plenty of alternates. The committee is now working on Mentor Binder content. The months and dates are unclear for the schedule for BOD introductions, the Job Fair, the visit to the greenhouse, the Plant Sale presentation, and other events not covered by the class schedule from Heather. After much discussion, Pat asked Gail to send a written copy of the final schedule to clarify all events: they will not be listed anywhere until the board receives the written timetable.

Perennial Propagation: Plants are in the greenhouse, and the bareroot plants have been ordered. Some new carts or hand trucks have been purchased.

Spring into Gardening: All 12 speakers have been chosen and verified, along with completion of schedules and sponsors. Publicity will begin January first. There will be a 3' x 5' banner for Wilco displayed at the fairgrounds, in exchange for a donation of \$200 *more* than the original \$100.

Annual Propagation: The order for plants is ready to go, schedule for the greenhouse for 2019 is finished, and seeding will begin on February 12th.

Plant Sale: Prices this year are being raised: plants that have been historically sold for \$1.25 will be \$1.50; prices on all other plants will be raised 50 cents.

Unfinished Business: Liability insurance of \$500,000 for board members will soon take effect. Board meetings for 2019 will be kept at the second Wednesday of each month, 10am in the Public Works Auditorium. All dates have been reserved. As usual, November will be graduation. Pat proposed that the Planning Meeting (Saturday) be in October, Donn seconded, and everyone agreed.

New Business: Regrettably, Polly informed us that at the end of 2019 she will retire from doing hospitality, and she needs someone who is willing to take on the responsibilities. She needs to begin training the person asap. Jade will send out a notice, and it will be in the *Grapevine* and the website. Polly did promise that the Hospitality person will be well-loved by members, and pointed out that the energy of youth is needed for this spot.

The **division of labor** on the demo. gardens was mentioned: Cynthia and Jennifer have volunteered to do barrels and annuals, Sue Nesbitt is in charge of roses, and Gail will do perennial beds. A chairperson is needed. Polly reminded us that the history of the gardens is one of change, so people have a great deal of latitude re: how they set up their fiefdoms. It was generally agreed that the only effective way to retain trainees was with face-to-face personal interaction, primarily by mentors. Forms and surveys have proven to be ineffectual.

Grapevine newsletter: Donn is beseeching everyone for contributions to the newsletter. In November, there was one contributor besides the editor. Research is not needed: people can write about personal horticultural experiences, tours or visits, or their own problems/solutions. Pat suggested each committee chair write just one article per year re: their activity; Cathy suggested little bios with photos of our members each month. There is also the possibility of making the newsletter much shorter, though it has to be in 4-page increments.

THE TRANSFER OF POWER: At 11:55 am Pat Fritz ceremoniously relinquished the gavel and an impressive embossing seal to Rita Canales, the new president.

At 11:55 am Tom moved that the meeting be adjourned; Suanne seconded the motion, and thus the meeting came to an end.





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The Grapevine

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

CONTRIBUTORS VARY BY MONTHLY EDITION.

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