

The Grapevine

November 2019

The Newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Yamhill County

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**Master Gardener
Graduation and Ban-
quet will be at 6:00pm
Wednesday, Nov.20th.**

Remember, it's at a new location:

**Dayton Community Center
(Palmer Creek Lodge)
606 4th ST., Dayton**

YCMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Community Garden
Linda Mason

Demo Gardens
Gail Price

Education Outreach
Rita Canales
Nancy Woodworth

Newsletter
Donn Callahan

Farmers' Mkt. Mac.
Tom Canales

**Farmers' Market
Newberg**
Peter Steadman

Greenhouse
Linda Coakley

Hospitality
Cat Bowdish
Gail Stoltz

Insect Committee
Jeff Lukehart

Library
Beth Durr

Plant Sale
Susanne Beukema

Propagation
Pat Fritz
Marilyn MacGregor

Publicity
Tom Canales

Scholarships
Susan Nesbitt

Spring into Garden
Carol Parks
Becky Karver

Sunshine Committee
Polly Blum

**Social Media/
Website**
Tom Canales

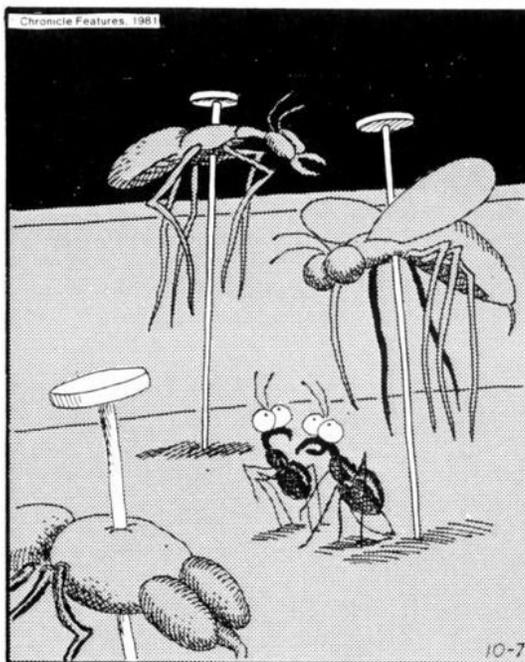
YCMGA Officers listed
on page 12

Since there is no YCMGA board meeting in August there are no board notes for August either. Next month in the Grapevine there will be a summary of the minutes from October 2019.

"Mini-College" has been revived, and will take place in 2020. Location will probably be at OSU.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Gad, I hate walking through this place at night."

Watch for Changes in this column!

Recently there have been some significant changes in committees and installation of new leaders. During the YCMGA Planning Meeting on November 20th this list will be updated. New list in December!



You're Invited!

Please join us for the
Master Gardener Graduation & Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, November 20th, 2019

5pm Board Meeting, 6pm Potluck Dinner followed by ceremony

Palmer Creek Lodge

606 4th St, Dayton, OR 97114

Please **RSVP** Monday, November 11th

by clicking *HERE*



Extreme Topiary

YAMHILL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER CALENDAR**NOVEMBER 2019****12** Tuesday

-  **WINTER SOUPS CLASS** PUT ON BY THE OSU MASTER FOOD PRESERVERS TUESDAY, 6-8:30PM , PUBLIC WORKS AUDITORIUM. COST IS \$15.00 PER PERSON.

14 Thursday

-  **MUSHROOM IDENTIFICATION & FORAGE:** A PRESENTATION BY A MEMBER OF THE OREGON MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY, SPONSORED BY THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON. THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14TH AT 7PM IN THE CARNEGIE ROOM AT MCMINNVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

14 Thursday

-  **INSECT COMMITTEE MEETS:** FORMER PUBLIC WORKS AUDITORIUM, EXTENSION OFFICE, 10AM TO 12PM.

20 Wednesday

-  **YCMGA GRADUATION AND BANQUET** (ALSO INCLUDING NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING, TO WHICH EVERY MEMBER IS INVITED. THIS IS A TERRIFIC WAY TO LEARN WHAT IS GOING ON AT YCMGA). BOARD MEETING FROM 5PM TO 6PM. DINNER AND CEREMONY AT 6:00PM AT DAYTON COMMUNITY CENTER IN DAYTON.

21 Thursday

-  **INSECT COMMITTEE MEETS:** FORMER PUBLIC WORKS AUDITORIUM, EXTENSION OFFICE, 10AM TO 12PM. *LAST INSECT COMMITTEE MEETING THIS YEAR.*

*The difference between a flower and a weed...
is a judgment.*



McMinnville Community Garden



We are now well into the fall harvest season and still working on the summer harvest. Another great year at the garden with both a good harvest and excellent

the Food Bank. One of our row gardeners produced excellent watermelons and they and we were delighted.

Our major improvements this year were the following:

- **Obsolete greenhouse converted to storage shed**

- **Water well renovation and replacement of pump**

Next year, we will be using pelleted seed for carrots, radishes and beets. We tried using our 4" dibble board for planting pelleted seed and this is a great improvement as we get better spacing and no thinning needed.



Sweet Potato Harvest



New Replacement raised beds

progress on solving some of our challenges.

We have 6 new raised beds that have been built to replace some of our original beds (see photo next column). These are an improved version that incorporates several changes that should prolong the life of the bed.

Sweet potatoes were grown successfully this year and we will add to our list of veggies for

- **New canopy 12' X 20' for classes and shaded work area**
- **Multiple dibble boards to use for garlic, onions, carrots, beets, radish planting (eliminating thinning)**
- **New pole bean and pea trellis' are excellent!**

Over 12,000 lbs. of fresh, organic produce has been harvested and delivered to YCAP this year, with more left to harvest!



Alan Wenner

The Journey to Becoming an OSU Master Beekeeper

I had no intention of ever being a beekeeper. Yet, when I took the job at The Allison Inn in 2013, two bee hives came under my care. At the time, I knew two things about honey bees. 1) They pollinate flowers while gathering nectar to make honey, and 2) They sting!

Just where does a Master Gardener turn for information? Extension, of course! It was my good fortune that in 2012, OSU in conjunction with Oregon State Beekeepers Association launched the Master Beekeeper program. I immediately signed up for the first of three levels, the "apprentice" level training. This consisted of having a mentor, taking classes,

keeping records (shades of 4-H in my youth), doing public service hours, and a final written exam. I finished this level in 2014.

As a side adventure in 2014, I became allergic to honey bee venom which sent me to the ER; certainly not your average Friday at work. I had monthly venom injections for the next four years, until my body decided that bee venom was not a foreign invader to be fought.

I spent 2015 learning more about honey bees and gaining experience. I attended a few monthly meetings in Corvallis to further my knowledge. In September, I signed up for the "Journey" level. This level required more service hours, completing a dozen "guided studies" which ranged from honey bee biology to pest management, to laws and regulations, and many more. I still needed to

keep records and then pass a written lab exam and a practical in-hive exam. This level occupied two more years of my life.

In September 2017 I signed up for the "Master" level. This level was created in 2016 and finalized in spring of 2019. This level required yet more service hours, research paper critiques, literature reviews, demonstrating proficiency in two different areas (just one of which was honey bee pests and diseases), an Extension outreach project, and finally culminating in a three-hour oral exam. It was rigorous to say the least and I am thankful to have successfully completed this in September 2019, when I became only the

second OSU Master Beekeeper. Yes, currently there are only two of us. Next year there will be more.

Why go through all this work? I am expected to provide excellent care of the bees at The Allison, just like I am expected to take excellent care of the Chef's Garden at the Allison Inn. It seemed logical to learn from research-based information and become a Master Beekeeper.



Anna Ashby

*"Remember that gophers also need to make a living;
preferably in somebody else's garden".*

Facts and Fallacies: Paper-based Sheet Mulches

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. Condensed by Donn Callaham.

THE MYTH: "PAPER-BASED SHEET MULCHES (AS NEWSPAPER AND CARDBOARD) ARE EXCELLENT ORGANIC MULCHES."

The use of newspaper and cardboard *sheet* mulches in non-crop settings is relatively new and therefore not much scientific literature exists on its efficacy in permanent landscapes and gardens. However, some conclusions can be drawn from agricultural literature as well as anecdotal observations that can be applied to landscaping and gardening installations.

Note that the following applies to **sheet mulches only**. If the paper product has been shredded or ground it is a very different product and behaves like other organic mulches.

HERE ARE THE REASONS TO *NOT* APPLY PAPER-BASED SHEET MULCHES TO LANDSCAPING OR GARDEN SITES:

- They can become **pest havens**. Termites have been found to prefer cardboard over wood chips as a food source, and rodents such as voles often nest underneath mulch sheets.
- They often become **dislodged** by winds, especially if they are exposed.
- They are often **not as effective** as other organic mulches (e.g. wood chips or bark) in preventing weed growth or improving yield.
- They can **induce anaerobic conditions** if used on wet, poorly drained soils. When wet, the layers of paper product are compacted, creating an impermeable barrier to water and gas exchange.
- They **become hydrophobic** if allowed to dry out, causing rainfall or irrigation water to sheet away rather than percolate through. This is particularly true of regions with droughty summers, such as the Willamette Valley.



- **Increased shrub death** has been observed in restoration areas mulched with newspaper and cardboard sheet mulches compared to adjacent sites where wood chips have been used.
- Sheet mulches can **prevent water movement** and gas exchange if they are too wet or too dry.
- When exposed (by installation, animals, or wind) they **look unsightly**.



Albizia julibrissin — An “Instant” Tree



20-year-old tree showing mature form

A. Dobb

Albizia julibrissin, also known as “Mimosa” or “Silk Tree,” is an all-around tough and attractive tree, tolerating a wide range of soils, including poor ones. It likes full sun and thrives in extreme heat (a useful feature as the climate changes). The fast-growing Mimosa is drought resistant, though as is true of most plants it performs best when watered several times during the summer.

The tree is known for its spectacular pink blossoms in June and July, emitting a sweet fragrance which is a strong attractant for butterflies. The Silk Tree is not only fast-growing, but the light airy fern-like foliage lends an almost-ethereal look to a yard, and the trunk and branches are attractive in winter as well. Its deer-resistance is also valuable.

Drawbacks to Keep in Mind...

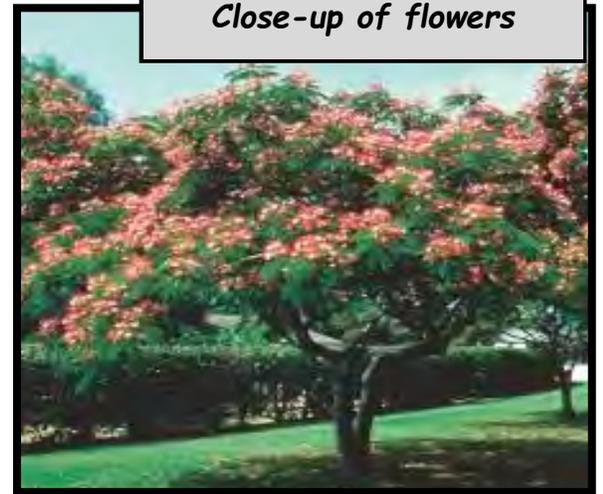
Mimosa is susceptible to mimosa web worm, and should not be planted in soils harboring *Verticillium* wilt. Self-seeding can produce numerous seedlings, though they can be pulled out rather easily (and given to friends). There is no fall color, and falling leaves, flowers and seed pods can pose significant clean-up work. Weak-wooded limbs are susceptible to damage from strong winds and ice/snow. It has become invasive in the southern U.S., and in California, but not here in Oregon.



Donn Callaham



Close-up of flowers



Detail showing fern-like foliage

The Potato Saga

For a simple brown tuber, potatoes have a long history. Ancient Incans worshipped them and today they are the fourth largest food crop in the world. The ubiquitous lowly spud supplied enough food to allow people to avoid nomadic lives, establishing cities and even empires.

By feeding rapidly growing populations, it permitted a handful of European nations to assert dominance over most of the world between 1750 and 1950. The potato, in other words, **fueled the rise of Western civilizations**. Compared with grains, tubers are inherently more productive. And, if the head of a wheat or rice plant grows too big, is hit by hail or pounded by rain, the plant will fall over and the crop is lost. Growing underground, tubers are not limited by the rest of the plant, and are protected from many weather risks. (In 2008 a Lebanese farmer dug up a potato that weighed nearly 25 pounds).

By the end of the 18th century, potatoes had become in much of Europe what they were in the Andes—a staple. Roughly 40 percent of the Irish ate *no* solid food other than potatoes. Potatoes were never given the respect of a “culinary” food, but they did sustain great populations, and allowed people to lead stable non-nomadic lives.

Equally importantly, the European and North American adoption of the potato set the **template for modern agriculture**. Not only did the “Columbian Exchange” carry the potato across the Atlantic, it also brought the world’s **first intensive fertilizer**: Peruvian guano.

Though the green color that forms on the skin of a



potato is chlorophyll, which isn’t toxic at all (it’s the plant’s response to light exposure), the presence of chlorophyll indicates concentrations of solanine and tomatine. These nerve toxins are produced in the green part of the potato (the leaves, the stem, and any green spots on the skin which have been exposed to sunlight). If you eat enough of the green material, it can cause vomiting, diarrhea, headaches, paralysis of the central nervous system and even coma or death.

The reason for tomatine and solanine in potatoes? These chemicals defend the plants against attacks from dangerous organisms like fungi, bacteria and human beings. Cooking often breaks down such chemical defenses, but animals in the Andes lick clay before eating such poisonous plants. The toxins stick—more technically, “adsorb”—to the fine clay particles in the animals’ stomachs, passing through the digestive system without affecting the animal.

Mimicking this process, mountain peoples learned to dunk wild potatoes in a “gravy” made of clay and water. (Clay dust is still sold in Peruvian and Bolivian markets for this use). The result is great diversity, so potatoes in one village at one altitude may look totally unlike those a few miles away in another village at another altitude. Eventually Peruvians bred less-toxic potatoes, though some of the old, poisonous varieties remain, favored for their better taste and resistance to frost.



Donn Callaham



World's Largest Fiberglass potato

MORE TO COME! In the December Grapevine learn about potatoes and pesticides and some interesting spud resources.

Heather's Highlights

Our graduation and awards ceremony evening is coming up quickly! This year it will be on the evening of

the 20th at the **Palmer Creek Lodge in Dayton**. Carla has e-mailed the RSVP invitation: please respond to her by the 11th of November.

Thank you to those who have assisted with putting out flyers and spreading the word about next year's training class: we have a number of registrations already. Our speakers' schedule is organized and as always we are expecting some good presenters and topics. The first day of training is January 9th. It will be here before we know it!

Happy Fall!



PESKY PROFILES



By Heather Stoven

Deer B'Gone

I recently participated in the planting of a beautiful new landscape for a family member, only to have the new plants munched upon by deer a mere 24 hours later. An effort was made to focus on non-deer-friendly plants: however, when hungry the deer will come!

The best tried-and-true method to keep deer away is by using a 7 foot tall deer fence. (In my situation, probably not the best option for the front yard within a residential community). A number of commercial and homemade repellents do exist which focus on either making the plant taste badly or are odor-based to deter deer.

Many times, however, even when reapplied regularly (which is needed in our rainy season), a hungry deer will still consume the protected plant. In my situation Milorganite® was applied to the plants: perhaps it

deterred some feeding, but many of the plants were still nibbled or eaten to the ground.

Of course, many noncommercial products can be applied which are less expensive (such as deodorant soap), but are also less tested and often are not very effective. Some commercial repellents that have been tested by USDA APHIS that have the best success include those that emit sulfur odors or those which contain decaying animal proteins (see first link below for details).

Other options could include scare devices such as a sprinkler with a motion sensor. As with most management systems, utilizing a mix of different tactics is best (unless everything can be fenced in).

Multiple repellents should be rotated and reapplied regularly, deer-resistant plants utilized, and applying a scare tactic if

possible (might keep neighbors away too!).

- ⇒ <https://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/htmlpubs/htm01242331/>
- ⇒ <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw719>
- ⇒ <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C889-1&title=Using%20Milorganite%20to%20Repel%20White>
- ⇒ <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/species-facts/deer#>
- ⇒ <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2076/2017/07/C063-Deer-Resistant-Plants-14.pdf>





Still life by Annie Dobb (photographer, YCMGA trainee)

**Earn Direct MG hours
as an interviewer/writer!**

HELP WANTED

Interviewer

Like meeting people? We are looking for a Master Gardener who would like to interview other Master Gardeners (one per month). Either send your notes to the Grapevine



The great basin bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*) called Methuselah lives hidden in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest of the White Mountains in the Inyo National Forest, California. With an age of around 4,700 years, the forest service decided to keep the ancient organism's location a secret to protect it from....humans.

"CRIMES AGAINST NATURE"



editor or, if you are ambitious, write up the interviews yourself for publication in the Grapevine. Get credit either way!

JUST CLICK ON "EDITOR"

Bob
Grossmann's



Buggy Bits

Insect Homes (a reprinted article)

Many insects have either temporary or permanent homes that they construct to survive. We have all seen the homes constructed by hornets and bees that serve as nurseries and living quarters for successive generations during the year.

But other insects, mostly solitary, can't chew up wood like hornets do to make their nests, nor can they produce wax to make combs as bees do.

possess silk glands that they use to construct tube homes for themselves. Materials from the environment are cemented together to form camouflaged living quarters, which are expanded larger as the larva grows. Some species use bits of sand or other debris; others use bits of vegetation to make a "thatched roof" tube in which to live.

We've all seen the tent caterpillar webs which protect the larvae from being preyed upon by other insects and birds that would devour them. The caterpillars remain in their "tent" until after dark and then venture out to feed on the vegetation on which they live.

Many moth and butterfly caterpillars roll up leaves in which to hide and feed without being detected by marauding birds and other predators. The western tiger swallowtail butterfly larva goes a step farther. It rolls up the base of a leaf but leaves the apex unrolled. It then sits in this nest with its anterior portion exposed.

False eyes on its thorax make it appear to be a snake lying in wait. This frightens off any birds wanting to make the larva a meal. If that ruse fails, a special structure behind its head, called an osmeterium, is extended. This is orange, forked and resembles a snake's tongue. The structure also gives off a disagreeable odor that discourages attackers.

Moths go through four stages in their life history: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The pupa, or resting phase, is very vulnerable to predation. Most moth larvae spin cocoons of tough silk that will protect this stage from being eaten. The cocoon is a temporary home for the developing adult moth.

Look at our insect collection in the MG room to see the cocoon of a ceanothus silk moth. Many other insects construct equally efficient homes to ensure their survival. I guess we humans do the same to keep us protected from the elements. Stay warm in your home this winter!



Western Swallowtail Larva

Some insects are ingenious builders and construct protective homes for themselves. An example of such creatures are caddisfly larvae. Their immature stages are worm-like. They





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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. (503) 434-7517.

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

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