





REMEMBER "SPRING INTO GARDENING" on Saturday, March 21
McMinnville Community Center (various classrooms)
Beginning at 8:45am, ending 4:00pm

IF YOU HAVEN'T REGISTERED, DO IT NOW!



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NATIVE PLANT SALE

March 6th (Friday) & 7th (Saturday)

Yamhill Valley Heritage Center
Highway 18, McMinnville

9am to 6pm Friday

9am to 4pm Saturday

BE EARLY FOR BEST SELECTION!

YCMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Community Garden Linda Mason

Demo GardensGail Price

Education Outreach

Rita Canales Nancy Woodworth

Newsletter

Donn Callaham

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

Pat Fritz Marilyn MacGregor

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 back page

Wanted Ads

We are Looking For...

Master Gardeners who would be interested in teaching an approximately-one-hour class to other Master Gardeners. Pick a subject in which you are quite knowledgeable, and prepare a lecture or hands-on (or combination of the two) presentation. Time and days are to be decided, though the tentative plan is to have one each month during the summer. Contact Heather for information re: possible MG hours credit for you the presenter and attendees. Other details, including days and times, are yet to be decided.



Several Master Gardeners or Trainees to make a YCMGA display for Mini-college. The purpose of this project is to show off select YCMGA chapter accomplishments. Using a trifold board, the display will focus on any of on our educational successes, which are numerous and strong. No personnel need to be at the display during Mini-college. To date no Oregon Master Gardener chapter has agreed to make a display, so if we did it we would not only be the first chapter, but also a leader for other chapters.

Interested? Contact Sue Nesbitt, then let your imagination and talents produce an attractive and boastful display!



YAMHILL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER CALENDAR

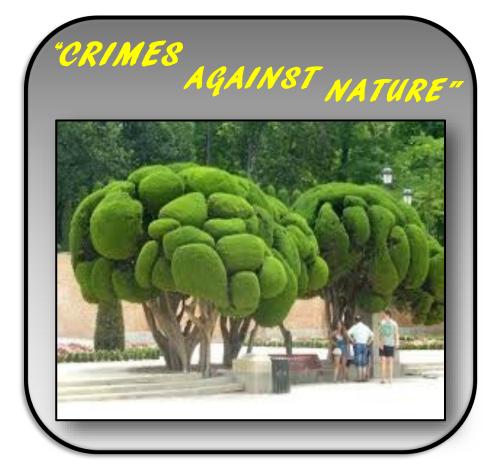
MARCH 2020

- 02 Monday
 - "Spring into gardening" Committee Meets 1:00pm to 2:00 pm, Public Works Auditorium
- 03 Tuesday
 - "What Should We Do About the Greenhouse?" Committee meets 1:00pm to about 2:00 pm, Public Works Auditorium. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. The committee will be formed at this time.
- 05 Thursday
 - [AM] LAWNS BY EMILY BRAITHWAITE, OSU FACULTY RESEARCH ASSISTANT. 9AM TO NOON
 - PM] POLLINATORS BY MICHAEL O'LOUGHLIN, OSU MASTER GARDENER, 1PM TO 4PM
- 06 Friday
 - NATIVE PLANT SALE BY YAMHILL COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

 9AM TO 6PM, YAMHILL COUNTY HERITAGE CENTER, 22450 DURHAM LANE, McMINNVILLE
- **07** Saturday
- NATIVE PLANT SALE CONTINUES 9AM TO 4PM, YAMHILL COUNTY HERITAGE CENTER, 22450 DURHAM LANE, McMinnville.
- 11 Wednesday
 - YCMGA Board Meeting: 10 am to about noon. In the Public works Auditorium next to Extension Office in McMinnville. As always, all Master Gardener trainees and Master Gardeners are invited to attend.
 - EDUCATION/OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETS 12:00pm to 1:00pm, AFTER BOARD MEETING, SAME LOCATION.
- 12 Thursday
- [AM] BERRIES: BERNADINE STRIK, OSU EXTENSION. 9AM TO NOON.
- (PM) ONLINE MODULE: PESTICIDES AND PESTICIDE SAFETY. ONLINE MODULE,
 NOT AT EXTENSION OFFICE. Completed on own schedule.
- 19 Thursday
 - (AM) PESTICIDE RECAP AND CLINIC/DESK TRAINING. TRAINING REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION AND ENCOURAGED FOR ALL RECERTIFYING MASTER GARDENERS.

Pot-Luck Lunch: This is the last Master Gardener class for 2020.

- PM] PROPAGATION BY NORM JACOBS, THEN HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES.
- 21 Saturday
 - "Spring into Gardening" event at McMinnville Community Center.
 8:45 am to 4:00 pm





To-Table Program



Gift Certificates For YCMGA Plant Sale

Available for \$10 or \$25 at Yamhill Extension office



Plant Sale Gift Certificate \$10

Yamhill County Master Gardener's Association



For redemption at the YCMGA Plant Sale on May 2 - May 3, 2020 Not redeemable for cash • For purchase of YCMGA plants only

Cash or checks only, please.

The Invasives Asian Glant Hornet Vespa mandarinia



Hornet being held in adult man's hand (for scale)

or the first time ever, Asian Giant Hornets have been discovered in Washington state, near the Canadian border. The hornet is a native of Asia, of course, but is now found in England also. A mammoth insect over 2 inches long with a wingspan of 3 inches, they have a commensurate amount of venom in their sting.

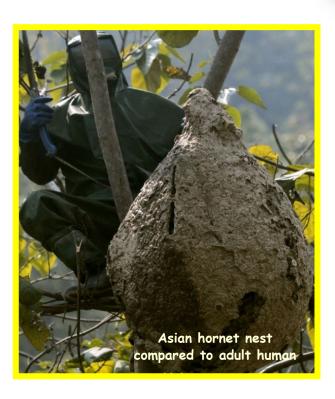
The most important threat this insect brings to the Pacific Northwest is that it "eats" honeybee larvae voraciously. It also has a powerful sting which can, sometimes, be fatal. Though bee larvae are its favorite food, the hornets will consume all types of insects. One hornet entering a beehive (commercial or natural) can kill 40 bees per minute in the hornet's effort to consume all the bee larvae. When it leaves a hive, usually all the bees have been killed and all the larvae eaten.

After reaching their prey, they chew up the bee larvae, making a gooey paste that they take back to their hive and feed to their own larvae. The adult hornet, however, doesn't absorb any of this paste.

After the adult feeds the colony's larvae, it's payback time. As a hornet larva digests the mashed honeybees (or other insects), it secretes a sweet high-energy saliva: the adult laps up this baby drool, which contains all the nutrients a full-grown Asian Giant Hornet needs to survive.

As expected, these hornets are dormant in the winter and active from July through October, just as are other hornets. And as with yellowjackets, these insects attack when disturbed but are not otherwise particularly aggressive to humans.

In Asia, honeybees have an effective defense against the hornets: the bees mob around the hornet to kill it with suffocation, compression, and the bees' collective body heat. Unfortunately, European honeybees do not defend themselves and consequently their hives are decimated.



McMinnville Community Garden

e have now made a PowerPoint © presentation to the new Master Gardener class and would like to remind all of you that the Community Garden welcomes everyone to tour the garden and bring friends. It is an excellent way to work off your volunteer hours and all of the really hard work is now complete!

March 15th will be our start date for planting tomato and basil seed in the germination flats in the greenhouse. Our plans are very similar to last years and we don't expect any major changes. Shortly after that, Walla Walla sweet onion starts will arrive for planting in the raised beds. Putting in 5000 starts is the plan and we can do this in a couple of hours if we have enough volunteers for planting.

In 2019, we added 11 new beds and replaced 15 old beds. We don't have any plans for building or replacing beds for 2020 although some of the beds will need repair. We used screws in all construction and standard size lumber cut to standard lengths so we have simplified the repairs. All 191 beds will be fully utilized this year with our various Food Bank and educational functions.

Alan Wenner

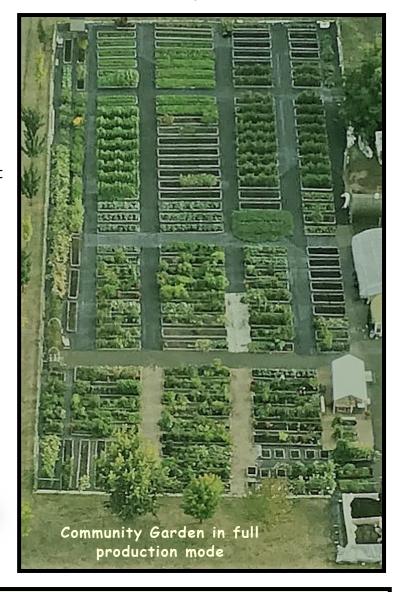
Welcome, new

<u>Master Gardener</u>

<u>Trainees,</u> from the

Community

Garden!



Anna Ashby, Head Gardener for the Allison Inn, will present "Vegetables after September" on Saturday, June 13th from 11 AM to 12:15 PM at the Community Garden.



Cost will be \$5, payable at the event. Please preregister at the Extension Office for the purpose of printing handouts.



GARDEN-TO-TABLE NEEDS MENTORS

GARDEN-TO-TABLE MENTORS will make home garden visits intermittently throughout the late spring and summer to provide guidance and support to the participants who have completed the 6 weeks of classes. This is an excellent opportunity to work one-on-one with beginning gardeners to help with confidence-building, development of gardening skills and success with growing some fresh vegetables in containers or raised beds.

- We estimate an average of 1 hour per visit. With 4 or 5 visits between May and September.
- Recertifying Master Gardeners will receive up to 5 hours of "desk/clinic" hours and the remainder as volunteer hours.
- Trainees will receive volunteer hours.
- Opportunities in Newberg, McMinnville, Dayton, Sheridan and Yamhill/Carlton areas.
- Mentors are encouraged to attend the Garden-to-Table classes if possible. Need to attend
 the last Garden-to-Table class to match with mentee. Please visit the Garden-to-Table
 webpage: g2t@ycmga.org for program and class information.
- A Garden-to-Table mentor orientation meeting will be scheduled in late March.

Please contact Tonia Beebe: <u>tonia.beebe@gmail.com</u> or Gene Nesbitt: <u>ghnderm@gmail.com</u> if you are interested or want more information.

HOW WE HELPED: MARCH, 2019

A Quick Review of Master Gardener intakes for this month a year ago

lients were really starting to get out and garden - we had six requests for soil testing. SUMMER 2019 WAS DRY and many plants were still feeling the lack of water after the summer. A client noticed BROWN PATCHES IN THE LAWN which was determined to be from too little summer water, and another noticed their BOXWOOD HEDGE DYING from the same cause. There were two diagnoses of PHOTOPHTHERA - one in a rhody, and one in an azalea which also had LACE BUG. LIVERWORT was



found in a flower pot, and CODLING MOTH in an apple. There was a question about when to plant a SWORD FERN, and one about what to plant after an English walnut had been removed. One question about WEED AND FEED, another asking our GROWING ZONE (which is 8b). One client asked how to BUD GRAFT AN ITALIAN PLUM and we referred him to the HOME ORCHARD SOCIETY.



The Future of the American Chestnut

p until the early 1900s, American chestnuts dominated the eastern forests of North America. They grew up to 125 feet tall and 16 feet in diameter and were so big that loggers sometimes used dynamite to break them up into manageable pieces. But it wasn't just that the individual trees were large. The species as a whole had a massive footprint. They used to be so common along the East Coast of the United States that people would say a





squirrel could travel from Maine to Georgia on chestnut tree branches alone without ever touching the ground.

Chestnut trees were an indispensable part of early American life. The wood is naturally rot-resistant, strong but lightweight, and straight -grained and was used for everything from rail-road ties and power poles to building houses and furniture. It was valued by loggers for re-sprouting readily from a stump and reaching diameters of two feet or more in half a century; an oak on similar soils would take two or more centuries to add as much wood. Chestnuts grew fast and huge, and lived for 200 to 300 years. As

if that is not enough, the trees have remarkable ability to survive in shade until they are "released" by a natural event, and then begin growing at their usual rapid rate.

The nuts were a valuable food source for people: chestnuts are high in fiber, vitamin C, protein, and carbohydrates, and low in fat.

During September and October, the nuts were even used as currency at local businesses. (After being accepted at a business, the nuts would be sold to markets in other American cities).

People roasted Chestnuts, ground them into flour for cakes and bread, and stewed them for puddings. The leaves of the trees were boiled down into medicinal treatments by Native Americans, and the nuts used as cattle feed all winter. The larger trees, spreading 100 feet or more, would drop 10

bushels of nuts each year, and in the fall the ground could be covered with a blanket of nuts four inches deep.

Wildlife also depended heavily on this food source: chestnuts were the primary food for deer, turkeys, bears, rodents, birds, and more. Another benefit was their profuse blooming which supported honeybees and other pollinators. Because chestnuts blossom relatively late, their nut crop is never hit by the late frosts that often diminish other nut crops. The Romans ranked chestnuts alongside the olive tree and grapevine as the plants most important to civilization.

But "chestnut blight" (Cryphonectria parasitica, a

fungus) completely wiped out the chestnut trees in America, beginning in 1904. That was when the chief gardener at the Bronx Zoo noticed that several of his trees had orange specks and dying limbs. He immediately consulted the chief mycologist at the Bronx Botanical Gardens, studied the trees and concluded that this new "chestnut blight" could soon eradicate all the chestnut trees in the United States. When he warned scientists and government agencies of this, no one believed him. As people debated the severity of the outbreak, the trees died. Finally, the government came to the conclusion that the entire problem was the fault of the original zoo gardener because he hadn't cured his trees!

Now there are two major efforts underway to re-

store the American chestnut tree. (There are different types of chestnut trees grown now, but not the classic American chestnut). One project is a traditional breeding program, crossing the American chestnut with the Chinese chestnut, which is naturally blight-resistant. (However, the Chinese chestnut is shorter and more branching than the



American version). Still, the trees in the breeding program have grown well for several decades, but then all die from the blight. That is also true in the wild: chestnut trees sprout and resprout readily, but then always die after some growth.

The other approach is genetic modification, splicing a gene from wheat into the American chestnut to make it resistant to the fungus. The gene, Oxalate Oxidas, breaks down oxalic acid, which is the component in the blight that actually kills chestnut trees. Though this process appears to be succeeding, there is one major complication.

Many people strongly resist anything which is genetically modified as not being "the real thing." And, once GMO trees are out there, you can't take them back. Pollen drifts, so eventually all chestnut trees could be genetically modified trees. Monsanto is helping fund this research, and there is much public antipathy towards Monsanto and its genetic-modification work.

If the modification worked, though, it would be the firstever genetically modified plant used to help save a



species and a great public relations success story for GMOs in general. Besides the food and wood value, chestnut trees also have significant potential for carbon sequestration.

Their growth rate, size, and longevity let them store more carbon (and at a faster rate) than any other hardwood. In fact, the only hardwood that grows more quickly are some hybrid poplars. American chestnuts also have enormous potential for restoring strip-mined areas across Appalachia.

A twist on the gene modification is that the Environmental Protection Agency would have to decide whether the antifungal properties constitute a fungicide, which would require pesticide registration. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration would need to determine whether the nuts would be safe to eat.

Finally, there is the possibility of introducing naturally-occurring viruses in the forest that are, in effect, a blight of the *Cryphonectria parasitica*

fungus. In
Europe, such
"hypovirulence"
effectively
stopped the
blight from
destroying that
continent's
chestnuts, by
weakening the
blight's destructive power.



Donn Callaham

Pruning and Training of Berries, Kiwifruit and Grapes A series of 5 OSU Courses









series of online pruning modules, developed by Dr. Bernadine Strik, Professor of Horticulture, is now being offered through Professional and Continuing Education at Oregon State University.

The series is designed to provide small farmers and home gardeners with the information needed to prune and train berry crops common to North America, including table grapes, kiwifruit, raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries from establishment through maturity.

The series is offered as self-paced on-demand modules available anytime online. The modules consist of narrated lectures with photos and videos. Each module consists of 4 – 8 lectures totaling 1.25 – 2.5 hours in length. Registration is available for single modules or for the series at a discounted price. For more information on topics covered and cost go to:

workspace.oregonstate.edu/ course/pruning-series? hsLang=en

If you have questions, contact Work-Space | Professional and Continuing Education: Email: workspace@oregonstate.edu Phone: 541-737-4197



LOCUST INVASION IN AFRICA

limate change and war in Somalia have caused an historic plague of locusts in Ethiopia and Kenya. The primary problem is that locusts breed in Yemen and Somalia, both countries that are deep in turmoil. Neither country has a government capable of eradicating the insects before they mature. After hatching they migrate west to the inlands of Africa, which happen to now have abundant plant life because of climate change that has affected the Indian Ocean.

Once the insects have matured and taken wing, there is really no way to eradicate of even control them. At any rate, neither

Ethiopia nor Kenya have funding or equipment to fight the locusts.

Ironically, the plague is so pervasive because this spring was rainy and lengthy, producing some of the most abundant crops ever for the area.



Heather's Highlights

arch is looking to be a busy month so far with numerous events occurring. This will be the last month of Master Gardener training, with the last class on March 19th. Upcoming classes include Lawns, Pollinators, Berries and Desk Training. Contact Carla if you are interested in attending; a couple of these classes have openings.

As always we will also have a potluck at noon on the last day; I hope you can attend. Our MG desk clinics are just starting up for the season, and the SWCD Native Plant Sale is on March 6st and 7th. These are good opportunities to start getting some of your desk hours for 2019. Other clinics will be coming up in April, such as the Farm Fest and Camelia Festival.

Many of these clinics are already filling up, but we will have more upcoming opportunities for outside clinics later this spring and summer.

We will also have a weekly time slot at the McMinnville Farmers Market this year starting May 7th: information about Farmers Market sign-ups will be going out soon.

Lastly, our big education event of the year will be happening on March 21^{st} - "Spring into Gardening". Along with a variety of volunteer opportunities there is also a selection of interesting presenters this year. Come hear about topics ranging from seed-saving to berries to roses. Happy Spring!





By Heather Stove

Red Thread, a Colorful Lawn Disease

s I was walking through my neighborhood, an interesting sight caught my eye – red-colored strands running through some brown patches of lawn. The red strands are fungal mycelia of *Laetisaria fuciformis*, commonly called red thread.

High humidity and moisture are favorable to the disease and it is often seen in the fall or early spring. The fungus causes irregular brown patches in the grass, though the grass is rarely killed. Lawns with low vigor are most vulnerable, and an application of nitrogen and encouraging a healthy lawn is the recommended treatment for when this problem occurs.

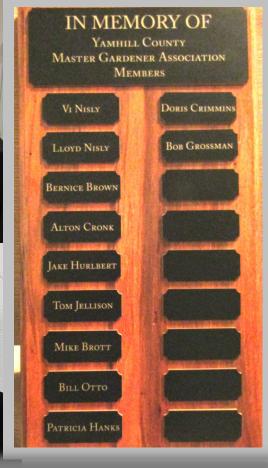
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/lawn-turf-red-thread







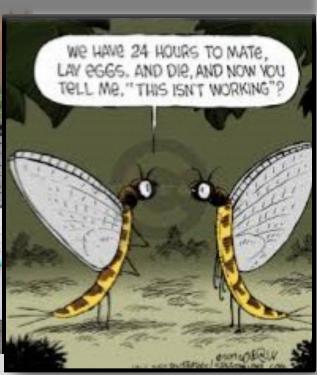




MG Plant Identification
Class & "Job Fair"



Drip irrigation system for new rose garden, as organized by Gene



Plant Sale

Sponsored by Yamhill County Master Gardeners

and

Saturday, May 2nd

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Sunday, May 3rd

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

at the

Yamhill County Fairgrounds

2070 NE Lafayette Avenue, McMinnville

Thousands of plants at great prices

Plant Selection Assistance

Specialty Vendor Booths

FREE Soil pH Testing

Plant Help Clinic

Gift Certificates are available now!

For more details, call 503-434-7517 or go to: **ycmga.org**



Proceeds support YCMGA Educational Horticultural Programs in Yamhill County

Due to overcrowding, please, no strollers or wagons will be allowed in the building.

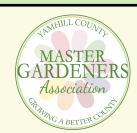








CONDENSED REVIEW of February 2020 YCMGA Board Meeting notes



ecretary's minutes for December:
This month one person took exception to 2 sentences in the notes, and said they should be eliminated. The sentences she picked out are to be stricken, but not identified in these notes. The person felt that neither of the situations in the two sentences had been discussed at the meeting. No one either agreed nor disagreed with her, and there were no comments. Everyone had been supplied 2-page copies of the notes, later discarded. Linda motioned the notes be approved, Polly seconded, and everyone concurred. The two unidentified sentences are therefore permanently exterminated from the January notes.

reasurer's Report: Financial reports were sent out prior to the meeting. Due to officer rotation, the names of those who sign checks must be changed.

People still appear confused re: the reimbursement form, but it cannot be simplified further. Carol will send out another email explaining it.

Amanda has done some work on our website, but not yet billed us for it, so we don't know the dollar amount. When she does bill, the amount will be charged to "Garden-to-Table."

Since CERT supplies personnel for our plant sale each year, it was suggested that we pay them a stipend annually. We decided to create a budgetary line item of \$200 per year to be paid to CERT.

orrespondence: We received thank-you letters and a donation report for the \$250 we donate each year for 4H Congress. Also, The Daffodil Festival (which has been reincarnated) personnel asked us to sell their plants at the event. That we will not do. We offered to perform a clinic for them, and have not received a response.

wards Committee: OMGA award nominations/applications are due May 15th. (N.B.: during the meeting the date of March 15th was repeatedly given. This is not correct). The need for a committee to organize this was negated because the OMGA representative (Polly) has already explained, publicized, and made applications available.

All of the plaques honoring Master Gardeners are now up-to-date and on display in the hallway. The plaque honoring deceased Master Gardeners is also installed.

Nancy does the YCMGA awards, and Polly takes care of the OMGA awards.

ducation/Outreach: Most clinics are fully staffed already, which makes the committee members ecstatic. Community Garden classes begin June first; the EOC is striving for at least one educational event per month (which would be good for members to earn their "MG hours").

ommunity Garden: Planting is now in progress. They are working on membership in the garden by first inviting past participants to return, then opening the garden to all comers.

Orientation is March 28th, and the garden will officially open April 4th. On June 13th at 11am Anna will give a presentation.

MGA: The next meeting will be the first weekend in March, in Grants Pass. When YCMGA hosts the OMGA meeting it will be held at the Newberg Community Center (which is free), and this has been reserved. Amy has volunteered to help Seamus on an EXCEL database.

entoring Committee. Rita volunteered to be a replacement mentor. Using the conference room adjacent to the Public Works auditorium for the volunteer fair worked exceedingly well, and hopefully will be the future plan. Susanne will publicize the fact that there is a strong need for cashiers at the Plant Sale, and that this is an attractive opportunity for trainees to earn credits and experience.

eb/Publicity: Publicity for all events will be provided and displayed approximately one month before each event.

Regrettably, a number of businesses will no longer allow public bulletin boards or posters.

arden-to-Table had 14 trainees sign up during the Job Fair to help in the program. Curriculum is finished, and sign-up for participants has been satisfactory. The program providing mentors for the gardeners is new, and more mentors are needed. It requires certified Master Gardeners, who will earn 5 hours of direct credit for their work. Mentors would begin April first, and complete the job the second week in May. Gene

stresses that this is an opportunity for those who really despise working on the MG desk.

- lant Sale Committee, though fearful, is now preparing for the sale. The tentative sale of Master Gardener-built plant supports (dubbed "Stick-in-the-Mud Plant Supports") in 2 sizes was approved. Three resolute Master Gardeners are constructing 40 supports.
- **emo Garden** committee hopes to have the new roses all planted by the end of March. Next step for the rose garden is tilling, then laying down slag for the path, and processing that.
- **iscellaneous Committees:** Susan Burdell will be our Desk Captain. In scheduling she will first plan with mentors, then with certified Master Gardeners, and finally with trainees. There will be a calendar, and the **deadline for student sign-up is March 15th.**

Road Safety committee procured cones and signs, and is providing a live human with a flag to assist pedestrian crossings before and after classes.

iability insurance will now be carried in its entirety by Hartford Insurance. Their limits are higher, their prices are lower, and they will provide certificates of insurance for all events requiring it.

isplay for Mini-college: Displays will be posters/display boards showing off accomplishments of each chapter, focusing on educational successes. No personnel need be at the display: to date not one chapter has agreed to make a display. Being that YCMGA could be the first, and has much to brag about, we agreed to make a display for Mini-college, with focus on our outreach. **Volunteers for the display setup are needed.**

ropagation display for Mini-college: There will be a propagation display/class at Mini-College. It will not be hands-on, and who will do it remains an unknown.

raduation will be held in Dayton as it was last year. The BOD meeting will be held at 11:00am on the day of Graduation, which will be Saturday, November 14th.

reenhouse Improvement Committee has not yet been formed. We may use a greenhouse temporarily donated by one of our trainees for one or two years, and will keep using the Newberg High School greenhouse as a passive holding area. Seemingly the majority of Master Gardeners in attendance want to be on this committee, and people kept veering off-topic trying to discuss specific repairs to the greenhouse









Trade-name products and services are mentioned as illustrations only. This does not mean that the Oregon State University Extension Service endorses these products and services or intends to discriminate against products and services not mentioned. For additional OSU Extension gardening information, visit: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/extension-ask-an-expert/

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The Grapevine

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FOR FREE SUBSCRIPTION BY EMAIL, SEND REQUEST TO ABOVE ADDRESS.

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.

GRAPEVINE EDITOR: DONN CALLAHAM

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

Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association Executive Board

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President-Elect: Gin Galt

Secretary: Donn Callaham

Treasurer: Carol Parks

OMGA Rep: Polly Blum

OMGA Alt. Rep: Linda Coakley

Members at Large: Cat Bowdish

& Amy Curtis

Heather Stoven
Yamhill County Extension Faculty
for Community Horticulture