

December 2023

The Grapevine

The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners



MONDAY 12-04: SPRING-INTO-GARDENING
COMMITTEE MEETING. EXTENSION OFFICE
AUDITORIUM, 1:00 PM

WEDNESDAY 12-13: YCMGA BOARD MEETING: 10:00 AM
EXTENSION OFFICE AUDITORIUM
ALL MASTER GARDENERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

FRIDAY 12-22: DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
FOR ENTRY FOR January *GRAPEVINE*

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Awards/Memorials
Nancy Woodworth

Community Garden
Alan Wenner
Pam Israel

Demonstration Gardens (2)
Sue Nesbitt
Donn Callaham

Education Outreach
Carolyn Nyquist
Maxine Wayda

Newsletter
Donn Callaham

Farmers' Mkt. Mac.
Tom Canales

Farmers' Market Newberg
Peter Steadman

Garden-to-Table
Gene Nesbitt
Gloria Lutz

Greenhouse
Linda Coakley

Hospitality
Gail Stoltz

Insect Committee
Terry Hart

Plant Sale
Sue Nesbitt
Linda Coakley

Propagation
Pat Fritz
Marilyn MacGregor

Publicity
Nancy Woodworth

Scholarships
Susan Nesbitt

Social Media/Website
Tom Canales

Spring into Garden
Rita Canales

Sunshine Committee
Susan Alin
Sandy Beaver

Help Wanted: Community Event Plant Clinics
Coordinator, details on page 7

REGULARLY-SCHEDULED MEETINGS

EDUCATION GARDEN

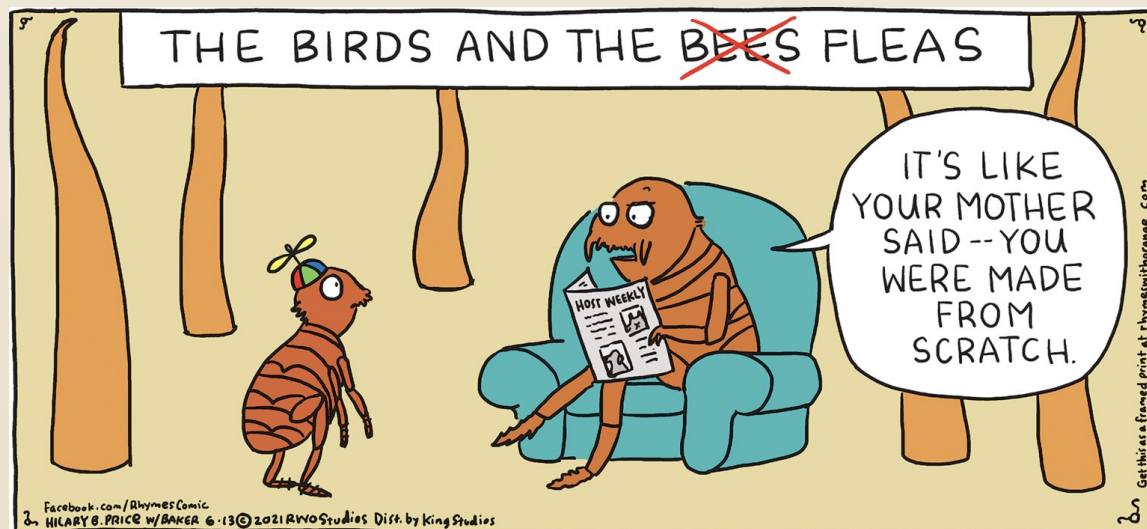
MAINTENANCE EVERY WEDNESDAY
9:30 AM AT FAIRGROUNDS

PERENNIAL PROPAGATION

EVERY TUESDAY, 9:30 AM
DECEMBER 5TH, 12TH, & 19TH

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

FIRST MONDAY OF MONTH
1:00 IN EXTENSION OFFICE



MASTING HAPPENS



Across large swaths of the United States, many nut-producing trees — including oak, beech and walnut — are collectively going gangbusters on seed production this year, unleashing a hailstorm of acorns, hickory nuts and other seeds. During boom times like these, a single oak tree can shed thousands of acorns, despite producing barely a trickle in previous years. This year, it is the abundance of acorns covering the ground which people are noticing.

Scientists call this **MASTING**, which means the **synchronized** and highly variable production of seeds. Scores of different tree species mast, but how and why thousands of individual plants across thousands of square miles apparently coordinate their reproduction in this way has perplexed scientists and nature observers for centuries.



The Oregon Master Gardener Statewide Trivia Tournament is happening during our quiet gardening times of October, November and December 2023, January and February 2024. Open to OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers throughout Oregon, these five sessions offer the opportunity to learn more about specific gardening topics, have fun, and even win prizes!!

1. Register to play.
2. Join via zoom
3. Connect to the trivia app (Slido) on your phone or computer.
4. At the start of the tournament evening, you'll be directed to the Slido app to begin competing.
5. Multiple choice trivia, 50 questions per session.
6. Winners will be announced live during the Zoom event.

Earn continuing education hours doing Trivia!

Each session counts as one Continuing Education Unit for Master Gardener volunteers. Did we say prizes? Yes we did! For each session, you can win gift certificates to mail-order garden companies in the PNW.

1st place: \$100 gift certificate

2nd place: \$50 gift certificate

3rd place: \$25 gift certificate

(Winners will receive gift certificates approximately one week after each event).

Be sure to register for each class/event

The buzz on biologicals: biological controls in food crops, Wednesday, December 13, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Least wanted: noxious and invasive weeds in Oregon, Wednesday, January 17th, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Right place, right plant: Oregon natives in the landscape, Wednesday, February 21st, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

For questions or accessibility requests, contact Nicole Sanchez, 541-883-7131, Nicole.sanchez@oregonstate.edu

WHAT DOES OUR EDUCATION/OUTREACH COMMITTEE DO?

A great deal, it turns out! The Education Outreach Committee, chaired by Carolyn Nyquist and Maxine Wayda, are responsible for the planning and preparation for over fifty-one activities every year!

This includes all clinics at local events and local businesses, Farmers' Markets in McMinnville and Newberg, the Garden-to-Table program in spring and fall, our big Spring-into-Gardening educational event, and childrens' activities at the Yamhill County Fair. In addition last year they planned six continuing education classes for Master Gardeners, three educational tours, educational interaction with McMinnville high school, future mentoring at Newberg high school, and a planned series of classes through the McMinnville Parks and Recreation Department.

Come and join the committee at the next meeting January 3rd at 1:00 pm in the auditorium.



Education/Outreach Activities Conducted in 2023

COMMUNITY CLINICS

Native Plant Sale 3/4/23
 Camelia Festival 4/15/23
 Fuchsia Day at Fred Meyer 4/15/23
 Earth Day-Miller Woods 4/22/23
 Earth Day Party 4/22/23
 Wilco Potting Event 4/29/23
 Plant Sale Clinic 5/5/23 & 5/6/23
 Edible Garden Festival 5/13/23
 McMinnville Garden Faire 6/11/23
 Harvest Fest 8/19 and 8/20/2023
 Oregon State Fair 8/27/23

FARMER'S MARKETS CLINICS

McMinnville-5/11 to 10/12/23 16 total clinics
 Newberg-5/10 to 9/20/23 9 total clinics

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Garden-to-Table Spring and Fall Classes
 Spring-Into-Gardening 3/18/23
 Yamhill County Fair Children's Activities 8/3 & 8/4/23
 Transitions to Winter Container Design and Education
 Gardens Tour 9/30/23

McMinnville High School

Educational Presentations
 Mentoring

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Linfield University Plant Identification Walk 6/2/23
 Grand Ronde Native Plant Garden Tour 6/9/23
 Oregon Gardens Water Reclamation Tour 7/28/23
 Maple Grafting at Verna Jean Nursery 9/16/23
 Plant Tissue Culturing: Micropropagation 10/12/2023
 Woody Plant Propagation 11/30/23

TOURS

Allison Inn Kitchen Garden 4/7/23
 Inspiration Garden 5/19/23
 Anne Amie Winery 8/18/23

Events we anticipate next year but did not attend in

2023: Farm Fest Clinic canceled due to conflict with the Plant
 Sale Parks and Rec Dept Winter Series Presentation on Seed
 Starting
 Mentoring at Newberg High School Horticulture Program (on hiatus)

**WE WANT A MASTER GARDENER TO JOIN US!
 SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS**

Community Garden Reorganization

Due to the resignation of Robert and Linda Mason from the Community Garden organization, effective October 31st, a transition team was assembled to take on the task of reorganizing the garden management. The new goals are to both update the management structure as well as make it more inclusive and open for the gardeners and volunteers.

We will attempt to provide the very best gardening opportunity to all the residents of Yamhill County along with fresh produce and plant starts to the Yamhill County Food Bank. Our Tuesday morning "Church Produce Table" will continue and will be enhanced for our members.

The management team plans to develop both instruction and mentoring for all gardeners, as well as making participation more affordable. Changes are also in the works to make participation times more convenient for both Master Gardeners and the public.

OUR NUMBER ONE FOCUS RIGHT NOW IS TO ATTRACT MORE GARDENERS AND TO BROADEN OUR VOLUNTEER BASE.

If you want to become involved in the Community Garden contact Alan Wenner, Garden Manager.



Graduating YCMGA Master Gardeners



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Yamhill County

Class of 2023



Tom, baffled and alone

YCMGA 2023 Service Awards



Gin Galt
Golden Trowel



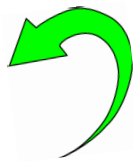
Terry Hart
Master Gardener
of the Year



Candace VanZanten
Behind-the-Scenes



Maxine Wayda



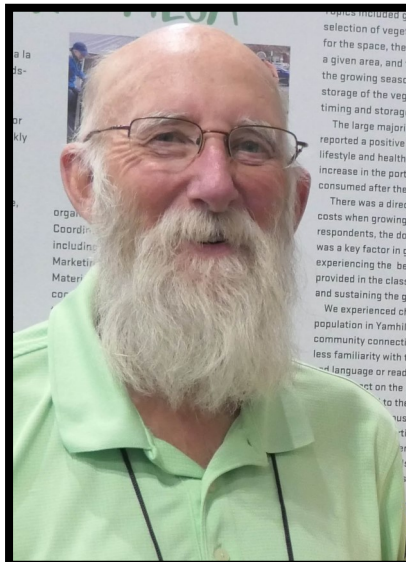
Tetramerous
("One-of-a-Kind" times 4)



Tetramerous = arranged in groups of four, botanically).



Carolyn Nyquist



Bobby Robershaw



Mill Chrisman-Robershaw

Heather's Highlights

Happy Holidays Everyone!

It was such a joy to see many of you at the graduation and awards ceremony last month! I enjoyed celebrating all our successes together as we recognized so many graduates and award winners. 2023 was an amazing year and I am so proud of all your accomplishments. If you were not able to attend, Carla sent the dinner slide show via e-mail, so you can see some photos and amazing successes. We also have a few awards and gifts from the ceremony that need to be picked up from the office. Carla sent you an email if there is something here with your name on it. Please stop by soon if you received a message.



Heather Stoven
Yamhill County
Extension Agent

We are still accepting registrations for the 2024 program, although we have only a few spots left. This year all the students will be back together in one group. The lectures will be self-paced online as before, and the in-person time will be focused on hands-on activities and mentor time. Our first in-person class will be January 25th and the trainings will end on March 21st. We are looking forward to another good year in 2024!

Thank you again for all your volunteer service: I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season!



HELP WANTED

Community Event Planning Coordinator

THE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE COORDINATES EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES ACROSS YCMGA. WE NEED A **MASTER GARDENER TO COORDINATE AND ORGANIZE PLANT CLINICS** AT VARIOUS COMMUNITY EVENTS. EACH PLANT CLINIC REQUIRES BEHIND-THE-SCENES PLANNING AND COORDINATION.

TASKS OF THE COORDINATOR INCLUDE:

- Communication with community event organizers about dates and duration, equipment needed and registration process if required.
- Determining if the event is appropriate for children's activities.
- Communication with Carla about the above information to make sure the appropriate equipment is picked up for each event.
- Planning volunteer sign-ups, getting information to Carla for volunteer recruitment emails.
- Identifying appropriate handouts for each event and providing them to Carla for copying.
- Being a member of the EOC Committee and reporting to EOC monthly about planned activities.
- Most of this work will be done in March, April, and May, but a few events occur over the summer months.
- This is a great opportunity for a second-year master gardener who wants to be more directly involved in the core mission of YCMGA.

Contact Carolyn Nyquist for more information.

beachcomberlc@yahoo.com

Expert Christmas Tree Advice



From vodka in the water to I.V. tubes in the trunk, there are lots of urban myths about how to take care of your cut Christmas tree. Chal Landgren, a recently retired Christmas tree specialist with Oregon State University Extension Service, busts those myths with answers to some common questions.

Q. How do I know a tree is fresh when I purchase it?

A. Choose a tree that looks green and healthy with needles that snap like a fresh carrot. Shake it a few times to get rid of old needles. Once you're home, place the tree in water if you do not plan to put it up immediately. Choose a large, water-filled stand to display the tree indoors. Check the water level daily; trees will be very thirsty the first few days inside a heated home.

Q. Do I need to recut the stem after I get my tree home?

A. Yes, if more than 24 hours has elapsed since the stem was last cut. The fresh cut helps water uptake and the sooner you can get the tree into water, the fresher it will be.

Q. Do I need to cut two inches off the tree base for it to take up water in the stand?

A. No, cutting a 1/4-inch slice off the base is plenty for water uptake. However, clearing the ceiling is another question.

Q. Do I need to cut the base of the trees at an angle, drill holes in the base or install plastic tubes so the tree can get water?

A. No. Water begins the path up the tree via microscopic tubes called "tracheids" in the wood just beneath the bark. The wood near the outer part of the stem is very efficient in conducting water and becomes less so towards the center. So, simply cut the stem perpendicular to the trunk to maximize the area exposed to the water. Complicated cuts, drill holes or I.V. tubes do not help.

Q. Do I need to add something to the water to help the tree stay fresher?

A. People have added all kinds of things to water, including vodka, 7-Up, bleach, aspirin, and sugar. However, clean, cold water is all that is needed. Some additives actually can cause your tree to shed needles or dry out more rapidly.

Q. Will any tree stand work, as long as it holds the tree up?

A. No. A stand should hold a quart of water for every inch of stem diameter. A tree with a 6-inch stem diameter will need a stand that holds a gallon and a half of water. Very few stands have the capacity for today's large trees. Consider purchasing a new stand, or a smaller tree, if the water capacity is not adequate.

Q. If my decorated tree runs out of water, do I need to take it down and recut the base?

A. No. If you refill the water stand within 24 hours of going dry, most trees (Douglas-fir, noble, Nordmann, Fraser) should re-hydrate just fine. For grand fir, 12 hours may be the limit. Of course, it is best if the tree does not run out of water, so check it every day. Your tree may not be the only one drinking from the tree stand – your pets may be helping themselves to the water, too. So check the water level daily, especially in the first few days. If your tree becomes dry and brittle, it may be time to take it down.



Chal Landgren

Retired Christmas Tree Specialist
Oregon State University

*There are no gardening mistakes,
only experiments. (J. K. Phillips)*



Extreme

Topiary



A Pied Piper for Bugs

OSU, in looking for ways to control insects without using any insecticides, has found a promising new alternative they refer to as the “Pied Piper” for insects. It involves mimicry of the mating calls of a specific insect to disrupt the mating cycle. With this system, no insecticides (broad spectrum nor targeted) would be used. The goal is to remove only a targeted insect without the accompanying problems of chemical use.



Insects communicate with vibrations. The Pied Piper works by taking advantage of how some insects communicate. Many do this by using chemical signals called pheromones, but others rely heavily on vibrational communication. In fact, the vast majority of animal sounds on Earth are the sonic and vibrational songs of insects and spiders.

Insects use vibrations to communicate many things — where to find food, when predators are around, territory — but the most common use of vibrational communication is to help them find mates. They vibrate their abdomens and the sound travels through whatever they happen to be standing on.

After recording the sounds of a particular insect the “Piper” plays them back later to lure the insects towards it. The mating signal travels through a wire back onto the stem of the occupied plant, and the targeted insect will eventually walk back on the wire while the “Pied Piper” photographs it to confirm its presence. Knowing when that species is present is very

useful in and of itself, since one of the goals of pest management is to apply controls only when and where needed.

The system is primarily used as a mating disruption device. The female leafhopper, for instance, has a mating cycle of only four days. If the cycle is interrupted (by false signals) the insect population can be reduced by 50% to 90% simply using birth control.

Brown marmorated stinkbugs are the focus of the research now. After recording how the males sound, and replicating that sound (which is a highly specific vibration pattern unique to the brown marmorated stinkbug) the vibrations are broadcast through plants which are now known to have the bugs present. That will compete with the live males for the females’ attention or it could just confuse the females. The idea is to confuse and distract — anything to keep the bugs from finding each other and mating.

Another strategy could be to drown out all of the communication, a situation compared to people being in an environment which is too noisy for them to communicate at all. Either way, the “Pied Piper” does just what the original Piper did—removing an unwanted target pest without affecting any other species at all.

Here is a simplistic but entertaining [video](#) explaining this research rather neatly.



*Based on article by
Jes Burns, Oregon
Public Broadcasting,
November 1, 2023*

PESKY PROFILES



By Heather Stoven

Get Digging!

One of my upcoming fall/early winter gardening projects is digging up my dahlia tubers. Not everyone digs their tubers—some like to live on the wild side—whereas others are blessed with well-draining soil. For those of us who do dig, there is a disease to watch out for as you perform this annual task.

Many of you have seen crown gall on other plants such as euonymus or roses, or annuals such as marigolds and snapdragons: the host list for this disease is long. It is a bacterial disease (*Agrobacterium tumefaciens*) which causes tumor-like growths typically on roots, but the galls can also grow on trunks or stems. The gall can reduce vigor due to a disruption of water and nutrients within the plant.

The bacteria enters plants through wounds, which for dahlias could be through activities such as dividing, digging, or planting. If you dig your tubers and see a rough, roundish structure, throw the tuber away. Also note that the bacteria can survive in soil for up to three years, and can infect other plants as well.

To prevent this disease, inspect any tubers you receive before planting, as well as those you dig in the fall. Throw away those with galls present. Also, disinfect your tools with alcohol regularly since the disease can be transmitted by contaminated tools.

For more information:

<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/agriculture/floriculture-and-ornamental-nurseries/dahlia/>

<https://extension.umn.edu/plant-diseases/crown-gall>



Image credit: RS. Byther

**Doesn't matter what the question is:
the answer is always SOIL!**

James Cassidy, OSU Soil Fanatic

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<https://ycmga.org>

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Master Gardener™

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Yamhill County Extension Faculty
for Community Horticulture