

October 2024

The Grapevine

The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners

TUESDAY 10-01: **AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE!**

WEDNESDAY 10-02:

EOC COMMITTEE MEETS @ 1:00

THURSDAY 10-03 AND 10-10: McMinnville
FARMERS' MARKET (LAST TWO SESSIONS)

FRIDAY 10-04: COMMUNITY GARDEN MEETING

WEDNESDAY 10-09: YCMGA BOARD MEETING (ALL WELCOME!)

SATURDAY 10-12: GARDEN-TO-TABLE END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

MONDAY 10-14: SPRING-INTO-GARDENING MEETING, 1:00

MONDAYS 10-21: EOC PRESENTATIONS COMMITTEE MEETS

SATURDAY 10-26: YCMGA ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

**HALLOWEEN: ALL MASTER GARDENER HOURS MUST
BE IN BY NOW AT THE LATEST!**



COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Awards/Memorials
Nancy Woodworth

Community Garden
Candace VanZanten

**Demonstration
Gardens (2)**
Sue Nesbitt
Donn Callahan

Education Outreach
Carolyn Nyquist
Maxine Wayda

Newsletter
Donn Callahan

Farmers' Mkt. Mac.
Tom Canales

Farmers' Market
Newberg

Garden-to-Table
Beth LaForce
Jennifer Scott

Greenhouse
Linda Cookley

Hospitality
Gail Stoltz

Insect Committee
Terry Hart
Joan McKibben-Williams

Plant Sale
Gin Galt

Propagation
Mary Ann Nolan
Linda Sellheim

Scholarships
Susan Nesbitt

**Social Media/
Website**
Marta Soppe-Navetta

Spring into Garden
Sue Nesbitt

Sunshine Committee
Susan Allen
Sandy Beaver

REGULARLY-SCHEDULED MEETINGS

INSECT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 10-03 @ 9:30 AM
EXTENSION AUDITORIUM

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

FIRST FRIDAY OF MONTH.
BOTH MEET AT 1:00 PM

EDUCATION GARDEN

MAINTENANCE EVERY WEDNESDAY
9:30 AM AT FAIRGROUNDS

PERENNIAL PROPAGATION

EVERY TUESDAY, 9:30 AM AT GREENHOUSE
EVERY TUESDAY AT 9:00 AM



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Van Hevelingen Herb Nursery Propagation Class



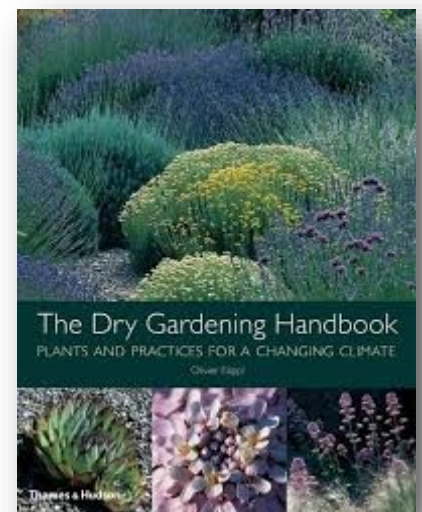
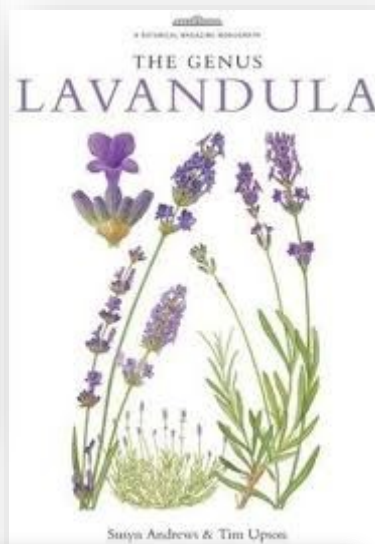
MG's packed the auditorium



Matt Hevelingen demonstrating



Unidentified model hand



*These 3 books recommended by
Matt Van Hevelingen*



'O ut with the old and in with some new' was our theme for the month. Weeds were the first to go, as our 'yellow flags for weeds' program gained traction. Beds needing weeding are identified with yellow flags, giving volunteers a visual identifier. If you have an hour—find a yellow flag, weed a bed, remove the flag; how easy is that?

The bean tunnel was resurrected in the garden, covered with huge Romano beans. This old tradition was one we were happy to see return. Weekly harvests on Mondays stocked the Parkview Produce Tables on Tuesday through September 10th. Over 1000 pounds of produce were donated to YCAP for delivery to our local food banks. Thirty volunteers worked on Labor Day to harvest beans, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, squash, and more.

The Extended Season Gardeners group met to discuss planting and get their plant babies in the ground. This new project has been very popular, and we're excited to see what they grow. The garden hosted a Problem Plant Diagnosis class for row gardeners, taught by Heather

Stoven. She found plenty of examples to make the class interesting and informative.

We celebrated our successes and laughed about our failures at a Harvest Potluck hosted by Marlene and assisted by Marcy on September 21st. Row gardeners used produce from their beds to create an astonishing assortment of treats to share before touring the garden for a Show & Tell and plant identification scavenger hunt. Prizes were awarded and we had a great time.

The final harvest of summer vegetables happened the week of September 23rd and we'll pull the vines and clear the beds for our next bed replacement project. Lumber has been purchased and Dennis is ready to haul out the old and rebuild 60 beds like new.



Lori Anderson

Gardens Reflect Their Gardeners

“A single plant is a marvel. A community of plants is life itself. It is the evolutionary past and future entangled into a riotous present in which we are ourselves also entangled. This stretches the mind. Plants give us the chance to see the system in which we live.”

-Zoe Schlanger, *The Light Eaters*

Gardens reside and grow in a duality of time and space. When we are in our gardens we become fully aware of all the delights



In the past

of the season. At this time I am fully washed in the joy of the changing leaf colors, of the red hues and deepening oranges. I find myself immersed in wonder by the dew-speckled spider webs that are delicately woven through garden paths. While I'm present for the ephemeral gifts of the season, this wonder is layered on the knowledge of what the garden has grown from. Knowing how the garden was shaped in the past informs my present. My appreciation of the garden is deepened by acknowledging its past, in knowing how it has changed in the three years I have worked with it.

THE ever-evolving nature of gardens acts as a map for our journeys as their stewards. Who I was as a gardener three years ago has shifted from who I am today. That person of my past was more tightly constrained, diligently dead-heading flowers and cutting back paths,

attempting to reign in the sprawl of yarrow and goldenrod. When I look out at the garden now I smile to see the person I have grown into mirrored in the garden of today. In this space seed heads are left unsheared, providing hollow stems for insects and seeds for migrating and overwintering birds. The paths have softer edges, where self seeded plants grow out at the seams of the bark mulch, and branches are left resting on the soil in the shade garden. The garden has become a place where the imperfections are held up with joy and the knowledge that they make the space more habitable for all life.

THIS throughline of past and present is extended as I envision the future of the garden, one in which more native plants call our gardens home. I now look first for native plants to fill a space in the garden, oftentimes choosing the Douglas spirea or the native rose, where in the past I might have reached for lavender and a hybrid tea rose. This does not change my love for the garden of the past, or the joy I find in cultivating lavender. That joy resides side by side with the current iteration of myself as a gardener, one



The present

who thinks about gardening for wildlife first, and the ornamental quality of the landscape second.

GARDENING is messy, both in the physical sense and the metaphorical sense. Gardens are spaces that make us deeply present while simultaneously taking us into our pasts, and reminding us to plan for the future. Trying to untangle the threads of all this is impossible; like a mycelium

network, the fabric of our gardens should be



tangled. I feel inspired in knowing how far my garden has come in the past three years. I am nourished by staying present in each task, in the temporary quieting of my ever-churning mind. I find hope in the garden of the future, in the knowledge of the space I want to cultivate and the work that it takes to get there.

THIS timeline of past, present and future all

residing in one space is not surprising. People are starting to understand that when we remember our past, we re-experience it again. Our memory is fluid: it evolves and changes with time. When we are in the process of remembering, studies are showing that we in fact relive that moment. With each remembering, we change some small part of it: the more we "remember" something the more that "memory" changes.

IN this way there really is no past: we experience the past in the now. Similarly there is no future, as we plan for that future in the present. Despite knowing this, we also feel that both the past and the future reside within us, and so in some way they do exist. I love the duplicity of this, of the mystery that time is, and will always be. There is no making sense of it. There is only experiencing it, of taking in our gardens each day, surrendering to all the joys that they give us because we get only this one chance in time.



With love from the garden.

Shannon Mayhew

JUST 20 DAYS

after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens in 1980, plants and animals were already spotted surviving in the volcanic area.

- PEARLY EVERLASTING
- HORSETAIL RUSHES
- HUCKLEBERRY
- FIREWEED

all popped up through the ash and began to thrive in the aftermath of the eruption.

The Survivors



On Fertilizing Landscape Trees

First, it's important to note that most landscape trees growing in their natural environments rarely or never need fertilizer. However, trees growing in infertile soil, in urban areas, and around new homes may need extra nutrients to keep growing strong. (Newer homes have often had the topsoil removed, leaving only the clay subsoil for your plants).

If you do intend to fertilize some trees, do so in early spring or fall when roots are growing. Do not fertilize in summer, when the tree is in "survival" mode. Items you will need are:

- Granular fertilizer
- Tape measure
- Calculator (optional)
- Scale (for weight)
- Garden hose and water source
- Shovel to check moisture depth

DETERMINE NEED FOR FERTILIZER.

Compare trees to others of the same kind: look at leaf size and color, and the length of new twig growth. Small, pale leaves and stunted growth may signal fertilizer need, but first rule out disease, insects, physical damage, and environmental stress such as flooding or drought.

To determine which supplemental nutrients your tree needs, you can send a soil sample to a testing lab. You may also want to apply a general purpose fertilizer before having the soil analyzed, and visually assess how the tree reacts to that fertilizer application.

CHOOSE A FERTILIZER. Granular fertilizers are the easiest to apply. Choose one especially formulated for the type of tree, such as fruit or evergreen, or apply an all-purpose formula such as 10-10-10.

CALCULATE THE SIZE OF THE ROOT ZONE.

Tree roots *grow at least twice as far* from the trunk as the branches do. To calculate the root radius, measure in feet the distance from the

trunk to the end of the longest branch. To calculate the size of the root zone in square feet, multiply (root radius) x (root radius) x 3.14. Also keep in mind that the feeder roots are the small ones further from the trunk, and that is where you want to place the fertilizer.



DETERMINE THE REQUIRED AMOUNT OF FERTILIZER. You can safely apply up to 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year. A 20-pound bag of 10-10-10 fertilizer, enough to cover 2,000 square feet, contains 10 percent (or 2 pounds each) of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Multiply your tree's root zone by the application rate per square foot to find the total number of pounds to apply.

APPLY THE FERTILIZER. Measure out the amount of fertilizer you need. Mark the outside boundary of the root zone with a garden hose or a circle of flour or lime. Also mark a circle 3 to 4 feet from the trunk. Evenly spread the fertilizer between the two circles, avoiding application close to the trunk. If the tree is in a lawn, apply when grass is dry. Water to moisten the soil and distribute the fertilizer to a 12- to 18-inch depth.

NOW OBSERVE your tree during the year, looking for change. If you see no change at all, you probably don't need to continue fertilization.



CAUTION: Never use "Weed and Feed" products anywhere near the root zone of a tree: the herbicides in the application will harm or even kill trees.

Time to Nominate Your YCMGA Board Members

NOTE: the date that nominations are due has been changed.

Once again, it is the time of the year when we look for nominees for YCMGA Officers for 2025. Serving on the Board is a great way to become more involved in the Yamhill County Master Gardener Association and to learn more about Master Gardeners in general.

If you would like to run for a position, please feel free to nominate yourself - this isn't a time to be bashful. You may also nominate another YCMGA member for an office; however, if you do this, please **make sure that you have their permission!** A position description for each office can be found on the YCMGA website (YCMGA.org) in the Members Only section. It would be fantastic to have two candidates for each position.

Please send your nominations to the members of the nominating committee by October 15, 2024. The slate of nominees will be presented at the Annual Planning meeting which is Saturday, October 26, 2024. The elections will be at the December YCMGA Board of Directors meeting. The committee members are:

Susan Burdell: earthstar748@gmail.com

Star Thompson: star.thomson@me.com

Sue Nesbitt: sue.nesbitt1231@gmail.com

Each time I've held a YCMGA Board position I've found the work both very rewarding and fun. We are fortunate in Yamhill County to have a positive group of Master Gardeners with whom to work!!

Best,

Sue Nesbitt, Past President

Yamhill County Master Gardener Association

BELLADONNA

Named after Zeus's daughter who used a pair of scissors to clip the lifeline of anyone she chose.

Belladonna has been linked to witchcraft,
with potions being used to create deadly poisons
and brews believed to enable flight.



Belladonna "Deadly nightshade"

Monkeying Around with Native Flowers

Each year as Autumn approaches, gardeners turn a critical eye to the land. They wonder what is needed: a refresh, a boost, a do-over. They eyeball empty spaces and dream up ways to fill them.

Last fall I began preparing a section of long-ignored pasture for native flowers. I made my coveted plant list and placed my order at an early spring native plant sale. The wet endless season meant my pink checkermallows slept. However, an apparent stowaway awoke brightly beside it.

A gorgeous, sunny-yellow monkeyflower had intertwined itself with the checkermallow. And as a native flower, it was more than welcome to stay. The cheerful blooms continued all spring and summer long.

I was charmed by the snapdragon-like petals and freckles. The happy accident had me searching to collect more monkeyflowers for the new bed. I picked out the scarlet monkeyflower at a local nursery. It is a brilliant, prolific bloomer that never tires. It is still going strong in September as I write.



Demonstration of seed size

Herbaceous monkeyflowers enjoy moist seeps (water sources) and tolerate some of the most inhospitable conditions. They snuggle up to geysers in Yellowstone, abandoned toxic copper mines, and mineral-laden soils. The plants soak

up the splash zone of the Pacific Ocean and are just as comfortable in alpine meadows. My soil conditions are not so dramatic. Yet the monkeyflowers seem content with my chip drop and deep watering every few days.



Pollinators pick favorites among the monkeyflowers. Hummingbirds love the scarlet. Bees prefer the yellow. When a bee touches the monkeyflowers' lobes, they "pinch" the bee. This holds the pollen firmly, so that when the bee leaves the plant won't be self-pollinated.

The fertile monkeyflowers produce an oblong capsule containing up to 1000 tiny, dust-like seeds. A gentle autumn breeze will easily scatter them. But the seeds are tough. They require months of cold stratification and need light to germinate. If you monkey around with a spring planting, you'll need to mix the seeds with moist sand and store them in the refrigerator for 60 days before surface sowing.

The name "monkeyflower" is a cheeky spin off of Carl Linnaeus' naming of the plant. Linnaeus saw a two-lip smile in the five petals that made him think of comedic mime actors. *Mimulus* became the genus name and quickly others saw the grinning corolla as more of a smirking simian.

The monkeyflower path to Linnaeus began with Captain Merriweather Lewis and Lieutenant William Clark in 1806. The famed explorers were trained by botanists before setting out and spent many quiet moments on their expedition collecting plants and seeds. As a flower presser myself, it is fun to imagine the Zen-like moments of the men stopping along the Blackfoot River to delicately press a yellow monkeyflower.

The plants may have been a "discovery" to the explorers, but it was well known to the

indigenous peoples. Sacagawea and the Lemhi Shoshone tribe used monkeyflower to make a poultice of crushed leaves for rope burns and wounds. Other tribes used the plant in tea form for stomach aches.

Over 100 plant species collected on the expedition were new to science. Those included multiple forms of monkeyflowers. Along with the common yellow, Lewis first documented a great purple monkeyflower that was named in his honor in 1814 as *Mimulus Lewisii*.

The scientific community loves the monkeyflower maybe even more than home gardeners do. The exotic North American plants and seeds were transported, cultivated, and adored by Victorian gardeners. But it is also true that an estimated 1000 scientific papers discuss the wonders and complexities of the monkeyflower.

In 2012, *Scientific American* revealed "the world's newest flower." Mario Vallejo-Marin, a plant evolutionary biologist, discovered the new species in Scotland. The plant was formed by two *Mimulus* ancestors originally hailing from America. One was the very same common yellow



monkeyflower growing in my garden.

The monkeyflower turns out to be a model for studies of evolution and ecology. The hybrid flower found in Scotland contains a rare mutation that has avoided the usual genetic dead-end. The discovery gives scientists a chance to watch the origin of a species as it happens. The plant is a "genomic revolution" with twice the amount of genetic material as others in the same family. *Mimulus peregrinus* can potentially adapt more easily to changing environmental conditions. A plant worth studying closely...

With so much scientific attention, it's not



surprising that a controversial restructuring and resources appear to ignore the updated naming also began in 2012. While there are many nomenclatures, DNA evidence leaves only seven species in the genus *Mimulus*. Most of the monkeyflowers – like the two herbaceous, water-loving plants in my garden – are now considered *Erythranthe*. Another large group that is part-woody and drought-tolerant are in the genus *Diplacus*. But you won't see that distinction in the extensive *Mimulus* database created by the University of Connecticut at mimubase.org.

Erythranthe is from Greek: "erythros" for red with "anthos" for flower. The genus may be a better fit scientifically, but the poetry is missing. It's hard not to prefer *Mimulus*, a name chosen to match the grinning face of the happy flowers. The tags say *Erythranthe guttatus* and *cardinalis*. But my monkey mind says *Mimulus* as I silently swing by the garden to mimic those simian smiles.



Angie Windheim

Tales from the Chef's Garden



Anna Ashby, Allison Inn Garden

This month we're going to talk about our nemesis in the Chef's Garden—gophers! Why are they our nemesis? Our rodent patrol, the cats, consider gophers beneath their notice and they do nothing to thwart them! I've talked to them to no avail. Threatening to withhold petting



doesn't seem to bother them as they know that the gardeners could not refrain from petting the cats. Unfortunately the cats we adopted must have come from a city

environment because they do not stalk gophers. They must consider them inedible. Which is odd because they will catch and kill, but not eat, shrews. So why can't they do the same with gophers??? Thus, it is up to the gardeners to deal with —Gophers!!!

First some unwelcome facts about gophers. According to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife there are 5 species living in Oregon. In the Willamette Valley we have to contend with 2 species—Camas pocket gopher, and sometimes the Western pocket gopher, though the Western pocket gopher supposedly prefers the Coast range and the coast.

Gophers tend to be solitary except in mating season which is early spring. So if you spot fresh digging, most likely one individual is responsible. However, just this week I found 2 gophers within 10 feet of each other. Maybe they didn't know that their tunnel systems would eventually meet.

Now for something for which to be thankful: we do not live in Washington State. Why? Here's a

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife quote: "*The Mazama (Western) pocket gopher of Thurston, Pierce, Clark, and Mason Counties is state threatened and the subspecies in Thurston and Pierce counties were listed as Threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act in April 2014. **Because only remnant populations of these subspecies and species exist, people are not permitted to use lethal control in these areas.***" Outside of those counties you may live trap but you have to release the gopher on the property where it was trapped!! Plus, you need a special permit for any other type of trap.

The reason I'm so up in arms about gophers is the damage they have caused this season in the Chef's Garden. We typically catch them right away, but we have had one persistent critter near the sweet potatoes. It consumed the entire tuber crop of 12-15 plants. A few plants were not entirely consumed as seen in the photo. The rest we harvested before the gopher made it that far. This sort of economic damage from voles is what led us to obtaining cats.

Our options for gophers are:

1) IGNORING THEM. As noted earlier, ignoring gophers leads to loss of crops. The garden is a gophers all-you-can-eat buffet. Outside the garden is the cruel dry-farm world of grasslands. Of



Gopher damage to sweet potatoes.

course, a gopher will stay in the garden once it finds its way in.

2) BARRIERS. Barriers, besides stock tanks, are not feasible for a garden this size. If one has a few raised beds in a home garden it might be doable, but not for 1.5 acres.

3). TRAPS. I think this is the best solution for dealing with gophers. The key with trapping is what I call "saturation trapping". In other words, lots of traps and persistence in the effort. One of my staff members has the patience to flood a tunnel system and wait for the gopher to flee the rising flood before conking it on the head with a shovel.

The rest of us use the traps in the photo. We have used them with varying success. By far our most successful traps are the tiny traps which do not appear to be large enough to catch a gopher. (Keep in mind that a gopher's head is not as wide as its body.) The large cinch traps are simply too big and you can use them only at the exit mound.



Tools: GopherHawk trap, cinch trap, tiny but powerful cinch type trap, Hori Hori knife, with flag on top of everything.

We probe the tunnel system until we find where the feeding tunnel branches into a main tunnel, then we can place two or more small traps facing down each tunnel. We check traps daily and re-set in different tunnels until we catch the rascal.

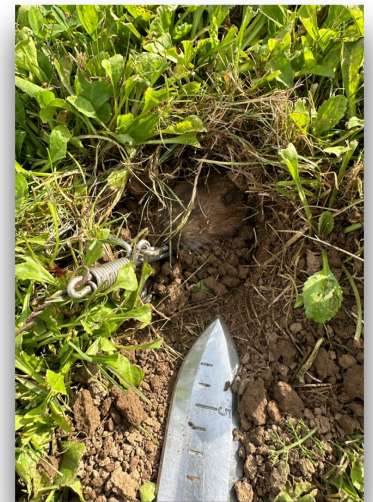
You can barely see that there is a wire attached to one end of the small trap. We installed that. There is a loop at the end through which we

stick a surveyor's flag. Otherwise we could easily lose a trap if a gopher successfully avoids and backfills around a trap.

We just recently purchased a couple of the top traps, but since they require probing down to the tunnel and the soil is super hard and dry right now, they have been difficult to deploy, to say

nothing of the effort it takes us to get down to the tunnel with a probe of rebar. Maybe, they will shine when the soil is softer, or maybe they are better in a turf situation. Time will tell.

A Hori Hori knife is a wonderful tool for widening holes and finding tunnels. It is sturdy so we don't worry about breaking it prying up rocks or roots.



Success from a gardener's point of view.

4) POISONS. Think of these as your last resort as there are serious consequences for messing up. The most effective poison is strychnine-treated grain which is lethal with a single feeding. It is also dangerous for everyone else and should only be used after carefully following the label precautions. Remember it remains poisonous in the gopher's "pantry" and will kill other animals which come across it later. Zinc phosphide bait is also considered lethal after a single feeding. Finally there are several multiple-feed anticoagulants available as well. When using any poison, it is vital to follow the label directions to a "T" as harming pets or children is a very real possibility.

WHAT DOES NOT WORK: Those smoke or gas cartridges are not effective because gophers can quickly seal their tunnels to block the gas. I'm sorry because they are fun to use and to see where the smoke goes. Apparently gopher purge plants do not repel as they are marketed as doing. Vibration devices also have not proved effective. Alas, traps it is.

In the case with gophers, be prepared and take action immediately, before they get an extensive tunnel system built and are entrenched. Have some traps on hand and know how to use them. Don't give up: **it takes persistence!**



"Sharing Knowledge" Workshop Series

COMING THIS MONTH TO AN AUDITORIUM NEAR YOU!

As a Master Gardener have you ever wanted to share information with others that you are passionate about or have an interest in, but did not have the opportunity, technical knowledge or confidence to share? It could be a topic you really enjoy, something you have learned from your gardening experience, personal research or prior work experience. An opportunity to build on your Master Gardener tool kit by increasing your

knowledge and skills in this area is coming your way. This information could be used to do



a hands-on workshop, a brief presentation to a community group or a more formal presentation.

The Education and Outreach Committee is working with a group of Master Gardeners who are experienced and knowledgeable Educators. They have developed a series of workshops focused on building knowledge, and skills related to sharing information with peers and community members. Their experience comes from the business world, public education and college level educational instruction. We have a great opportunity available to our Master Gardener volunteers as a result of these Master Gardeners' willingness to invest their time and efforts into this project.

The series will include three 2-hour lecture and activity-oriented workshops culminating in each Master Gardener's development of a 15-minute presentation that will be shared with your peers in the workshop series and our group of educators during a 4th session. Participants

can work with a friend on a single topic or choose to develop information on a topic individually. Continuing Education and volunteer hours will be earned through participating in this workshop series.

The workshop series will include the following topics:

10/21/24: "CREATING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE WITH YOUR PEERS AND COMMUNITY"

Presented by Linda Sellheim

Everyone has things they're passionate about. All of us became Master Gardeners because we loved something about gardening. The goal of this class is to help you organize these passionate ideas into a 15-minute talk to share your knowledge. You will learn how to identify your topic, create a simple outline and write a learning objective. We will also address how to streamline your information to stay on topic, as well as tools and techniques to keep you on track for successfully delivering information.

11/4/24: "GRAB YOUR AUDIENCE"

Presented by Donn Callaham and Carolyn Nyquist

Learn how to grab your audience and keep their focus and interest. Maximize your personality and presentation skills, by learning about structuring a presentation, using alternatives such as hands-on activities, adapting to the presentation location and audience, and how to maintain law and order. These tips and tools will help you share your expertise with others.

11/18/24: "BUILDING THE VISUALS AND TOOLS TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE"

Presented by Beth Laforce
and Linda Sellheim

This session focuses on the tools used to create the visual support for a presentation. You will learn how to create a simple five to six slide show. A step-by-step process will be shared about how to take an outline created on a topic and turn it into text and visuals. There will be in-class work time with support from the course instructors to help participants prepare slides for your presentation.

12/2/24: 15-MINUTE PRESENTATIONS AND A CELEBRATION

Participants will share their 15-minute presentations with each other and the workshop instructors.

ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD IN THE YAMHILL COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS AUDITORIUM. CONTACT CARLA STABLES TO SIGN UP. PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKSHOP SERIES IS NOT A COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE MASTER GARDENER OR COMMUNITY TRAINING. IT IS A WAY TO BUILD ON YOUR TOOLKIT FOR SHARING KNOWLEDGE WHETHER YOU DO IT ONE-ON-ONE OR WITH A GROUP.



The "Avenue of Baobabs," as it is known, is considered the most accessible place to see baobabs in Africa, and the most beautiful road in Madagascar. Baobabs can reach heights of nearly 100 feet, and live to more than a thousand years.

Photo: [Michail Vorobyev](#)



Avenue of the Baobabs, Madagascar

Community Garden: End of the 2024 Season



Time to Honor Master Gardeners!

Nominations for awards must be turned in by October First!

GOLDEN TROWEL: (One award) *The creation and development of a substantial project.*

ONE OF A KIND (There are 3 awards in this category):

*A person who has made a substantial impact on a project,
Number of hours dedicated to this project.*

APPRECIATION: (There are 20-25 awards in this category):

A contribution of time, talent, and/or expertise that deserves extra recognition.



PLEASE SEND CARLA THE NAMES AND A BRIEF STATEMENT
OF WHY YOU FEEL THEY SHOULD GET AN AWARD.

Heather's Highlights

Hello Everyone!

I hope you are enjoying the change of seasons and the much-needed rain. Our growing season is wrapping up as are our farmers' markets and many of our public events. There are still a few happenings, such as the Garden-to-Table fall class that is currently underway.

The deadline for completing your hours for graduation and recertification is October 31st, so please reach out if you have questions about how to complete or enter your hours. Do

not leave this until the last minute! Carla spends considerable time compiling everything in VRS and she has a short turnaround to get everything ready for the graduation and awards ceremony.

The event will be held at the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center on Sunday, November 17th. Planning is underway and we are looking forward to celebrating our 2024 year! We are still looking for awards nominations, so please send Carla a note about a deserving fellow Master Gardener. You all dedicate so much to the program, so we want the opportunity to recognize your hard work.



PESKY PROFILES



By Heather Stoven

"Bitter Pit" in apples

We have had a couple of clients drop off Honeycrisp apples recently with some brown [sunken areas](#) under the skin, especially on the bottom end. The spots are caused by a [physiological disorder](#) similar to blossom end rot in tomatoes, and the issue is related to calcium levels in the fruit. Honeycrisp apples are very susceptible to this issue: this variety in particular has limited capacity to utilize calcium at particular stages of growth. There are a few other varieties with high likelihood of this problem and others that are more resistant.

Multiple factors contribute to the problem including genetics, rootstock vigor, excessive nitrogen, environmental factors such as drought or high rainfall, and maturity at harvest. Foliar sprays of calcium can be used to complement other management techniques, but may not be a total solution on its own. Fortunately, the apples can still be eaten or used for baking, but they may not store as well as apples without this issue.





Group listening to CJ's presentation



Manager explaining layout



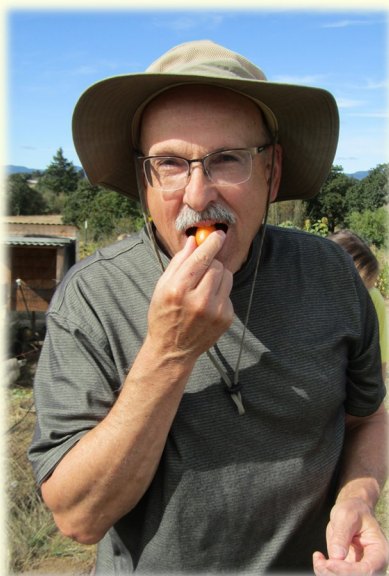
Joan pilfering edible leaves (with permission)



Most plantings are irrigated by drip line



A few of volunteers' work gloves



Dennis taste-testing "Blush" tomato



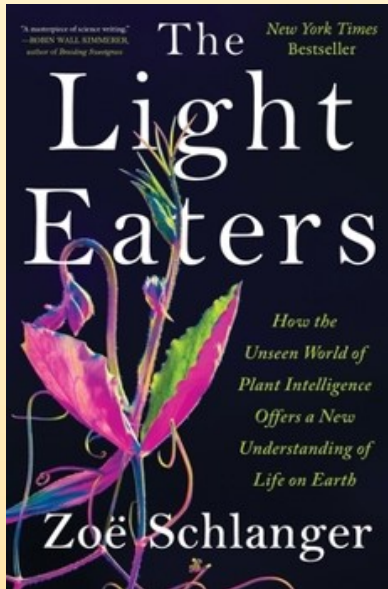
Teepees used for large groups

Eloheh Farm, Yamhill

"Sustainable
Holistic
Indigenous
Agriculture"

Fall Evenings, Garden Reads

More suggestions for fall reading...

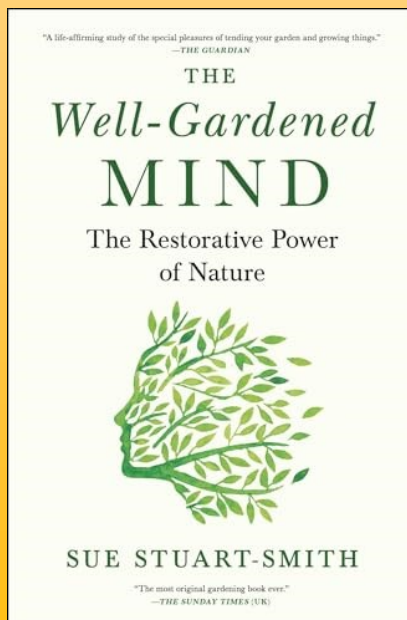
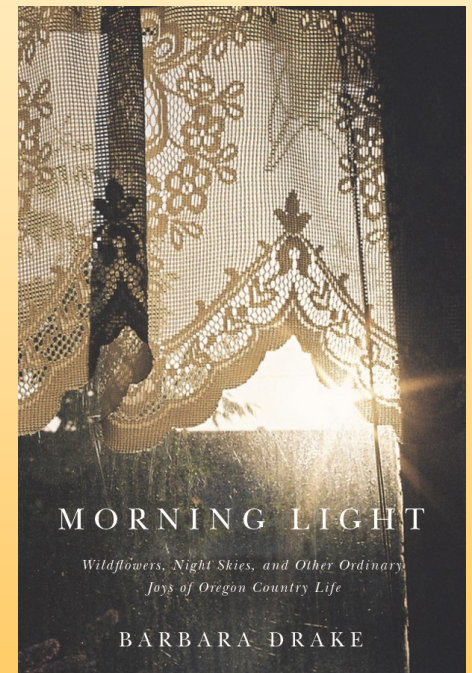


THE LIGHT EATERS by Zoe Schlanger

Recently published, *The Light Eaters* takes us through the latest research in plant "intelligence", a term not used lightly. I was captivated to learn how plants could use cavitation as a form of communication, the sensory experience of plants, and how one plant can mimic the foliage of almost any other plant it encounters. This book has you walking into your garden with a new sense of wonder and appreciation for the lives of plants.

MORNING LIGHT by Barbara Drake

Written by a local author in Yamhill county, this beautiful work of nonfiction takes us through the seasonal delights of a small farm. While reading this book I could readily picture all that the author was describing as it was the very same ecosystems I dwell in myself each day. Swimming through tall bunches of Queen Anne's Lace, braving a thicket of poison oak, and appreciating the ephemerality of spring camas bulbs.



A WELL-GARDENED MIND by Sue Stuart-Smith

If you are interested in the research behind the benefits of gardening look no further than this book. Bringing together the author's own experiences and studies that show how and why gardening is beneficial, this book elucidates the feeling we have always known but could never quite describe, why it feels so good to garden.



Shannon Mayhew

Wildfires and our Homes

This chart from the journal *Forest Ecology & Management* is a [graphic illustration](#) of how to counteract wildfire spread. Although this is related to wildlands, it is also very pertinent to the protection of structures and other property. Note the poor fire control with thinning only, versus the protection from both thinning and prescriptive burning. (The burning is done during the rainy season, and always with fire control measures present).

This study is based on conifer forests, so is particularly applicable in the Willamette Valley. And even though the fire season is nearly over for the year, this is a great time to consider making your home fire-resistant for future years.



journal *Forest Ecology
and Management*

HERE ARE SOME MORE WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME'S [FIRE RESISTANCE](#):

- Trees are spaced and pruned properly.
- Leaves, conifer needles, dead wood, bark mulch, removed from for 100' around structures.
- Fire-resistive plants for landscaping.
- Grass is mowed to less than four inches.
- Debris is removed, chipped, or composted.
- Firewood piles and lumber at least 30 feet from any structure.
- Combustible vegetation 10 feet away from propane tanks. Small propane tanks, not in use, are stored at least 30 feet away.

Pre-wildfire

Untreated



Thin Only



Rx Burn



Thin + Rx Burn



During Wildfire



Post-wildfire



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The Grapevine

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

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