Time for the Fair!

The Learning Garden is looking GREAT for the Tillamook County Fair.

AUGUST 7 – 10

Master Gardeners will be hosting the Garden from 9:45 am to 6:15 pm each day. Stop by and say hello.

Two slots available for hosting:
Saturday, 3:15 – 6:15

Thanks to all the Thursday workers who have made the Garden a show place once again!
Opportunities for Service Hours

Fair: 4-H, Friday Aug. 9, 3:30 – 4:30
Evelynn: evonfeldt1@charter.net or 503-377-2019

Fair: Learning Garden, Sat. Aug. 10, 3:15 – 6:15
Jamie: producegirl@gmail.com

Pacific City Farmers Market, Aug. 11 & Sept 1,
10 am – 2 pm. Pam: drpamster@gmail.com

Garibaldi Night Market, Friday, Aug. 16, 5 – 9 pm
tillamookmastergardener@gmail.com

Office Staff Changes

Kym Hamann has been hired to fill Sheila’s Office Specialist job.
Welcome!

Sheila Smith has taken Amy Schmid’s job as Administrative Specialist with the 4H program.
Congratulations!

Amy Schmid has left for a job with the school district.
Good-bye, thank you! And best of luck in your new position!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Propagation Labs Coming in August

Linda Stephenson

As you all are aware, the Department of Agriculture has mandated that plants that have been propagated with native soil can no longer be sold at plant sales. TCMGA is working to implement a plan to avoid propagation by divisions. Yamhill County has been recognized as having an advanced propagation program that has been developed mainly using cuttings. Eight Master Gardeners from Tillamook County attended a workshop in Yamhill County on July 26 to learn their best practices.

The TCMGA Education Committee is proposing 3 propagation labs to be held in August. These will be on Tuesdays, August 13, August 20 and August 27 and will be held in the Learning Garden from 10:00 to noon. Each will start with a presentation on how to do this type of propagation, followed by hands-on activities. In order to have enough materials on hand we need to know how many people are interested in coming to any of these labs.

Marcille Ansorge has been doing research on appropriate plants to propagate with cuttings this time of year. She will be sending this out in a Thursday Blast. We encourage everyone attending to try to bring some of these to the labs for all of us to use.

To sign up, please email Linda Stephenson: lstephenson49@gmail.com.

For OSU’s guidelines on growing plants for plant sales, see:
Neal Lemery’s Compost Pile
The Planting of a Tree

I dug through the hard-packed clay, my shovel barely making headway. I swapped
the shovel for a spading fork, its hardened, pointed tines able to shatter the clay, and I
moved down. The hole grew, and I shoveled the now loosened clay into my wheelbarrow.

My new tree stood nearby, the promise of a shade tree in the most challenging part of my
yard.

Three times the width of the root ball, my tree planting instructions said, silent on the
number of calories being burned, or how much I’d be sweating. I measured, and dug,
and measured again.

Satisfied and sweat-soaked, I then pulled the root ball out of the plastic pot, and scored the
tightly packed roots with my trusty horihori knife, a Japanese gardening tool that is my all
around, multipurpose gardening tool. “Root pruning,” my directions said, an important
part of the process, stimulating the tree to adapt quickly to its new surroundings and put
out new growth, ensuring its success.

The previous tree hadn’t survived the poor soil, and I was going to make some changes. I
mixed the old dirt in with perlite, potting soil, a handful of lime and a handful of fertilizer,
and picked up my shovel one last time. I settled the tree into its new home, shoveling
dirt around the sides, tamping it down with the end of the shovel. I cheated, though,
defying the directions about not amending

the soil, thus allowing the tree roots to quickly
adapt to the dirt around it. The excavated dirt
was just pulverized clay, remnants of an old
packed clay racing car track from the 1940s. I’d dug deep enough to punch through the
bricklike clay, to the black loam of the underlying old bottom land. Ms. Beech could
soon reach down and find the good stuff.

It’s June, I rationalized, the beginning of the
dry season, and this tree is going to need all the
help it can get to settle in and
thrive this summer. And, trees
are tough, adapting to a variety of
conditions. Improving the soil is
a good thing. The sustainable
gardener in me said wait until
fall, when its cooler, the soil is
warm and the new tree will do
well.

But, the empty, dead space in the
yard bothered me. I wanted the
tree to give me some summer
beauty, its purple leaves a nice addition to my
vista from my nearby pergola and rocking
chair, where cocktails are served every day,
underneath my lush hops vines.

Mulch and water followed, soaking all of my
labors, leaving the tree standing straight, fitting
in well with the landscape.

Choosing the tree was the subject of much
discussion and research, involving my wife and
me in various research projects, and a trip to
one of our favorite nurseries.

Our criteria for plantings include colors and
contrast. Most of the neighborhood trees are
green. We mix it up with shades of purples and
reds, with an emphasis on fall explosions of reds and oranges. The scheme is a nice contrast with our assorted evergreens, including redwoods, Leyland cypress and eucalyptus.

*Fagus sylvatica ‘Rohani’* was our choice, a purple European beech that grows ten feet wide and thirty feet high. It promises to tolerate drought, and likes both partial shade and full sun. We like its elongated serrated leaves and fall foliage that is a mix of bronzes and browns. The beech bark is a pleasing textured gray for winter interest. There’s the possibility of beechnuts, too, which are reported to be good to eat. This should appease our local patrols of birds, who closely monitor our gardening activities.

Our climate zone is outside of the listed range for beeches, but it’s on the City of Portland’s street tree list and nurseries in the valley sell them. My yard is a laboratory experiment, anyway.

Beeches are historically important trees, both in American and European primeval forests. They are prized for their timber, and are making a comeback in reforestation projects. According to Peter Wohlleben and other scientists, beeches and other major forest species network together, communicating vital information about diseases, insects, and climate, using chemical and electrical methods. They support fungal networks, exchanging sugar for nutrients. Trees can even collaborate on the volume of seeds to produce in a season. (*The Hidden Life of Trees; The Secret Wisdom of Nature*)

Even though 92% of our county is commercial and government timberland, I still try to do my part in taking care of trees. The cedars and noble fir seedlings my neighbor gave me are doing well, as are my baby redwoods. Two of them are now thirty feet high.

- “A tree can absorb as much as 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year and can sequester 1 ton of carbon dioxide by the time it reaches 40 years old.
- “One large tree can supply a day’s supply of oxygen for four people.

“A healthy tree can store 13 pounds of carbon each year – for an acre of trees that equals 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide.

“Each gallon of gasoline burned produces almost 20 pounds of carbon dioxide.

“For every 10,000 miles you drive, it takes 7 trees to remove the amount of carbon dioxide produce if your car gets 40 miles per gallon (mpg); it will take 10 trees at 30 mpg; 15 trees at 20 mpg; 20 trees at 15 mpg; and 25 trees at 12 mpg.” ([https://projects.ncsu.edu/project/treesofstrength/treefact.htm](https://projects.ncsu.edu/project/treesofstrength/treefact.htm))

Beech trees are apparently very good at sequestering carbon, being twice as efficient as trees in general. My new beech tree will soon sequester 27 pounds of carbon a year. ([http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/](http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/))

I’m enjoying my new tree now, my digging muscles having recovered. My beech chore list is reduced to regular watering, and monitoring its health while I sip my favorite beverage and work on my summer reading program.
Karen’s Korner
Karen Keltz

THE GARDEN OF DEATH

I was happily driving up the gorge in my car, recently, listening to my audiobook, when I heard something so shocking I almost drove off the road. It was in a murder mystery where a character had planted a killing garden and all the killer plants were listed. I heard the names of some of my favorite plants. What?? I was so astonished I about drove off into the Columbia!

What I learned made me look at the plants around my yard in a whole other way. Some of the flowers, trees, and bushes we have planted for their gorgeous qualities are really—are you ready for this?—out to KILL us!

Now to be fair, I have known about quite a few deadly plants thanks to their involvement in the deaths of characters in the novels I read or the films I watch. So their inclusion in the Garden of Death wasn’t surprising to me. But others? Oh my gosh!

The deadly wildflower I’ve known about forever, of course, is Digitalus purpurea, or Foxglove. My mother said she used to play with it all the time as a small child, making little dolls out of the blossoms. I wonder at the intentions of her mother, sending her kids out to play in the flower garden. Good thing Mom didn’t suck on those blossoms, or I wouldn’t be here today. Foxglove didn’t grow in Eastern Oregon where I lived, but when we visited family elsewhere in the state, she warned us to beware.

Twenty minutes after ingesting Foxglove, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea set in. If not treated, the poisoning leads to bradycardia or ventricular fibrillation, or for kids and pets that eat it, death. The digitalin, digitoxin, and digitonin in this entire plant, even the leaves, are used medicinally for heart patients. It seeds itself in my garden wherever it feels like and a lot of time, I let it stay where it grows because I like the color and height for the few months it looks good.

Most of us know, also, about the Poinsettia, or Euphorbia pulcherrima. We use it for Christmas decoration, a little color when it’s so dark and dismal outside. The milky sap is deadly. Don’t touch or consume, especially children, and if you have pets, maybe use some other kind of decoration, because they will become very ill if they eat any part of it.

Another deadly plant comes out in the same festive season, Phoradendon flavescens, or Misteltoe. My father used to stand and wait under the doorsill where the Mistletoe was tacked to catch every unsuspecting woman who visited us during the holidays. I wonder if he knew about its toxicity? I didn’t learn about that until I visited Ireland. Munching on a couple of leaves, berries, or shoots, or drinking mistletoe tea, will cause abdominal pain and diarrhea. It’s worse for your pets. Choose a reasonable facsimile instead.
I’ve known about Atropa belladonna, Purple Nightshade, since I was a moody teenager, swooning over 18th century and Victorian novels, and other mystery novels of that time period. The drug atropine comes from this plant. Usually gardeners don’t grow it on purpose, but it has naturalized in parts of North America. Watch out for the whole plant, especially the berries, roots, and leaves. If you ate some of the berries, soon you wouldn’t be able to speak to call for help, then you couldn’t breathe and you’d have digestive complications and then violent convulsions, and then, you’d be flying with the angels.

Reading the novel Oleander taught me about the danger of Nerium oleander. It’s a lovely shrub, but I steered clear of it while going to summer school in Nice, France, where it grows all over. One leaf could kill a child. It first affects the digestive system, then it causes circulatory problems, and if you are still alive, it wrecks your central nervous system, causing seizures, tremors, and coma leading to death.

The last deadly plant I’d already learned about is Cicuta maculata, Water Hemlock. I remember the newspaper article about the death of the naturalist who was teaching people how to eat out of the woods, who ingested this plant’s roots when he thought he was eating wild carrots. Oops.

The USDA calls this plant “the most violently toxic plant that grows in North America.” You eat it, you die in 15 minutes from asphyxia and cardiovascular collapse. Not a lovely way to go.

Those were the deadly plants I knew to watch out for, but here are more. See if any of these surprise you. All but one of these is presently in my garden. So far we are all getting along okay.

This deadly plant is a native of the Oregon coast. We love their early spring red, white, pink or purple flower clusters and their thick, glossy leaves still around in winter. You may have several in your yard. I know we do. This plant is a silent killer. Swallow any part of it, and you’ll be drooling from the mouth, teary-eyed, vomiting violently, and then your pulse will slow down and low blood pressure will set in. You can die after falling into a coma or during a violent seizure. You must keep your eye on your murderous Rhododendron ponticum.

Another killer that seems so sweet, that was my best friend’s favorite, is the Lily-of-the-Valley (Convallaria majalis). Its scent is so sweet and the plant is a lovely spring groundcover in shady areas. And, apparently, all of it is deadly. If you put them in water, the water becomes toxic, so I suggest don’t put them in a drinking glass, ever. Just a bite of any part of it causes headaches, hot flashes, hallucinations, irritability, and red blotches on cold, clammy skin. Euw! Besides that, your heart slows down and you fall into a coma and die.
Yet another spring plant that we welcome so heartily is out to get us! This is Narcissus poeticus, known as Poet’s Narcissus or Poet’s Daffodil. The white ones with the yellow center cup, you know? The whole plant is a potent emetic, so you vomit violently, go into convulsions, faint, become paralyzed and then die. If you touch their bulb secretions when you have an open wound, you will likely stagger, become numb, and then your heart will go into paralysis. Remember to wear your gloves!!

I hope this next plant doesn’t go creeping because it’s planted right outside my bedroom window! Arrgh! Mine is blue, but the blossoms can be white to bluish purple. I’m talking about the Delphinium consolida, or Larkspur. I love their height, and I hope we stay on good terms. The entire plant is deadly, particularly young leaves and mature seeds. Like some of the others, if you eat them, first comes nausea, burning of the mouth, then vomiting, then slowing of the heartbea...
Bold colors-in-flight streaked across my vision this past week in our garden here at OYA. Flitting here, flitting there, brilliant yellow, stark black and edged in white. Male American Goldfinch, and MY but they were pretty. I had stayed late at work to do a bit of extra watering, which I WAS doing, until I got terribly distracted by the undulating antics of these little garden fellows. I just had to run for my camera and when I got back to the spot, one was still there.

Our garden camera is great for many types of shots, but I had difficulty focusing on this busy little boy for he was avidly eating our blooming Canada Thistle seed heads and couldn’t bother to sit still for anyone! Herein lies the source of my topic as I write. I have amazed myself by how tolerant I have become over certain things. In this case, Canada Thistle. Joy Jones taught us well when she admonished us to rid our gardens, pastures and by-ways of this highly invasive, non-native weed from Europe. It spreads rapidly by rhizome and by seed and can quickly take over our treasured planting or grazing ground.

On this day, however, all I could do was admire the fact that the beautiful, medium pink bloom on the male plants (did you know there are male and female Canada Thistle?) not only contrasted beautifully with my avian visitors but was also feeding them to their hearts content. This made me happy. Under encouragement from visiting entomologist, Rich Little, we took his advice and let some of our “weeds” stay in the garden (to be rooted out BEFORE going to seed, for most of them). Rich reminded us that many of the pollinators use the nectar from the weed flowers for sustenance, especially if those weeds are native to our area (which, unfortunately, most are not). I decided to also keep a few of the thistle to see if they would become pollinator plants. They did. We’ve seen a lot of bumblebee on those plants. Once again, the trick, of course, is to pull them before the seed spreads and before the rhizomes spread. Tolerance, organization and discipline working together.
Last winter, we had one resident Yellow Jacket in our greenhouse. He would emerge every once in a while to wander and feed then disappear in back of our aquaponics system where he, apparently, made himself at home. He ended up being our resident winter greenhouse pollinator and I can’t help wondering if that is why we had peppers and tomatoes all winter long. I watched him, on many an occasion, as he went to the pepper blossoms and sucked his way from flower to flower. Pretty amazing. Tolerance. All of a sudden I had just-a-wee-tiny-bit of tolerance for those nasty-tempered insects.

Finally, I come to the Garter Snakes, which – by the way – SCARE ME! When I found out that one of their favorite foods here in the PNW is slugs, well...what more can I say!

There is a time for everything, as we all know, including tolerance or lack thereof. Learning to discern the whens and hows of it all is the catch. My dear friend and partner in this OYA adventure, Evelynn VonFeldt, came out to our garden one fine Friday, gasped! And pulled the going-to-seed Canada Thistle beginning to blow their messy seeds into our beautiful perennial garden bed. She asked me first, which I REALLY APPRECIATED, but the time for tolerance on that particular plant had passed. Oh am I ever thankful for such a friend!

As you take a look around your own garden, I challenge you to at least dwell on the possibility of tolerance for plants that are not your very favorite. On one of your own fine days, grab an iced mocha, plant a chair in front of your garden and watch your plants (and weeds) to see if any insects are landing on them, laying their eggs on them (including Ladybird Beetle), lapping up water from them or supping on nectar. I hope you’ll be surprised.

Cris Roberts is a Master Gardener, Class of 2002. She is an employee at Trask River High School on the O.Y.A site; she teaches about gardening—and life—to the young men incarcerated there. Cris lives in Netarts and moved to Tillamook County in 1988.
About OMGA

YOU TOO CAN BE A LEADER IN OMGA

Marcille Ansorge
mansorge@gmail.com

During the last year and a half, I have had the honor of being the secretary for OMGA. If someone had told me at the time I became a TCMGA member back in 2013 that I would be doing this, I would hardly have known what they were talking about. But in 2017 I became TCMGA representative, started attending Leadership Forums and state meetings, met Master Gardeners from around the State as well as some excellent leaders, and ended up being the secretary for the organization.

As a result, I have traveled to Salem and become acquainted with our capitol city, to the Dalles for a meeting at the Discovery Center, to Roseburg to visit the large and varied demonstration garden in Douglas County, to Portland to tour the Oregon Food Bank, and most recently to Medford to visit their 25+ gardens. I learned how other chapters manage demonstration gardens, how the Oregon Food Bank operates, how chapters use technology to promote their projects, how Marion County has attracted young people to their Junior Master Gardener program, and most recently how to create a firewise landscape. Each visit has introduced me to a new chapter, new Oregon Master Gardeners, a different climate and an opportunity to become acquainted with different ways of gardening and farming. An added benefit is visiting an interesting part of the state to explore what the area has to offer in terms of recreation and scenery.

OMGA is made up all members of all chapters of Master Gardeners in the State. Each chapter has a representative and an alternate representative and these members along with the Executive Committee make up the Board of Directors, which meets quarterly. This year Linda Stephenson is the Representative for TCMGA and Leroy Satter is the alternate rep. Barb Casteel has a position with OMGA as chair of Karl Carlson grants. As secretary, it is my job to keep members of the Board of Directors informed of events, to compile quarterly reports, and to record minutes and send these out to members.

Any Master Gardener member of a chapter is welcome to attend the Leadership Forums and Quarterly Meetings (first Friday and Saturday of March, June, maybe September, and November). The next Leadership Forum, on climate change, and quarterly meeting are scheduled for September 6 and 7 in Albany. TCMGA will be hosting the 4th Quarter Leadership Forum on grant writing and the quarterly meeting on November 1st and 2nd.

Right now, OMGA is looking for members to take positions on the Executive Committee. Any Master Gardener who is a member of a chapter is eligible. Positions open for 2020 include Secretary, First Vice President, President Elect, and Newsletter Editor. Anyone interested or wanting to learn more about these positions or more about OMGA meetings and Leadership Forums, please let me know.
TCMGA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Elected Officers**

- President: Cammy Hickman
- Past President: Karen Sarnacker
- Vice President: Sarah Ostermiller
- Treasurer: Nika Van Tilburg
- Recording Secretary: Neal Lemery
- Corresponding Secretary: Arla Ayers
- Historian: Jake Lyons
- OMGA Rep: Linda Stephenson
- OMGA Alt Rep: LeRoy Satter
- Class Rep 2017: Jerilee Henderson
- Class Rep 2018: Kristy Lund
- Extension Agent: Vacant

**Appointed Chairs**

**Annual Committees**

- Audit: Terri Southwick
- Awards: Karen Sarnacker
- Banquet: Cammy Hickman
- Budget: Nika Van Tilburg
- Communications/Webmaster/Publicity: Cammy Hickman
- Vacant: Neal Lemery
- Grants: Nika Van Tilburg
- Hospitality: Betty Lyons
- Membership: Sharon Hundley
- Mentors: Jerilee Henderson
- Mini-College: Linda Stephenson
- Nominating: TBA
- Photo Contest: Cammy Hickman
- Picnic: Karen Sarnacker
- Plant Clinics North: Jake Lyons
- South Tillamook: Linda Stephenson
- Plant Sale: Mark Kuestner
- Projects: Tim & Pam Burke
- Pruning Day: Jake & Betty Lyons
- Scholarships: Sarah Ostermiller
- Tour 2020: Barb Casteel
- Volunteers: Evelyn VonFeldt

**Special Projects**

- Gardening Day Camp: Vacant
- OYA: Evelyn VonFeldt
- Native Plant Garden: Marilyn Perl
- Educational Programs: Linda Stephenson
- Arla Ayers

**Standing Committees**

- Learning Garden: Linda Stephenson
- Thymes Newsletter: Jamie Sinnott, Asst.
- Tiller Newsletter: Deborah Lincoln
- Web Pages: Laura Swanson

**Email addresses**

- General: tillamookmastergardener@gmail.com
- Thymes: dslincoln51@gmail.com

**Web Pages**

- https://tillamookmastergardeners.com/
- https://www.facebook.com/tillamookmastergardeners

**AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- **Aug 2**: OMGA Executive Committee
- **Aug 3 & 17**: Tillamook Farmers’ Market
- **Aug 7 – 10**: Tillamook County Fair
- **Aug 11**: Pacific City Farmers’ Market
- **Aug 16**: Manzanita Farmers’ Market
- **Aug 16**: Garibaldi Night Market, 5 – 9 pm
- **Aug 25**: Tour, Mark & Linda Kuestner’s Garden, 12 – 4 pm
- **Aug 25**: No TCMGA Board Meeting

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