

The Grapevine



The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners

October 2021

CHECK OUT THE YCMGA FORUM!

THE YCMGA FORUM ON OUR WEBSITE IS A GREAT PLACE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OTHER MASTER GARDENERS ON CURRENT ISSUES AND OTHER TOPICS. ONCE LOGGED IN YOU CAN GET TO THE FORUM BY SELECTING **MG RESOURCES -> YCMGA FORUM** FROM THE MEMBERS' MENU BAR. FROM THERE YOU CAN VIEW, RESPOND, FOLLOW, AND CREATE YOUR OWN TOPICS.

WE CURRENTLY HAVE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS BEING DISCUSSED:

- HARVEST SWAP
- COOKING QUESTIONS/TIPS
- HARDY KIWI
- PLANT GIVEAWAYS
- SEED SWAP

LOTS OF VOLUNTEER POSITIONS TO BE FILLED! SEE COMPLETE LIST & DESCRIPTIONS PAGE 6

2021 AWARDS AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

The YCMGA Awards and Graduation Ceremony will be online this year on **November 17th at 6 pm.**

But stay tuned to see if the plans have to be changed because of COVID!

REMEMBER—
TO GET CREDIT FOR VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVED, HOURS MUST BE ENTERED IN VRS BY OCTOBER 31ST.

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YCMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Awards/Memorials

Nancy Woodworth
Polly Blum
Linda Coakley

Community Garden

Linda Mason
Susan Burdell

Demonstration Gardens (2)

Sue Nesbitt
Donn Callaham

Education Outreach

Rita Canales

Newsletter

Donn Callaham

Farmers' Mkt. Mac.

Tom Canales

Farmers' Market Newberg

Peter Steadman

Garden-to-Table

Gene Nesbitt
Tonia Beebe
Gloria Lutz

Greenhouse

Linda Coakley

Hospitality

Gail Stoltz

Insect Committee

Gin Galt
Terry Hart

Library

Beth Durr

Plant Sale

Pat Fritz
Marilyn MacGregor

Propagation

Pat Fritz
Marilyn MacGregor

Publicity

Tom Canales

Scholarships

Susan Nesbitt

Social Media/Website

Tom Canales

Spring into Garden

Carol Parks

Sunshine Committee

Polly Blum



Tales from the Chef's Garden



Bees collecting nectar (hopefully) on Gaillardia

October is one of my favorite months. The humid days and beating sun are a distant memory

replaced by bracing mornings and glorious sunny and breezy days. Another joy of October is that the urgent harvesting is over. No longer do I wake up in a panic that the zucchinis have grown to 18 inches overnight. Or that I've missed harvesting an entire bed of lettuce and it is now bitter. In short, October is a more relaxing month in the Chef's Garden.

While I'm reveling in the slower pace of October, let's go back into the middle of the hustle and bustle of summer. When it is hot and we're already busy harvesting vegetables, we harvest honey. Why? We need to leave the bees time to replace some of the excess which we harvested.



Uncapping frame of honey

So that means honey harvesting is hot and sticky work for a sweet reward.

It might come as a surprise to some, but honey does not originate in little plastic honey bears. It starts with flowers, lots of flowers. Honey bees collect nectar and pollen from a wide variety of flowers. The nectar becomes honey which provides the carbohydrate portion of a honey bee's diet. The pollen, also stored in the combs, is a bee's source of protein.



Full frame of capped honey

Just like people are healthier when they eat a varied diet, the same holds true with honey bees. Our part as gardeners is to plant flowering plants. Check out the OSU publication EM 9289 "Enhancing Urban and Suburban Landscapes to Protect Pollinators" for in-depth information on the considerations when choosing what exactly to plant to feed pollinators.

Back to the journey from nectar to honey. Bees return to the hive and deposit a drop of nectar with a house bee. She then mixes the nectar with enzymes and bacteria and evaporates most of the moisture until it reaches about 18% moisture which will not ferment when stored long-term. She places the drop in a honey cell. When the cell is full and the moisture is correct, the bees

cover the honey with a thin wax seal. This is the point that the rascally beekeeper intrudes! Bees are overachievers. They store more honey than they need, so beekeepers harvest the excess.

On a hot day in late July, we remove the extra boxes of honey from each colony. After brushing the frames so they are bee-free, we take them into the fancy event tent with all the doors and windows closed. This year we did get electricity so we could at least have some fans. This process works best when the outside temperatures are in the mid-nineties! I have decided to consider it a free sauna treatment.

Once the boxes filled with frames of honey are inside, the next step is to remove the wax cappings.



Honey flowing from extractor into double strainer

The next stop on the journey to the honey jar is moving the frames into the extractor. We have a hand-cranked model. Yes, electric would be infinitely easier, but I open up honey harvest to the rest of

the employees to come help in exchange for a small jar of fresh honey. It has proved to be a very popular activity.

It takes anywhere from 5-15 minutes of steady cranking the handle of the extractor to remove the honey from the frames. At that point the frames go back to the bees for them to clean before I store them for winter

The honey that is spun by centrifugal force from the frames gathers in the bottom of the extractor. It flows out a valve through

a double strainer into 5-gallon buckets. We let the honey sit for a few days to allow bubbles and any wax to float to the surface before we bottle it into quart-sized jars for use in the Jory kitchen.

Next time you see that jar of honey sitting on your shelf, think about all the work that goes into getting it to that state. Use it with care and gratitude for the hard-working honey bees.



Extractor with strainer & 5-gallon bucket below

Anna Ashby

Master Gardener

Master Beekeeper



At the end of a hot day—the Final Product

The Invasives

Velvetleaf

Abutilon theophrasti

In September a resident of McMinnville sent in a description and photos of this plant. It turns out to be an invasive on the "priority list" (see details next page) in both Oregon and Washington.



Velvetleaf whole plant

"Velvetleaf" (*abutilon theophrasti*) is an annual weed in the mallow family (*Malvaceae*) that germinates in the spring and flowers in the summer. Heart-shaped leaves are up to 5" across, alternate and velvety, have long stalks and a distinct odor when crushed. Yellow five-petaled flowers are followed by persistent, crown-shaped seed pods.

The mature plant is from 3' to 8' tall (the specimen in McMinnville was 6') and blooms from July through September. As with nearly all the invasive weeds, it thrives in any open or

disturbed area, usually where the soil is moist.

The first recorded site of velvetleaf in Oregon **was in 1928 in Yamhill County**. In the Willamette Valley, velvetleaf has often been associated with dairy operations due to importation of cotton seed from the South for cattle feed. Unfortunately, it competes effectively with grain and seed crops, shades out desired plants, and releases chemicals which inhibit the growth of other plants.

A native of China and presumably introduced into the U.S. from India as a fiber crop, it is also known as Indian mallow, buttonweed, velvetweed and jute. It spreads by seed with each plant producing 17,000+ seeds per season. The seeds remain viable in the soil for at least 60 years, so ambitious control must be done every spring.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT...

With a mature plant, just pull or dig up the plant, seal it in plastic bags, and put it in the garbage. If you don't have garbage service, still dig it up and bag it, and keep it until it can be burnt completely. It's important to keep it away from compost piles and brush or weed piles because of all the seeds.



Velvetleaf flower and seed pod

WHAT IS A "PRIORITY WEED"?

THESE WEEDS ARE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO BE FOUND AND ERADICATED AND ARE ACTIVELY BEING TARGETED FOR ERADICATION IN AND BY OREGON. LANDOWNERS ARE ASKED TO NOTIFY THE WEEDWISE PROGRAM OF THESE WEEDS AND TO ACTIVELY CONTROL THEM ON THEIR PROPERTY.



Velvetleaf – what you do not want to see

If there is a large infestation (as in a field) then herbicides are needed. However, the application of herbicide must be made in spring only, before the plant is 4" tall, at a certain time of day, and every year until no more plants are seen. Waiting until the plant is larger, or spraying at the wrong time of day, or missing a year will allow the weed to outgrow any herbicide and still develop a seed crop.

So clearly, it is important to get rid of this weed immediately after finding it, then being meticulous in eradicating it every year.



Donn Callaham



Extreme Topiary





Share your energy and Skills!

Volunteer for one or more of these jobs:

- >>> **Publicity Committee chairperson**
- >>> **“Spring-into-Gardening” chairperson**
- >>> **Education/Outreach committee co-chair**
- >>> **Assistant website editor**
- >>> **Perennial Propagation chairperson**
- >>> **Annual Propagation chairperson**
- >>> **President-elect for 2022**

For descriptions of these jobs and any questions, use the “YCMGA Committee Chairpersons” list on page one of this *Grapevine*.

All of these positions need to be filled **ASAP**

Assistant Website editor job description:

Work with the Website Administrator, the YCMGA Board and Committee Chairs to insure relevant content is kept up-to-date on the YCMGA Website.

Required Skills:

Basic Computer skills and familiarity with MS Office products (Word, Excel, Publisher, etc.).

Some experience with a website content management system (CMS) such as WordPress, or the ability to follow written instructions for updating YCMGA website pages using WordPress.

Responsibilities may include one or more of the following:

Update Public and Member-only “Upcoming Events” section and the Events Calendar. Maintain “member only” database.

Ensure read-only copies of organizational documents (Resource Manual, Grapevine, Policies, By-Laws, etc.) are available and up-to date on the website.

Ensure online registration for “Spring into Gardening” and Membership Dues renewal are activated when appropriate.

Maintain the YCMGA Web Admin. guide.



YAMHILL COUNTY 3RD QUARTER CHAPTER REPORT 2021

In July we had a tour of the Grand Ronde Native Garden and Nursery with 22 Master Gardeners attending. It was a huge success and a great learning experience. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have a great facility and we not only learned about native plants, but how those plants are harvested and used by the Native Americans as their food, their medicine and in their ceremonials.

Over the next few months, we will be determining the type of plant sale to focus on: in-person, on-line or a hybrid of the two.

We have 37 active Garden-to-Table participants with gardens from our 2021 classes. We are starting to plan for our 2022 classes. The scope of the 2022 program and grant funding are currently being explored. We have a good potential to support Spanish classes in the Spring.



Submitted by Polly Blum, Yamhill County OMGA Rep.



Extreme Topiary

***“CRIMES
AGAINST
NATURE”***



Mistaken Identity: Wasps

There is a wasp in Oregon which is often mistaken for the Asian giant hornet. As you know, there aren't yet any Asian giant hornets in Oregon, but this other very large (to 1.5 inches long) wasp is a native here, and poses no threat to the ecosystem.

The "Cicada killer" wasp appreciates sandy soil for digging its nest, making it a rarity in Western Oregon. Their only prey is the cicada. Their method of consumption, though, is rather distasteful. The female paralyzes a cicada by stinging it, then drags it into her nest underground. (This process can take her a full day). While it is still alive her larvae gradually eat the cicada, a process which may take several weeks.

Though very bad news for cicadas, the Cicada killer is hardly threatening to other animals (including us). As an OSU researcher so quaintly puts it, "If you disturb their nest they'll get a little agitated." However, they are solitary by nature, so they won't attack in a swarm. Their holes are minimal (though 10 inches deep) so are often not even noticeable in a landscape.

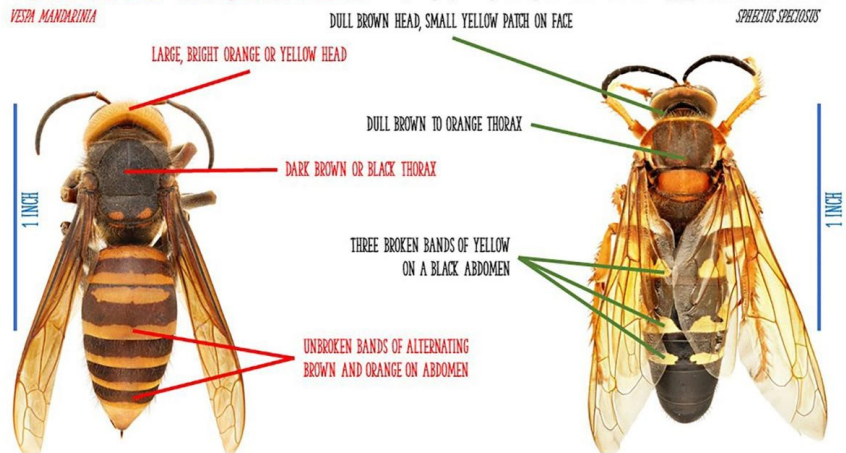
While the female digs the burrow, lays her eggs, finds and stings a cicada, hauls it home and then works it down into her burrow, the males keep themselves busy with two activities.

The males spend their time fighting for a mate, and **vomiting on their own heads to stay cool in the summer heat!** Certainly a unique way to cool oneself, and something that would be singularly difficult for us to emulate.



July 2021 Capital Press

GIANT HORNET VS. CICADA KILLER



A Suggestion for Insect Aficionados

For those of you who use Facebook, here is a suggestion.

Terry Hart found this group that is open to the general public, which he has enjoyed for a couple of months. You need to request to join and follow the simple rules; nothing unusual. It is described as being:

"For anyone interested in the insects of the Pacific Northwest. Professionals, amateurs, or the vaguely curious are all welcome here!"

Click link [PNW Entomology](#)

"The best fertilizer is a gardener's shadow."

Heather's Highlights

Hello everyone! I hope you are enjoying the start of fall and our ample recent rainfall. It is nice to see everything green up again!

The biggest thing to note this month is that volunteer hours are due in VRS on or before Oct 31st. The sooner the better! This will help Carla get hours ready for our MG graduation and awards ceremony. It will be online again this year, on the evening of November 17th, but don't let this stop you from preparing a pot-luck dish – you can always make M.G.'s on camera jealous! For certified Master Gardeners, you do not have a volunteer hour requirement this year, but you must complete **10 hours of continuing education hours to recertify for 2022**. Please let Carla or me

know if you need any continuing education hours; there are many recorded webinars to watch. Also, please enter any additional volunteer hours you have from 2021; it is important for us to be able to record our positive impact on our community with all your donated time.

Also, if you would like to get out a bit and visit with fellow volunteers, we still have outdoor activities such as demo garden, the community garden, and McMinnville Farmers Market. The market is a good opportunity for trainees looking to finish desk hours, so sign up and connect with fellow gardeners from the MG program and the public. We have made some great contacts at the markets so far this year, so give it a try if you haven't been yet this year.

If anyone has any questions about volunteer or education hour opportunities or entering them in VRS please contact Carla or myself **ASAP**.

PESKY PROFILES

By Heather Stoven

Spiders all Around Us!

Ever wonder why spiders are associated with Halloween? Perhaps it is because some view all the legs spiders have as "creepy" and suitable for the holiday, or perhaps it's due to the extra visibility spiders have during the fall.

Spiders are commonly noticed both indoors and out this time of year. It might make sense that one of the reasons is due to spiders "coming indoors" for warmth in the winter; however, that is not the case.

Actually most spiders you see indoors are different species

than spiders that live outdoors. They are not coming in and out. However, spiders that live indoors may be more visible during the fall as they are more mobile in your house as they search out mates this time of year.

Outdoor spiders are actually more numerous in the spring after they hatch (before predators find them) though they may be more noticeable now since they are larger as they reach maturity and therefore more conspicuous in their webs.

Next time you are outdoors keep an eye out for cross orb-weavers (*Araneus diadematus*) which are noticeable in western Oregon this time of year due to their conspicuous spiral webs. They are beautiful spiders! Happy Fall Everyone!

Resources:

[berkeley/fall_spiders/spider-showcase/myth-spiders-come-indoors](#)



Orb-weaver spider



The Secret Life of Mosquitoes, Part 2

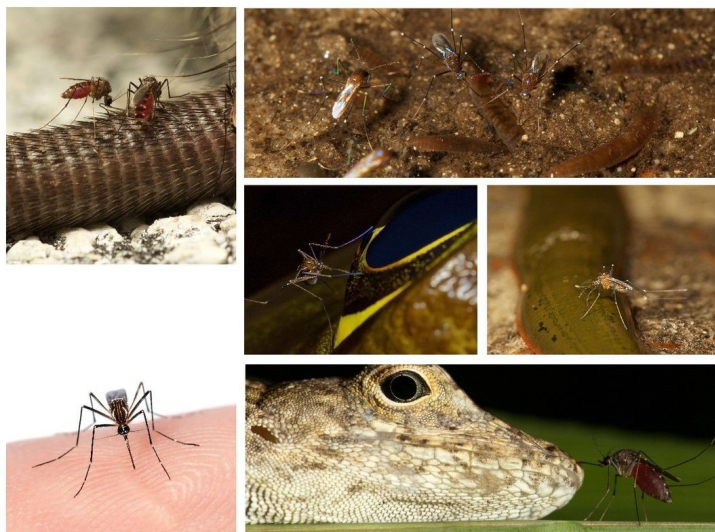
There are dozens of species that, like the elephant mosquito and its close relatives, never drink blood as adults. But when they do suck blood humans aren't the only thing on the menu. Hematophagus, or blood-sucking, mosquitoes also feast on frogs, crocodiles, earthworms, armadillos, manatees and even mudskipper fish.

Mosquitoes appear to be vital to plant pollination.

Recent research on fossilized mosquitoes suggests these insects were originally reptile feeders, sucking the cold blood of dinosaurs. By our own

nature, we also out-compete, over-harvest and crowd out lots of the animals that mosquitoes rely on, giving them no choice but to suck our blood instead. The mosquitoes which do not suck blood for protein get their energy from nectar, sap and fruit juice.

Mosquitoes in the genus *Malaya*, however, poach their sugars from other insects. Using their antennae and short proboscis, they will stroke the faces of ants and aphids, causing them to regurgitate a sweet liquid called honeydew from their mouths. Many mosquitoes rely on sugary



Blood-as-food sources for mosquitoes.

Clockwise from top left: armadillo's tail; worms; a slug; amphibians (center); reptiles; and, of course, YOU.)

plant liquids for most of their diet, and this tight relationship with plants could be far more important than we realize. Sugary plant liquids like nectar are the primary food source for many mosquitoes.



Aedes scapularis mosquito: a new invasive mosquito in Florida

Overshadowed by their vampiric tendencies, mosquitoes' pollination duties are highly understudied, partially because they pollinate only at night. (Since very few people have seen mosquitoes pollinating at night, it's only recently that scientists realized that was even happening).



The hairy-lipped mosquito carefully guards her eggs from falling raindrops, predators and debris until they hatch.

Which plants they visit and how effectively they disperse pollen relative to bees, butterflies and beetles is poorly understood. Studies have shown that when night-time pollinators are excluded, some flowers tend to produce fewer viable seeds compared to flowers whose day-time pollinators are blocked out. This, along with the sheer magnitude of mosquitoes found on flowers at night, suggests that nocturnal creatures like mosquitoes may be just as important for ecosystem functioning as the familiar pollinators we see during the day.

Mosquitoes have a long way to go in terms of recognition, though. Even in the scientific

community, they're often excluded from pollinator studies. Few people, even among entomologists, expect to see mosquitoes on flowers.

With their proboscises in every ecological pie, mosquitoes are intricately intertwined with countless plants, animals, microorganisms and pathogens, yet our perception of them remains narrowly focused on the itchy welts they leave and diseases they carry. If their enormous impact on humans alone is any indication of their relationships with other species, it would behoove us to focus more effort on understanding them in the context of their environments.

As usual, humanity's focus is on its own welfare (mosquito eradication) rather than the big biological picture. If humans succeeded in decimating mosquitoes, besides losing the pollinating powers of mosquitoes, there is certainly this question:

Could birds and bats survive without mosquitoes?



Asian tiger mosquito

The lesser-known mosquitoes out there — with their fancy colors, strange sex lives and variety of hosts — reflect a rich diversity that's hard to ignore once you take a closer look.

Chances are there are more than a few out there that could save our lives, if only we could appreciate theirs.



*Cypress Hansen, Smithsonian, 8-19-21
(Sent in by Terry Hart)*

[Learn about the Smithsonian's 1.9 Million Mosquitoes on this site.](#)



Mosquito visiting a Mango blossom at night

The Secret Weapon: Bread Dough!

Bread dough turns out to be a supreme attractant for slugs and snails. Scientists from 6 entities (universities and agencies) discovered that gastropods "go bonkers" for bread dough, possibly because of the fermentation. In one experiment, 18,000 snails were trapped in 48 hours. Once attracted to the dough, they can be eliminated.

Bread dough has the added advantages of having a long field life (active for 8 days), is inexpensive, and can be stored indefinitely when dry.





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