

The Gardener's Pen

A Publication of the Oregon Master Gardeners™ Association in Cooperation with OSU Extension Service™

Search for Excellence at the 2019 IMGC

One of the keynote speakers for the 2019 International Master Gardener Conference was **Dr. David Gibby, founder of the Master Gardener Program**. He spoke to the 1100+ attendees on how the MG program came to be, "The Roots of the Master Gardener Program". As an overwhelmed King County Extension Agent, he needed help reaching out to the public about their plant problems. Not having a budget or support from Extension, he decided that 'his backdoor' solution was volunteers. He teamed up with the Tacoma Mall, local radio/TV networks and Sunset Magazine and organized the first Trial Clinic in 1972. Hundreds of people showed up with their gardening questions for the topic specialists to answer. There was a definite need for knowledgeable volunteers. Per Dr. Gibby's request, Sunset Magazine ran an article in the next issue about the event titled "Wanted: Expert Gardeners to become Master Gardeners". 600 volunteered, 300 accepted and 150 gardeners trained in the first class. As it's said, **"The rest is History!"**



I was honored to meet and converse with Dr. David Gibby and his wife at the 2019 IMGC.

One of the **highlights of the conference** was that Dr. Gibby was honored by having the Search For Excellence renamed after him and it is now known as the **David Gibby Search for Excellence**. He was given an overwhelming standing ovation by the MG attendees for without his "backdoor idea", none of us would have enjoyed such a wonderful Master Gardener conference or more importantly, being trained to be able reach out to the public as Extension Master Gardeners.



To read in more detail about how the Master Gardener program evolved, go to:

<http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/MasterGardenerProgramHistoryrev2009.8.pdf>

Dear MG Readers,

After seven years as the OMGA Gardener's Pen editor, it's time for me to step down and let another Master Gardener take on this rewarding, educational, challenging and FUN responsibility. Yes, I had fun learning how to navigate graphic presentations, engage with fellow MG's to share articles about what's meaningful to other MG's, and travel throughout the State for BoD and Exec Comm meetings. I think I know at least one person, maybe two in every county throughout the state now - a worry I had when I first moved here 12 years ago - how to make friends with similar interests when you move across country. Anyways, please let me or another OMGA officer know of your interest in possibly taking this position on or if you have any questions regarding the it. I will work with whomever to make a positive transition for 2020. Thank you!

Marcia Sherry - OMGA Newsletter Editor

JULY 2019

Firewise Gardening



OMGA™

Inside this issue:

From the President's Desk...	2
2019 IMGC - Valley Forge	3
2019 OMGA Grants	4
How Alan Alda Helped Me to Become a Better Teacher	6
Book Review - Wicked Plants.....	8
Insects are Often Mistaken for Tree Killers.....	9
Ecolawn: Less Work and Water.....	11
Leadership Forums.....	12
Christmas in the Garden.....	13
You Too Can Be A Leader in OMGA.....	14
Splinter's from the Board....	15
How to Clean a Bird Bath for Your Feathered Friends	16

The deadline for the October 2019 issue is: No later than Sept. 20th, 2019 "The Scoop on Compost" Send your articles to: GardenersPenNewsletter@gmail.com



from the President's desk...

...by Eric Bosler, 2019 OMGA President, Central Gorge

This morning finds me just back from beautiful Medford and the OMGA 2nd Quarter Board meeting and Leadership Forum. President-Elect Chris Rusch arranged for a workshop on Fire Wise Landscaping. This was an excellent program. A new goal is to provide a video of the Fire Wise Landscaping Workshop and to have it available on-demand online.

As it becomes more difficult and expensive for Master Gardeners to obtain ongoing education, OMGA is working on options to address the ever present need for meaningful and accessible information for ourselves and the communities we serve. We'll see if recording the Fire Wise workshop is a baby step in that direction.



There was a lot of important ground covered at the Board meeting and we will be working over the next few weeks to share this information with each Master Gardener. The chapter reps continue to be the vital link between OMGA and the individual Chapters but we need to use every available option to reach out to our membership.

From the 2nd Quarter Board meeting, the 2019 Chapter Survey and ongoing input from a number of you, OMGA found that:

It is abundantly clear that OMGA **must** do a better job of demonstrating to the general membership the **who, what, why, when and how** of our organization. For the Master Gardener program in general and the vitality of OMGA in particular, we need to better inform all MG's of the Mission, Vision and support OMGA provides to each of the Chapters. Every MG should understand how we use the monies OMGA receives from them, in the form of dues, to directly benefit the OSU MG Program and the work that we do on their behalf.

A main focus of the 2nd Quarter meeting revolved around OMGA's "Educational Mandate." In addition to a discussion of what that mandate is and how it came about, we covered several aspects of just what is going on in this area. *How does OMGA provide support to our members Chapter's educational outreach?*

1. One way is by supporting the OSU Extension Webinars: OMGA has committed to continued support of this program. Brooke Edmunds reports that she has the resources and the next series is being planned.
2. The ongoing questions surrounding Mini-College were discussed. Efforts to move forward on Mini-College will be doubled. The reps at the Board meeting agreed to assist the OMGA leadership in searching out people who have a passion and commitment to Mini-College and would be willing to work with a committee to make it happen in the future. I urge you to consider the importance of Mini-College and to assist us in this endeavor. Our first goal is to establish a small group to work on this project... please let me know if you can participate.
3. What does the educational outreach being done by Oregon State Master Gardener Chapters look like? To better answer this question we've asked each chapter to provide a brief outline of the "extraordinary" educational programs it produces. Extraordinary being classes, seminars, workshops, events... any activities other than our regular Master Gardener training or Seed to Supper classes. We are doing some amazing things and a catalog of these would be exceptionally useful as we share with each other our efforts and the opportunities that exist around the state.

So we had an interesting, informative and productive 2nd Quarter Board meeting. We also came away with some ambitious "homework." The most important thing that I brought away, as I have in the past, was an admiration of the amount of effort, care and dedication that so many people have for our Master Gardener program.

Thank you all for what you do!



2019 IMGC - valley Forge

...by Eric Bosler, 2019 OMGA President, Central Gorge



Pennsylvania Master Gardeners hosted this year's **International Master Gardener Conference** in Philadelphia, at Valley Forge, and it was wonderful. Neighboring New Jersey is nicknamed "The Garden State" but it could easily belong to Pennsylvania. Tours of the regions preeminent gardens were simply fabulous. Longwood, Winterthur, Chanticleer, and Bartram's as well as other sights including the city, were at their very best...you don't need to visit Europe to see some gardening wonders.

Oregon was well represented with over 30 Master Gardeners taking in the classes, keynote speakers, tours and wonderful hospitality. (See photo below.) It was also interesting to learn how other states approach many of the challenges that we share and some of the innovative ways they address serving their communities and training their membership.

The most notable speaker was David Gibby. "The Roots of the Master Gardener Program" told the story of how he, as an Extension Agent in Washington State, initiated the program which has grown to be truly international in scope. David Gibby's keynote speech:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAoOKNtHNMk>
(editor's note: a little fuzzy at first but clears up farther along)

One special highlight for me was that, as I was wearing my Oregon MG badge (ours are truly unique), many people stopped me to comment on its design and to also share how much they had enjoyed the conference when Oregon hosted it two years ago in Portland.

I sincerely appreciated the opportunity to represent the Oregon Master Gardeners at this year's International Master Gardener Conference in Philadelphia, PA. Thank you very much! -- Eric Bosler, OMGA President



Our State MG Coordinator, Gail Langellotto representing the NW region in "Container Wars" - which was an educational and entertaining event.



John Bartram, an early American botanist and horticulturalist, **came a calling** with lots of gardening history and stories. Did you know he published the first "nursery catalog" along with his son in 1754? Gardeners from all over the world sought out his "treasurers". His garden was a source of inspiration for George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. For more info on him, go to: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Bartram



This conference had "kites" from each chapter in honor of Ben Franklin. Remember the decorated bikes from our 2017 IMGC? Well, people were still talking about them at this conference!



2019 OMGA Grants

The **Karl Carlson Grant** committee, chaired by Barbara Casteel from Tillamook County, has met and decided to award six grants of \$200 each to **Curry County, Douglas County, Tillamook County, Marion County, Jackson County** and **Lincoln Master Gardener Associations**. All the applications arrived complete and on time and met the criteria for the grant. This year each of the applications were made to support the implementation of new programs or projects related to community horticulture and are as follows:

Curry County wishes to enhance the experience for their Riley Creek School Garden visitors by adding signage to the garden. Visitors include the 310 students of the school and their families as well as members of community class participants and general passers-by. Educational signs will instruct visitors at all times, not only when Master Gardeners are present.



Signs were also on the mind of **Douglas county**. They included a photo of their very attractive rock garden. Signage for their garden would explain what a rock garden is and how to construct one.

It is a sad day when one's Extension Agent retires. It is further complicated when the laptop computer used for all educational programs will no longer be available. **Tillamook County** requested a grant to offset the purchase of a new Educational Computer to house the Master Gardener curriculum, PNW's and other references and to enable presentations at other educational events.

Most of us can relate to the increasing difficulty getting down to ground level gardens. The Karl Carlson grant would support the establishment of an Adaptive Gardening space in **Marion County**. The grant application presented a 5-year plan and even mentioned the assistance of a retired occupational therapist. It looks like a big project but well organized.

Due to the changes in the regulations regarding plant sales, **Jackson county** envisions a new educational program in plant propagation. To enhance this program, they are requesting money to purchase materials to install an automatic watering system in a greenhouse.

Lincoln County's Demonstration Garden had the honor of being designated a Wildlife Habitat by the World Wildlife Federation in 2017. Building on this designation, the chapter hopes to install a native hedgerow garden and a Beneficial Bug Hotel on their site and include signage regarding beneficial bugs. They are uniquely located to reach a large population due to their site at the Oregon Coast Community College.



The **2019 Search for Excellence Award** was given to **Marion County** for their **Junior Master Gardener Project** in the amount of \$500. The Marion County Master Gardeners have 1000 participants in the Junior Master Gardener Program. The focus of their program is to assist the underserved, low income and single parent households, the Latinex and those with special needs. They train community members to assist and they fundraise to facilitate the program. Their goal is to provide research-based **garden education for underserved youth across Marion County** through a partnership between schools, Master Gardeners and 4-H Youth development by utilizing the **Junior Master Gardener curriculum**.

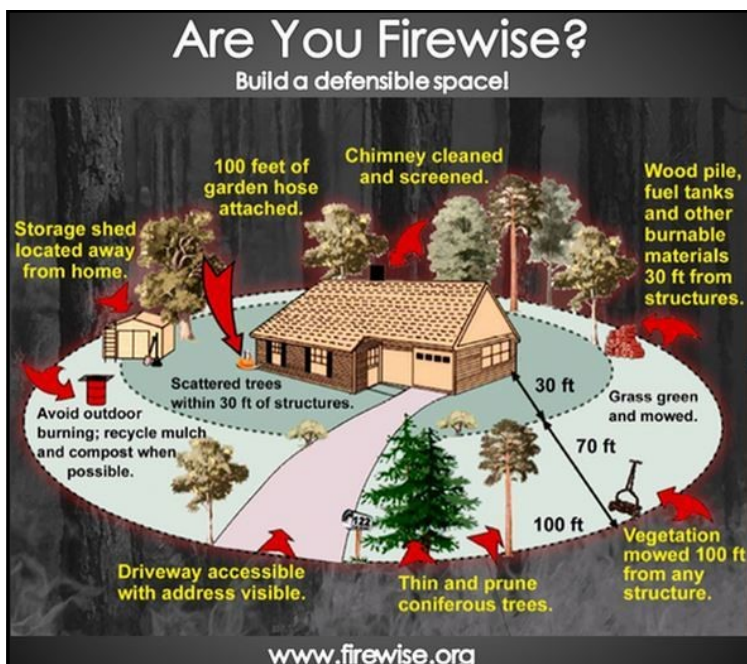


cont'd 2019 OMGA Grants

The **Extension Educator Grant Committee**, chaired by Jeanine Johnson from the Central Oregon Chapter has met and reviewed the grant applications and have chosen all grant requests with unanimous ayes!! The Central Oregon, OSU Bee Project, Coos, Tillamook and Yamhill County applications all represent valuable projects and they will enhance the Master Gardener programs in providing the latest research-based home horticulture information to constituents in their areas. The details of the grants are as follows:

- ****Central Oregon:** \$500 to print the publication "Growing Vegetables" in Central Oregon
- ** **Coos County:** \$500 to build raised garden beds at the Extension Office
- ** **OSU:** \$500 to fully fund taxonomic services to identify 150-200 bees, which will be included in an OSU publication of "Bees of Oregon Gardens"
- ****Tillamook County:** \$334.99 to off-set the costs of a new laptop and Microsoft Office Suite for use in their educational classes
- ****Yamhill County:** \$450 to purchase a video projector for use at their educational events.

Congratulations to all of our 2019 Extension Educators Grant recipients!!



Many more resources on fire safe landscaping:

<https://oregonexplorer.info/content/fire-safe-landscaping>

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/natural-resources/firewise-plant-materials-6-305/>

Living with Fire

Wildfires make a profound impact on people, land, animals, environment and the economy. As the population continues to increase, homes and communities expand to new rural boundaries and fires become more a part of the changing landscape. Oregonians are faced with the challenges of preventing, preparing and recovering from wildfires. Learn about what to do before, during, and after a wildfire.

Before Wildfire Strikes

- First, [is your property at risk from wildfire?](#)
- Next, Oregon State University Extension provides information on [Keeping Your Home and Property Safe from Wildfire: A Defensible Space and Fuel Reduction Guide for Homeowners and Landowners](#). This guide is a comprehensive primer for homeowners and landowners to prepare and respond to wildfires. Other great, comprehensive resources are [Living with Fire: A Guide for Homeowners](#) and a video from The Oregon Department of Forestry on [How to Make Your Home and Property Fire-Safe....](#)

To read more, go to:

<http://extensionweb.forestry.oregonstate.edu/fireprogram/livingwithfire>



How Alan Alda Helped Me to Become a Better Teacher

...by Gail Langellotto, Statewide MG Coordinator

A few months ago, I tweeted about the difference that the [Alda Center for Communicating Science](#) has made in my teaching. To my sincere surprise and delight, Mr. Alda, himself, quoted my tweet, in one of his own. It made my day.



And today, after my last lecture of the term, the lab instructor sent me this note:

"I have students here putting in extra time (!!) on their [insect] collections, and they're talking about how much they loved your class, and the applause you got at the end of class today. One of them is saying how it's about time she had a class that was 100% relevant to Ag. I'm so happy for you, Gail, . . . I wish you could hear their conversation"

To fully appreciate how much these comments mean to me, you have to understand how much of a struggle it is for me to teach. I score very high on the [introversion scale](#). I hate the idea of teaching as performance (why do I have to entertain them?). I'm a stickler for academic rigor. My classes have a reputation for being difficult. And, I teach a required course that all majors must take (whether they are interested in entomology, or not), that is scheduled for M/W/F at 8am. All of these things, added together, make me a fairly unpopular teacher.

But this term was different. In January, I spent two days in New York City for the [Alda Center for Communicating Science STEM immersion program](#). This workshop could not have come at a better time in my professional career. I was burnt out, in part because of: (a) the [corporatization of higher education](#), (b) [students who increasingly take a customer-centered approach to their education](#) (where the customer is always right), (c) [attacks on and rollbacks of scientific progress at Federal Agencies](#), and (d) [public distrust of science](#). These things have all taken their toll on me and on my love for my profession. I was looking for something to re-ignite my love for science and teaching, and to stave off my growing cynicism.

The Alda immersion program did all of these things, and more. The premise of the workshop is that 'Connection is the Key' to effective science communication. The workshop instructors (including Alan Alda) use improv exercises in small groups and with partners to teach storytelling, message design, and how to really listen to, empathize with, and engage with your audience. Key messages were embraced over the recitation of hypotheses and theory. A heavy focus was put on connecting with your audience, so that even if they were not ready to listen to you in that moment of time, you might be able engage them at some point in the future.

There were two turning points to the workshop, at least for me.

The first was when we partnered up with someone to explain our science in 2 minutes, then 1 minute, then 30 seconds. Between each round, our partner gave us feedback on how to refine our message. When we came back together as a group, each person had to explain their partner's science, rather than their own. In almost all cases, folks did better explaining someone else's science ~ because we



cont'd: HOW Alan Alda Helped Me...

didn't get bogged down in details. This really helped me to limit how much information I present in my classes. Instead of teaching *everything a person should possibly know* about a topic, I focus on key points, and how those points relate to students' lives.

The second was when Mr. Alda demonstrated how he would discuss science with someone who believes the earth is flat. There was such a genuine kindness in the 'conversation' he had with the flat-earther ~ acknowledging their experience (the earth looks flat to them) while adhering to [the science that demonstrates that earth is a sphere](#). It made me realize that I had become so accustomed to being right and defending my interpretation of science, that I rarely listened to others who disagreed with me. I was too busy formulating my retort, to truly listen to and understand their perspective.

This revelation was coupled with an exercise that was called 'My Dear Friend'. In this exercise, you spend a few minutes ranting at your partner about something that drives you crazy. I ranted about the state of higher education, today. Your partner then has to share your rant with the group, by saying something like 'this is my dear friend, Gail, and she cares passionately about the education that her students receive.' I use this exercise, nearly every week. In fact, when I returned to the office from the workshop, there was an anonymous letter in my mailbox that was signed by 'a disgruntled Master Gardener'. I reread that letter, and instead of feeling attacked, I could see how much the person loved [this program that I help to coordinate](#), and how they wanted to share their passion for the program.

In terms of my teaching, the Alda workshop helped me to slow down, focus on key messages, and truly care for my students. This term, I am 6 classes behind where I would normally be. But, I think my students learned and retained more than they have in the past.

I stopped worrying about students who missed class, or who might try to cheat. Instead, I designed my class so that students who had to miss class (for whatever reason) had built in buffers that could help them absorb or make up lost points. These included things like dropping your two lowest quizzes, or earning extra credit points for lecture participation. I built an array of assessments into the class, including [TopHat clickers from mobile devices](#), and adding ample short answer and essay sections to my exams. These things both made it more difficult to cheat, but also offered students with different learning styles different chances to do well.



I started bringing in breakfast on Fridays. I did this because Thursday is the traditional 'party night' on a university campus. In the past, my 8am Friday classes often had 15 or fewer people in attendance. (There are 50 students enrolled in the course). I wanted to bring a small breakfast to say 'thank you for showing up'. Over the course of the term, more and more students started to show up, and not just on Fridays. They went out of their way to thank me. Some told me that they were hungry, and that the small meal made a big difference to their day. Being a Filipina who loves to feed people, by nature, that's all I needed.

There were a few other things, as well . . . students who shared some difficulty that they were going through that made it difficult for them to do well in class. Instead of my past approach of 'not my problem', I tried to help where I could.

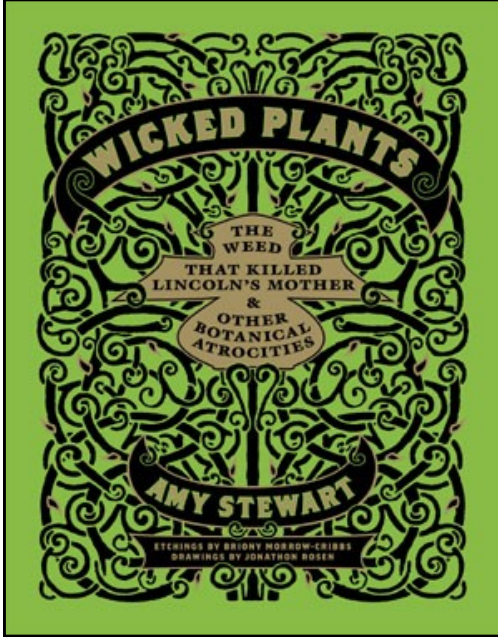
Mostly, when I stopped feeling like I was there to serve as some sort of academic guardian . . . keeping all but the most-worthy students out . . . that's when everyone (including myself) became invested in learning.

When I said goodbye to my students today, I heard the applause . . . but I was so confused. Was someone watching YouTube videos, in the back? It honestly makes me tear up to think that it might have been because they loved the learning environment that we built, together.



BOOK REVIEW - wicked Plants...

...by Beth Durr, Yamhill County MG



Wicked Plants: the Weed that Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities

by Amy Stewart

This book draws from history, medicine, science and legend to enlighten us to the botanical world of "wicked plants." These include ones that are deadly, illegal, dangerous, intoxicating, painful, destructive and offensive.

The 62 chapters in this book are mostly plants listed alphabetically. The "between" chapters are supplemental titles with witty references, such as "Weed of Mass Destruction" and "Stop and Smell the Ragweed". The table of contents helps you to navigate around this multi-faceted, complex book. I was disappointed that there is no index. However, the elaborate illustrations and "handy boxes" help to make scanning stuff easier. These "handy boxes" contain the plant's Family, Habitat, Native to where: and Common Names.

Amy has titled her introduction: "Consider Yourself Warned." She compares plants to the ocean's sleeper waves. "Don't turn your back on them!"

There is no doubt there is a dark, macabre, menacing aspect to this book. As a wannabe murder mystery writer, I plotted over 7 "perfect crimes" using the plants profiled. What was fun was I was actually learning! One chapter dedicates itself to "Botanical Crime Families." This mafia-type list has 5 plant families. I'm not sure why she narrowed these down, as most of the deadly and toxic plants she cites fall into other families. And there are plenty. However, trying to categorize these plants is difficult. We have to give kudos to Amy for trying to keep us on track.

A chapter called "Deadly Dinner" gives us a variety of edibles to watch out for! The cassava root (tapioca) requires days of soaking, drying or baking to eliminate the substance that converts to cyanide. Rhubarb leaves are poisonous; elderberries contain cyanide; raw cashews are toxic; and uncooked red kidney beans are poisonous.

Another chapter, "More Than One Way to Skin a Cat" deals with plants that need to be monitored around pets and children. These include Aloe, Daffodils/Tulips, Diffenbachia, Kalanchoe, Lily, Marijuana and Nandina. Back to Amy's preface, "Do not take plant's power lightly."

After examining intoxicating plants, the author says Ergot (*claviceps purpurea*) cries for attention. In 1691 during the Salem Witch Trials, the girls displayed the same symptoms of convulsions, babbling incoherently and creepy skin sensations. Almost 300 years later, scientists came up with the theory they may have been infected by Ergot, a toxic parasite that attaches itself to rye and wheat.

The chapter on "Social Misfits" fits in with the fire theme of this newsletter. "Pyromaniacs" is one misfit category. The following plants produce enough volatile oil that lighting a match nearby can ignite them! They are: gas plant or burning bush (*Dictamnus albus*), eucalyptus, pampas grass and chemise. Other misfit categories are "Stinkers" and "Just Disgusting."

Amy has brought us on a journey through the darker side of plants. She cautions us to use reliable resources in dealing with them. In going back to her introduction, she says "If this book entertains, alarms, and enlightens you, I've done my job". And she certainly has done her job!!

As for the weed that killed Lincoln's mother?? You will need to read the book to solve that mystery!



Insects are often mistaken for Tree Killers

by Amy Grotta, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension - Columbia, Washington & Yamhill Counties

Adapted from TreeTopics blog, <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>

Insects – they can get a bad rap. Many of our humankind categorically view them as pests – agents of uncleanliness, nuisance, or destruction. Sure, it's hard to appreciate houseflies, ticks, mosquitos and yellow jackets, but the vast majority of them – nearly 100,000 known insect species in the U.S. alone –are simply going about their business and doing no harm to us. Many are even providing services that we take for granted such as disposing of detritus and cycling nutrients.

The same goes for insects in the forest. We in Extension receive many photos and samples brought to us from people who suspect that insects are killing their trees. However, I'm here to tell you that if you have a dead or dying tree, then chances are that even though it is full of insects and their tunnels, it's usually a case of correlation, not causation.

Insects feed on all parts of trees – there are foliar feeders, cone and seed bugs, root weevils, and more – but bark beetles are what seem to strike fear in the hearts of tree owners. Bark beetles are problematic because their larvae feed on the cambium, or inner bark, of the tree, creating channels or galleries as they go and eventually girdling the tree. There are only a few species of bark beetles of concern in western Oregon, and they each are associated with a particular host tree. For example, there's the Douglas-fir beetle for Douglas-fir (obviously), the California five-spined Ips for ponderosa pine, and the fir engraver for true firs. However, bark beetles are attracted to trees that are already under some other stress – whether from water stress, root disease, or mechanical injury. So, aside from the rare local outbreak, accusing a bark beetle of tree murder is like condemning an accessory to the crime while ignoring the ringleader.

Bark beetles are usually quite small and inconspicuous. On the other hand, the samples and photos that come into the Extension office are usually large and/or colorful insects – something more likely to catch the eye. Below is a sampling of what has come my way recently. Some of these I could identify on my own, but for others I needed to turn to an expert entomologist for help.



Larval galleries of a woodboring insect in a dead ponderosa pine tree. Photos are not all at the same scale.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Cedar tree borer (*Semanotus ligneus*), feeds on dying and dead cedar and juniper and often found in firewood; 2. Larva of a horntail woodwasp, which lives on dying or dead conifers; 3. Green bark-gnawing beetle (*Temnoscheila chlorodia*), found on dead or dying pines where it is a predator of other wood-boring beetles; 4. Golden buprestid (*Buprestis aurulenta*), inhabit recently dead or dying trees and logs, sometimes emerging much later out of structural timbers; 5. California prionus (*Prionus californicus*), larvae feed on dead and dying conifers.

Note the commonality among these insects – they all inhabit dead or dying trees, meaning that they are **secondary pests**. They find trees that are already dead or dying and then begin the decomposition process, recycling nutrients, and perhaps becoming a woodpecker's lunch. Landowners need not worry about these insects "spreading" or "wiping out" a stand of timber. They are the turkey vultures of the insect world, coming in after the kill. *Oregon Department of Forestry has a nice fact sheet on some of our more common woodboring beetles.*



cont'd...insects are often mistaken for Tree Killers

by Amy Grotta, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension - Columbia, Washington & Yamhill Counties

Adapted from TreeTopics blog, <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>

There are some important exceptions: invasive, non-native bark beetles and wood borers. Some of these are tree killers because our native trees did not evolve with natural defense mechanisms against them and there are fewer natural enemies in their introduced environment. We worry about potentially major impacts of the emerald ash borer, the Asian longhorned beetle, and the gold-spotted oak borer, among others. Because none of these insects is known to be in Oregon, you're unlikely to find one; but if you think you might have, you should send in a report to the [Oregon Invasive Species Hotline](#).

To sum it up: more often than not, abiotic (non-living) stress factors such as drought or injury typically play a leading role in triggering tree decline. Bark beetles may or may not show up to finish the job. Then, wood boring insects – the ones that we usually observe – come in to be the tree recyclers. They are important components of the forest ecosystem, and often beautiful to look at.

Now that you know about these non-tree killers, I still welcome your forest insect photos (high-resolution please!) and specimens for identification, as I often learn new insects myself this way. Another useful tool for crowdsourcing insect identification is [iNaturalist](#). And, don't forget, if you're concerned about something being invasive, use the [Oregon Invasive Species Hotline](#).



The American Horticultural Society would like to offer the Oregon State University Master Gardeners a discounted member rate of \$25.00 to join AHS, a \$10 savings, by accessing this link,

<https://connect.ahsgardening.org/membership-redesigned/ahs-acquisition-join-page-oregon-master-gardeners>

As members of AHS, you can enjoy all the benefits of membership, some of which include:

- **The American Gardener**, the Society's award-winning magazine, delivered six times a year. Digital, searchable copies of past issues are available exclusively to members on our website.
- Free admission and other discounts at **more than 320 public gardens** and arboreta across North America.
- Save 35% on all **Timber Press** books with free shipping on orders over \$50. Topics cover gardening, horticulture, natural history, and more.
- Save 15% at **Select Seeds**, specializing in heirloom and bee-friendly flowers, open-pollinated annuals, and rare annuals and perennials and 20% off at **Renee's Garden**, with their wide ranging catalog of heirloom vegetable, flower & herb seeds.
- Discounted or free admission at select flower and garden shows.
- Personalized membership card.

For more information on complete membership benefits, visit our website:

<http://ahsgardening.org/join/membership>

Membership with AHS gives you access to a national family of gardeners along with the satisfaction that your dues help educate young gardeners, and so much more!



ECOLAWN: Less work and water

...reprinted from the Tillamook County Tiller Newsletter, Spring 2019

An **ecolawn** is a low input alternative to a conventional perennial grass lawn. Ecolawns provide a turf-type ground cover and tolerate typical uses of grass lawns. Unlike a standard grass lawn, however, an ecolawn is a mix of broadleaf and grass species that:

- are mutually compatible and ecologically stable
- stay green through the dry summer months
- need less water than conventional grass lawns
- require little or no fertilizer

An additional benefit is that ecolawns usually require less mowing than standard lawns - once every 2 to 3 weeks during spring, summer, and fall. If watered and fertilized like a conventional lawn, however, luxurious growth will result requiring more frequent mowing.

How do I establish one?

Site preparation and establishment are basically the same as for a standard grass lawn. Regular watering is necessary for seed germination and establishment, especially during the first summer. Once established, however, water requirements are estimated to be 1/4 to 1/3 those of a conventional lawn. There are several commercially available ecolawn seed mixes, but most include key components tested by OSU Turf Specialists.

Ecolawn components include:

- Dwarf perennial ryegrass and hard fescue - noncompetitive grasses, green during winter, may go dormant during summer depending on irrigation
- Yarrow - drought tolerant, green through summer, can be invasive around edges
- Clover - nitrogen fixation, drought tolerant, green in summer



An example of an established Ecolawn at the Allison Inn & Spa in Newberg, Oregon



Are those sheep in the flower bed? Yes, indeed! Photos by Marcia Sherry

Some mixes include other flowering broadleaves plants such as English daisy, Roman chamomile, or alyssum.

Another choice for a drought-tolerant lawn is a dwarf tall fescue such as Water Warden. Once established, this turf resembles a conventional lawn but again, needs much less water.



Leadership Forums

...by Chris Rusch, OMGA President Elect, Douglas County

Second Quarter Leadership Forum - Fire Wise Landscapes



Our second Leadership Forum was held in Jackson County on June 7th. Our guest speaker was Kara Baylog who spoke to us on **"Fire-Wise Landscaping"**. She is the "MY Southern Oregon Woodlands Program" coordinator and formerly ran the award winning **Citizen Fire Academy Program** with OSU Extension.

Her focus is on getting landowners the information they need to make sound decisions about wildfire and healthy forests on their properties. She spoke to us about the FireWise community program, and the importance and value in maintaining a fire resistant landscape on our property. We learned how to rate plants on their "fire-resistance". We also saw a match sticks demonstration that really demonstrated the importance of forest thinning. It was an excellent education program and lots of fun!!!

Third Quarter Leadership Forum - Climate Change

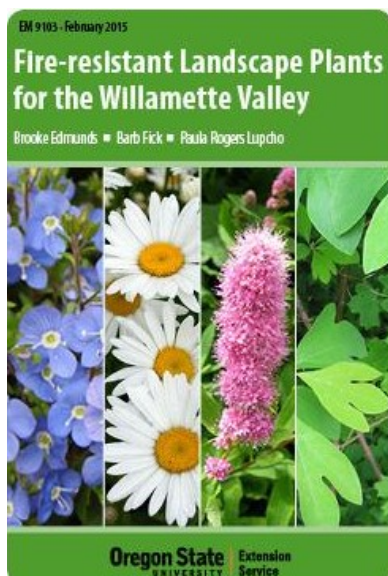
Our Leadership Forum for our next meeting will be Friday, September 6 in Linn County. This Forum will be dedicated to Climate Change, and how we as Master Gardeners can help educate our fellow gardeners on what we can expect in our future gardening endeavors.

Fourth Quarter Leadership Forum - Grant Writing Workshop

The final Leadership Forum will be held in Tillamook County on Friday, November 1st. This will be a workshop on **Grant Writing**. At this meeting, we will also celebrate some past Karl Carlson, Search for Excellence, and Extension Educator recipients with short presentations on their individual projects.



I hope that everyone will enjoy these topics. Everyone is welcome to attend!



Fire-resistant Landscape Plants for the Willamette Valley

By Brooke Edmunds, Barbara Fick and Paula R.

The Willamette Valley is known for mild, wet winters, but summer droughts leave the valley as vulnerable to wildfires as drier areas of the state. Homeowners can decrease the potential for damage to their property from a wildfire by using fire resistant plants in landscaping. No plant is fire-proof, but some are considered fire resistant. This publication highlights fire-resistant plants that thrive in Willamette Valley growing conditions. It provides a diverse list of plants by category: groundcovers, perennials, woody shrubs and vines, and trees.

[Mobile-friendly pdf \(best viewed using an e-reader\)](#)

[Printer-friendly pdf](#)

Download the free fire-resistant plants app:

[IOS users](#)

[Android users](#)



Christmas for the Garden

...by Sue Nesbitt, Past OMGA President, Yamhill County

This year summer seems to have arrived early in Oregon. I hope you are having some gardening fun. OMGA would like to extend that gardening fun way into November.

Since we are not having Mini-College in 2019, the Oregon Master Gardener Association Board decided to hold a small version of the Silent Auction at the November Leadership Forum and Board of Directors meeting. The Forum and BoD meeting will be held in Tillamook on November 1st and 2nd, 2019.

Why are we doing this?

First, OMGA has only two sources of funds – the dues you pay to OMGA and the Silent Auction that is usually held during Mini-College. The funds earned from this auction will help OMGA continue to offer the various grants and awards that we give each year.

Second, it's fun!! This year, to help create the atmosphere we have a theme:

Christmas for the Garden

How would this work?

1. Each chapter would donate 3 items with a minimum value of \$25.
2. You would send your list of items with a short description and picture (if possible) together with the actual value to me by September 20, 2019.
3. I'll compile this information into a booklet and send it to everyone by October 1, 2019.
4. You would circulate the booklet among your members and they would let you know what they would like you, as the chapter representatives and alternates, to bid on for them.
5. You would bring the items to Tillamook the morning of the Leadership Forum. We'll get them organized and arranged on tables.
6. The bidding would begin immediately following the Leadership Forum and continue the following morning before the Board of Directors Meeting and during the morning break.
7. During the second half of the morning business meeting we'll tally the bids and post the winners. Then, during lunch you will be able to pay for and pick up the items on which you successfully bid.

We hope that you will join us at the November Leadership Forum and Board of Directors meetings for education, fun and a great meeting.

If you have questions please feel free to contact:

Sue Nesbitt: sue.nesbitt1231@gmail.com

Linda Stephenson: ltstephenson49@gmail.com

FYI
rose lovers

A new information sheet has been published on roses, "Rose Diseases: Identification and Management", W833, 7/19 by Alan Windham, Professor and Extension Specialist at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture.



YOU TOO CAN BE A LEADER in OMGA

...by Marcille Ansorge, OMGA Secretary, Tillamook



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 member of the Tillamook County Master Gardener Association (TCMGA) 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 fire-wise 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 of members of all Master Gardener chapters 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 at various locations throughout the State. The Executive Committee consists of the Past President, President, President-Elect, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian, Database Manager and Newsletter Editor and it also includes the OSU State Coordinator, Gail Langellotto.

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

Right now, OMGA is looking for members to take positions on the Executive Committee for 2020. Any Master Gardener who is a member of a chapter is eligible. Positions open for 2020 include:

Secretary

Newsletter Editor

First Vice President

President Elect

If anyone is interested in these positions or wants to learn more about OMGA meetings and Leadership Forums, please let a member of the Executive Committee know.



splinters from the Board

...by Marcille Ansoorge, OMGA Secretary, Tillamook



2nd Quarterly Board of Director's Meeting - June 8th, 2019 at Jackson County

Patrice Sipos, the OMGA Treasurer, will lead Chapter Treasurers' Workshops before Leadership Forums on September 6th in Linn County and November 1st in Tillamook County.

Future Leadership Forum topics are climate change on September 6th in Linn County and grant writing on November 1st in Tillamook County.

Karl Carlson grants for 2019 were awarded to Curry County for garden signs, to Douglas County for signs for its rock garden, to Marion County for its adaptive garden, to Jackson County for a greenhouse watering system for propagation purposes, to Lincoln County for help in establishing a Beneficial Bug Hotel and to Tillamook County for a computer for educational purposes.

Extension Educator Grants were awarded to Central Oregon for a Growing Veggies Publication, to Coos County to build raised garden beds, to OSU Taxonomic Services to help with Gail Langellotto's bee identification project, to Yamhill County for a new video projector, and to Tillamook County to off-set costs of a computer and software for educational classes.

A lively discussion was led by Eric Bosler on the educational mandate and how to fulfill this mandate, whether by Mini College or other means.

A Silent Auction will be held at the Tillamook Leadership Forum and OMGA Meeting in November. Items will be published online before the event.

The Executive Board is recruiting members for next year: President-Elect, 1st Vice President, Secretary and Newsletter Editor.

Executive Committee Meetings

Friday, August 2nd

Linn County Extension - Tangent

Friday, October 4th

Linn County Extension - Tangent

Leadership Forums

Date

Location

Friday,
September 6th

Linn County

Topic/Speaker:

Climate Change

Friday,
November 1st

Tillamook County

Topic/Speaker:

Grant Writing

Board of Directors Meetings

Date

Location

Saturday,
September 7th

Linn County

Contact:

Janice Gregg

Saturday,
November 2nd

Tillamook County

Contact:

Linda Stephenson

Watch for announcements of times, speakers at the Leadership Forums and locations of each.



Photo by Douglas Beall, member of the Pacific Northwest Birders

Article from the Polk Weed, Polk County MG Newsletter, April 2019

Amazing: You may hear the "buzz-whistle-chip" before you see an Anna's Hummingbird [*Calypte anna*]. They talk from perches often inside dense shrubbery where insects are caught, enabling this hummer to winter over in Oregon. Because they assist with plant pollination, plant flowers that they love and you will have fun observing them in your yard!

Did you know? Anna's was named in the 19th century for the French coutier, Anna De Belle Massena. The female does all the nest building, using willow, thistle, and small feathers which are bound together by spider webs. They then begin incubating 2 white eggs for 16 days and feed the nestlings for 20 days before they leave the nest.

Incredible: Anna's Hummingbird internal temperature is steamy 107 degrees and when the external temperature turns cold the hummer enters a state of torpor where the heart and breathing rate slows and their internal temperature may fall to as low as 48 degrees.

Magical: Hummingbirds hold a unique place in Native American lore, some legends had the hummers piercing the sky to bring rain and then become stars. Hummers are very picky about their privacy but a group of hummingbirds migrating is known as a "charm" not a flock according to the Audubon Society.



OMG

How to Clean a Bird Bath for your Feathered Friends

Cleaning out a bird bath isn't a garden task you might have thought of. However over time, if lots of birds are frequenting your bird bath, the water can become stagnant, attracting bacteria and maybe even algae growth. No one wants to swim in that! Once you learn how to clean a bird bath, you'll attract birds to the yard and ensure they leave healthy.



Birdbath Placement: A bit of shade at various points throughout the day, makes it a great place for birds to cool off. The birds can disappear into the bushes at any hint of danger.

Don't let your bird bath get this dirty! Learn how to clean a bird bath, so the birds that flock to your garden remain healthy as they drink, bathe, and preen.

How to clean a birdbath: The first step is to get rid of any stagnant water that is in the bird bath. This might be a two-person job. Remove any debris, like bird poop, feathers, and leaves or other garden detritus. A heavy spray of water from your hose nozzle should help with this part.

Next, use a heavy-duty scrub brush to give your bird bath a good wash. You might also want to wear rubber gloves. If you don't, be sure to scrub your hands with soap and water once you're finished. Instead of using soap or bleach to clean the bird bath, the National Audubon Society recommends scrubbing it with nine parts water to one part vinegar. You might want to let the solution soak for a few minutes. Be sure to stay close to the bird bath so no birds sneak in!

Pour the vinegar solution into a bucket and dispose of it when you're done cleaning. Use that heavy nozzle spray to rinse the bowl of your bird bath. Allow it to dry before refilling.

Fill your bird bath with fresh water. Refill it every day or every other day, depending on how much water is lost to evaporation in the summer or how much rain you've had. Keep a special eye on the bird bath during fall migration when you might have more birds discovering your yard.

How often should you clean a birdbath: Thoroughly clean the birdbath 2-3 times per week depending on how many birds are using it. Use a jet or pressure hose setting to rinse out the birdbath between regular cleanings. Clean the entire birdbath fixture at regular intervals. Keep the birdbath full to avoid concentrating pollutants in smaller amounts of water.

If you're concerned about standing water attracting mosquitoes, consider adding a battery operated water wiggler to the bird bath. This keeps water moving (mosquitoes lay their eggs in still water).

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April, July, October and December/January
by the Oregon Master
Gardener Association.**

**Deadline for the October 2019 issue is:
No later than September 20th, 2019.**

**Theme: "The Scoop on Compost"
Please send your articles and photos to:
Marcia Sherry, Managing Editor**

GardenersPenNewsletter@gmail.com

OMGA™

2019 OMGA Executive Committee

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