

Wisteria gets clipped twice a year

Wisteria delivers a beautiful spring display, but this vigorous vine needs plenty of pruning to keep it from swallowing the garden.

"Wisteria are very vigorous vines and can climb easily to 30 to 40 feet," said Neil Bell, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service. "They can be quite heavy and should be grown on a strong structure."

When people see the jaw-dropping blooms erupt in mid-spring, they covet wisteria for their own garden. But, they should first know that in addition to the proper support, the vine needs vigorous pruning.

"Before planting one, people should realize the effort involved in keeping them in bounds," Bell noted. "You can tackle most flowering shrubs once a year, but wisteria is so insanely vigorous there's an advantage to summer pruning as well as in winter. The most common mistake is not pruning at all."

Most frequently grown are the Chinese species (*Wisteria sinensis*), which blooms on bare branches before foliage emerges with flowers that open all at once. They're smaller than the blooms of Japanese wisteria (*W. floribunda*), which open gradually from the top down and after leaves come out. Fragrant flowers range in color from blue to lavender, and more rarely white. Both species put out loads



KYM POKORNY
Your Garden

of runners that can be pruned more than twice a year if the plant is threatening to take over a structure — especially your house.

Because the foliage is gone and the runners are easier to see, winter is the easiest time to prune, Bell said. Take a look at the vine and cut excess growth to the trunk and then prune the rest of the runners to two or three buds or about 6 inches long. Cut just above the chosen bud. Again in summer, you'll want to prune excess growth and clip the remainder to two to three buds.

Another option is to train your wisteria into a tree, which allows it to be grown away from structures where it can cause major damage if left unpruned. It also makes it easier to get around the plant when it's time for clipping, Bell said.

To create a tree, use a robust metal post to hold the vine. Start by training a single shoot up the support, which could take one growing season, he said. The following year, cut the main stem above the top of your support where you want "branches" to grow and the basic form of the tree is complete. Each year after



<https://flic.kr/p/Cso1Lj>

A white wisteria trained into a tree.

this, the wisteria will require hard pruning to remain manageable. The shoots can be cut back significantly and still bear flowers.

Sometimes people complain that their wisteria is not blooming. Be aware, Bell said, that flowers often don't appear for two or three years (sometimes longer) after planting unless you bought one while it was blooming. If you've waited what seems like too long, however, there are some things you can do to nudge it along. Stressing the plant by not fertilizing and root pruning will often force it into bloom. To root prune, use a shovel to cut the roots in a circle about 1

to two feet from the plant's trunk.

Bell's other tips for growing wisteria include planting in full sun in well-drained soil that's kept consistently moist but not wet. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen (first number in the three-number sequence on the label) product. Less fertilizer is better than over fertilizing. Only feed once a year, every other year or not at all.

A fun fact: The world's largest known wisteria is in Sierra Madre, California, measuring more than 1 acre and weighing 250 tons. The Chinese species was planted in 1894.

Keep in mind that the seeds and fuzzy seed pods of wisteria are toxic.

MI TOWN

Mother Nature seemed to go out of her way last Thursday to bring more than her share of rain and wind and wet leaves everywhere, but even that didn't dampen the spirits — or the appetites — of everyone who came to the Monmouth Senior Center's soup and pie sale. The best cooks in Mi Town and Polk County prepared and served everyone who was fortunate enough to enjoy the afternoon. Gene and Joy Lund brought an extra bit of autumn sunshine to the brightly decorated tables. A hearty round of applause to Center Director Sue Teal and all the volunteers who make the day special and a lot of fun for all.

Don and I were privileged to spend the past weekend in Walnut Creek,



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

Calif., to celebrate the wedding of grandson, Anthony and his best girl, Kayla. They met almost 10 years ago as fellow high school students, then went on to follow their education and career goals. We had such a great time meeting their friends and sharing good memories with family members from near and far. It's such fun to catch that youthful enthusiasm and energy, which will get us through the darkest and gloomiest days of winter.

We don't want to say

farewell to Monmouth Senior Center Director Sue Teal, but can agree that she has earned her well-deserved retirement and opportunity to do all the things she's always wanted to do — but didn't have the time. Wednesday (today) at 3:30 p.m., we will have a chance to meet and greet the candidates for her position at the Monmouth Senior Center.

It seems that every time we turn around, there's more than enough chatter and conversation about 'fake news,' and most of us are completely turned off by that expression. The Oregon Humanities is presenting "Beyond Fake News," in the meeting room at the Monmouth Public Library on Nov. 2 from 6 to 7 p.m. Oregon State University outreach librarian, Kelly

McElroy, will speak on a topic that should be of interest to everyone. Many thanks to the Friends of the Monmouth Public Library for providing funding for this evening's presentation.

The calendar tells us that Halloween is just around the corner and we're hoping for an afternoon and evening of clear skies so the witches and goblins and superheroes won't have to be covered up with raincoats and jackets. It's always a fun time of year for celebrants of all ages, and a reminder to everyone to be watchful driving and walking around our communities.

From goblins and ghoulies and long-legged beasts and things that go bump in the night, Good Lord, deliver us.

PEDEE NEWS



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

are teachers there in Whitefish, a beautiful town near Glacier National Park.

Juandeane Skidmore and her daughter, Teresa Furutani, spent four days in Texas visiting with daughter Joyce in Austin. While in Texas, they got a chance to go to San Antonio's gorgeous, exotic River Walk near the Alamo. Juandeane's other daughter, Beth Turtle, has a new job with L'Oreal cosmetics.

A lot is happening at Pedee Church these days.

Several people meet from time to time on Saturdays to cut firewood for people who may need it. Then on this next Saturday, they will meet at Daniel and Heidi Russell's to work on rebuilding their pump house, as their project for Pastor Appreciation Month.

Friday at 11:30 a.m., the community is invited to join the women at Pam Burbank's home at 14330 Kings Valley Highway for some quilting instructions (by me) and then spend some time to work on projects. Bring your sewing machine, project, and something to share for lunch.

The church is also participating in filling shoe boxes for the Christmas in New Mexico Project. Call me at 503-838-3512 for informa-

tion about what to include in a shoe box, then wrap the box and lid separately for Christmas, then return the box by this next week and I'll send them off to the mission. We do have boxes available at the church.

Pedee's 4-H club, the Try-ones, are meeting every second and fourth Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m., at the church and this week did some pumpkin painting and made miniature pumpkin pies. Also, Pedee Church has started a youth group for the 8-year-olds and up, meeting on the remaining Tuesdays, which all the kids in the area that age are invited to come to. Heather Traglia will be leading the group, but sure would like a couple of helpers. If you can do that, come at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

These Polk County groups would welcome individuals who have time or expertise to volunteer. Organizations that would like to be added to this list should call 503-623-2373 or email IOnews@polkio.com.

- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide — 503-930-7636
- After DARC — 503-623-9501
- American Cancer Society Road to Recovery — 1-800-227-2345
- Arc of Polk County — 541-223-3261
- Ash Creek Arts Center — 971-599-3301
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Polk County Inc. — 503-623-8473
- Central School District — 503-838-0030
- City of Dallas — 503-831-3502
- City of Independence — 503-838-1212
- City of Monmouth — 503-751-0145
- Crime Victims Assistance Program — 503-623-9268
- Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce — 503-623-2564
- Dallas Fire Department — 503-831-3532
- Dallas Food Bank — 503-623-3578
- Dallas Kids, Inc. — 503-623-6419
- Dallas Police Department — 503-831-3582
- Dallas Public Library — 503-623-2633
- Dallas Retirement Village — 503-623-5581
- Dallas School District — 503-623-5594
- Delbert Hunter Arboretum — 503-623-7359
- Ella Curran Food Bank — 503-838-1276
- Falls City Arts Center — 503-559-6291
- Falls City School District — 503-787-3531
- Family Building Blocks — 503-566-2132, ext. 308.
- Friends of the Dallas Library — 503-559-3830
- Gentle House Gardens, Monmouth — 503-838-2995
- Girl Scouts of Southwest Washington and Oregon — 1-800-338-5248
- H-2-O — 503-831-4736
- HART (Horses Adaptive Riding and Therapy) — 971-301-4278
- HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley — 503-363-1651
- Heron Pointe Assisted Living — 503-838-6850
- Independence Health and Rehabilitation — 503-838-0001
- Independence Public Library — 503-838-1811
- Kings Valley Charter School — 541-929-2134
- Luckiamute Watershed Council — 503-837-0237
- Luckiamute Valley Charter School — 503-623-4837
- Meals on Wheels — 503-838-2084
- Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce — 503-838-4268
- Monmouth-Independence YMCA — 503-838-4042
- Monmouth Public Library — 503-838-1932
- Northwest Human Services — 503-588-5828
- Oregon Child Development Coalition — 503-838-2745
- OSU Extension Service - Polk County — 503-623-8395
- Perrydale School District — 503-623-2040
- Polk Community Development Corporation — 503-831-3173
- Polk County Community Emergency Response Team — 503-623-9396
- Polk County Museum — 503-623-6251
- Polk County Public Health — 503-623-8175
- Polk County Resource Center — 503-623-8429
- Polk Soil and Water Conservation District — 503-623-9680
- Relief Nursery Classroom — 503-566-2132
- SABLE House — 503-623-6703
- SALT (Sheriff's Auxiliary & Law Enforcement Together) — 503-851-9366
- Salvation Army — 503-798-4783
- SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) — 503-391-8423
- Salem Health West Valley Hospital — 503-623-8301
- Victim Assistance Program-Polk Co. District Attorney's Office — 503-623-9268 x1444
- Willamette Valley Hospice — 503-588-3600
- WIMPEG Community Access Television — 503-837-0163

SOUP & SALAD LUNCH
11 am to 1 pm • Friday, Oct. 27
at Dallas United Methodist Church
565 SE LaCreole Dr, Dallas

\$7.00 per person **Bowl of Soup, Salad and Beverage**

For information 503-623-8442

Supports Projects of Dallas Naomi Chapter #22, Order of Eastern Star

The Itemizer-Observer
YOUR LOCAL News Source!

Love, hope, success, family, security.

Barb Mlynchuk Ins Agency Inc
 Barb Mlynchuk, Agent
 1697 Monmouth St
 Independence, OR 97351
 Bus: 503-606-0066

Some things we all have in common.
 There's nobody like me to protect the things we all value.
Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.™
 CALL ME TODAY.

State Farm™

1101022.1 State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

LOOK what's coming up!

Interested in advertising?
 Call 503-623-2373
 Heidi, ext. 115
 Rachel, ext. 110
 Karen, ext. 118

Itemizer-Observer
 147 SE Court Street, Dallas

November Polk County Wine Page
 Publishes next on November 1st

Winter Sports Guide
 Publishes beginning of December

Holiday Gift Guide
 Publishes November 22nd

Gifts from A - Z
 Publishes December 6th

2016 Gift Guide
 Publishes November 22nd