

Museum group seeks additional members

The Vernonia Museum's business meeting was held February 12. New faces were in attendance and applications for membership are being accepted. For application forms, contact Frances Lentz.

One of the items discussed at the meeting was the development of by-laws. This is a difficult step in the forming of an organization.

Author Ann Fulton will be at the Vernonia Library on March 3 at 3:00 p.m. for a light-hearted look at local history.

Perspective on Age

When you are younger you get blamed for crimes you never committed and when you're older you begin to get credit for virtues you never possessed. It evens itself out.

— I.F. Stone (1907-1989)
American journalist
March 16, 1988

Can you dig it?

By Schann Nelson



It's almost spring! Certainly these last few very nice days could lead a person to believe that it really is almost spring. Try hard to remember the nasty late freeze of last year before you plant anything expensive or delicate. But you can get outside and do some stuff this month. Think of it as the planning, pruning and (just barely the beginning of) planting month.

Now is the time to get serious about what you are going to put in your garden this season and where. Very organized people actually put this on paper and create wonderful records of the progress of their gardens from year to year. Sometimes I can manage to get the contents of a few beds written in my garden journal (I do have one, there's just not much in it.). Most of my planning is done standing in the garden and yard looking and thinking. Then I review catalogues and dream about the cool stuff I could plant. Then I go back outside and try to decide what could actually go where and do some more looking and thinking. Around and around in this planning circle I go, all season long and into fall for those winter veggies.

I practice crop rotation, especially after the yellow jacket experience. After growing garlic in the same bed for the third year in a row I noticed as the season progressed that I was attacked by

yellow jackets every time I went in the garden. Lo and behold, the nasty bugs had built a nest in the middle of my garlic bed. It took forever to get rid of them, even after destroying their nest. Since we didn't want to use poison in the garden, Dennis eventually ended up using his propane torch to burn out all visible pieces that remained. Even then I couldn't stay in the yard for more than half an hour before they found me and drove me indoors, though they didn't seem to bother anybody else too much.

Though honeybees have made a comeback in the last couple of years, the importance of the native orchard mason bee is vitally important. These small, blue-black bees are champion pollinators, especially in our cool, damp springs. I know it is hard to believe, but these bees are completely non-aggressive. We have had a Mason Bee house on our front porch for several years and you really can stand within two feet of the block and watch them go in and out and at dusk.

Unlike honey bees (and the horrid wasps) Mason Bees are solitary creatures. They nest in either naturally occurring or man-made holes. Mason Bee blocks are easy to make by drilling a series of 9/32" or 5/16" holes into sound dry wood. The holes can be as much as 10" deep but should not go all the way through the wood. Hang your block in a sheltered, south-facing area. Mason bees begin to emerge this month. After emerging and mating, females begin to lay eggs in suitable holes and sealing them with mud.

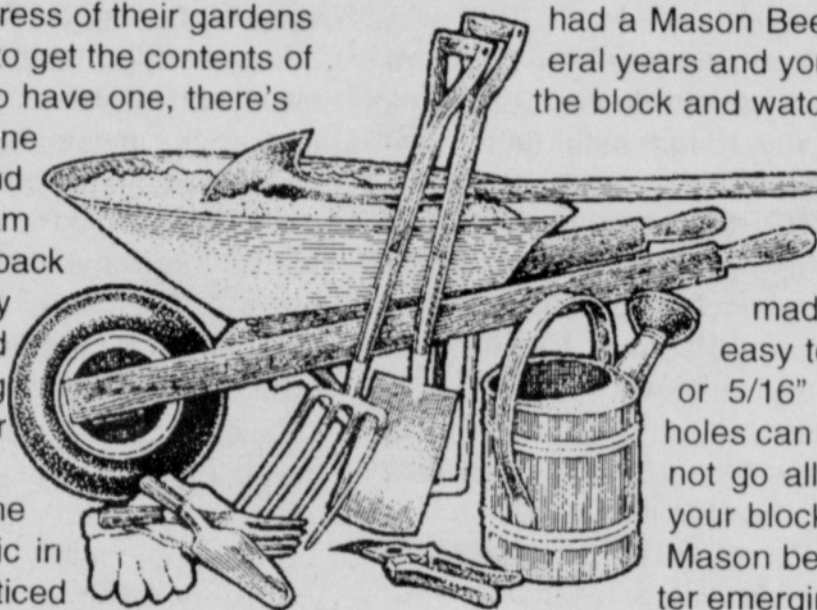
Each female will lay 4 - 6 eggs over a six-week season. You can usually watch the bees come home at dusk. When you see chambers sealed with mud you will know your Mason Bee Block is inhabited. You need do nothing but ensure that the block is not subject to rain or extreme wind and cold. Next year the bees will emerge in time to pollinate all manner of apples, cherries and plums in your yard.

You can also buy a 'starter set' of Mason Bees. These bees were nested in paper straws last year and have been kept in cold storage for the winter. We got a starter set several years ago and every year continue to have more and more bees. These bees generally don't travel far to seek a pollen source, developing your own population is easy. The Backyard Bird Shop (there's one on TV Hwy in the Fred Meyer complex in Hillsboro) says they will have Mason bees through February. They also sell a variety of ready made Mason Bee houses.

Though very early to plant outside, it is possible to plant cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts) either inside to set out in a few weeks, or outside with good cover, such as a cold frame. It's also time to plant leeks (easiest in a pot for transplant to a trench later), and onions (outside) as early as the soil can be worked. If you didn't get garlic in the ground in the fall, you can try planting now. After last year's fiasco, I'm waiting to plant peas until the ground is a little warmer. Of course, I'm also late ordering seed and don't have any yet.

Though I did get out and prune the fruit trees and raspberries, I haven't sprayed yet. Last year I didn't spray and definitely had an increase of apple scab. It didn't matter because all the apples froze but it might have, and I don't want another increase this year. I spray dormant oil and lime sulfur on the apples and (if organized enough) a copper fungicide on the roses.

Look for pussy willows very soon, and bring in stems of flowering quince and forsythia to bloom indoors. Spring is almost here! Enjoy the sun, but hope that the rains return soon before it gets too dry.



Church Directory

<p>VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH</p> <p>Pastor Paul Pastor 850 Madison Avenue Vernonia, 503 429-1103</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Evening Service Youth Ministry Children's Ministry Nursery Available</p> <p>Men's Ministry 7:45 a.m. 3rd Saturday each month</p>	<p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</p> <p>Darwin Harvey, Pastor 662 Jefferson Vernonia, 503 429-4615</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bible Study, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Youth & Kids, Thursday 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS</p> <p>Lee Knowlton, Branch President 1350 E. Knott Street Vernonia, 503 429-7151</p> <p>Sacrament Meeting, Sunday 10 a.m. Sunday School & Primary 11:20 a.m.</p> <p>Relief Society, Priesthood and Youth Women, Sunday 12:10 p.m.</p>
<p>VERNONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH</p> <p>Grant Williams, Pastor 957 State Avenue Vernonia, 503 429-6790</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Children's Church w/Nursery Sunday 6:00-7:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High, AWANA, Adult Study Nursery provided Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study, Thurs. 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>John Cahill, Pastor 359 "A" Street Vernonia, 503 429-1161</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Worship Saturday, 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</p> <p>Kevin Reiner, Pastor, 543-2254 2nd Ave. and Nehalem St. Vernonia, 503 429-8301</p> <p>Sabbath School 9:15 a.m. Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>D.J. Dickey, Pastor Grant & North Streets Vernonia, 503 429-1919</p> <p>Sunday Services: Adult Prayer & Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:15 a.m. Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Service: All Family Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>NEHALEM VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH</p> <p>500 California Ave Vernonia, 503 429-5378</p> <p>Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Nursery available Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>ST. AUGUSTINE (CANTERBURY) EPISCOPAL CHURCH</p> <p>The Rev. Robert Grafe, Pastor 375 North St. (Vernonia Grange Hall) Vernonia, 503 429-3700</p> <p>Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.</p>
	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</p> <p>Pastoral Associate Juanita Dennis 960 Missouri Avenue Vernonia, 503 429-8841</p> <p>Mass Schedule Sunday 12:00 Noon Religious Education Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN CHURCH</p> <p>Joel Stith, Pastor 410 North Street Vernonia, 503 429-6522</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Every Wednesday: Ladies' Bible Study 9:15 a.m. Children's Choir 3:00 p.m. Family Bible Study 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Fellowship, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.</p>



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