

Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson



This has been the year of garden and landscape experimentation. Largely experimentation by inaction, but nonetheless a new technique. Yesterday was the day I dealt with my least favorite.

Several months ago, I bought a bag of potatoes. Since then we have harvested potatoes from the garden and have been eating those, so this lonely bag got pushed to the back of the cabinet and ignored.

Investigating a couple of weeks ago, on the last day I cleaned my house before becoming totally involved in our daughter's wedding, I discovered this "experiment," tried to pick the bag up and partially dumped the mess in the back of the cabinet.

Knowing that this was going to be a huge project and that I didn't have time to do it, I closed the door. By the time I finally could clean it up, it was incredibly nasty. After removal, washing, washing, washing and drying, plus several sticks of incense to remove the smell, I'm almost ready to put the stuff back in the cabinet. It may take more incense though!

Other experiments have been more enjoyable. I built the most stable and beautiful bean trellis I ever have and kept waiting for the beans to climb, only to eventually realize that I had planted BUSH beans, with nary a twining habit among them. The tomatoes are full of blight, overgrown, split and generally unsavory. No tomato trial this year, sorry!

When I limited myself to only four activities at the beginning of August (so as to accomplish those four essential tasks) gardening, landscaping and cleaning were not on the list. So, not only is the house an absolute mess but the garden has gone on a rampage. Even if the beans had climbed, I don't know if I could have gotten though the squash to harvest them. And if the squash didn't present enough of a barrier, the cucumbers could have used three times the amount of support they got 'cause they just kept growing, too. HOWEVER, I do have some of the hugest spiders I have ever seen. Some of these beauties have had their webs in place for months!

One of the big advantages of the Master Gardeners class is being able to identify stuff. Now I know I have nearly every plant disease known to man. Maybe now I can figure out how to get rid of it. Earlier in the year the wild phlox was covered in powdery

mildew. The apples have some kind of leaf spot and some scab, but very little apple codling moth. The lawn renovation project is still underway, though I have received seed.

I can't let this opportunity pass without thanking Julie Prohaska for growing the flowers for Penrhynn's wedding. I don't have the sun or the space to grow the quantities I wanted. It was great fun to go and pick buckets of flowers, though by the second solid day of arranging I was a little burnt-out, I did manage to fill the farmhouse, inside and out, with flowers. Not an insignificant achievement on October 9th. Many thanks also to Jill, Meghan, Simon and James, John and Bondi, the Columbia County Small Woodlands Association and everyone else who helped, especially Abby.

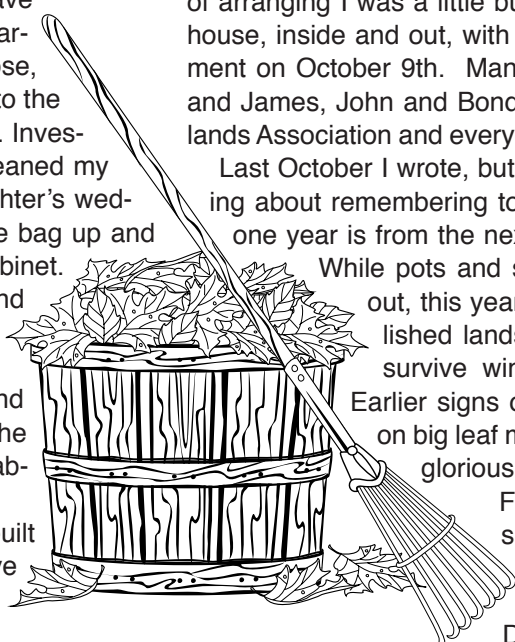
Last October I wrote, but it didn't make it in the paper, a warning about remembering to water. Hard to believe how different one year is from the next when they seem to blend together.

While pots and shallowly planted things may still dry out, this year we don't have to worry about established landscape trees getting so dry they can't survive winter. The August rain really helped. Earlier signs of drought, the brown and dry leaves on big leaf maples for instance, have given way to glorious fall color.

Fall is a great time to pick up plants on sale at nurseries. There's still time to get them established before the real cold comes in our maritime climate. Don't fertilize though, you don't want too much growth and you DO want dormancy.

Treat acid soils (nearly everywhere in Columbia County) with lime in fall so that it will break down and have sweetened the soil by spring. Practice good sanitation and clean up and compost decaying materials. Begin fruit tree spray program as soon as fruit is off trees. As usual, there's plenty to do, if you can just get outside to do it. You can tell a true Oregonian by both the original quality of their raingear and the amount of wear and tear it has experienced. If you don't have rain pants get some!

Enjoy the sun! Finish those summer projects!



Students start annual canned food drive for Vernonia Cares

A Canned Food Drive will be held October 25 through 29, to benefit Vernonia Cares. The effort is sponsored by the seventh and eighth grade Community Service class at Washington Grade School, in cooperation with Wauna Federal Credit Union.

Donations of canned foods or personal hygiene items will be accepted at Wauna Federal Credit Union all day. Donation barrels will be set up for donations from 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. each morning at Vernonia High School or Washington Grade School (WGS). Perishable items cannot be accepted.

WGS classes will also compete to see which can bring in the most donations. Members of the Community Service class are Keli Krieger, Sara Anderson, Kirsten Godel, Josh Tankersley, Sierra Roberts, Katy Stevens, Danny Vander-sheldon, Chris Schilling, Dakota Burch, Zach Dillon, Zach Shaw, Alex Lende, Taylor Smith, Charles Tungwenuk, and Dylan Vaughn.

Church Directory

VERNONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Grant Williams, Pastor
957 State Avenue
Vernonia, 503 429-6790
Sunday Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 9:45 a.m.
*B.L.A.S.T. w/Nursery 10:00 a.m.
*Bible Learning and Scripture Training
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Jeff Cheney, Branch President
1350 E. Knott Street
Vernonia, 503 429-7151
Sacrament Meeting, Sunday 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Primary 11:20 a.m.
Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women, Sunday 12:10 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

John Cahill, Pastor
359 "A" Street
Vernonia, 503 429-1161
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship
Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

NEHALEM VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH

Gary Taylor, Pastor
Grant & North Streets
Vernonia, 503 429-5378
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Nursery available
Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastoral Associate Juanita Dennis
960 Missouri Avenue
Vernonia, 503 429-8841
Mass Schedule
Sunday 12:00 Noon
Religious Education
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

VERNONIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sam Hough, Evangelist
410 North Street
Vernonia, 503 429-6522
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Every Wednesday:
Ladies' Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Ladies' Worship 10:00 a.m.
Children's Choir 3:00 p.m.
Family Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Kevin Reiner, Pastor, 543-2254
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St.
Vernonia, 503 429-8301
Sabbath School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.

ST. AUGUSTINE (CANTERBURY) EPISCOPAL CHURCH

375 North St. (Vernonia Grange Hall)
Vernonia, 503 795-2173
Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.

VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH

850 Madison Avenue
Vernonia, 503 429-1103
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Darwin Harvey, Pastor
662 Jefferson
Vernonia, 503 429-4615
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study, Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Youth & Kids, Thursday 7:00 p.m.

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