

Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson
Columbia County Master Gardener



Finally! A days of SUN. The display of perennials, bulbs and shrubs has been stupendous so far, especially rhododendrons in yards. Really, I think I should get an "I brake for yards in bloom!" bumper sticker. I expect the sun to

bring into full simultaneous bloom a ton of shrubs that are currently covered in buds. The sea of green continues to explode in the steady drizzle and occasional shower, a big part of why everything grows so well – especially trees. Even the branches, trunks and the very ground have an emerald cover of moss. Occasional patches of lupine or wild columbine still can be spotted along the road though the use of herbicides has made them fewer and farther between.

If and when it does get dry, be careful enjoying an evening fire (It does sooo help keep the 'skeeters away.). Use only established fire circles, have water on hand, teach the kids and watch the babies. Having a fire pit is like exploring the river, learning its dangers and moods. Everyone has to learn to do it by themselves, but responsibility remains the other side of the coin of privilege. And make no mistake, camping in our forests is a rare joy, one that I hope you get to enjoy. Never forget, though, that once it gets really dry, fires are prohibited. Notice is posted at the fire hall.

Even when the cloud cover is as thick as it has been, it's obvious that plants, particularly lawns and natives, have been growing like crazy! Every sunny minute accompanied by the growl of mowers and blowers and whackers.

Lawn mowing is at least a weekly affair this time of year, if you have a lawn and a mower. We are currently lacking the latter so we are surrounded by a an ocean of grass. I'm looking forward to long summer evenings when the neighborhood reaps the benefit of all the early energy invested in keeping the forest at bay.

For the first time since I planted them many years ago, all but one of the rhodies I planted have bloomed in a spectacular display – which I missed capturing on my camera. My beautiful *Dr Rumpel* clematis died this year. Sigh. It started to grow vigorously in response to the early warm spell in February. The following freezing weather caused the bark to split and break. We also had an infestation of ants and I strongly suspect a large nest under the concrete square I built caty-corner to the house. I hope and pray I have that huge pink column of bloom on film or somewhere in my computer. This is the second clematis, and of a different type (Clematis come in three types, I, II and III) that I have lost in this location. The first, a clematis *Montana*, grew to shade the second story window but was suddenly just dead, leaving a huge dry mess to cut away from the house.

The mixed greens I planted have come up, though they are too small to begin thinning. I don't see a sign of the beans I planted last week. I hope they don't rot. I don't like to replant, but if they don't come up in the next couple of days I'll be forced to if I want any fresh beans. The second set of cucumber plants is still establishing itself while the tomatoes (only four this year) are getting blossoms.

It's time to get out and get your summer garden if you are lucky enough to have the space. Try to get short season varieties. Our summer may well turn out to not give us many sun hours. Remember to stay hydrated, wear sunscreen, stretch before and after a long session, and enjoy the weather.

Obituary

TESSIE MAENEIL ALDRICH



Tessie Maeneil Aldrich, 85, Vernonia, died June 6, 2012. A celebration of life service was held June 11 at the Vernonia Community Church with Pastor Grant Williams officiating. Interment followed at Vernonia Memorial Cemetery.

Mrs. Aldrich was born July 3, 1926, in Sumrall, Mississippi, to Earnest and Nettie (Drennan) Jones. She was raised and educated in Sumrall.

In 1943, she married Conway Aultman. They made their home in Sumrall before moving to Vernonia in 1950. Mr. Aultman died in 1955. In 1958, she married Edison G. "Ed" Aldrich. They made their home in Vernonia.

She was active at the Vernonia Senior Center, the holiday cantatas and in her church. She enjoyed gardening, singing, garage sales, cooking and entertaining. Her family believes this Bible verse describes her, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2).

She was preceded in death by her husband, in 2006; and a brother, Elzie Jones.

Survivors include her son, Randy Aultman of Vernonia; three daughters, Jeanette McLaughlin of Gresham, Valerie DeWitt of Vernonia, and

Sonia Aldrich-McDonald of Maple Valley, Washington; two sisters, Eddie V. Graham of Sumrall, Miss., and Janice Brown of Purvis, Miss.; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Remembrances are suggested to the American Cancer Society.

Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home of Vernonia was in charge of arrangements.

CONNIE G. ANDERSON



Connie Genevieve Anderson, 55, Vernonia, died June 10, 2012. Private cremation rites have been held at Hoyt Crematory in Forest Grove.

Mrs. Anderson was born December 14, 1956, in Alameda County, California, to Carl and Dorothy (Mitchell) Richards. She was raised and educated in Livermore, Calif. She worked as a cook in restaurants and nursing homes.

She lived in Carson, Nevada, before moving to New Kirk, Oklahoma in 1995. She moved to Vernonia in April of this year to live with her daughter.

She enjoyed camping, fishing, visiting the mountains of Nevada and Vernonia Lake.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Franklin D. Richards, and David E. Nebel.

Survivors include one son, Joshua Marriott of Carson,

Please see page 8

Church Directory

VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH

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

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Larry Gibson, Pastor
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St., Vernonia
503 429-8301
Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Wayne and Maureen Marr
662 Jefferson Ave., Vernonia,
503 429-0373
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Luan Tran, Administrator
960 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia
503 429-8841
Mass Sunday 12:00 Noon
Religious Educ. Sunday 10:30 a.m.

COVENANT CHURCH VERNONIA

Pastor John D. Murray
359 "A" Street, Vernonia
503 860-3860
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

VERNONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Ralph Young, Pastor
957 State Avenue, Vernonia
503 429-6790
Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Family Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer 6:30 p.m.
Thursday Ladies Study 7:00 p.m.
Nursery 10:15 a.m.
Vernonia Community Preschool

VERNONIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sam Hough, Minister
410 North Street, Vernonia
503 429-6522
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
(meets in Youth & Family Center)
Various Home Group Meetings

PIONEER BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

John Cahill, Pastor
939 Bridge Street, Vernonia
503-429-1161
www.pbfalive.com
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Thursday Prayer 7:00 p.m.

NEHALEM VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH

Gary Taylor, Pastor
Grant & North Streets, Vernonia
503 429-5378
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Nursery available
Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Marc Farmer, 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.

Mariolino's

721 Madison Ave., Vernonia
503-429-5018



Breakfast Special

Pork Chop
Hash Browns
Eggs & Toast
\$7.45

Lunch Special

BBQ Ribs
& Trimmings
\$6.25

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