

# Metro Master Gardener™ News

## December 2010



### OSU Extension Service Metro Master Gardener™ Program

Serving [Clackamas](#), [Multnomah](#), and [Washington](#) Counties in the metro area since 1976.

#### Mission Statement

We provide relevant, research-based education and outreach to the public of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties about horticulture and household pests. This information promotes sustainable practices that minimize risks to human health and the environment.

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## UPDATE FROM WESTON

Wow! Thank you to 240 metro area Master Gardeners that came out to our biannual recertification training on November 13, 2010. We had a great schedule of presentations including important information on the following topics:

- Trees for small lots
- The OSU/Metro partnership
- Spotted Wing Drosophila
- Abiotic plant problems.



We also had the opportunity to honor the 2010 MG trainees and to give them their official MG badges. Here are some important statistics regarding volunteerism in the MG program this last year:

Total # volunteer hours in 2010: **43,051** (This is the actual time reported, but can pretty much guarantee that there is way more unreported time)

# of new trainees returning hours and %: 128 out of 203 turned in hours, so that's 63%

# vets returning hours: 395

The trainees from 2010 account for over ¼ of the hours performed this year. Their average was 77 hours (even though they are only asked to do 66).

Also, special thanks to Jean R. Natter, Margaret Bayne, and Linda Eggiman, who all volunteered over 1000 hour for the MG program in 2010. Wow!

We have also counted the number of contacts that MGs had in 2010 with the general public through our telephone clinics. Here are the numbers compared with 2009:

<u>Phone Clinic</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Clackamas	1903	2104	+227
Multnomah	817	1188	+367
Washington	2852	2335	-517
<b>total</b>	<b>5582</b>	<b>5663</b>	<b>+81</b>

Overall, we have increased phone contacts in Clackamas and Multnomah Counties and decreased in Washington County for a net difference of 81 contacts at the telephone clinics.

The total number of contacts for 2010 is **36,702** which is 5,489 *more* contacts than we had for 2009.

I am continually humbled by your generous contribution of time and energy toward OSU Extension Service to provide research-based information for the general public about plants and household pests. **Thank you!!!**

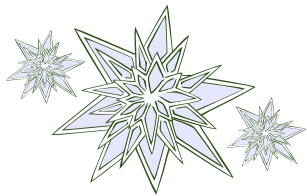
Please note: our telephone clinics are still open during the winter. The volume of inquiries from the public is relatively when folks are not thinking a whole lot about gardening. However, spending time in the clinics during the winter provides many opportunities for you to learn. When in the offices, take advantage of the books, specimens, and of course online materials. Master Gardeners have set up some excellent tools for you to learn more (whether in the office or at home). Check out the Master Gardener Referral Forum [MG Referral Forum](#), which has many great reference cases for you to learn more.

Lastly, please know that all MGs are welcome to attend classes at the 2011 MG training. Check out the schedule of classes in this issue (page 4). Classes marked with an asterisk (\*) are the ones that count toward recertification. Note changes in days and locations.

See you at the trainings.

And of course, I hope that you all have a happy and healthy holiday season. See you in 2011.

Be well, Weston



# OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS

503-650-3118 or [Jordis.Yost@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Jordis.Yost@oregonstate.edu)

## CLASSES FOR 2011

December brings a lot of activity to the program office and we look forward to preparing for a new class of eager gardeners and all the talent that they bring to the group. We have a few changes to the class locations and days, so make sure to note them on your calendars.

The classes for 2011 will be held

**Tuesdays at First Baptist Church**, 5755 SE Erickson Ave, Beaverton 97005

**Thursdays at The Museum of the Oregon Territory** at 211 Tumwater Drive, Oregon City 97045

**Fridays at the Multnomah County Building** at 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd Portland 97214.

Check the schedule posted in this newsletter (page 4) for dates.

If you were a new trainee in 2010 (or before), you are invited to attend the 2011 classes without a fee and contribute 25 hours of volunteer time. Just come to the location that works for you, sign in the veteran book, and bring your Sustainable Gardening Handbook and handouts (since many of them will be the same). We welcome experienced MGs like you and value your help in easing the new class into the program. You will play an important role this coming year and we look forward to working with you again.



Remember – you can re-certify by attending **four 3-hour class sessions** (choose 4 from the starred \* classes on the schedule), adding up to 12 hours, or attend **both the fall and spring** recertification training days (6 hrs ea = 12 hrs) or later in the season we offer a **recertification** test to do at home.

Some MGs choose to take several of the starred classes and one of the advanced training days...just make sure they add up to 12 hours. The recertification hours are *not* counted as volunteer hours. Continuing education time prepares you for your volunteer adventures.

2010 trainees are not required to recertify until 2012, but are welcome to attend classes. If you have completed your 66 hours of volunteer time and have your orange badge, you can now sign up for volunteer opportunities as a veteran and have a goal of 25 hours for 2011. At least 1/2 of the 25 hours should be direct /educational outreach.

## WINTER OPPORTUNITIES

While most of the volunteer activities are finished for the season, be sure to stay in touch with all the great things that are happening with the MG county chapters. You can attend any and all chapter meetings in the metro program and enjoy the speakers and the great company. Check pages in this newsletter for information.

### [Clackamas County Office](#) –

Hotline # 503-655-8631

### **MG Schedule Coordinator** –

Joby Duggan 503-632-2165

[joby@bctonline.com](mailto:joby@bctonline.com)

### [Multnomah County Office](#)

Hotline # 503-445-4608

### **MG Schedule Coordinator**–

Gloria Bennett 503-775-4005

[dcleopatra@comcast.net](mailto:dcleopatra@comcast.net)

### [Washington County Office](#) –

Hotline # 503-821-1150

### **MG Schedule Coordinator** –

Heidi Nichols 503-774-6888

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## THANKS

I always say that I have the best job...working with MGs. But I can't do everything that needs to be done without some extraordinary help. As we prepare our end-of-the-year number reports for OSU, I am reminded of the amazing group of **coordinators** that keep the individual markets, clinics, fairs and all...running smoothly and making a big difference on our communities. And thanks to Margaret Bayne for donating endless hours in the program office. You all are the best!

	2011		MG Training Schedule		
1	January 4, 6, 7	AM	Intro to MG Program ...also Social Gardening	Miller, Yost	
		PM	Botany for Gardeners	Bubl	Chapter 1
2	January 11, 13, 14	AM	*Soils	Groth	Chapter 2
		PM	*Compost, fertilizers	Groth + TBA	Chapter 5
3	January 18, 20, 21	AM	*Understanding Pesticides	Bubl	Chapter 19
		PM	Vegetable Gardening	Miller	Chapter 7
4	January 25, 27, 28	AM	Ornamental Plant Care and Pruning	Bob Nelson	Chapter 4 and 9
		PM	* Entomology	Natter	Chapter 14
5	February 1, 3, 4	AM	*Organic Gardening	Miller	handout
		PM	MG office training and Resource Fair	Miller, Yost	none
6	February 8, 10, 11	AM	*Weeds	Bubl	Chapter 17
		PM	Small fruits	Kaufman, Strik (Fri)	Chapter 11
7	February 15, 17, 18	AM	Home orchards and fruit tree pruning	Maggio	Chapter 10
		PM	*Integrated Pest Management (IPM), PNWs	Miller	Chapter 20
8	February 22, 24, 25	AM	* Vertebrate Pests	Bubl	Chapter 18
		PM	*Household pests	Natter	handout
9	March 1, 3, 4	AM	Plant ID	Harber	Chapter 22
		PM	Plant Propagation ...also Resource fair	Howley Miller, Yost	none
10	March 8, 10, 11	AM	*Plant Diseases and Disorders	Natter	Chapter 15 and 16
		PM	*Sustainable landscapes and lawns + Metro intro	Miller	Chapters 12 and 21
11	March 15, 17, 18	AM	*Diagnostics Clinic	Natter,	Chapter 15 and 16
		PM	Open Book Test Review Volunteer Presentations	Miller, Yost	Take-home test
	Classes with * count for recertification hours				

Training Locations:

- Tuesdays- First Baptist Church 5755 SW Erickson Ave Beaverton OR 97005
- Thursdays- Museum of the Oregon Territory 3<sup>rd</sup> floor- 211 Tumwater Drive, Oregon City OR 97045
- Fridays- Multnomah County Headquarters 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Portland, OR 97214

**Natter's Notes**  
**Bits and Pieces**  
 by Jean R. Natter



Figure 1.

**Looking for slugs lately?** Did you know they are really, really small when newly hatched? (Fig 1) Or that their damage is very subtle five days later? (Fig 2)



Figure 2.



**The client brought in bed bugs?** (Fig 3) Are you certain? Take a look at this concise document and the high-quality image at <http://identify.us.com/bed-bugs/BedBug-FAQS/>.

Read, and heed, the warning in the final sentence. Then let's modify it to one that's useful to you whenever you or other MGs are with a client seeking information about bed bugs. "It's critical to ensure that the bugs are correctly identified before you send the client on the challenging management regimen required to limit the critters' population; verify with other, more knowledgeable MGs."

Even if you truly believe they are bed bugs, please tell the client "Yes, we think these are bed bugs but we will have the identification verified, then someone else will contact you in a day or two."

Figure 3.

Figure 4.

**Geotextiles! Ack; avoid them like the plague!** It's true they can help limit weedy growth – well, at least for a limited amount of time. But the fact is that, far too often, they damage trees. (Fig 4) This particular application of poly sheeting is so snugly anchored to the ground, it doesn't allow for expansion of the tree's base. The girdling happened some years ago, and is now very obvious. The bark died because roots have been severed. The strip of reddish tissue toward the left is the tree's effort to cover this humongous wound.



Figure 5.

**Mushrooms! Galore!** And they're accused of destroying a client's patio. (Fig 5) Worse yet, she had "learned" from the internet that if you disturb the mushrooms they'll be even more numerous than before because they'll spread their spores everywhere! Well, yes, the mushrooms were lifting a few flagstones, but certainly not destroying anything. Instead, they're just doing their normal thing of "flowering"

(producing their reproductive structures) when the environmental conditions of moisture, temperature and time of year were appropriate. As for spreading their spores? Well, that occurs whether or not anyone disturbs the mushrooms.

For now, the remedy is to collect, then either discard or compost the things, whatever kind they are. They may return or not, but on their own schedule.



**Still more mushrooms at Capital Center.** Among the many amanitas, were several clumps of boletes. (Fig 6) Their glistening top surfaces, coated with a viscid, tacky-to-the touch liquid, make it appear as if the caps are melting.

**Spiders in the groundcover?**

This time of year, it seems that spiders are everywhere. Webs such as this – a horizontal landing pad with a tunnel at one side – belong to the Agelenidae, commonly called funnel web spiders. (Fig 7) Fully exposed



Figure 6. funnel webs generally are inhabited by grass spiders or the giant house spider, the latter not a threat to people or pets. So, never fear, this sort of web doesn't belong to a hobo spider as they tend to build webs in darker, less obvious places.

Figure 7.



**Nasty invasive plant? Or what?** The story goes like this: About a month ago, a client brought this unusual sample to the Clackamas office, all excited because she was certain she had discovered a new invasive species. She had been pulling weedy grasses and, on one, discovered these large growths. (Fig 8) After we were able to calm her down, we explained that the rhizome from her weedy grass had pierced several of her scilla bulbs. So, no, it wasn't an invasive plant that should be reported to the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Figure 8.

**Petunias and their leaves get holes**, sometimes large, other times small. Here's the culprit, hard at work and providing several characteristic signs -- frass and holes and scalloped edges. (Fig 9)

If you're viewing this on the computer, enlarge the page, then closely inspect the edges of the eaten areas to find the tiny scallops which reveal that a caterpillar did this damage. (It's so cool to catch the culprits in the act because then you know for certain what made that specific sort of hole.)



Figure 9.



Figure 10.

**End of the season "flagging" on arborvitae.** - What does it mean when a client tells you that his conifer is brown all over? Is it that the entire tree is brown? Or is it that some parts, scattered here and there throughout the tree are brown? And if so, which parts? The interior growth? The tips? Or what?

You'll never know unless you ask questions, lots and lots of questions. And/or request images, both overall and close up. (Figs 10, 11)

In this instance, the answer is flagging -- the browning of older leaves and twigs -- common on western red-cedar and related trees, such as this arborvitae.

What to do? Nothing now, but make certain adequate supplemental water is supplied several times next summer.



Figure 11.

## How 'green' is your Christmas tree?

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Bring home a Christmas tree that is both green and "green," and you'll enjoy its fragrance while knowing that it is 100 percent recyclable.



When people ask what kind of Christmas tree is the least destructive to the environment, Mike Bondi explains that trees grown in Oregon specifically as Christmas trees are the best. Bondi works with Christmas tree growers and is based with the Oregon State University Extension Service in Clackamas County.

About 7 million Oregon trees are purchased every year to celebrate the holidays, more than from any other state. More than 17 million are cut nationwide. About 90 percent of trees purchased in California come from Oregon or Washington. Oregon trees are also shipped throughout the nation and to other countries.

"Jobs in the Christmas tree industry have a huge impact on local economies," Bondi said. "We produce the trees here in the local community; no factories or overseas imports. The industry employs hundreds of seasonal workers and full-time employees."

"Real" Christmas trees, like all trees, absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. They also keep the soil from eroding, provide shelter for wildlife and because they are grown as a crop, do not threaten natural forests.

"Christmas trees are tended as any farm crop, just like lettuce or strawberries," Bondi said, with care given to sustain a healthy environment. Trees sold to the public are about 7 to 8 years old and are harvested every 5 to 10 years.

"Noble firs are popular because they have open, firm branches, that are easy for hanging ornaments," Bondi said. "Douglas firs, which have a denser shape, also are popular."

When the holidays are over, exhausted trees picked up at the curb can be ground into a rich mulch and put back into the soil or around shrubs. They are completely biodegradable.

Over the last few years, Bondi has been giving television, radio and print interviews in California and the Southwest, sponsored by OSU Extension and the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association, about the positive impact of Oregon's "green" trees.

"We alert consumers who are concerned about ecology that their Christmas tree purchase can be part of the solution," Bondi said.

As the center of attention during the holidays, decorated trees can last for several weeks with proper care. Bondi offers this advice to prolong their appeal:

- Choose a tree that's fresh. Pinch a needle; it should have a rich fragrance. Take a needle off the tree and bend it. If it snaps like a carrot, that's a fresh tree.
- Cut an inch or so off of the tree's trunk and place the tree in a stand that holds at least a gallon of water. This is important because a cut tree will take up three to four quarts a day.
- Water every day. Keep the stand full of water. This is the key to keeping a tree fresh.
- 

By: [Judy Scott](#)

Source: [Mike Bondi](#), [Chal Landgren](#)

## *Give houseplants TLC in winter*

CORVALLIS, Ore. - Now that winter is on the way, there's more time to pay attention to your houseplants. The most important factor in the care of houseplants is matching up a plant's needs to its environment, explained Ross Penhallegon, horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Avoid placing plants near direct sources of hot or cold drafts. A sudden change of temperature from doors, windows, furnace ducts, candles, wood stoves or television sets can be detrimental to a plant. Wilting foliage and brown tipped leaves may be symptoms of a temperature problem.

Fertilize lightly during the active growing season to keep houseplants healthy. Use a water-soluble medium strength fertilizer (10-5-5) and apply monthly during the spring and summer. During the winter, fertilize lightly every other month to keep the foliage green.

Over-watering is the most common problem with houseplants, said Penhallegon. Water each plant according to its needs, rather than by a regular schedule. Plants in containers with drainage holes can be thoroughly watered, as the excess drains out. If there are no drainage holes, check soil two inches beneath the surface by sticking your finger into the soil to detect whether the soil is still damp before adding more water. Plants without drain holes will often have yellowing lower leaves and will gradually decline. Too much water encourages root rot. Move plants to better drained pots if you suspect inadequate drainage.

Insect pests can move in unexpectedly. Check the undersides of leaves regularly, especially on those plants brought in from outdoors. Wash the foliage regularly with a mild soapy solution, taking care to rinse all soap off completely. A fine water spray or wiping the leaves with alcohol-soaked cotton will take care of most insects. Rinse off all the alcohol. Use any chemical insecticide with great care.

Light source, light intensity, temperature and total room environment are all crucial to houseplants. Each plant has its own individual cultural requirements, but will tolerate some changes. But once a houseplant is happy, try not to move it much.

All plants require some natural light. Generally, flowering plants prefer stronger light; foliage plants will tolerate very low light conditions. On the whole, it is best to avoid hot direct sun rays for long periods of time. A bleached out area on a plant's leaves indicates too much light. Thin, leggy growth in a plant means not enough light.

By: [Carol Savonen](#)  
Source: [Ross Penhallegon](#)





## *Help perennial vegetables survive the winter*

EUGENE, Ore. – Perennial vegetables can survive winter's freezing temperatures with a little extra care before winter cold sets in.

If you mulch your rhubarb, asparagus, horseradish and artichokes to insulate against the cold, you're also enriching the soil for next spring, according to Pat Patterson, Master Gardener volunteer with the Oregon State University Extension Service in Lane County.

"Organic matter and well-rotted manure assure a good crop next year," Patterson said.

If your rhubarb is crowded and well-established, fall is a good time to renovate the plant, a task that needs to be done only every few years. Drive the blade of a shovel down through the middle of the plant. Then remove half of the plant—crown, roots and all. Fill the hole with compost, rotted manure, or fertilizer mixed with organic matter. Compost the removed half, move it to another spot or give it to a friend who needs rhubarb. Dividing may also be done in early spring.

Mulch asparagus beds with four to six inches of chopped leaves, weed-free straw, hay or similar materials. Next spring, remove the mulch from half of the bed. The asparagus will come up more quickly where the mulch is removed and the mulched section will come up later, thus extending your asparagus season. Take the mulch off soon after spears begin emerging or they will curl over.

"Horseradish will winter-over with no mulching in most places west of the Cascades," Patterson said, "and just a light mulching is needed in the colder parts of the state. Horseradish is best and most potent when it's harvested after several good frosts in the fall."

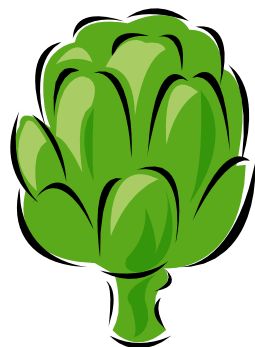
Treat Jerusalem artichokes in the same way as horseradish. Do not harvest until the tops have died.

To ensure the survival of thistle-type artichokes (Globe, for example), clip back the large artichoke rosette. Cover it with six inches or more of mulch, compost or leaves. If there are baby plants, "pups" coming up around the mother plant, remove the mother plant entirely and protect the pups.

During the harshest part of winter, put a heavy cardboard box with the bottom open over artichoke plants. A Styrofoam box also works very well. Then fill the box with straw, mounding it over the cut-back plant or pups. Remove the box when the weather moderates. Take away the mulch after most danger of frost has passed in the spring. In a mild winter, artichokes will survive without protection west of the Cascades.

By: [Judy Scott](#)

Source: [Pat Patterson](#)



# HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

- Dec 2** Washington County Chapter—"*Paths & Circulation, Space & Illusions*", John Caine, Joy Creek Nursery
- Dec 7** MG class coordinators meeting 9 AM—noon; OSU Extension office, Oregon City
- Dec 13** Clackamas County Chapter—*Plants, Pots, Garden Art: Getting It All Together*—Mike Darcy, Host of "In the Garden" on KXL radio.
- Dec 14** Multnomah County Chapter , 6:30 PM, Annual Winter Greens Gathering
- 2011**
- Jan 4,6,7** **MG Training begins!**
- Jan 4** Washington County Chapter—*Mason Bees*—Beth Rose WCMGA
- Jan 10** Clackamas County Chapter—*Favorite Tools and Garden Hints*—Bob Denman, Red Pig Tools
- Jan 11** Multnomah County Chapter, 7 PM, Speaker: Lucy Hardiman, Perennial Partners, '*Full Frontal Gardening—Say Goodbye to the Traditional Lawn*'
- Feb 1** Washington County Chapter—*Poison prevention in the Garden*, Jim Gersbach, Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center
- Feb 8** Multnomah County Chapter, 7 PM; speaker Chip Bubl, OSU Extension Service, "*Generically Modified Plants—Their Biology, Uses, and Potential Concerns*"
- Apr 30** Washington County Spring Plant Sale 8:30 AM—3:00 PM; Kinton Grange
- Apr 30—May 1** Clackamas Spring Garden Fair; Canby Event Center
- Jul 13-15** Mini College in Newport



## MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE

Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

**14 Dec. 2010 Chapter Meeting**  
**Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church**  
**5441 SE Belmont**

**6:50 Announcements**

**7:00 Winter Greens Holiday Decorating Party -**

**Gather with fellow chapter members to share a cup o' cheer and create winter arrangements, wreaths and swags.** Please bring cuttings from your garden, supplies and tools to build a festive winter creation. Also, bring your favorite holiday goodies. Additional evergreens, ribbon and some supplies will be available. Enjoy a sweet treat, warm beverage and conversation with fellow Master Gardeners.

**\*\*\*2011 CHINOOK BOOKS AVAILABLE NOW!** The new 2011 Chinook Books are now available! Save up to \$3,000 with 400 <http://pdx.chinookbook.net/in-print/> This is a terrific value at only \$20 and it is a gift that keeps on giving. Available for purchase at chapter meetings. Or contact Carrie McIntyre (503)984-1109 or email [multmastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:multmastergardeners@gmail.com) + local print coupons and 300+ mobile coupons in the Portland Metro region. Free i-phone app with each print edition. Savings from 100's of local, sustainable businesses. Including groceries, dining, entertainment, garden, travel and home.

**\*\*\*Get the Real Dirt – Ask a Master Gardener! Auto Cling Stickers**

Hot off the presses, snazzy Master Gardener window stickers. A big juicy tomato proclaiming Get the Real Dirt. Ask a Master Gardener! These stickers can be displayed on any window surface. Stickers are full color and are easily moved. A wonderful way to promote the MG program! \$5.00 each. To see stickers:

[www.metromastergardeners.org/multnomah](http://www.metromastergardeners.org/multnomah) Available for purchase at chapter meetings or contact Darlene Myers (503)235-7465 or email [multmastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:multmastergardeners@gmail.com)

**\*\*\* Our Community Demonstration Garden** has a bounty of vegetables ripening and in need of harvest. Come on over and give a helping hand as we tend the garden, harvest, and donate the bounty to area food banks. It is a lovely time to spend in the garden. Demo garden work days are Mon., Thur., and Sat., 9am to 12noon. 6801 SE 60<sup>th</sup>. Contact Jean Edmison (503) 771-2486 [housejem@aol.com](mailto:housejem@aol.com) or Sharon Baker with questions. No reservation necessary to work.

**\*\*\*Phones in Multnomah County!** –The office is in Montgomery Park @ NW 27<sup>th</sup> and Vaughn. Gloria Bennett (503) 775-4005 [dcleopatra@comcast.net](mailto:dcleopatra@comcast.net) is managing the calendar. The phone hours are 10am-2pm Monday to Friday. 2 or 4 hour shifts.

### 2010 Officers

**President** - Sharon Baker - 503-284-5189 [gazebo@teleport.com](mailto:gazebo@teleport.com)

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**Grapevine** - Lorna Schilling – 503-334-5162 [lornaschilling@yahoo.com](mailto:lornaschilling@yahoo.com)

**\*\*\* Coming in the New Year...**

**January, 11, 2011 - Lucy Hardiman, of Perennial Partners, designer, writer - Gone the Lawns**, Full Frontal Gardening - Innovative gardening in place of the traditional lawn. Examining how our front gardens impact our immediate surroundings and our planet.

**\*\*\*Next Board Meeting – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010 –** 5:30 pm at Heidi Nichol's house 6044 SE Reed College Place (very close to Reed College). This is a potluck. You may contact Heidi if you forgot what you are planning to bring.

**\*\*\*** We thank Eva Kramer for sending out our chapter minutes, reminders, announcements, and surveys for the last several years! Additional responsibilities at work make it difficult for her to continue with our email communications after December. Thank you for taking care of our needs, Eva! We wish you the best!

**\*\*\*Garden Delights Note-cards**

A stunning array of 'garden delights' have been captured in photographs by Metro Master Gardeners and are featured in 4 different sets of note-cards. Each set contains 4 beautiful garden images (2 cards of each of the 4 images). Available for purchase now at Alberta Gardens and Naomi's Organic Farm Supply. 8 cards for \$10. Or order online at our new Etsy shop: <http://www.etsy.com/shop/MasterGardeners> also available at chapter meetings or contact Marilyn Kongsli at (503) 289-8889 or email [multmastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:multmastergardeners@gmail.com)

**\*\*\* Life is Simple. Eat, sleep, and garden.**

A terrific gift to give yourself or your favorite gardening friends and family: our wonderful, terracotta flowerpot mug. The mug is printed with the fitting quote "Life is simple. Eat, sleep, and garden." \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Available for purchase at chapter meetings or contact Abby Seemann @ 503-285-7621



# Washington County Chapter Chat

Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with  
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program  
Chapter Website: [www.wcmga.info](http://www.wcmga.info)

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS –

**THE DECEMBER MEETING WILL BE AT THE CAPITAL CENTER ON WALKER ROAD ON THURSDAY.**

**Thursday, December 2, 2010**

**“Paths & Circulation, Space & Illusions”** John Caine,  
Joy Creek Nursery

**NEW MEETING LOCATION & DAY FOR 2011**

**Tuesday, January 4, 2011**

**“Mason Bees”** Beth Rose WCMGA

**First Baptist Church** 5755 SW Erickson Ave., Beaverton,  
OR 97005, located between Farmington Rd. & Allen Blvd.

**SOCIAL GATHERING at 6:30 p.m. – come early!**

**Monthly Chapter Meeting is at 6:45 p.m.**

**Presentations are from 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.**

The public is welcome.

## ELECTION RESULTS

WCMGA Board elections were held at the Nov. meeting and the new members will begin serving their terms in December. Newly elected board positions include: President - **Tim Lanfri**, Vice President - **Bob Falconer**, Treasurer - **Lynn Cox**, Recording Secretary - **Deb Kapfer**, Corresponding Secretary - **Jackie Keil**, Publicity Director - **Marilyn Berti**, Fundraising - **Sandy Japely**. Chapter Relations remains vacant.

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

You can help in the college scholarship process by making a tax deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund. A committee member has pledged to match your donations dollar for dollar up to a total of **\$5000!** The Board has pledged a WCMGA budget match up to \$1000 in donations for the 2010 budget year. So every dollar you donate becomes a \$3 contribution!

Donations can be sent to the treasurer or you can add on to your \$25 membership dues for 2011 with any additional money directed into the scholarship fund. Contributions will be “restricted donations” and can only be used for college scholarships. Questions should be directed to the committee chairman, Tim Lanfri [tim.lanfri@gmail.com](mailto:tim.lanfri@gmail.com)

## .WINTER WONDERS FIELD TRIP

Bundle up and join fellow MGs to explore the winter plants at the Oregon Garden on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Tour includes guided tram ride, lunch talk on conifers and a walking tour. Open to chapter members and guests, \$20 will get you admission, tram, speaker and box lunch. An optional overnight package is available for Thursday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> at the Oregon Garden Resort. Sign up at the Dec. Chapter Meeting or online. More info with complete trip details will be sent out soon. Contacts: Judy Hale, 503-590-7221 or Carol Ross, 503-245-6842.

## DIG UP & DONATE

It is still a good time to divide your hardy perennials for the Spring Plant Sale. Spring and summer bloomers are the best sellers. This is the major fundraiser of the year for the WCMG Chapter. **IT IS UP TO YOU!!** Jane Miller will once again be at the December Chapter Meeting to collect your donations. Questions, call Jane at 503-590-3598.

## CHAPTER DUES FOR 2011

There is still time to renew your membership in the WCMG Chapter for 2011. Deadline for your \$25 dues is December 15<sup>th</sup>. Pay at the Chapter Meeting or mail a check to Treasurer Donna Yount.

## INFO FOR HISTORIAN

Please donate any photos, news releases or other items of past events you have to help document our Chapter history. Contact Donna Yount, our new historian.

President	Lynn Cox	503-629-9156
Vice President	Tim Lanfri	503-590-4354
Recording Secretary	Jackie Keil	503-531-3884
Corresponding Secretary	Geri Larkin	503-671-9307
Treasurer	Donna Yount	503-746-6198
OMGA Rep	Ken Keudell	503-292-6519
Alternate Rep	Joanne DeHaan	503-649-1683
Dir.#1 Business	Bill Klug	503-681-0143
Dir.#2 Program	Vern Vanderzanden	503-357-6109
Dir.#3 Publicity	Lynn Wagner	503-531-9239
Dir.#4 Fundraising	Anna Stubbs	503-643-9474
Dir.#5 Chapter Relations	Barbara Knopp	503-641-0429
Editor:	Geri Larkin	503-671-9307

Submit **Chapter Chat** information and general chapter announcements to **Geri Larkin**, Chapter Chat Editor.

Phone **503-671-9307** or e-mail: [geralyn.dan@gmail.com](mailto:geralyn.dan@gmail.com)

For address/email changes, contact Alan Strong, e-mail coordinator, [info@wcmga.info](mailto:info@wcmga.info)

Chapter Website: [www.wcmga.info](http://www.wcmga.info)



Oregon Master Gardener Association in Cooperation with  
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program



## December Chapter Meeting

Monday, December 13, 7 p.m.

Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE

Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

Plants, Pots, Garden Art;

Getting It All Together,

Mike Darcy, KXL Radio Show

Mike Darcy is well-known in the Portland gardening community, having had a garden radio show on KXL for 28 years. During this period, he interviewed thousands of experts and viewed many more gardens. Such vast knowledge of horticultural discoveries and trends culminates in each of his presentations.

Along with his presentation illustrated by myriad gorgeous photographs, Mike will discuss plants—some new, some old standbys. He will also show us how to incorporate pots and art throughout our gardens for adding beauty and year-round interest.

## January Program

Monday, January 10, 2011

Favorite Tools and Garden Hints

Bob Denman, owner of Red Pig

Tools, and Clackamas County

Master Gardeners

Do you have a favorite gardening tool that you think everyone should know about? Please bring it to share at our January meeting.

The entertaining and informative Bob Denman will share tool care and maintenance tips and his favorite tools. Before the meeting and during break, Bob will be selling some Red Pig tools, so bring your wish list!

## Clackamas County MGs Make Good Things Happen

*President's note: The Clackamas Chapter serves the community through Chapter programs. Here's a glance at some of the 2010 accomplishments:*

**CCMG Grow-An-Extra-Row** committee's small group of fiercely dedicated MGs grew over 700 pounds of vegetables and distributed them amongst nine charitable food pantries and community centers in Clackamas County. The garden provided a place for both new and veteran MGs to hone their sustainable gardening skills.

The Grow-An-Extra-Row garden has just been replanted this fall, half in winter vegetables and half in cover crops. 2010 projects included: developing a work-share Google calendar; creating a donation system; building raised beds; a soil-building program; and designing and laying out an automatic irrigation system.

**Clackamas Community College Horticultural Scholarship Endowment** funded 38 students over the past 20 years, including 2 full tuition scholarships in 2010. The Chapter donated \$192,128 since program inception in 1990 and established an endowment in 1999. As of June 2010, the endowment has a balance exceeding \$145,000.

**Community Project Grants** is a new program that encourages member service. The committee awarded \$1,850 in grants to organizations where Chapter members play key roles in establishing community-based food production or restoring important gardens.

**Soil pH Testing** services were offered on four days: in March, in conjunction with Garden Discovery Day; in May during both days of Spring Garden Fair; and in October, alongside 10-Minute University™ presentations.

At these events, we served a total of 303 clients and tested 624 soil pH samples. This reflects a modest increase from 2009, and participation was evenly spread throughout the events.

**10-Minute University™** continues to draw an audience at Clackamas County and Portland Metro region events, making 1,821 client contacts through 71 pres-

entations. This is a huge increase from 2009 when 940 contacts through 45 presentations were made. The program began in 2006 when 290 contacts through 18 presentations were made.

## Green Glove Award:

**Frank Wille,**

**Co-Chair, Spring Garden Fair 10-Minute University™ committee**

Frank joined the Master Gardener program in 2007. Since then, his smiling face has been a fixture at the MG Oregon City Farmers' Market clinic and SGF 10-Minute University™ committee. For fun and camaraderie with Metro area MGs, Frank is also actively involved in the Starlight Parade. In 2011, Frank will serve as vice president of the Chapter.

## 2011 Officers

Congratulations to next year's officers: Sherry Sheng, President; Frank Wille, Vice President; David Smith, Treasurer; Penny Bowman, Assistant Treasurer; Darlene Reimer, Secretary; Joby Duggan, John Hill & Buzz Oerding, Advisory Board. We thank you for your willingness to serve!

## Kudos

A year-end **Thank You** to this year's officers: Larry Huckaba, Vice President; Mary Butler, Treasurer; Trudy O'Donnell, Assistant Treasurer; and Gene McCoy, Advisory Board. We appreciate your contribution of time and talent to make our chapter strong.

**President · Sherry Sheng: 503-655-1822 – Vice President · Larry Huckaba: 503-631-8866**

Secretary · Holly Pederson: 503-701-5816

Advisory Board · Buzz Oerding: 503-233-6974

OMGA Rep · Nikki Mantei: 503-577-4494

Treasurer · Mary Butler: 503-632-1532

Advisory Board · John Hill: 503-653-9524

OMGA Alt.Rep · Linda O'Toole: 503-659-5309

Asst. Treasurer · Trudy O'Donnell: 503-636-1697

Advisory Board · Gene McCoy: 503-631-8059

Newsletter · Kathy Johnson: 503-794-3959

**Websites: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/> - <http://www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org/>**

DECEMBER 2010 MG NEWSLETTER

Agriculture, 4-H Youth, Family & Community Development, Forestry and extension Sea Grant Programs. Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

# December 2010

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Preventative pest management is emphasized over reactive pest control. Identify and monitor problems before acting, and opt for the least toxic approach that will remedy the problem.

First consider cultural, and then physical controls. The conservation of biological control agents (predators, parasitoids) should be favored over the purchase and release of biological controls. Use chemical controls only when necessary, only after identifying a pest problem, and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. Least-toxic choices include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, organic and synthetic pesticides — when used judiciously.

Recommendations in this calendar are not necessarily applicable to all areas of Oregon. For more information, contact your local Extension office (<http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/locations.php>).

## Maintenance and Clean Up

- Spread wood ashes evenly on vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 lb/100 sq ft/year. Don't use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.
- Protect new landscape plants from wind. Use stakes, guy wires and/or windbreaks as needed.
- Yard sanitation: rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds, hoe or pull winter weeds.

Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Always identify and monitor problems before acting. First consider cultural controls, then physical, biological, and chemical controls (which include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, organic and synthetic pesticides). Always consider the least toxic approach first.

All recommendations in this calendar are not necessarily applicable to all areas of Oregon. For more information, contact your local office of the OSU Extension Service.

- Turn the compost pile and protect from heavy rains, if necessary.
- During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tilling, ditching, and French drains are possible short-term solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales as a longer term solution.
- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow or ice breakage.
- **Central/eastern Oregon:** Water your plants every 6 to 8 weeks with a deep soaking to prevent drying out.
- **Western Oregon:** Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.
- **Western Oregon:** Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water regularly during the winter.

## Planting/Propagation

- **Western Oregon:** Good time of year to plant trees, landscape shrubs.

## Pest Monitoring and Management

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. Remove weeds to prevent rodents from using them as hiding places. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.

Trade-name products and services are mentioned as illustrations only. This does not mean that the Oregon State University Extension Service endorses these products and services or intends to discriminate against products and services not mentioned.

**Oregon State University** | Extension Service

Gardening information online—<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening>