

Metro Master Gardener™ News

December 2011



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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Metro area Master Gardener Program Update

Weston Miller, OSU Extension Service faculty

Greetings Master Gardeners,

Thank you for your contribution of time and energy toward the Master Gardener program in 2011. OSU is very appreciative of your efforts in helping to provide the community with research-based information about sustainable gardening and household pests.

In 2011, Master Gardener volunteers reported a total of 44,000 + hours of volunteer service to the MG program in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties. This contribution is the equivalent of over 21.5 full-time employees with a monetary value of over \$800,000 (Oregon value of volunteer time = \$18.47 per hour)! Of the total hours of volunteer time reported, 9,210 were completed by our 2011 Master Gardener interns (128 of 197 reported hours = 65%) and 34,887.5 were completed by veteran MG (437 reported hours of 952 on roster = 46%).

WOW! And THANK YOU!

Based on the log sheets returned from our many Master Gardener clinics and activities in the Portland metro area, we made 36,025 contacts with the general public. These are really strong numbers!

Here is a breakdown of contacts and volunteer hours reported for some of our key activities:

Venue	2011 Contacts	2011 Volunteer hours
Clackamas phone clinic	1957	3423
Multnomah phone clinic	1032	2610
Washington phone clinic	2157	3825
Ask the Expert	429	429
International Rose Test Garden clinic and tours	4713	2012
Oregon Zoo Backyard Makeover clinic	3565	448
Pittock Mansion	1102	2,642.5
All farmers' market clinics	5,583	3,427
Washington County Fair (tours and clinic)	3735	229+
10-Minute University (various venues)	1516	100 +

There are a staggering 110 MG activities in the 3-county region that reported volunteer hours to the program office this year. Thank you to all of the activity coordinators who work hard to fill volunteer slots and then follow-up with the program office to report contacts and return materials. We really appreciate the many volunteers that help to coordinate this monumental outreach effort!

And, of course, I'd like to extend a special THANK YOU to Jordis Yost and MG volunteer Margaret Bayne for providing overall coordination for this incredible educational and volunteer program.

Happy holidays and how many months until we get to garden again?

Also, I'd like to let you all know that the OSU/Metro partnership will continue to evolve in 2012. We are looking forward to sharing the details of this remarkable collaboration through the course of the 2012 MG training and at the spring MG recertification training. See the training schedule included in this newsletter for details. In addition, we plan to promote the spring **MG recertification event March 31, 2012** at PCC Rock Creek) as an "All Hands Master Gardener Training" for all veteran Master Gardeners who trained in 2011 or earlier. We see this as a way to ensure that all MGs serving in clinics in 2012 will be on the same page in terms of messaging and procedures. Please stay tuned for more details.

So, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, a huge thanks to all of you for your support of the Master Gardener program. We look forward to seeing you in 2012!

Happy holidays and how many months until we get to garden again?

Weston



How many times have you answered the question, "How do I get my soil tested?" How about, "How can I get rid of the moss in my yard?" These, and many more answers to common questions, are now online! We've recently added a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) page to our website:

<http://www.metromastergardeners.org/faq/>

We hope that MGs will find it useful as a reference and a place to refer clients when they have a common question. We also hope that clients will navigate their way to the FAQ on their own and find research-based answers to their questions.

We've got about 20 FAQs on the site now and we're continually adding more. Please take a look and let us know what you think. Special thanks goes to MG Donna Reynolds who has done a great job researching and preparing answers for the FAQ.

We're looking to add more FAQs soon and could use help from additional writers. If anyone else is interested in writing answers to common questions for the FAQ please contact Jay Ewing at jaybewing@yahoo.com.



OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS

503-650-3118 or Jordis.Yost@oregonstate.edu



CLASSES FOR 2012

The program office is busy with wrapping up details for the end of year reports to OSU and preparing for the new class of 2012. We will hold classes at the same sites as in 2011.

- **Tuesdays at First Baptist Church**, 5755 SW 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 for dates.

If you were a new trainee in 2011 (or before), you are invited to attend the 2012 classes without a fee and contribute 25 hours of volunteer time. Just come to the location that works for you, sign in 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 volunteer hours, but rather continuing education time that prepares you for your volunteer adventures.

2011 trainees are not required to recertify until 2013, 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 2012. At least 1/2 of the 25 hours should be staffing phones and/or clinics.

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.



Phones are a great way to stay involved and in touch with what gardeners are up to in their own gardens.

[Clackamas County Office](#) –
Hotline # 503-655-8631
MG Schedule Coordinator –
Joby Duggan 503-632-2165
joby@bctonline.com

[Multnomah County Office](#)
Hotline # 503-445-4608
MG Schedule Coordinator–
Gloria Bennett 503-775-4005
dcleopatra@comcast.net

[Washington County Office](#) –
Hotline # 503-821-1150
MG Schedule Coordinator –
Heidi Nichols 503-774-6888
heidinichols@comcast.net

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 in our communities. Thank you coordinators one and all!

2012 Metro Master Gardener Training Schedule

Week	Dates	Time	Topic	Instructor	Reading
1	January 3, 5, 6	AM	Intro to MG program; Social gardening; Metro sponsorship	Miller, Grimm, Yost	
		PM	Soils	Groth	Chapter 2
2	January 10, 12, 13	AM	*Botany/Plant Physiology	Bubl	Chapter 1
		PM	*Compost, and fertilizers	Groth	Chapter 5
3	January 17, 19, 20	AM	*Understanding pesticides / Invasive Plants	Bubl / Logalbo	Chapter 19
		PM	Vegetable gardening 1	Miller	Chapter 7
4	January 24, 26, 27	AM	Ornamental plant care and pruning	Nelson	Chapter 4 and 9
		PM	*Entomology	Natter	Chapter 14
5	January 31, February 2, 3	AM	*Weed control	Bubl	Chapter 17
		PM	OSU/ Metro resource training; Volun- teer fair	Miller, Grimm, Yost	none
6	February 7, 9, 10	AM	*Household pests	Natter	handout
		PM	*Home orchards and Fruit tree pruning	Maggio	Chapter 10
7	February 14, 16, 17	AM	*Plant diseases and disorders	Natter	Chapter 15 and 16
		PM	*Sustainable landscapes and lawns	Miller	Chapters 12 and 21
8	February 21, 23, 24	AM	* Vertebrate pests	Bubl	Chapter 18
		PM	*Water quality for gardeners *Rain Gardens	Rob Emanuel (T, Th) Candace Stoughton (F)	Chapter 6
9	February 28, March 1, 2	AM	*Plant Identification	Renee Harber	Chapter 22
		PM	Plant propagation; Volunteer resource fair	Cox (Tues) Howley Miller, Yost	Chapter 3
10	March 6, 8, 9	AM	*Vegetable gardening 2; small fruits	Miller	Chapter 11 and 7
		PM	*Integrated Pest Management (IPM), PNWs, Pesticide reduction strategy	Miller, Grimm	Chapter 20
11	March 13, 15, 16	AM	*Diagnostics clinic	Natter	Chapter 15 and 16
		PM	Hands-on diagnostics Open-book test review	Miller, Bayne, Collier	Take-home test

Training Locations:

Tuesdays- First Baptist Church - 5755 SW Erickson Ave., Beaverton, OR 97005

Thursdays- Museum of the Oregon Territory, 3rd floor - 211 Tumwater Drive, Oregon City, OR 97045

Fridays- Multnomah County Headquarters - 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, OR 97214

Natter's Notes

This 'n That

Jean R. Natter

The northwest is in full color. That was the really big show in town during November. So many trees and shrubs dazzled the eyes with leaves of yellow, rich gold, orange, coral and/or red. Every year, the fall color of many woodies converts our area into a fairyland of stunning color. (Fig 1)

New publications from OSU

Growing Your Own has been expanded to 24 pages and has a new publication number (EM 9027) and URL. Download the complete publication or individual sections at <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/handle/1957/21092>. "Dates for planting vegetables in Oregon" (page 7) has been particularly popular with clients. We're in Region 2.



Fig 1: Colorful maples at a postal annex on Evergreen Blvd., Hillsboro, OR;

- *Composting with Worms*, written by two OSU MGs in Lincoln County and their Extension agent, has all the details in just 13 pages. <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/23949/em9034.pdf>

- *Educator's Guide to Vegetable Gardening* (EM 9032) (Weston Miller et al.)

"Using a holistic, full-circle approach in an educational garden allows you to demonstrate ecological processes that foster healthy soil, healthy plants, and healthy people." You'll find 28 pages plumb full of insights for developing and maintaining a school garden while providing hands-on learning in math, social studies, language arts, science, and health. Enriched with many a side bar and links to OSU publications. <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/22858/em9032.pdf>

GardenSmart Oregon, a guide to non-invasive plants describes potential invasive plant species and their ecologically wise substitutes. Formerly published by OSU as EC 1620, it now has a new URL to reflect a different publisher. See it at <http://oregoninvasiveshotline.org>

Planted your bulbs yet?

If you still have some spring-flowering bulbs stashed in the fridge, garage or shed, it's time to get them planted. Yes, they'll still bloom if you procrastinate even longer but the catch is this – many will have very short stems.

'Tis the season for pantry pests

Now that folks are hauling out the pantry staples required for favorite holiday baked goods, many a pantry pest will surface in products purchased long ago and stashed for later use. So when clients tell you small things are taking a stroll in their rice, flour, or whatever, first consider the most common critters listed in the PNW Insect Management Handbook. Determine if the specimens at hand match up with any of those before you launch an internet search for some exotic critter. For the most part, the pantry pests are the same worldwide.

Among the most common pantry bedfellows brought to the MG offices year-round are these:

- Pantry moths are soft-bodied both as larvae and adults. While feeding, larvae often web particles into wads. Adults fly during the day, typically in the vicinity of the stored product. But when populations multiply, moths can be "everywhere." Most common is the Indian meal moth (*Plodia interpunctella*), less common is the Mediterranean moth (*Anagasta kueiella*) and rarely, the Angoumois moth (*Sitotroga cerealella*). It doesn't matter which particular moth it is because management is the same: Find and destroy the infested foods,

thoroughly clean the storage area, then secure all perishable goods in rigid containers with tight lids.

- Pantry beetles and weevils are hard-bodied as adults but soft during the larval stage. Drugstore beetles (*Stegobium panicum*) are most commonly seen in our offices, occasionally red flour beetles or rice weevils. And just as is true for pantry moths, it doesn't matter which beetle or weevil it is because management is the same: Find and destroy the infested foods, thoroughly clean the storage area, then secure all perishable goods in rigid containers with tight lids.

Preserving your harvests

If you need up-to-date guidelines to safely preserve your harvest, be that canning, freezing, pickling, drying, or to make a special salsa, OSU recommends you visit the National Center for Home Food Preservation at <http://nchfp.uga.edu/search.html>.

Cold weather and protecting plants

Protecting plants against frost involves a number of factors, among them the plants' sensitivity to cold; if grown in a pot or the ground; and the severity and duration of the frost.

At the close of the season, any vegetables that require considerable warmth, can be damaged if temperatures drop below 50°F, among them basil, tomatoes, cucumbers and squash. In contrast, many fall and winter vegetables will do fine with mild (minimum 28°F) and/or brief frosts. Lower temperatures may kill sensitive plants even if protected. (Figs 2 and 3)



Fig 2: Frost damage on sasanqua camellia; December 2010.



Fig 3: Frost damage on Daphne; December 2010.

Whenever you need to protect plants from cold, these tactics are useful:

- In an emergency, drape plants with whatever breathable thing is at hand, among them large towels; old draperies, bed spreads, or blankets; commercial row cover; mounded straw or evergreen boughs, or cover with a cardboard box.
- Don't use plastic sheeting unless a fabric or other cover (see above) is between the plastic and the plant. Leaves and stems that touch plastic will freeze.
- Move container plants to a sheltered site such as adjacent to the house and under the eaves; that may be sufficient during a brief or mild frost. A shed or garage will be better during colder episodes.

Protect heavy containers where they stand with whatever materials you have on hand; roots are more sensitive than top growth.

- To avoid cooking your plants the next day if temperatures rise substantially the next day, remove all covers.
- Make certain the soil is thoroughly moist before temperatures drop.
- If a plant is frosted, you might be able to salvage most or all of it by hosing it off before sunlight strikes the leaves. (Hint: This works only when the hose isn't frozen. Don't bother asking how I know that!)
- Depending upon what's in your garden, you may find "Help perennial vegetables survive the winter" useful -

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/node/1073>

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.

Author: [Judy Scott](#)

Source: Pat Patterson

Make holiday decorations from plants in your garden

MCMINNVILLE, Ore.— Look no further than your garden if you'd like to make your own holiday decorations. Intertwined organic materials such as grapevines, evergreen boughs and berries make natural-looking wreaths, swags, garlands and centerpieces.

Linda McMahan, an Oregon State University horticulturist, uses grapevines twisted to wreath shape as the backbone of a garland.

“Boughs of evergreen foliage can provide the bulk of the material,” she said. “Branches of conifers such as cedar or fir or broad-leafed evergreens like rhododendrons and camellias can provide most of the bulk.”

Thin, flexible floral wire helps bind small bundles to build wreaths. You can attach the bundles to a wreath backing or bind materials together to form a swag. A mix of two or more kinds of greens may make the arrangement more attractive, McMahan said.

“Try the bluish foliage of conifers such as juniper or blue spruce, or mix several textures together, such as a conifer and a broad-leaf evergreen,” McMahan suggested. “Including leaves (fronds) of evergreen ferns can add interest and texture. The native sword fern has long elegant evergreen leaves that would be long-lasting in any arrangement.”

Gardens also are great places to find embellishments for holiday decorations. Clusters of colorful berries make good accents. Try blue juniper berries or a sprig from a native snowberry. Other accents are fallen cones and interesting seed pods or fruits.

Embellish with small clusters of moss or lichen that have fallen from a tree, or a cluster of leaves that still have their fall color. Bare twigs pruned from garden shrubs could also be used. If you plan ahead you can have dried summer flowers such as lavender or pearly everlasting to add as accents.

For finishing touches, use colorful ribbons, clusters of fragrant cinnamon sticks, or traditional holiday decoration in your creations. Many web sources provide detailed “how-to” instructions.

Author: Judy Scott

Source: Linda McMahan



Home-made swag with Doug fir, camellia branches, sedum, sword fern, snowberry honeysuckle, and more. (Photo by Linda McMahan)

Shred autumn leaves for compost piles and garden beds

CORVALLIS, Ore.—Leaves, leaves everywhere, and what can you do with them all? Most make a great addition to the compost pile because they are nitrogen poor but rich in minerals. But other leaves, including oak, walnut and laurel, are especially slow to break down.

A warning: Oak and walnut leaves contain materials that affect the growth of several other plants. Use these leaves as mulches or add small amounts to the compost pile over the winter.

The solution to too many leaves is fairly simple. Fallen leaves will break down much more quickly if you chop them into tinier pieces, said Ross Penhallegon, horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

An easy way to shred leaves into smaller pieces even if you don't have a chipper-shredder, is to run over them with a mulching lawn mower with a collecting bag. Or shred them with the mower and rake them.

If you have huge trees and a lot of leaves, store shredded leaves in garbage bags or cans. Shredded leaves have many uses in the yard and garden.

"Layer shredded leaves into your compost pile to add air and a carbon source to the pile. This is especially handy in the winter, as compost tends to get matted down and suffers from a shortage of bulk brown materials," Penhallegon said.

Place shredded leaves in the flowerbeds as mulch. They are a great source of organic matter for the soil and help protect flower bulbs and perennials from hard winter freezes.

Don't wait too long. It's easier to rake, shred or grind dry leaves than sodden matted ones.

Be sure to cover the compost pile to keep it from becoming too soggy.

Author: Judy Scott

Source: Ross Penhallegon



An easy way to shred leaves is to run over them with a mulching lawn mower with a collecting bag.
(Photo from iStockphoto.com)

Wild strawberry plants can cover a lot of ground

CORVALLIS, Ore.—If you're looking for a groundcover that is native to Oregon and doesn't require much water, three native wild strawberries are available. You might be able to look no further than your property to find them.

"If you are lucky enough to have wild strawberries on your property you can transplant them to where you need them," said Linda McMahan, Oregon State University Extension horticulturist. "Make sure to water them after transplanting."

All three are host plants for native butterflies, and the berries provide food for wildlife.

"Perhaps the best known is the beach or coast strawberry, *Fragaria chiloensis*," McMahan said. This rapid spreader is native to coastal regions of the Pacific Northwest and Chile. The leaves are dark green and shiny and the above-ground runners (stolons) are red and help spread the plant.



Fragaria chiloensis. Coast strawberry.
(photo by Linda McMahan)

The coast strawberry performs well in full sun and works well to cover a large area. It's readily available commercially or from native plants growers. Since it is such a good spreader it may need to be cut back from hardscapes such as sidewalks. On softer paths, foot traffic often will keep it in check. The berries are edible, but not really palatable.

"Another sun-loving strawberry is the Virginia wild strawberry *Fragaria virginiana*" McMahan said. "At least one of the sub-species is native to the Willamette Valley, although the species itself is native to most of the U.S. To find the best locally adapted kinds, purchase plants from a native plant nursery or from another documented source."

Not quite as vigorous or aggressive as the coast strawberry, the Virginia wild strawberry has lighter green leaves and its berries are edible and tasty, but small.

The third native is the woodland strawberry, *Fragaria vesca*. As the common name suggests, woodland strawberry does well in the shade. The leaves are larger and bluer than the other species. It likes conditions that are slightly moister and does not grow as aggressively. However, it has larger flowers and tasty fruits.

Several subspecies may be purchased locally. "For those interested in other varieties, a nice one with variegated green and white leaves sometimes is available," McMahan said.

Author: Judy Scott

Source: Linda McMahan

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

- Dec 6** Washington County Chapter, 7pm, Speaker Chip Bubl, Columbia County Extension Agent, *"Seed Quality"*
- Dec 6** Class Coordinator Meeting, 9am, Clackamas County Extension Office Annex
- Dec 12** Clackamas County Chapter, 7pm, Speaker Maurice Horn, Joy Creek Nursery, *"Horticultural Case Book: Psychiatric and Medical Disorders in the Garden"*
- Dec 13** Multnomah County Chapter, 6:30pm, Annual winter greens gathering; bring greens/create arrangements

2012 Happy New Year



- Jan 3, 5, 6** New MG classes start
- Jan 3** Washington County Chapter, 7pm, Speaker Alice Doyle of Log House Plants, *"Vegetables in Bloom"*
- Jan 9** Clackamas County Chapter, 7pm *"Birds of Prey"*
- Jan 10** Multnomah County Chapter 7pm, Speaker Lucy Hardiman, garden designer, *"Full Frontal Gardens: Gone the Lawn"*
- Feb 8-12, 2012** The Northwest Flower & Garden Show—Seattle. Washington State Convention Center. Phone 253-756-2121. www.gardenshow.com
- Feb 14** Multnomah County Chapter 7pm, Speaker: Willi Galloway, writer, radio commentator, *"Grow Cook Eat: A food-Lover's Guide to Vegetable Gardening"*, presentation and book signing
- Mar 31** MG Recertification PCC Rock Creek 8:30am—3:30pm
- May 5-6, 2011** Clackamas County Chapter Spring Garden Fair, Canby
- Jul 25,26,27** Mini College on the campus of Willamette University in Salem
- Sep 1-2** American Dahlia Society National Show, Columbia Red Lion Hotel, Portland



MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE

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

**Chapter Meeting 13 Dec. 2011
Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church,
5441 SE Belmont St.**

6:30pm Winter Greens Gathering

Gather with fellow chapter members to share a cup o' cheer and create winter arrangements, wreaths and swags. Bring cuttings from your garden to share (incense cedar is especially welcome—anything with berries, too), plus your own special supplies and tools to build a festive winter creation. Holiday baskets and colorful bowls make great centerpiece bases. Additional evergreens, ribbon and some supplies will be available. Enjoy a sweet treat, warm beverage and conversation with fellow MGs.

*****Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, 6 Dec. 2011 at 5:30 pm at Claudia's – 4026 N.E. Hazelfern.**

*****Coming Next Month January 10, 2012 - 7pm
Lucy Hardiman, principle of Perennial Partners, designer & writer**

Full Frontal Gardens: Gone the Lawn

She will speak on innovative gardening in place of the traditional lawn. Examining how our front gardens impact our immediate surroundings and our planet.

*****Multnomah Chapter Membership Renewal**

It's that time of year... time to renew your membership in the Multnomah County Chapter. Membership for 2012 is still a terrific value at ONLY \$20! **This year we have 3 EASY** membership renewal options: On-line, by Mail or in person. <http://metromastergardeners.org/multnomah/membership/>

DIG IN for another great year as a Multnomah County Chapter Master Gardener and renew today!

***** The Northwest Flower & Garden** show is the kickoff to spring! Ride to Seattle in comfort, enjoy the day strolling through designer gardens, taking in a seminar or two, shopping the marketplace, having lunch in the Food Court. Purchases can be stowed on the bus for the trip home.

Where: At the Washington State Convention Center in Downtown Seattle

When: On February 8, 2012, Wednesday (the Show's opening day)

How: Pick-up at Fred Meyer, Hollywood Store, 3030 NE Weidler Street, Portland. Our bus leaves Portland at 6:00 a.m., arrives in Seattle about 9:00 a.m. Return trip leaves Seattle at 5:00 p.m., arrives in Portland about 9:00 p.m. Tickets include a round-trip on a comfortable, restroom-equipped bus, show ticket, and show program.

Cost: Please send your check for \$65.00 (\$70.00 after Jan. 14th) made out to Multnomah County Master Gardeners, your phone number, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Effa Rowley, 351 NE 74th Ave., Portland, OR 97213. You will receive a confirmation sheet with parking and bus information. Questions? Contact June Davidek at 503-477-8698 or davidekjune@comcast.net

*****GARDENERS' GOODS—SHOP VIA OUR WEBSITE!**
Starting December 1st check out our new Gardeners' Goods webpage @ <http://www.metromastergardeners.org/multnomah/merchandise/>

*****You can purchase some GREAT GIFTS** at our December Chapter meeting and online (T-shirts and vests are only available at the Chapter meeting.)

Atlas® Fit Garden Gloves - the ultimate in comfort and dexterity. \$6.00 a pair or two pairs for \$10.

'Garden Delights' Note-cards

2012 Chinook Books and Mobile Packs for iPod and Android are on sale now!

- **Print book:** \$20 with 450 coupons
- **Mobile pack:** \$10 with 430 coupons
- **Best Buy!** Print book + Mobile pack ONLY \$25

A big juicy tomato proclaiming **Get the Real Dirt. Ask a Master Gardener! Auto-cling stickers** are full color and easily moved. Promote your MG program! \$5.00

Our wonderful, terracotta flowerpot mugs printed with the fitting quote **"Life is simple. Eat, sleep, and garden."** Only a handful of mugs remain! \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

*****Phones in Multnomah County** contact Gloria Bennett (503-775-4005 or dcleopatra@comcast.net)

2011 Officers and Contact Information

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OMGA Alternate – Mary Fiocchi 503-312-6762 maryto@johnscott.com
Grapevine – Lorna Schilling 503-334-5162 lornaschilling@yahoo.com
Chapter Email – multmastergardeners@gmail.com
Chapter Website – <http://www.metromastergardeners.org/multnomah/>



Washington County Chapter Chat

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

Chapter Website: www.wcmga.info

UPCOMING PROGRAMS –

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

“Seed Quality” by Chip Bubl, Columbia County Extension Agent will cover genetic, physical & environmental factors affecting seed quality and best practices for assuring good seed quality for home garden use.

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

“Vegetables in Bloom” by Alice Doyle of Log House Plants will present the latest on growing grafted veggies, including the Mighty Mato and hardworking vegetables that don't quit even when the weather won't cooperate.

MEETING LOCATION & DAY

First Baptist Church 5755 SW Erickson Ave., Beaverton, OR 97005, located between Farmington Rd. & Allen Blvd. The first Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:45 pm.

COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

The WCMGA grants program will provide funds allowing members of our chapter the opportunity to create innovative partnerships and projects. These Projects could involve the use of plants as food, as a benefit to the environment, as tools for education, and as a means of creating beauty. These projects and partnerships will allow our chapter to broaden volunteer opportunities and help to attract new members and retain current members.

The application form is on our web site on the members page under Community Grants Program. It should be filled out by the sponsoring WCMG and e-mailed to Committee Chair Tim Lanfri at tim.lanfri@gmail.com by December 1. Grants will be issued for a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$1,000.

WCMGA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members are reminded that now is the time to renew your membership in the Washington County Master Gardners Association. The dues are \$25.00 annually. Members paying their dues to Lynn Cox, Treasurer by December 15, 2011 will be guaranteed placement in the first 2012 Directory. Dues may be paid in person at the December meeting, by mail or on-line using Pay Pal.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

The Chapter Officers for 2012 will be:

President – Bob Falconer

Vice President – Sandy Japely

Recording Secretary – Diane Allen

Corresponding Secretary—Mary Lidberg

Treasurer – Lynn Cox

OMGA Representative—Charles Neiman

Alternate OMGA Rep – Tim Lanfri

Director 1 – Bill Klug

Director 2 - Karen Brandenburg

Director 3—Marilyn Berti

Director 4 – Paula Rosch

Director 5 – Judy Hale

2012 BUDGET

Members will vote on the Budget at the December meeting.

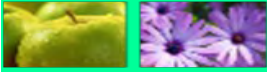
President	Tim Lanfri	503-590-4354
Vice President	Bob Falconer	503-277-6595
Recording Secretary	Deb Kapfer	503-628-6349
Corresponding Secretary	Jackie Keil	503-531-3884
Treasurer	Lynn Cox	503-629-9156
OMGA Rep	Ken Keudell	503-292-6519
Alternate Rep	Joanne DeHaan	503-649-1683
Dir.#1 Business	Bill Klug	503-681-0143
Dir.#2 Program	Vern Vanderzanden	503-357-6109
Dir.#3 Publicity	Marilyn Berti	503-292 8637
Dir.#4 Fundraising	Sandy Japely	503-644-2637
Dir.#5 Chapter Relations	(vacant)	

Submit **Chapter Chat** information and general chapter announcements to **Jackie Keil**, Chapter Chat Editor.

Phone **503-531-3884** or e-mail: jkivkeil4@gmail.com

For address/email changes, contact Alan Strong, e-mail coordinator, info@wcmga.info

Chapter Website: www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org



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



December Meeting

Monday, December 12, 2011,
7 p.m.

Milwaukie Center

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

Horticultural Case Book: Psychiatric and Medical Disorders in the Garden

Maurice Horn, Co-Owner, Joy Creek Nursery

Maurice Horn will offer a humorous look at nurseries and their customers in the consumer age. Gardeners, growers, and the media are not exempt in this gentle roast of "the world of gardening." Maurice co-founded Joy Creek Nursery in 1992 after years of being frustrated by an inability to find both the plants he wanted and reliable information about them at local nurseries. What started out as a mail-order nursery soon grew to include retail sales and also garden design and installation. The nursery occupies about seven acres of a forty-acre farm.

January Meeting

Monday, January 9, 2012, 7 p.m.

Birds of Prey, Oregon Zoo

Join us as a feathered friend and his handler from the Oregon Zoo will speak to us about the importance of birds of prey in a sustainable landscape.

Golden Trowel Award

Mary Butler, Rob Folse, Barbara Markwell, and Pam Garten are recipients of this special award for their hands-on leadership at the Extra Row garden.

This team transformed the garden in the past two years, expanding its size, food production, soil fertility, and educational message. Their tireless work benefited many food bank recipients in our community and inspires us all. Thank you, Mary, Rob, Barbara, and Pam for making a difference in so many lives.

2011 in Review

Our chapter accomplished much in 2011. Highlights included:

Spring Garden Fair, 4/30 & 5/1, brought together 207 vendors and 16,252 shoppers. During that weekend, we made 1,215 educational contacts through MG clinic, 10-Minute University™ classes, and soil pH testing. The event generated funds to sustain our work in support of the OSU Master Gardener program.

Educational Outreach included events, 10-Minute University™ classes, and soil pH testing. **Garden Discovery Day, 3/12**, helped clients jump-start the gardening season, and we made 536 educational contacts. **Secrets of the Tomato Masters workshop, 4/23**, enlightened 79 clients with tips for growing tomatoes. **Fall into Gardening** debuted on **10/8**, and we made 216 educational contacts.

Soil pH testing took place at Garden Discovery Day, Spring Garden Fair, and

Fall into Gardening. The team tested 734 soil samples and made 348 educational contacts as MGs explained test results and potential remedies.

Fifty-one **10-Minute University™** classes in the Metro region continued to inform and delight through 1,516 educational contacts. Clackamas Cable Access made videos for cable programming, posting them on the Internet (<http://vimeo.com/channels/ccgc>). This year's new topics were *Going Organic in the Vegetable Garden*, *Sheet Mulching*, and *Fall Garden Maintenance*. We now offer 27 handouts.

Community Service: Extra Row Garden grew 19 varieties of vegetables and donated 1,500 pounds of fresh harvest to nine food banks. Twenty volunteers put in a total of 639 hours. A small but dedicated team continued to maintain the **Oregon Trail Pioneer Garden** and educated many visitors. As stipulated in our annual agreement with the Milwaukie Center, the Chapter helped to coordinate its community garden and rose garden.

Gray Thompson Community Projects Grant awarded two grants to help Friends of Brookside in Lake Oswego restore a native plant community and McIver State Park in Estacada add native plants for educational programming.

Clackamas Community College Horticultural Scholarship began in 1990 and continued for the 2011-2012 school year as the Chapter awarded full tuition scholarships to two students. As of 12/31/2011, our scholarship endowment had a balance of \$160,136.

President · Sherry Sheng: 503-655-1822 – Vice President · Frank Wille: 503-342-6699

Secretary · Darlene Reimer: 503-698-4648

Advisory Board · Buzz Oerding: 503-233-6974

OMGA Rep · Nikki Mantei: 503-577-4494

Treasurer · David Smith: 503-656-4613

Advisory Board · John Hill: 503-653-9524

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

Asst. Treasurer · Penny Bowman: 503-908-0900

Advisory Board · Joby Duggan: 503-632-2165

Newsletter · Kathy Johnson: 503-794-3959

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

DECEMBER 2011 MG NEWSLETTER

December 2011

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>