

Metro Master Gardener™ News

February 2009



**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.

Program Staff

Weston Miller- Horticulture Faculty

weston.miller@oregonstate.edu

(503) 650-3124

Jordis Yost- Program Assistant

jordis.yost@oregonstate.edu

(503) 650-3118

Newsletter Volunteers

Ellen Hanley- Volunteer Editor

ellenpoppy@aol.com

Heidi Nichols- Proof Reader

heidinichols@comcast.net

Mailing Address

Clackamas County Extension Service
200 Warner-Milne Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045



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Dear Metro Master Gardeners-

The 2009 Master Gardener training is off to a great start! The new trainees are curious and insightful. We are receiving substantial support from the class coordinators, MG veterans, and new trainees to make the training possible. THANK YOU! for your ongoing support of the Master Gardener training and volunteer program. We appreciate your time, energy, enthusiasm, and passion for the Master Gardener program. YOU are the reason we have such an incredible reputation as a first-class educational organization.

Here are a couple of details about the new training that you should know about:

- The new trainees are participating in 66 hours of training complimented by a 66-hour "internship." This change in language reflects our mission as an educational organization, since much additional learning occurs as participants use our many resources to assist clients.
- Of the 66 hours of internship that is required for new trainees, we recommend that
 - 33 hours are spent at telephone and remote plant clinics.
 - 6 hours are spent in hands-on gardening at any of our demonstration gardens
 - Clackamas- End of Oregon Trail Museum, Stringfield Demo Garden
 - Multnomah- MG Demo Garden at the Learning Gardens Lab
 - Washington- MG Demo Garden at the Fairplex.
 - The remaining hours can be spent in the above activities or in support roles and attending chapter meetings, helping with school gardens, working with other garden-based educational organizations, etc.

- The new trainees will not receive the official OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Volunteer name badge until they complete the 66 hour internship. They will use temporary name badges during the first year of volunteer service.



(Please note that these changes have been instigated and promoted by our Metro Master Gardener Advisory Council. Thus, dedicated MGs are helping to direct the program to strengthen our capacity as an educational organization and as a service organization).

As the general public begins to think about plants again this spring and summer, we will likely see many, many problems related to the deep snow and cold temperatures of December. Thus, I highly recommend that you study up on the signs of winter damage in plants so that you will be prepared. Please review Jean Natter's article in the January 09 Newsletter. Also, the OSU Plant Clinic's monthly highlights has some good information and pictures of various plant problems including winter injury (look at the highlights for winter months):

http://www.science.oregonstate.edu/bpp/Plant_Clinic/year.htm. A more detailed OSU resource can be found at:

http://ipmnet.org/plant-disease/articles.cfm?article_id=11.

Lastly- Please save April 11, 2009 for our spring Master Gardener Continuing Education training. It will likely be held at PCC Rock Creek. We will keep you posted as the schedule emerges.

See you at the training! And be well,

Weston

WELCOME 2009 TRAINEES

We want to welcome the 175 new OSU Master Gardener trainees that have started their training and are the Class of 2009. You will be joining 815 active MGs in the Metro area and together you make up one of the strongest programs in the country. We are proud to have all of you in our numbers and expect that you will bring many new talents to a wonderful group of dedicated gardeners!

You will not be asked to be *educators* as part of your intern time until you are finished with your training and we can pair you up with an MG who has at least one year experience. But there are times when we offer some hands-on 'support' activities that you can participate in before you finish training. There will be a note indicating which opportunities can include new trainees so that you can decide how to plan.

So, for now, read the newsletter for information about your program, gardening tips, chapter news and remember to use it as a resource for what's being offered. We look forward to getting to know each of you better as the classes progress.

FEBRUARY OPPORTUNITIES

This month, the **Yard, Garden, and Patio Show** on Feb 27 – Mar 1 at the Convention Center is a great place to pick up some volunteer hours. We have several things to sign up for with different coordinators and contact numbers.

- **The MG clinic** – This clinic is for *veterans* and is always a popular place to be! Julie Biddle is coordinating this and may already have a full schedule. **Julie Biddle 503-286-6591**
- **Speaker introduction** – This opportunity can be for new trainees or veterans. MGs introduce the many speakers who give presentations at the show. We need you to have a brief training on how to work the lights in the room and for you to make yourself available for a three hour time slot. Call Laura Eyer for questions or to get on the schedule. **Laura Eyer 503-982-3522**
- **Display Garden Set-up** – For a number of years now, the YGP Show has used MG volunteers to help set up several of the beautiful display gardens. We are only going to be doing set-up on one day this year...Thursday, Feb. 28th from 9 am to 6pm. Both new trainees and veterans help with this project. Call or email Jordis.

- **Cashiering** (and helpers) at the Remarkable Green Market plant sale during the show. The show gives the MG program a percentage of the sales, so we really work hard at making this activity successful. New trainees and veterans can sign up for this and training will be on-site before your shift. Shifts will be Friday – Saturday 10 – 2 or 2 - 6 or 6 - 9. Sunday 10 - 2 or 2 - 6. There will be both cashiers and helpers. Cashiers ring up purchases and take payments. Helpers pull tags and help cashiers. This is really fun and you get to see some great plant material! Call or email Jordis.

Portland Home and Garden Show February 18 – 22 at the Expo Center. We are staffing a clinic at this show this year partly because the dates are different from the YGP Show and it is possible to do both. The other reason is it is fun and we have a great time doing the Fall Home and Garden Show with the same organizers. We will pair up with MGs from Clark County and WSU. If you are a *veteran* and want to take in this show and spend a few hours talking to gardeners, contact **Julie Biddle 503-286-6591**. Julie is also scheduling the YGP Show so be sure to let her know which venue you are interested in.

RESOURCE FAIR DATES

During the 2009 MG training, we will offer 2 volunteer resource (job fair) dates. This is different from the previous years, so coordinators presenting projects and recruits...please note.

- February 3, 5 and 6. New trainees will hear about staffing the hotline phones and educational clinics. We will show some short videos on what to expect and give time to coordinators of phones, farmers' market clinics, Rose Garden Clinic and tours, Oregon Zoo and others to tell about their clinic and answer questions.
- March 3, 5 and 6. Trainees will learn about demo gardens, Spring Garden Fair, 1860's Heritage Garden, End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Oregon Food Bank, Pittock Mansion, garden tours and other support and hands-on activities. Coordinators attending will have plenty of time to present their projects and answer questions.

So that the new trainees who are not familiar with the differences between Educational Outreach and Support hours, we are separating the presentation on volunteer activities. Please help us keep that separation timing and make volunteer offerings that are phone or clinic specific in February and support / hands-on opportunities in March.



2009 MG Marching Unit

For only one night each year the OSU Master Gardener Marching Unit and Drill Team (we carry shrub rakes) emerge from hibernation to strut their stuff through the streets of downtown Portland during the annual Starlight Parade. Entrants come costumed as a favorite insect, plant or in your finest gardening togs. It's worth 6 hours of hilarious payback time, practice is on-site and carpooling is arranged. Hours are about 6 to 10 pm on Saturday, May 30th, 2009. We're also looking for a few MGs to help us out with planning activities, etc. We've garnered awards in 2006 and 2008 and this year we're aiming for the first ever "Going Green" category. Do Master Gardeners know anything about GREEN?

For questions or to sign up please contact Stephanie Scott at (503)292-2198 (s.r.scott@comcast.net) or Bob Blaedel at (503)658-7450 (machinewayback@hotmail.com)

SPRING ROSE PRUNING DEMONSTRATION & WORKSHOP

The OSU Extension Service Washington County Chapter Master Gardeners will conduct their annual rose pruning demonstration and workshop for home gardeners from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday March 7. This rose pruning learning session is free, open to the public, and will be held in their landscape garden at the Capital Center 18640 NW Walker Road in Beaverton. No advance registration required. Optional - bring pruning tools and gloves for active hands on participation. This landscape garden is at the front of the Capital Center Complex building south side entrance D1. The Capital Center Complex is on the corner of 185th & Walker Road. Access to the driveway for the parking lot on the south side of the Capital Center Complex is at the stoplight signal off 185th (just south of Walker Road and also access to Parr Lumber). Call 503-821-1150 during office hours for details.

Upcoming volunteer opportunities at Oregon Food Bank's Learning Gardens

Oregon Food Bank will host Fruit Tree Pruning Parties in order to keep our fruit trees and berry plants healthy and productive for the 2009 season. We will provide instruction and handouts but it would be great to have leadership from Master Gardeners for volunteers who are newer to pruning. The Hillsboro pruning party will be Wednesday, February 4th from 9-noon. The NE Portland pruning party will be Saturday, February 7th from 9-noon. If you are interested in attending one of these pruning parties or becoming an Orchard Steward to help OFB take care of the trees throughout the season, please contact Lisa Waugh at lwaugh@oregonfoodbank.org or 503-439-6510 x 314.

Oregon Food Bank is also currently recruiting new volunteers to teach beginning gardening workshops through the *Seed to Supper* program. The five weeks series is offered to low-income individuals and groups in the fall and spring. Opportunities to teach are available in Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas, and Clark (WA) counties. OFB will provide a thorough training and slides, outlines and handouts for each topic. **The next options for trainings are Tuesday, February 24th from 6:30-9:00 pm or Saturday, February 28th from 9:30-noon.** For more information or to sign up for our next training, please contact Lisa Waugh.

Lisa Waugh
Learning Gardens Volunteer Coordinator
Oregon Food Bank
503-439-6510 x314

www.oregonfoodbank.org...

because no one should be hungry.

2009 Metro Program MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER LOG SHEET
 NAME _____ PHONE _____ COUNTY _____
 YR. OF FIRST TRAINING _____

Date	Project or Activity Description and Location	Educational Outreach # of hours	Support / Chapter # of hours	Your Own Cont. Education (does not count as volunteer hrs)
Sub-total				
Total Hours (include hours from back page)-----				

Date	Project or Activity Description / Location	Educational O.R.	Support / Chapters	Your Cont Ed
Sub-total hours (add to total on front page)				

Print form, fill out and mail to: MG Volunteer Hours, 200 Warner Milne Rd, Oregon City OR 97045

Natter's Notes

Something different: Fleas & Fungus

Jean R. Natter

Snowfleas are small, mere specks ranging in size from 1/32" to about 1/8" long. But en masse, they're impressive. Some reports state the snow appears to be covered with jumping dirt.

No, these aren't the blood-feeding sort of fleas which infest dogs and cats. These are springtails which hang out on the surface of snow, and sometimes are so numerous that they "paint" the snow surface black, blue or purple, the color depending upon which kind of springtail they are.

But the snowflea story acquired a twist when, during mid-January, a Washington County MG brought in many, very small, golden-yellow critters she found on the snow at her place.

The MG said there were lots of them on the snow; they were multiplying rapidly; and, worse yet, they were coming indoors by the 100s, perhaps 1000s.

Aha! That sounds just like snowfleas! But these springtails were a golden-yellow rather than the quite common dark colors. A close look with a hand lens, followed by a bit of research, verified that, yes, they were snowfleas. Yikes! "Don't eat yellow snow" takes on an entirely new meaning.

Springtails, depending upon which resource you use, are arthropods classified as either insects in the class Insecta, the order Collembola; or in the class Entognatha, order Collembola, this because they're always wingless and are ametabolous, the latter term referring to having slight or no metamorphosis. (Ha! Try to work that that into your next conversation.)

Springtails molt even after they're adults, perhaps 50 times during their lifetime. They live in moist, high-organic soil while feeding on mold, bacteria, other soil microbes, and decaying organic material.

Every year, one or several clients bring large quantities of the dark-colored springtails

to our MG offices. Once the sample was a half-filled, self-locking, quart-size plastic bag. The history is always that the creatures are extremely numerous, that they jump, and horror of horrors, multitudes are coming indoors. According to what I found, these dark-colored fellows are a species of *Achorutes*.

Apparently, the genus name was changed some time ago to *Hypogastrura*. I emailed the OSU Extension Entomologist/Instructor with various questions about these golden springtails, also the dark ones, but haven't yet received a response; he may be in the midst of training new MGs.

As near as I can discover, golden springtails are unusual. I found only several, brief references while researching the internet and various books. A fact sheet from Cornell University reported that "In British Columbia there is a minute yellow springtail that is said to



Figure 1: Golden snowfleas

cover the snow with a 'carpet of gold.'"

So, how cool is that? A local MG has something unusual! (Don't know if she's all that impressed, though. She's been quite busy vacuuming the myriad of little golden guys marching indoors.)

You'll find more information about snowfleas in the Cornell fact sheet I mentioned earlier. It's at <http://www.entomology.cornell.edu/public/IthacaCampus/ExtOutreach/DiagnosticLab/Factsheets/SnowFleas.html>. And look at the instructional site from Island Creek Elementary

School, Fairfax County, VA, is at http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/snow_flea.htm.

Then, too, *Garden Insects* (W. Cranshaw; pages 504-505; in each MG office) has color photos and brief text about springtails, but not the gold species.

Sometimes, things aren't what they first appear to be. Such was the instance in late January when a Clackamas County MG brought in a twig from her *Cistus*. Seems that several of her shrubs had small, tan flattened disks stuck to the twigs and leaf surfaces whereas the *Cistus* across the way were fine.

At first look, the small structures fit the description of scale insects – diameter an 1/8-inch or less and could be lifted with a fingernail.

But the facts that didn't fit were several.

First, the surface was matte rather than glossy or slick. Second, they required considerable effort to lift with a fingernail – in other words, they were stuck extremely tightly. Finally, rather than the moist flattened body of a scale on the underside, one saw a central circular opening from which extended fine, short, dry, thread-like strands.

My research led me to Tom Volk's page at the University of Wisconsin, where he describes a petite fungus with the common name cannonball fungus, technical name *Sphaerobolus*, first described in 1729. (The site is http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms_fungi/jul2005.html.)

Although that diagnosis was close, it wasn't correct. (sigh) After I emailed the history and an image to the OSU Plant Clinic, the Diagnostician replied that it's likely to be a bird's nest fungus, *the genus Cyathus*. (More info is on another of Volk's pages, http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms_fungi/may2006.html.)

Hmm. Now I'm really curious. I wonder what the MG found on her mulch.



Figure 2: Fungus, not scale, on *Cistus* leaf

Update to last month's newsletter article about Cold Damage to Plants:

As I write this during mid-January, overnight temperatures at my place are continuing in the low 20s, an occurrence which

may well damage plants unscathed by the previous Arctic blast.

You'd be wise to wait before you prune or cut back anything, with the exception of removing broken branches. And recall that wound sealer isn't needed after pruning woody plants. Sealers help retain just enough moisture to set up conditions appropriate for wood rotting fungi. It's far better to allow the woody plant to set up its own internal chemical barriers.

Then, too, realize that the "Great Flax Meltdown" following the recent cold is precisely what should be expected from plants that are marginally hardy in our region. We gardeners can push the limits of our gardening zone all we want but, sooner or later nature is likely to stop us short if we're not paying attention. The unfortunate part is that less experienced gardeners assume flax and other similar plants are well adapted, able to withstand whatever comes, because they're in so many gardens.

Seems to me that gardeners will be able to stimulate the economy come spring. Let's go shopping.

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

Feb 5	Washington County Chapter – Reed College Canyon Restoration Project – Zachariah Perry
Feb 7	Home Orchard Society Pruning Class – Clackamas Community College; 9AM- Noon
Feb 7	Berry pruning w/Dr. Bernadine Strik, 9AM-1PM at the Oregon Garden
Feb 9	Clackamas County Chapter – Maurice Horn – Great Plant Picks
Feb 10	Multnomah County Chapter, Amy Whitworth, Paln-it Earth, designed, Residential Rain Gardens
Feb 14	Clackamas Chapter Mason Bee Project – Clackamas Community College
Feb 18-22	Northwest Flower and Garden Show – Seattle
Feb 21	Home Orchard Society Grafting Class – Clackamas Community College; 9AM– 2PM
Feb 21	Clackamas Chapter Pruning Clinic – Collier Farm
Feb 18-22	Portland Home and Garden Show – Portland Expo Center
Feb 27–Mar 1	Yard, Garden & Patio Show – Portland Convention Center
March 5	Washington County-Art in the Garden – Nancy Goldman, Hardy Plant Society
March 7	Home Orchard Society Scion Exchange – Alder Creek Middle School, Milwaukie
March 10	Multnomah County Chapter, Maurice Horn, Joy Creek Nursery Co-owner
March 22-26	International Master Gardener Conference – Las Vegas, NV
March 28	Clackamas Chapter Soil pH testing – Milwaukee Center
March 29	Hardy Plant Society Annual Meeting-Sean Hogan speaking on his upcoming book Trees For All Seasons: Broad leaved evergreens for temperate climates.
Apr 3-4	Spring Bareroot Fruit Tree Sale – One Green World
Apr 4	Garden Palooza Plant Sale – Fir Point Farms, Canby
April 11	Master Gardener Recertification 8:30 am – 3:30 pm- PCC Rock Creek
Apr 10-12	Hardy Plant Society Spring Sale, Portland Expo Center
Apr 18	Earth day Celebration – Oregon Garden, Silverton
May 30	Hardy Plant Society Spring meeting-Dan Hinkley speaking on his newest book Shrubs and Vines for the Explorer's Garden

Lace Bug BY MG Margaret Bayne

One of the samples we had on the 'quiz' at recertification training was from an azalea branch in my front yard. Many MGs thought the damage was caused by spider mites. The damage was actually from a Lace Bug, *Stephanitis* spp. There is now some confusion about which species was on my azalea.

The Rhododendron lace bug, *Stephanitis rhododendri* has been found here in Oregon. But, according to Dr. James Young, Entomologist at OSU, he cannot find any confirmed records of the Azalea lace bug, *S. pyrioides* being collected in Oregon. These two species are known to be very host specific and, according to the PNW Insect Management Handbook, the Rhododendron lace bug is not found on Azaleas. So at this point I am not sure which species was on my plant!

Dr. Young stated that with an adult it is fairly easy to tell the species apart. The *Stephanitis pyrioides* has 2 (usually fairly pale) horizontal stripes while the *Stephanitis rhododendri* has only a single stripe positioned near the head with a very pale brown blotch $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down on the wing. So next year when I find some I will check them out with my hand lens. So let's just say for now that my plant has Lace bugs!

The following information will be specific about the Rhododendron lace bug, *Stephanitis rhododendri* since we *know* for sure it's here in Oregon.

The stippling damage (whitish spots) seen on the quiz sample's leaf surface resembled spider mite damage, but when the leaf was turned over you could see the hard, dark, varnish-like fecal droppings on underside. There were also live adults and nymphs present as well as some cast skins. Lace bugs are small, delicate insects named for the transparent, lacelike texture of the adult's wings. Adults are 1/8 to 1/4" long, with lacy wings held flat on the back and can fly. They are somewhat rectangular in outline. The nymphs are oval and color-less at birth, but soon turn black and spiny. Nymphs do not have wings.

Lace bugs overwinter in the egg stage. The eggs are laid in the midrib of the underside of leaves. The female coats the eggs with a resin-like fecal matter. Eggs hatch in late May or early June. There is probably one generation per year in Oregon.

Lace bugs pierce the leaf epidermis with their beaks and suck the cellular *sap* causing a splotched or stippled appearance on the upper sides of leaves. When the damage is severe the leaves can almost look white. This is from the removal of chlorophyll. The insects weaken plants by limiting photosynthesis and energy-storing capabilities by making the leaves that would have remained on the plant for several seasons useless.

Damage typically appears first on older leaves and then appears later on new growth. Damage is usually apparent by early to mid-July. Plants may die if injury continues for several years and if the plant is also under environmental stress. Plants are more susceptible to lace bugs if planted in full sun and subject to drought stress. In fact, azaleas planted in direct afternoon sun are approximately twice as likely to be infested by lace bugs as plants growing in the shade. In large plantings of several cultivars, it is common to see certain plants more susceptible to lace bug damage than others. They can also feed on Andromeda, laurel, pyracantha and rhododendron.

Lady beetles, lacewings and other predacious insects and spiders feed on lace bugs but may not provide adequate control, especially if the plant was already in stress. Keep plants watered during dry periods and mulched to conserve water are good practices to reduce plant stress. Consider relocating the plant to a shadier location if it is in full sun. Hand removal of adults and nymphs on a regular basis will limit the amount of visible damage. There are chemical control measures that can be used in late spring when young nymphs appear but it is difficult to control with one application. Refer to the PNW Insect Management Handbook for more management and control information. Sources: Dr. James Young, OSU Entomologist, Robin Rosetta, OSU PNW Nursery IPM

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/lacebugsonoemleria.htm>; PNW Insect Management Handbook online, <http://pnwpest.org/pnw/insects>; U of Kentucky, Plant Bugs and Lacebugs, <http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef419.asp>; U of Maryland, http://www.hgic.umd.edu/media/documents/publications/lace_bugs.pdf; Morris Arboretum/Penn State Plant Clinic: Lacebugs, <http://www.upenn.edu/paflora/plantclinic/lacebugs.htm>; Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet: Lacebugs, <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2150.html>; Rutgers Cooperative Extension: Lacebugs: Lifecycle, Monitoring, and Pest Management in New Jersey, <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS783>; Photos: Ken Gray Image Collection, OSU



Adult Lace bug on host plant (note the dark, round fecal droppings)



Leaves showing damage



Eggs on host plant

Young immatures shown on damaged leaves





Clackamas County Chatter



February 2009 A chapter newsletter for the Oregon Master Gardener Association in cooperation with OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

February Chapter Meeting Monday, February 9 Milwaukie Center 7:00 p.m.

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie
Great Plant Picks

Know a list of plants that are hardy, long lived, vigorous and easy to grow; adapt to a variety of soil and fertility conditions; do not need excessive watering and are not invasive?

Which perennials do not require staking, continuous deadheading, or frequent division; trees and shrubs that require little pruning; and stable variegated plants?

Maurice Horn, co-owner of Joy Creek Nursery and legendary plantsman will tell us about the Great Plant Picks program and how gardeners may benefit from this tool.

March Preview

Making More Plants

Elizabeth Howley, Department Chair of CCC Horticulture Program, will show us how to propagate from seeds or cuttings. Topics include how to save and plant seeds as well as best time to take cuttings and tools needed.

February Events



Mason Bee Workshop

February 14 10-12
Clackamas Comm.
College #133

Learn about Mason

Bees' life cycle, housing needs, and ecological significance. Make bee houses. Pre-registration is required: Contact Pat Smith or Paul Miken.

Pruning Workshop

February 21 10-12:30
Collier Farm

Demonstration and hands-on experience pruning grapes, blueberries, fruit trees, and ornamental plants. Pre-registration is required: Contact Jane Collier

Upcoming

Potluck to Welcome New Master Gardeners

March 9 6-7
Milwaukie Center

Soil pH Testing 10-Minute University

- Growing Vegetables and Fruits
 - Gardening Tips for Spring
- March 28 10-12
Milwaukie Center

Tool Sharpening Returns

The "Sharpening4U" folks will return to the February meeting starting at 5:30.

Hand Clippers	\$2
Grass Shears	\$4
Hedge Clippers	\$6
Axes	\$6
Mower Blades	\$6
Knives	\$3-\$7
Scissors	\$2-\$9
Push mowers	\$35 & up

Sharpening will also be available for shovels, spades, and edger blades. For more information, contact Harmonie Medlin or Jesse Bennett at 503-962-0574.

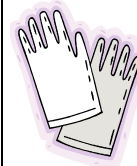
January Green Glove Award went to

JANET WEBER

for a terrific job organizing the used book sale and serving as clinic coordinator for the

Oregon City Farmer's Market.

A big THANK YOU Janet!



reminder: if you'd like to host an open garden this year, please contact Dot Carson at 503-638-0913 to get on the calendar.

Clackamas County Chapter Officers

President	Bill Bradley	503-624-8435	Advisory Board	John Hill	503-653-9524
Vice President	Rick Mishaga	503-557-4491		Dale Eggers	503-557-3152
Secretary	Cheryl Borden	503-723-4257		Martha Waldemar	503-698-2519
Treasurer	Mary Butler	503-632-1532	Newsletter	Holly Pederson	503-701-5816
Asst. Treasurer	Trudy O'Donnell	503-636-1697	Websites	http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/	
OMGA Rep	Denise Dwan	503-632-3035		http://www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org/	
OMGA Alternate Rep	Nikki Mantei	503 577-4494			



Washington County Chapter Chat

Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with

OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

Chapter Website: www.WCMGA.info

UPCOMING PROGRAMS –

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SOCIAL GATHERING at 6:30 pm

Feb. 5th, 6:45 p.m. Chapter Meeting: *“Reed College Canyon Restoration Project”* Zachariah Perry, Grounds Department, Reed College

March 5th, 6:45 p.m. Chapter Meeting: *“Art in the Garden”* – Nancy Goldman, Hardy Plant Society

Presentations are from 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. at the CAPITAL Center, 18640 NW Walker Rd (185th & Walker Rd), Rm 1411. The public is welcome.

ROSE PRUNING DEMO & WORKSHOP

Saturday March 7th Rose pruning demo and workshop from **10 a.m. to noon**. This session is free, open to the public and will be held in the Master Gardeners Landscape Garden at the CAPITAL Center. Orientation to CAPITAL Center Landscape Garden **March 26th at 9 a.m.** Workdays beginning in March – 2nd & 4th Thursday every month from 9 a.m. to noon. All interns and Vets welcome. ?? call Verleen Fletcher (503) 643-9543

PLANT SALE RAFFLE APRIL 25TH

Last year the raffle was a successful and fun part of the annual plant sale. We could not have done this without your help so I am asking for help again this year in the form of raffle items or cash to purchase items. Some suggestions include yard art, pots, tools, gloves, books, birdhouses etc. See Barb Knopp at the Chapter Mtg. or Contact Barb with your questions or donations email barbknopp@comcast.net or call (503) 641-0429.

Updated Chapter Website

A new short address is available to get to the Washington County Chapter Master Gardener website. It is www.WCMGA.info. Bookmark the URL and checkout the site. The website is being upgraded during January through the efforts of Al Martinez, Tam Martin and Lynn Cox. Soon you will see job descriptions, meeting minutes and expanded coverage of our public events. Comments or suggestions can be sent to Tam Martin (tamm@hammondnet.com) or Lynn Cox (lynn.cox@squared.net).

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

April 2, 2009 “Peonies” – Theresa Sprauer, Brooks Gardens

May 7, 2009 “Heirloom Vegetables”

Michael Stucky, Millennium Farms

June 4, 2009 “New Plants for 2009”

Mary Ludlum, Farmington Gardens

President	Ken Keudell	503-292-6519
Vice President	Lynn Cox	503-629-9156
Recording Secretary	Jackie Keil	503-531-3884
Corresponding Secretary	Gini Lang	503-407-6422
Treasurer	Donna Yount	503-746-6198
OMGA Rep	David Rullman	503-292-1603
Alternate Rep	Jerry Knott	503-292-1939
Dir.#1 Business	Bill Klug	503-681-0143
Dir.#2 Program	Fred Dorr	503-645-1665
Dir.#3 Publicity	Lynn Wagner	503-531-9239
Dir.#4 Fundraising	Anna Stubbs	503-649-9474
Dir.#5 Chapter Relations	Barbara Knopp	503-641-0429
Editor:	Gini Lang	503-407-6422

Submit Chapter Chat Announcements to Gini Lang, Chapter Chat Editor, by the 11th each month. Phone 503-407-6422 or e-mail Gini Lang [lang2044@comcast.net].

Submit general chapter announcements to Cathy Mankus, e-mail coordinator, cathy@cathymankus.com

Chapter Website: www.WCMGA.info



MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE

Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program
4742 SE 39th Ave. Portland, OR 97206

10 February, 2009 Chapter Meeting

Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church
5441 SE Belmont
(Parking on the west side)

6:45pm Gather

6:50 pm - Announcements

7:00 pm - Rain Gardens Amy Whitworth, Owner, Plan-it Earth Design

Take storm water and turn it into a garden design! Learn how, when and where to create rain gardens that are both functional and beautiful while benefiting wildlife and the insect population. Come and learn more! As owner of Plan-it Earth Design Amy has been helping her clients to craft earth friendly gardens for 15 years. She teaches classes at the Berry Botanic Garden and Audubon Society of Portland.

See more @ www.plan-it-earthdesign.com

Upcoming events:

10 March, 2009 Chapter Meeting -

True Grit: My History with ¼-10 Gravel
Maurice Horn, co-owner, Joy Creek Nursery

Next Board Meeting – Tuesday 3 February 2009 - 6:30 pm at Jean Edmison's home – 7606 S.E. Ellis

New Meeting Place - Did you notice the new meeting place name? Mt. Tabor Presbyterian church has agreed to allow us to meet every month at no cost provided we help with some landscaping and are available to answer questions in a clinic at a couple of events per year. We are scheduled to use the building for all our meetings in 2009. This is an exiting partnership. Linda Eggiman has volunteered to plan and shop for plants with the help of many members who signed up to provide help with

plant pick-up (Linda offered the powerful incentive of wholesale nursery plants.)

Do you have any digital photos of Master Gardeners? We have this wonderful new computer for the chapter, which resides with Jean. She will be bringing it to the meetings so that you can bring copies of your photos to download and save on the computer. We can have some history and PowerPoint fodder for the chapter. You may bring a flash drive, SD card or CD or just your camera with USB attachment. Thanks in advance.

Chinook Books will be available for \$20 with \$10 going to the chapter. Abby Seaman is in charge of this. Her info is: phone 503-285-7621 or email justabbey@juno.com

Demo Garden - Anyone interested can help work or look on Thursdays from 9am until afternoon. Another way to help would be to save seeds. The garden is on SE 60th between Duke and Flavel. Questions should be directed to Jean or Sharon. There also will be a Saturday work party soon to install irrigation and pathways. And our new Treasurer, Robin Case has volunteered to be there on the third Saturday of the month from March to September.

2009 Officers

President – Jean Edmison - 503-771-2486
Vice President – Sharon Baker - 503-284-5189
Secretary – Jo Ann Bones – 503-253-3168
Treasurer – Robin Case – 503-762-3964
Past President – Patrick Adams – 503-287-9071
OMGA Sr. Rep. – Joyce Hemmerling - 503-331-0824
OMGA Rep. – Marilyn Kongslielie – 503-289-8889
Historians – Velda Altig, Claudia Groth and Jim Colahan
Grapevine – Lorna Schilling – 503-334-5162

February 2009

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

- Have soil test performed on garden plot to determine nutrient needs. Ask your local Extension office for a list of testing laboratories, or view EM 8677 online.
- *Western Oregon:* Plant seed flats of cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts).
- *Central/eastern Oregon:* Plant asparagus if the ground is warm enough.
- Tune up lawnmower and garden equipment before the busy season begins.
- Use delayed-dormant sprays of lime sulfur for fruit and deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Prune and train grapes; make cuttings.
- Prune roses in western Oregon; wait until May in high elevations of eastern and central Oregon.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Do not treat unless a problem is identified.
- *Central Oregon:* Gather branches of quince, forsythia, and flowering cherries; bring inside to force early bloom.
- *Western Oregon:* Elm leaf beetles and box-elder bugs emerging from hibernation may be seen indoors. They are not harmful but can be a nuisance.
- Make a cold frame or hotbed to start early vegetables or flowers.
- Plant onions outdoors in western Oregon as soon as the soil is dry enough to till.
- Check junipers and cotoneaster for webworm activity. Treat if necessary.
- Plant windowsill container gardens of carrots, lettuce, or parsley.
- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers to your flowering landscape this spring: astilbe, candytuft, peony, anemone.
- Make plans for an herb bed, for cooking and for interest in the landscape: parsley, sage, chives, lavender; plant next month.
- If weather permits and the soil is dry enough, spade or till garden areas for planting later.
- Spade or plow down cover crops or other organic matter.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetable and flower seeds.
- Good time to plant fruit trees and deciduous shrubs.
- *Western Oregon:* Good time to plant new roses.
- Prune deciduous summer-blooming shrubs and trees.
- Prune clematis, Virginia creeper, and other vining ornamentals.
- Pasteurize soil for starting seedlings in pots or flats.
- Fertilize rhubarb with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Prune and trellis trailing berries and caneberries.
- *Western Oregon:* Fertilize lawns.
- Prune fruit trees and blueberries.
- Repair winter damage to trees and shrubs.
- Control moles and gophers with traps.

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.

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.

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