

Metro Master Gardener™ News

February 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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Gray Thompson

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UPDATE FROM WESTON

Greetings Master Gardeners-

The 2011 Master Gardener (MG) training is off to a great start in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties. This year, we have 187 trainees in these three counties.

We would like to extend a special welcome and thank you to all of the new trainees! We appreciate that you have joined our educational and service organization. We look forward to providing you with a high-quality learning experience through our in-class training. We also look forward to guiding you through your volunteer internship, which will commence in March when the training ends. We ask that new trainees complete 66 documented hours of volunteer service and to report this service to Jordis Yost by October, 2011. We will provide all of the details that you'll need during the coming weeks so please don't worry!



Class content for the 2011 MG training is being posted online through a service called Moodle. To access the Moodle web page you need to be registered. If you are taking the Master Gardener Training then you have already been registered. If you are a veteran MG or staff associated with the MG Training please e-mail Jay Ewing (jayewing@yahoo.com, 2008 veteran) and he will register you on Moodle. For any other questions about Moodle, also please contact Jay directly.

For both new trainees and veteran MGs, the class schedule for the 2011 training is posted online at www.metromastergardeners.org/

Please recall that veteran MGs must complete 12 hours of continuing education each year in order to maintain an active status in our program. This standard applies 2 years after your original MG training... So folks trained in 2009 and before need to plan on acquiring recertification hours by either attending our spring and fall recertification trainings or 12-hours of "*" classes at the yearly MG training.

Save the date of April 2, 2011 from 8:30am – 3:30 pm at PCC Rock Creek for MG Recertification Training

We have lined up a great suite of topics including:

- Invasive plants and what you can do about them with Mary Logalbo of West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
- Sustainable lawn care with Tom Cook, retired OSU Horticulture Turf Specialist
- Garden myths with Linda Chalker-Scott of Washington State University.
- Public unveiling of new Master Gardener videos produced by MGs for MGs.

This event is open to both new and veteran MGs. We will provide more details in the March newsletter.

In the meantime, here are some additional educational events that you might consider:

Urban Pest Management Course Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at Clackamas Community College, the Gregory Forum. See page 10 of the following document for more information: http://www.ipmnet.org/tim/Pesticide_Ed/Pesticide_Courses_-_2011/PSEP_Brochure_for_Web_2011.pdf

OSU Small Farms Conference (11th Annual) on Saturday, February 26 in [Corvallis](http://www.corvallis.or.gov/), Oregon. For more details, see: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/2011SFC>

Green Roof, Portland, Friday, March 18th, 2011 from 10am – 5pm at the Oregon Convention Center. For more details, see:

http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=53845&utm_source=Metro+contacts&utm_campaign=09b1015f65-Nature_friendly_eNews&utm_medium=email

Be well,

Weston



OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS

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

WELCOME 2011 TRAINEES

We want to welcome the 187 new OSU Master Gardener trainees that have started their training and are the class of 2011. You will be joining over 800 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!

FEBRUARY OPPORTUNITIES

The Yard, Garden and Patio Show runs from February 18—20 and is at the Convention Center off MLK in Portland. We are fully scheduled at this time and look forward to another great show .

The **Spring Home and Garden Show** runs February 23—27 and will be at the Expo Center. We are looking for veterans to staff a clinic table. Please contact Julie if you want to get on the schedule.

Julie Biddle 503-286-6591 or tomr_julieb@msn.com

RESOURCE FAIRS

We have **two** resource fairs coming up for the new trainees and veterans are welcome to come as well. On February 1,3 and 4, we will feature 'Direct Service' volunteer opportunities. This means phones, clinics and speakers bureau. During week 9 (March 1, 3 and 4) we finish up with 'Indirect Service'. These activities are usually in partnership with other entities (Pittock, Crystal Springs, Oregon Food Bank, OMGA Chapters). See the January 2011 Newsletter for class locations and days.

Dividing these into two groups has helped the new trainees understand where they can focus their time and energy in order to fulfill their 66 hours (40 Direct and 26 Indirect). And for veterans, it means that the sign-ups will be in one place and you can meet with the many coordinators.

SEEKING MG GARDEN MENTORS

The Lane Family Garden Program is seeking Master Gardeners to serve as Garden Mentors to families in the program. The Lane Family Garden Program is a free program available to families of Lane Middle School in SE Portland, a community which is predominantly multi-cultural and from low socio-economic backgrounds. All participants in the program are freely provided with everything they need to start a vegetable garden: a garden plot, seeds, seedling starts, use of tools, etc.. The garden plots are located at the Learning Garden Laboratories on SE 60th Avenue between Duke and Flavel Street. Gardeners will participate in free educational workshops and group work parties, and be given the option of pairing with an experienced Volunteer Garden Mentor.

Become a Volunteer Garden Mentor! You will be paired with a family, and determine how often you would like to meet. Your work with the family can include assisting with garden design, planting, maintenance, and problem-solving. You can also participate in group work parties, and help out with our garden education workshops. Mentors need to commit to working with a family through the gardening season. Donating 1+ hours a week. Make friends and help others grow their own food at the Learning Gardens!

The program is being facilitated by PSU student Cate Clother.

If interested contact Cate @ cateclother@gmail.com

Natter's Notes

A Tarantula's Tale

Jean R. Natter

[This month, I'm featuring a story about a pampered tarantula, written by Penny Esplin (OSU MG 2006, Marion County) and first published in the "The Marion Garden Gate" of the Marion County Master Gardeners Association, January 2011.]

The time has come for me to write about "The Tarantula." It's actually "My Tarantula," although I had never planned on owning one. It came into my possession because it had been abandoned and neglected. So, because I felt bad for the creature, I took it home with me. That was on November 11, 2010.

I thought the cage, about size of a large shoebox, was awfully small. So I decided to use the 17"x17"x12" glass terrarium I had. I figured that would really make the spider happy. (I found out later, via the internet, that these spiders don't require much room, especially this particular species of tarantula, the Chilean rose hair tarantula, *Grammostola rosea*.) I bought new substrate (bedding), provided a small bowl of water, gave it a piece of wood to hide under, and bought crickets which would be its food. I continued researching the internet for as much info as I could get, because everything I read was all new to me. I had never owned a tarantula! I knew nothing!

Well, the constant temperature should be around 70-78 degrees F. So the cabinet that holds our water heater is the same height as the kitchen counters and is always warm. Perfect at 70-72 degrees! The crickets had to be housed separately in their own habitat, of course, but the temperature was right for them also. (The crickets are another story just in themselves!) I put Styrofoam under each home so the inhabitants wouldn't be sitting directly on the warm surface.

I thought the spider would really love its new abode, but it seemed so dismal and depressed, it wouldn't eat, I never saw it do *anything!* (There was a possibility it was getting ready to molt (shed its skin), and if so, it may not eat anything for a good month prior.) It has a bowl with fresh water, and I'm sure it drinks, but never when I'm looking. So, when I saw what looked like bread crumbs on its back, I became concerned. "Oh no, I bet those are mites! And that's got to be the reason it seems so depressed!" So, in my paranoia (after reading about the effects of mites on tarantulas), I followed instructions and sterilized its original cage, put in new bedding, made a new place for it to hide out of a plastic bowl which I turned upside down and cut two openings. This way I could sterilize the bowl and cage as needed in hopes of controlling the mites and, and...I really didn't intend on getting so detailed writing all this about the tarantula, believe me I'm trying hard not to. There just doesn't seem to be any way around it. Oh well...

I called Jared Kelly (OSU MG 2010, Clackamas County) for his advice. (He's a newer member of the NWREC bug crew.) I knew he had a tarantula -- he has a virtual zoo at his house -- and I agreed to bring my tarantula to NWREC that Friday for some suggestions. Jared looked real close with a magnifier. No mites. Just crumbs left over from its bedding. All my fears were laid rest about the mites. Thank you Jared!

I said, "Wow, I wish we had a comb or something to brush off those crumbs. Wait! I've got a little sable brush we can use!" (One of those indispensable items from a make-up bag.) So, Jared very gently and very carefully began to brush the crumbs from the hairs on the spider's abdomen, and I couldn't believe it, *the spider liked it!* (Fig 1) It started to bob its butt slowly up and down with the rhythm of Jared's brushing. It really did seem to like it! I know I did! That was just too cool!

Fig 1: Grooming a tarantula with a small sable make-up brush.



Just the night before, while visiting a website about tarantulas, I found out something else about my spider that helped to solve another one of my worries. The guy wrote: “*One species of tarantula to avoid: The Chilean Rose Hair Tarantula.*” (That’s the kind I have) “*This has got to be the most uninteresting of the tarantula species. It doesn’t do anything! It just sits there. You would do better with a pet rock. This has got to be the most boring spider and I don’t find anything interesting about it at all. So don’t write to me telling me about yours.*”

Well! He certainly set me straight on that issue! So okay, I have a boring spider. (But remember, Jared and I did reveal a little *intimate* secret about it!) So I’m thinking about naming it “November”- “*No Vim No Vigor*”, or “Nova”, or “Ember”, or “Ovembe.” I kind of like “*Ovembe.*”

I had put a cricket in with it, wondering if maybe this time it might be hungry. Nothing. The cricket made itself a little hidey spot under the lip of the bowl I had provided for the spider to hide under. The spider was content to hang out on the far outside of it instead. That cricket really was funny. It would hide back in the little tunnel it made with just its antennae poking out, wavering around. Sometimes I would stop to look, and its head would be poking out, then in a blink it would duck back. It was playing “peek-a-boo” and just cracked me up! I put in a piece of shredded carrot for it to eat, and next thing I know, the cricket has pulled it into his tunnel, where it could eat in secret.

Then, yesterday (December 26), I noticed the spider moving! It was doing something! I knew I needed to get the cricket out of there now, something important was happening. The spider was bobbing its butt up and down, while at the same time using its two finger-like appendages protruding from the tip of its butt (called “spinnerets”) to make itself a silken matt. It used them just like fingers, it was so strange.

This could mean only one thing: it’s making its bed in preparation to shed its skin! The tarantula is real vulnerable during this time, and a cricket could actually harm it. So I scooped up the cricket and put it back in the jar with its cohorts. When I looked in on the spider later, it was in a strange position, with four legs on one side flat and splayed out, and the legs on the other side sticking straight up and down. Oh man, I was getting so excited! The next time I looked was about 4:00 am, and it appeared to be upside down. And when I got up in the morning, I couldn’t wait to see what had transformed. It looked like I now had two tarantulas instead of one! I was so excited about it that our dog Lodi had to stand up on his hind legs and have a look to see for himself what all the hoopla was about!

The shed skin from the tarantula was laying there in its entirety, every hair, even its fangs were still there, and it looked like the actual spider except it was empty, like it had simply unzipped its skin and stepped out of it! (Fig 2 & Fig 3) Of course there wasn’t anything simple about it at all. It was a miracle. I just can’t get over it!

This event, to me, was quite a highlight. And I feel like a new threshold has been crossed. It may not seem like such a big deal to most people. I guess maybe I’m just passionate about it. I think that’s what makes life so much more mysterious and rewarding. What more can I say?

Resources: Chilean rose hair tarantula life cycle: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chilean_rose_tarantula.
Care sheet: http://arachnophilic.info/burrow/caresheets/grammostola_rosea.htm.



Fig 2: The dorsal (top) surface of the tarantula’s shed skin; the head end toward the right, the spinnerets at the left.



Fig 3: The ventral surface of the shed skin; notice the intact fangs at the right.



GRAY THOMPSON

As you know, the OSU Master Gardener Program was started in 1976 by Gray and Duane Hatch. At that time, Gray was the agent in the Portland area and Duane was an agent in Lane County. The first classes were held in Eugene and in Clackamas County. Over the years, the program has grown to encompass 28 counties in Oregon. In 2009, there were 3,799 active Master Gardeners. What a legacy!

Gray believed strongly in the power of trained volunteers. Did you know he took the Master Gardener training after retirement? As an official OSU Extension Service Master Gardener volunteer, Gray actively contributed to the program and the Clackamas County chapter. He taught "Garden Management" (including soils) to Master Gardener trainees. Chapter records show Gray was Vice President in 87-88 and President 88-89. He was instrumental in setting up the chapter's soil pH testing service which continues to be popular with local gardeners. Gray also led the 'Plant An Extra Row' committee for many years, growing fresh produce for the hungry. Both of these programs continue today under dynamic, new leaders.

In all of Gray's worthy endeavors in life, he was fortunate to have a partner in Norrene Thompson. Norrene was an officer of the chapter throughout the 80's. Most recently, she was the volunteer coordinator for Spring Garden Fair. In 2005, Gray and Norrene were awarded *State Master Gardener of the Year* by the Oregon Master Gardener Association.

Gray stayed active with the chapter despite hip surgeries and a bout with shingles. Gray and Norrene attended the OMGA Mini-College this summer. I last saw Gray and Norrene in November at the chapter meeting. Both looked well and happy among fellow MGs.

To me, Gray Thompson was truly a giant. I will always remember his infectious smile and boundless energy.

From Ray and Jan McNeilan "We will miss his never-ending enthusiasm, his pride in the MG program and his signature hello, "Ahoy there"."

Sherry Sheng

A GREAT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

GARDENS IN SENIOR LIVING SEMINAR

WHAT The *Gardens in Senior Living* seminar focuses on the research, design, programming and maintenance issues pertaining to gardens especially developed for older adult populations. Sponsored by the Friends of the Portland Memory Garden, seminar topics will include research on gardens in senior care settings; garden design elements; administration and maintenance; year-round indoor and outdoor programming for residential environments as well as public gardens for dementia clients and their caregivers; and practical applications.

WHO This professional seminar is especially created for these audiences:
Long-term care facility administrators, managers, marketing and recreation planning professionals
Landscape architects and designers
Horticultural therapists
Activity professionals serving older adults
Geriatric educators and researchers
Master Gardeners and those working toward such certification
Other health care professionals who serve the elderly and those with dementia

WHEN Friday, April 8, 2011
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital Wistar Conference Room
1040 N.W. 22nd Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97210

WHY To provide greater understanding of the benefits of specialized gardens and horticulture therapy among those who serve older adults, especially those with memory disorders.

How The registration fees are:

	<u>Postmarked by 3/25</u>	<u>After 3/25</u>
Individuals	\$75	\$90
Groups of 3 or more	\$65 each	\$80 each

CONTACTS For a seminar brochure or more information about *Gardens in Senior Living*, please contact Patty Cassidy at cassidyppg@comcast.net; 503-239-9174. Alternate contact: Teresia Hazen at thazen@lhs.org; 503-413-6507.

Seeking Veggie Garden Book Donations

The Lane Family Garden program (located at the Learning Garden Laboratory) is seeking used vegetable garden book donations to create a small lending library for the families participating in the program. Many of the families are first time gardeners and good garden references would be of great help as they begin their garden adventure. Any used garden books with current, reliable garden information would be appreciated. Some books on the wish list include:

- The Sustainable Gardening Handbook
 - Gardening West of the Cascades by Steve Solomon
 - Square Foot Gardening by Mel Bartholomew
 - Sunset Western Garden Guide
 - The Bountiful Container by Rose Marie Nichols McGee and Maggie Stuckey
- Maritime Northwest Garden Guide by Seattle Tilth

If you have books you would be interested in donating please contact Cate Clother, Lane Family Garden coordinator at cateclother@gmail.com

How to grow flavor-packed herbs

CORVALLIS, Ore. – If you love fresh, home-grown cilantro to flavor dinner and basil to toss into salads, it's good to know that how you grow herbs and when you harvest them can make a big difference in how they taste.

Ross Penhallegon, horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service, offers these suggestions for growing flavorful herbs.

Do not over-fertilize herbs. The essential oils that provide flavor are more concentrated when herbs are grown in moderately rich soil with just enough fertilizer to keep them green. Too much makes the plant grow large, rangy and less flavorful. Be careful when adding compost or manure as well, and use moderate amounts.

Plant herbs in well-drained soil. Poorly drained soil inhibits healthy root systems, causes stress and invites insect and disease problems.

Trim back perennial herbs such as oregano and thyme when they get woody stems. Sage should be pruned annually. Tender new growth has the most flavor, but older, tougher growth that is trimmed off is great for use when barbequing. By trimming herbs often, the plants also look more attractive, with plenty of new leaves. Leaves are the most flavorful before the plant blooms.

Remove the blossoms of sweet basil plants to make the plant grow bushier, with more leaves. If the herb has already bloomed, pick the younger side shoots.

"If you're growing herbs for seeds such as fennel, caraway, cilantro or dill, pick the seeds when they look brown and almost ripe and you won't lose seeds," Penhallegon said. "Let them finish drying in a warm, dry dark area of the house, barn or garage."

By: [Judy Scott](#)

Source: [Ross Penhallegon](#)

Multnomah County Chapter
of the
OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners
2011 SPEAKERS SERIES



Free events, all welcome. Presentations start @ 7pm
Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, 5441 SE Belmont St., parking lot on 54th

- January 11 Gone the Lawn – Full Frontal Gardening
Lucy Hardiman, garden designer, principle of Perennial Partners
- February 8 Genetically Modified Plants – Their Biology, Uses, and Potential Concerns
Chip Bubl, OSU Extension
- March 8 Seed Saving: Stewardship of a Natural Resource
Sarah Kleeger and Andrew Still, seed stewards, Adaptive Seeds
- April 12 Soil, What's It All About!
James Cassidy, OSU, Department of Crop and Soil Science
- May 10 Some Like it Hot: How to Grow Warm Season Vegetables in the Cool Northwest
Willi Galloway, writer, radio commentator, and creator, DigginFood blog
- June 14 Extend Your Vegetable Gardening Season Into the Fall
Sue Berge, mini-homesteader, and founder, New Dimension Seeds
- September 13 Cooking Up the Harvest
Dan Brophy, Certified Executive Chef and Culinary Instructor
- October 11 From Lawn to Natives: A Parking Strip Transformed
Kym Pokorny, garden writer for The Oregonian
- November 8 A Guide to the Best Hardy Shrubs for Your Garden
Roger Gossler, Gossler Farms

Interplanting becoming common again

CORVALLIS, Ore. – An ancient practice of growing two or more vegetables in the same place at the same time, called interplanting, is becoming common again. The extra planning required can be worth it for the additional growing space it provides, said Pat Patterson, Master Gardener volunteer with the Oregon State University Extension Service in Lane County.

"Interplanting also helps keep insect and disease problems under control," she said. "Pests are fairly crop-specific and prefer vegetables of one type or family. Mixing plant families breaks up expanses of crops and confines early pest damage to a small area."

This practical growing method can foster symbiotic relationships as well. American Indians from the Iroquois tribe planted corn, beans and squash in one mound as "three sisters" who needed each other to grow. Beans fix nitrogen, which corn needs in large amounts. Corn reciprocates by lending its stalks for climbing beans. The broad leaves of squash shade out weeds and retain moisture in the soil.

Patterson recommends the following factors as you plan to interplant:

Time to maturity:

Slow-maturing (such as carrots) and quick-maturing plants (such as radishes), can be planted at the same time. Harvest the radishes before they begin to crowd the carrots.

Above-ground growth pattern:

Planting small plants close to larger plants, for example, leaf lettuce and radishes at the base of pole beans or broccoli, is an example of combining growth patterns.

Root growth pattern:

Combine plants with complementary root-growth patterns so that roots won't compete with each other. Shallow rooting plants include broccoli, corn, lettuce, potatoes, cabbage and spinach. Medium rooting are snap beans, carrots, cucumber, summer squash, turnips and peas. Deep rooting include asparagus, parsnips, winter squash, pumpkin and tomatoes.

Possible negative effects on other plants:

Don't plant sunflowers and Jerusalem artichokes, which can suppress growth of nearby plants, close to other crops.

Light requirements:

Plant shade-tolerant species such as lettuce, spinach and celery in the shadow of taller crops.

Season of growth:

Interplant cool-weather and warm-weather plants. By the time warm-weather crops grow to full size, the cool weather crops will have finished producing.

Nutrient requirements:

Interplant heavy feeders such as cabbage family crops with less demanding plants such as carrots, garlic and parsnips.

Water requirements:

Group plants with similar water requirements together to avoid over-watering some or to supply enough for others.

By: [Judy Scott](#)

Source: [Pat Patterson](#)

Save money by making your own seed starting soil

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Home gardeners can start vegetable and flower seedlings indoors from four to 12 weeks before the last spring frost in their area. A good way to get motivated for growing seedlings or “starts” is to make up some planting medium at home.

Mixing your own seed-starting mix is more economical than buying sterile potting mix at a garden store.

A good germinating medium must be fine and uniform, yet well-aerated, loose and free of pests, diseases and weed seeds, explained Barb Fick, consumer horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. The planting medium also should be low in fertility and total soluble salts, yet capable of holding and moving moisture by capillary action.

But beware, Fick warned. Soil straight from your backyard just won't do the job.

Typical backyard soil is too compacted, full of weed seeds and it is not pasteurized, causing seedling diseases and death. And native soil does not often drain as well as seedling mixes. It can develop a crust that prevents seedlings from pushing through the soil.

Fick's recipe for a good basic pasteurized soil for growing vegetable seedlings is a mixture of one-third pasteurized soil or finished compost, one-third sand, vermiculite or perlite, and one-third peat moss.

“Many people just use half peat moss and half perlite, vermiculite or sand, and this combination seems to work well, too,” said Fick.

To pasteurize a small quantity of soil or finished compost in an oven, put the slightly moist soil or compost in a heat-resistant container or pan. Cover with a lid or foil. Place in a 250-degree oven for at least a half-hour. Use a candy or meat thermometer to ensure that the mix reaches a temperature of 180 degrees for a full half-hour. Avoid overheating it, as the structure of the soil may be damaged, rendering it useless as a seedling soil ingredient. Sand, vermiculite, peat moss and perlite are available at most nurseries and garden stores.

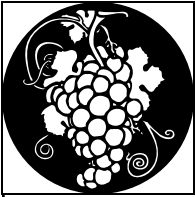
Another task to complete before the start of seedling growing season is to clean your pots, trays and flats. Then rinse the containers in a solution of one part chlorine bleach to 10 parts water to kill remaining plant disease microorganisms that could weaken or kill your tender young seedlings. Avoid recontaminating your planting medium or tools.

By: [Carol Savonen](#)

Source: [Barbara Fick](#)

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

- 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, “*Genetically Modified Plants—Their Biology, Uses, and Potential Concerns*”
- Feb 14** Clackamas County Chapter, *Soil Enhancements*—Heather Havens, General Manager of Concentrates, Inc.
- Feb 19-20** Yard, Garden & Patio Show
- Feb 21** Portland Rose Society meeting
- Feb 23** Northwest Flower & Garden Show, Seattle. We’ll take a bus for the first day of the show, Wednesday, February 23, 2011. Leave Portland at 6 am, return around 9 pm. Cost is \$65 for show ticket, agenda, and round trip in comfortable bus with room for plants. Contact June Davidek (503) 477-8698 or davidekjune@comcast.net. Please reserve soon--bus fills up fast!
- March 1** Washington County Chapter—*Carnivorous Plants by Jeff Dallas*, Co-Owner of Surracenia North West
- Mar 8** Multnomah County Chapter, 7 PM, Speaker: Sarah Kleeger and Andrew Still, Adaptive Seeds, “*Seed Saving*”
- Mar 12** Garden Discovery Day – The Fun of Know, Sow, Grow, 9 am – noon; Milwaukie Center
- Mar 14** Clackamas County Chapter, New Intern Welcoming Potluck; *A Plant Explorer in South Africa*—Burl Mostul, Rare Plant Research
- Apr 2** MG Recertification—PCC Rock Creek
- Apr 12** Multnomah County Chapter, 6 PM, Welcome Potluck for Intern MGs; 7 PM Speaker: James Cassidy, OSU “*Soil, What It’s All About!*”
- 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
- May 10** Multnomah County Chapter, 7 PM; Speaker: Willi Galloway, writer, commentator, “*Some Like It Hot: How to Grow Warm Season Vegetables in the Cool Northwest*”
- Jul 13-15** Mini College in Newport



MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE

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

8 February 2011 Chapter Meeting

Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church
5441 SE Belmont

6:50 pm Announcements

7:00 pm Genetically Modified Plants – Their Biology, Uses, and Potential Concerns

Chip Bubl, OSU Extension Service Horticulturist, Columbia County Staff Chair

Learn about the complex world of Genetically Modified Plants in a straightforward way. This presentation will explore the science that led to genetically modified plants, take a look at their role in agriculture and horticulture, and explore some of the issues and the potential concerns about their use.

Chip is a perennial favorite instructor at Master Gardener trainings in the Metro area and other parts of the

***Auto Cling Stickers for your Car Window

Hot off the presses, snazzy Master Gardener window stickers 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! To see stickers: www.metromastergardeners.org/multnomah. Available for \$5.00 each at chapter meetings or contact Carrie McIntyre at multmastergardeners@gmail.com.

***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). 8 cards for \$10. Available for purchase now at Alberta Gardens and Naomi's Organic Farm Supply or order online at our new Etsy shop: <http://www.etsy.com/shop/MasterGardeners>. Also available at chapter meetings, contact Marilyn Kongsli at 503-289-8889 or email 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 at 503-285-7621.

*****2011 Chinook Books Still Available!** The new print and mobile editions of the Chinook Book are now available! Save up to \$3,000 with 400+ local print coupons and 300+ mobile coupons. Free iPhone app with each print edition. Savings from hundreds of local, sustainable businesses. Preview coupons here: <http://pdx.chinookbook.net/in-print/>. A terrific value at only \$20. Available for purchase at chapter meetings or contact Carrie McIntyre at 503-984-1109 or email lehua_mc@yahoo.com.

*****Leave the driving to us!** Visit the exciting [Northwest Flower & Garden Show](#) in Seattle on Wednesday, February 23rd. The bus leaves Portland at 6:00 am and returns to around 9:00 pm. \$65.00 per person includes round-trip on a comfortable bus, show ticket, and show program. Contact June Davidek at 503-477-8698 or davidekjune@comcast.net

*****8 March 2011, 7:00 pm Seed Saving Speakers: Sarah Kleeger and Andrew Still, seed stewards, Adaptive Seeds**

Learn more about why saving seeds is so important, how to plan your garden for seed saving, and how to process the seeds you've grown.

***Fresh New Color for Fleece MG Vests

Chocolate brown is the latest color of the fleece OSU Master Gardener vests now available. We also have the beautiful botanical MG t-shirts in a choice of colors and styles. Both vests and t-shirts are available for sale at Multnomah County chapter meetings and some MG training days. Contact Mary Fiocchi at 503-312-6762 or email multmastergardeners@gmail.com.

*****Phones in Multnomah County!** The office is in Montgomery Park at NW 27th and Vaughn. Gloria Bennett (503-775-4005 or dcleopatra@comcast.net) is managing the calendar. The phone hours are Monday to Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, two- or four-hour shifts.

*****Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, 1 February 2011 at 5:30 pm at Claudia's – 4026 N.E. Hazelfern.**

2011 Officers and Contact Information

President – Claudia Groth 503-235-0669 claudia_groth@hevanet.com
Vice President – Gloria Bennett 503-775-4005 dcleopatra@comcast.net
Secretary – Carrie McIntyre 503-984-1109 lehua_mc@yahoo.com
Treasurer – Christine Semeniuk 503-493-0994 chrissem@comcast.net
OMGA – JoAnn Bones 503-253-3168 bones7247@comcast.net
OMGA Alternate – Mary Fiocchi 503-312-6762 maryto@johnlscott.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, February 1, 2011

"Poison Prevention in the Garden" by Jim Gersbach from Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Carnivorous Plants by Jeff Dallas, Co-Owner of Surracenia North West

NEW MEETING LOCATION & DAY FOR 2011

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.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS WHO LIKE TO WRITE, EDIT, TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OR CREAT VISUAL ART

Marilyn Berti, our Chapter director # 3, responsible for chapter publicity, is looking for someone(s) who might be willing to help a bit with publicity efforts this year. Give her a call (503-292-8637) or e-mail (mcbberti@gmail.com) if you would like more info. This is not a big time commitment, and it is a great way to get to know the ropes in WCMGA and beyond.

NOON-TIME CHAT PRESENTERS NEEDED

MGs are needed to present 30 minute chats during training class lunch breaks. Direct Service credit is available for the presentation and prep time, up to a maximum of 6 hours. Interested MGs please contact Ken Keudell at 503-292-6519 or keudellkennethk@msn.com.

SEE. LEARN. GROW.

2011 WCMG Field Trips

Only 10 Spots Left



Thirty hearty Master Gardeners and guests are headed for The Oregon Garden this month. Join them by reserving one of the 10 spots left for our

February 25 winter field trip. The trip includes a guided tram ride, lunch talk on conifers, and a walking tour of one of the largest collections of dwarf and miniature conifers in the U.S. You'll also have time (and light) left to wander on your own or tour the Gordon House, the only Frank Lloyd Wright house in Oregon.

Cost of the day trip is \$20--for admission, tram, speaker and box lunch. An optional overnight package is available for Thursday, Feb. 24, at the adjoining Oregon Garden Resort. Sign up at the February chapter meeting or complete the registration form found on the new WCMGA website,

www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org.

Contacts: Judy Hale, 503 590-7221 or Carol Ross, 503-245-6842

President	Tim Lanfri	503-590-4354
Vice President	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

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

Phone **503-531-3884** or e-mail: jkjvkeil4@gmail.com

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

Chapter Website: www.wcmga.info

Clackamas County Chatter

FEBRUARY



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



February Chapter Meeting

Monday, February 14, 7 p.m.
Milwaukie Center 5440 SE Kellogg Creek
Drive, Milwaukie

Soil Enhancements: Heather Havens, General Manager of Concentrates, Inc.

Want to know the difference between organic and chemical fertilizers? Or at what temperatures common soil enhancement products will work in your soil? Heather will help us understand soil management and the intricacies of organic soil amendments and conventional fertilizers.

Heather has a BS in agriculture from Oregon State University, specializing in Organic and Natural Soil Management. Since 1997, she has been advising gardeners and farmers at Concentrates, a local company in Southeast Portland.

March Program

Monday, March 14, 2011

A Plant Explorer in South Africa Burl Mostul, Rare Plant Research

South Africa is well-known for its diversity and richness of plants, and plant explorer Burl Mostul is just the person to show us this wondrous part of the world. Join Burl for a visual trip to South Africa, starting in Cape Town and traveling the "Garden Route" through the Drakensberg mountain range to Johannesburg and Pretoria. Along the way, we will view myriad gardens and native plants.

Burl has lived his dream for over 20 years. Rare Plant Research started as a hobby, becoming a vocation and the wholesale nursery business of today.

March Meeting Schedule

6 p.m. Potluck – Welcome MG Interns

7 p.m. Speaker

8 p.m. Resource Fair – Sign-up for Spring Garden Fair & clinics

The business meeting will be deferred, but minutes and financial reports will be distributed on time.

Green Glove

Award: Kathryn Enold

Although a newcomer to the Master Gardener program, Kathryn has already made significant contributions. She possesses a keen command of the English language and uses editing and proofreading skills to ensure content on Chapter publications is easy to understand. Her work includes the Chatter, 10-Minute University™ handouts, news releases, and Web content at www.metromastergardeners.org. Kathryn also served as Chapter Historian in 2010 and developed our first electronic version of the history.

2011 MG Training

Thursdays, January 6 – March 17, 211 Tumwater Drive, Oregon City (a long block from the VFW Hall).

Get enough hours for recertification! Mark your calendar for these classes.

Open Gardens

Opening your garden to fellow MGs is a fun way to share, learn, and make new friends. Contact Sharon Wiley, zimmr@q.com, 503-657-9054, or Kathleen Chroninger, kchron@q.com, 503-653-0344, to set a date or for more information.

Gray Thompson Community Projects Grant

As a Clackamas County Master Gardener, do you need seed money to get your community gardening project underway? This program is available for projects which further the use of plants as food, as tools for education, as benefits to the environment and as a means to beautify the community. The Executive Board has named this program after Gray Thompson in recognition of all his efforts to establish the Master Gardener program in Oregon and to grow our chapter.

E-mail Nancy Hopkins (nhop101@aol.com) with questions. Check out the 2011 application on the Chapter Web site at www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org.

27th Annual Spring Garden Fair April 30 & May 1, 2011 Canby Event Center

Herb Davis reports that planning is going well. Due to a scheduling conflict, he is looking for a new location for the March meeting. Reta Suzanne, volunteer coordinator, has streamlined the system for scheduling volunteers. Reta will have sign-up sheets at the February Chapter meeting. Come prepared to sign up for your favorite spot!

Garden Discovery Day – The Fun of Know, Sow, Grow

March 12, 9 am – noon

Milwaukie Center

The 2nd annual Garden Discovery Day is coming. We saw phenomenal responses from the community in 2010 and hope to reach even more clients this year. Details are on the Web site. Tell your friends about this free event that can jump-start their gardening season.

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/>

FEBRUARY 2011 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.

February 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>).

Planning

- Tune up lawn mower and garden equipment before the busy season begins.
- Have soil test performed on garden plot to determine nutrient needs. Contact your local Extension office for a list of testing laboratories or view EM 8677 online.
- Select and store healthy scion wood for grafting fruit and nut trees. Wrap in damp cloth or peat moss and place in plastic bag. Store in cool place.

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.

- Plan an herb bed, for cooking and for interest in the landscape. Among the choices are parsley, sage, chives, lavender. Choose a sunny spot for the herb bed, and plant seeds or transplants after danger of frost has passed (late April-early May in the Willamette Valley and Central Coast; June-July in Eastern and Central Oregon).
- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers to your flowering landscape this spring. Examples include candytuft, peony, penstemon, and coneflower.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Repair winter damage to trees and shrubs.
- Make a cold frame or hotbed to start early vegetables or flowers.
- Fertilize rhubarb with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Incorporate cover crops or other organic matter into soil.
- Prune and train grapes; make cuttings.
- Prune fruit trees and blueberries.
- **Eastern Oregon:** Prune and train summer-bearing and fall-bearing raspberries.
- **Western Oregon:** Prune deciduous summer-blooming shrubs and trees; wait until April in high elevations of eastern and central Oregon.
- **Western Oregon:** Prune and train trailing blackberries (if not done prior late August); prune back raspberries.
- **Western Oregon:** Prune fall-bearing raspberries (late in Feb or early March).

Trade-name products and services are mentioned as illustrations only. This does not mean that the Oregon State University Extension Service endorses those 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>