

Metro Master Gardener™ News

February 2012



OSU Extension Service Metro Master Gardener™ Program

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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Redtail Hawk "Sundance" with Handler Mandy

Photo by S. Andrews

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Greetings Master Gardeners-

It is already mid-January and the 2012 Master Gardener (MG) program is in full swing. We are happy to announce that 183 new trainees are registered for the training this year and we have an additional 20 trainees that are taking the online Master Gardener training through OSU's eCampus who will participate in the volunteer program in the Portland metro region.



We would like to extend a warm welcome and a huge THANK YOU to all of the new Master Gardener trainees. We are excited to share the content of the MG training with you and to also provide an exceptional volunteer experience as part of OSU Extension Service's educational and outreach mission

The Metro area Master Gardener newsletter is the place to receive updates about the MG program and find more information about MG chapter activities and other worthwhile horticulture events in the metro area. We also have regular content-rich contributions from both OSU and area Master Gardeners like Jean Natter, which make the newsletter and educational resource as well. ENJOY!

For veteran Master Gardeners, we hope that you are able to make it to recertification classes and we also are making the content of the classes available through Moodle, our online repository of course documents. To get signed up for this resource and for instructions for use, please contact Jay Ewing (jaybewing@yahoo.com). The main entry link to Moodle can be found at www.metromastergardeners.org on the left hand side toward the bottom. We hope that new trainees and veteran MGs alike find this resource useful and educational.

OSU and Metro partnership evolves

New for 2012, Metro, the regional government agency that is responsible for managing the waste stream of the Portland metropolitan region among other charges, is helping the Master Gardener program to meet this goal by partially sponsoring our training and volunteer program. This partnership will enhance OSU's capacity to promote sustainable gardening practices by further integrating the Metro least-toxic gardening approach into the Master Gardener training and our outreach activities. Metro sponsorship will also provide MGs with publication materials to distribute at our telephone and many remote plant clinic locations as well as increase our capacity to support MG volunteers through the course of the gardening season. The partnership between OSU Extension Service and Metro is a win-win for both organizations.

We look forward to sharing more details about this emerging partnership through the course of the MG training and we look forward to further merging the garden/landscape-based educational programming of OSU Extension Service and Metro in the Portland area to provide effective community outreach about sustainable gardening and to make the best use of agency resources and your volunteer time.

Thank you for your contribution toward this important education initiative to promote sustainable gardening and landscaping practices in the community.

If you have any questions or comments about this developing partnership, please contact either Weston Miller or Carl Grimm at Metro:

Weston Miller
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weston.miller@oregonstate.edu



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carl.grimm@oregonmetro.gov



Important announcement for veteran MGs

As part of the new partnership with Metro, we will have some new procedures and information as part of our phone and other plant clinics. If you plan to serve in clinics in 2012, we really, really need you to attend the March 31, 2012 recertification event in the morning at PCC Rock Creek so that we can make sure all MGs at clinics are on the same page in terms of these new outreach procedures.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Other educational opportunities

As part of the newsletter, we also like to promote other educational programs that are in line with OSU's mission of providing credible information to the community. Here are some upcoming events of interest:

OSU Clackamas County Tree School is coming to Oregon City, Saturday, March 24th. They are back with a bigger and better program than ever! There are numerous courses that would be of interest to Master Gardeners and backyard woodland folks. For more information check out the website <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/clackamas/forestry>

OSU Small Farms Conference is Saturday, February 25th at the LaSells Stewart Center in Corvallis. For more information: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/2012SFC>

And finally, we want to welcome **Margaret Bayne** as a new staff member of OSU Extension. As many of you know, Margaret has volunteered many hours supporting the metro MGs for the last several years. She is now officially part of the Clackamas County Extension team supporting Urban Hort. and the metro Master Gardener Program. Margaret brings many skills to the table. She was a Program Assistant with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service and an Urban Horticulture Consultant. When you see Margaret at classes and events, be sure to welcome her to the OSU Extension family.

All the best,
Weston

23rd annual Insights into Gardening

Saturday, February 11, 2012, La Sells Stewart Center, OSU Campus, Corvallis

OSU Benton County Master Gardeners present Insights into Gardening, a day-long seminar offering practical hands-on learning for home gardeners and gardeners-to-be. Whether you are an experienced or novice gardener, are new to the area or are an Oregon native, you will find plenty of ideas to make your gardening easier, more enjoyable and more successful. There will be a catered box lunch available, gardening-related exhibits and special discounted selection of books from the Grass Roots Books, as well as raffles to benefit the scholarship fund. View the website <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton> for more details.

OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS

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



WELCOME 2012 TRAINEES

We want to welcome the 181 new OSU Master Gardener trainees that have started their training and are the class of 2012. 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!

You will not be asked to be educators as part of your volunteer practicum until you are finished with your training and we can pair you up with an MG that 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 you and all your talents.

FEBRUARY OPPORTUNITIES

The Yard, Garden, and Patio Show on Feb 17 – 19 at the Convention Center is one of the first opportunities of the year. We have several things to sign up for with different coordinators and contact numbers.

Speaker introduction – This opportunity can be for new trainees or veterans. MGs introduce the many speakers that 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 one hour time slots. Call or email Jordis for questions or to get on the schedule. **503-650-3118** jordis.yost@oregonstate.edu

Show Greeters—Once again, OAN (Oregon Association of Nurseries) would love to have Master Gardeners hand out OAN Retail Guides and ANLD Garden Tour information at the entrances to the 2012 Yard, Garden & Patio Show, Oregon Convention Center, February 17-19. Volunteers will have free entry into the show as a “thank you” for volunteering for a two or three hour shift. This opportunity is open to both veteran MGs AND trainees, since we are not acting as educators. This is a really fun way to spend a few hours! Please respond to **Dianne Wienczek** at the OAN office dwienczek@oan.org

RESOURCE FAIRS

We have **two** resource fairs coming up for the new trainees and veterans are welcome to come as well. On January 31, February 2 and 3, we will feature OSU primary volunteer opportunities. This means phones, clinics and speakers bureau. During week 9 (February 28, March 1 and 2) we finish up with support activities. These activities are usually in partnership with other entities (Pittock, Crystal Springs, Oregon Food Bank, OMGA Chapters, for example). See the January 2012 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 (26 primary and 40 support). And for veterans, it means that the sign-ups will be in one place and you can meet with the many coordinators.

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	*Plant physiology / Botany	Bubl	Chapter 1
		PM	*Compost, and fertilizers	Groth	Chapter 5
3	January 17, 19, 20	AM	*Understanding pesticides	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 prun- ing	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

Daily Schedule:

Morning Session 9am – 12 pm
Lunch- 12pm – 1 pm
Afternoon Session 1pm – 4 pm

A New Garden Demonstrates Sustainability

A new garden will soon greet travelers at the northbound Baldock Rest Area off I-5 just south of Wilsonville. Bordering Oregon's largest solar field, this garden is a collaboration of Portland General Electric (PGE), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener™ Program.

The garden is designed to be drought-tolerant and low-maintenance and will showcase concepts such as care-free plants, water-wise gardening, use of mulch, and resource conservation. Interpretive panels will offer brief explanations of these concepts and invite the public to "Contact your local OSU Extension Master Gardener™ program for advice on sustainable gardening."



Conceptual layout of the Baldock Solar Highway Project

The solar garden site has many challenges: There is no source for water; therefore, all plants must have low-water needs. The garden is only four feet wide and constricted between two fences. There will only be limited maintenance available; therefore, plants must require limited care and pruning. As a public garden, it must look attractive every season of the year.

"How might you landscape a site like this?" This question was put to me by a friend who manages ODOT's Solar Highway projects. It turned out to be the genesis of a new initiative.

In the past couple of months, I have worked to assemble a project team for concept development. Responses from PGE and ODOT were swift and positive. In the end, PGE and ODOT paid for the project, Joy Creek provided design and landscaping services, and OSU staff and MGs provided horticultural information and interpretive design.

Maurice Horn, a veteran plantsman who pioneered "hell strip" plantings in the Pacific Northwest, created a design with drought-tolerant trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, and bulbs. Many are of Mediterranean origin, and some are native to Oregon; all thrive in the Willamette Valley's dry summer and tolerate wet winters. "Because I wanted to celebrate the solar array behind the garden, I chose to use as many silver and gray shrubs and perennials as possible, hoping that these would suggest reflective surfaces," said Maurice.

Five small trees will be placed at even intervals to give some height and weight to this linear garden. Sections between trees each showcase a color theme (blue and yellow, pink and red, silver). As a whole, the garden offers a gradually shifting blend of bright colors. Ornamental grasses weave through those colors, their rustling foliage giving the garden a sense of movement. Bulbs offer fleeting splashes of color throughout the seasons.

Master Gardeners are invited to help with installation of this garden on Saturday, March 24. Participants will work in teams from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 to 4 p.m. In appreciation of your service, you will receive a copy of the design, complete with plant list and soil preparation information. This is an official project of the MG Program, and Metro area MGs will receive service hours.

Contact Sherry Sheng at 503-655-1822 or sherrysheng@clear.net if you are interested in helping.

Master Gardeners™ Invite the Public to Garden Discovery Day on February 25

Contact: Sherry Sheng, sherrysheng@clear.net, 503-655-1822

Want to jump-start your gardening season? Come to the free Garden Discovery Day on Saturday, February 25, at the Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie.

From 9 a.m. to noon, the Oregon State University Extension Master Gardeners™ of Clackamas County will test your soil pH, offer 10-Minute University™ classes, and provide fun, hands-on children's activities. If you have gardening questions not covered by classes, you can consult Master Gardeners at a "clinic."

Event Schedule:

Soil Testing (9 am – noon): We will test your soil pH and give advice on amendments. Don't wait! Cold, wet soil does not affect the accuracy of our test, and amendments take time to work. For step-by-step instructions, get your "*Testing Soil pH*" handout at www.cmastergardeners.org under the 10-Minute University™ tab.

10-Minute University™ Classes (25-minutes each)

General Gardening

9:00 Pruning Trees and Shrubs
9:30 Fruit Tree Pruning
10:00 Raised Bed Gardening
10:30 Planting Tips
11:00 Spring Gardening Tips
11:30 Mason Bees

Growing Edibles

Early-Season Vegetables
Starting Your Vegetable Garden
Introduction to Growing Berries
Edible Landscaping
Going Organic in the Vegetable Garden
Starting Vegetables from Seeds

Children's Activities (9 am – noon): Hands-on activities for children to get a flavor of gardening and take home something to grow.

Gardening Clinic (9 am – noon): Seasoned Master Gardeners provide personalized advice to your gardening questions.

This event is offered in support of the Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program and in partnership with North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District and the Milwaukie Center.

Clackamas County Master Gardeners are the folks who put on the annual Spring Garden Fair. Log on to www.cmastergardeners.org for more information.



Master Gardeners Make a Difference

Some sobering statistics from the Oregon Food Bank

- ◇ 535,000 Oregonians live below the poverty rate
- ◇ Growing levels of long-term unemployment forced more people to seek food
- ◇ 13% of Oregon's children have at least one unemployed parent ranking the state third-worst nationally
- ◇ 33% of those receiving emergency food are children



Multnomah County Learning Garden Lab Demo Garden

Metro Master Gardeners love to grow their own food! They also love to share and give what they have to those in need. From the 2011 log sheets **twenty seven** Master Gardeners reported donating produce from their gardens to local food banks, schools, churches, Loaves and Fishes, etc. These MGs donated a total of **8,188.5** pounds of home grown produce! They are:

Robert Acker
Louise Adams
Patrick Adams
Sally Barnett
Valerie Brooks
Jane Collier
Linda Eggiman
Ellen Hanley
Bette Hess

Marianne Kahl
Linda Kreis
Sally Mackey
Jane Miller
Nancy Muir
Tim Nutley
Janet Peschka
Karen Sonja Quinn
John Rossetto

Kim Saville
Cathy Shikatani
Norrene Thompson
Carol Tracy
Vern Vanderzanden
Anny Van Natta
Lynn Wallis
Sherry Withee
Barbara Workman

Each Chapter also reported growing food for those in need: Clackamas County - 'Grow an Extra Row'; Multnomah County – Community Demo Garden at Learning Garden Lab, Greenthumb; and Washington County – Fairplex Demo Garden . These **demo gardens grew a total of over 4,000 pounds** of fresh produce and their Master Gardeners put in **thousands of volunteer hours**.

Christine Rhoney, ImpactNW's Kelly SUN Site Supervisor, says of donations from Multnomah County Chapter's Demo Garden, "...the Master Gardener program has been a wonderful addition to the services that we provide to the Kelly community. The ability to provide fresh produce to families and promote healthy living practices is amazing."

Thirty-six Master Gardeners volunteered at the OFB Learning Gardens with the *Dig In*, *Seed to Supper* and *Cooking for the Garden* programs for almost **700 hours!**

Master Gardener Sarah Patterson, with Lettucegrow.org, volunteers her time at the Columbia River Correctional Facility developing gardening programs and they grew **300 pounds of food!** Their mission is to establish and enhance vegetable gardens in correctional settings.

All of this hard work and dedication by metro Master Gardeners provided a total of **12,574 pounds** of locally grown fresh produce for families in need in our communities. These Master Gardeners have impacted their communities in a very positive way and are making a big difference. Great job!

I hope to highlight other great outreach activities Master Gardeners provide for our communities in upcoming newsletters. Let me know what you or others are doing! Email your story to: margaret.bayne@oregonstate.edu. Fill me in on the -who, what, when, where and why! Photos would be appreciated too!

Margaret Bayne

Multnomah County Chapter
of the
OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners
2012 SPEAKERS SERIES



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

- February 14 Gourmet Gardening: Growing your Own Groceries (6:30pm book sales and signing, 7pm presentation)
Willi Galloway, writer, radio commentator, and creator, DigginFood blog
- March 13 Garden Allies: Pollinators, Predators and Parasitoids That Help You Garden
Gail Gredler, horticulture instructor, Chemeketa Community College
- April 10 Developing the Sustainable Landscape
Tom Cook, Associate Professor Emeritus of Horticulture, Oregon State University
- May 8 Lessons from the OSU Organic Garden
James Cassidy, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Oregon State University
- June 12 Hydrangeas: What's New with this Old Favorite? (6:30pm plant sale, 7pm presentation)
Kristen Van Hoose, Hydrangeas Plus and Amethyst Hill Nursery
- September 11 The Magic of Ornamental Grasses (6:30pm plant sale, 7pm presentation)
Carolyn Kolb, Wind Dancer Garden
- October 9 Invasive Weeds: Know Your Enemies
Mary Logalbo, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
- November 13 Urban Meadowsaping
Mark Griswold Wilson, Restoration Ecologist, Portland Parks and Recreation,
Technical Advisor, Portland Urban Meadowsaping Project

Summer 2012 Series 'In the Garden'

Two special presentations in the Multnomah Chapter's Community Demonstration Garden
7pm, Learning Gardens Laboratory, 6801 SE 60th, Portland

- July 10 Year Round Vegetable Bounty: Planning for a Fall and Winter Harvest
Jen Aron, owner Peaceful Gardens, garden educator
- August 14 Beating the Odds: Triumph in the Veggie Garden
Jean Natter, OSU Extension Service Master Gardener, garden educator

How to test your stored seed for germination

CORVALLS, Ore. If you saved seed from the last growing season and wonder if they will germinate when planted this spring, you can discover the average rate of germination before the planting season begins.



“It’s easy to check vegetable and flower seed viability, and it can save you time later when the gardening season begins,” said Ross Penhallegon horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. “Some seeds remain viable for a year and others for three or more years.”

To find out whether a variety of seed will germinate and grow, Penhallegon suggests the following test:

- ⇒ Place 10 seeds an even distance apart of a damp paper towel. Roll up the towel and place in a plastic bag.
- ⇒ Leave the damp, rolled towel in a warm spot in the kitchen for two to five days. The location’s lighting doesn’t matter.
- ⇒ After the two-to-five days, check the paper towel to see which seeds have germinated.

“The percentage of seed germinating in the towel will give you a fairly good idea how the same seed will do in the garden,” he said. “If half the seed did well in the towel, half of the same batch of seed will probably do well in the garden.”

Some seed types last longer than others. For example, seed from sweet corn. Parsnips, Swiss chard and spinach generally keep well under normal household conditions for only a year. On the other hand, beans, carrots, cole crops, collards, squashes, tomatoes and turnips are good for at least three years.

Seed is best stored through the winter at 50 degrees with 50 percent humidity. Another good way to store unused seed packets is to place seeds in a sealed jar with a desiccant or powdered milk at the bottom to absorb moisture. Store the jar in a cool room or refrigerator over the winter.

To learn more about storing seed, see OSU Extension’s “Collecting and Storing Seeds from Your Garden,” FS 220, online.

To learn about propagating plants from seed, see the OSU Extension’s PNW 170 “Propagating Plants from Seed” online.

You can search the OSU Extension catalog for more than 1,200 items, including publications, books, videos and other education media.

Author: Judy Scott **Source:** Ross Penhallegon

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR FOR THE METRO AREA

- Feb 4** HOS Pruning Workshop, 9am, Clackamas Community College, HOS Arboretum
- Feb 4** Clackamas County Chapter pruning workshop
- Feb 7** Washington County Chapter *“What to do in your garden in February and March”* with Judy Alleruzzo & William McCleathan from TV show **Garden Time**.
- Feb 8-12** The Northwest Flower & Garden Show—Seattle. Washington State Convention Center. Phone 253-756-2121. www.gardenshow.com
- Feb 11** Clackamas County Chapter Mason Bee workshop
- Feb 13** Clackamas County Chapter pm, *Fat, Spiny & Weird; Getting succulent plants to thrive*
- Feb 14** Multnomah County Chapter, 6:30pm, Speaker: Willi Galloway, writer, radio commentator, *“Grow Cook Eat: A Food-Lover’s Guide to Vegetable Gardening”*, presentation and book signing
- Feb 17-19** Yard, Garden and Patio Show, Oregon Convention Center
- Feb 18** HOS grafting workshop; 9am; HOS Arboretum
- Feb 18** Washington County Chapter Pruning Demonstration. See chapter page for details
- Feb 22-26** Spring Home and Garden Show, Expo Center
- Feb 24** Pre-order deadline for Multnomah County Chapter, **Incredible Edibles Plant Sale**, see details elsewhere in issue.
- Feb 25** Clackamas County Chapter **Garden Discovery Days** 9am-noon, Milwaukie Center—see information elsewhere in this issue
- Mar 6** Washington County Chapter Dave Doolittle of Terra Nova speaking on *“New Perennials”*
- March 13** Multnomah County Chapter, 7pm, Speaker: Gail Gredler, Chemeketa Community College, *“Garden Allies: Pollinators, Predators and Parasitoids That Help You Garden”*
- Mar 17** HOS Fruit Propagation Fair, 9am-4pm; Clackamas Event Center, Canby
- Mar 31** MG Recertification PCC Rock Creek 8:30am—3:30pm
- April 10** Multnomah County Chapter, 6pm, Welcome Potluck for Intern MGs. 7pm, Keynote Speaker: Tom Cook, Associate Professor Emeritus of Horticulture, OSU , *“Developing the Sustainable Landscape”*
- Apr 28** Washington County Master Gardener Plant Sale at Kinton Grange, 19015 SW Scholls Ferry Rd., Beaverton, OR 8:30—3 pm
- May 5-6** Clackamas County Chapter Spring Garden Fair, Canby
- May 5** Multnomah County Chapter, **Incredible Edibles Plant Sale**, 10am to 4pm, Learning Gardens Laboratory, Portland.
- May 8** Multnomah County Chapter, 7pm, James Cassidy, OSU, Department of Crop and Soil Science, *“Lessons From the OSU Organic Garden”*.
- Jul 25-27** Mini College on the campus of Willamette College 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 14 Feb. 2012
Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church
5441 SE Belmont Street

6:30 Copies of Cook, Grow, Eat for sale & signing
7:00pm Gourmet Gardening: Growing Your Own Groceries - Willi Galloway, award winning writer and radio commentator

Juicy strawberries glisten with morning dew; plump pea pods dangling like earrings from their vines; freshly sliced tomatoes still warm from the afternoon sun—kitchen gardeners have access to some seriously amazing food. In this photo-filled lecture, Willi will explore the diversity of food in our gardens. Learn how to harvest crops like garlic scapes and green coriander; hear about the best vegetable varieties for the Pacific Northwest and how to keep your garden productive year round.

Willi Galloway is an award winning writer and radio commentator and author of the new book, *Grow Cook Eat: A Food-Lovers Guide to Vegetable Gardening, Including 50 Recipes, Plus Harvesting and Storage Tips*, a gorgeous garden-to-table handbook that fills in the blanks between growing food in the garden and using it in the kitchen. With 50 guides to the best-loved vegetables, herbs, and small fruits, Willi offers easy-to-follow planting and growing advice and specific instructions for harvesting and storing all the edible parts of the plant. Each guide concludes with a simple recipe that celebrates the flavor of fresh food.

Willi writes about kitchen gardening and seasonal cooking on her popular blog, DigginFood, and pens the weekly column, The Gardener, on Apartment Therapy's Re-Nest blog. Tuesday mornings, Willi offers vegetable gardening advice on Seattle's popular NPR call-in show, Greendays. She also co-teaches gardening and cooking classes with Chef Matthew Dillon in Seattle and hosts an online garden-to-table cooking show, *Grow. Cook. Eat.*, with her husband, Jon. Willi was the West Coast Editor of *Organic Gardening* magazine from 2003 to 2009 and is a WSU-trained Master Gardener.

*****Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, 7 Feb. 2012 at 5:30 pm at Claudia's – 4026 N.E. Hazelfern.**

*****Coming Next Month March 13, 2012 - 7pm**

Garden Allies: Pollinators, Predators and Parasitoids That Help You Garden Gail Gredler, Horticulture, Chemeketa Community College

The myriad of insects and other critters that are helpful to the gardener often outnumber those that cause all the problems. Learn how to know the good guys from the bad guys.

*****NW Flower and Garden Show**

Join us for our annual bus trip to the NW Flower and Garden Show in Seattle. Enjoy the company of fellow

MGs, leave the stress of driving behind and get inspired exploring this amazing garden show on Wednesday, February 8th (opening day!). Tickets which include round trip transportation, show ticket and program are \$70. Departing Portland at 6am and returning around 9pm. For more information contact June Davidek at davidkjune@comcast.net or (503)477-8698.

*****Early Spring Edible Plant Sale**

Due to the popular demand of our Early Spring Edibles Sale we are aiming to meet the needs of those who want home-grown goodness into the summer and fall. So mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 5th** for the **Incredible Edibles Plant Sale**. This sale will be one stop shopping for all your summer vegetable garden needs. An incredible selection of organic, sustainably grown vegetable starts will be available for your choosing. All varieties are proven to perform well in our NW climate. Tomatoes, peppers, cukes, squash, greens, lettuces, herbs and more! The sale will take place from 10am to 4pm at the Learning Gardens Laboratory, 6801 SE 60th Avenue, Portland.

Guarantee Getting Your Selected Veggies

Want to guarantee your favorite summer veggie varieties will be available at the **Incredible Edibles Plant Sale**? Then pre-order your chosen veggies and your order will be waiting for you to pick up on the sale day. Find details for online orders and mail orders at <http://www.metromastergardeners.org/multnomah/plantsale/>

Deadline for pre-orders is **Friday, February 24th**
*****Other Goods:** <http://www.metromastergardeners.org/multnomah/merchandise/>

***** Tool Shed Construction**

'Bob the Builder' and anyone with construction and carpentry skills is encouraged to help with construction of our new Demonstration Garden tool shed on Saturdays, February 4th, and February 11th beginning at 9am. Please contact Judy Battles to commit to the cause: rsbattles@comcast.net

*****Phones in Multnomah County - Sally Campbell:**
sally.mult.phones@gmail.com or (503)810-8717

2012 Officers and Contact Information

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OMGA Alternate – JoAnn Bones 503-253-3168
bones7247@comcast.net

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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS –

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

“What to do in your garden in February and March” with Judy Alleruzzo and William McCle-nathan of the **“Garden Time”** TV show.

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

“New Perennials” with Dave Doolittle from **Ter-ra Nova Nurseries**

MEETING LOCATION & DAY

First Baptist Church 5755 SW Erickson Ave., Bea-
verton, OR 97005, located between Farmington Rd. &
Allen Blvd. The open program is at 7:15 pm following
the Chapter Meeting which begins at 6:45 pm.
The public is welcome. No charge or registration.

FREE PRUNING DEMONSTRATION

Open to the public
Saturday Feb. 18th, 10 AM to 2 PM

3850 Minter Bridge Road, Hillsboro, OR
Learn pruning for fruit trees, grapes, ber-
ries, roses, rhododendrons, and other or-
namentals from experienced gardener
volunteers. Ask questions and learn tool
care. No sign up is needed. Jerry Ander-
son is our Chapter lead on this event
which is sponsored by the Washington
County Master Gardener Association and
the Tualatin Valley Garden Club.

NOON-TIME CHAT PRESENTERS NEEDED

MGs are needed to present 30 minutes chats dur-
ing 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 Diana Gaydon at

diana@dianagaydon.com

REMINDER:

The Plant Sale is April 28th this year

The last week of March will be the cut-off to dig and
divide your donations for the sale. Plan to bring your
bare-root plants to the March or April Chapter meetings
for pick-up. Questions? Call Jane Miller at 503-590-
3598 or Cindy Muir at 503-245-3922.

March 31st

Is

Spring Recertification Day

at PCC Rock Creek 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

President	Bob Falconer	503-277-6595
Vice President	Sandy Japely	503-644-2637
Recording Secretary	Diane Allen	503-244-8599
Corresponding Secretary	Mary Lidberg	503-649-4202
Treasurer	Lynn Cox	503-629-9156
OMGA Rep	Tim Lanfri	503-590-4354
Alternate Rep	open	
Dir.#1 Business	Bill Klug	503-681-0143
Dir.#2 Program	Karen Brandenburg	503-590-8562
Dir.#3 Publicity	Marilyn Berti	503-292 8637
Dir.#4 Fundraising	Paula Rosch	503-312-9274
Dir.#5 Chapter Relations	Judy Hale	503-590-7221

Submit **Chapter Chat** information and general chapter announcements to **Mary Lidberg**, Chapter Chat Editor.

Phone **503-649-4202** or e-mail: agc.mary@gmail.com

Please send address or e-mail changes to info@wcmga.info

Chapter Website: www.washingtoncountymatertergardeners.org



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



February Meeting

Monday, February 13, 2012

7 p.m.

Milwaukie Center

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive Milwaukie

Fat, Spiny, and Weird Plants: Getting Succulent Plants to Thrive

Luther Sturtevant and his wife, **Lynn-Marie Kara**, will share their knowledge about succulent plants. They have been growing cacti & succulents for more than 40 years, as both a hobby and a business. They currently operate an internet nursery (www.KaraCactus.com) specializing in *Lithops*, *Echeveria*, cacti, *Haworthia*, and small-growing *Aloe*, plus whatever catches their attention. Luther is the current editor of the Oregon Cactus & Succulent Society's newsletter. Do you need to live in the desert? Come listen as Luther provides the keys to successfully growing these fascinating plants and learn how to keep them happy and alive – both indoors and outdoors.

March Meeting

Monday, March 12, 2012

7 p.m.

Dwarf Conifers in the Garden

Sandy Ditmar of Iseli Nursery will talk about the natural suitability of dwarf and slow-growing conifers for today's gardens and lifestyles.

Advisory Committee Duties

The three members of our Advisory Committee will take on expanded roles this year as they each become liaisons to the Chapter committees. They will keep in touch with their committees and provide regular updates to the Board. Assigned committees:

Buz Oerding - Education, Community Projects, CCC Scholarship, Sunshine, Hospitality, Meeting Logistics, Membership

Mary Butler - Speaker's Bureau, Extra Row, Audit, Nominations, Picnic, Potluck, Clinics

Sharon Andrews - Open Gardens, Workshops, Milwaukie Center garden, Oregon Trail Pioneer Garden, Directory, Newsletter, Web site
Please contact the appropriate Advisory Board member with any questions or comments.

Upcoming Workshops

Pruning Workshop: February 4

Mason Bee Workshop: February 11

Look for details about these two fine workshops on the Chapter Web site.

Open Gardens: Information is shown on our website.

Garden Discovery Day

February 25, 2012

Milwaukie Center

This Community Outreach program features several 10-Min. University presentations, pH testing, kid's activities, a MG clinic, and static displays. Be sure to tell your friends about this community program and encourage them to attend. Additional information is on our Web site. **We need help.** Contact Sherry Sheng if you are willing to assist

Green Glove

The January recipient of the Green Glove Award was Darlene Reimer. She is our current Chapter secretary, teaches classes for 10-Minute University™, and is co-chair of the Publicity Committee for Spring Garden Fair. Darlene became a Master Gardener in 2009 and immediately became active in Program activities and the Chapter. She devotes many hours to the Master Gardener program each year.

Congratulations to Darlene, Green Glove award winner for January.

President • Frank Wille: 503.342.6699 — Vice President • Will Hughes: 503.887.9380

Secretary • Darlene Reimer: 503.698.4648

Advisory Board • Buzz Oerding: 503.233.6974

OMGA Rep • Terri Hoffman: 503.982.4825

Treasurer • David Smith: 503.656.4613

Advisory Board • Mary Butler: 503.632.1532

OMGA Alt. Rep • Karen King: 503.467.8800

Advisory Board • Sharon Andrews: 503.577.7493

Newsletter • Kathy Johnson: 503.794.3959

Web sites: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/> — <http://www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org/>

February 2012

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 these products and services or intends to discriminate against products and services not mentioned.

Oregon State | Extension
UNIVERSITY | Service

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

Clackamas County Extension
Oregon State University
200 Warner-Milne Rd
Oregon City OR 97045

FEBRUARY 2012 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 it programs and materials equally to all people.



Sawit Owl “Pip”

Photo by S. Andrews