

# Metro Master Gardener™ News

## January 2010



A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

### 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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### Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Metro Program Update from Weston and Jordis	2
Opportunities from Jordis	4
2010 Class Schedule	5
Natter's Notes-Composting: Where Did the Worms Go?	6
Quiz Corner	8
Metro MG Diagnostic Forum	9
Multnomah County Chapter Speakers Series for 2010	10
Horticultural Calendar	11
OSU Horticulture Department Under Siege	12
Multnomah County Chapter Page	13
Washington County Chapter Page	14
Clackamas Country Chapter Page	15
Garden Calendar for January	16

## **PROGRAM UPDATE FROM WESTON AND JORDIS**

Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming MG trainings.

The 2010 Master Gardener training will begin the first week of January and continue until mid-March. Please see the final schedule in this edition of the newsletter. For 2009 Master Gardeners, you are welcome to attend any and all of the classes for a refresher on course content and to connect with fellow MGs. Master Gardeners that trained in 2009 are not required to complete any recertification hours during 2010.



For all other veteran MGs, please remember that you have several ways to fulfill recertification requirements:

- Twelve (12) hours of recertification training (Four (4) 3-hour training sessions marked with “\*” in the schedule)
- Two 6-hour continuing education trainings (spring and fall)
- Combination of the above to total twelve (12) hours

Achieve an 80% score or better on recertification test (available from Jordis in May).



Every veteran MG also should plan on completing at least 25 hours of volunteer service during 2010 to be considered an active MG. You are encouraged to have at least 10 of these hours be outreach on the phones or in clinics. You are, of course, welcome to contribute as much time and energy as you like as part of the MG program. We appreciate your participation!

Your MG hours report will be due by October 1, 2010. All Master Gardener programs in Oregon will be required to phase in an online volunteer reporting system in 2010. Please stay tuned for details. We will still have a mechanism for you to submit your report if you choose not to use the online system.

Here are some of the accomplishments of the Master Gardener Program in the metro area in 2009:

New Master Gardener Trainees = 190

Trainees who reported their volunteer service = 128 (67%)

Veteran Master Gardeners who recertified = 433

**Total volunteer hours = 40,666 x \$17.90/hour (estimate value of Oregon Volunteer time) = \$727,921 and the equivalent of 19.5 full time employees.**

**Total public contacts = 31,500**

Selected clinic contacts:

Oregon Zoo = 11,301

Washington County Phone Clinic = 3,839

Clackamas County Phone Clinic = 1,848

Multnomah County Phone Clinic = 866 (at West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District)

Rose Test Garden Clinic = 2,361

Oregon City Farmers Market Clinic = 1,036

Other clinics = 9,979

MGs have also initiated some exciting new projects including:

**10-minute University-** Master Gardener volunteers have engaged 875 residents

Through 10-minute University, a suite of short-format presentations delivered at the Master Gardener Spring Garden Fair, Oregon City Farmers Market, and other venues in Clackamas County. Trained volunteers deliver in-depth and useful information about a wide variety of gardening topics including how to grow various vegetables, small fruits, and herbs, as well as many other gardening tips. Plans are in place to expand this innovative outreach program in 2010.

**Portland City Hall Garden-** Master Gardener Jen Aron and other volunteers helped with a new vegetable garden in what used to be the lawn at City Hall in Portland. This project yielded 500 pounds of produce for Loaves and Fishes and tremendous good will with City officials.

**Multnomah County MG Demonstration Garden-** MGs rallied to install and manage a large plot at the Learning Gardens Laboratory in SE Portland. This project yielded over 1,500 pounds of produce distributed into the community. Well done!

**Washington County Harvest Festival-** This event provided a great opportunity for Washington County MGs to open their demonstration garden to the public and for collaboration within OSU Extension Service. Food preservation, gardening, and a 4-H open house made this event a great way for OSU Extension to show the general public what great work we do in communities.

Master Gardeners also continue fabulous work in a number of important partnerships including:

Pittock Mansion

Tours of the International Rose Test Garden

Fred Meyer, BiMart, Portland Nursery, and other retailers

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

1860's Heritage Kitchen at Champoeg State Park

Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

Many farmers' markets throughout the metro area.

We are very grateful for your time and energy serving as OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners. The scale and scope of this educational service is staggering.

THANK YOU for making the MG program in the metro area such a success!

Sincerely,

Weston and Jordis

## **OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS**

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

### **PHONE SCHEDULE**

Master Gardener phones in all three locations are staffed through the winter. We still get plenty of questions and this is a good time to come in and get acquainted with the books and maybe even do some detective work on some of your own garden issues.

**Heidi Nichols 503-774-6888 or [heidinichols@comcast.net](mailto:heidinichols@comcast.net)** for Washington County office

**Joby Duggan 503-632-2165 or [joby@bctonline.com](mailto:joby@bctonline.com)** for the Clackamas County office

**Gloria Bennett 503-775-4005 or [dcleopatra@comcast.net](mailto:dcleopatra@comcast.net)** for the Multnomah office

If you have a gardening question yourself and would like to confer with Master Gardeners on duty, who also have access to the resource material, call the following numbers:

Clackamas.....503-655-8631    Multnomah.....503-445-4608    Washington.....503-821-1150

Phone schedules for all three offices will begin to appear in the training classes, so you can sign up for dates when you come to classes to re-certify. Look on the schedule for the first resource fair (week of February 2).

### **YGP & SPRING H & G SHOW**

The Yard, Garden and Patio Show is coming to Portland Feb. 12 - 14 and will be at the Oregon Convention Center (glass towers). As usual, we will have an opportunity to have a clinic table, introduce speakers and help with the plant sale area.

Contact Julie Biddle if you are interested in working the plant clinic. 503-286-6591 or [tomr\\_julieb@msn.com](mailto:tomr_julieb@msn.com)

Contact Laura Eyer if you are interested in introducing speakers. 503-982-3522 or [eyerfamily@wbcable.net](mailto:eyerfamily@wbcable.net)

Contact Jordis if you are interested in cashiering in the Remarkable Green Market / plant sale area.

The Spring Home and Garden Show is February 24 – 28 and will be at the Expo Center (by Interstate Bridge).

Julie Biddle is scheduling clinic volunteers here as well (see message above)

### **2010 TRAINING**

The 2010 classes are scheduled to start the week of January 5. Besides the new trainees, we welcome our veteran MGs into the classroom to take recertification credits. Watch for the classes with an asterisk (\*) and choose at least four 3-hour sessions to be certified to volunteer during the 2010 garden season. If you attend the Fall and Spring Recertification classes, or take the test...training class participation is not required.

Be sure to check the class schedule in the newsletter to help you plan. We have some new topics covered this session, so it will be fun to learn together.

**PLEASE NOTE:** January 7 at the SE Portland location – Chip Bubl will teach Botany for Gardeners in the morning instead of the afternoon as it appears on the schedule. This change affects January 7 only.

## 2010 MASTER GARDENER TRAINING SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Time	Topic	Instructor	Reading
1	January 5, 7, 8	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Community Horticulture</li> </ul>	Miller, Yost	
		PM	Botany for Gardeners	Bubl	Chapter 1
2	January 12, 14, 15	AM	Soils and Compost	Groth	Chapter 2
		PM	*Organic Gardening for MGs	Montacre	Online
3	January 19, 21, 22	AM	Ornamental Plant Care and Pruning	Bob Nelson	Chapter 9
		PM	*Entomology	Natter	Chapter 14
4	January 26, 28, 29	AM	*Understanding Pesticides	Bubl	Chapter 19
		PM	*Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	Miller	Chapter 20
5	February 2, 4, 5	AM	Home orchards and fruit tree pruning	Bruce Nelson	Chapter 4
		PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MG office training</li> <li>• Resource Fair</li> </ul>	Miller, Yost	Handouts
6	February 9, 11, 12	AM	Vegetable Gardening	Montacre	Chapter 7
		PM	*Weeds	Bubl	Chapter 17
7	February 16, 18, 19	AM	Small Fruits	Strik, Kaufman	Chapter 11
		PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to PNW guides</li> </ul>	Miller	Chapter 10
8	February 23, 25, 26	AM	*Household pests	Natter	Handout
		PM	Lawns	Price	Chapter 12
9	March 2, 4, 5	AM	*Vertebrate Pests	Bubl	Chapter 18
		PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant Propagation</li> <li>• Resource fair</li> </ul>	Howley Miller, Yost	Handout
10	March 9, 11, 12	AM	*Plant Diseases and Disorders	Natter	Chapter 15 and 16
		PM	*Plant Identification and outdoor excursion	Harber	Chapter 22
11	March 16, 18, 19	AM	*Diagnostics Clinic	Natter	Chapter 15 and 16
		PM	Open Book Test Review Volunteer Presentations	Miller, Yost	Take-home review

**Tuesdays-** First Baptist Church 5755 SW Erickson Ave Beaverton 97005

**Thursdays-** Mazama Mountaineering Center, 527 SE 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave Portland 97215

**Fridays-** VFW Hall 104 Tumwater Dr. Oregon City 97045

**Daily Schedule:**

Morning Session 9am – 12 pm

Lunch- 12pm – 1 pm

Afternoon Session 1pm – 4 pm

**Vets:** Look for \* classes for recertification hours (12 total needed for 2008 MG and earlier). 2009 MGs welcome to attend; no recertification required.

## Natter's Notes

### Composting: Where Did the Worms Go?

Jean R. Natter



Now and then, the MG offices receive a question about composting with a traditional pile, less often, composting with worms. So it can be confusing when a client's question involves factors from both systems. Then, too, we sometimes need to set facts straight.

For instance, consider this recent inquiry:

We have been composting for years in one of the cone shaped bins we got from Metro. Because we don't have much sunlight, we have relied on worms to do the composting (dark reddish worms). We suddenly had a population explosion early last summer (we had millions!) and then they just disappeared and haven't come back. We had a boomlet like this once before, but they came back after a couple of months. This time they haven't. Are we doing something wrong? Our composter is rapidly filling up! We put only fruits and vegetables in it, though occasionally a tiny amount of grains and dairy do slip through, but very minimally.

In order to provide an answer, one needs to acquire a number of facts, namely the purpose of the Metro bins, the environmental parameters which affect worms, also whether or not the composting process requires a sunny site.

Even though we lack a time line of the various events in the above inquiry, we can offer several reasons the worms disappeared from sight:

1. Optimum temperatures for composting worms are 59 to 77F whereas the worms will tolerate a range of 32F to 95F. When extremes occur, a large bin buffers temperatures well and provides a more stable environment than does a small one.
2. Some of the worms may have died from excessive temperatures, too low as might occur during winter or too hot during summer. It may require considerable time to rebuild the population.
3. The quantity of fresh food added to the bin was too much for the worms to process in a reasonable time. Excessive greens can foul the bin as they rot. (More details in Worm Bin Q&A, below.)
4. Some of the worms may have died because of excessive dryness or, more common for Metro bins, excess moisture because all greens without any browns can easily overload the system. Large families or vegetarians may be wise to have more than one Metro bin.

#### Common questions and concerns about worm bins:

**Q:** How many worms do I need?

**A:** The basic guideline is to start with at least a pound of worms because that amount can cope with up to half pound of garbage a day. You'll need red worms, *Eisenia foetida*, worms that are adapted to a high organic habitat.

**Q:** How large a bin do I need?

**A:** For every half pound of daily garbage, plan on at least 4 square feet of surface area in your bin. When you first set up the bin, start out with smaller amounts.

**Q:** What should I use for bedding?

**A:** Although one can purchase bedding for the worm bin, recycling newspaper and junk mail by shredding them seems a better option. It's easy to tear newspaper into narrow strips when you take advantage of the lengthwise grain.

**Q:** Will a worm bin smell bad?

**A:** No; but if it does smell bad, too much garbage was likely added for the worms to process within a reasonable time. That excess can foul the bin and also create sloppy wet conditions; both inhibit worms and can kill them. To give the worms a chance to catch up, don't feed them for a while.

**Q:** What are suitable temperatures for worm bins?

**A:** Although resources vary somewhat in their statements, optimum is about 59 to 77F, with a range of 32F to 95F. Whenever temperatures aren't adequate to kill the worms, they may only be out of sight because they moved deeper into the pile where temperatures are more stable. Then, too, the worms may have died from excessive temperatures as might occur during winter or during summer. In the latter instances, it will take time for the worm population to recover.

**Q:** Why did the worms leave my new set up?

**A:** Worms accompanied by some of their original bedding and food stuffs are likely to stay put. Unfortunately, when one begins with "washed" worms, they lack their previous microbial associates.

**Q:** Why do I have a bazillion fruit flies?

**A:** Too much garbage was added at once, or it wasn't covered by bedding.

**Q:** Is moldy food okay?

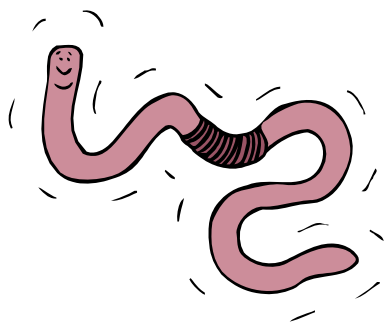
**A:** Yes; the worms feed on the microbes that break down the garbage rather than directly on the vegetable scraps.

**Q:** Why are mites in the bin; and will they damage the worms?

**A:** Several kinds of mites multiply when conditions are too wet in the bin; none will damage your worms. Even so, it may be wise to dry out the bin somewhat. Open the lid a bit to allow some surface drying; or add dry bedding to sop up the moisture. If needed, drain off excess liquid.

**Q:** I see lots of small white worms; what are they and are they bad?

**A:** Those small white worms are called enchytraeids, and are normal inhabitants of a worm bin. Another name for them is "pot worms."



#### **A few guidelines for a traditional pile:**

- Site the pile for easy access; a shaded place is fine because the heat in a compost pile comes from activities of the desirable bacteria and fungi that make compost of the organic debris.
- Combine roughly equal volumes of browns (dry; bulking agents) and greens (fresh; energy materials). Or, try a ratio of 2 to 1. Because small pieces compost faster than large ones, consider chopping the ingredients beforehand.
- Strive for a pile of 3' x 3' x 3' or larger because a smaller mass won't generate, nor maintain, much heat.
- Keep the pile moderately moist such as in the widely touted "wrung out sponge."
- Within 2-4 days after the initial mixing, microbial action will heat the pile to 135F; when that occurs, mix the components (turn the pile), and repeat every 2 to 3 days. Alternately, turn the pile whenever the temperature reaches 140F.
- After the pile's temperature is stable, allow the compost to stand 4 to 8 weeks to cure before use.

2. To obtain Metro's list of local suppliers of *Eisenia foetida*, call 503-234-3000  
*Worms Eat My Garbage* (Mary Applehof): Home-scale composting with worms

#### **Resources:**

*Sustainable Gardening* (overview in Chapter 2, additional details in Chapter 5)

Metro Regional Government:

1. *Guide to Effective Composting* (traditional and with worms) <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=553>

2. To obtain Metro's list of local suppliers of *Eisenia foetida*, call 503-234-3000

*Worms Eat My Garbage* (Mary Applehof): Home-scale composting with worms

*Worms Eat Our Garbage* (Mary Applehof, et al): Classroom activities with worms



# QUIZ CORNER

December's Quiz (Picture taken 11-16-09)

November's Quiz (Picture taken 10-09-09)



## ANSWER FOR DECEMBER QUIZ:

English ivy; *Hedera helix*

(Yes, that's the same plant as was in November's Quiz. Both images were taken in the parking lot of the Washington County Extension office.)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER!

Beven Peters (Multnomah, 2000)

(Note: Only one other MG submitted an answer, but was too early and incorrect.)

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUBMIT AN IMAGE FOR A QUIZ?

If so, send it (and the answer) to me at [jrnatter@aol.com](mailto:jrnatter@aol.com). Thanks for your help.



# Metro MG Diagnostic Forum Invites You to Participate!

Jean R. Natter

Ever since the MG-Diagnostician (MG-Dx) program was launched in mid-November, the MG-Dx and the MG Guides have been learning how to make effective use of our online Forum, and have begun teaching the office MGs to do the same. The goal is that, come mid-March, all office MGs will be ready to assist the 2010 interns develop the same skill set.

The 30-some MG-Dx are true pioneers with their diagnostic endeavors. The reason? Ours is the only online MG Diagnostic Forum in Oregon, possibly in the nation.

**As you likely recall, the In-office Referral system** goes like this:

Problematic client cases are referred to successive MG shifts via one of the three Referral Forms in the offices but, now, the forms will stay there for only two days.

On the third day (the 5<sup>th</sup> shift), the office MGs need to transfer the Referral information to the Forum so that the MG-Dx can begin their online diagnostic process. *The exception to the 2-day guideline is when an intervening holiday or weekend exceeds the two day limit.*

After the inquiry is solved, the client and interested originating MGs will be notified of the diagnosis and management, if any.

**With time, we'll develop an extensive, easily-searched database** from the solved referrals filled with information appropriate to our region. Until then, solved inquiries will be available in chronological order in the Forum section called Reference Cases.

That said, a powerful search function is available which can help you locate information within the Forum. The current glitch is that the number of solved cases are relatively few. But try it anyway. The search box is at the far upper right of every Forum page.

**Office MGs can easily access the MG-Dx Forum** via a shortcut at the lower right of the office computer's desktop. (Alternately, use the shortcut in the Bookmarks.) Once there, login by using your MG office's username and password. (See December 2009 newsletter.)

**Whenever things are slow in the office, grab the opportunity** to add a practice case or two to Incoming Referrals. Doing so will help you learn the process even while providing the MG-Dx a chance to practice their diagnostic skills.

Inquiries suitable for such practice are any that have already been solved. If you have a sample at hand for that question, so much the better because now you can also develop your skills with the office digital camera. Take pictures, then transfer them to the computer, then to complete the process, upload the client's information plus the images

to the MG-Dx Forum. Oh yes; please use "practice" as the first word in the subject line.

(PS: While typing the online referral, make believe you don't know the answer. And don't spill the beans. Not to anyone! The MG-Dx need practice, too!)

Feel free to post in several other sections, too. In General Gardening Chat, add your own gardening questions by clicking the red letters NewTopic, or add a response by clicking the red letters PostReply.

Lots more to investigate, too.

For instance, the section titled Reference Cases has multiple sub-sections with information you can use while answering questions in the office and off-site clinics.

**The how-to information for uploading referrals and more** is in each MG office. Hardcopies are in a group of plastic page protectors stapled together as if a pamphlet, or they may have been placed in a small binder. The same information is also stored on each MG office computer; it's at the lower right of the computer's desktop in the folder titled MG Forum Images.

**You can also participate from your home computer.** All you need do is go to <http://www.metromastergardeners.org/forum/>, and login using your MG office's username and password. Once in the Forum, you'll find the pertinent how-to articles at the head of each sub-forum where they'll be used. For instance, *How to Upload Referrals* is in Incoming Referrals.

The Metro Master Gardener Diagnostician pilot program was designed and implemented by the Diagnostician Action Team, a sub-group of Weston Miller's Advisory Committee. Its members are Diane Clevon, Jean R. Natter, Beth Rose, Pat Smith, and Martha Waldemar.

**Special thanks go to Jay Ewing** (2008; Multnomah) for his technical expertise in designing and maintaining the Metro MG Diagnostician Forum, also guiding the Forum's development toward becoming an important tool for Metro MGs.

Metro Master Gardeners. Grow!



Multnomah County Chapter  
of the  
OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners  
2010 SPEAKERS SERIES



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

- January 12     Starting Seeds the Glen Way  
Glen Andresen, Metro
- February 9     Grape Expectations  
Ray Ethell, Broadacres Nursery, Owner
- March 9         50 Top Plant Choices for Portland Area Gardens  
Tom Fischer, Timber Press
- April 13        The Living Soil: why insects in the soil are important  
Dr. Andrew Moldenke, OSU, Dept. of Botany & Plant Pathology
- May 11         Edible Gardening in Small and/or Inhospitable Spaces  
Marc Boucher-Colbert, Urban Agriculture Solutions, LLC.
- June 8         Honey Bees: their importance and current plight  
Ramesh Sagili, Assistant Professor, OSU, Dept. of Horticulture
- September 14   Uncovering Compost Mysteries  
Carl Grimm, Metro
- October 12     Designing with Great Small Conifers  
David Leckey, Oregon Small Trees Nursery, Owner  
Anne Marsh, Marsh and Fear Garden Solutions, Designer
- November 9     Getting a Grip on Clematis  
Linda Buetler, Curator: Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Collection

## HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

- Jan 7** Washington County Chapter—Patrick Proden, Staff Chair/Administrator WA & Multnomah Counties-OSU Extension Service & 4H Program
- Jan 5,7,8** New Training classes begin!!
- Jan 11** Clackamas County Chapter—Nancy Goldman-European New Wave Perennial Movement
- Jan 12** Multnomah County Chapter, 7pm, Speaker: Glen Andresen, Metro Natural Gardening Educator, 'Starting Seeds the Glen Way
- Feb 4** Washington County Chapter—Peter Benzinger, Dennis 7 Dees Nursery "EcoRoofs"
- Feb 6** Mason Bee Workshop Clackamas Community College—call Pat Smith for details 503-656-3724
- Feb 8** Clackamas County Chapter—Invasive Plants: Bold, Bad & Beautiful
- Feb 9** Multnomah County Chapter, 7pm, Speaker: Ray Ethel, Broadacres Nursery, 'Grape Expectations'
- Feb 20** Pruning Workshop at Mike & Jane Collier's Farm-call for details 503-266-1191
- Mar 9** Multnomah County Chapter, 7pm, Speaker: Tom Fischer, Timer Press, "50 Top Plant Choices for Portland Area Gardens"
- Mar 13** Propagation from Seeds: From Germination to Transplant—Clackamas Community College—call Madeline Forsyth for details 503-465-1113.
- Apr 10** Spring MG Recertification Training—save the date

### **Metro MG online Forum now active!**

Join the fun!

Post a garden question, answer one, too.

Read Reference Cases, News Flashes and more.

Go to <http://www.metromastergardeners.org/forum/>

(Details elsewhere in this newsletter.)

\*\* Metro Master Gardeners. Grow!\*\*

## OSU Horticulture Department Under Siege

Sherry Sheng

The economic downturn has taken its toll on Oregon's universities. OSU Horticulture Department, home of the Master Gardener program, is no exception. The Department of Horticulture is administered by the College of Agricultural Sciences. Recently, the University grouped the colleges of Agricultural Sciences, Forestry, and Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences into a larger Division of Earth Systems Sciences. In addition to on-campus faculty, the Department of Horticulture administers Extension programming in 30 of Oregon's 36 counties.

Since the 1999-2000 academic year, the Department of Horticulture has lost 42% of tenure track faculty positions on campus. County positions, which also support research and Extension, have been lost principally through attrition. In the wake of staffing reductions and under the specter of further cuts if Measures 66 & 67 fail in January, 2010, the department faculty and staff are working to identify funding sources independent of the State of Oregon, with the goal of continuing delivery of teaching, research, and Extension programs.

Anita Azarenko, head of the department, convened a meeting with members of the United Oregon Horticulture Coalition on December 14, 2009, to seek input from this group. The coalition represents diverse interests, including tree fruits and nuts, the nursery industry, berries, viticulture, fresh and processed vegetables, organic producers and small farms. Also among our members are representatives from Oregon Board of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Landscape Contractors Association, Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association, Metro, and Master Gardener program.

A few key points I learned from the day are:

Federal and state funding accounts for 15% of Extension and research budgets today compared to nearly 100% 30 years ago;

Oregon ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in public funding for higher education among all U.S. states;

OSU has been very competitive in seeking grants and contracts, which provide 55% of the total College of Agricultural Sciences revenues;

Funding research with grants and contracts always opens the possibility that broader public interests will be neglected.

Efforts to redesign the College, and hence the Department of Horticulture, are ongoing. Pending results of the January election, the Horticulture department may have to cut additional campus and county positions. Staff support for the Master Gardener program has survived so far, and clearly the Dean of the College and head of Horticulture Department are aware of the value and stakeholder support of this program. However, the Master Gardener program and its personnel are not immune to reduction in the next round of cuts.

I will endeavor to stay informed of proposed changes. If you are interested in updates, please let me know by email ([sherrysheng@clear.net](mailto:sherrysheng@clear.net)) or phone (503-655-1822).



**MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE**  
Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with  
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

**12 January 2010 Chapter Meeting**

Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church 5441 SE Belmont  
**6:45pm Gather - 6:50 pm – Announcements 7:00 pm**  
**-Starting Seeds the Glen Way**

**Glen Andresen**, Metro, natural gardening educator If you do something long enough, you're bound to learn something. And so it is with the way Glen starts his vegetable seeds. After 25 years of seed starting for the ¾-acre food garden of a retreat center, Glen's developed a simple, smart, and practical way to start vegetable seeds. His presentation will cover all aspects of seed starting: seed selection and ordering, equipment and tools, bottom-heat and lighting options, thinning, transplanting, hardening off, and pest control once everything's planted outside. Of course there are many ways to start seeds, but there's only one Glen way! Join us for a light-hearted (but genuine) look at seed starting...you may even learn something!

Since 1994, Glen Andresen has been Metro's natural gardening educator. He has been a Master Gardener since 1991. His home garden includes about 40 fruit trees; a row each of raspberries, Marion berries and strawberries; plus blueberries, grapes, 15 raised vegetable beds, and honey bee colonies—all on a city lot that measures just 60 feet x 100 feet. Glen is an avid hobbyist beekeeper who keeps approximately 30 colonies of bees. He has degrees in economics and music but still would rather play in the dirt.

**\*\*\*Next Board Meeting – Tuesday 5 January 2010 - 6:30 pm** at Jean Edmison's – 7606 S.E. Ellis

**\*\*\*Coming up... 9, February, 2010, Chapter Meeting – Grape Expectations**, Successfully Growing Grapes in Portland. **Ray Ethell, Broadacres Nursery**

**\*\*\*Happy New Year from your new president!** As I think about our Multnomah Chapter in 2010, my vision is to build upon what our Five Star President Jean, the board, and YOU have accomplished with your thoughtful opinions and votes. 1) I am noticing an increase in meeting attendance and want to thank Marcia McIntyre and her committee for providing excellent programs. More and more of you have chosen to stay and support the business meeting portion of the evening and I hope that continues; Weston Miller has verified that is the one hour of chapter support time you may claim. The hour that you attend for the program can be listed under continuing education on the form. 2) I hope to see increasing involvement as we continue to provide activities that interest members; I was "blown away" by your support of our Demonstration Garden! 3) Educational Outreach, short term projects, and fund raisers will be a focus. I will need your support and input to accom-

plish the above ideas. In return I promise to be a good listener, to be responsible, and to act wisely! Please do not hesitate to share ideas or issues that you have; one idea can make a great difference. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at meetings!

**\*\*\*Seattle Flower Show Bus** (Were we really told it was cancelled?) We will take a bus for the first day of the show Wednesday 3 February 2010 from 6am to 9pm. Cost is \$60 for the ticket (includes bus with room for plants, show ticket and agenda). Call Evelyn Clink (503) 777-6771.

**\*\*\*** With our gardens in the midst of winter, and possible signs of spring emerging don't forget to take the time to grab your camera and capture the images. Then, **submit your favorite garden photos** to be considered for an upcoming fundraiser. We are planning on printing a set of high quality, color, note cards of lovely garden images. Please submit all photos to Marilyn Kongsli: [mkongsli@gmail.com](mailto:mkongsli@gmail.com) (503)289-8889

**\*\*\*** This summer we kicked off the **"Share Your Garden"** series of Master Gardener open gardens. Four gracious Multnomah County MGs, Kimberly Bown, Linda Hendrickson, LeAnn Locher, and Darlene Myers, opened their gardens and welcomed us. Their gardens offered delight and inspiration to a gardener's heart. So now it is time to plan for 2010. Please consider taking part in this fun event. If you would like to host an open garden pick a date and time, and then contact Gloria Bennett, [dcleopatra@comcast.net](mailto:dcleopatra@comcast.net) (503)775-4005. Notify Gloria by January 10, 2010 and your open garden will be listed in the 2010 Multnomah County Master Gardener Directory.

**\*\*\*IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CATCH A CHINOOK!**

The 2010 Chinook Books are for sale and loaded with over 400 money saving coupons from local, sustainable businesses. So catch a Chinook Book and catch some savings! Contact: Robin Case (503)762-3964 or Jean Edmison [housejem@aol.com](mailto:housejem@aol.com)

**2010 Officers**

President – Sharon Baker - 503-284-5189  
Vice President s–Heidi Nichols – 503- 774-6888  
Gloria Bennett – 503-775-4005  
Secretary – Jo Ann Bones – 503-253-3168  
Treasurer – Robin Case – 503-762-3964  
Past President – Jean Edmison - 503-771-2486  
OMGA Sr. Rep. – Marilyn Kongsli – 503-289-8889  
OMGA Rep. – Deanna St. Martin –  
Historians – Velda Altig – 503-252-7423  
Claudia Groth – 503-235-0669  
Grapevine – Lorna Schilling – 503-334-5162





# Washington County Chapter Chat

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

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

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS –

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Jan. 7, 2010 “OSU Extension Service”**

Patrick Proden, Staff Chair/Administrator WA & Mult Counties OSU Extension & 4H Program

**Feb. 4, 2010 “EcoRoofs”**

Peter Benzinger, Dennis 7 Dees Nursery

**SOCIAL GATHERING at 6:30 pm**

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

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

New officers and directors for 2010 proposed by the Nomination Committee were elected at the December Chapter meeting. They are:

President	Lynn Cox
Vice President	Tim Lanfri
Recording Secretary	Jackie Keil
Corresponding Secretary	Geri Larkin
Treasurer	Donna Blount
Director 2	Vern Vandersanden
OMGA Representative	Ken Keudell
Alternate OMGA Rep	Joanne DeHaan

## BEAVERTON TRAINING CLASS FOR NEW MGs

The 2010 training class begins January 5 and meets every Tuesday through March 16. Veterans can come help out and welcome the new trainees as well as earn hours toward recertification. See the Metro newsletter for the weekly schedule. To help out please contact Diana Gaydon at [diana@dianagaydon.com](mailto:diana@dianagaydon.com) or call **503-524-4243**.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## NOONTIME CHAT FACILITATORS NEEDED

The Noontime Chats have been fun and successful for the past two years. We are now looking to fill the 2010 schedule for the classes. We will start with the 2<sup>nd</sup> class on January 12<sup>th</sup> and continue each Tuesday's lunch break. The facilitators should have material for a 20 minute INFORMAL discussion. No pressure; this should be a FUN thing, just having lunch with some people that share your passion about any gardening topic. Props help! This activity and prep counts for volunteer practicum Educational Outreach hours. For information or to volunteer, contact Ken Keudell at **503-292-6519**.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The December Golden Trowel Award was presented to David Rullman (class of 1989) for his many years of service on the Board of Directors. Outgoing and incoming members of the Board were also recognized for their dedication and hard work to keep our Chapter operating smoothly. We thank all of them for their enthusiasm and many hours of service.

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

Submit Chapter Chat Announcements to Geri Larkin, Chapter Chat Editor, by the 11<sup>th</sup> each month. Phone **503-671-9307** or e-mail **Geri Larkin [geralyn.dan@gmail.com]**.

Submit general chapter announcements to Alan Strong, e-mail coordinator, [info@wcmga.info](mailto:info@wcmga.info)

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



# Clackamas County Chatter



January 2010 A chapter newsletter for the Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

## January Chapter Meeting

**Monday, January 11**  
**Milwaukie Center 7:00 p.m.**

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

European New Wave Perennial Movement

Nancy Goldman, former president of the Hardy Plant Society, will introduce the concept and design principles of the "New Perennial" gardens developed by Piet Oudolf, and illustrate his ideas with photographs of European gardens.

The Low Countries and lower Rhine region of Germany, freed from the French and English landscape designs that dominated for hundreds of years, now the cutting edge in developing and introducing new ideas, designs, and plant material, including the New Wave perennial movement.

## February Meeting Preview

**Monday, February 8**  
**Milwaukie Center 7:00 p.m.**

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

Invasive Plants: Bold, Bad & Beautiful.

Come learn about commonly occurring invasive ornamentals in our area, what makes a plant invasive, how to deal with them if you've got them, and how plants get on Oregon's Noxious Weed listing.

## Upcoming Events



February 6 9 a.m. - noon  
**Mason Bee workshop**  
**MG ONLY**

Clackamas Community College  
Horticulture Bldg, room 117  
*Pat Smith 503-656-3724*

February 20 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
**Pruning workshop**  
**MG ONLY**

Mike and Jane Collier's farm  
*Jane Collier 503-266-1191*

March 6 9 a.m. - noon  
**Get the Real Dirt**  
**PUBLIC**

Milwaukie Center  
Featuring Weston Miller, '10-Minute University' classes, "Ask the Expert" garden clinic, Soil pH test, and children's activities  
*Sharon Wiley 503-657-9054*

March 13 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
**Propagation from Seeds: From Germination to Transplant**  
**MG ONLY**

Clackamas Community College  
Horticulture Bldg, room 117  
Elizabeth Howley, Instructor  
\$5 fee, all participants will take home a potted seed tray.  
*Madeline Forsyth 503-465-1113*

## Committee Highlights

This year, the Chatter will highlight a different committee each month, giving new and veteran members alike a chance to learn more about how the Chapter operates.

The Program Committee is our feature for January. This committee selects, engages, and confirms speakers for our monthly meetings. In July, the committee offers a chapter outing to gardens. Twice a year, the committee stages a plant/seed sway before the meeting.

For 2010, committee members are Laura Eyer (chair), Hazel Childs, Susan Carley, Ruby Friesen, Nancy Hopkins, Elizabeth Kaufman, Nikki Mantei, Sherry Sheng and Carol Zinsli.

Suggestions for speakers and outings are always welcome, as are new members.  
*Laura Eyer 503-982-3522*

## Opportunity Available

A Chapter Historian is needed. For more information, please contact  
*Sherry Sheng 503-655-1822*

## 2010 Open Gardens

Please share your garden this year!

*Dot Carson*  
*503-638-0913*



## Clackamas County Chapter Officers

President	<b>Sherry Sheng</b>	503-655-1822		Advisory Board	<b>John Hill</b>	503-653-9524
Vice President	<b>Larry Huckaba</b>	503-631-8866			<b>John Hill</b>	503-653-9524
Secretary	<b>Holly Pederson</b>	503-701-5816			<b>Gene McCoy</b>	503-631-8059
Treasurer	<b>Mary Butler</b>	503-632-1532		Newsletter	<b>Kathy Johnson</b>	503-794-3959
Asst. Treasurer	<b>Trudy O'Donnell</b>	503-636-1697		Websites	<a href="http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/">http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/</a>	
OMGA Rep	<b>Nikki Mantei</b>	503-577-4494			<a href="http://www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org/">http://www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org/</a>	
OMGA Alternate Rep	<b>Linda O'Toole</b>	503-659-5309				



## January Garden Calendar

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 OSU Extension Service office](#).

### Planning

- ✦ Keep a garden journal. Consult your journal in the winter, so that you can better plan for the growing season.
- ✦ Check with local retail garden or nursery stores for seeds and seed catalogs, and begin planning this year's vegetable garden. Have soil test performed on garden plot to determine nutrient needs. Contact [your local Extension office](#) for a list of laboratories or view [EM 8677](#) online.

- ✦ Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs and trees for propagation. Plan to replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with [resistant cultivars](#) in February.

### Maintenance and Clean Up

Clean pruners and other small garden tools with rubbing alcohol.

Reapply or redistribute mulches that have blown or washed away during winter.

- ✦ Place windbreaks to protect sensitive landscape evergreens against cold, drying winds.
- ✦ **Central/Eastern Oregon:** To prevent winter damage from drying, water plants deeply every 6 to 8 weeks, when the temperatures are above freezing.
- ✦ **Western Oregon:** Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.

**Western Oregon:** Water landscape plants underneath wide eaves and in other sites shielded from rain.

### Pest Monitoring and Management

- ✦ Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified. Scout cherry trees for signs and symptoms of bacterial canker. Remove infected branches with a clean pruner or saw. Sterilize tools before each new cut. Burn or send to landfill before bloom. See EC 631, [Controlling Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards](#).
- ✦ Watch for field mice damage on lower trunks of trees and shrubs. Eliminate hiding places by removing weeds. Use traps and approved baits as necessary. Use dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on roses for general disease control, or, plan to replace susceptible varieties with [resistant cultivars](#) in February.

- ✦ **Western Oregon:** Moss in lawn may mean too much shade or poor drainage. Modify site conditions if moss is bothersome. **Mid-January:** Spray peach trees with approved fungicides to combat peach leaf curl and shothole. Or plant curl-resistant cultivars such as Frost, Q1-8 or Creswell.

### Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- ✦ Monitor houseplants for correct water and fertilizer; guard against insect infestations; clean dust from leaves.
  - ✦ Protect sensitive plants such as weeping figs from cold drafts in the house.
  - ✦ Propagate split-leaf philodendrons and other leggy indoor plants by air-layering or vegetative cuttings.
  - ✦ Plant dwarf annual flowers inside for houseplants: coleus, impatiens, and seedling geraniums.
- Western Oregon:** Gather branches of quince, forsythia, and flowering cherries; bring indoors to force early bloom.