

Metro Master Gardener™ News

January 2012



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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OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS

503-650-3118 or 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 for Washington County office

Joby Duggan 503-632-2165 or joby@bctonline.com for the Clackamas County office

Sally Campbell 503-810-8717 or sallyjcampbell51@gmail.com 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 January 31).

YGP & SPRING H & G SHOW

The Yard, Garden and Patio Show is coming to Portland Feb. 17 - 19 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
If you would like to coordinate the speaker introductions, call or email Jordis.

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

The Spring Home and Garden Show is February 22 – 26 and will be at the Expo Center (by Interstate Bridge).

Julie Biddle is scheduling clinic volunteers for this show. See Julie's contact info in message above)

2012 TRAINING

The 2012 classes are scheduled to start the week of January 3. 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 2011 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.



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

Training Locations:

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

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

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

- Morning classes 9 am to Noon Afternoon classes 1 to 4 pm

Brown Conifers; Cold Insects

Jean R. Natter

End of season browning in conifers

Every year, the MG offices receive multiple questions about conifers with significant amounts of brown needles, their owners fearing the worst of disease and/or insects. Quite often the answer is, instead, normal end-of-the-season browning. One such an inquiry was in an email to the Washington County MG office during November 2011, the subject line "Spruce tree has some sign of disease."

"Our Spruce tree is developing browning on its branches. This appears much more than normal for this time of year," wrote the client. During our follow-up conversation, we learned he planted the tree 47 years ago. (Figs 1 & 2 are two of the client's many images.)

While speaking with the client, we discussed end-of-season browning of old interior foliage on conifers but, because the damage appeared that it might be more severe than is usual, we also suggested he contact a Certified Arborist for an on-site visit. Too often, by the time clients recognize significant damage in older trees, the prognosis is poor. The issue may be especially tense if the tree was planted to commemorate an important life event.



Fig 1: End-of-season browning of a 47 year old blue spruce (client image)

Distance diagnosis is challenging at best and, when a long-established tree is involved, an on-site evaluation by a Certified Arborist typically reveals much more detail of the surroundings and history than was captured in photographs and a brief conversation. Such persons are trained professionals who must pass an exam, then must meet continuing education requirements to maintain that status.



Still, nagging questions remained: Was such extensive browning truly "normal" for the end of the season? Or was it a more complex issue? A consult with Jay Pscheidt, co-editor of the PNW Disease Management Handbook, was in order.

Fig 2: A closer view of the same blue spruce (client image)

Pscheidt posted his informative response on his PNW Disease Management facebook page, where he wrote:

“Hard to tell from the pictures but I might agree there is more browning of needles than normal. As you know it is all relative. As a rule of thumb, which can get us in trouble, we tend to see most evergreens with roughly 3 sets of needles. This last season’s needles should all be there, healthy and nice and green. The previous season’s needles should be there but it is normal to lose some of these. And the third should be there but may not have nearly as many. You know all that.

“It might look strange to us if this year’s growth was shorter than last year’s growth. In other words, you and I would look for a similar amount of needles in each year set. But if there are fewer needles this year to begin with, then the normal browning of last year’s needles might appear to be excessive.

“Bottom line, collect details of relative growth from year to year and the age class of needles affected. That will tell us if it is closer to normal or not. In the end, this is a big tree that has been around for a long time. It appears that it will continue to be around for a long time to come even if it loses an abnormal amount of foliage in any one year.”

Insect survival during cold weather

December’s overnight temperatures have been a tad low. So it’s a good bet the MG offices will receive questions about insect survival, perhaps with the optimistic thought that perhaps this winter will be cold enough to put a dent in the populations of pesky insects.

Well, perhaps not. Turns out that insects, pesky or not, may be fine.

Insects have several strategies for surviving winter. They’re cold-blooded creatures that stop moving at about 40F. During colder conditions, genetically determined survival mechanisms take over, among them various antifreeze compounds. As long as insects don’t freeze solid, most survive until conditions improve.

During extended periods of cold, insects go into diapause, triggered either by decreasing day-length or by dropping temperatures. Metabolism slows markedly. The insects don’t feed, develop, breed, or move. They wait.

Common garden insects that survive below-ground include ants (among them the odorous house ants at my place), the immature stages of most beetles, and pupae of various moths. Abundant pupae in recent years are the greater yellow underwing (*Noctua pronuba*), as well as their late-summer generation of caterpillars that surface periodically during warm winter spells to feed. (Fig 3)

Yellowjackets, bald-faced hornets, and bumble bees survive with another scheme. The workers die at the end of the season while the mated queens are in sheltered sites, such as among firewood .

Other shelters are important, too, sites deliberately fashioned by and for people.

Wall voids are particularly helpful for arthropods that congregate on south- and west-facing walls of light-colored, often multi-story structures. Yep; western box elder bugs (*Boisea rubrolineatus*), marbled stink bugs (*Halyomorpha halys*, also known as BMSB), and Asian ladybugs (*Harmonia axyridis*).



Fig 3: A few of the caterpillars (*Noctua pronuba*, the greater yellow underwing) and pupae which survived the winter of 2010-2011 in my garden's soil (April 2011)

People often say these particular critters “leave” but will “come back” on warm days. Instead, it’s a matter hanging out within the protective wall void during cold weather, then resurfacing during warm episodes to bask in the sunshine. Serious angst ensues when those insects follow the heat gradient indoors!

Resources

- *PNW Plant Disease Management* on facebook supplements the *PNW Plant Disease Management Handbook* as a resource for growers, extension agents, MGs, and more. You can access this page even if you’re not a facebook member. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/PNW-Plant-Disease-Management/124973520901136>
- *Some insects can cope with cold weather* <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/NEWS/insectweather-news.html>, a news release, which is based on the Kern County Entomology Newsletter (pages 1-2) at <http://cekern.ucdavis.edu/files/98643.pdf>
- *Winter Survival Strategies of Insects* <http://coopext.colostate.edu/4DMG/Pests/winter.htm>
- *Where do Bugs Go in Winter?* <http://lancaster.unl.edu/hort/articles/2002/winterbugs.shtml>
- Bugguide has multiple images of *Noctua pronuba* and some of their color variations: Larvae <http://bugguide.net/node/view/9821>; Adults <http://bugguide.net/node/view/9821>.

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
An 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.

Purple-leaf grape vine is an alternative to invasives

MCMINNVILLE, Ore—If you're looking for a colorful climbing vine and a non-invasive ground cover, *Purpurea* (*Vitis vinifera*), a purple leaf relative of wine grapes, has both. Unlike its agricultural relatives, its fruit has an unpleasant taste.

“Purple leaf grape is a real show-off in the fall, when its leaves turn a deep reddish purple,” said Linda McMahan, horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension. Its ornamental features and use as a climber or ground cover make up for the lack of fruit flavor, she added.

Because of the success and non-invasive characteristics, *Purpurea* is featured in “[Garden Smart Oregon](#)” as an alternative to English Ivy, a prolific invasive vine.

“Three years after planting, the two vines in front of the OSU Extension Office in Yamhill County are just beginning to reach eye-catching size,” she said. “It has been well worth the wait and many visitors have already commented and asked questions.”

Purple leaf grape also is considered to be water wise and can be used in drought-tolerant landscapes.

“Although it adapts to many different soils, growth and color are best in full sun,” McMahan said. It does best in zones 6-9, west of the Cascades.

To add to its credits, the species also has been selected as a “Great Plant Pick” by the nonprofit [Elizabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden](#).

Fall is a great time to plant woody trees, shrubs and vines, McMahan said. “Purple leaf grape is commercially available in Oregon at specialty nurseries so now is a good time to search it out.”

Author: Judy Scott

Source: Linda McMahan



Purple leaf grape on an arbor mixed with regular table grapes. (Photo by Deb Zaveson)

OSU offers guide on building wild bird nest boxes

CORVALLIS—Woodpeckers, wood ducks, swallows, bluebirds and barn owls are among the 45 species of cavity nesting birds in Oregon. But most people in suburban and urban areas consider dying or dead trees (snags) where these birds nest to be safety hazards or eyesores. So nesting habitat for these birds is scarce.

If you have some dead trees on your property you can make them safe for people while saving them for the birds. But if you have no snags at all, you can help replace the loss of natural cavities by adding nest boxes to your yard, suggests Nancy Allen, wildlife biologist with the Oregon State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.



The bird houses for sale at stores and garden centers are often expensive or they may not be the right kind for the species of cavity nesters found in your area.

By building your own nest boxes for birds you can be sure you have the right dimensions and other features important for the species near you.

The OSU Extension Service offers a seven-page guide with building instructions, placement recommendations and nest box dimensions for about 18 species of cavity nesting birds including the American kestrel, barn owl, black-capped and chestnut-backed chickadees, downy and hairy woodpeckers, house wren, the northern saw-whet owl and the tree and violet-green swallow.

“Build Nest Boxes for Wild Birds,” (EC 1556) can be downloaded from the Web at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/EC/EC1556pdf>.

Or printed copies are available by mail for \$1.50 per copy plus \$3 shipping and handling. Send a request and check or money order payable to OSU: Publication Orders, Extension and Experiment Station Communications 422 Kerr Administration Bldg., OSU, Corvallis, OR 97321-2119.

Author: Carol Savonen
Source: Nancy Allen



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR FOR THE METRO AREA

2012 Happy New Year

- Jan 3, 5, 6** New MG classes start
- Jan 3** Washington County Chapter, 7pm, Speaker Alice Doyle of Log House Plants, "*Vegetables in Bloom*"
- Jan 9** Clackamas County Chapter, 7pm "*Birds of Prey*", Mandy McGuire from the Oregon Zoo
- Jan 10** Multnomah County Chapter 7pm, Speaker Lucy Hardiman, garden designer, "*Full Frontal Gardens: Gone the Lawn*"
- Jan 21** Home Orchard Society Orchard Care Seminar; 9am-12:20pm, Clackamas Community College McLoughlin Auditorium, Oregon City Campus, see HOS website for information
- Jan 29** HPSO Winter program with Annie Hayes of Annies Annuals; 1pm, Hoffman Hall, Portland State University; see HPSO website for information
- Feb 4** HOS Pruning Workshop, 9am, Clackamas Community College, HOS Arboretum
- Feb 7** Washington County Chapter "*Garden Time*" with Judy Alleruzzo & William McCleatan 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 13** Clackamas County Chapter pm, *Fat, Spiny & Weird; Getting succulent plants to thrive*
- Feb 14** Multnomah County Chapter 7pm, Speaker: Willi Galloway, writer, radio commentator, "*Grow Cook Eat: A food-Lover's Guide to Vegetable Gardening*", presentation and book signing
- Feb 17-19** Yard, Garden and Patio Show, Oregon Convention Center
- Feb 18** HOS grafting workshop; 9am; HOS Arboretum
- Feb 22-26** Spring Home and Garden Show, Expo Center
- Feb 25** Clackamas County Chapter **Garden Discovery Days** 9am-noon, Milwaukie Center—see information elsewhere in this issue
- Mar 17** HOS Fruit Propagation Fair, 9am-4pm; Clackamas Event Center, Canby
- Mar 31** MG Recertification PCC Rock Creek 8:30am—3:30pm
- May 5-6** Clackamas County Chapter Spring Garden Fair, Canby
- 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 10 Jan. 2012

**Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church
5441 SE Belmont St.**

6:50pm Announcements

7:00pm Full Frontal Gardens: Gone the Lawn

Lucy Hardiman, principal of Perennial Partners, designer, writer

Traditional front lawns and foundation plantings are obsolete and unsustainable. Innovative gardeners are eschewing them for gardens that speak to the sidewalk and dialog with neighbors. Low water use Mediterranean and gravel gardens are replacing overgrown rhodies and productive kitchen gardens are rooting where lawn once dominated. It is time to examine how our front gardens impact our immediate surroundings and our planet.

Join Lucy Hardiman for an evening of innovative and conscientious garden inspiration. Lucy is a fifth generation Oregon gardener. She is the principal of Perennial Partners, a garden design collaborative, distinguished by their innovative hardscape, playful planting design and creative approach to problem solving.

*****Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, 3 Jan. 2012 at 5:30 pm at Claudia's – 4026 N.E. Hazelfern.**

*****Coming Next Month February 14, 2012 - 7pm Gourmet Gardening: Growing Your Own Groceries Willi Galloway, Book sale and signing 6:30pm, Presentation 7pm** Award winning writer and radio commentator, Willi Galloway, will share garden and cooking inspiration, plus gorgeous photos from her just released book *'Grow Cook Eat: A Food-Lover's Guide to Vegetable Gardening, Including 50 Recipes, Plus Harvesting and Storage Tips'*. Books will be available for sale and signing at 6:30pm and following Willi's presentation.

*****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 \$65, (**\$75 after January 15th**). Departing Portland at 6am and returning around 9pm. For more information contact June Davidek at da-videkjune@comcast.net or (503)477-8698.

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

Winters' chill sends us from our gardens to warm, cozy places and now our minds wander with hope of spring.

You can begin making plans for your early spring vegetable garden with high quality **organic** vegetable starts from the **Multnomah Chapter Early Spring Edible Plant Sale**. Start dreaming now of heirloom and hybrid varieties of broccoli, cauliflower, pok choi, sweet lettuces, greens, beets, onions, scallions, leeks, and more.

Order forms will be available at our January chapter meeting and through our Multnomah Chapter webpage starting January 7th. The deadline for placing orders is Friday, January 20th and your luscious plant starts will be available for pickup on Saturday, March 17th at our Chapter Demonstration Garden site.

Sweet spring garden dreams! More details to come. Questions: www.multmastergardeners@gmail.com

*****GARDENERS' GOODS SHOP VIA OUR WEBSITE!**

Check out our new online shop where you can purchase some of the great merchandise that we offer: Chinook Books, Atlas garden gloves, and 'Get the Real Dirt' auto cling stickers. Items can be purchased with ease and convenience via PayPal (and you don't need a PayPal account to make a purchase!). Plus, items can be shipped straight to your front door! <http://www.metromastergardeners.org/multnomah/merchandise/>

*****MG Vests Fresh New Color!**

Fresh, new *Heather Gray* fleece OSU Master Gardener vests are now available, along with our beautiful botanical MG t-shirts in a choice of colors and styles. Both vests and t-shirts are available for sale at Multnomah Chapter meetings and some MG training days. To make other purchase arrangements contact: multmastergardeners@gmail.com

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

2012 Officers and Contact Information

President – Claudia Groth 503-235-0669 claudia_groth@hevanet.com

Vice President– Joyce Hemmerling 503-331-0824
W3mjahemm@aol.com

Secretary – Carrie McIntyre 503-984-1109 lehua_mc@yahoo.com

Treasurer – Christine Semeniuk 503-493-0994 chrissem@comcast.net

OMGA – Mary Fiocchi 503-312-6762 maryto@johnlscott.com

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

Chapter Website: www.wcmga.info

UPCOMING PROGRAMS –

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

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

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

“Garden Time” with Judy Alleruzzo & William McCleatan from TV show **Garden Time**.

MEETING LOCATION & DAY

First Baptist Church 5755 SW Erickson Ave., Beaverton, 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.

Washington County MG'S 2012 PLANT SALE

Will be held on
Saturday, April 28th

at the
Kinton Grange

Chairperson for this year's event is Jane Miller

Marilyn Berti, Publicity coordinator for the Chapter, is looking for a friendly photographer or two to help capture chapter events this year.

Not a big time consumer and you definitely don't need to be an expert. If this sounds like fun and you might be able to help, contact Marilyn at [503-292-8637](tel:503-292-8637) or mcbberti@gmail.com to discuss.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL
DEC. 31 ST

The application form is on our website on the Members' Page under Community Grants Program.

It should be filled out by the sponsoring WCMG and e-mailed to Committee Chair Tim Lanfri at

tim.lanfri@gmail.com by December 31st. Grants will be issued for a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$1,000.

2012 Chapter Dues

For those of you who have let time slip away during the holiday's it's not too late! Dues (\$25) for 2012 can be sent to Lynn Cox, treasurer, at 4592 NW Oakpoint Way, Portland, OR 97229 or by PayPal on our website. Any payment over the \$25 amount will go toward our college scholarship program. All are tax deductible.

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

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



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



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

Milwaukie Center
5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive
Milwaukie

Birds of Prey
Oregon Zoo

Mandy McGuire of the Oregon Zoo will be bringing a feathered friend to our chapter. Native raptors provide natural pest controls, and she will show us how to encourage them to our gardens. Knowing the hunting styles of different raptors helps a homeowner adapt his landscape to make the birds feel welcome. She will also talk about nesting boxes for the raptors – where to put them, how high they should be and to make them out of what materials.

February Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2012
7 p.m.

Fat, Spiny & Weird
Plants:
Getting Succulent Plants To Thrive

Want to know how to keep a succulent plant happy and alive?
Do you need to live in the desert?
Come listen as Luther Sturtevant tells you the keys to successfully growing cactus and succulent plants – both indoors and outdoors

What's New with You
In Two-Oh-One-Two?

We begin a new year with plenty of promise and some misgivings. This leap year will provide an extra day to enjoy our gardens and share company with each other. It might also encourage more time in the garden to escape the incessant political ramblings on TV, radio, and by phone. I for one will be glad when the only remaining election will be for next year's MG Board.

Our chapter's Executive Committee bids farewell to several members: Sherry Sheng, President; John Hill & Joby Duggan, Advisory Board members; Nikki Mantei, OMGA Rep; and Linda O'Toole, Alternate OMGA Rep. They aren't going away; all promise to remain involved in Chapter activities. Sherry was our ubiquitous president who brought new life to many programs, including 10-Min. University, Garden Discovery Day, and Fall into Gardening. For two full years, she provided strong leadership and firm guidance to the Chapter. She was our nominee for Oregon MG of the Year. John served three years on the Advisory Board and brought many important ideas to it. He is often found working on many of our important projects. Joby was recipient of the 2011 Clackamas County MG of the Year award, and she will remain Vendor Coordinator for Spring Garden Fair and Phone Coordinator at the Clackamas MG office. Nikki and Linda represented the Chapter at OMGA meetings and kept

us advised of activities around the State. We thank them all for their dedicated service to the Master Gardener program and our chapter.

January will see the beginning of new training classes held Thursdays at the Museum of the Oregon Territory. We will see many of you there when you show up to help or to get your refresher training. Please be sure to introduce yourself to this year's interns. They are the future of the Master Gardener program and our chapter.

Your 2012 Executive Committee looks forward to serving you in the coming year. We have some exciting programs scheduled, and the Spring Garden Fair promises to be even bigger and better. Please take a minute, look inward and ask yourself, "What can I do to help the Chapter this year?"

Executive Committee meetings will continue to be held on the final Thursday of every month. In 2012, we will meet at Clackamas Community College, Clairmont Hall, Room C-126 at 6:45 p.m. The first meeting will be January 26. All members are welcome to attend and provide input.

Green Glove Award winners for 2011 were: January - Gene McCoy; February - Kathryn Enold; March - Rob Kappa, Sandra Sue Wallace; April - Mike King, Carla Kildahl; September - Reta Suzanne; October - Kathy Johnson; November - Ted Phillips.

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

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JANUARY 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.

January 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

- 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.

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.

- 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 (http://plant-disease.jpcc.orst.edu/articles.cfm?article_id=24) 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*, online.

Trade-name products and services are mentioned as illustrations only. This does not mean that the Oregon State University Extension Service endorses these products and services or intends to discriminate against products and services not mentioned.

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