

# Metro Master Gardener™ News

## March 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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Dear Master Gardeners-

We hope that you are enjoying the 2012 Master Gardener training. Sessions have been well attended by both new trainees and veteran Master Gardeners. We are grateful for our team of instructors for sharing their expertise and we are humbled by the hard work and dedication of the class coordinators for serving as extraordinary hosts for the training. In the spirit of community-based education, we could not conduct the Master Gardener training or the volunteer program without YOU. Thank you!!!



Here are some announcements that you should know about:

### **OSU gardening publications**

Spring is just around the corner (yeah!) and it will be time to get growing soon. If you are looking for how-to information on vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits, and ornamentals, our own Chip Bubl has published a list of publications from OSU that is worth checking out: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/home-garden-publications>

### **FREE Metro Natural Gardening workshops this year**

As part of our partnership with Metro, we are conducting many FREE gardening presentations this season at local nurseries and other venues for the general public. To see a schedule of classes, see: <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=576>

Check back periodically during the gardening season for more workshops. Please tell a friend and/or bring a friend to these informative presentations.

### **Employment opportunity with Metro Natural Gardening**

Natural Gardening Educator, temporary

Sustainability Center □ \$12.50/hour

Deadline: March 5, 2012

For the complete job announcement and a link to the online application materials, visit the "Jobs at Metro" page

[www.oregonmetro.gov/jobs](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/jobs).

### **Oregon Urban & Community Forestry Conference**

Community Natural Areas: Restoration, Enhancement, and Management

Thursday, June 7, 2012

World Forestry Center, Portland, Oregon

Sign up today! □ □ <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2964098699>

### **Urban Watershed Mentors**

Interested in attending in depth trainings on conservation planning and then implementing a restoration plan with your new knowledge? Become an Urban Watershed Mentor!

After going through a series of FREE trainings mentors will be able to implement restoration projects either on their own properties or on publicly owned land. Following the implementation of a restoration project the trained mentors will become part of a network of community volunteer leaders that can mentor new interested volunteers to facilitate the implementation of more restoration projects! As the network grows more and more conservation work will be possible through this program.

For information on the program, to sign up on the Mentors email list serve and/or to register for the trainings please contact Mary Logalbo at [mary@wmswcd.org](mailto:mary@wmswcd.org)

Additional information can be found on our website at

<http://www.wmswcd.org/content.cfm/What-We-Do/Urban-Programs>

All the best,

Weston

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



**2012 TRAINEES COMPLETE TRAINING**

March starts with training still in session, but March 16 is the last class for the year. This prospect brings excitement and some anxiety as the new trainees transition into intern teaching roles and support activities.

The best advice for new trainees is to jump in and relish the experience. You will soon find out how much you can learn and grow during your year as an intern MG. You will gain both knowledge and confidence as you progress. Remember two things....you have a large program to support you and make sure that you are having a positive experience.

**We have several ways for you to get involved:**

- Volunteer Opportunities packet (check boxes for what you are interested in). New trainees won't receive their permanent badge until I have one of these on file! These were handed out in class and are due by March 9.
- Each volunteer opportunity has a coordinator whom you can contact to become involved. Look for a list of the coordinators' names and contact information in the April newsletter.

The best way to complete your hours is to be **proactive**. Call about events that interest you...get on multiple lists...sign up with a new friend from class and have some fun! There are a lot of exciting and educational events coming up for new trainees and veterans. Watch the newsletter and emails for volunteer opportunities that are in your neighborhood or area of interest. We have something for *every* gardener.

**MARCH OPPORTUNITIES**



First and foremost...**phones!** New trainees owe 26 hours in Primary activities (phones, clinics, or speakers bureau) and are eligible to staff the phones when their training ends. Veterans should aim for half of their 25 hours being spent helping the new MGs as they ease into their new role as 'Volunteer Staff' for OSU.

To schedule a shift or ask questions, contact Joby Duggan for Clackamas Co. 503-632-2165 [joby@bctonline.com](mailto:joby@bctonline.com), Sally Campbell for Multnomah Co. 503-810-8717 [sally.mult.phones@gmail.com](mailto:sally.mult.phones@gmail.com) or Heidi Nichols for Washington Co. 503-774-6888 [heidinichols@comcast.net](mailto:heidinichols@comcast.net)

**Trillium Festival and Native Plant Sale** at Tryon Creek State Park- Saturday, Mar. 31-April 1. This is a clinic and some expertise with native plants may be helpful. Call Jordis Yost to schedule. **503-650-3118** or [jordis.yost@oregonstate.edu](mailto:jordis.yost@oregonstate.edu).

Many opportunities start up in the spring, so watch for the **coordinator list in the April newsletter...** and make sure that I have your current email address.

**CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDENS**

Master Gardeners are very active at CSRG in the spring. The garden attendance is huge this time of year and it is an exciting place to be. Call Pat Frobes (MG) 503-287-3166 for info.

There is an ongoing opportunity that can be somewhat lower key...working at the entrance gate. This is a lovely building at the garden and is the perfect place for MGs that have limited mobility. The garden staff needs help Thursday through Monday. There are two shifts available, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. Please call Rose Kress 503-654-4318 for more details. Both these volunteer activities are Support activities.

**SPRING RECERTIFICATION CLASS** – See included schedule for the days topics. This Saturday class will count for 6 hours of recertification training (not volunteer hours) and is a great day to see your MG friends and catch up.



Spring 2012

## OSU Master Gardener™ Recertification

Saturday, March 31 - 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

PCC Rock Creek Campus - Bldg 9

Bring lunch and finger food to share

### ⌘ Agenda ⌘

**7:30 am: Doors Open**

**8:00 am: Registration and gathering**

**8:30 am: Welcome and announcements**

**8:45 - noon OSU & Metro Partnership Details & Advanced Vegetable Gardening Topics**

**Presenter: Weston Miller, OSU Extension Service**

Are you planning to serve at the phone or farmers' market clinics as part of the Master Gardener program in 2012? If yes, we have some new procedures and details that we need you to know. Please attend this session so that we can get everyone on the same page to best support new MG trainees and also to best serve the general public.

Weston will provide additional information on advanced vegetable gardening topics as part of this session.

**Noon - Lunch break** - Time to catch up with other MGs and look at items for sale.

**12:30 - 2:30 'Not in My Backyard'**

**Presenter: Robin Rosetta, Associate Professor, OSU**

Robin's expertise is Integrated Pest Management for commercial nursery and greenhouse pests and works from the North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC) in Aurora. She will tell us about what new invasive critters and diseases to keep an eye for in the metro-wide area. Her informative presentation will briefly update MGs on some celebrity pests (think spotted wing Drosophila or brown marmorated stink bug), but Robin will also cover some other pests that need to be on MG's radar.

**2:30 - 2:45 Break (and stretch)**

**2:45 - 3:30 pm Plants for Pollinators in Oregon**

**Presenter: Kathy Pendergrass, NRCS Plant Materials Specialist**

Get the latest from the Natural Resource Conservation Service on plants for gardens and landscapes that attract pollinating insects. There is a wide range of plant material, both native and nonnative, that provides food and habitat for pollinating insects. Learn which plants and planting strategies work best to provide for insects' needs.





# Natter's Notes

## Fighting Fallacies

Jean R. Natter

Have you ever heard something about gardening that sounded too good to be true? Well, it seems there's a lot of that going around.

Yes, horticultural fallacies abound, many of which concern soil and what to do to improve it, among them such erroneous claims as gypsum improves drainage in all clays; add sand to improve clay; remove the bad soil then add top soil; amend the planting hole; use hydrogels to conserve water; and more.



Fig 2: Plastic tubes installed at planting time for the purpose of "aerating the root zone." And yes, the tree is planted too deep.

Still others include top a big tree for safety (Fig 1); a wire inside a hose is a good tie when you stake a tree; apply compost tea as fertilizer and to destroy disease; and much, much more. Oh yes, don't be conned into installing an "aeration tube" when you plant a tree. (Fig 2 & 3)

Linda Chalker-Scott has been a continuing source of factual material on her website: Horticultural Myths at [http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~linda%20chalker-scott/Horticultural%20Myths\\_files/index.html](http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~linda%20chalker-scott/Horticultural%20Myths_files/index.html).



Fig 1: When trees are topped during the dormant season, the result is many vigorous upright shoots which will ultimately drop unexpectedly.

Chalker-Scott methodically dispatches widely held but flawed beliefs and misleading products promoted as appropriate. The recent reorganization of her website now groups information by general topic, among them Fertilizers; How plants work; Maintaining trees and shrubs; Planting techniques; Mulches; and more. Her articles are backed with research-based information and are widely valued by Master Gardeners. It's worth stashing one of her books in your vehicle or backpack so that, whenever you have a few moments to spare, you have a worthy quick and informative read.



Fig 3: A secondary value of aeration tubes: A place to stash trash! (I could extract the plastic but not the can.)

Another way to tackle misinformation is revealing the devious techniques used to create it. "Very often snake oil products will attempt to use jargon relating to the chemistry, biology or microbiology of the products to snow the user with terms that sound impressive but are used in a meaningless context," writes Jim Downer in *Snake oil, Horticultural Myths, Urban Horticultural Legends, Frauds and Carpetbaggers in our Industry*. (Yes, the spelling in the title is correct.) It's at [http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/Environmental\\_Horticulture/Landscape/Problems/Snake\\_oil/](http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/Environmental_Horticulture/Landscape/Problems/Snake_oil/). Downer is a Farm Advisor at the University of California Cooperative Extension, Ventura County where, among other things, he advises wholesale growers of landscape ornamentals and coordinates the county's MGs and their activities.



Downer's article offers a number of clues to help you recognize inaccurate or downright outrageous statements some of which cite scientific principles but never reveal the source; others contain a shred of truth then embellish it; still others combine known fact with sincerely hoped-for results. You've heard it before: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

As you read Downer's document, mentally substitute "gardeners" for "horticulturists" because all the information is pertinent to what we do in our gardens, and relate to many of the products we might purchase. [These insights](#) should be helpful as you advise the public while in the MG offices and off-site clinics.



Fig 4: Rope, when ignored, girdles trees. (Owner image)



Fig 5: Black plastic beneath the bark dust snugged up to the tree trunk at planting, then ignored, can girdle trees. (Plastic not visible here.) Notice the adjacent utility box.

One caution: Don't be inadvertently misled by the illustration in Downer's article which describes how to plant a tree because its advice is out-of-date. The updated information, stated simply, is don't add drainage in the bottom of the planting hole; don't layer soils or other materials; don't prune a tree at planting time to balance the roots and shoots; and don't use wire in a hose for staking. (See Figs 4 & 5 for still more ways to girdle trees).

Fig 6: If soft green plastic ties don't damage trees, what happened here?



You'll find sound information about staking at <http://hort.ufl.edu/woody/staking.shtml>. Also check the image which shows what occurs when a tree is secured with a wire-in-a-hose: <http://hort.ufl.edu/woody/girdle.shtml>. The preferred tie is broad and flexible. (Fig 6)

About mulches, Downer says, "Any mulch can be applied to the soil surface with few bad affects. There are some exceptions where the mulch contains toxic acids or contains weed seeds. However, the belief that high C:N ratio mulches (contain a lot of wood) will extract nitrogen from under the soils to which they are applied has little or no scientific evidence to support it."

Attempt to see through the marketing hype. Read with a critical eye, evaluate claims as you go, search for facts, and ask questions of someone more knowledgeable and experienced than you. "Snake oil products claim many things," says, Downer, "but usually without referenced research reports from Universities." Testimonials don't count. "There are no miracles!"

## Resources

- *Horticultural Myths* (Linda Chalker-Scott; WSU) [http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~linda%20chalker-scott/Horticultural%20Myths\\_files/index.html](http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~linda%20chalker-scott/Horticultural%20Myths_files/index.html)
- Chalker-Scott's books: *The Informed Gardener*, also *The Informed Gardener Blooms Again*
- *Snake oil, Horticultural Myths, Urban Horticultural Legends, Frauds and Carpetgaggers in our Industry* (Jim Downer; UCCE) [http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/Environmental\\_Horticulture/Landscape/Problems/Snake\\_oil/](http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/Environmental_Horticulture/Landscape/Problems/Snake_oil/)

***USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map***

The 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. The map is based on the average annual minimum winter temperature, divided into 10-degree F° zones. OSU researchers played a key role in the development of the interactive map by using geographic information system (GIS)-based software. Users may simply type in a ZIP Code and find the hardiness zone for that area. The new map was developed with the cooperation and aid of Oregon State University.

Paste <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/> into your browser to see and use the interactive map.

**2012 Perennial of the Year™**

***Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost'**



The Perennial Plant of the Year™ (POY™) began in 1990 to showcase a perennial that is a standout among its competitors. Perennials chosen are suitable for a wide range of growing climates, require low maintenance, have multiple-season interest, and are relatively pest/disease-free.

*Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost' is a shade tolerant 18" wide deer-resistant clump with silvery leaves with a green border and green veining. Tiny blue flowers in early spring. Prefers evenly moist, rich soil to grow optimally.



## Master Gardeners Making a Difference

In 2011, fourteen Metro Master Gardeners volunteered 138.5 total hours at Hopkins Demonstration Forest in Oregon City. It is a 140-acre privately-owned forest open to the public for self-guided exploration, tours, workshops, and education programs. It is an example of sustainable forestry, which provides woodland products, fish and wildlife habitat, and experiential learning opportunities.

Youth, woodland owners, and the broader community come to learn through visits, educational events, and participation in the operation of Hopkins Demonstration Forest. They promote science-based education to enhance understanding of, and appreciation for the complexities and benefits of woodland management. Check them out: <http://forestsforever-or.org/index.html>.

Thank you to the following MG for making a difference:



Taressa Borawski  
Valerie Brooks  
Jana Christensen  
Mike Daly  
Karen Day  
Janet Dorow  
Joby Duggan  
Pat Harrison  
Meredith Hilderbrand  
Marianne Kahl  
Carol Koshkarian / Coord.  
Jeanie Mattern  
Wendy Winters  
Sherry Withee



## FYI from Margaret:

A special shout out to Robert Woods for also donating produce from his wonderful garden for those in need! Bob donated 280 pounds of his delicious home grown veggies. I bet there were a lot of juicy tomatoes!

Don't miss seeing Bob's informative tomato talk at the Tomato Workshop, April 7, at Clackamas Community College. More information on page 11.

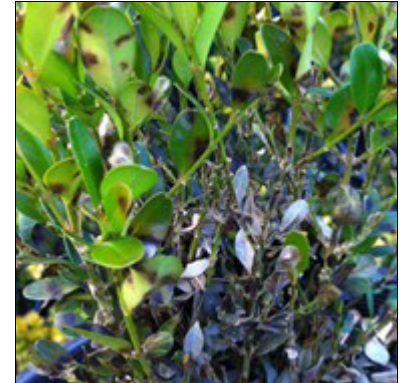
**ALSO**...one of my new responsibilities is to be a manager of our Twitter and Facebook accounts. For those techno savvy MGs, check us out! Search for us: *@therealdirt* on Twitter and on Facebook: *Metro Master Gardeners*. 'Follow' us on *Twitter* and "Like" us on Facebook to keep up-to-date on the great things that are going on in our metro Master Gardener community.

## A new threat to boxwood

By Lisa Rehms, ODA Horticulturist

A new fungal disease of boxwood was identified in the United States this past year. *Cylindrocladium buxicola* (syn. *C. pseudonaviculatum*), commonly known as boxwood blight, was identified on boxwood at a nursery in Washington County, Oregon in December 2011. This is the first known find in the Pacific Northwest. A couple months earlier, the pathogen was found in the eastern United States (October 2011) at nurseries in Surry County, North Carolina and Carroll County, Virginia; and at a residential landscape in Middlesex County, Connecticut. The pathogen was most likely transported on boxwood from nurseries in Europe, where it is known to occur. Boxwood is not native to the United States.

*C. buxicola* is a fungus of the boxwood family, Buxaceae. Although all boxwood species may be susceptible to blight, American boxwood varieties appear to be particularly vulnerable. *Sarcococca*, another member of Buxaceae, has also been shown to be susceptible to the fungus.



Boxwood blight, Image courtesy of Karl Puls, ODA

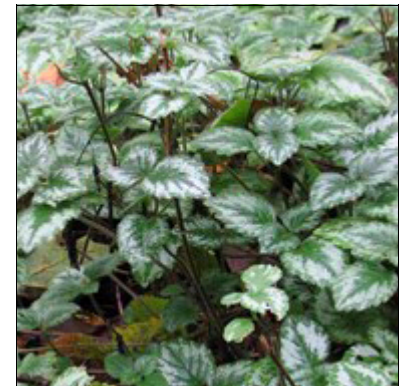
Symptoms on boxwood include light or dark brown circular leaf spotting and black longitudinal or diamond shaped lesions on stems. Progression of the disease results in defoliation of leaves and an overall straw colored appearance of the plant. Disease transmission is increased in moist environments, making host plants in greenhouses particularly susceptible. The fungus can form resting structures (chlamydospores and microsclerotia) that can survive for years on host organic debris in the soil. Mortality most often occurs in seedlings, but may also take place in older plants, especially if infected with a secondary pathogen.

## Nursery plant escapee becoming weedy

By Bev Clark, ODA Horticulturist

Another nursery grown plant is threatening to overrun our urban and wildland areas. The culprit of this all too familiar story is Yellow archangel, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*. Yellow archangel is native to Europe and Asia and was introduced to the United States as an ornamental plant. It has spread to forest habitats and natural areas through dumping of yard waste or intentional plantings.

Yellow archangel is a fast-growing, herbaceous perennial that spreads by stem fragments, rooting at nodes and by seed. It can escape from garden settings and form dense patches that outcompete native plant species. Yellow archangel can tolerate a wide range of conditions, from full sun to full shade. It is now found in ravines, greenbelts and forested parks throughout the Pacific Northwest.



Yellow archangel

*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* has been placed on the watch list in Oregon, and the Oregon Weed Board is considering listing it as a noxious weed. Currently Yellow archangel is listed as a non-regulated Class B noxious weed in King County, Washington. Control is recommended but not required.

# **Tomato Workshop**

**Saturday, April 7, 2012**

**9:00 a.m. check-in: class 9:30 a.m. until Noon**

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

**Location: Clackamas Community College  
Clairmont Hall Rooms #117 & #133**

Master gardeners' will learn tips from our own Master Tomato Grower **Bob Woods**. Class includes: making a tomato cage; learning early tomato plant culture (tips for strong root development; and transplanting); and methods for keeping tomato plants healthy throughout the growing season.

Workshop is \$5.00 and includes a 5' tomato cage to take home. Additional cages are \$5.00 each. Space is limited so register early. To register: contact **David Smith, phone: (503) 656-4613; and email: [davlsmith@yahoo.com](mailto:davlsmith@yahoo.com)**. When leaving a message, please include your name, phone number, and address (email or mailing address) in any message.

## **SAVE THE DATES**

Tentative dates for Hands-on Computer Classes for MGs are

- June 9
- September 22
- October 3

Topics will be the PNW Handbooks, the MG Referral Forum, and online searches. One site in each county to be announced.





# HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR FOR THE METRO AREA

- Mar 6** Washington County Chapter Dave Doolittle of Terra Nova speaking on “*New Perennials*”
- Mar 12** Clackamas County Chapter; Annual Potluck for new MGs. Speaker will be Sandy Ditmar of Iseli Nursery speaking on dwarf conifers
- Mar 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 17** Early Spring Edibles Plant Pick Up for pre-orders placed in January. 11am to 4pm, Naomi’s Organic Farm Supply 2615 SE Schiller Street, Portland
- Mar 31** MG Recertification PCC Rock Creek 8:30am—3:30pm
- April 3** Washington County Chapter; “*Insect IDing*” with Rich Baer, Portland Rose Society
- April 9** Clackamas County Chapter; Marc Boucher-Colbert, Garden Specialist at Franciscan Montessori Earth School, “*Getting the Respect You Deserve from Your Vegetable Garden: Making It Work for You Instead of the Other Way Around*”
- 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 21** Villa Garden Club Spring Plant Sale, 10AM—3PM, Taber Heights Methodist Church, 6161 S.E. Stark, Portland, OR
- Apr 28** Washington County Master Gardener Plant Sale at Kinton Grange, 19015 SW Scholls Ferry Rd., Beaverton, OR 8:30—3 pm
- May 5** Multnomah County Chapter, ***Incredible Edibles Plant Sale***, 10am to 5pm, details in April newsletter.
- May 5-6** Clackamas County Chapter Spring Garden Fair, Canby Event Center
- May 6** Schreiner’s Iris Garden display garden opens to the public thru June 12; 9 AM-6PM
- May 8** Multnomah County Chapter, 7pm, James Cassidy, OSU, Department of Crop and Soil Science, “*Lessons From the OSU Organic Garden*”.
- Jul 2** Starlight Parade
- Jul 7-8** Portland Rose Society Spring rose show
- 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 13 March 2012**  
**Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church,**  
**5441 SE Belmont St.**

### 6:50 Announcements

**7:00pm 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. But you need to know the good guys from the bad guys. Learn about the many insects that pollinate your crops, those that keep the pests at bay and how to make your garden a welcoming habitat for garden allies. Gail will also cover purchase and release of beneficial insects.

Gail Gredler is a horticulture instructor at Chemeketa Community College, where she teaches integrated pest management, soils, plant propagation, and nursery and greenhouse production. Gail also spent seven years as an OSU Extension Agent with the OSU Master Gardener program and four years as education director with the Oregon Garden. She is an avid home gardener who loves to watch the bugs in her garden.

**\*\*\*Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, 27 March 2012 at 5:30 pm at Claudia's – 4026 N.E. Hazelfern.** We have changed the Board Meetings to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Month and will have had one on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Feb.

**\*\*\*Coming Next Month 6pm, Welcome Potluck for 2012 Interns** - *An evening to welcome and celebrate the new 2012 class of MGs.*

Interns bring your appetite (Vets are cooking), an empty plate and utensils (to reduce waste).

Veterans bring a dish to share, an empty plate and utensils.

**7pm Tom Cook, Associate Professor Emeritus of Horticulture, Oregon State University 'Developing the Sustainable Landscape'**

Sustainability is an ongoing adventure since landscapes constantly evolve as plants grow and die and microclimates change. Any landscape can be sustainable if gardeners are willing to adjust expectations, make appropriate changes in plantings and carefully think through how they go about maintaining their gardens.

### \*\*\*New Location for Early Spring Edibles Pick Up Day!

Due to unforeseen circumstances the location for the **Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, Early Spring Edibles Pick Up has changed.** The new pick up location will be at **Naomi's Organic Farm Supply, 2615 SE Schiller St. (not the Learning Garden).** We are excited and grateful to have Naomi's Organic Farm Supply for our plant pick up location. This is Naomi's brand new location (after being homeless during the past several months). Special promotions will be offered for this event. How cool is that?! For those unfamiliar with it, Naomi's Organic Farm Supply is dedicated to providing soil amendments, fertilizers, compost, potting soils, animal feed, bedding, seeds, tools and books to urban and rural farmers, gardeners (that's us!), and landscapers. Check Naomi's out @ <http://naomis.organic.blogspot.com/> **Plant orders will be available for pick up from 11am to 4pm.**

### \*\*\*Incredible Edibles Plant Sale

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 5pm**, 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, egg-plants, squash, greens, lettuces, herbs and more! You can check out the stellar varieties being offered at: <http://metromastergardeners.org/multnomah/plantsale/>  
**Our Demo Garden crew is growing the wonderful Disco Marigolds they use to attract pollinators and will add them to the sale.** So, save the date and come celebrate home-grown goodness. Look for more details in the April Grapevine.

**\*\*\*Fall Plant Sale –** Think of the plant sale when you divide your plants this spring. We also like bulbs, seeds and decorative garden items. Please use gallon pots and contact Joyce Hemmerling 503-331-0824 [W3mjahemm@aol.com](mailto:W3mjahemm@aol.com) if you need any pots or have questions.

**\*\*\*Other Goods:** <http://www.metromastergardeners.org/multnomah/merchandise/>

**\*\*\*Awards.** Many of our members are making significant contributions to the chapter. It is time to be thinking of who will receive awards for County and State Master Gardener of the Year, County and State "Behind the Scenes Master Gardener of the Year", and Mini-college Scholarships. Special awards are given for specific contributions, too. Please be considering who you will nominate when the details and forms come out this spring.

**\*\*\* The Multnomah County Chapter Booth at the Canby Spring Fair** will feature a children's plant potting station and a used garden book sale. Please look for any unwanted garden books you have and contact Sharon Baker at 503-284-5189 or [gazebo@teleport.com](mailto:gazebo@teleport.com) to donate them. We'll find new homes for your books!

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

### 2012 Officers and Contact Information

**President** – Claudia Groth 503-235-0669 [claudia\\_groth@hevanet.com](mailto:claudia_groth@hevanet.com)

**Vice President**- Joyce Hemmerling 503-331-0824  
[W3mjahemm@aol.com](mailto:W3mjahemm@aol.com)

**Secretary** – Carrie McIntyre 503-984-1109 [lehua\\_mc@yahoo.com](mailto:lehua_mc@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer** – Christine Semeniuk 503-493-0994 [chrissem@comcast.net](mailto:chrissem@comcast.net)

**OMGA** – Mary Fiocchi 503-312-6762 [maryto@johnlscott.com](mailto:maryto@johnlscott.com)

**OMGA Alternate** – JoAnn Bones 503-253-3168  
[bones7247@comcast.net](mailto:bones7247@comcast.net)

**Grapevine** – Lorna Schilling 503-334-5162 [lornaschilling@yahoo.com](mailto:lornaschilling@yahoo.com)

**Chapter Email** – [multmastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto: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 –

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**Tuesday, March 6, 2012, Chapter Meeting**  
“**New Perennials and Where They Come From**” with Dave Doolittle of Terra Nova Nurseries. **Dave will have some interesting plants for sale as well.**

**Tuesday, April 3, 2012 “Insect IDing”** by Rich Baer, Portland Rose Society

**MEETING LOCATION & TIME -First Baptist Church**  
5755 SW Erickson Ave., Beaverton, OR 97005. The Chapter meeting begins at 6:45 pm followed by the speaker program at 7:15. The public is welcome.

## New WCMGA Community Grant Recipients and their MG Sponsors are:

Hillsboro’s Lenox School and the Lenox Pioneer Garden Vermicomposting Project, sponsored by Bill Klug; Lincoln Street School Garden expansion sponsored by Jeannine Rychlik; Imlay School Soup and Salad Community Garden sponsored by Paula Rosch and Bill Klug; Tualatin Valley Gleaners & Beaverton Giving Gardens Season Extenders Project sponsored by Lisa Hassen. The next round of grant applications begins in March. See details at [www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org](http://www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org)

February’s speakers, Judy Alleruzzo & William McClenathan, hosts of **Garden Time** on Channel 6, can be viewed online at <http://www.gardentime.tv/>

**THREE-BUCK-BONANZA PLANT SALE** is Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30-3:00 at the Kinton Grange, 19015 SW Scholls Ferry Rd., five miles west of Washington Square. Features many hardy perennials at \$3.00 a gallon. We also have annuals, small shrubs, ferns, natives, a dollar-a-pot table and a raffle.

**INTERN WELCOME POTLUCK coming in APRIL!** The potluck dinner to welcome our new interns will be held in conjunction with the **April Chapter** meeting. **Please bring your own place setting.** Veterans please bring a dish to share. Plan on arriving at 6 pm and we will eat at 6:15 with the meeting following at 6:45 and the program at 7:15. Below is a guideline for what to bring if your last name starts with: A-E=Desserts; F-R=Main Dishes; S-Z=Salads This is only a guideline. Please bring food **READY TO SERVE as there is no use of the ovens** in the kitchen. Label your serving dishes and utensils with your name. Also please note that there are limited outlets for crock-pots. Thank You, the Hospitality Committee

**REMINDER:** The last week of March is the cut-off to dig and divide your donations for the Plant Sale. Bring your plants to the March or April Chapter meetings for pick-up. Call Jane Miller @ 503-590-3598 or Cindy Muir @ 503-245-3922 with questions.

**Our New Alternative OMGA representative** is Sally Skinner. Thank You Sally!

**2012 Directory: Version 1** was sent to your e-mail. Send phone number or e-mail changes to be included in the next version to: [info@wcmga.info](mailto:info@wcmga.info) Changes will be included with 2012 interns and members who paid dues after mid-

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

**College scholarships** are open now through the end of March. [www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org](http://www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org)

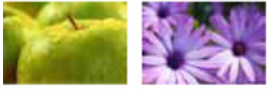
Submit **Chapter Chat** information and general chapter announcements to **Mary Lidberg**, Chapter Chat Editor.

Phone **503-649-4202** or e-mail: [agc.mary@gmail.com](mailto:agc.mary@gmail.com)

Please send address or e-mail changes to [info@wcmga.info](mailto:info@wcmga.info)

Chapter Website: [www.washingtoncountymastertergardeners.org](http://www.washingtoncountymastertergardeners.org)

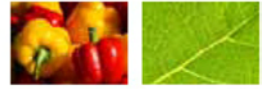




MARCH

# Clackamas County Chatter

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



2012

## March Meeting

Monday, March 12, 2012 7 p.m.

Milwaukie Center

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

### Annual Potluck—6 p.m.

March 12 is the date for the Annual Potluck where we welcome the Class of 2012 trainees to Chapter activities. Please make an extra effort to attend so you can meet the new members and help them feel welcome. Bring your favorite dish: hot entrée, salad, or dessert. The Potluck begins at 6:00 p.m., with the Chapter meeting to follow.

### 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. Conifers are perfectly suited for the size of our urban lots as are their low maintenance requirements for our busy lifestyles, leaving us with a year-round colorful garden and plenty of time to enjoy it. The array of colors and seasonal changes are a beautiful compliment to the natural landscape of the Pacific Northwest.

Sandy is a Portland-area native with a horticulture degree from Oregon State University. She has worked at Iseli Nursery, in many different capacities, for 34 years. Currently, Sandy coordinates activities between production and sales and is the company's contact person for garden writers.

Come and enjoy this interesting talk.

## April Program

Monday, April 9, 2012

7 p.m.

### Getting the Respect You Deserve from Your Vegeta- ble Garden: Making It Work for You Instead of the Other Way Around

Marc Boucher-Colbert, Garden Specialist at Franciscan Montessori Earth School in Portland, will share his secrets for having a year-round veggie garden with a minimum time investment.

### Green Glove

The February recipient of the Green Glove Award was **Kathleen Chroninger**. She is co-chair of the Open Garden committee, along with Sharon Wiley. In 2012, this committee organized more than twenty open garden visits, allowing Chapter members to gain many new ideas and preview unknown plants. Kathy also coordinated the Chapter's sale of soil thermometers for which we had record-breaking sales in 2012. Congratulations to Kathleen Chroninger, February's Green Glove Award winner.

## Spring Garden Fair

May 5 & 6, 2012

Canby Event Center

Planning is going well for this exciting annual event. We will have more vendors, a larger food court, and a reorganized Exhibits Center. The SGF committee, chaired by Herb Davis, is working very hard to make this important community event better than ever. Please make every effort to give some time to the Chapter's major fundraiser of the year.

Of special interest is that this year, Spring Garden Fair will be enhanced by the presence of America's Farmers Mobile Experience trailer. This national exhibit will visit Clackamas County at the time of the Fair and will be located on the Event Center grounds.

### Open Gardens

Co-Chairmen Sharon Wiley and Kathleen Chroninger are asking members to contact them if they are willing to share their gardens with Chapter members. 2012 promises to have an exciting array of gardens to visit. The sites will be listed on the Chapter Web site.

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

Assist. Treasurer • Seamus Ramirez: 503.342.6229 Advisory Board • Sharon Andrews: 503.577.7493 Newsletter • Kathy Johnson: 503.794.3959

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

# March 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

- Plan the vegetable garden carefully for spring, summer, and fall vegetables that can be eaten fresh or preserved. If you lack in-ground gardening space, plan an outdoor container garden.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. Some cool season crops (onions, kale, lettuce, spinach) can be planted when the soil is consistently at or above 40°F.

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.

### Maintenance and Clean Up

- Lawn mowing: set blade at 0.75 to 1 inch for bent-grass lawns; 1.5 to 2.5 inches for bluegrasses, fine fescues, and ryegrasses.
- Compost grass clippings and yard waste, except for clippings from lawns where weed-and-feed products or herbicides (weed killers) have been used.
- Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.
- Prune gooseberries and currants; fertilize with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees, only if needed. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- If needed, fertilize rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas with acid-type fertilizer. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- **Western Oregon:** Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blossoms fade.
- **Western Oregon:** Fertilize caneberries (broadcast or band a complete fertilizer or manure).

### Planting/Propagation

- Divide hosta, daylilies, and mums.
- Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
- Plant insectary plants (e.g. Alyssum, Phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow, dill) to attract beneficial insects to the garden. See PNW550 (*Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden*) online for more information.

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>

MARCH 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 its programs and materials equally to all people.