

Metro Master Gardener™ News

November 2010



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 & WESTON

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



ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS = Hours Reported

I recently read an article about Extension volunteering in a newsletter from Cowlitz County and wanted to pass on this perspective as adapted for OSU volunteers.....

There is no doubt the MG's provide outstanding service to our community. Those agencies that fund OSU Extension (County, State, and National) have a right to expect an accountability of what we do with those funds. The continuation of all OSU programs is based on what we report. By reporting your hours and contacts, your good work generates an action statement outlining the positive results of MG volunteer efforts.

Reporting hours is required by the State Attorney General. As a MG, you are protected from liability when giving out researched based recommendations. If you have not reported any hours, then the state does not recognize you as an OSU volunteer and, therefore, you are not covered.

So why haven't some volunteers reported hours?

"I don't have a computer". No problem. Write down your hours and send them in. You can even call them in.

"I've been busy". We understand how hectic life can get. We make it easy. You can email, call, fax.....

"I just don't want to do it". We appreciate that you want to volunteer to serve others, but don't want to mess with paperwork. That is probably true for almost everyone. The program office does all we can to make it an easy process, but you do have to report hours. It is a requirement of all OSU volunteers in the state (4-H and all Master programs) to log their hours. **We need to emphasize that if no hours are reported to the program office, you are not considered 'active' and are therefore not eligible to staff phones, clinics etc.**

CERTIFICATES

For those that turned in hours in time for me to make them a certificate, the certificates will be available November 13 at the Recertification training. (Come to Clackamas Community College, Gregory Forum Bldg on Saturday, November 13 starting at 8:30 am.) I will have the certificates starting at morning break.

CLASS COORDINATOR MEETING



Every Master Gardener remembers his or her first classroom experience, and the memories always include the 'experienced' MGs that welcomed them with hot beverages and warm smiles. The class coordinators are so extremely valuable to the program, and we could not manage so many new trainees without their help.

Classes this year will be held on **Tuesdays in Beaverton** at the First Baptist Church on Erickson, **Thursdays in Oregon City** at the Museum of the Oregon Territory (211 Tumwater Dr. in Oregon City) and **Fridays in Portland** at the Multnomah County Bldg. on SE Grand and Hawthorne. (Please note the changes from last year.)

If you are interested in helping at any one of the three classroom sites, come to a meeting at the Clackamas County Extension office on December 7 from 9 am to noon and meet with other MGs that make up this special group of 'extreme MGs'.



Fall 2010 OSU Master Gardener™ Recertification Training

- When:** Saturday, November 13th 8:30 am to 3:30 pm (No pre-registration necessary)
Where: **Clackamas Community College**, Gregory Forum Bldg. (see map)
Who: All OSU Extension Master Gardeners™ in the Portland Metro Program
Bring: Your lunch and finger-foods for the 'goodies' table. Coffee and tea provided by CCMG.

⌘ Agenda ⌘

Doors open at 7:30 am Registration and gathering

8:30 Welcome and Introductions

8:45 - 10:30 am **Small Trees for the Urban Landscape** Dr. Charles Brun, WSU Extension

The new urban lot in the Pacific Northwest has been greatly reduced in size in order to preserve open space. Large spreading shade trees are less appropriate for confined lots. The Northwest's ornamental nurseries are now offering a whole host of both deciduous and coniferous trees that don't exceed 20 feet in width at maturity. This presentation will cover more than 100 different species and cultivars that would work when space is at a premium.

10:45 **OSU/Metro Partnership and Resources** Weston Miller (OSU) and Carl Grimm (Metro)

Weston and Carl will provide an update about the emerging partnership between Metro and OSU to provide relevant and timely information to the general public about a wide range of natural gardening topics. The goal of this partnership is to leverage the resources and organizational capacity of both agencies in order to promote reduced use of toxic garden chemicals by the general public by using research-based information. Learn how this partnership will grow in 2011.

Noon - Lunch break - Time to catch up with other MGs, pick up 2010 trainee badges and veteran certificates, look at books (etc) for sale. **Introduce 2010 Trainees.**

1:00 - 2:30 pm - **"Spotted Wing Drosophila: Background, ID, and Now What"**

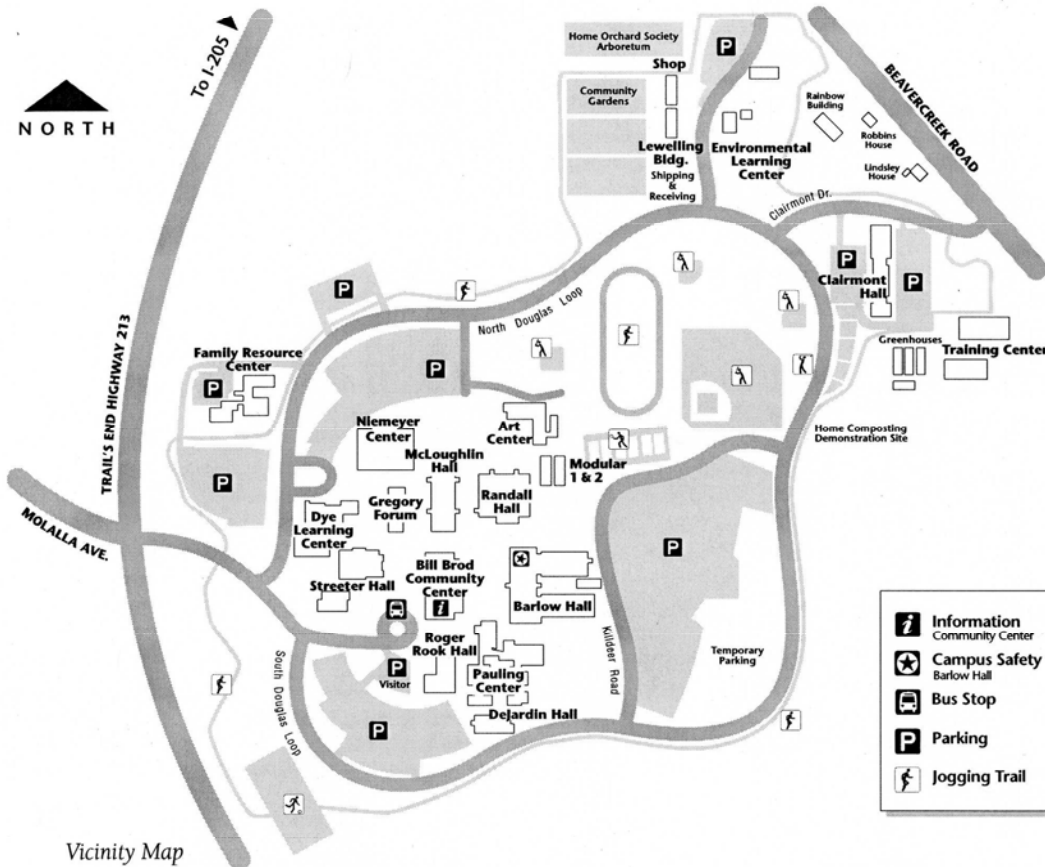
Jana Lee, Research Entomologist at USDA ARS

Jana Lee will provide up-to-date information on the status of this alarming new pest in our area. Learn about this pest's background, how to identify it, what the homeowner can do as far as monitoring, sanitation and management. Jana will give us an overview on the ongoing research with USDA ARS, OSU, and other cooperative agencies. You'll also learn how Master Gardeners can take part in helping to monitor and report this destructive new pest.

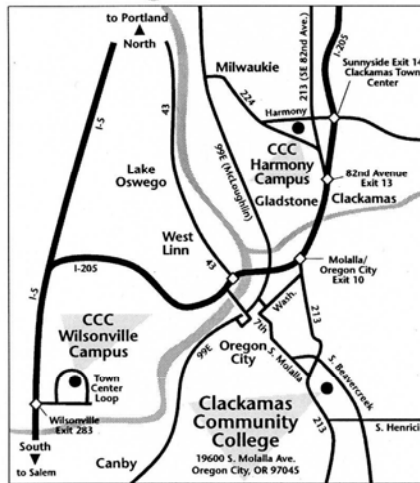
2:30 - 3:30 pm **Abiotic Plant Problems - How to Diagnose and Remedy**

Jean R. Natter - MG

In diagnosing plant problems, it is tempting to blame pesky critters and diseases for a wide range of ailments. It turns out that abiotic (nonliving) plant problems are very common and also make plants more susceptible to secondary pest and disease damage. Hone your abiotic diagnostic skills at this informative session.



Vicinity Map



Clackamas Community College Campus Map

Clackamas Community College
19600 South Molalla Avenue
Oregon City, OR 97045-7998

CCC Harmony Campus
7616 S.E. Harmony Road
Milwaukie, OR 97222

CCC Wilsonville Campus
29353 Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR 97070

To reach any college office, call 503-657-6958 and dial the extension you want. (Hearing-impaired TTY/TDD 503-650-6649)

Natter's Notes

Washing Mason Bees

Jean R. Natter

Whatever rearing system you use for your mason bees (*Osmia lignaria*), it's wise to take steps to minimize the Krombein's hairy-footed mites (*Chaetodactylus krombeinii*) which injure, or kill, the bees.



Fig 1: Rustic nests are commonly made from a block of wood, but not cedar or treated wood. This version uses a dead branch, the holes filled by leafcutter bees.

Among the various systems are a "rustic" nest (wood drilled with 3/16-inch holes, as in Fig 1), a bundle of nesting straws, or a series of stacked grooved trays of either plastic or wood (Fig 2) where the grooves are used as is or lined with nesting straws (Fig 3).



Fig 2: A purchased "stacked tray" style nest block; the "X" in a contrasting color helps each bee locate its own tunnel.

Now and then the bees choose a far different nesting site, such as under siding or roof shingles. (Fig 4) Unfortunately, the damaging mites find them even there.

Although very small, Krombein mites may kill the bee eggs and/or larvae or may destroy the nutritious pollen cakes bee larvae require. A specialized 6-legged stage of the mite (hypopus) is adapted to move from one nest to another. It simply hitchhikes by grasping the hairs of an adult bee after the latter emerges from its cocoon, then clings tightly as the bee exits the nesting tube and flies away. After the bee enters a new tube to construct a mud cell for its egg, the hypopus releases its grip.

It simply hitchhikes by grasping the hairs of an adult bee after the latter emerges from its cocoon, then clings tightly as the bee exits the nesting tube and flies



Fig 3: A plastic "stacked tray" nest. To remove the cocoons, unstack the trays; this one has many leafcutter cocoons, only a few from mason bees

Mason bees can be seriously damaged if their nest is disrupted during the early stages of their development. But, by October, the bees are fully formed and can tolerate the jostling that occurs as you work with the cocoons, first freeing them from the nest tubes, then washing off the mites clinging to the exterior of the cocoons. Even though the contained adults are fully formed, they are destined to

remain in the cocoons until spring. To avoid triggering the bees' premature emergence, work in a relatively cool place and use tepid, rather than warm, water.

To begin removing the mites, you must first free the cocoons from their nesting holes. Because that's impossible with many rustic nests, discard them after two to three years. Folks who make their own blocks can extend the longevity of rustic nests if they drill 5/16 inch diameter holes, then insert a paper nesting straw into each one.



Fig 5: A #2 pencil is the perfect size to push cocoons from a paper nesting straw. Fig 5: A #2 pencil is the perfect size to push cocoons from a paper nesting straw.

With paper straws, either push out the row of cocoons with a #2 pencil (Fig 5), or unfurl the straws (Fig 6).

To release the cocoons from a stacked tray system of grooved plastic or wood, separate the trays, then slide the tip of a 1/4-inch wide flat wood coffee stir stick underneath the cocoons and down the row.



Fig 4: Mason bee nest found under the siding of a shed in Clackamas County. The yellowish granular substance in some mud cells is the remains of the larval pollen cake mixed with many tiny Krombein mites. The dark mummified larva at the 4.25-inch line was killed by chalkbrood, a fungus disease of mason bees and honey bees.



Fig 6: Paper straws removed from a nest block, then unfurled to release mason bee cocoons and associated debris.

(Continued on page 8)

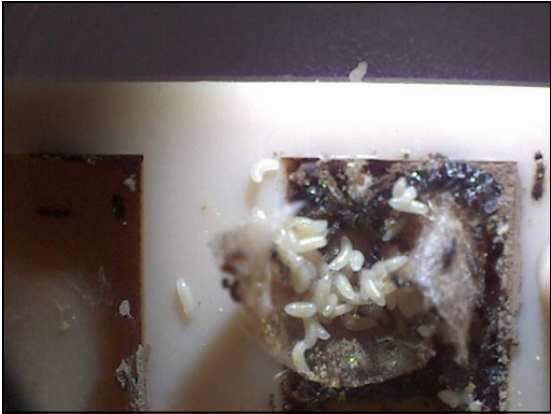


Fig 7: Numerous tiny parasitoid wasp larvae (*Montodontomerus* spp.) in a single mason bee cocoon.

Now and then during the cleaning process you'll encounter insects other than mason bees. Some are other kinds of solitary nesting bees while still others are parasitoids which kill mason bees before they are mature. (Fig 7)

Complete directions to wash the cocoons while ensuring the bees' safety are below. These **Bee Wash Basics** are based on Dr. Margriet Dogterom's methods (see Resources) and are adapted from the handout distributed at the recent Bee Wash sponsored jointly by the Clackamas MG Association and the North Willamette Curation Group.

Removing Mud

1. Put 1 gallon of tepid water in a basin or bowl. Add loose cocoons and move them through the water to dissolve mud.
2. Let cocoons sit in the water 5 to 10 minutes, maximum, stirring occasionally to dislodge mud.
3. Scoop cocoons into a sieve, leaving debris behind.

Removing Mites

1. Prepare a solution of 1 tablespoon household bleach in one gallon of tepid water.
 2. Lower sieve containing cocoons into the dilute bleach solution.
 3. Rinse thoroughly, letting water flow in one side of the bowl and through sieve so that the small reddish mites float away and down the drain.
 4. Wash for about 10 minutes, then run tepid water through cocoons for another 5 minutes. Monitor water temperature closely; too cold may damage the bees, too warm triggers the bees' premature emergence.
 5. Drain cocoons in the sieve, then spread them onto several layers of white paper towels. Place another white paper towel over them, and dampen it. After an hour, remove the towel covering the cocoons, and check for tiny pink to reddish mites on the toweling. If there are fewer than 10 mites per square inch, the first wash was successful, but try to reduce mite numbers to 5 or fewer by doing another wash.
 6. Dry cleaned cocoons on another set of clean paper towels for at least an hour.
- Store the cocoons and release the bees as described above.

Managing the cleaned cocoons

1. Sort the cocoons to determine which contain healthy bees or bees which may be parasitized, diseased or dead.
 - "Good" cocoons will be firm to the touch and dark gray.
 - Parasitized cocoons are usually lighter-colored, and may seem to be empty.
 - Diseased or dead cocoons may be misshapen, shriveled, or just look "off."
2. Handling abnormal cocoons
 - Put abnormal cocoons in a separate container with a clear lid; label the container.
 - Tape the edge of the lid to avoid escapes of any tiny adult parasites when they emerge.
 - Store in a cool place such as an unheated garage or shed.
 - In the spring, bring indoors and keep at room temperature. The various insects will emerge on their own schedule.
 - If tiny parasitic wasps emerge, refrigerate the container for about 30 minutes, then destroy the wasps before they warm up enough to escape. One cocoon may contain as many as 60 parasites.
3. Handling "good" cocoons
 - Place good cocoons in their own labeled container with a clear lid.
 - Store the cocoons and release the bees as described above.

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Resources

Orchard Mason Bees; PLS 1112; WSU: <http://gardening.wsu.edu/library/inse006/inse006.htm>.

The Orchard Mason Bee (Brian Griffin).

Pollination with Mason Bees (Margriet Dogterom) includes the specifics of washing mason bee cocoons. (Details below.)

How to Manage the Blue Orchard Bee: Extensive information about mason bees and their natural enemies.

Available as a book or a free pdf from <http://sare.org/publications/bob.htm>

Mitey Bees <http://crawford.tardigrade.net/bugs/BugofMonth35.html>



Update from Oregon State University's recent *IPM Workshop Series*

Amy Dreves, OSU Entomologist, spoke recently to update gardeners and growers on new findings in her research on the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD).

Key points emphasized during the meeting

- **Keep trapping!** Count numbers are increasing in traps. Dreves says that red plastic cups are more effective than the original clear plastic.
- **Trap in the trees:** SWDs are present in greater numbers than earlier in the season. Now, they're near the tops of trees, about a third of the way in, and on the shady side.
- **Practice good garden sanitation:** Pick up fallen fruit, bag in plastic, and discard. It is ineffective to bury fruit. Don't add fruit to compost piles.
- **Evidence points to SWDs over wintering as adults**, probably fertilized females like wasps and bumblebees.
- **Newly identified hosts:** SWDs have been isolated from the fruits of Dogwoods.
- **Sequence of infestation:** SWDs probably start with strawberries and follow the succession of ripening fruits. Think ahead. Harvest promptly.

Stay tuned for latest news from the SWD team:

Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) web site <http://swd.hort.oregonstate.edu/>

Bob Falconer
MG-Dx

How to choose plants for sustainable landscapes

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Traditional gardens and lawns increasingly are giving way to those that have a minimal impact on the environment. Generally low-maintenance, a sustainable landscape is a balance between resources and results.

The goal is to create a plant community that becomes easier to care for as it matures, according to an Oregon State University Extension Service publication, "[Plant Selection for Sustainable Landscapes](#)."

A key to creating a sustainable landscape is to include plants that are either native to the area or well-adapted to similar growing conditions. These plants need less water and fertilizer and minimal pesticide use.

Interest in native plants for home landscapes is growing. "Natives" grow naturally on undisturbed sites in the local area. Generally, they are better adapted to local growing conditions, less prone to disease and insect problems and provide better habitat (food and shelter) for native wildlife than introduced species.

"However, it's important to realize that natives are not a magic answer to creating sustainable landscapes," according to Carol Savonen, OSU Master Gardener and garden writer. "Some native species have difficulty in home landscapes because the environment is very different from their natural growing conditions."

Many nonnative species also are suitable additions to home landscapes. Look for plants that are not invasive, adapt to a range of growing conditions and provide habitat for local wildlife.

Thoughtful plant selection and proper site preparation can create a sustainable landscape that is a unique blend of well-adapted native and exotic species. By selecting the right plant for the right place, you can reduce greatly the need for water, fertilizer, pesticides and labor.

Proper plant placement also prevents soil erosion, influences summer cooling and winter heating and attracts beneficial insects and wildlife, all of which make the landscape an asset to the local environment. Other factors to consider when selecting plants are hardiness zone, seasonal rainfall, humidity, soil characteristics, available water and the duration and intensity of light.

If you'd like to begin growing a sustainable landscape, however, you might need to change your idea of how a landscape should look, Savonen said. "Perfect lawns, plants and fruits are desirable. But if you adjust your expectations slightly, you can reduce labor and chemicals with pleasing results."

Thousands of varieties of trees, shrubs, vines, perennials and annuals are available. Choose plants carefully; consider both their needs and aesthetic value. Many references are available, such as OSU Extension's [Plant Materials for Landscaping: A List of Plants for the Pacific Northwest](#), PNW 500.

The [plant-selection publication](#) (EC 1534), is available online. It encourages pest management practices that have minimal impact on human health, the environment and non-targeted plants and animals. Start by choosing healthy plants that are labeled "resistant" or "tolerant." Put them in the right growing environment and follow good sanitation practices in the garden.

You can remove pests from plants by hand, prune infected areas and protect plants with sticky traps and plant cages. Use chemicals only as a last resort. Start with the least toxic products first and move to more toxic ones only if necessary.

By: [Judy Scott](#)

Source: [Carol Savonen](#)

The science behind autumn colors

CORVALLIS, Ore. - Autumn leaves are the grand finale of the growing season. What creates all that color?

It's all about photosynthesis, according to Pat Breen, Oregon State University professor emeritus of horticulture.

The word "photosynthesis" means "to transform with light." That is just what happens inside leaf cells as chlorophyll uses the sun's light to transform water and carbon dioxide into food for the growing plant.



Throughout the summer, green plants produce a continual supply of chlorophyll to keep the transformation going. But when days get shorter and nights get cooler, plants slow their production of chlorophyll. As the amount of chlorophyll declines, the green color of plant leaves starts to fade and other pigments begin to shine through.

Carotenoids, for example, are found in most green plants, and are necessary for capturing sunlight. When chlorophyll fades, the carotenoids that are left create yellow and sometimes brilliant gold color. We see carotenoids at work in big-leaf maples this time of year.

A second pigment, anthocyanin, is produced in the leaves of only a few kinds of trees. It creates shades ranging from pink to red to purple, as in our native vine maples.

When the colorful pigments finally fade, leaves turn brown from the remaining tannin. Tannins are found in almost all trees, and are especially abundant in Oregon white oak, which keeps its autumn color to a conservative brown.

Weather plays a part in the show of autumn leaves. The most vivid color tends to unfold when autumn days are sunny and nights are cool but above freezing. The red-color anthocyanins are produced in strong light when sugars are trapped in the leaf as stems begin to shut off in preparation to drop. If the weather holds, enough sugars are produced to create brilliant red and orange color in the leaf. Rainy weather blocks warmth and sunshine, and so inhibits sugar production. Leaves fade without much color change. Likewise, early frost can kill leaves, turning them brown.

You can orchestrate your own grand finale by planting trees that promise autumn color. Many kinds of native trees and shrubs are already brightening the woods this time of year. A trip to the local nursery will reveal an even larger selection. Consider Norway maple or tulip tree for yellow and gold color; sugar maple and sweet gum for bright orange and red; and scarlet oak for deep red. All these should do well throughout most of Oregon.

By: [Peg Herring](#)

Source: Pat Breen

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

- Nov 2** Washington County Chapter—How To Build Raised Bed Structures, Bill Wilder, Horticulturist, Portland Nursery
- Nov 8** Clackamas County Chapter—Japanese Garden, Sadafumi Uchiyama, Garden Curator, Portland Japanese Garden
- Nov 9** Multnomah County Chapter—Getting a Grip on Clematis, Linda Buelter, Curator, Rogerson Clematis Collection
- Nov 13** Recertification Class—Clackamas Community College
- Dec 2** Washington Country Chapter—”Paths & Circulation, Space & Illusions”, John Caine, Joy Creek Nursery
- Dec 13** Clackamas County Chpater—Plants, Pots, Garden Art: Getting It All Together—Mike Darcy, Host of “In the Garden” on KXL radio.
- Dec 14** Multnomah County Chapter , 7 PM, Annual Winter Greens Gathering
- 2011**
- Jan 11** Multnomah County Chapter, 7 PM, Speaker: Lucy Hardiman, Perennial Partners, ‘Full Frontal Gardening—Say Goodbye to the Traditional Lawn’
- Jul 13-15** Mini College in Newport



MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE

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

9 Nov. 2010 Chapter Meeting

Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church

5441 SE Belmont

6:50 Announcements

7:00 Getting a Grip on Clematis Speaker: Linda Beutler, Curator, Rogerson Clematis Collection

Gardeners are met each spring by a confounding selection of clematis accompanied by a baffling array of pruning "rules". Join Rogerson Clematis Collection curator Linda Beutler for an evening of illustrated clarification and demystification.

Linda Beutler is a fearless gardener who grows a great number of plants on a simple, flat 50' x 100' city lot in the Sellwood neighborhood of Portland, Oregon. She was a professional florist for 20+ years, and her first love in her own garden was growing flowers and foliage for cutting. That focus started changing when Linda purchased her first clematis as a misnamed plant. Her personal collection of this genus now numbers 250 separate species and cultivars. This passion for clematis led to the publication of her first book, *Gardening with Clematis* (Timber Press, 2004). Clematis notwithstanding, hers is a fully functioning organic cottage garden, including fruit trees and room for favorite vegetables, in a style appropriate for her 1907 cottage home.

Linda is one of two Vice Presidents of the International Clematis Society (I.C.I.S.). She is a founding member of the Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Collection (in 2003), and served on their Board of Directors until she was named the collection's first curator, beginning July 2007.

Linda Beutler has been an instructor of horticulture at Clackamas Community College (CCC) for 13 years. Her classes include Herbaceous Perennials (summer term), Commercial Floral Design (winter term) and The Flower Arranger's Garden I & II (autumn and spring terms). In spring 2007, Timber Press presented her second book, *Garden to Vase*, on growing and using your own cut flowers, featuring photography by Allan Mandell. This book was written with gardeners, not florists, in mind, and serves as the textbook for her spring and fall classes at CCC. Linda lectures nationally on numerous gardening topics, and is a garden writer for both local and national publications, including *Fine Gardening*, *Pacific Horticulture*, *Portrait of Portland*, and *Birdwatcher's Digest*.

***** December 14, 7pm - Winter Greens Gathering**
Gather with fellow chapter members to share a cup o' cheer and create winter arrangements, wreaths and swags.

*****Next Board Meeting – Tuesday 2nd November 2010 - 6:30 pm at Gloria Bennett's 2825 SE Tolman St.**

*****Garden Delights Note-cards Available for Purchase**

– A stunning array of 'garden delights' has been captured in photographs by Metro Master Gardeners and is featured in 4 different sets of note-cards. Each set contains 4 beautiful garden images (2 cards of each of the 4 images). Available for purchase now at Alberta Gardens and Naomi's Organic Farm Supply. 8 cards for \$10. To see images go to our homepage @ <http://metromastergardeners.org/multnomah/> and follow the link to view and/or order note-cards. Also available at Fall training and chapter meetings or contact Marilyn Kongsliie at (503) 289-8889 or email multmastergardeners@gmail.com

*****2011 CHINOOK BOOKS AVAILABLE NOW!** The new print and mobile editions of Chinook Book are now available! Save up to \$3,000 with 400+ local print coupons and 300+ mobile coupons in the Portland Metro region. Free iPhone app with each print edition. Savings from 100's of local, sustainable businesses. Preview coupons here: <http://pdx.chinookbook.net/in-print/> A terrific value at only \$20. Makes a gift that keeps on giving. Available for purchase at Fall training and chapter meetings or contact Carrie McIntyre @ lehua_mc@yahoo.com or (503) 984-1109

*****Phones in Multnomah County!** –The office is in Montgomery Park @ NW 27th and Vaughn. Gloria Bennett (503) 775-4005 dcleopatra@comcast.net is managing the calendar. The phone hours are 10am-2pm Monday to Friday. 2 or 4 hour shifts.

***** Our Community Demonstration Garden** has a bounty of vegetables ripening and in need of harvest. Come on over and give a helping hand as we tend the garden, harvest, and donate the bounty to area food banks. It is a lovely time to spend in the garden. Demo garden work days are Mondays and Thursdays., 9am to 12noon. 6801 SE 60th. Contact Jean Edmison (503) 771-2486 housejem@aol.com or Sharon Baker with questions. No reservation necessary to work.

2011 Officers (Voted in at the October Meeting)

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

VicePresident- Gloria Bennett 503-775-4005 dcleopatra@comcast.net

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

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

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

Alternate – Mary Fiocchi 503-312-6762 maryto@johnscott.com

Historians - Velda Altig 503-252-7423 vkaltig@earthlink.net

Photos - Marilyn Kongsliie 503-289-8889 mkongslie@gmail.com

Grapevine: Lorna Schilling – 503-334-5162 lornaschilling@yahoo.com



Washington County Chapter Chat

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

Chapter Website: www.wcmga.info

UPCOMING PROGRAMS –

MEETING LOCATION & DATE CHANGES!!!

Tuesday, November 2, 2010

“Container Gardens” Debbie Barnhart, Cornell Farms Nursery

NEW LOCATION: First Baptist Church 5755 SW Erickson Ave., Beaverton, OR 97005. The site is where the winter Training Classes are held; Erickson Ave. is in Beaverton between Farmington Rd. & Allen Blvd.

THE DECEMBER MEETING WILL BE AT THE “OLD” LOCATION IN THE CAPITAL CENTER ON WALKER ROAD. (First Baptist Church was not available in Dec.)

Thursday, December 2, 2010

“Paths & Circulation, Space & Illusions” John Caine, Joy Creek Nursery

SOCIAL GATHERING at 6:30 p.m. – come early!

Monthly Chapter Meeting is at 6:45 p.m.

Presentations are from 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.

The public is welcome.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Elections for the WCMGA Board are coming up in November. Vacancies on the Board that still do NOT have anyone running for the position are **Fundraising Director** and **Chapter Relations Director**. This is a great opportunity to get more involved in WCMGA. You will have mentors to help you. If you do not want a Board position, consider chairing one of the following committees: **Awards & Recognition, Capital Center Demo Garden, Merchandizing, or WCMGA Garden Tour**. Please contact Bob Falconer (FALCONER2672@comcast.net) or Barb Knopp (barbknopp@comcast.net)

CHAPTER DUES FOR 2011

It is time to renew your membership in the Washington County Chapter of the Master Gardener Association for 2011. Dues for the year are \$25 and the deadline is December 15th. You can pay at the Chapter Meetings or mail a check to Treasurer Donna Yount.

DIG UP & DONATE

Now is a good time to divide your hardy perennials for the Spring Plant Sale. Look at your gardens and think about donations suitable for gallon size pots. Spring and summer bloomers are the best sellers. We also need gallon-size pots (6”).

This is the major fundraiser of the year for the WCMG Chapter. **IT IS UP TO YOU!!** Your donations are what will make it successful and provide the funds for some of the Chapter’s projects and activities. Jane Miller will be at the November and December Chapter Meetings to collect your donations. Questions, call Jane at 503-590-3598.

PPSP Part 2 (Pre Plant Sale Potting Party) will be held Tuesday, October 19th 9 am to noon at the Demo Gardens of the Washington Co. Fairgrounds. Bring your perennials and pots (if you have some) to contribute.

RECERTIFICATION CLASS

Earn 6 of your required 12 recertification hours for 2011 on Saturday, November 13th from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at Clackamas Community College. See page 3 of this newsletter for the complete agenda.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Read the September issue of the OMGA *Gardener's Pen* (Oregon Master Gardener Association) through the WCMGA website. Go to www.wcmga.info, click on Members Corner, click on Newsletters and select the Gardener's Pen. Enjoy!

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
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Clackamas County Chatter

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



2010

November Chapter Meeting

Monday, November 8, 7 p.m.
Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE

Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

Portland Japanese Garden: Past, Present, and Future by Sada Uchiyama, Garden Curator, Portland Japanese Garden

For more than 45 years, Portland Japanese Garden has offered a personal encounter with Japanese culture and a tranquil experience that celebrates the natural beauty of Oregon. The stewards of this cultural treasure continue today to strive for the same standard of perfection sought by garden designers in Japan for more than 1500 years.

Nobuo Matsunaga, Japanese Ambassador to the United States, proclaimed the Portland Japanese Garden to be "the most beautiful and authentic Japanese garden in the world outside Japan." Through the eye of Garden Curator Sada Uchiyama, this presentation will review the past, the present, and look into the future of the Portland Japanese Garden.

December Program

Monday, December 13

Plants, Pots, Garden Art;

Getting It All Together

Mike Darcy is well-known in the Portland gardening community, having had a garden radio show on KXL for 28 years. Mike will discuss plants (some new, some old standbys) and how to incorporate pots and art throughout for adding beauty to and interest in your garden.

Featured Committee:

Scholarship – Paul Miken, Chair;
Bee Smith & Mickey Becker, members

This committee reviews applications for two full horticultural scholarships at Clackamas Community College. They work closely with representatives of the Clackamas Community College (CCC) Horticulture Department and, occasionally, with the CCC Foundation. As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of our scholarship program (Chapter first contributed to a scholarship endowment fund in November 1999 and began awarding scholarships in 2001), we extend a big **Thank You** to this committee.

Clackamas Chapter in Cyberspace

Did you know our chapter is prominently displayed in the new Metro Web site at metromastergardeners.org? This new Web site for the Metro region offers clients a place to submit gardening questions online. It also is a portal to OSU online resources. Click on the Clackamas County link at its home page. Sherry Sheng is interested in your thoughts about how our chapter is represented there.

Our own Web site at www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org has seen major improvements in appearance and content. Kudos to Mark Shepard, Rodger Sanman, and Sharon Andrews!

What's the difference between these two sites?

The Chapter Web site serves our members (volunteer sign-up, members-only events and programs), clients of our events (Spring Garden Fair vendors & clients), and clients of our programs (10-Minute University™, Soil pH Testing, etc). The Metro Web site represents the OSU Master Gardener Program in the Metro region. It offers lots of OSU gardening information. The Metro site will also host 10-Minute University™ materials so that they are accessible to all.

The Spring Garden Fair has its own Facebook page. Sharon Andrews updates it monthly. We would like to have more "friends." Check it out and tell your friends about it.

Kudos

Green Glove Award:
Sharon Wiley

Sharon became a Master Gardener in 2007 after retiring from Kaiser Permanente as a hospital supervisor. She has been actively involved in our chapter ever since. Over the past three years, Sharon acted as event manager for 10-Minute University™ presentations at the Oregon City Farmers' Market. She performed the same duties at 10-Minute University™ events at the Milwaukie Center. Sharon has done her share of heavy lifting for the Chapter, co-chairing the Plant Check committee for the Spring Garden Fair.

Getting Involved in the Chapter

President's Note: This past summer, I enlisted help from dozens of members in finding solutions to several challenges we face. Each challenge has a small group working on it. From the "Volunteerism" work group came the following ideas. (I invite your comments and participation):

Idea: Improve communications to members; use e-mails to share timely information.

Idea: Establish a support system for new Master Gardeners to connect to Chapter offerings.

Idea: Reach out to all members and encourage greater participation in Chapter programs and events.

Idea: Develop better ways to thank volunteers for their contributions.

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Websites: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/> - <http://www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org/>

November 2010

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 at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/locations.php>.

Planning

- Force spring bulbs for indoor blooms in December.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Service lawn mower prior to winter.
- Check potatoes in storage and remove any going bad.
- Place a portable cold frame over rows of winter vegetables.
- Place mulch around berries for winter protection.

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.

- Cover rhubarb and asparagus beds with composted manure and straw.
- Rake and compost leaves that are free of diseases and insects. Use mulches to prevent erosion and compaction from rain.
- Protect built-in sprinkler systems: drain the system, insulate the valve mechanisms.
- Clean and oil lawnmower, other garden equipment and tools before storing for winter. Drain and store hoses carefully to avoid damage from freezing. Renew mulch around perennial flower beds after removing weeds.
- Protect tender evergreens from drying wind.
- Tie limbs of upright evergreens to prevent breakage by snow or ice.
- Trim chrysanthemums to 4 to 6 inches after they finish blooming.
- Leave ornamental grasses up in winter to provide winter texture in the landscape. Cut them back a few inches above the ground in early spring.
- **Western Oregon:** Last chance to plant cover crops for soil building. You can also use a 3- to 4-inch layer of leaves, spread over the garden plot, to eliminate winter weeds, suppress early spring weeds and prevent soil compaction by rain.
- **Western Oregon:** Watch for wet soil and drainage problems in yard during heavy rains. Tiling, ditching, and French drains are possible solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales as a long term solution.

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>