

Metro Master Gardener™ News November 2011



Oregon State UNIVERSITY **OSU** Extension Service



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



ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS = Hours Reported

One thing that is always difficult in a volunteer group as large as the metro Master Gardener Program is tracking how many of our reported 1,100+ volunteers are actually “active” and certified to act as a volunteer on behalf of OSU. An MG is only considered active if the individual has *reported* volunteer hours. We emphasize the ‘**reported**’ part because there are still quite a number of MGs doing great things, but who haven’t taken the time to send in a report.

We currently have just under 30% of our MGs previously listed as active actually reporting their hours. In an effort to clear up who is actually doing the work out there....we are working on de-listing the MGs that haven’t reported hours in recent years. This, for the most part, is a more accurate accounting for OSU and relieves the burden of listing many names that don’t really represent the metro MG Program. We give a huge thanks to those that have volunteered in the past and have moved on.

The other criterion required to be considered an active MG is to accrue 12 hours of recertification training each year. This is separate from the 25 volunteer hours required for Veterans. It is this training and connection to the current information coming from OSU that gives MGs the credentials to act on behalf of OSU as an OSU Extension Service MG volunteer.

AND gigantic thanks to the over 350 active MGs in the metro program that reported hours and helped home gardeners, school gardens, and others in a meaningful and impactful way. Nice job!

CERTIFICATES

For those that turned in hours and checked the ‘YES I-would like-a-certificate’ box on the volunteer reporting form, the certificates will be available November 5 at the Recertification training. (Come to Clackamas Community College, Gregory Forum Bldg on Saturday, November 5 starting at 8:00 am.) We will have the certificates starting at morning break.

CLASS COORDINATOR MEETING



Every Master Gardener remembers his or her first MG classroom experience. The initial welcome and positive tone is set by the class coordinators. This wonderful team of MGs is 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.

If you are interested in helping at any one of the three classroom sites, come to a meeting at the Clackamas County Extension office Annex on **December 6 from 9 am to noon** and meet with other MGs that make up this special group of ‘extreme MGs’.



Fall 2011
OSU Master Gardener™
Recertification Training
Saturday, November 5th

- When:** 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 **Back to Basics with Landscape Design**

Lupin Hill Hipp, OSU Master Gardener, Hipp Urban Landscape Design LLC

Lupin will provide an overview of the first things to consider and do when starting a landscape design project. She will help MGs look at how to maximize a site with practical, sustainable design from site survey to master plan.

10:45 **Sustainable lawns - Practical Tips for Maintaining Nice Lawns with Minimal Inputs**

Tom Cook, OSU Associate Professor and Turf Grass Specialist, retired.

Contrary to popular opinion, it is possible to have an attractive lawn without applying excess fertilizer, water, and chemicals. This presentation will explore the ecology of lawns in Western Oregon, how maintenance practices influence appearance and longevity of lawns, how landscape design influences lawn maintenance, and how we can maximize the environmental benefits of lawns. It will also explore alternatives to conventional lawns and look at how marketing of lawn care services has shaped lawn owners' expectations. Finally, it will challenge the value of calendars and recipes for guiding lawn care practices. By design or by default most people have lawns, so come prepared to ask about problems you may be having with your lawns

Noon - Lunch break - Time to catch up with other MGs, pick up 2011 trainee badges and veteran certificates, look at books (etc) for sale. **Introduce 2011 Trainees.**

1:00 - 3:30 pm - **The Hows and Whys of IPM in Modern Times**

Gail Langellotto, OSU Faculty and Statewide MG Program Leader

The four components of IPM are relatively simple: monitor your garden for pests, identify the pests that you find, manage them according to your tolerance for damage and use all available strategies at your disposal. However, advances in pesticide chemistries and better knowledge of ecological interactions in the garden challenge gardeners to apply an integrated pest management program. In this talk, we will review the basic components of IPM, discuss different pesticide chemistries (including systemic pesticides) and how to best integrate cultural, physical, biological and chemical controls to sustainably manage pests and protect natural resources.

Natter's Notes

Slugs

Jean R. Natter

A key to managing a successful garden and landscape is to know your enemies and then, interfere with their life cycle and habits. You react at their weakest point and mess with what they need to survive.

So it is when dealing with slugs. Fall is prime time to bait and/or carry out intensive search-and-destroy missions to reduce adult populations of the plant-eating kinds before they lay eggs. (Fig 1) And here's free help: The beetle *Scaphinotus marginatus* (Fig 2) specializes in destroying the eggs and young of milky slugs.



Fig 2: *Scaphinotus marginatus*, (facing left) a common ground beetle seen here with other carabid beetles; both species are predators that work at night. (J.R. Natter)

Iron phosphate baits are currently the least toxic kind of bait you can use and an excellent choice for your integrated pest management program. Sold under various trade names including Sluggo and Escar-Go, they're safe for use around children, domestic animals, birds, fish, and other wildlife as well as among edible plants. Snails and slugs that ingest even small amounts of the bait will stop feeding, and the creatures will die several days later, typically out of sight.

Whatever kind of slug or snail bait you use, follow label directions for best results. Never pile or dump granular products.

In addition, manage your irrigation such that your plants have sufficient to thrive while the slugs must struggle due to dry conditions. Drip or trickle irrigation can be quite helpful in that respect. Overhead watering works well if completed early in the day so that plant tissues and surface soil dries prior to nightfall.

Slug identification characteristics include size, color, skin texture, mantle, pneumostome (a breathing pore on the right side), keel, and mucus color. The leopard slug, *Limax maximus*, which also goes by the names spotted garden slug and gray slug, is perhaps the largest pest slug in our region. (Fig 3). It's brown marked with numerous dark spots, produces clear slime and, when full-grown, ranges from 5 to 7 inches long. Ugh!



Fig 1: Eggs of the leopard slug, *Limax maximus* (J.R. Natter)



Fig 3 : *Limax maximus*, the spotted leopard slug (University of Michigan)

Slugs have four tentacles, just as do snails. Each of the upper two tentacles has a light sensor at the tip that's sometimes visible as a small dark spot. The lower and shorter pair functions as sensory structures for olfactory (smell) and tactile (touch) senses. "Slugs can swing their two retractable, light-sensitive optical tentacles independently to gaze at their surroundings," says entomologist Robin Rosetta.

A slug's mouth is on the underside of its foot. It contains a minutely toothed radula that's well-adapted for scraping. All in all, the radula makes short work of succulent green tissues, where damage is typically between leaf veins. (Fig 4) "Whenever the plant damage done by snails and slugs is easily observable, it has been determined the live weight of the slugs infesting the area may be around 70 pounds per acre!" (Resource 4) Ugh, again!

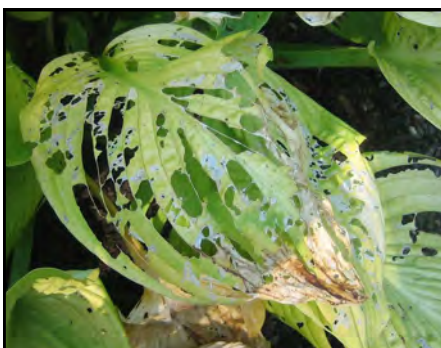


Fig 4: Hosta, an all too common victim of slug feeding (J.R. Natter)

Slug dietary preferences can work on your behalf. For instance, if you trap, smear a slug or two on the trap before you set it in place. Doing so invites other slugs to feast on their kin! (Fig 5) Yes, that's definitely gross but absolutely true.

Slugs are mature after about 3 to 6 months, and depending on the species, lay clear, oval to round eggs in batches of 3 to 40 beneath leaves, in soil cracks, and in other protected areas. On average, a slug life span is a year or two. Temperatures best for development are 17 to 18C (62.3 to 64.4F) while development ceases below 5C (41F). Slugs tend to take shelter or hide when temperatures are less than 5C or above 21C (69.8F).

As you've likely heard, slugs are hermaphrodites, each slimy body containing both male and female reproductive organs for at least a portion of its life. When slugs mate, each impregnates the other and both are capable of laying eggs. In most instances, when slugs mature, they're first males, later become hermaphrodites then, late in life, are female.

As you likely are well aware, slime completely covers each slug. (If you have the misfortune to inadvertently grab a slug while gardening, allow the ick to dry, then rub it off.) Slug slime, even though in a layer just one cell thick, is critical for slug survival.

Among its multiple uses are these:

- Protects slugs from dehydrating.
- Lubricates the slug's foot so the creature can safely traverse materials such as sand, crushed egg shells, and coffee grounds that folks mistakenly believe are sharp enough to injure these greenery-destroyers.

- Adhesive properties enable slugs to stick to surfaces rather than slide off.

- Can be slug food when necessary.

- Slime facilitates courtship (Fig 6), and also enables leopard slugs to dangle from a thin but strong slime strand. To experience a tad of non-guilty slug voyeurism, peek at this leopard slug tryst at

<http://www.arkive.org/leopard-slug/limax-maximus/video-00.html>.

Just what you really wanted to know, right?



Fig 5: Slug cleaning up carnage exacted the night prior by a gardener bent on revenge. (J.R. Natter)



Fig 6: Sex in the garden on an otherwise pleasant September evening. (J.R. Natter)

Resources

1. *Snails & Slugs*: Pacific Northwest Nursery IPM has lots of information with multiple links to other sites, including three identification keys. <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/mollusks.htm>
2. *Snails and Slugs of the Pacific Lowland* - Some native, others not; for each one, a photo and brief bio. <http://share3.esd105.wednet.edu/rsandelin/Fieldguide/Animalpages/Invert/Snailslug.htm>
3. *Snails and Slugs* <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7427.html#IDENTIFICATION>
4. Introduction to Slugs and Snails <http://www.mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/Foliage/entomol/ncstate/slugintr.htm>

Mature green tomatoes can ripen off the vine

Author: Judy Scott Source: Barb Fick

CORVALLIS, OR. Autumn frosts can turn your green tomatoes that are still on the vine to mush. But, if you pick them before frosts or heavy rain hit them, many will ripen off the vine.

“You can tell when a tomato is nearing maturity by its light green, almost translucent, appearance,” said Barb Fick, horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service in Benton County. “Tomatoes that are not in this ‘mature green’ stage won’t ripen.”

A green tomato is mature if its interior is yellowish and the tissues are gelatinous, or sticky, when the tomato is cut, Fick said. “Mature green tomatoes also have a pink or reddish tinge on the blossom end,” she said.

To check for maturity, cut a green tomato in half. If the pulp filling the compartments is jelly-like, it is mature green. In immature green tomatoes, seeds are easily cut through and the jelly-like pulp has not yet developed.

To store and ripen mature green tomatoes, put them in deep straw, wrap them individually in newspaper, or just lay them in a box so that they are not touching. Check tomatoes every few days and discard any that show signs of rot. Storage temperature should range from 60 to 70 degrees. They will ripen over a period of three to four weeks.

“Tomatoes will ripen satisfactorily in the dark,” Fick said. “Sunlight is not needed, but the temperature is important.”



Critters Needed!



Please help collect pupa you find in the soil, caterpillars, stink bugs, and carpenter ants (winged or not) for hands-on exercises during Annual Training. The trainees will appreciate your efforts to supply the samples.

Stink bugs and carpenter ants: Store in a covered container and freeze.

Caterpillars, pupae, and ants must be heat-treated, then stored in rubbing alcohol.

- Heat 6 ounces of water (a coffee cupful) to about 185F. (Microwave on high for one minute.)
- Drop specimen into the hot water; maximum number per cup: 2 caterpillars or pupae; 12 ants

Plant or move plants in the fall to prevent shock

CORVALLIS, Ore.—Autumn is a good time to plant or move perennials, shrubs and trees in most places in Oregon. The wet and mild conditions can help prevent transplant shock and water stress.

“Shock is caused mainly by the demand of the plant for water and the limited ability of the root system to supply it.” explained Ross Penhallegon, horticulturist with the OSU Extension Service. “The plant has a better chance of quick recovery if it has a chance in the fall and winter to develop new roots and build up nutrient reserves needed for healthy growth next spring.”

If you dig and move a plant, try to leave as much of the root system as possible. In many urban areas, soils are compacted and sometimes poorly drained. You’ll need to create a good root zone by amending the beds with sandy-loam topsoil and working the soil as deeply as possible.

Proper planting is the most important step. Dig the hole at least two feet wider than the size of the root system or root ball. A large hole will allow better root growth and is especially important in compacted soils. Roughen the sides of the hole, which should be the same width at the top and bottom, and remove any rocks or debris.

Planting depth is critical. Trees often are planted too deeply in the hole. Carefully set the tree in the hole at the same depth or slightly higher than it was at the nursery or in your yard. Plant it with the root collar at ground level or slightly higher (two inches) to allow for settling.

Often in container-grown trees roots grow around the inside of the container. After you remove the container, gently straighten the roots. Otherwise, the can eventually girdle and kill the tree.

Fill the hole with soil about half full, lightly tamping it with your foot to remove air pockets. Make sure the tree stands upright. Water the plant slowly to saturate the soil and remove remaining air pockets, then finish filling the hole with soil. Remove extra soil rather than mounding it around the tree. You can build a temporary berm at the drip line to hold water around the root system.

Sandy soil, often found in eastern Oregon or along the Oregon coast, benefits from organic matter such as peat moss, compost or old sawdust added to the planting hole to increase the soil’s moisture-holding capacity around the roots.

Organic matter helps clay soil as well. The soil is easily compacted, which obstructs the movement of water and air. Mix in organic matter to help break up clay particles and improve water and air flow around the roots.

Contrary to popular belief, you don’t need to fertilize trees when you plant them. In the spring, slow-release fertilizers are good for fall-planted perennials because their effect is long-lasting and less likely to burn roots than rapid-release products, Penhallegon said.

Newly planted trees require routine and thorough watering, particularly during Oregon’s dry summer and fall months. Make sure the plant is well-watered for one to three weeks after transplanting. Add a layer of mulch around the base of the shrub to retain moisture and keep weeds from becoming established. Clean straw, clean manure, newspapers, a layer of black plastic or landscape cloth are all good mulching materials.

Water the tree regularly for at least three years after planting. If you have moved a shrub, it can help transplant shock to prune the shrub and make branches on top match the size of the root system.

Author: Judy Scott
Source: Ross Penhallegon



NEW! Gardeners' Exchange

Got junk? Garden junk, that is? Visit the new Gardener's Exchange

One gardener's junk is another gardener's treasure! A new feature in the Metro Master Gardener Referral Forum, the Gardener's Exchange, will allow you to join your Master Gardener community and recycle unwanted garden items.

To log in to the Forum:

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

Log in using the username and password for your MG office

Washington County Username: wcphones Password: wcphones

Clackamas County Username: ccphones Password: ccphones

Multnomah County Username: mcphones Password: mcphones

Wait briefly for the Main Page to open

To browse the Gardener's Exchange:

- Scroll down to "Gardening Discussion" section. Click on "Gardener's Exchange"
- Interested in something? Contact the posting Master Gardener

To post your giveaways to the Gardener's Exchange

- Click "**NEWTOPIC***"
- Describe your item in "Subject" box
- Provide details in the body. Must include:
 - Your contact information
 - Your county and general area
 - Pictures are great if available (use "Upload Attachments" tab at bottom of the screen)

Success – Item is claimed

- Open your original posting and click the **EDIT** button
- Add "Gone" to the subject line.

Questions?

janette.barbour@gmail.com

jbreckon12@gmail.com



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

- Nov 1** Washington County Chapter, 7pm, "*Reed College Grounds*" Zach Perry, Grounds Specialist
- Nov 5** MG Recertification Training, 8:30am, Clackamas Community College, Gregory Forum Building
- Nov 8** Multnomah County Chapter, 7pm, Speaker Roger Gossler, Gossler Farms "*A Guide to the Best Hardy Shrubs for Your Garden*"
- Nov 14** Clackamas County Chapter, 7pm, Speaker Mike Stewart, owner Dover Farms, "*New Rhododendrons You Should Get to Know*"
- Dec 6** Washington County Chapter, 7pm, Speaker Chip Bubl, Columbia County Extension Agent, "*Seed Quality*"
- Dec 6** Class Coordinator Meeting, 9am, Clackamas County Extension Office Annex
- Dec 12** Clackamas County Chapter, 7pm, Speaker Maurice Horn, Joy Creek Nursery, "*Horticultural Case Book: Psychiatric and Medical Disorders in the Garden*"
- Dec 13** Multnomah County Chapter, 7pm, Annual winter greens gathering
- Jan 3, 5, 6** New MG classes start
- Feb 8-12, 2012** The Northwest Flower & Garden Show—Seattle. Washington State Convention Center. Phone 253-756-2121. www.gardenshow.com
- May 5-6, 2011** Clackamas County Chapter Spring Garden Fair, Canby



MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE

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

**Chapter Meeting 8 Nov. 2011
Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church,
5441 SE Belmont St.**

6:30pm Gossler Farms Plant Sale-

A beautiful selection of plants from Gossler Farms will be available for sale beginning at 6:30pm and also following Roger's presentation. Come at 6:30 for the best selection.

6:50 Announcements

7:00 Chapter Meeting,

A Guide to the Best Hardy Shrubs for Your Garden

Speaker: Roger Gossler, Gossler Farms

For most homeowners, shrubs are an essential part of the yard or garden because they provide shade, flowers, and foliage from spring through fall. Unfortunately, the choices available at many garden centers tend to be predictable and often unsuited to the local climate and growing conditions.

It doesn't have to be that way. The superior plants available today can transform ho-hum gardens into scenes of beauty and serenity. For decades, the Gossler family has tested, propagated, and sold the very best hardy shrubs from around the world. Nurseryman and author Roger Gossler will highlight characteristics and growing conditions for many beautiful, versatile and easycare shrubs.

Roger Gossler grew up in Springfield, Oregon on the Gossler family farm, and is one of those rare individuals who knew his career from birth. He became interested in plants at an early age and quickly became a leader in promoting the use of woody trees and shrubs. Roger is currently the buyer and main grower for Gossler Farms Nursery. He avidly researches what is new in the trade and worthy of inclusion in the nursery's catalog.

A brief Chapter business meeting will follow the speaker's presentation. Please join us to get the latest update on Chapter activities and business.

*****Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, 4 Nov. 2011 at 5:30 pm at Claudia's – 4026 N.E. Hazelfern.**

*****Coming Next Month December 13, 7pm**

Annual Winter Greens Gathering

Gather with fellow chapter members to share a cup o' cheer and create winter arrangements, wreaths and swags. Bring cuttings from your garden, supplies and tools to build a festive winter creation. Additional evergreens, ribbon and some supplies will be available. Enjoy a sweet treat, warm beverage and conversation with fellow MGs.

*****Multnomah Chapter Membership Renewal**

It's that time of year... time to renew your membership in the Multnomah County Chapter. Membership for 2012 is still a terrific value at ONLY \$20! For early birds, there's a bonus...**register before December 1, 2011, for just \$15!**

This year we have 3 EASY membership renewal options:

1. **NEW! On-line:** Use PayPal (note a PayPal account is NOT required to renew online). Go to www.metromastergardeners.org/multnomah/membership, fill out the renewal form, and then click the 'Renew your membership' button.

2. **Mail:** Send your completed renewal form (downloadable at: www.metromastergardeners.org/multnomah/membership) along with a check payable to Multnomah County Master Gardeners to: Heidi Nichols, 6044 SE Reed College Place, Portland, OR 97202.

In person: Pay by cash or check at the November or December Chapter meetings. But remember, you miss the Early Bird price if you renew after December 1, 2011.

DIG IN for another great year as a Multnomah County Chapter Master Gardener and renew today!

***** Catch a Chinook!**

2012 Chinook Books and Mobile Packs for I-pod and Androids are on sale now! Loaded with over 400 money-saving coupons from local, sustainable businesses, including groceries, dining, entertainment, garden, travel, and home. Makes a great gift that keeps on giving!

Print book: \$20 with 450 coupons

Mobile pack: \$10 with 430 coupons

Best Buy! Print book and Mobile pack for ONLY \$25

Available for purchase at Recertification and the 3 county Chapter meetings. Or contact: multmastergardeners@gmail.com to make other arrangements.

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

2011 Officers and Contact Information

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

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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

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

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, November 1, 2011

“Reed College Grounds” Zach Perry, Reed College Naturalist will discuss the methods and philosophy behind creating a successful urban restoration of the Canyon and headwaters of Crystal Springs Creek. His focus will be a newly restored 2 acre section. More info at 222.reed.edu/canyon.

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

“Seed Quality” by Chip Bubl, Columbia County Extension Service.

MEETING LOCATION & DAY

First Baptist Church 5755 SW Erickson Ave., Beaverton, OR 97005, located between Farmington Rd. & Allen Blvd. The first Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:45 pm. The public is welcome.

AWARDS

At the October Chapter Meeting Director Sandy Japely presented an award to Rene Breier in recognition for her efforts as Chair of the Fall Garden Tour Committee. Director Japely also thanked the WCMGA members who opened their gardens or volunteered as docents during the event.

Vern Vanderzanden was recognized for his efforts in arranging the Tomato Tasting Event at the Fairplex Demonstration Garden and for his wonderful service as Program Director. Director Japely noted there have been many exceptional programs during his two year term.

DIG UP AND DONATE

Now is a good time to divide your hardy perennials for the Spring Plant Sale. This is the major fund raiser for the year. Spring and Summer bloomers are the best sellers. Donations will be accepted at the Chapter meetings in November and December. Questions? Call Jane Miller (503)590-3598 or Cindy Muir (503) 245-3922.

COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

The WCMGA grants program will provide funds allowing members of our chapter the opportunity to create innovative partnerships and projects. These Projects could involve the use of plants as food, as a benefit to the environment, as tools for education, and as a means of creating beauty. These projects and partnerships will allow our chapter to broaden volunteer opportunities and help to attract new member and retain current members.

The application form is on our web site 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. Grants will be issued for a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$1,000.

OFFICERS AND BUDGET

The Slate of Officers and the 2012 budget will be presented at the November Chapter Meeting. The vote on these items will be taken at the December Chapter meeting. Chair Bob Falconer is still looking for candidates for the offices of Vice President, OMGA Representative and OMGA Alternate Representative.

President	Tim Lanfri	503-590-4354
Vice President	Bob Falconer	503-277-6595
Recording Secretary	Deb Kapfer	503-628-6349
Corresponding Secretary	Jackie Keil	503-531-3884
Treasurer	Lynn Cox	503-629-9156
OMGA Rep	Ken Keudell	503-292-6519
Alternate Rep	Joanne DeHaan	503-649-1683
Dir.#1 Business	Bill Klug	503-681-0143
Dir.#2 Program	Vern Vanderzanden	503-357-6109
Dir.#3 Publicity	Marilyn Berti	503-292 8637
Dir.#4 Fundraising	Sandy Japely	503-644-2637
Dir.#5 Chapter Relations	(vacant)	

Submit **Chapter Chat** information and general chapter announcements to **Jackie Keil**, Chapter Chat Editor.

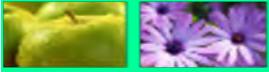
Phone **503-531-3884** or e-mail: jkivkeil4@gmail.com

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

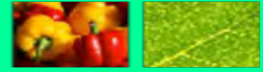
Chapter Website: www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org

Clackamas County Chatter

NOVEMBER 2011



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



November Meeting

Monday, November 14, 2011, 7 p.m.
Milwaukie Center

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

New Rhododendrons You Should Get to Know

Mike Stewart, Owner, Dover Farms

Rhododendrons have a long history in the natural and home landscapes of our region. As we walk in established parks or visit estates, it is not unusual to see tree-like specimens. While rhododendrons are still revered by gardeners in many parts of the world, in recent years they have lost much appeal to local gardeners as new, exotic plants from the tropics and the Southern Hemisphere catch our eyes. It is time to reacquaint ourselves with rhododendrons! New varieties with interesting leaves and smaller sizes make them suitable for today's small, urban gardens. Mike Stewart grows over 1,000 varieties and will talk about his favorite, high-quality varieties. Mike will offer plants for purchase before the meeting and during break. Don't miss this opportunity

December Meeting

Monday, December 12, 2011, 7 p.m.

Horticultural Case Book: Psychiatric and Medical Disorders in the Garden

Maurice Horn, Co-Owner, Joy Creek Nursery

Maurice Horn will offer a humorous look at nurseries and their customers in the consumer age. Gardeners, growers, and the media are not exempt in this gentle roast of "the world of gardening." Maurice co-founded Joy Creek Nursery in 1992 after years of being frustrated by both an inability to find the plants he wanted and reliable information about them at local nurseries. What started out as a mail-order nursery soon grew to include both retail sales and garden design and installation. The nursery occupies about seven acres of a forty-acre farm.

Call for Annual Used Book Sale Donations

Our annual Used Garden Book Sale will be held at the December meeting. **Janet Weber** will accept donations at the November meeting. If you have any questions, contact her at weberjanet@hotmail.com. Proceeds go to the Chapter.

OMGA Strategic Plan

The Oregon Master Gardener™ Association (OMGA) is an umbrella non-profit organization of 23 county-based Master Gardener chapters. It supports Master Gardener chapters and the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ program in furthering sustainable gardening across Oregon. In 2010–2011, **Sherry Sheng** assisted the OMGA with developing a Strategic Plan. The Plan states the following as OMGA's mission: We are committed to sustainable gardening through:

- Partnering with the OSU Master Gardener program to promote sustainable gardening practices;
- Advocating for funding to deliver the Master Gardener program across Oregon; and
- Fostering quality continuing education of all Master Gardeners.

Fun sustains our energy in carrying out these commitments.

Find out more about the OMGA at www.oregonmastergardeners.org.

Congratulations 2012 Executive Board!

At the October meeting, members elected a new Executive Board. Serving the Chapter in 2012 are: President **Frank Wille**; Vice President **Will Hughes**; Treasurer **David Smith**; Assistant Treasurer **Penny Bowman**; Secretary **Darlene Reimer**; Advisory Board **Mary Butler** (2012) and **Sharon Andrews** (2014); OMGA Representative **Terri Hoffmann**; and Alternate OMGA Rep. **Karen King**.

Green Glove Award

Ted Phillips has served the Chapter long and well. Ted joined the OSU Extension Master Gardener™ program in 2001 along with his wife, **Yvonne**. Together they have actively participated in Champoe Park Historic Garden, new MG training, Speaker's Bureau, Noontime Chat, and Spring Garden Fair. Ted represented the Chapter to the Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in 2005 and 2006.

Educational Outreach – 2011 Results

Master Gardeners are volunteer educators trained by OSU Extension Service. To bring quality, reliable gardening information to our community, the Clackamas Chapter offers 10-Minute University™ classes, handouts, and videos.

In 2011, we offered 58 classes and made 1,516 contacts. Besides the annual Spring Garden Fair, venues included the Expo Center, the Milwaukie Center, Oregon City Farmers' Market, and area libraries.

President · Sherry Sheng: 503-655-1822 – Vice President · Frank Wille: 503-342-6699

Secretary · Darlene Reimer: 503-698-4648

Advisory Board · Buzz Oerding: 503-233-6974

OMGA Rep · Nikki Mantei: 503-577-4494

Treasurer · David Smith: 503-656-4613

Advisory Board · John Hill: 503-653-9524

OMGA Alt.Rep · Linda O'Toole: 503-659-5309

Asst. Treasurer · Penny Bowman: 503-908-0900

Advisory Board · Joby Duggan: 503-632-2165

Newsletter · Kathy Johnson: 503-794-3959

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

NOVEMBER 2011 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.

November 2011

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. Tilling, ditching, and French drains are possible solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales as a long term solution.

Trade name products and services are mentioned in 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>