No. 8, Vol. 35

Dear Friends,

I have been sitting here staring at this blank page on my computer. It is a ridiculous hour of the morning (night actually) and since the clocks changed it seems my body clock didn’t go along with the rest of the system. I am at this point figuring I have a few weeks left to resolve this so that I can stay awake through the Master Gardener classes. Back in my pre-retirement days I would have been out milking the cows by now anyway but somehow now it would be nice to still be sleeping.

Plans are coming along well for the 2010 Master Gardener classes. The schedule and instructors are all confirmed and registrations are filling steadily. If you or someone you know is interested in taking classes this coming year, please see the article in this newsletter detailing that information. We have an exciting roster of instructors, including several OSU staff members who have not taught previously in Clatsop County. I would like to remind recertified Master Gardeners that you are welcome to retake the classes at no charge. However, we do ask that you call in to be sure that we have classroom space. The only room available to us at the college this year is small and class size must be limited. If you have not recertified recently and would like to do so, please call to verify requirements.

As you are filling in your new 2010 calendar, please remember to mark April 17 for Spring Into Gardening. The committee is already working on this, our largest annual educational and fundraising effort. Additional projects for 2010 will be reviewed by the new CCMGA board of directors. I will plan to detail those in the next Cultivator.

Enjoy these winter days, a cozy fire in the stove or fireplace, catching up on all of your indoor projects and studying the seed catalogs and spring gardening plans. May you have a wonderful holiday season with friends and family and welcome the New Year with health and happiness.

Sandra Rohne
Program Coordinator
OSU Master Gardener
Clatsop County

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2010 CCMGA
Officers

President
Walt John

Vice President
Jane Donnelly

Secretary
Debbie Haugsten

Treasurer
Darlene Houser

Co-Historians
Carey Birkenfeld
Joanie Chapel

State Representative
Linda Holmes

Alternate State Rep.
Claudia Justice

Past President
Susan Dyer-Preston

December 1   Fred Johnson
“First Year on the Farm”

December 15  Betsy & Becky
“Everything you’ve ever wanted to know about Christmas trees and then some!”

December 29  Master Gardener Garden Party
All Master Gardeners invited; bring snacks and catalogues- garden resolutions.

January 5     Linda Brim Master Gardener
“Less Toxic Gardening”

January 19  To Be Announced
Suggestions and ideas are gladly accepted. Contact Ann Goldeen

Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. on KMUN 91.9 FM

RECERTIFICATION
2010 Master Gardener classes will begin January 13th.
Remember, if you are a Veteran Master Gardener planning to recertify you may attend classes free of charge. However, due to limited space we must ask that you contact the OSU Extension Office at (503) 325-8573 to reserve your spot in advance.
December 2009

10
Master Gardener Board Meeting
OSU Conference Room
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

12
Master Gardener Holiday Party/Potluck
Home of Jeff and Jane Donnelly
630 17th Street, Astoria
2:00 p.m.

January 2010

13
2010 Master Gardener Classes Begin
Pre-register at the OSU Extension Office
2001 Marine Dr. Room 210, Astoria (503) 325-8573

21
Master Gardener Board Meeting
4-H Clubhouse/ Astoria Fairgrounds
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Brown Bag Meeting - Speaker Maggie Stuckey
“Container Gardening with Herbs, Edible Flowers”
4-H Clubhouse/ Astoria Fairgrounds
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Special Events

Holiday Party

What: Holiday Potluck
Where: Home of Jane & Jeff Donnelly
630 17th Street, Astoria Oregon
(503) 325-9026
When: Saturday December 12th 2009
2:00 p.m.
What to bring: A dish to share & beverage of your Choice

Save the Date...

April 17, 2010
Spring into Gardening Event
At the Astoria Fairgrounds
Doors open at 8:00 a.m.!
The Topic for This Year’s Event is
“Respected Advice- Get the Real Dirt”
Hello Gardeners,

I hope all of you are enjoying a joyful holiday season. This will be my last president’s letter as my term ends in December. When I reflect about the many things I am thankful for over this past year, the opportunities and relationships I experience being a part of the CCMGA among them.

We have implemented a number of new CCMGA community projects and events over this past year including Necanicum Bird Discovery Day, Fuchsia Day at Fred Meyer, the Pet-Friendly Garden, Growing Healthy Kids, and the Native Plant Garden in Ilwaco. We continued our foundational programs including the Spring Garden Seminar, Demo Garden, Sunday Market Booth, Infoline, KMUN Diggin’ in the Dirt, and Flavel House to highlight how to winterize your garden. All of these events contribute to expanding gardening education in the community, and increase visibility to the Master Gardener program. I want to thank all of you who participated in the success of these events.

I want to acknowledge the contribution and commitment of the current CCMGA Board. I continue to be impressed by the dedication and knowledge of the Board membership. The many years of gardening experience and Master Gardener knowledge represented by the Board is impressive. Serving on the Board is a great learning experience. Thanks to all of you for your time and service to the association. I look forward to continue to working with you in the future.

I also want to thank the staff at the OSU Extension Service. The support the CCMGA receives from the Extension team is outstanding. I especially want to acknowledge Tammy Olds and Janene Blair. Tammy and Janene have gone above and beyond to complete the administrative needs of the association, often with short notice. I personally appreciate their flexibility, professionalism, and positive attitude in completing the variety of tasks required to support the CCMGA.

As I look ahead to the New Year, I want to thank those members who are continuing on the CCMGA Board and welcome the new Board members. We look forward to the creativity and experience you will bring to the Board and association during the coming year.

To the membership, I thank you for your participation and request your ongoing input and commitment in the future. YOU are the heart of the CCMGA. Your active participation and communication are what make the CCMGA strong and successful.

I wish all of you a peaceful holiday season and a wonderful 2010.

Happy gardening to all, and to all a great year!

Susan Dyer Preston
President CCMGA

Much Deserved ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

As a token of our appreciation and gratitude, Tammy Olds was awarded an Associate Membership in the Clatsop County Master Gardeners Association at the November 19 recognition ceremonies.

Tammy has been working for OSU Extension in Clatsop County for 15 years. Her working knowledge of extension programs and quiet, calm personality add to the keen sense of professionalism at our office. Her efficiency and skill in handling the secretarial duties for the Master Gardener program are evident to those of us who have worked closely with her. Congratulations Tammy!
Notes From Our VP

I thought that finding good local talent would be hard work. BUT I have been amazed by the array of local talent and expertise. This area attracts the best. I am thrilled to announce that we are bringing author/gardener and new local resident Maggie Stuckey to our January meeting. Check out her books at local stores or she will have some on hand the day of the talk, and will be tickled to autograph them for you.

Maggie Stuckey is the author of 9 books on gardening. They are written for the general reader, with a special focus on beginning gardeners. “Too often,” she says, “garden writers just assume that their readers know more than they actually do, and so they skip over basic explanations. I hate that.” Her interests range from herbs, vegetables, and houseplants. Her most recent book is about growing a kitchen garden (veggies, herbs, fruits, and edible flowers) in containers. Maggie has lived in Portland, for nigh on 30 years, and recently purchased a home on the peninsula, where she is trying hard to learn the tricks of gardening on the coast.

Although she now considers herself virtually a native of the Northwest, Maggie was born and raised in South Carolina, and it was there that she learned about gardening. Learned it, in her grandmother's big old house in the country, in the huge vegetable garden that fed the whole family all summer long and most of the winter too. It was here that she first incorporated the idea that gardening is about growing good things to eat, and sharing that bounty with others. Even though she now lives in a Portland condominium with a patio about the size of a handkerchief, and does all her gardening in containers, she still believes that garden = food. That's probably why most of her gardening books have a cooking component. One of the nicest compliments she ever received was from an Amazon customer who noted in her review of "The Complete Spice book" that "you can tell Maggie Stuckey is both a gardener and a cook."

2009 Certification & Awards

The Clatsop County OSU Master Gardener annual graduation was held Thursday, November 19, 2009 at the Astoria Comfort Suites Inn. Certificates, official Oregon Master Gardener badges and floral gifts were presented to the 12 trainees who completed the course for 2009. Additionally, 32 veterans have recertified and were recognized with certificates of appreciation and floral gifts.

Annual awards presented are as follows:

Master Gardener of the Year

Susan Dyer-Preston became a Master Gardener in 2008. She joined the organization with willingness to work and an ability to move the organization into the 21st century. With her husband Pat, she has provided AV support for all of our meetings and the Spring Garden Seminar. In 2009 she accepted the position of President and has worked unendingly promoting and supporting Master Gardeners and the board. She is the chair of the Pet Friendly Garden project at the Clatsop County Animal Shelter. She has also worked at the Sunday Market, the Information Line and on the Birds in the Garden Project.

Behind the Scenes

Claudia Justice became a Master Gardener in 2007. As current Historian, Claudia assembled our CCMGA display for OSU Mini College for which we were awarded 3rd place. She is the chair and chief worker of the Ilwaco Heritage Museum’s “Discovery Garden” project. This project has restored a previously planted and then neglected native plant educational garden. She has provided the tools and support materials for use in the garden and produced workbooks to help other volunteers identify the native plants within the garden. Claudia has volunteered 247.5 hours this year and her other projects include the Sunday Market and the Spring Garden Seminar.
Mighty Oak Award
Ann Goldeen became a Master Gardener in 1997. In fact she has taken the Master Gardener class twice because “she just didn’t get the program”. In 1998 she was part of a committee that was instrumental in starting a radio program as part of the Clatsop County Master Gardeners. She has been doing the KMUN Dig’n the Dirt program ever since. For 11 years of dedicated work promoting the CCMGA and sustainable gardening practices in Clatsop County we award her with the Mighty Oak Award.

New Sprouts
This award is presented to 3-5 graduating trainees whose volunteer service has been above and beyond the requirements. This is based on enthusiasm, consistency with follow-through, and mastery of the objectives of the program. In addition to the number of hours contributed, consideration is given to the variety of projects and overall achievement. New Sprouts from the 2009 Master Gardener graduates are Pamela Holen, Deidre Williams, Sharon Anderson and Chuck Meyer.

Letter of Appreciation and Announcement of Nomination to the State for MG of the Year
Walt John became a Master Gardener a long, long time ago in Tillamook County. In 1997 he moved to Clatsop County and joined the CCMGA. Since that time Walt has played a major role in Master Gardener activities. Walt has been President, State Representative, and chair for Spring Garden Seminar, Demo Garden and County Fair. He teaches classes each year for the Master Gardener Training Course here and in Tillamook County. Walt has consistently worked above and beyond the required 20 hours per year necessary to recertify. In the last 7 years he has logged 2046 hours, an average of 292 hours per year. He has also attended every Master Gardener Training class since he moved here. Walt is willing to help out on every project or activity that comes up. He happily provides tools and supplies for projects and his contributions to potlucks are always greatly anticipated (the best yeast rolls). Without his support the CCMGA would not be where we are today.

The meeting concluded with a wonderful potluck lunch provided by veteran Master Gardeners. We welcome the 12 new OSU Master Gardeners and look forward to your continued participation in our activities and projects. Clatsop County Master Gardeners and OSU Extension Service extend congratulations and gratitude to those of you who completed the course or recertified for 2009.

Sandra Rohne, Program Coordinator
OSU Master Gardeners, Clatsop County

Master Gardener Classes 2010
The 2010 series of Master Gardener classes will begin on Wednesday January 13, 2010. This year’s course will again consist of 120 hours of information-packed training, 60 hours of which is classroom and 60 hours of practicum on approved Master Gardener projects. The final classroom day is March 24 and trainees are then given until the end of October to complete the 60 hours of practicum before certification in November.

Classes will be held in Patriot Hall room 326 at Clatsop Community College from 8:45 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Most instructors are staff members of the OSU Horticulture Department or OSU extension service who are experts in their field. The remaining classes are taught by Master Gardeners who have a long history with the OSU Master Gardener program and curriculum.

The series presents in-depth information including Botany, Trees, Plant Pathology, Plant Identification, Entomology, Water Quality, Invasives, Weeds, Lawns, Soils, Vegetables, Annuals, Perennials and Berry crops. Also covered is training on the use of reference materials available through the OSU extension service and answering questions presented by the general public.
Among the many projects available to fill the 60 hour practicum requirement are the Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden at the fairgrounds, Pet Friendly Garden at the Animal Shelter, Master Gardeners Information Phone line at the OSU extension office, Master Gardener booth at Sunday Market and a wide variety of other interesting programs. The Clatsop County Master Gardeners also present Spring Into Gardening each year in April as the largest community education and fundraising event for the organization. The first class will include general orientation to the program and introduction to the CCMGA Mentors. Active Clatsop County Master Gardeners will be assigned as Mentors to the trainees to help answer each individual’s questions during the year.

An on-line course has been developed for people whose schedules do not allow taking a daytime class. This joint Oregon State University Extended Campus and Extension Service program offers this on-line course to educate Oregonians with a curriculum similar to the daytime classes. To learn more about this class, visit this website: [http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/workforce/master-gardener-online](http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/workforce/master-gardener-online) or call 1-800-667-1465 or email to ecampus@oregonstate.edu

Registration is open so now is the times to sign up, as classes frequently fill quickly. The course fee is $75. Call the OSU Extension Office at 503-325-8573 for information.

Sandra Rohne
Program Coordinator
OSU Master Gardeners, Clatsop County

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Some holiday plants hazardous to small children and pets

During the holiday season, a lot of new plants, wreaths and flower arrangements come into our homes as gifts from friends, business associates and neighbors. Most of these decorative plants are harmless, but some may be hazardous or even dangerous to children if they might eat part of the plant, according to Ross Penhallegon, horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. To be on the safe side, keep holiday plants and displays out of the reach of young children and pets. Be aware of what kinds of plants you have. A poison center staff cannot identify a plant over the phone. When buying a plant or arrangement, be sure you know what you are buying. Keeping the tag and knowing the plant's name is very important.

Ask if plants are poisonous or look them up in a good horticultural reference book. Your nearest garden store or agent from your local county office of the OSU Extension Service may be able to assist you in identifying your plants.

Remember to pick up and dispose of all parts that fall off your arrangements and plants. They may contain small amounts of poisons or hazardous compounds. If your child does get into a plant, save the rest of the leaf, stem, branch or berry to help identify the plant. But remember to save the tag too. The Oregon Poison Control Center in Portland deems the following plants as poisonous. These and many others should be kept out of reach. Amaryllis, azalea, sand begonia, bird of paradise, Calla lily, carnation, Christmas cherry, daffodil (including paperwhite narcissus), difffenbachia, English holly and ivy, geranium, horse chestnut, hyacinth, hydrangea, iris, jack-in-the-pulpit, Jerusalem cherry, juniper, larkspur, laurel, lily-of-the-valley, mistletoe, oxalis, philodendron, rhododendrons, spathe flower, string of pearls, tulips, yew tree. The Oregon Poison Control Center offers a brochure entitled "A Guide to Plant Poisoning Prevention and Treatment," including a more complete list of poisonous plants. For a copy of the brochure or if you have a poisoning emergency, call the Oregon Poison Control Center at 1-800-452-7165. Remember to post this number or the nearest poison control center near you in a conspicuous place near your telephone. Don't forget - the poison control center can't help unless you know the name of the plant ingested or touched.

By: Carol Savonen, Source: Ross Penhallegon
Grow to be a Master Gardener this Winter

What better New Year’s Resolution, than to become a Master Gardener? The Master Gardener Program helps Oregon gardeners learn more about the art and science of growing and caring for plants. The program, offered by Oregon State University Extension Service, also enables these trained volunteers to extend garden information to their communities through educational outreach programs. County Extension offices are taking applications for this year’s Master Gardeners. The program begins in January in most areas of the state (February in central and eastern Oregon) with a series of 10-13 weekly, full-day classes. The program offers a basic, practical course in plant science and horticulture. Classes include:

- Cultural methods of growing vegetable gardens, lawns, fruit trees, and landscape plants;
- Pest identification and control methods;
- Diagnosis of plant problems.

Upon graduation, Master Gardeners volunteer 45-70 hours in their local community to help others enjoy more bountiful gardening. Volunteer efforts might include helping local schools to enhance horticulture education; speaking to local groups about home gardening; answering questions on the phone or at plant clinics in the community.

There is no more worthy or rewarding resolution for the coming New Year. For more information, contact your local county office of the OSU Extension Service. Registration lasts until the end of December, or until the program is full.

By: Peg Herring, Source: Barbara Fick, Ann VanDerZanden

Store garden chemicals safely for the winter

Now that the gardening season has calmed down, you might want to think about safely storing those gardening chemicals for the winter. Here are some pesticide safety tips from the Oregon State University's National Pesticide Information Center and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs:

- Think before you buy your next pesticides and fertilizers. Do you really need the chemicals you are purchasing? Are there less toxic ways to accomplish pest control or add to soil fertility? Finding least toxic ways to do things or buying smaller amounts of gardening chemicals may help you have fewer leftovers to dispose of or store. And it helps the environment.
- Always store pesticides, fertilizers and other household chemicals out of children's reach, preferably in a locked cabinet, somewhere where they won't freeze.
- Never transfer chemicals or fertilizers to other containers, especially to those that children may associate with food or drink, such as soda bottles.
- If you want to dispose of unneeded or unusable chemicals or fertilizers, it is more environmentally sound to bring them to a community-sponsored hazardous household waste disposal day, rather than throw them in the trash. Watch your local paper or call your landfill for the next scheduled local event.

Do you have any pesticide-related questions? Have trouble understanding label instructions? Want to know potential toxic effects, impacts on the environment, alternatives to chemical pesticide or storage and disposal requirements? Call the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) at 1-800-858-7378. Operating out of OSU’s Department of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology, NPIC takes calls from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 7 days a week, except holidays. Or find NPIC on the Web: http://npic.orst.edu/

By: Carol Savonen, Source: Terry Miller
2010 Outlook For Master Gardeners

January
January 13th  Master Gardener Training Class; Wednesday 8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
January 21st  MG Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Speaker Maggie Stuckey
Brown Bag Meeting 11:00 a.m. business/ 12:00 p.m. Lecture

February
February 18th  MG Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Meeting 11:00 a.m. business/ 12:00 p.m. Lecture

March
March 18th  MG Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Meeting 11:00 a.m. business/ 12:00 p.m. Lecture

April
T.B. A.
April 16th  Set up day for seminar at the fairgrounds 12:00 p.m.
April 17th  Spring into Gardening

May
May 20th  MG Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Meeting 11:00 a.m. business/ 12:00 p.m. Lecture

June
June 17th  MG Board Meeting TBA
June 17th  Garden Potluck

July
July 15th  MG Board Meeting TBA
July 15th  Demo Garden Potluck and Work Day 4:00 p.m.

August
August  Mini College
MG Board Meeting TBA
August 18th  MG Potluck TBA

September
September 16th  MG Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Meeting 11:00 a.m. business/ 12:00 p.m. Lecture

October
October 21st  MG Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Brown Bag Meeting 11:00 a.m. business/ 12:00 p.m. Lecture

November
November  MG Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
November 18th  Master Gardener Graduation and Potluck 11:00 a.m.

December
December  MG Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
December ??  Master Gardener Holiday Party
December Garden Hints

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Spread wood ashes evenly on vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 lb/100 sq ft/year. Don’t use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.
- Protect new landscape plants from wind. Use stakes, guy wires and/or windbreaks as needed.
- Yard sanitation: Rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds, hoe or pull winter weeds.
- Turn the compost pile and protect from heavy rains, if necessary.
- During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tilling, ditching, and French drains are possible short-term solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales as a longer-term solution.
- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow or ice breakage.
- **Western Oregon:** Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.
- **Western Oregon:** Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water regularly during the winter.

Planting/Propagation

- **Western Oregon:** Good time of year to plant trees, and landscape shrubs.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don’t treat unless a problem is identified.
- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. Remove weeds to prevent rodents from using them as hiding places. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Avoid mounding mulching materials around the bases of trees and shrubs. The mulch might provide cover for rodents.
- Monitor spruce trees for spruce aphids. Treat if present in large numbers. Read and follow pesticide label directions.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Protect poinsettias from cold, place in sunlight, don’t let leaves touch cold windows; fertilize with houseplant fertilizer to maintain leaf color.
- Monitor houseplants for adequate water and fertilizer. Water and fertilizer requirements generally are less in winter.
January Garden Hints

Planning

- Keep a garden journal. Consult your journal in the winter, so that you can better plan for the growing season.
- Check with local retail garden or nursery stores for seeds and seed catalogs, and begin planning this year's vegetable garden.
- Have soil test performed on garden plot to determine nutrient needs. Contact your local Extension office for a list of laboratories or view EM 8677 online.
- Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs and trees for propagation.
- Plan to replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with resistant cultivars in February.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Clean pruners and other small garden tools with rubbing alcohol.
- Reapply or redistribute mulches that have blown or washed away during winter.
- Place windbreaks to protect sensitive landscape evergreens against cold, drying winds.
- **Western Oregon:** Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.
- **Western Oregon:** Water landscape plants underneath wide eaves and in other sites shielded from rain.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don’t treat unless a problem is identified.
- Scout cherry trees for signs and symptoms of bacterial canker. Remove infected branches with a clean pruner or saw. Sterilize tools before each new cut. Burn or send to landfill before bloom. See EC 631, *Controlling Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards*.
- Watch for field mice damage on lower trunks of trees and shrubs. Eliminate hiding places by removing weeds. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Use dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on roses for general disease control, or, plan to replace susceptible varieties with resistant cultivars in February.
- **Western Oregon:** Moss in lawn may mean too much shade or poor drainage. Modify site conditions if moss is bothersome.
- **Mid-January:** Spray peach trees with approved fungicides to combat peach leaf curl and shothole. Or plant curl-resistant cultivars such as Frost, Q1-8 or Creswell.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

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