Dear Prospective Master Gardener,

October 19, 2010

I invite you to join the 2011 Master Gardener class. The 2011 class will be held at Clatsop Community College, MERTS Campus, IMTC Building, Meeting Room in Astoria on Wednesdays from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The first day of class will be January 12 and the last class will be March 23 (a complete schedule is attached). We will take a 1-hour lunch break; bring your own lunch or drive into Astoria as there is no cafeteria on-site, but there is a snack & drink vending machine.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Oregon State University (OSU), the Master Gardener program is one of the best known programs offered through the OSU Extension system. Course information is founded on research based subject matter and covers all aspects of sustainable gardening and horticulture. The classes are taught by OSU Extension Faculty, veteran Master Gardeners and experienced gardeners. Prerequisites are not necessary; students of all ages from Clatsop County may take part in the program.

Completion of the course requires 120 hours of your time; you must complete 60 hours of classroom instruction and 60 hours of community service on approved Master Gardener projects. Community service time will consist of at least 12 clinic hours. In the classroom, you will learn a wide range of topics including basic entomology, botany, soil science, proper pruning, plant problem diagnostic skills and more. During your community service, you will practice and master what you have learned. You will work along side your peers and with veteran Master Gardeners to do things like diagnose garden problems at plant clinics or manning the Master Gardener Info Line, compost, prune and dig in the dirt at the Master Gardener demonstration garden, and help visitors to the Master Gardener booth at the summer Sunday Market in downtown Astoria. Your community service is a fun, educational time which must be completed within 7 months of the last day of class. Finally, once your community service is complete, you will receive your official Master Gardener badge at the Master Gardener graduation in November.

If you like to have fun exploring gardening, would benefit from learning more about sustainable gardening and are willing to make the commitment to attend all of the classes and complete your community service hours, please complete the attached application and return it to us with your $75.00 course fee as soon as possible. The $75.00 course fee is due at the time of application. Class size is limited to 34 students and the class fills up fast so, please return your application with your fee to the OSU Extension office as soon as possible. A waiting list will be created in case of drops. If you have any questions, please call our office at (503) 325-8573.

Anita Dotson, Master Gardener Program Assistant
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