

# Metro Master Gardener™ News

## December 2008



### OSU Extension Service Metro Master Gardener™ Program

Serving [Clackamas](#), [Multnomah](#), and [Washington](#) Counties in the metro area since 1976.

#### Mission Statement

We provide relevant, research-based education and outreach to the public of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties about horticulture and household pests. This information promotes sustainable practices that minimize risks to human health and the environment.

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Dear Metro Master Gardeners,

Wow! It is hard to believe that it is already nearly December. This has been a full and rewarding year for me as Community and Urban Horticulturist for OSU Extension in the Metro area. I would like to extend a very appreciative thank you to all Master Gardeners for your generous contribution of time, energy, and financial support for the Master Gardener program. Both Jordis and I recognize that you are the Master Gardener program and that we depend on you to provide exceptional outreach and engagement in the community. We are a volunteer service organization and we are an educational organization. This spirit of service and learning truly amazes me as I reflect on the profound impact that the Metro Master Gardener program has on our community. THANK YOU! We will publish the impact data of the MG program in the January newsletter.



One very important development for OSU Extension Service in Clackamas County and the Metro Master Gardener program is that ballot measure 3-311 passed with 55% of voters supporting this measure to provide a permanent tax base to support the Extension Service. Thanks to the incredible work of Mike Bondi (Staff Chair), Extension staff, and many, many volunteers (including tremendous contributions from MGs), we now have stable funding for Extension activities in Clackamas County. There are still many details to work out in terms of budget allocation and specifics, but we are confident that this tax base will provide a strong measure of support as we continue our programming in Clackamas County and the entire metro area. To all of you who volunteered to support this process through Clackamas County Friends of Extension and the Political Action Committee, thank you. To all of you who voted “Yes”, thanks for helping to ensure the long-term success of Extension in Clackamas County.

At this juncture, I would also like to extend a special thank you to the Education Committee that is part of our on-going advisory council. This group includes (in alphabetical order by first name): Diane Cleven, Jane Collier, Jean R. Natter, Marcia McIntyre, Margaret Bayne, Martha Waldemar, Noreen Thompson, and Pat Smith. These MGs have worked tirelessly during 2008 to produce several important resources to make it easier to serve in MG plant clinics. The Master Gardener Office Information binder is one major achievement of this focus group. This resource was created by Master Gardeners, for Master Gardeners. These binders have a wealth of practical and important information for use in our two phone clinics. If you serve in the phone clinics, please take the time to read this reference book during the winter when the pace of inquiries is a bit slower. These books are also available for checkout from our office staff (Al Martinez in Washington County and Kim Salem in Clackamas County). Thus, if you plan to have shifts in the MG offices in 2009, please take the time to review this important information that is designed to make your job easier and to improve our capacity to serve the public by answering their questions about plants and household pests. We hope that you are able to convey the standardized information and procedures from this resource as you help train new Master Gardener trainees so that they quickly gain confidence and proficiency in their work in the MG clinics.

Another outstanding contribution of the Education Committee is the educational video, which debuted at our MG recertification event on November 8, which 200 of you attended. This fantastic video is designed as a teaching resource to help teach seasoned and new MGs the craft of working with clients. Both informative and entertaining, this video truly embodies the heart and soul of the Master Gardener program. I would like to extend a special thank you to MGs Margaret Bayne and Marcia McIntyre for their tremendous effort as producers of this video. This video would not have been possible without their incredible work behind the scenes. The MG Players (the acting troupe featured in this set of vignettes) also deserves special mention. They received mini “Oscars” for their work in the “best educational video of 2008!” This video is an awesome resource. We will soon make it available online for on-going use as an educational resource.

I also would like to express my gratitude to Master Gardener Sherry Sheng and her husband Spike Wadsworth for their generous financial support, which made the production of the video possible. Sherry and Spike made a substantial financial contribution to the MG program at the beginning of 2008 with the specification that the money needed to be used for new and innovative Master Gardener projects. The video project most definitely is a new and innovative project. We contracted Burnit Studios in Tualatin to perform the videography and editing. They provided an incredible service for a very reasonable price. If you are ever in need of professional video services, please consider using Burnit Studios.

Looking forward to 2009, Jordis and I (and many instructors) are gearing up for the upcoming Master Gardener training. Please look for the schedule in this newsletter and know that the “\*” classes that will count toward 2009 recertification. Of course, you are welcome to attend any and all of the classes. We look forward to seeing you there. Please note that this is a draft schedule and is subject to change. We will publish the final schedule with brief course descriptions in the January newsletter.

We hope that you have a fun and family-filled holiday season and that you enjoy the break that winter in the Northwest provides for gardeners (provided that you have done your fall clean-up, which I must admit I have not yet attended to in my own yard... such is the life of a garden educator).

Be well, Weston

On a final note, here is a message from MG Sherry Sheng:

### **Another Way to Help the Master Gardener Program**

Master Gardeners who attended the recertification training last month were treated to an interactive, fun, and informative session led by Jean Natter and members of the Education Focus Committee. During this session, we saw the debut of a professionally produced video presentation. What a fantastic teaching tool!

My husband, Spike Wadsworth, and I are pleased to have provided the funding for this project. In fact, when we made our contribution in January, 2008, we had no idea what this money could buy. We were motivated because I love being a Master Gardener and we wanted to help Weston get ‘rooted’ quickly. It seemed a timely gesture to encourage innovation and growth, especially while the metro program faced budget shortfalls. Making the donation was easy. We told Weston our intent. He provided the specific wording for the check. To date, our contribution has paid for several needs; the training video is only one example. And, we look forward to what remaining funds will do in 2009.

Thanks to the talent of a cadre of Master Gardeners, our donation was leveraged many times over. Master Gardeners are indeed an impressive group! As an active MG, I get a kick out of how WE continue to enrich this program and strengthen our chapters.

There is still time to make a tax-deductible contribution before the end of 2009. Contribution to the MG Endowment Fund benefits the statewide program. Or, you may contribute directly to the metro program as we did. In lieu of cash gifts, you may opt for a legacy gift by including the Master Gardener program in your will.

I am certain the dedicated staff and volunteers will continue to leverage our gift – exponentially!

Y. Sherry Sheng  
Master Gardener, class of 2005

## Draft

Week	Dates	Time	Topic	Instructor
1	January 6,8,9	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Context for gardening</li> </ul>	Bubl, Miller, Yost
		PM	Botany for Gardeners	Bubl
2	January 13,15,16	AM	*Entomology	Natter
		PM	Soils and Compost	Groth
3	January 20,22,23	AM	Ornamental Plant Care	Terrill Collier
		PM	*Ecological Landscapes and Garden Design	Miller
4	January 27,29,30	AM	*Pesticide Safety	Bubl
		PM	*Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	Miller
5	February 3,5,6	AM	Small fruits	Bubl (T), Kaufman (Th), Strik (F)
		PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *MG office training</li> <li>• Resource Fair</li> </ul>	Bubl, Miller, Yost
6	February 10,12,13	AM	Weeds	Bubl
		PM	Vegetable Gardening	Miller
7	February 17,19,20	AM	Pruning- ornamentals	Nelson
		PM	Home orchards	Beller
8	February 24,26,27	AM	*Household pests	Natter
		PM	Lawns	Price
9	March 3,5,6	AM	*Vertebrate Pests	Bubl
		PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to PNW guides</li> <li>• Resource fair</li> </ul>	Miller, Yost
10	March 10,12,13	AM	*Plant Problem Diagnostics	Natter
		PM	*Plant Taxonomy and Identification	Mishaga
11	March 17,19,20	AM	*Diagnostics Clinic	Natter,
		PM	Open Book Test Review Volunteer Presentations	Bubl, Miller, Yost

**Classes offered: Tuesday- Beaverton, Thursday- NE Portland, Friday- Oregon City**

**Instructors:** Weston Miller, Chip Bubl, Terrill Collier, Diane Kaufman, Claudia Groth, Jean R. Natter, Bob Nelson, Steve Price, Bernadine Strik, Jordis Yost, David Beller, Rick Mishaga

## **OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS**

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



### **CLASSES FOR 2009**

December brings a lot of excitement to our office, and we couldn't be happier that the MG Program is still strong and growing in the metro area. We are planning to return to Multnomah County and will hold classes within its borders for the first time in six years. We have trained residents of Multnomah County, but volunteer opportunities have been limited. The plan is to slowly get re-established in the county and make sure that we don't outgrow our resources. But this is good news, for sure.

The classes for 2009 will be held on Tuesdays at First Baptist Church, 5755 SE Erickson Ave, Beaverton 97005, Thursdays at Central Lutheran Church, 1820 NE 21<sup>st</sup>, Portland 97212 and Fridays at the VFW/Bingo Hall, 104 Tumwater Dr, Oregon City 97045. Check the schedule posted in this newsletter for dates.

If you were a new trainee in 2008 (or before), you are invited to attend the 2009 classes without a fee and to contribute 25 hours of volunteer time in the coming year. Just come to the location that works for you, sign in in the veteran book, bring your Sustainable Gardening Handbook and handouts since many of them will be the same. We welcome experienced MGs like you and value your help in easing the new class into the program. You will play an important role this coming year, and I look forward to working with you again.

Remember – you can re-certify by attending **four 3-hour class sessions** (choose 4 from the starred classes on the schedule), adding up to 12 hours, or attend **both the fall and spring** recertification training days (6 hrs ea = 12 hrs) or later in the season we offer a **recertification** test to do at home. Some MGs choose to take several of the starred classes and one of the advanced training days...just make sure they add up to 12 hours.

### **PAYBACK LOG SHEETS**

Now that you have turned in your 2008 volunteer forms, you will probably need another form for 2009. You can download one at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/> Click Volunteer Portal, then Important Resources, then Volunteer Log Sheet.

### **COORDINATORS NEEDED**

The coordinators for various events have been the saving grace for me and make it possible for so many MGs to get scheduled for the numerous opportunities offered. I have been really fortunate to have a special group of MGs step up as mid-managers to get this accomplished. I have several openings for coordinator positions and know that there are some of you for whom that would be perfect for the task.

#### **I need a coordinator for:**

The Oregon State Fair	<i>(thanks Belinda Reagan for your countless years of service)</i>
The Milwaukie Farmers' Market	<i>(thanks Linda O'Toole for doing this so early in your MG career)</i>
The Yard, Garden and Patio Show	<i>(thanks Sue Stevens who has done this since the beginning of time)</i>

Call or email me if you have questions about how this works or if you are interested. The great thing about coordinating is that most of it can be done from home during the hours that work for you. Coordinators get an automatic 25 hours of time for just holding the title! No worries about getting your time in.

### **THANKS...**

The Education Focus Committee gets my very heartfelt thanks this month for the fabulous effort in providing a stupendous morning session at Recertification Training on November 8. Margaret Bayne, Marcia McIntyre, Jean Natter, Pat Smith, Martha Waldemar and the talents of the *MG Players* (Joby Duggan, Carol Koskarian, Sophia Hu, Jim Allen, Trina Evans, Jim Kronenberg, Joellen Piluso, Reisha Akers, and Yvonne Phillips.) Also thanks to Gail Langellotto and Rick Mishaga for their great presentations in the afternoon. Over 200 MGs attended and many of you got some terrific prizes! (The drawing was presented by the Ed. Focus Comm.)

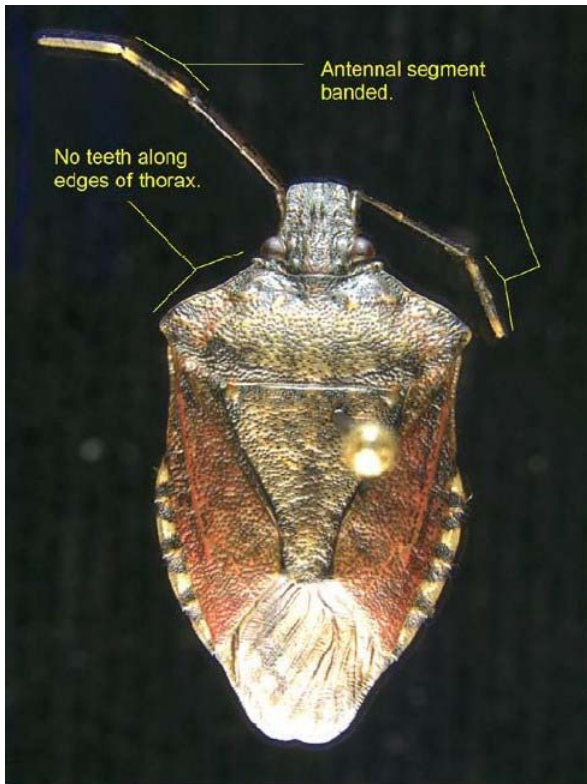
## Natter's Notes

### Brown Marmorated Stink Bug – a pesky newcomer

Jean R. Natter

Let's look at a relatively new arrival in our area, the brown marmorated stink bug – BMSB for short – its technical name *Halyomorpha halys*. I first wrote about this critter in the September 2007 newsletter but we should take another look because several clients have brought the insects into the office this fall. Last year it appeared, foolishly so, in a Master Gardener's garden and, this fall, is present there in even greater numbers.

Then, too, a woman from Gresham who brought samples to the Clackamas office said they were all over her lilac, tomatillos and eggplants but, until that time – about two months ago – had ignored her tomatoes.



The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, *Halyomorpha halys*

The concern about the BMSB is that it's a potentially voracious pest of fruit trees and much more. In its native Asian countries, among them China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan,

it's a major economic agricultural pest with numerous hosts including tree fruits, flowering ornamentals and some vegetables.

So, you can understand why the local agricultural community was concerned in 2004 when they heard that this voracious bug had arrived in Oregon.

If you need to be impressed about the damage BMSB causes, consider this statement from Rutgers: BMSB "feeds on a wide range of fruits, vegetables, and other host plants beginning in late May/early June including peaches, apples, green beans, soybeans, cherry, raspberries, and pears. Damage to host plants ... is typically small necrotic areas but ranges from leaf stippling, cat-facing on tree fruits, seed loss, and transmission of plant pathogens."

**BMSB has another nasty aspect.** Wherever it establishes a population, its nuisance value rivals that of several common insects, namely box elder bugs and Asian multicolored lady beetles. BMSB hangs out on exterior walls during the fall, moves into the wall void for warmth and shelter, and then follows the heat gradient into indoor spaces. In regions where the BMSB is abundant, it sometimes enters by the hundreds or even thousands.

Worse yet, when disturbed, it emits a very pungent stink. So, if clients vacuum to get rid of them – well, you get the idea.

As you likely recall, true bugs are characterized by sucking mouthparts as well as forewings which are thickened at the base and membranous at the tips. When the critter is at rest, the wings are held against the body, with the tips overlapping,

Stink bugs belong to the family Pentatomidae, a subgroup within Hemiptera. As such, they are recognized by their shield-shaped body. (More than likely, you're familiar with several of its common relatives, harlequin bugs and green stink bugs.)



The eggs of BMSB resemble a cluster of small barrels, the colors white or pale green, the clusters usually on the undersides of leaves.

**Metamorphosis is simple**, with the nymphs resembling the adults except that they have wing pads that gradually develop into the typical adult wings.

BMSB nymphs (youngsters) develop through 5 instars (developmental stages) before they become adults, and go through various color changes as they mature from one instar to the next. The adults are about a half-inch long, the top side a mottled brown, the underside white or gray, sometimes marked with black.

**It's critical to differentiate between the pesky BMSB** and one of Oregon's native beneficial insects, the rough stink bug, *Brochymena quadripustula*.

**The most noticeable characteristic** that indicates you have BMSB at hand is a white band near the tip of each antenna. That's true of both the adults and nymphs. In addition, white bands ring the legs.

Further, the "shoulders" of the BMSB – or more accurately, the leading edge of the thorax just behind the head – are smooth whereas the rough stink bug's are toothed. That said, be aware that the BMSB nymphs have several spines on their shoulders.

Beyond that, the ventral portion (underside) of the BMSB is a pale to light gray whereas the rough stink bug is brown.

**Excellent images** are in the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Pest Alert at [http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/docs/pdf/ppm\\_halyomorpha.pdf](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/docs/pdf/ppm_halyomorpha.pdf).

You'll find further details about BMSB at PNW Nursery Pests <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/Brownmarmstinkbug.htm>, along with links to other informative sites, among them USDA, Penn State, Rutgers, and the Invasive Species site, the latter site perhaps the most rich in excellent high-quality images of all life stages.

**The PNW Insect Management Handbook** doesn't yet have an entry for the

BMSB. But it's worth knowing that, even though the ODA no longer has funding for surveys, they do want to know if any BMSB are seen beyond the infested area as established in 2005.

**So, keep an eye out for the brown marmorated stink bug**, in your area as well as in the office or off-site clinics. Then call me so that we can verify the ID and contact the appropriate persons if needed.

**And please keep all specimens** so that I can add them to the hands-on exercise during the Entomology class with the new trainees. Either phone me at 503-645-7073 or email [jrnatter@aol.com](mailto:jrnatter@aol.com).



A Rough Stink Bug, *Brochymena quadripustula*.



BMSB Eggs

David R. Lance, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

## HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

- Dec 4** Washington County Chapter – Scott Vergara “Propagation”  
**Dec 8** Clackamas County Chapter - Rene Eisenbart  
**Dec 9** Multnomah party and wreath making  
**Dec 9** Hardy Plant Society Gen(i)us Program – Holy Hinoki A False Cypress By Any Other Name

### 2009...

- Jan 6** Metro MG training classes begin  
**Jan 8** Washington County Chapter – Portland Japanese Garden – Diane Durston  
**Jan 12** Multnomah County Chapter – White Smith, Bovee’s Nursery, Himalayan Rhododendrons  
**Jan 17** Hardy Plant Society Winter Meeting-Gardening on the Underside of the World: Gardens, Gardeners and Plants of the Southern Hemisphere with Stephen Ryan and Dave Demers  
**Feb 18-22** Northwest Flower and Garden Show – Seattle  
**Feb 18-22** Portland Home and Garden Show – Portland Expo Center  
**Feb 27–Mar 1** Yard, Garden & Patio Show – Portland Convention Center  
**March 22-26** International Master Gardener Conference – Las Vegas, NV  
**March 29** Hardy Plant Society Annual Meeting-Sean Hogan speaking on his upcoming book **Trees For All Seasons: Broad leaved evergreens for temperate climates.**  
**May 30** Hardy Plant Society Spring meeting-Dan Hinkley speaking on his newest book **Shrubs and Vines for the Explorer’s Garden**

### How to Find a Garden Designer- by Lisa Albert

At our recent recertification training, a fellow master gardener asked what options we have when the public asks us for help finding a garden designer. We are not permitted to make recommendations but we can refer them to two great resources, The Association of Northwest Landscape Designers (ANLD, <http://www.anld.com/>) and Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD, <http://www.apld.com/>). Designers join ANLD, APLD or both depending on their interests and needs. Both organizations offer an on-line member directory that includes contact information, including business websites, if available.

ANLD is a local, non-profit organization established in 1985. Members are predominately landscape designers, but the organization also includes contractors, nursery owners and others in the nursery and landscaping trade. Their purpose is one of mutual support, providing network opportunities, education, and transition assistance from school to workplace. ANLD has about 140 members.

APLD is an international trade organization with a top down hierarchy. It offers and supports the only certification available to designers. Certified designers may carry the APLD designation after their name. APLD is also involved with legislative issues and the promotion of the profession of landscape design. The Oregon chapter, [www.apldoregon.org](http://www.apldoregon.org) established about seven years ago, has about 60 members, most of whom are designers.

Contacting either organization is only the first step in hiring a designer. Before hiring anyone, they should review examples of a designer’s work, ask for references, and determine if a designer’s style and personality is a good fit. If they have web access, encourage them to visit the consumer information page (<http://www.anld.com/consumerinfo.htm>) at ANLD for additional guidance.

My thanks to Amy Whitworth of Plan-It Earth Design in Portland and member of ANLD and APLD, and Paul Taylor of Paul Taylor, OCNP Garden Design & Consultation in Tigard and president of ANLD, for their assistance.

## Answers from 'quiz' at Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> MG Recertification training:

Thank you to all MGs who participated in this diagnostic quiz! We hope it was fun and that you learned something. But we know it was also a lesson in frustration because we had so many samples and it was hard to get to them all. The MG Education Committee will plan it better next time! Congratulations to MG extraordinaire, Bill Bradley, for getting the most correct answers! Way to go, Bill!

If you didn't get a chance to check them out here are the answers: (1) the plant from the photos to ID was Pokeweed, (2) the problem with the Red Cedar was 'flagging', (3) the critters on the azalea were Rhododendron Lacebug, (4) the growth on the rose branch was Mossy Rose Gall caused by a Cynipid Wasp, (5) the holes/tearing to the foliage in the photo and on the Japanese maple leaves was from hail damage, (6) the growths on the grape leaves were caused by the Erineum Mite, (7) the abnormal curling and flattening on the twig was a condition called fasciation, (8) the D-shaped holes in the birch branch were exit holes of the Bronze Birch Borer, (9) the critters in the petri dish were Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs, (10) the spider was the Giant House Spider, (11) the holes in the leaves of the raspberry shoots were from feeding damage of the Raspberry Sawfly larvae, (12) the dark spots on the rose leaves were the Black Spot fungus, (13) the notches in the rhododendron leaves were chewing damage from the Black Vine Weevil adult, (14) the small, leafy looking pupal cases were from a leafcutter bee, (15) and lastly, the twig and photo were from a Walnut.

I will be giving you information about each of these in future MG newsletters. So for starters here is some information about '**Cedar Flagging**':



Every fall we will get calls or samples of cedar flagging. In fact, 15 minutes after I posted a photo of this condition on the MG bulletin board in WA County, a client walked in with a 4' branch of a Western Red Cedar! I bet you can guess what was wrong with it! The client said her tree had this problem every fall but this year seemed worse. Within the last few days she had noticed the 'sudden' reddish brown foliage throughout the tree. After I told her what it was she acknowledged that there had been some construction near the tree.

As you know, deciduous trees will drop their foliage in the fall but evergreens will naturally shed **some old** foliage each year. It is normal for evergreen trees to shed some old needles or scales and replace them with new growth. It is often observed when hot, dry weather is followed by rain. That sounds like our summer/fall transition this year! The 'flagging', browning of older leaves and twigs, is a common occurrence on Western Red Cedar, *Thuja plicata* and related trees such as Arborvitae. The brown foliage will develop uniformly throughout the canopy in mid to late summer on the growth from **previous** years. Foliage from the current year (at branch tips) will remain green. Even though this is a common occurrence, stress factors can promote 'flagging' such as insufficient water, hot winds, construction damage (like the client's sample), or other root disturbances.

Management options would involve: adding irrigation during periods of summer drought and avoid disturbing roots. The dead foliage will drop off in the fall/winter wind and rain and the plant should resume its healthy appearance in the spring.

This information taken from: "Cedar Flagging", WSU Extension, Gardening in Western Washington, <http://gardening.wsu.edu/library/best009/best009.htm> & PNW Disease Management Handbook online, "Cedar- Cedar Flagging", <http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/disease.cfm?RecordID=66>. Photo: "Cedar Flagging", BC Ministry of Forests, [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/publications/00198/cedar\\_flagging.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/publications/00198/cedar_flagging.htm)

MG Margaret Bayne



**Contact**  
**Phone**  
**E-mail**

Patty Cassidy  
503-239-9174  
[cassidydg@comcast.net](mailto:cassidydg@comcast.net)

## Portland Memory Garden seeks green-thumb volunteers

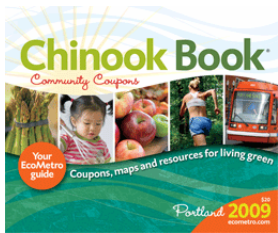
(Portland, OR) Friends of the Portland Memory Garden seek persons willing to help maintain this special purpose garden, located in southeast Portland. While volunteers with a green thumb are welcome, a gift for gardening is not a requirement. Typical chores include:

- Weeding
- Raking leaves
- Sweeping sidewalks
- Deadheading flowers
- Simple pruning
- Occasional seasonal planting (annuals, bulbs)
- Spreading mulch
- Collecting litter

Interested volunteers may choose from among three garden teams, depending upon their preferred schedule. Each team works on one of the first three Saturdays of the month, between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Tools and a brief orientation are offered to volunteers.

To volunteer or to learn more about the Portland Memory Garden, please call 503-239-9174.

Open between 9 a.m. and dusk year-round, the Portland Memory Garden is located in Ed Benedict Park at S.E. 104<sup>th</sup> between Powell Blvd. and Bush Street. The public garden is open to all with no admission fee, but is especially intended for people with memory loss and for their care-givers. Established in 2001, the Portland Memory Garden is maintained primarily with the assistance of about 30 volunteers and is a part of the Portland Parks and Recreation system.



### What's small and 'green', and makes a great gift? A Chinook Book!!

It's packed with "living green" coupons for things that are good for your garden (like Concentrates, Portland Nursery, One Green World); your grocery bill (products, stores - even Dagoba chocolate!!), dining out, entertainment.....

coupons you will actually use!!!

Books cost \$20, and coupons are good from now until November 30, 2009. They make great Holiday gifts...especially for the hard-to-buy-for ones on your list.

Contact Abby Seemann (503-285-7621) for more details, or to get a book.

Purchases benefit Multnomah County MG Chapter

## How to minimize winter cold damage to lawns

By: [Judy Scott](#)

Source: [Tom Cook](#)

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Lawns can take a beating in the winter both east and west of the Oregon Cascades, and strategies to minimize cold damage vary from region to region.

"The grass in western Oregon never really develops a cold tolerance as it does east of the Cascades," according to Tom Cook, retired turf grass specialist with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

"On the west side, when Arctic fronts bring frost, grass injury is normally limited to leaf damage, which might look brown or yellow when warm weather returns.

"But," Cook added, "lawns will usually recover in a few weeks."

Damage can be more severe if turf receives concentrated foot traffic while frozen. Grass plants can be killed, leaving dead spots in the spring. Cook recommends keeping off the lawn, especially if it is frozen. In western Oregon, the soil usually is saturated through the winter and is especially prone to compaction, making growth difficult in the spring.

East of the Cascades in central and eastern Oregon, grasses generally go dormant in the winter and are tolerant of cold.

"As days get shorter and night and day temperatures drop, grass growth slows down," Cook said. Eastern Oregon generally gets lots of sunshine during the day, and grass produces sugars via photosynthesis. As sugars accumulate, water in grass crowns and rhizomes decreases. An increase of sugars and decrease of water in grass tissues allows plants to tolerate cold."

Continued, increasing cold kills the older grass leaves, and eastside lawns turn brown. They are ready to grow again when temperatures warm in the spring, Cook said.

Cold damage in lawns is worst in windy areas of central Oregon and the Columbia Gorge.

"Desiccation, or death by moisture loss, often occurs as grass tissue loses moisture it can't replace because roots are frozen in the soil and can't take up water," he explained. Areas most likely to be damaged often are at the crest of a rise, on top of mounds or on slopes exposed to the wind."

Cook recommends these strategies to help minimize cold injury in lawns:

Avoid applying excess fertilizer in late summer and early fall. Lawns that are pushed hard with nitrogen tend to remain succulent as they begin the normal hardening-off period, thereby reducing cold tolerance. Apply no more than two pounds nitrogen per 1,000 square feet near mid-November. Late fall fertilizing stimulates early spring color and reduces the need for mid-spring nitrogen applications.

Continue mowing as long as the grass keeps growing.

Remove tree leaves from lawns; they smother turf and foster snow mold growth.

On the east side of the mountains, make sure lawns are adequately watered as fall approaches. This will decrease the likelihood of winter desiccation injury.



# Hobo spiders search for mates in the fall

By: [Judy Scott](#)

Source: [Amy Dreves](#)

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Hobo spiders are on the move this time of the year, when male spiders leave their webs in search of mates, according to Amy Dreves, entomologist at Oregon State University. After mating the males die.

Most of the time these big European spiders (members of the funnel-web spiders or funnel weavers) stay secluded in dark, dry places such as overgrown shrubs or the dark corners of a basement, wood pile or garage. But in the fall, the adult males begin to wander more openly and you may find them wandering into your house. They also are known as aggressive house spiders.

As they come out of hiding, you might see them scurrying across the kitchen floor or attempting to scale the slick walls of your bathtub. They are poor climbers but are among the fastest spiders known.

Adult hobo spiders are relatively large, dark brown and, including their long legs, about the size of a silver dollar. The males have two swollen appendages (actually the male genitalia) up front that look like a pair of boxing gloves.

Many Northwesterners share their homes and gardens with these and many other kinds of spiders. The hobo spider weaves a layered, flat web with a funnel-shaped lair at the back. There the spider resides and waits for its prey. The web is not sticky, like that of many other spiders, but trips up unsuspecting prey unable to navigate the layered surface.

The hobo will bite when tormented or pressed against your skin, however it is no more aggressive than other spiders, Dreves said.

"It does not bite without clear provocation and does not chase people down and attack them," she said. "Although the hobo is not aggressive, venom from its bite can cause local tissue blistering and lesion scarring damage, and may take months to heal."

Confirmed incidence of spider bites in humans, however, is very low. Many wounds that are more likely caused by other agents such as ticks or fleas are often misdiagnosed as spider bites, Dreves said.

Before you bring out the heavy artillery, Dreves offers some advice.



"It's important to know that there are fewer hobo spiders than beneficial spiders," she said. "In fact, the hobo's nearly look-alike cousins, the giant and domestic house spiders, are effective in keeping hobo spiders in check. It's easy to confuse their identification."

The hobo spider has an oblong, lightly hairy, tan-brown abdomen with broad reddish-brown zigzag stripes (chevron pattern) on top (dorsal abdomen). Underneath the spider, the sternum is marked with a pair of broad dark brown bands running lengthwise. The legs are unmarked and do not have rings around them. Both the domestic and gigantic spiders have three sets of dots instead of bands like the hobo. The domestic house spider is usually smaller in size and darker, and has rings on its legs. The gigantic is usually larger than the hobo.

Dreves recommends the following methods to reduce spider encounters:

- Wear gloves, pants and a long-sleeved shirt when handling firewood or stored boxes where spiders may have built funnel-shaped nests.
- Seal holes around doors, windows and outlets for plumbing and wiring where spiders can find entry into the house.
- Sweep webs from corners, rock walls, under eaves and around shrubs.
- Place simple cardboard sticky traps (without the use of insecticide sprays) along baseboards and bed frames where wandering spiders tend to move.
- Keep the premises free of debris such as boxes, papers, clothing and lumber. Keep wood piles a distance from the house.
- Keep vegetation mowed or trimmed to reduce contact with the structure.

For more information about spiders in Oregon, contact the OSU [urban entomology Web site](#). Emphasis is always on the least toxic approach to control.



# Clackamas County Chatter



December 2008 A chapter newsletter for the Oregon Master Gardener Association in cooperation with OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

## December Chapter Meeting

**Monday, December 8**  
**Milwaukie Center 7:00 p.m.**

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

Botanical illustrations by Rene Eisenbart, The Oregonian

Perhaps you have noticed René Eisenbart's watercolor plant illustrations in the Oregonian's Homes & Gardens of the Northwest. She also gardens, both at her home in Multnomah County's rural hills and along Washington's Hood Canal. She will speak to the natural connection between art and gardening in her life.

Although Rene's work tends to be realistic, she likes to think of each illustration as an elegant caricature. "I try to take some liberty with artistic impression while staying true to my subject."

Among Rene's honors are eight "Quill and Trowel" awards from the Garden Writers Association of America. She is an active member of the Watercolor Society of Oregon and teaches watercolor classes.

### January Preview

Darcy Daniel is a garden designer who operates a seasonal specialty nursery in NE Portland. She is well known for her rich, textural plantings and creative use of small space. In this talk, she will share ideas for small garden design, and tips for making a garden that holds up through the seasons.

## Stringfield

### Family Park

North Clackamas Parks and Recreation accepted our offer to help bring Stringfield



Family Park back to its original heritage as a farm.

Specific plans for the demonstration garden plot assigned to Master Gardeners have not been developed. We hope to be working with Clackamas Community College design classes to develop a plan for the garden. If anyone has ideas or wants to be involved in any way, contact Martha Waldemar at 698-2519.

## Do You Have News

for our group, gardening information to share, ideas for articles? If the answer is "yes," to any of these, please contact the Clackamas County Chatter Editor Holly Pederson at [holly.pederson@yahoo.com](mailto:holly.pederson@yahoo.com).

Submissions must be made by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding your announcement to ensure inclusion in the next month's newsletter. The deadline for the January Chatter will be December 10.



Green Glove Award for November goes to **Ellen Hanley** for a terrific job on the metro newsletter. Big thanks for a BIG job!

## Please welcome John Hill to the CCMG 2009 Advisory Board.

John will replace Rodger Sanman. Thank you, John, and all other members of the 2009 Board for your enthusiastic support for our Chapter!

## Book Sale

at the December meeting. Anyone interested in helping to set up/take down, or collect money the night of the sale, please contact Janet Weber at 503.358.2821.

Please remit

## \$\$ Chapter Dues \$\$

to Irwin Rogers: \$7 cash or check payable to CCMG at a chapter meeting, or mail to:

Irwin Rogers  
5125 S Macksburg Road  
Molalla 97038

To have your 2009 directory mailed to you, please add \$3 postage.

### Clackamas County Chapter Officers

President	<b>Bill Bradley</b>	503-624-8435
Vice Pres.	<b>Rick Mishaga</b>	503-557-4491
Secretary	<b>Cheryl Borden</b>	503-723-4257
Treasurer	<b>Kathy Long</b>	503-632-0131
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OMGA Reps	<b>Denise Dwan</b>	503-632-3035

Advisory Board	<b>Rodger Sanman</b>	503-659-3212
	<b>Dale Eggers</b>	503-557-3152
	<b>Martha Waldemar</b>	503-698-2519
Newsletter	<b>Holly Pederson</b>	503-701-5816

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



# Washington County Chapter Chat

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

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS –

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**SOCIAL GATHERING at 6:30 pm**

**Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> , 6:45 p.m. Chapter Meeting: “Propagation”**  
Scott Vergara, Propagation/Breeder, Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery, Talent, Oregon

**Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> , 6:45 p.m. Chapter Meeting: “Portland Japanese Garden”** Diane Durston, Curator of Culture Art and Education - Portland Japanese Garden

**Presentations are from 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.** at the CAPITAL Center, 18640 NW Walker Rd (185<sup>th</sup> & Walker Rd), Rm 1411. The public is welcome.

## PERENNIAL REMINDER

To make next **April's Plant Sale** another success story, we will need lots of hardy perennials from our members' gardens. Please look for plants suitable for gallon size pots. Spring and summer bloomers are the best sellers. Jane and her crew will be at the Dec. Chapter meeting to pick up your donations. If you can't pot them, just put them in plastic bags with an ID tag or label. If you have questions, please call **Jane Miller at 503.590.3598.**

## Washington County Fairgrounds

Demo Garden update: Under the leadership of Joanne DeHaan, the volunteers from WCMGs and reps. from TVGC had a very successful & productive season. The old outbuilding on the south end of the garden has been demolished & preparation is underway to use that area to build a new storage unit. Also an orchard is being designed with hopes of getting it planted next spring. WCMGs also donated 279 lbs. of food produced in the Demo Garden to TV Citadel of the Salvation Army in Hillsboro. Native Plant Bed has also been renovated and will assist in teaching the public about growing native plants. Come visit the Fairgrounds, especially next spring & volunteer.

## Awards

July: **Yearly Awards:** Announced at MG Picnic  
**State MG of Year OMGA Nominees:**  
*Jane Miller, OMGA Nominee*  
*David Rullman, State Behind the Scenes OMGA Nominee*  
**MG of the Year**  
*Joanne DeHaan, Washington County-OMGA*  
*Ken Keudell, Washington County- OMGA*  
**MG – Behind the Scenes, Washington County Chapter**  
*Fred Dorr*

**Special Acknowledgement Awards:**  
*Lynn Wagner, graduate in Horticulture Therapy 7/08*

**Certificate of Appreciation:**  
*Dick Miller (Plant Sale Chair's other half)*  
**Golden Trowel Award for November: Sylvia Crucchiola**  
Fair complex demo gardens assistant chair, propagation workshop, class assistant, plant sale & all around volunteer.  
**Thank you to ALL our volunteers for their time & talent.**

President	Ken Keudell	503-292-6519
Vice President	Alan Strong	503-690-1882
Recording Secretary	Gini Lang	503-407-6422
Corresponding Secretary	Barbara Bixler	503-646-9627
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OMGA Rep	David Rullman	503-292-1603
Alternate Rep	Jerry Knott	503-292-1939
Dir.#1 Audit	Larry Schick	503-524-2494
Dir.#2 Program	Fred Dorr	503-645-1665
Dir.#3 Publicity	Sylvia Butler	503-246-8725
Dir.#4 Planning	Alan Strong	503-690-1882
Dir.#5 Chapter Relations	Anna Stubbs	503-643-9474
Editor:	Gini Lang	503-407-6422

**Membership Dues - \$20.00 due by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Submit Chapter Chat Announcements to Gini Lang**, Chapter Chat Editor, by the 11<sup>th</sup> each month. Phone **503-407-6422** or e-mail **Gini Lang [lang2044@comcast.net]**.

**Submit general chapter announcements to Cathy Mankus**, e-mail coordinator, **cathy@cathymankus.com**

**Chapter Website:** <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington/mg/mgchap/index.php>



# MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE

Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with  
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program  
4742 SE 39<sup>th</sup> Ave. Portland, OR 97206

## 9 December, 2008 Chapter Meeting

Tabor Heights Methodist Church  
SE 61st and Stark

### 6:45pm Gather

6:50 pm – Announcements

**7:00 pm – Party and Wreath Making. Bring any greenery, ribbons, etc. and a treat. (In an effort to balance the budget we will gladly accept donations to offset the cost of this event.)**

### Upcoming events:

**January 12** - White Smith, Bovee's Nursery,  
"Himalayan Rhododendrons"

**Next Board Meeting – Tuesday 2 January 2009 - 6:30 pm at Jean Edmison's home – 7606 S.E. Ellis**

**Dues are going up a little.** The new amount is \$20, but if you get the money in by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December you can get a 25% discount so that it only costs \$15.

**Entertainment Books 2009** are selling & useable RIGHT NOW. Cost is \$20 with \$4 of that going to our MG Treasury. The books will be available at the meetings or call Bob & Evelyn Clink at 503-777-6771.

**Chinook Books** will be available for \$20 with \$10 going to the chapter. Abby Seaman is in charge of this. Her info is: phone 503-285-7621 or email [justabbey@juno.com](mailto:justabbey@juno.com) You can order in advance or take some home from the meeting to sell.

### Advertising in the Chapter Directory

In the last year our chapter has been focusing on fundraisers and community outreach activities; here is another opportunity. When the 2009 membership directory goes to print soon, you may advertise your business on a third of a page at \$50 for the year! Our intent is to give members contact information so they can support you and

your business will increase! If you are interested, please contact Jean Edmison at [Housejem@aol.com](mailto:Housejem@aol.com) or at 503-771-2486.

### Demo Garden

Anyone interested can help work or look on Thursdays from 9am until afternoon. Another way to help would be to save seeds. The garden is on SE 60<sup>th</sup> between Duke and Flavel.

Questions should be directed to Jean or Sharon.

### 2008 Officers

President – Jean Edmison - 503-771-2486  
Vice President – Sharon Baker - 503-284-5189  
President Elect – vacant  
Secretary – LindaRose Allaway – 503-255-5553  
Treasurer – Claudia Groth - 503-235-0669  
Past President – Patrick Adams - 503-287-9071  
OMGA Rep. – Louise Kasper - 503- 282-4277  
OMGA Rep. – Joyce Hemmerling - 503-331-0824  
Historian – vacant  
Grapevine – Lorna Schilling – 503-293-2445

### 2009 Officers

President – Jean Edmison - 503-771-2486  
Vice President – Sharon Baker - 503-284-5189  
Secretary – Jo Ann Bones – 503-253-3168  
Treasurer – Robin Case – 503-762-3964  
Past President – Jean Edmison  
OMGA Sr. Rep. – Joyce Hemmerling - 503-331-0824  
OMGA Rep. – Marilyn Kongslië – 503-289-8889  
Historian – Velda Altig, Claudia Groth and Jim Colahan  
Grapevine – Lorna Schilling – 503-334-5162

# December 2008

## Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

- Spread wood ashes evenly on vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 lb/100 sq ft/year. Do not use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.
- Use dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on fruit trees and roses for general disease control.
- *Central/eastern Oregon:* Water your plants every 6 to 8 weeks when temperatures are above freezing with a deep soaking to prevent drying out.
- *Western Oregon:* Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water regularly during the winter.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Do not treat unless a problem is identified.
- Yard sanitation: rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flower beds, hoe or pull winter weeds.
- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs.
- *Mid-December in western Oregon:* Spray peach trees with lime sulfur or approved fungicides to protect against peach leaf curl. Choose resistant varieties if possible.
- *Western Oregon:* Still time to plant spring-flowering bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocuses. Don't delay.
- Avoid mounding mulching materials around the bases of trees and shrubs. The mulch might provide cover for rodents.
- During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tiling, ditching, and French drains are possible solutions.
- Monitor houseplants for adequate water, fertilizer, humidity. Water and fertilizer requirements generally are less in winter.
- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, and fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- Make holiday decorations from trees and shrubs in the yard.
- Monitor spruce trees for spruce aphids. Treat if present in large numbers. Read and follow pesticide label directions.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow or ice breakage.
- If the lawn is frozen, stay off it.
- Use paper tree wraps on lower trunks of newly planted fruit and nut trees to avoid sun damage.
- Turn the compost pile.
- *Western Oregon:* Good time of year to plant trees, landscape shrubs.

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.

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Gardening information online—<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening>