



# Metro Master Gardener Newsletter

May 2008

## OSU Extension Service Metro Master Gardener™ Program

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

### Mission Statement

Our goal is to educate the public about plant-based solutions for social and environmental problems by providing relevant, research-based gardening education and outreach to the citizens of the Portland metro area.

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Dear Metro Master Gardeners,



One of the interesting aspects of gardening is that, despite all of the planning that we might put into our gardens, we are still subject to the whims of nature. The weather this spring is a good case in point. The soil temperature in my well-drained garden soil (in a sunny location) is still only 50° F or so. Thus, it seems that planting times will be in the late part of the range for tender vegetables this year. As a gardener new to the Northwest, I am developing a strong measure of patience this spring. However, my transplanted greens are off to a great start with the help of a primitive, but effective cold frame.

In addition to my musings about my own garden, I also want to give all Master Gardeners some important updates about several different topics, including:

1. A new partnership between Oregon State University (OSU) and Portland State University (PSU),
2. New program assistant Beret Halverson.

As some of you may know, it is written into my job description at OSU Extension Service that I must somehow come up with ¼ of my own salary from grants and/or contracts after 2 years on the job (I have been on the job for less than 10 months). This model of funding faculty is a relatively new strategy for OSU. Though this situation seems quite daunting for me in a job that is already very, very time-intensive and engaging, it is a reality of my position. The good news is that I am currently working with OSU Extension Service Nutrition Education Program (NEP), in conjunction with Gail Langellotto (State-wide Master Gardener coordinator) to develop a garden-enhanced nutrition curriculum. This project is well underway, and we should have a working set of materials and strategies to implement this program by the fall. Because OSU is committed to paying my full salary for 2 years, I have already accrued a significant salary savings.

Additionally, high-level administrators at both OSU and PSU have initiated a dialogue to begin collaboration in the metro area to best serve residents. Beth Emshoff, Metro Specialist for OSU, has helped to plug me into this situation around a new relationship that is forming around urban gardening. Specifically, OSU and PSU are entering into a partnership at the Learning Gardens Laboratory (a 12-acre site in S. E. Portland that PSU leases from Portland Public Schools and Portland Parks and Recreation. This is the former home of the Green Thumb program). The goal of this partnership is to bring the strengths of each university (OSU's research-based horticulture program and PSU's urban studies and education programs) to the table to better serve the people of the metro area.

Fortunately, PSU will hire me as part of this relationship to teach several courses and to serve as site coordinator at the Learning Gardens Lab. Needless to say, I am very excited about this new appointment. This agreement also satisfies the "Full-Funding Model," which allows us to open up more Master Gardener programming in Multnomah County. Additionally, because this agreement will take effect very soon, I will accumulate additional salary savings.

The plan is to use these salary savings to hire a program assistant to help me to fulfill my work obligations. We have already hired Beret Halverson as a part-time program assistant with the start-up money that I had from OSU. She is helping with many details of the Master Gardener program including the statewide MG survey that Gail Langellotto and I are conducting on Master Gardeners in schools, and other tasks. With the salary savings from these various partnerships, we hope to be

able to hire Beret to continue her work with the MG program. She has already proven herself vital to the success of the program. Thus, my first and most important task is to keep both Jordis and Beret happy as they help to make the MG program work. If you have any questions or comments about any of these developments, please do not hesitate to contact me. Be well, Weston

**Note: The MG program office has moved.  
Here our new contact information:**

<b>Address:</b>	<b>Metro Mastr Gardener Program C/O Clackamas County Extension Service 200 Warner-Milne Rd. Oregon City, OR 97045</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Jordis 503-650-3118 Weston 503-650-3124</b>
<b>Fax:</b>	<b>503-655-8636</b>

And without further ado, here is an introduction of Beret Halverson, program assistant for the Master Gardener program:

My name is Beret Halverson. I have recently been hired as a Program Assistant for the Master Gardener program. I am excited to meet you all in the up coming months and learn more about your amazing volunteer efforts in the Metro area!!!



Here is a little background about me. I grew up in Keene, New Hampshire, but spent many summers as a child gardening with my grandmother in Montana. She knows how to grow the best strawberries!! In high school I worked as a camp counselor at a farm and garden education center and CSA located on a working dairy farm called Stonewall Farm. The best part was watching the calves being born!!!! At age 16, I participated in a cultural exchange program and traveled to Norway to attend high school for one year. I lived with a family whose farm had been passed down father to son for 14 generations. Soon, and for the first time, the farm will pass down to my host- father's oldest daughter. I also had the opportunity to visit my ancestor's family farm in the Gubranstalen region. It was fun to discover I come from a long line of farmers, a history that stretches all the way from Norway to North Dakota, where my Grandfather was born to immigrant parents.

In 2002, I graduated from the University of Vermont, earning a degree in Environmental studies with a concentration in Ethnobotany and a minor in Comparative Eastern Religion. During my time in Vermont I worked for the Burlington Community Gardens program and was, myself, a community gardener. Part of my work there included the publication of a book called, *Patchwork: stories of gardens and community*. I also taught skiing to kids at Sugarbush Resort, and worked for an indoor plant company. The last semester of college, I traveled to Auroville, India where I had the unique opportunity to work with a biologist who ran a program teaching villagers how to create and use herbal gardens. After my time in India I traveled throughout south East Asia and spent a year living in New Zealand where I volunteered on farms across the country through the WOOF program. When I finally made it back to the states after two years abroad, I worked for a year as a teacher in a Special Education Behavior Classroom in Asheville, North Carolina. In 2005 I moved to Portland and began working as the Food and Garden Education Coordinator at Abernethy Elementary School's Garden of Wonders. In this position I was responsible for managing the gardens and greenhouse as well as teaching and developing gardening and nutrition curriculum. This was a two- year AmeriCorps position that ended in October of 2007. In addition to this new position, I remain active at Abernethy on the Board and as the Garden Club Leader. I am also pursuing a Masters degree in Public Administration at Portland State University. I am very excited to continue my career working with people and plants, and I look forward to helping make the Master Gardener program a positive experience for all of you!!- Beret

## OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS

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



### THE MG PROGRAM OFFICE



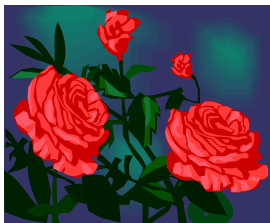
After 5 years of being housed at North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC) in Aurora, your program office will now be located in the Clackamas County Extension Office in

Oregon City. Weston and I are going to miss certain aspects of being at 'the farm', but being back in the same building with Master Gardeners is very exciting. I love seeing old friends and catching up with the hustle and bustle that comes with being in a public building. I don't have a door on my office and can hear the questions that are so relevant to the time of year...a much better connection to what MGs are experiencing. If you are in the neighborhood, stop in and see our new 'digs'. It is a small but efficient area and there is always room for one more friend!

### WASHINGTON PARK ROSE GARDEN

MGs are very active at the International Rose Test Garden. There are a lot of reasons why this site is so popular ...there are the roses (of course), wonderful views of the city and very interesting visitors from around the world. They all say the same thing..."You are so lucky to live where roses grow so beautifully!" We have a great clinic on site, as well as opportunities to deadhead and act as tour guides.

To participate in any of these activities, there is a required orientation. It is being held on three different days so you can pick which one fits your schedule best. The dates are May 17, 28 and 31. All sessions begin at 9 AM. You should plan on going to one of these even if you aren't on the schedule yet. It is a very informative and a pleasant experience. The Rose Garden Clinic and tour guide time is educational outreach and the deadheading is support...unless you spend time answering visitors' questions!



If you are thinking about getting on the schedule, but haven't contacted the coordinator, now is the time! Call **Pat Troyer at 503-257-8526** for clinic  
**Bill Bradley at 503-624-8435** for tour guides

### ADDITION

Please add a name to your coordinator list that was in the March Newsletter – Multnomah County Farmers Markets Vicky **Wilson 503-234-4938** [mycharmedviolet@yahoo.com](mailto:mycharmedviolet@yahoo.com)

Vicky is a 2008 MG graduate and has stepped up to act as coordinator for several new (and renewed) MG clinic sites in the Portland area. Please contact her if you have questions or wish to get on the schedule.

### DATA ENTRY

I had a *huge* pile of payback interest sheets to enter in a short period of time. These lists are the heart of being able to match MGs and activities. The coordinators use these lists to fill the shifts of the many clinics out in the community.



I had some very generous people come help with this. They spent hours at a computer, even though it was beautiful outside, and got this done. HUGE thanks to Heidi Nichols and Cyndi MacLeod.

And a very special thanks to Joan Schakel for her help and guidance in the care and feeding of the database.

# Natter's Notes

## Bees; Research-based Information; & More

by Jean R. Natter

### Mason bees

Our mild-mannered mason bees – those glossy blue-black bees (*Osmia lignaria*) which are out and about pollinating early flowering fruit trees in spite of cool and even wet weather – are in trouble. They have mites. And the housing we provide makes things worse.

It doesn't matter which nest system you use – a drilled rustic wood block; a bundle of the special bee straws in a protective container; or a series of grooved plastic trays stacked one on another. Any nest that's used for consecutive years without cleaning will enhance mite populations. On average, mason bee numbers crash in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year.

Fortunately, you and I can intercede.

The remedy is nests which are easily cleaned. Disposable nesting straws help as do the stacked plastic trays. You can wash the cocoons to remove as many of the mites as possible.

The mites affecting mason bees are different than the tracheal mites and varroa mites damage honey bees.

The mason attackers are Krombein's hairy-footed mites (*Chaetodactylus krombeinii*), first described in the 1960s from a Maryland population, mites that are considerably larger and have different habits.

Opinions vary as to how Krombein's mites affect the masons. Some sources say that the mites feed mainly on the pollen cake meant for the bee larva whereas others suggest the mites may also kill the bee's eggs and directly damage larvae.

A mason bee's life cycle is straightforward. The larvae develop through the summer, are adults by fall, then they'll remain within the cocoons until they emerge.

That's when that you'll notice obvious brown patches on the thorax and abdomen of some bees, a telltale sign the bee is carrying many mites, each hitching a ride to a newly constructed cell. Sometimes so many mites are present they hinder the bee's flight. Some bees have problems getting airborne.

The hitchhiker is a special nymphal stage – the hypopus, its size just 0.29 mm. As the bee enters a new nest, the mite jumps off and soon begins to produce its own young, thereby continuing the contamination. (For the full story, go to *Bug of the Month* at <http://crawford.tardigrade.net/bugs/BugofMonth35.html>.)

Using special bee straws in your nests can help minimize mite populations if, each year, the cocoons are removed and washed.

By the way, drilled wood blocks can be used if one of two things occur. Either the blocks are discarded each year or, when the nest block is drilled, the diameter of the holes is a tad larger than the prescribed 5/16 inch, thereby allowing you to insert a nesting tube in each one.

Although you can't help the bees at this time of year, you can assist the next generation by washing the cocoons.

The Curation Group (more info below) is thinking about holding a Metro MG Bee Wash this October. We'll follow the model established by an MG from Marion County where they've held a Bee Wash for the past several years. So, watch for an announcement in this newsletter.

In the meantime, you can catch up on background information with the following additional sources:

- Orchard Mason Bees, a leaflet from WSU, is at <http://gardening.wsu.edu/library/inse006/inse006.htm>
- *The Orchard Mason Bee* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition; Brian Griffin). Also see his web site <http://knoxcellars.com/> and browse his Urban Farmer newsletter, a combination catalog-newsletter; the link is at the bottom of the home page.
- *Pollination with Mason Bees*, by Margriet Dogterom, has complete details about washing the mason bee cocoons. The author's web site is <http://beediverse.com>.
- *How to Manage the Blue Orchard Bee* has the most information, also color photos, of mason bee parasites and predators. Download a pdf from <http://sare.org/publications/bob.htm> or purchase a reprint from Knox Cellars (above).

## Curation Group at NWREC

The Curation Group consists of MGs from five counties (Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, and Washington) who meet twice monthly to work cooperatively on two projects – identification of arthropods and weeds. (Hmm. I'm not certain "work" is the correct word because we enjoy learning about creepy crawlies and weedy stuff.)

Unfortunately the weedy portion of our group has thinned severely, leaving that project in the limbo.

We don't provide lessons or classes. Instead, MGs work on their own and together, but always share what we've learned.

The Group identifies arthropods and weeds brought to the MG offices and found by its members. This past month we scored by identifying honey ants (*Prenolepis imparis*) which were bugging a Multnomah County resident. Because none of us had ever seen them before, we asked the OSU Insect Specialist to verify our ID. Not only were we correct, all of us learned something new!

The Curation Group meets most and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays (but not May 2), 9 to noon, at NWREC, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002-9543. August is often dark.

Inquisitive MGs who love to learn and share are most welcome! If you're interested, let me know at 503-645-7073 or [jnatter@aol.com](mailto:jnatter@aol.com). We'll put you on the notification list.

## What is research-based information?

As MGs, we're volunteer educators who provide science-based information to clients. Further, we don't suggest a practice or product that lacks legitimate scientific basis.

The upshot of this directive is at least three questions from MGs, namely these:

- What is research-based?
- Where does it come from?
- What's the meaning of legitimate scientific basis?

You'll find answers in "Compost Tea: Examining the science behind the claims" (Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, PhD) even while unearthing facts about compost tea. Go to <http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~LindaChalker-Scott/>, then click on Horticultural Myths.

Simply put, scientific literature has been peer-reviewed and is often geared to an academic audience. Extension publications are peer-reviewed, too, but target a more general audience. In other words, a peer-reviewed publication is one in which objective outside experts found the methods, results, and conclusions to be scientifically valid.

Popular literature is primarily focused on professional and general audiences, but isn't peer-reviewed. And, although it's true that such publications can be valuable resources, the catch is that each reader must assess the objectivity and credibility.

To make such an assessment, answer these questions:

- Does the author have legitimate ties to a mainstream academic or scientific institution?
- Does the article refrain from attempts to sell a product?
- Does the article present verifiable information?
- Does the article appeal to reason rather than emotion?

If the answers to all these questions are "yes," then the likelihood is high that the information is objective and credible.





## HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

- May 1** Washington County Chapter – Russell Graham, Purveyor of Plants – Ferns and Some Shady Companions
- May 3-4** Clackamas Chapter Spring Fair – Canby Fairgrounds
- May 9** Small Standard Flower Show and Plant Sale. (Theme: Flowers on Parade) By Villa Garden Club, 11:30 AM to 6 PM at Town Center Village, 8709 S. E. Causey Ave. Portland
- May 12** Clackamas Chapter – Linda McMahan, Yamhill Extension Agent, Every Plant Has a Story
- May 13** Multnomah Chapter – Tom Fischer, Editor-in-Chief, Timber Press, “The Tale Your Garden Tells”
- May 31** Starlight Parade-MG Marching Unit
- June 5** Washington County Chapter – Gloria Lee – Portland Classical Chinese Garden
- June 7** Clackamas Chapter Garden Art Workshop – see Chapter page for details
- June 10** Multnomah Chapter – Lucy Hardiman, Garden Designer, Author, “What Color is Your Garden?”
- June 20-22** Hardy Plant Society of Oregon (HPSO) Study Weekend (more info to follow)
- June 21** Seeding Our Future Garden Tour & Art Show – 10 am to 4 pm  
[www.foundation4smartkids.org/events.html](http://www.foundation4smartkids.org/events.html).
- July 23-26** MG Mini-College Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon



### **March in the Starlight Parade with Jordis, Weston and Gail!**

Last call to reserve your place on the 2008 OSU Master Gardener Marching Unit and Drill Team. Grab your shrub rake and/or don a gardening-themed costume and join your fellow MGs for an evening of fun in the annual Portland Starlight Parade. A great way to promote the MG Program AND earn 6 hours of payback time! Practice is on-site and carpooling is arranged. Hours are about 6:30 to 10 pm on Saturday May 31st, 2008. The parade route is an easy 2 miles. For questions or to sign up please contact Stephanie Scott at (503) 292-2198 ([s.r.scott@comcast.net](mailto:s.r.scott@comcast.net)) or Bob Blaedel at (503) 658-7450 ([machinewayback@hotmail.com](mailto:machinewayback@hotmail.com)).

## SAVE THE DATE!

### 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Gardener's Mini-College "Going Green On Our Silver" Wednesday July 23-Saturday July 26, 2008 Oregon State University Campus, Corvallis Oregon

This outstanding conference is dedicated to improving the knowledge of Oregon Master Gardeners™ and other dedicated gardeners. "Going Green On Our Silver" honors the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event as well as sustainable gardening techniques promoted and utilized by Oregon Master Gardeners.

#### Thought-provoking sessions presented on diverse topics and in a range of formats:

- **Leadership Forum** will support life skills and develop the capacity of Oregon Master Gardeners to serve as officers and leaders in their local or statewide chapter.
- **Seminars**, on Gardening for Ecosystem Services, Pollination in the Home Garden, Gardening with Native Plants, Composting and more.
- **Tours and Workshops**, including the OSU Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture.

#### Conference Registration Rates

Postmarked by June 6, 2008  
A 10% discount

Postmarked June 7<sup>th</sup> through July 7, 2008  
Prices Same As in 2007!

Prices vary, see website or registration packet (available May 2008) for selections and procedures.

Registration ends July 7, 2008

Visit the OSU Master Gardener™ website for updates and information on sponsorship opportunities.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/>



#### Seeding Our Future Garden Tour & Art Show

Benefiting The Foundation for Tigard-Tualatin Schools

Saturday, June 21, 2008

10 am to 4 pm

Eight delightful private gardens located in Tigard and Tualatin including an organic edible landscape, woodland garden, exuberant cottage cutie, tamed hillside, and a NWF Certified Backyard Habitat.

- Two Gardens have been featured in either Sunset Magazine or Landscape Construction.
- Special guests in a garden include Kym Pokorny, garden writer for The Oregonian, Vern Nelson, The Oregonian's Hungry Gardener columnist and Christine Ellis of Gregg & Ellis Landscape Design

Master Gardeners are needed to assist in the gardens. Volunteer for a 3.5 hour, morning or afternoon, shift that counts towards practicum support hours. Greet tour guests, assist garden owners by answering gardening questions, help with plant ID, and promote the MG Program. In return MG volunteers will receive a complimentary garden tour ticket (\$20 value) to use the rest of the day.

For more details on the days events visit [www.foundation4smartkids.org/events.html](http://www.foundation4smartkids.org/events.html).

Sign up by contacting Becky Hurd at 503-639-7789 or [hurd.family@verizon.net](mailto:hurd.family@verizon.net)

# A Blossoming Profession in Horticulture

By Patty Cassidy, Master Gardener and Therapeutic Horticulture Specialist

The profession of Horticultural Therapy is rapidly gaining local, national, and international recognition and endorsement as a unique human services resource that serves clients in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, senior facilities and even correctional facilities—to mention just a few.

Therapeutic horticulture is the use of our ancient relationship with plants to nurture and maintain our well-being and that of others. From the beginning of human history, people and plants have shared a necessary and interdependent relationship, one that has remarkably shaped the way civilizations survive, thrive, and evolve. Humans engaged in horticultural activities for the most practical of reasons: we used plants for food, clothing, fuel, and medicine.

Today we still rely on our relationship with plants for these and other practical purposes, but we've also come to realize that plants possess a compelling force that grabs our attention, holds our interest, and delights us. Staying active and engaged in all types of horticultural activities benefits our physical, emotional, cognitive, and social health. When we care for our houseplants, work in the garden, or bring a bouquet of flowers to a friend, we are engaging in activities that enrich our feelings of well-being and promote healthy habits.

This intrinsic, “hard-wired” connection with plants also nourishes us with the therapeutic qualities of beauty, aroma, texture, and often taste. These attributes can heighten our positive outlook, motivate us to be creative and curious, and, most importantly, improve our overall quality of life and feeling of well-being, no matter what our age or physical ability.

Horticultural specialists are valued professionals who integrate plants, gardening, and nature into a wide of programs designed to serve all ages and all levels of abilities. They bring the “therapeutic” values of nature and horticultural into the lives of people who want to retain their connections with the natural world.

*“The American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA) is the only U.S. organization concerned with the promotion and development of HT programming. More than 800 individuals and organizations located across the U.S., Canada, Japan, and beyond, are members.”*

*For complete information on Horticultural Therapy as well as training and educational opportunities in this field, please visit the AHTA website ([www.ahta.org](http://www.ahta.org))*

## Celebrate Lavender!



**2008 Oregon Lavender Festival**  
**Saturday & Sunday ~ July 12 & 13 ~ 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM**  
**Yamhill, Oregon**

## Do You Know a Garden Crusader?

This year, Gardener's Supply will award more than \$15,000 in cash and products to individuals across the country who are using gardening to make a difference in their communities.

To learn more about the awards, and how to nominate a gardener, visit [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com) and click on the Community tab for an online application. You can also call 1-888-239-1553 or email Gardeners Supply at [crusader@gardeners.com](mailto:crusader@gardeners.com).

Award categories include: education, urban renewal, restoration, feeding the hungry.

Application Deadline: June 15, 2008.

Please do not contact me (Gail) for more information on this program. I am merely passing on all the information I have about the Garden Crusader Award. More information can be accessed at the [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com) website.

However, if you would like a letter of support for a Master Gardener who is considering applying for the award, or who you would like to nominate for the award, I would gladly pen a strong letter of support. We have many Master Gardeners who work to feed the hungry, educate adults and children, and renew urban spaces. Let's make sure that we recognize this great work!

## Envision the lawn you'd be happy with and fertilize accordingly, says OSU expert

**By: Davi Richards**

**Source: [Tom Cook](#)**

CORVALLIS, Ore. - For many gardeners, summer wouldn't be summer without a smooth expanse of dark green grass and the smell of freshly mowed clippings. If you're in this group, you need to know some basics about fertilizing your lawn before the grass starts growing this spring.

Most lawns in Oregon can survive with little or no fertilizer, explained Tom Cook, associate professor and turf grass specialist at Oregon State University. But adequate fertilizer can make all the difference between a straggly weedy lawn and a lush green one. Added nutrients can help produce a better looking and more robust lawn that resists diseases and competes with weeds.

When people ask Cook how much fertilizer to use, he asks them to envision the kind of lawn they want. If a homeowner wants a consistently dark green carpet of grass, they may need to pay the price of more frequent mowing, more water and more fertilizer. If someone isn't that obsessed with having a perfect ultra-green lawn, then less fertilizer and work will be required.

For his own lawn, Cook is a minimalist.

"I coast along with as little fertilizer as I can and then make a strategic application about three weeks before my in-laws visit," he said. "The lawn looks good when they show up, and in between visits I don't have to mow so much grass."

The basic approach is to apply the least amount of fertilizer to produce healthy grass and the appearance you want, he said.

"Complete" fertilizers contain nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in varying proportions. Nitrogen applied in the proper amounts makes the grass green. Potassium may increase hardness. According to Cook, lawns don't need phosphorus unless the soil is deficient in it. The "vast majority" of lawn soils already contain enough phosphorus, he said. However, since it's included in complete fertilizers, he suggests picking one with low phosphorus content if you have a choice.

All complete fertilizers are labeled to show the proportions of these three components, always in the same order: nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium (N-P-K). A label that says "6-1-4" refers to the ratios of nitrogen to phosphorus to potassium. Cook says you can be confident in ratios ranging from 6-1-4 to 8-1-2 "or anything close to that range."

Other nutrients that are often included in fertilizers are sulfur and iron. Sulfur is an important plant nutrient, especially for bent-grass, common in western Oregon lawns.

Iron supplement isn't usually needed for healthy grass, but it is often included in commercial fertilizers because it provides a fast, though temporary greening response.

If you apply a fertilizer with iron, be careful applying it near concrete sidewalks and driveways. "If it gets on these surfaces and then gets wet, you'll have brown stains that are difficult and expensive to remove," he warned.

A drop spreader for fertilizing most lawns is best, said Cook. "You might want to use a rotary spreader if you have an exceptionally large area. But rotary spreaders are less accurate, so it's difficult to control just where the fertilizer ends up."

A major complaint about lawn fertilizer is that it gets leached or washed away and causes surface and groundwater pollution. Cook says this association is over-exaggerated and cites a study by Pennsylvania State University in 1999 that concluded that only 0.3 percent of nitrogen pollution and 0.2 percent of phosphorus pollution came from golf courses and lawns.

"If you use common sense, you can be confident you are not contributing to pollution," he said.

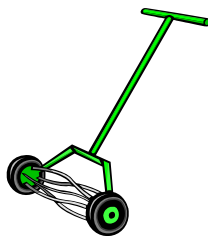
Cook also busts the commonly held belief that grass clippings contribute significantly to thatch buildup. "In fact, they extend the effect of fertilizers by recycling nutrients during decomposition."

For more information, Cook's OSU Extension Service publication, "Fertilizing Lawns," (EC 1278), includes detailed guidelines for why, when and how to fertilize a lawn. He also writes about common lawn grasses and the optimal pH range for each. If your soil needs to be adjusted for pH, you can follow the instructions in the booklet. The publication also includes tips to help prevent pollution with fertilizer and discusses the difference between

organic and synthetic fertilizers, plus has other topics on lawn health and nutrition.

The OSU Extension Service offers several lawn care publications, available to download for no charge. Go to: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/EC/EC1278.pdf>

Or, to order printed copies, call 1-800-561-6719.



## Fertilize and weed garlic in the spring for bigger, healthier crop

By: [Carol Savonen](#)

Source: [Chip Bubl](#)

ST. HELENS - Fertilize garlic in the spring if you want a big healthy crop of bulbs by summer, advises Chip Bubl, garlic expert and agricultural agent at the Columbia County office of the Oregon State University Extension Service in St. Helens.



The best way to fertilize growing garlic plants is either by side dressing, working in a little fertilizer along side each plant or by broadcasting it all over the bed. High nitrogen organic fertilizers such as bloodmeal or a synthetic source of nitrogen is best.

Fertilize garlic again, just before the bulbs begin to swell in response to lengthening daylight (usually mid-May).

Keep garlic well weeded, as it cannot stand much competition. As the spring weather dries out, water garlic to a depth of two feet every eight to 10 days. As mid-June approaches, taper off on the watering.

Don't wait for garlic plant leaves to start to die back to check for maturity, said Bubl. Sometimes garlic bulbs will be ready to harvest when the leaves are still green.

The best way to know if garlic is ready to pull from the ground is to pull one up and cut it open cross-wise. Then look for well-developed cloves and three or fewer outer "skins" or covering layers over the bulb. Or dig a representative bulb, pull the cloves apart and count the skins as you go.

Start checking for mature cloves about late June, he suggested. Harvest garlic when the head is divided into plump cloves and the skin covering the outside of the bulbs is thick, dry and papery.

"If left in the ground too long, the bulbs sometimes split apart and become difficult to harvest as intact heads," said Bubl. "The skin may also split, exposing the cloves. Then it doesn't store too well."

Dig, then dry the mature bulbs in a shady, warm, dry and well-ventilated area for a few days. Then remove the tops and roots. Brush dirt off the bulbs. To braid garlic together, harvest it a bit earlier while leaves are green and supple.

Avoid bruising the garlic, as it will not store well.

Store bulbs in a dark, dry, well-ventilated place. Protect from high humidity and freezing. The refrigerator is not the place to store garlic - the cold temperature stimulates sprouting.

The OSU Extension Service offers "[Garlic for the Home Garden](#)," FS 138, available by mail for \$1 per copy plus \$3 shipping and handling from: Publications Orders, Extension and Experiment Station Communications, OSU, 422 Kerr Administration, Corvallis, OR 97331-2119.

Or view it on the web at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/FS/FS138/>



# 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

## 13 May, 2008 Chapter Meeting

Tabor Heights Methodist Church  
SE 61st and Stark  
6:45pm Gather

6:50 pm – Announcements

7:00pm – Tom Fischer, Editor-in-Chief, Timber  
Press – “The Tale Your Garden Tells”  
Weston will be at the meeting to talk about  
opportunities

## Coming Attractions:

10 June, 2008 Lucy Hardiman, Garden Designer,  
Author, "What Color is Your Garden?"

Board Meeting – 6 May, 2008 - 6:30 pm at Jean  
Edmison's home – 7606 S.E. Ellis

Multnomah County Chapter has been given a  
booth at the Clackamas County Spring Fair the  
first week in May. We will be doing planting with  
children and a used book sale. Contact Joyce  
Hemmerling to volunteer. There is still space.

If you wish to sign up for either the **Portland  
Farmers' Market** (Saturdays) or the  
**Westmoreland Farmers' Market** (Wednesdays  
3:30-7:30) To volunteer, contact Vicky Wilson 503-  
317-6259 or [mycharmedviolet@yahoo.com](mailto:mycharmedviolet@yahoo.com) .

## Nominations, Please

We're looking for **nominees** for Multnomah  
Chapter's candidate for **OSU Master Gardener of  
the Year** and the **Master Gardener Behind the  
Scenes Award**. The annual Oregon Master  
Gardener award, the highest honor presented to a  
master gardener, recognizes outstanding and  
unusual service benefiting the Oregon Master  
Gardener Association and the master gardener  
program... The nominee's contributions should be  
above and beyond those associated with  
leadership positions. Please contact Barbara Beck  
with your nominations for the awards. The deadline  
for nominations is May 6. The Master Gardener of  
the Year and the Behind the Scenes Award will be  
presented at mini college in July.  
[bjbeck@pacifier.com](mailto:bjbeck@pacifier.com) or 593-775-9236.

**Three scholarships are available** which will pay  
your way to OMGA Mini-College. The Multnomah  
chapter of Master Gardeners offers three June  
Shank Memorial Scholarships to active members.  
Candidates must have been a Master Gardener for  
at least one year, completed the annual payback  
activities, and be a current active member of the  
chapter. Scholarships are awarded based on  
activities and desire to enhance gardening  
experiences, not on financial need. Applications are  
available from Barbara Beck, Committee chair,  
503-775-9236. Completed applications must be  
returned to Barbara by May 15, 2008. Winners will  
be notified by June 1, 2008.

## Silent Auction Items for Mini College

One of the fun things of mini college is the annual  
silent auction. Each master gardener  
chapter brings from three to five donations for the  
auction, which raises funds  
to offset the costs of mini-college. While you're  
spring cleaning or deciding what to  
do with gifts or other items that aren't used or have  
been gently used, you may find some  
valuable auction donations Contact Louise Kasper,  
503-282-4277, [lqkasper@comcast.net](mailto:lqkasper@comcast.net) if you have  
a donation.

**Directories are out. Come to the meeting to get one  
or call Jean 503-771-2486**

**Help is requested** to plan and plant a children's  
garden at Montessori of Alameda in NE Portland  
this month. Also, anyone who has extra plant starts  
(especially flowers and edible) and/or compost  
please contact Helane at 503-281-1012 or email  
[andrewkurkinen@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewkurkinen@hotmail.com).

## 2007 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



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

May Chapter Meeting

Monday, May 12
Milwaukie Center 7:00 p.m.

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie
Making Your Garden Water-Wise
by Linda McMahon, OSU Extension Faculty
According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, water use in the West is 50% higher than the Eastern US because of summer irrigation. What can a gardener do to reduce water consumption but still have a spectacular garden?

Join us for a presentation by Linda McMahon, Horticulturist for OSU Extension Service in Yamhill County. Linda will offer solutions in two fronts. Technical solutions, such as alterations to irrigation systems and satellite monitoring of climate, can curtail water use. Garden design and plant choice is another solution. In her presentation, Linda will highlight spectacular plants, both native varieties and exotic specimens from similar summer climates.

June Chapter Meeting Preview

Behind Every Great Plant...

...is a Good Story

Alice Doyle, co-founder of Log House Plants near Cottage Grove, will talk about her favorite plants and how each came to be discovered, propagated, and brought to home gardens. Visit Log House Nursery online to learn about new introductions for 2008, or subscribe to an online newsletter. http://www.loghouseplants.com/



The Clackamas County Master Gardeners again are holding the exciting, fun and educational Spring Garden Fair, May 3 and 4. More than 170 vendors will sell hanging baskets, annuals, perennials, bedding plants, herbs, shrubs, trees, garden art and many other garden-related items.

Visit the Master Gardener website for a complete list of vendors, schedule of classes, discount coupon, and more!

http://www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org

April Chapter Meeting Review

Can you believe there is a rose that deer don't eat? Actually, there are several. Chris Williams from Heirloom Roses shared their names as well as the names of roses with wonderful fragrance, special cold hardiness, good disease resistance, and a fondness for tough growing conditions. The photos Chris shared were beautiful and many people were making long "I want that" lists. Fortunately, Chris also handed out Heirloom Rose pins which entitle the wearer to a 10% discount on rose purchases at the nursery.

Garden Art workshop

Join us on Saturday, June 7, 9:30 to 11 a.m. for a Garden Art Workshop. Participants will tour two gardens to see artful objects made of raw materials and found objects of many mediums, including metal, straw, ceramic, glass, plastic, and wood. Workshop leaders Bee Smith and Marianne Kahl will share their techniques for making these garden decorations.

Each participant should bring one or more objects to trade or giveaway. This workshop will conclude with a brainstorming session, exploring ideas for making garden art out of those items.

We will begin at 17200 S Holly Lane, Oregon City. Pre-registration is recommended. To register, call Marianne Kahl at 503-722-2477.



Green Glove Award for April goes to Maggie Frieske

Congratulations, Maggie for a job well done!

2008 Open Gardens

It's still not too late to host a 2008 Open Garden. Carol Zinsli is waiting to hear from YOU! Call her today at 503-694-6181 or email her at zinsli31550@comcast.net.

Table with 3 columns: Position, Name, Phone Number. Includes Clackamas County Chapter Officers and OMGA Reps.

Table with 3 columns: Position, Name, Phone Number. Includes Advisory Board, Newsletter, and Websites.



# Washington County Chapter Chat

Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with

OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**May 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter Meeting:** Russell Graham, Purveyor of Plants – *Ferns and Some Shady Companions*

**June 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting:** Gloria Lee  
*Portland Classical Chinese Garden*

Presentations are from 7-8 PM at the Capital Center, 18640 NW Walker Rd (185<sup>th</sup> & Walker Rd.), Rm 1411. The public is welcome.

Presentations are from 7-8 PM at the Capital Center, 18640 NW Walker Rd (185<sup>th</sup> & Walker Rd), Rm 1411. The public is welcome.

## 2008 TRAINEE CLASSES

The success of the sessions this year was because of the great people we had coordinating, teaching and assisting in many ways. Thanks go out to all of you for a job very well performed. Certificates were presented to Diana Gaydon, Class Coordinator; Sally Skinner, Noontime Chat Coordinator; Donna Yount, Kitchen Coordinator; David Rullman & Jerry Knott, Audiovisual; Bill Greer & Gini Lang, greeters; Gini Link, 2008 Calendar; Anna Stubbs, sales; Ken Keudell, very busy president; Carol Ross, mentor program coordinator; Cheryle Douglas, very helpful church secretary & Beaverton Baptist Church. Plants were presented to Jean Natter, Outstanding Teacher and 2007 MG of the Year; David Rullman & Jerry Knott for all their extra help.

## Lenox School Opportunity

The Washington County Chapter is starting a new project to help Lenox Elementary School with their educational garden. Time spent on this project will count as practicum/payback hours. Contact Fred Dorr or Barbara Bixler if you're interested in helping.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO CLASS OF 2008

Also recognized were Carol Rappleyea for finishing our Membership Directory; Lynn Cox & Pam Yocum, Co-chairs for Garden Tour. (All three from Class of 2008)

**Golden Trowel** recipient was Sally Skinner, Noon-time Chat Coordinator for the Class of 2008.

## HELP WANTED

We really do need more involved members. Do you have time and expertise to contribute to our Chapter activities and projects? Contact Ken Keudell or any Board Member with questions or commitments.

Also, help is needed every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at the Capital Center Garden. Call Bob Luck 503-524-3385.

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
Treasurer	Rachel Arjavac	971-219-9777
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

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>

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# MAY 2008

## *Garden hints from your OSU Extension agent*

- Leafrolling worms will affect apples and blueberries. Prune off affected leaves and place pheromone traps or spray with approved pesticides.
- Control cabbage worms in cabbage and cauliflower, 12-spotted cucumber beetle in beans and lettuce, maggot in radishes. Control can involve hand removal, placing barrier screen over newly planted rows, or spraying or dusting with appropriate materials.
- Trap moles and gophers as new mounds appear.
- Control spittlebugs and aphids in strawberries and ornamentals, if present; wash off or use insecticidal soap as a contact spray. Follow label directions.
- Fertilize rhododendrons and azaleas; remove spent blossoms.
- Plant chrysanthemums for fall color.
- Plant dahlias, gladioli, and tuberous begonias in mid-May.
- Spray cherries, plums, peaches, and apricots for brown rot blossom blight, if necessary.
- Control aphids with insecticidal soap, a hard spray of water, or hand removal; by promoting natural predators; or by using approved insecticides labeled for the problem plant.
- Tiny holes in foliage and shiny, black beetles on tomatoes, beets, radishes, and potatoes indicate flea beetles. Treat with Neem, rotenone, *Bt*, or use nematodes for larvae. Follow label directions.
- Fertilize roses and control rose diseases such as mildew with a registered fungicide. When selecting new roses, choose plants labeled for resistance to diseases.
- Prevent root maggots when planting cabbage family, onions, and carrots by covering with row covers or screens, or by applying appropriate pesticides.
- Control slugs with bait or traps and by removing or mowing vegetation near garden plots.
- Place pheromone traps in apple trees to detect presence of codling moth. Plan a control program of sprays, baits, or predators when moths are found.
- Monitor broadleaf evergreens for root weevils. Look for notches chewed on new leaves. Mark plants to treat with parasitic nematodes in autumn when soil temperatures are still at least 55°F.
- Plant these vegetables (dates vary locally; check with local gardeners):  
**Western Oregon:** mid-May, transplant tomato and pepper seedlings.  
**Western valleys, Portland, Roseburg, Medford:** snap and lima beans, Brussels sprouts, cantaloupes, cucumbers, dill, eggplant, kale, peppers, pumpkins, onions, summer/winter squash, potatoes, tomatoes, watermelon.

*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 county office of the OSU Extension Service.*