

THE POLK WEED

OSU POLK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ NEWSLETTER

Congratulations, Class of 2011



Back Row: Farrys Ostendorp, Diane Anderson, Darrell Ward, Linda Ellingson, William Vanecek Front Row: Amy Lynn Tucker, Lori Brannigan, Cecilia Tracy, Helen Kanode



Lois Martin was honored by being named Polk Chapter Master Gardener of the Year.

Other Highlights:

New graduates Fred Burger, Darrell Ward and William Vanecek received “Early Bloomer Awards” for having contributed more than 100 hours each in service to the Chapter during the year.

Suzy Overturf and Bill and Creta Lenzke were recognized for their significant “Behind the Scenes” work on behalf of the Chapter.

Suzy has consistently helped the Chapter in numerous ways, serving on the board for several years and helping with the Plant Sale, Country Store, and Fall Fling.

Bill and Creta have also been important team members, cheerfully contributing many hours making Plant Sale signs, coordinating and serving food to the volunteers, making aprons and tote bags and recruiting vendors for Fall Fling. Bill created and taught the tabletop fountain workshop at Fall Fling last year.



Master Gardeners enjoyed a delicious dinner followed by awards and recognition of graduates at the annual banquet.



Notes from Gail

Congratulations to the Polk County Master Gardener Graduates Class of 2011

Bambi Anderson, Diane Anderson, Lori Brannigan, Fred Burger, Myrna Curzon, Linda Ellingson, Helen Kanode, Polly McCrea, Farrys Ostendorp, Cecilia Tracy, Amy Lynn Tucker, William Vanecek, and Darrell Ward.

Congratulations to Lois Martin, our Master Gardener of the Year and to Bill and Creta Lenzke and Suzy Overturf, our Behind the Scenes Master Gardener Award winners.

Polk County Master Gardener Dues – If you haven't paid your dues for 2012 please pay them ASAP. If you have decided not to be a member in 2012, please notify me so we can update our mailing lists and directory.

Certified Master Gardeners,

Please consider working at the MG office one day in February or March. Call me on Monday afternoon or on Tuesday or Wednesday at the office or email me if you are available. Remember that providing information to the public via the Master Gardener desk and the Clinics is our primary responsibility. Even though the number of calls is small, we are expected to honor that commitment.

Recertification. After graduation, Master Gardeners in Polk County are required to complete 12 hours of post-graduate educational training each year, a process known as recertification. Thus, those who took the training in 2011 are certified for 2012, but must take classes during 2012 to recertify for 2013.

Any MG who works on the desk or at Clinics or serves as a Mentor must be certified. This requirement for veteran Master Gardeners can be satisfied in a number of ways:

1. Attendance at Master Gardener classes that are approved for recertification (check the schedule in *The Polk Weed*).
2. Attendance at workshops sponsored by Polk County, or other Counties.
3. Approved classes at Insights Into Gardening in February or Master Gardener Mini-College in July.
4. Educational seminars or workshops at other institutions—check with Neil regarding the suitability of the class in question.

5. Attendance at Chapter meetings counts as 1 hour towards recertification for each meeting **when there is a presentation.**
6. **Take an open book test provided by Gail.** Recertification is really a form of continuing education, which is common in most professional fields. Most County Master Gardener organizations in Oregon require some form of recertification for the membership. Recertification hours are entered in the area indicated at the bottom of the orange Hourly Report form.

Veterans, I will be ordering name badges for the Trainees soon. If you need a new badge, please contact me as soon as possible. Badges with pin clasps are \$4.60. Badges with magnetic clasps are \$5.60.

I have three extra Sustainable Gardening handbooks available for purchase for \$22.50. This is our cost. If ordered from OSU, they would be \$30 plus S&H. The new handbook is in the process of being written and edited. It should be ready for 2013 or 2014. If you are interested in a copy of the current handbook, please let me know as soon as possible. If there are no takers, they will be returned to OSU.

January Board Highlights

- December minutes approved
- Treasurer's reports approved
- Darlene reported on banquet preparations and complimentary tickets for lifetime members, Extension staff and Trinity staff
- Hosting OMGA Executive Board meeting February 4th, need members to sign up to bring food
- OMGA now wants the quarterly two minute reports to address three challenges and three successes that the Chapter faces
- Luella and Carole will work on guidelines for donations by PCMG
- Eileen Sproule to chair Plant Sale, discussed who might serve on various committees, she will set up a meeting this month
- Al reported a community member wants to grow and donate plants for our Plant Sale, Board recommended getting more information as to what type of plants and how many

Preparing for the Coming Season

Daffodil shoots are up and buds are swelling on many trees! Even though it may seem as if we just finished fall clean-up and winterizing, it really is time to begin planning and preparing for spring and summer in the projects supported by the Chapter. More help means that more can be done, and there is always more to do.

Brunk House: A planning meeting for Brunk House Gardens is scheduled for February 7th at 10:30 am at Brunk House. Everyone is welcome. As we plan for the 2012 growing season, our main focus is the no-till organic vegetable garden but there are many other gardens to consider. If you like tending berries, herbs, dahlias, roses or perennials there are opportunities for you at Brunk House Gardens. If you are unable to attend the planning meeting, please call me, Marsha Graciosa, at 503-581-6357 or catch me Wednesday afternoons at many of the training sessions at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Weather permitting, we'll be at Brunk House every Tuesday starting in March.

The Arboretum crew will resume working on February 7th. Every Tuesday, from 9:00-noon, we'll be working outside or inside depending on the weather. (The second Tuesday of the month is our Board meeting time.)

The annual winter pruning at **Gentle House** will be done on Thursday, February 9 (grapes) and Thursday, February 23 (roses) from 9:30-noon. These are demonstration events to which the public is invited. Refreshments will be served. Additionally, Daryll's Nursery will be pruning shrubs on the 9th, providing an opportunity for observation. Sarah Chamberlin, 503-399-9436, is the coordinator.

Weather permitting, **Fairgrounds** work will resume on February 13 at 9:00 a.m. Call Al May, 503-623-9496 for information. An assessment of the work to be done on the areas to be maintained by Master Gardeners will be made.



"Spring Arose" Drawing by Christie Hendersen

Our 22nd Annual Plant Sale, May 11 and 12, 2012

As you look around your garden, do you see perennials or other plants that would be good to share with Plant Sale customers? If they need to be divided, be sure to do it far enough ahead to ensure a good root system in the new soil. If digging directly, check carefully for unwanted weed roots.

Chapter members with greenhouse space available are always encouraged to start seeds of vegetables, herbs, or annual flowers. They will need to be well-started and healthy if offered for sale.

↪ *The Plant Propagation session is scheduled for February 8 and is an excellent place to refresh your knowledge and skills. Also note Pat Patterson's vegetable class on February 29.*

Consider volunteering to help in some capacity in preparing for the sale. Most of the chairmanships have been filled but assistance is always needed; the sale is a big event and it doesn't happen by itself.

Plant Sale Planning Meeting: February 24, 1:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church. More information: Eileen Sproule, 503-831-4971.

The next **Fall Fling** meeting is February 22, 1:00 p.m. at the D. H. Arboretum in Dallas. Linda Yerbick, 503-623-2983.

Demo Garden Update

By Bill Leedy

The January meeting of the demonstration garden group provided an update of the current status of the program. Five topics were reviewed: 1.) location; 2.) design and layout; 3.) structures and materials; 4.) plant acquisition; and 5.) financial support. Several people have volunteered to work on these topics, but additional support is still needed.

Recent high water and flooding have clearly demonstrated that the Gun Club road site is not suitable. During the month, Darrell and I met with the City of Independence administrators. They have withdrawn support for the original N. Independence site, but proposed an alternate site between Williams Dr. and Grand St. It is a privately owned site which may be donated to the city. Final resolution is pending. If this fails to materialize we may be left with the Nesmith Park site as our only alternative.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 6th at 1:30 pm, Academy Rm 108. Please come and join us.



... **Jottings**
by President
Dolores May:

Thank you to Al May and Gail Miles for stepping in at the last moment for me at the banquet. Later, several members told me how nice the banquet was and what a good job they had done. It's great to have reliable people fill in for us when we're unable to carry out our duties.

Thank you to last year's Board members. All of you provided valuable input which helped us debate the issues we faced in 2011. I appreciated your contributions in guiding this organization. Luella, Shirley, Judy, Bill, Don and Al finished a second consecutive year on the Board. Al and Luella will join me in 2012 for our third year. I'm looking forward to working with another great Board this year.

We have a new Plant Sale Chairperson, Eileen Sproule, who volunteered just before the January Board meeting. That made my day! I was planning on scheduling a meeting for all interested members; now that's been taken care of by Eileen. Gail sent out the Plant Sale meeting announcement via e-mail. If you do not have e-mail and want to serve on the Committee, please call Eileen. She will contact you about future meetings.

This is a reminder that we will host the OMGA Executive Board meeting on February 4th at Trinity Lutheran Church. They will have a grand lunch and snacks provided by the membership supplemented with Subway sandwiches. Come and learn what issues the Executive Board face.

The Polk County Fair Board is meeting February 11 from 9:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Fairgrounds and Event Center. The annual work session will update their business plan and plan for the future of the Fairgrounds and Event Center and the annual Fair. The number of people and variety of groups who attended last year was a big surprise

to me. You will learn a lot about the Fairgrounds and have a chance to give input—along with a free lunch, how can you pass that up? I will attend and encourage you to go too. Although attendance and lunch is free, you must sign up beforehand. Please let me know as soon as possible if you plan to attend. I will send the post card with how many are going the first week of February.

Tips from OSU's Northwest Garden eNews

The subtle beauty of bark helps trees survive the winter



Subtle beauty of the leafless season. (Photo by Lynn Ketchum)

CORVALLIS, Ore. – This fall's display of colorful leaves has blown to the winter winds and now garden trees are beginning to reveal their subtle beauty with the colors and textures of their bark.

Neil Bell, an Oregon State University Extension community horticulturist, explains how the function of bark leads to such variety in its appearance. "The basic function of bark is to help the plant survive drying winds and extremes of temperature," he said.

The cork-like protective layer is dotted by pores that permit plant tissues to breathe. The size and pattern of pores is characteristic of certain kinds of trees. Some trees, such as paper birch, have smooth bark. These form new paper-thin layers of tissue every year. As the tree grows, the pores stretch, forming horizontal stripes in the bark. Smooth-barked aspens produce new layers of inner bark while outer layers are shed as powdery cells.

Smooth bark sheds water easily, keeping the trunks dry and less susceptible to lightning strikes. But smooth-bark trees are more vulnerable to chewing rodents and less resistant to fire than trees with thicker bark.

Trees with scaled or furrowed bark produce new bark tissue in overlapping patches. Older tissue is pushed outward, forming a thick coat of non-living cells. In some trees, this old coat stretches as the tree grows, splitting the bark into furrows. In others, including eucalyptus and plane trees, older bark sloughs off in patches, revealing an eye-catching pattern of different colors.

Shaggy-barked plants, such as grapes and cedars, form new bark tissues alternated with layers of food-conducting tissues. As the plant grows the layers separate, splitting the bark vertically into a shaggy coat.

"Take time to notice the tones and textures of the winter garden," Bell said. "Colorful branches, such as those of the red- or yellow-twig dogwood, also add to the subtle beauty of the leafless season." To help select plants that will catch your eye in winter, the OSU Extension Service offers the publication, "[Plant Materials for Landscaping: A List of Plants for the Pacific Northwest](#)," PNW 500. Order online, or call 800-561-6719 to purchase a copy. Cost is \$2.50 plus shipping and handling.

Author: [Judy Scott](#)

Source: [Neil Bell](#)

A dead tree or shrub? Learn from a post-mortem analysis

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Often we discover in the spring that a tree or shrub just didn't make it through the winter. There are many reasons for a woody plant to succumb and a "post-mortem" analysis can point out clues.

The weather is the first possible culprit, said Barb Fick, home horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. A

stressful winter, with heavy snow and ice, can break a lot of limbs.

"Rapid temperature fluctuations from warm to cold also can stress a woody perennial enough to kill it, especially if the perennial is not a hardy variety nor well-established," Fick said. She suggests using boughs or pruned Christmas tree branches to protect plants during cold snaps. Disease or pests can kill a tree or shrub. If you find an ailing plant, take a sample of it before it dies to a horticulture specialist or OSU Master Gardener at your local county office of the OSU Extension Service.

The cause of death might be related to its care. Did you plant it correctly? If you did, you gently loosened matted roots after removing the container. You also used the same soil you took out of the planting hole to backfill and didn't place the plant too high or too low in its planting hole. Did you fertilize it too much or not enough? If you mixed a handful of chemical fertilizer into the hole when you planted the tree or shrub, it could have fatally burned the roots. Try an organic fertilizer next time. Rotted manure, compost or an organic mix are less likely to burn the roots of a woody perennial. Or you can wait to fertilize until after the plant begins to establish.

Did you plant it where the drainage was poor? A common reason for shrub and tree death is poorly drained soils. The roots become waterlogged and die. To improve drainage, add lots of organic matter such as compost over the entire area. For very poorly drained soil, consider building a raised bed.

Did you water it enough last summer? Newly planted shrubs and trees do not have extensive root systems. Water them often, slowly and deeply at their base. Pay special attention to plants that grow under the eaves of the house. They receive little moisture and can dry out easily, especially in dry years.

If the plant had pale green, undersized foliage and little growth last year and has never been fertilized, it may have just expired for no good reason at all.

Author: [Judy Scott](#)

Source: Barb Fick

POLK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER TRAINING 2012
Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Rd., Dallas
Polk Co. Extension 503-623-8395

DATE	TIME	SUBJECT	SPEAKER	TEXT
Feb. 1	9 AM -Noon	Weeds*	Chip Bubl	Chapter 17
	1 PM - 4 PM	Wildlife Pest Management*	Dana Sanchez	Chapter 18
Feb. 8	9 AM -Noon	Plant Propagation*	Committee	Chapter 3
	1 PM - 4 PM	Soils*	Gene Pirelli	Chapter 20
Feb. 15	9 AM -Noon	Pruning Ornamentals*	Neil Bell	Chapter 4
	1 PM - 4 PM	Small Fruits*	Bernadine Strik	Chapter 11
Feb. 22	9 AM -Noon	Integrated Pest Management*	Gail Langellotto	Chapter 20
	1 PM - 4 PM	Entomology*	Jean Natter	Chapter 14
Feb. 29	9 AM -Noon	Plant Pathology*	Cindy Ocamb	Chapter 15 & 16
	1 PM - 4 PM	Vegetables*	Pat Patterson	Chapter 7
Mar. 7	9 AM -Noon	Understanding Pesticides*	Neil Bell	Chapter 19
	1 PM - 4 PM	Resources**	Neil Bell	
Mar. 14	9 AM -Noon	Problem Diagnosis 1**	Neil Bell	
	1 PM - 4 PM	Problem Diagnosis 2**	Neil Bell	
Mar. 21	9 AM -Noon	Grade Exam		
	1 PM - 4 PM	Resource Use Office Orientation	Neil Bell, Gail Miles	

* Counts as 3 hours toward MG Recertification. ** Counts as 4 hours!!

Core topics: Basic Botany; Soils & Fertilizers; Basic Entomology; IPM; Plant Disease; Diagnosing Plant Problems; Resources for MGs; Pesticide Safety



February 8 Chapter Meeting

7:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Road, Dallas

Lecture and Slide Presentation from Neil Bell's 2011 trip to England's Gardens

Neil traveled to the UK in July of 2011 to make a presentation at the International Trials Conference at RHS Garden Wisley. He will share slides of Wisley, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, the Hampton Court Palace Flower show; (the largest in the world), and photos taken the last day during a walk about London.

Polk County Master Gardener Office Schedule February 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Please sign in the Log Book and call the next duty crew when you arrive at the MG desk. If you can't work on the day you signed up for you are responsible for finding a replacement and notifying Gail Miles (623-8395) of the change.			1 Darrell Ward	2	3 Darrell Ward	4
5	6 Amy Lynn Tucker	7	8	9	10 Fred Burger	11
12	13 Amy Lynn Tucker	14 	15 Janice Ames	16	17 William Vanecek	18
19	20 Presidents' Day	21	22	23	24 Myrna Curzon	25
26	27	28	29			

Gardening in February

Planting/Propagation

- Plant windowsill container gardens of carrots, lettuce, or parsley.
 - Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers to your flowering landscape this spring: astilbe, candytuft, peony, and anemone.
 - Good time to plant fruit trees and deciduous shrubs. Replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with **resistant cultivars**.
 - Plant asparagus if the ground is warm enough.
 - Plant seed flats of cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts), indoors or in greenhouse.
 - Where soil is dry enough and workable, plant garden peas and sweet peas. Suggested varieties of garden peas include: Corvallis, Dark Green Perfection, Green Arrow, Oregon Sugar Pod, Snappy, Knight, Sugar Snap, Oregon Trail, and Oregon Sugar Pod II.
 - Good time to plant new roses.
 -
- ⇒ Elm leaf beetles and box-elder bugs are emerging from hibernation and may be seen indoors. They are not harmful, but can be a nuisance. Remove them with a vacuum or broom and dustpan.

Polk County Master Gardeners™

Neil Bell, OSU Extension
Horticulture Agent
Gail Miles, Program Assistant
Dolores May President

Board Meeting, Feb. 1, 1:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Dallas

Chapter Meeting, February 8, 7:00 p.m.,

Trinity Lutheran Church, Dallas

Membership dues - \$20.00 per year

Please send inquiries, address changes, and membership renewals to:

Gail Miles Master Gardener Program Assistant
Polk County Extension Office
P.O. Box 640
Dallas, Oregon 97338
gail.miles@oregonstate.edu

Extension office ☎ 503-623-8395

Polk County Master Gardeners -

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

Oregon Master Gardeners Association -

www.oregonmastergardeners.org

Polk Soil and Water Conservation District -

www.polkswdc.org

Master Gardener Merchandise

Shirley Sloan: 503-838-3355

Coco bricks, package of 2	\$3.00
Pronouncing Dictionary of Plant Names	\$6.00
Cuttings Through the Year	\$7.00
Mac's Field Guides:	
NW Trees	\$6.00
NW Wildflowers	\$6.00
NW Good/Bad Garden Bugs	\$6.00
NW Park/Backyard Birds	\$6.00
Master Gardener License Plate Frame	\$1.00
Trees to Know in Oregon (rev. 2010)	\$14.00

The *Polk Weed* is the publication of the Polk County Master Gardeners™, published monthly and mailed to members.

Next Polk Weed deadline February 20

Editor: Lois Martin, loismartin@minetfiber.com

Proofing/Printing: Dolores May

Distribution: Andrena Freeborn

Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.