Congratulations to the graduating class of 2010! Shown above are (l-r) Lynn Long, Dorothy Thompson, Betty Krause, Dave Rawson, Ned Kice, Mary Rollins, Joan Flynn, Jens Fredericksen, Tracey Carlson, Georgia Chapman, Barbara Bailey and Lynette Black. Missing are: David Bandel-Ramirez, Heather Bremer, Nancy Hammel, and Mel Omeg. The new MGs were good sports when quizzed by Candy Bernard-Davidson on what they have learned. Our new chapter officers were introduced and veteran MGs were recognized. Top hours volunteered went to Cheri Austin (veteran) and Jens Fredericksen (1st year). Katherine Olmsted was recognized as MG of the year. We missed all who weren’t able to join us and look forward to seeing you in January!
PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Autumn has arrived, the final event of the year (Graduation and Recognition) has taken place and now we have time to reflect. As I begin my first month as president I want to take this opportunity to thank Barbara Bailey for her leadership as President this past year. She has been a terrific mentor. I also want to thank all of you who have contributed countless hours of hard work and planning which resulted in an exciting and successful year.

A reminder to any of you who may want to give us suggestions for next year's classes or have input into next year's budget. Both of these items will be on the November Executive Board meeting agenda. That meeting will be held at 2 p.m. up in the Extension Conference room on Tuesday, November 9th. You can send input about classes to Lynn Long and email me at armstrongc_323@hotmail.com (don't forget the underscore after my name or it won't go through) with any suggestions you may have for the 2010-2011 budget. The final draft budget will be put before membership at the January Quarterly meeting.

"November comes And November goes, With the last red berries And the first white snows.

With night coming early, And dawn coming late, And ice in the bucket And frost by the gate

The fires burn And the kettles sing, And earth sinks to rest Until next spring."
- Elizabeth Coatsworth

Have a restful and happy Thanksgiving!
Candy Armstrong

Cheri Austin reported that the Bulb Sale has had a net profit to date of $298.57. Catherine Whalen presented the 2010 budget vs actual expenditures. Lynette Black reported on the DIG and presented the 2011 budget. There was discussion on having mandatory MG hours for the DIG in 2011 and presenting the recommendation at the January Association meeting.

Lynn Long asked about adding any classes to the 2011 MG Program. Currently there is discussion on having a one day seminar on Roses that Mel Omeg is spearheading. He is talking with the regional American Rose Society.

Meeting adjourned at 4pm.

PAYBACK HOUR REPORTS DUE

The 2010 Master Gardener year officially ended October 31, 2010. Please get your final payback hours submitted soon. If you know how many hours you spent in class at St. Paul's Episcopal, Mini College or the Fall Fling, submit those hours in Continuing Education also.

The 2011 year has begun so if you are reporting online check to be sure you are reporting for the correct year. You can call me if you have any questions.

Website to report hours is http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/vrs

Cheri Austin

THANK YOU, MENTORS

November 2010

Chapter Mentors,

I wish to thank our chapter mentors for helping make possible thirteen Graduating Master Gardeners in our Class of 2010.

The encouragement and personal contact during the class program and throughout their first year, that you provided, has made this possible. Hopefully these newly developed friendships will last a long time.

Thank you so much,
Janet Probstfield, Mentor Chairperson

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES - Therese Leon

HOBO SPIDERS - Lynn Long

This time of year we always get a lot of large, scary looking spiders brought into the OSU Extension office for identification. One of the largest is the hobo spider. Yesterday I spent more time than I had trying to determine if the new Water’s Edge facility had been invaded by hobo spiders or if it was one of the other large spiders that we have in this area. I wasn’t able to say for sure what it was, but most often people only want to know if it’s poisonous. The two poisonous spiders that reside in the PNW are the hobo and black widow spiders. We have some good web pages highlighted on the Master Gardener computer that help us determine if a spider is one of these two species. After some research I concluded that it was not. Often, this is the best you can do.

Most of the time, these hobo spiders stay secluded in dark, dry places such as in overgrown shrubs or the dark corners of a basement or garage. But in the fall, the adult males begin to wander more openly, in search of mates. As they come out of hiding, you might see them scurrying across the kitchen floor, or worse, attempting to scale the slick walls of your bathtub. They are poor climbers, but they are among the fastest spiders known.

Adult hobo spiders are dark brown and, including their long legs, about the size of a silver dollar. The males have two swollen appendages 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. As a funnel-web weaver, 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 rather trips up unsuspecting prey unable to navigate the layered surface.

Although not aggressive, the bite of these spiders can cause local tissue damage, and may take months to heal. But before you bring out the heavy artillery against these hobos, it is important to remember that confirmed incidence of spider bites in humans is very low.

Besides this, spiders are beneficial to gardeners and homeowners, consuming large numbers of pests. In fact the hobo’s nearly look-alike cousin, the giant house spider, may be one of the most effective competitors in keeping hobo spiders in check.

That said, it is important to take certain precautions to reduce the possibility of spider encounters.

- Keep stacks of wood or lumber far from the house;
- Wear gloves when handling firewood or stored boxes where spiders may have built nests;
- Seal holes for plumbing and wiring where wandering spiders can find entry into the house;
- Sweep webs from corners, rock walls, and shrubs.

As the weather gets colder, spiders and other “wildlife” may try to share the warmth of your home with you. Making sure that your house is well sealed will discourage this migration and allow you and your family to sleep better at night.

Good winter reading and/or gift suggestions - Lana Tepfer

This year I have been reading (off and on) two great gardening books that seem to have some information for any gardener. The first one is called Weedless Gardening by Lee Reich. His system involves gardening from the top down which he claims protects the soil and eliminates the need for heavy work. He addresses the need for composting and conditioning the soil. There are chapters on drip irrigation, building raised beds, pruning and using all manner of mulches. There are wonderful illustrations and step by step directions for everything covered. It is a paperback book that retails for only $8.95.

The second book is the revised Rodale Book of Composting in an updated format and also in paperback for $16.95. This is a much more complex book but still very understandable about the dos and don'ts related to composting. Again, good illustrations and tables of research information over the years tell the very best ways to accomplish this task. For those of us that have become "leaf thieves" to acquire enough carbon based materials to hot compost there is even a listing of the leaves with the best levels of nutrients!

For those of us who only dabble in composting because we don't have the volumes required to hot compost it is nice to have so much useable information.
CATCH THE RAIN AND USE IT!

Workshop offered to explore rain catchment systems and how to use rainwater

Over a half a gallon of water falls on a single square foot of roof space with one inch of rain. If you have a roof that is a thousand square feet, you can catch 623 gallons of water for each inch of rain. Rain collection systems typically range from the very simple using rain gutters that feed into a 50-100 gallon water tanks to very large systems that can be many thousands of gallons.

Learn more about rain catchment and water storage on Saturday November 20th at the Underwood Community Center, 951 Schoolhouse Road, Underwood, WA. This workshop on rain catchment begins at 8:30 am and continues until noon.

Clair Klock, a blueberry farmer and conservation specialist, will explore the costs and benefits of utilizing rainwater-harvesting systems. Claire will discuss the pros and cons of different systems and their benefits; above and below ground tank installation will be addressed and case studies to explore development of systems ranging from 50 gallon rain barrels to 20,000 gallon steel tanks and 2 million gallon ponds. If you are considering a rain harvesting system, consider this a resource to help in your decision making.

The workshop is sponsored by the OSU and WSU Extension Offices in Wasco, Hood River, Skamania and Klickitat Counties, Gorge Grown and The Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Underwood Conservation District. This workshop is part of a series that helps small farmers build sustainable enterprises. All are welcome. Pre-registration is requested by calling the Underwood Conservation Office at 509-493-1936. The cost is $5. For more information visit http://skamania.wsu.edu or contact Todd Murray at 509.427.3931 or email at tmurray@wsu.edu.