New Class Information 2009: The new class “payback” volunteer service requirement is 65 hours. This includes 28 hours minimum "on the desk" or at a clinic and an additional 16 hours minimum of participation in another educational service activity (see below). The remaining volunteer service hours may be spent in any program related activity such as additional desk or educational activities, or work on the projects of the YCMGA such as the plant sales and demo garden. Classes that you take in addition to the prescribed training should be noted, but do not count toward payback. Early-Bird Awards. Although only 65 hours of payback are required, new class members are encouraged to volunteer for additional hours. Any new class member logging more than 100 hours qualifies for special recognition from the Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association with an “Early Bird Award.”

Desk or Clinic Hours. For the Class of 2009, 28 hours of service must be spent answering questions from the public in person, via telephone, or email. For most people, this service will take place in the Master Gardener office. You may include hours served at clinics which are held from time to time in the community or at the county and state fairs or other activities such as answering questions from home if they are approved by Linda McMahan.

Educational Service. For the Class of 2009, 16 hours are required in educational service in addition to desk/clinic hours. You may fulfill this requirement through activities sponsored by Yamhill County’s Community Horticulture Program and designed to supply appropriate, up-to-date information to the public on gardening and horticulture. These hours directly support the educational mission of OSU. Teaching in the community, assisting or teaching after-school horticultural programs, working with low-income residents in community gardening, giving talks or demonstrations to garden clubs and civic groups, serving on the insect committee or mentor committee (for veterans), and many similar activities are all appropriate ways to complete this requirement. Linda McMahan or Deb Zaveson will also announce other appropriate activities that arise from time to time, via the website or email. People with ideas for projects that may qualify as educational service are encouraged to discuss them with Linda.

YCMGA Activities: Report these hours when the activity is sponsored by the Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association. Examples are the plant sales, general membership & board meetings, committee meetings, work in the greenhouse or the demo gardens, and work parties. If you have a question about whether an activity qualifies in this category, contact Cathy Burdett, President of the YCMGA, or Linda McMahan.

Classes You Took. These include the time you spend learning information useful to you as an OSU Master Gardener™. Examples are workshops on horticultural knowledge or increasing leadership skills. Included are YCMGA Programs, advanced training offered in Yamhill or other counties, and training offered through the OMGAs such as Gardener’s Mini-College. To qualify as recertification hours, the class must be designated as a recertification opportunity or approved by Linda McMahan. Class of 2009 members are encouraged to take advantage of classes that are offered outside of their training, and to record them on their volunteer hours sheets, but this time does NOT count toward the volunteer payback requirement.

Contacts: Please record the number of people directly contacted as a result of your volunteer work. Examples are the number of individuals attending a presentation you gave, number of people talked with at clinics, or the number of people you interacted with while on desk duty. You must complete this column to provide adequate information about the overall effects of our program to OSU.

Veteran OSU Master Gardener and Recertification: Complete the form using the category definitions above. Rather than complete a separate recertification form, please note your training and service for recertification by checking the appropriate box on the volunteer hours form (at the top). For recertification, you need 10 or more hours on the desk or at clinics, and 12 hours of additional training that is specified for recertification. If you wish to recertify by exam, please see Linda McMahan. The exam substitutes for the additional training requirement for recertification but not for the desk hours. Any OSU Master Gardener™ who wishes to interact with the public by providing educational programs or gardening advice must recertify each year. Mentors are also expected to recertify. New trainees are certified for the year following their training, but must recertify that year to work in the following year. Recertification during any calendar year qualifies the MG to provide educational activities in the following year.

Please turn in your hours to Linda McMahan or Deb Zaveson by November 30, 2009.