

Metro Master Gardener™ Newsletter

February 2014

OSU Extension Service

Metro Master Gardener™ Program

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

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.

The OSU Extension Master Gardening Program™ is funded in part by Metro, the elected regional government for the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

www.oregonmetro.gov/garden

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Dear Master Gardeners-

It is already late-January and the 2014 Master Gardener (MG) program is in full swing. We are happy to announce that 200 new trainees are registered for the training this year, and we have an additional 15 trainees that are taking the online Master Gardener training through OSU's eCampus who will participate in the volunteer program in the Portland metro region.



We would like to extend a warm welcome and a big THANK YOU to 2014 Master Gardener trainees. We are excited to share the content of the MG training with you and to also provide an exceptional volunteer experience as part of OSU Extension Service's educational and outreach mission.

The metro area Master Gardener newsletter is the place to receive updates about the MG program and find more information about volunteer opportunities, MG chapter activities and other worthwhile horticulture events in the metro area. We also have regular content-rich contributions from both OSU and area Master Gardeners like Jean Natter, which make the newsletter an educational resource as well. ENJOY!

Vegetable gardening tip (February)

February is a great time to finalize your vegetable garden and crop rotation plans for the year. Since we are having such a dry winter, you also might be able to prepare your soil for spring planting. After three to five days of no rain, test the soil by putting a shovel or digging fork into it to full depth. If the soil sticks to the tool, it is too wet to dig. If it does not stick to the tool, you should be able to perform primary tillage. Add compost and lime as needed to the surface of the soil and use a digging fork to incorporate that material and loosen the soil. Make two passes with the fork in the bed at 90-degree angles. Then, use a hard rake to chop the soil surface. If you prepare your soil early in the season, you will be, in essence, creating a stale seedbed for weeds to germinate since soil temperatures are still too cold to plant vegetables. Use a scuffle hoe to cultivate the surface of the soil to kill the weeds before planting. In mid-March or once the soil temperatures reach 50 degrees, it is time to plant spring vegetables such as potatoes, peas, carrots, beets, broccoli family crops, lettuce and more. Some of these crops can germinate when soil temperatures are cooler, but you run the risk of slow and inconsistent germination due to cold soil temperatures and damping off fungus. Start planting your crops in late February or early March if you plan to extend the season with a cold frame, cloche, or fabric row covers.

Moodle (Where to find presentations and handouts from the training)

All of the presentations from the 2014 MG training are posted on our password-protected website called "Moodle." If you are a 2014 trainee, you should be registered and have been sent an invitation from Pukhraj Deol with instructions on how to log in to the site. For veteran Master Gardeners, we hope that you are able to make it to the classes and that you check out the materials posted on Moodle. If you have logged into Moodle in the past, the 2014 materials should be available to you. If you have never logged into Moodle or need help, please contact Jay Ewing (jaybewing@yahoo.com). The main entry link to Moodle can be found at www.metromastergardeners.org on the left hand side toward the bottom. We hope that new trainees and veteran MGs alike find this resource useful and educational.

CERVIS (Where to register for volunteer events)

For many volunteer opportunities for 2014, we are going to use CERVIS volunteer software for registration, allowing you to sign-up for events through this secure online system. It will automatically send reminder emails and also allow volunteers to unregister from events. We hope that implementing this system will create a number of efficiencies for volunteers, event coordinators, and MG program staff. We are currently expanding the number of the "primary service" activities (phones, farmers' market clinics, Rose Garden, Pittock Mansion, Zoo, and other volunteer activities where Master Gardeners are directly answering questions from the general public) into CERVIS and will be sharing more about how to login and register for activities via email in the next several weeks. Please stay posted about this important change in operations for the Master Gardener program!

Other educational opportunities

As part of the newsletter, we also like to promote other educational programs that are in line with OSU's mission of providing credible information to the community. Here are some upcoming events of interest:

OSU Small Farms Conference is Saturday, February 22, 2014 at the LaSells Stewart Center in Corvallis. For more information: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/sfc>.

OSU Clackamas Extension Tree School is coming to Oregon City, Saturday, March 22, 2014. They are back with a bigger and better program than ever! There are numerous courses that would be of interest to Master Gardeners and backyard woodland folks. For more information check out the website <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/clackamas/forestry>.

Soil School 2014 is Saturday, April 5 from 8am-2pm at Lewis and Clark College in SW Portland. Join East and West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Tilth, and OSU Small Farms Program for a full day of information featuring nationally known speakers and instructors. If you're a farmer, landscaper, gardener, or grounds manager...you won't want to miss this event. For more information: <http://www.wmswcd.org/content.cfm/Events/2014-Soil-School>

All the best,

Weston

BUS TRIP to the Northwest Flower & Garden Show Seattle Convention Center – February 5, 2014

- Free Seminars •Vintage Garden Market
- Small Space Showcase •Food & Wine Garden
- Garden Gallery •Marketplace

**\$72 includes round trip,
show ticket and program**



NORTHWEST
FLOWER & GARDEN
SHOW

*Sign-up information or register at
metromastergardeners.org/multnomah/flower/*

Sponsored by Multnomah County Master Gardeners
OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS
503-650-3118 or Jordis.Yost@oregonstate.edu

WELCOME 2014 TRAINEES

We want to welcome the 200 new OSU Master Gardener trainees that have started training and are the class of 2014. They will be joining over 700 active MGs in the Metro area. Together you make up one of the strongest programs in the country. We are proud to have all of you in our numbers and expect that you will bring many new talents to a wonderful group of dedicated gardeners!

You will not be asked to be educators as part of your volunteer practicum until you are finished with your training and we can pair you up with an MG that has at least one year experience. But there are times when we offer some hands-on, support activities that you can participate in before you finish training.

Be sure to read the newsletter for information about your program, gardening tips and chapter news, and use it as a resource for what's being offered. We look forward to getting to know you and all your talents.

FEBRUARY OPPORTUNITIES

The Yard, Garden, and Patio Show (YGP) on February 28 – March 2 at the **Convention Center** (glass towers) <http://www.ygppshow.com/> is one of the first opportunities of the year for MGs to volunteer. We have several things to sign up for, so look over your date calendars and let us know if you are interested. We offer free admission for MGs that are scheduled to work, but we don't have any discounts on parking.

- **(YGP) Speaker introduction** – This opportunity can be for new trainees or veterans. MGs introduce the many speakers that give presentations at the show. We need you to have a brief training on how to work the lights in the room and for you to make yourself available for one hour time slots. Call or email Jordis for questions or to get on the schedule. 503-650-3118 jordis.yost@oregonstate.edu
- **(YGP) Cashiering in the Green Market Plant Sale** – New 2014 trainees and veterans alike are invited to cashier in this fabulous plant sale area. Vendors display the material and MGs staff the sales table. 503-650-3118 jordis.yost@oregonstate.edu

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RESOURCE FAIRS

We have **two** resource fairs coming up for new trainees (and veterans). Come and hear about all the exciting activities coming up in 2014. On February 4, 6 and 7, we will feature OSU primary volunteer opportunities. This means phones, clinics and speakers bureau. We will offer information on how to register for events online using CERVIS.

During week 9 (March 4, 6 and 7), we finish up with support activities. These activities are usually in partnership with other entities (Pittock, Crystal Springs, Oregon Food Bank, OMGA Chapters, for example). See the January 2014 Newsletter for class locations and days.

Dividing this information into two sessions has helped the new trainees understand where they can focus their time and energy in order to fulfill their 66 hours (26 primary and 40 support).

SPRING RECERTIFICATION

We are very close to having a date for spring recertification. Watch for email announcement.

Upcoming recertification opportunities....

- February 10 "Espalier – An Artistry of Plant Training and Mastery",
Clackamas County Chapter Speaker Series (see page 16)
(1 hour recertification credit max)
- February 11 "Want Fruit? Get Mason Bees!", Multnomah County Chapter Speaker
Series (See page 17)
(1 hour recertification credit max)
- February 13 "Stopping the Silent Invasion – One Gardener at a time", Washington Chapter Meeting
(see page 18)
(1 hour recertification credit max)
- February 15 Pruning Demonstration and Workshop,
Washington County Chapter activity:
<http://metromastergardeners.org/washington/>
- February 15 Quick and Easy Plant Propagation
Washington County Chapter activity:
<http://metromastergardeners.org/washington/>
- February 19 Demo Garden Seminar: "Rose Pruning", Washington
County Chapter activity
<http://metromastergardeners.org/washington/>
- February 22 OSU Small Farms Conference, Corvallis
<http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/sfc>
- March 22 OSU Clackamas Extension Tree School
(Certain classes)
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/clackamas/forestry>
- April 5 Soil School
Lewis & Clark College (see below)



Soil School

Saturday, April 5 8 am - 2 pm

Lewis & Clark College

For gardeners and small farm owners!

Featuring:

Dr. Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware, author of
Bringing Nature Home

Dr. Scott Burns, PSU Chair of Geology

James "Dr. Soil" Cassidy, OSU Soil Instructor

Register by clicking "Events" at www.wmswcd.org

Cost: \$30 single/\$50 double

Learn about soil structure and composition,
analyze and interpret your own soil sample,
and get your hands dirty taking soil tests
and learning about native plant habitats.



Mason Bees & More (part 2 of 2)

Ron Spendal; OSU MG, Washington County

The saga continues

I watched the nesting developments throughout season two. I took pictures and kept notes. As the mason bee nesting season was coming to a close I noticed that other bees and some wasps began using the nesting trays as well. More pictures, more notes. One species of wasp, *Isodontia elegans* (the grass carrier wasp) was easy to identify, but the national insect distribution maps didn't show the wasp in western Oregon. (I had collected 52 cocoons of this wasp.) I submitted my notes and photographic data on the grass carrier wasps to the OSU entomology department where they confirmed my identification of the wasp. They have since worked with the organization that maintains global insect distribution maps to reflect that this wasp is present in western Oregon. (To see my images, go to <http://www.discoverlife.org/> and search for *Isodontia elegans*; on the next page, scroll to "14 thumbnails" and click; my photographs with site data are the nest tray (I_NAT2285) and the wasp (I_NAT2290).



Fig. 1: A typical Mason Bee station which holds 12-24 nesting trays. Two to three stations are set up at each of my research sites. (Ron Spendal).



Fig. 2: A grass carrier wasp, *isodontia elegans*; the ruler is in inches. (Ron Spendal).

More unknown Hymenoptera

Some of the other nesting tray inhabitants could not be identified by their nests or cocoons. I purchased a digital microscope to record and file detailed pictures. I also sent photos and descriptions off to eight entomology departments across the U. S. and to the Xerces Society, only to learn that many bee species have similar looking cocoons and nesting habits. Identification at this point was impossible; so, following the instructions of the USDA Bee Lab in Logan, Utah, I isolated each type of cocoon and carefully stored them to capture whatever bee or wasp might emerge the following spring. The adults would then be sent to the USDA Bee Lab for identification.

Problems with Krombein mites

At the end of season two, I harvested over 700 mason bee cocoons, substantially more than in the first season. I also noticed more mites, so I needed to get serious about cocoon cleaning. The father of my mentor at the University of Victoria came up with a dry sand process to clean cocoons. I analyzed his process, suggested improvements and ended up developing a device that tested well. The test consisted of counting the mites on the cocoons before and after the sand cleaning. It also involved determining how many cocoons to clean at a time, how much sand to use, and how long the cleaning process should last for each batch. I sent two prototypes of the device to the University for confirmation testing, and they performed very well.

Some conclusions about mason bees



Fig. 3: A nesting channel of a spider wasp (*Trypoxylon politum*). The individual larval cells are provisioned with small orb weaver spiders. (Ron Spendal; 8-19-2013).

My data collection led me to certain conclusions. Mason bees don't seem to have a preference for paper straw inserts. They did use them but not to any greater degree than they used bare wood nesting channels. The straws had to be carefully peeled open at the time of cocoon cleaning and this took considerable time. I decided I wouldn't use them in the future. I intended to use bare wood nesting channels. Mason bees don't seem to favor round bottomed nesting channels over flat bottomed nesting channels. They used both equally. The literature states that a male to female sex ratio of 1.5 - 2:1 is normal for mason bees in the wild (*How to Manage the Blue Orchard Bee*, Bosch and Kemp). The 11 ½ inch nesting channels produced a male to female ratio of approximately 1:3 so I was able to engineer a significant increase in the female population, the real workhorses.



Fig. 4: Potter wasp (*Ancistrocerus antelope*) nesting cells provisioned with apple-and-thorn skeletonizers (*Choreutis pariana*) as larval food. (Ron Spendal; 8-22-2013).

Season three

For season three I arranged for eight sites to be in my native pollinator study. These sites are spread throughout western Washington County and the western edge of Multnomah County. I made 250 more nesting trays all with Plexiglas lids. I built roofed bee boxes (Fig.1) capable of holding up to 36 nesting trays and installed two to three boxes per site. I set out a total of 625 mason bee cocoons. I visited each site every Monday, for 35 consecutive weeks starting February 18.



Fig. 5: Several cells of *Osmia agalia* which have been removed from the nesting tray for observation. (Ron Spendal; 8-21-2008)

The mason bees began emerging the week of March 15. I recorded the nesting activity in each tray. By July 8 all of the mason bee nest cells contained cocoons. Again, just as the mason bee season was ending, other solitary native pollinators began showing up in my nesting trays. All nesting activity by other bees and wasps stopped at the end of September.

I've counted and cleaned 3,716 mason bee cocoons resulting from season three nesting activity. The male to female ratio continues to be 1:3 using the 11 ½ inch deep nesting channels.

Hopefully I will be able to continue to grow my

mason bee cocoon population by over 500% as I did from season two to season three. I've counted over 600 *Isodontia elegans* (grass carrier wasp) cocoons (Fig. 2). I collected cocoons of a spider wasp (*Trypoxylon politum*) (Fig. 3); a potter wasp (*Ancistrocerus antelope*) (Fig. 4); *Osmia agalia* (no common name) (Figs. 5 & 6), the wool carder bee (*Anthidium manicatum*) (Fig. 7), and two unknown species of resin bees.

Generalizations from the data

My data collection shows a seasonal flow of native pollinators, but it will take more study and experimentation to better understand this. Mason bees are the earliest bees to appear, and then, as they begin to significantly decline, other native bees and wasps show up. Three of the sites I worked with also raised honey bees. The native pollinators and the honey bees appeared to coexist in noncompetitive harmony. I'm in the process of reanalyzing my data from season two to see if I can learn any more from the transition from season two to season three.

I hope to add a few more sites to my project in season four (2014), and have made 200 additional nesting trays using the original design plus a group of experimental trays with varying nesting channel dimensions. Some native pollinators may not prefer 5/16 inch channels, so I will make nesting trays with channels ranging from 1/8 inch up to 1/2 inch.



Fig. 6: *Osmia agalia* larva in its cell as seen through the Plexiglas cover of the nesting tray. (Ron Spendal).



Fig. 7: Wool Carder bee (*Anthidium manicatum*) cells in a nesting tray. The bee collects the soft fluff from leaves of host plants in the mint family. (Ron Spendal; 2012-5).

Educational presentations

I've made several presentations on what I have learned about mason bees and other pollinators to a variety of groups. The Columbia County Master Gardeners have installed a mason bee education site at their demonstration garden. They have replicated the nesting tray design I use and are using my sand cleaning device and process to conduct community mason bee cocoon cleaning workshops. The Home Orchard Society has expressed interest in a fall of 2014 presentation on mason bees and a demonstration of my nesting trays and sand cleaning process.

I'm working with the USDA to educate Washington County farmers about native pollinators. I'm also working with the USDA on designing a mason bee education project for elementary schools using my nesting trays and practices.

More to plan, do, analyze

In the future I would like to experiment with different types of wood used in making my nesting trays to see if mason bees have a preference. I would also like to experiment with different mixes of native plant seeds to see if one type of bee meadow is more attractive to native pollinators than another. So far this journey has been very interesting, but I feel there is still so much to learn and so little time. As a citizen scientist my experiences to date suggest that conventional wisdom should not define the basics of my bee keeping practices, but rather an analytical basis for my bee keeping practices should attempt to redefine conventional wisdom.

Master Gardeners Shine At Peninsula Park Rose Garden

Three Master Gardeners launched Friends of Peninsula Park Rose Garden early in 2012, Master Gardener volunteers have been integral to the group's mission to preserve and enhance the garden.

Our core team has grown from a handful to nearly two dozen committed members, with approximately half of the team active Master Gardeners. Vets and interns alike have pitched in with everything from weeding, deadheading and monthly clinics to the monumental task of replanting the floor of the garden in preparation for the June 2013 centennial celebration – an effort that required several work parties during the first three months of 2013.



Valued Master Gardeners in the Peninsula Park Rose Garden.

In addition, many volunteers look forward to our weekly Master Gardener Friday, held from June through September. During the popular refreshment break, volunteers ask Master Gardeners not only about roses, but also bring numerous home gardening questions. Near the end of the 2013 season, some volunteers started bringing in plant problem samples – just like clinics!

Given the leadership role OSU fosters among new recruits and vets, it's not surprising that we're creating a great Master Gardener community in this historic North Portland neighborhood. The Friends group can't thank our Master Gardener colleagues enough for the ongoing support provided to Peninsula Park Rose Garden.

And, we're pleased to announce we have another replanting project planned for February. We hope you can join us and provide the leadership spark so essential for the entire volunteer crew. This year, our project is replanting a portion of the slopes with about 800 donated roses.

Replanting and spring pruning activities will take place February 5, 6, 14 and 18, with 9 a.m. starts on all days. This project is an excellent opportunity for Master Gardeners – both vets and interns – to get a head start on 2014 volunteer hours. To sign up for one or more days, email Friends of Peninsula Park Rose Garden at penrosevolunteers@gmail.com.

If you can't volunteer, you can still help by making a tax-deductible contribution. Donate online at parklandia.org/give-parks or email penrosevolunteers@gmail.com for more details. Stay informed by following us on [facebook.com/penrosefriends](https://www.facebook.com/penrosefriends), which has a wonderful gallery of 2013 photos, or twitter.com/penrosefriends.

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR FOR THE METRO AREA

Feb 4, 6, 7	MG Resource Fair
Feb 5	Northwest Flower & Garden Show bus trip
Feb 5, 6, 14, 18	Peninsula Park Rose Garden replanting and spring pruning activities
Feb 7 – 9	Yard Garden and Patio Show
Feb 10	Clackamas Co. – “Espalier – An Artistry of Plant Training & Mastery” (1 hr. recert. credit)
Feb 11	Multnomah Co. – “Want Fruit? Get Mason Bees!” (1 hr. recert. credit)
Feb 13	Washington Co. – “Stopping the Silent Invasion – One Gardener at a Time” (1 hr. recert. credit)
Feb 14	Washington Co. – MG Community Grant Applications are due
Feb 15	Clackamas Co. – Pruning Workshop (Recertification opportunity)
Feb 15	Washington Co. – “Quick and easy Plant Propagation” (Recertification opportunity)
Feb 15	Washington Co. – Pruning Demo
Feb 19	Washington Co. – Rose Pruning Class (Recertification opportunity)
Feb 20-23	Portland Spring Home and Garden Show
Feb 22	OSU Small Farms Conference (Recertification opportunity)
March 8	Clackamas Co. – Garden Discovery Day
March 10	Clackamas Co. – “Companion Planting and Rotation for the Vegetable Garden” and Annual Potluck
March 11	Multnomah Co. – “Secrets of Vegetable Gardening in the Pacific Northwest”
March 22	OSU Clackamas Extension Tree School (Recertification on certain classes)
March 29	Multnomah Co. – Early Spring Edibles Plant Pick-up and Sale
April 12	Clackamas Co. – “Secrets of the Tomato Masters”
April 14	Clackamas Co. – “How to Build a Living Wreath”
May 3	Multnomah Co. – Incredible Edibles Plant Sale
May 3 & 4	30 th Spring Garden Fair
May 12	Clackamas Co. – “Making the Most of Small Gardens”
June 9	Clackamas Co. – “Impact of Urban Trees”
July 14	Clackamas Co. – Tour of Vern Nelson’s garden
Aug 11	Clackamas Co. – Annual Chapter picnic
Sept 8	Clackamas Co. – Wildlife Viewing Opportunities on the National Wildlife Refuges along the Oregon Coast
Oct 13	Clackamas Co. – “The Art of Bonsai”
Nov 10	Clackamas Co. – “Weather and Gardening”
Dec 8	Clackamas Co. – “Designing & Equipping the Home Greenhouse”



February Garden Calendar

Sustainable gardening

Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices.

Preventative pest management is emphasized over reactive pest control. Identify and monitor problems before acting, and opt for the least toxic approach that will remedy the problem.

First consider cultural and then physical controls. The conservation of biological control agents (predators, parasitoids) should be favored over the purchase and release of biological controls.

Use chemical controls only when necessary, only after identifying a pest problem, and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. Least-toxic choices include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides — when used judiciously.

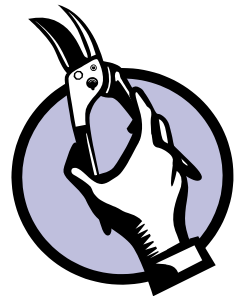
Planning

- Tune up lawn mower and garden equipment before the busy season begins.
- Have soil tested to determine nutrient needs. For more information, [contact your local Extension office](#) for a list of testing laboratories or view [Laboratories Serving Oregon: Soil, Water, Plant Tissue, and Feed Analysis](#) (EM 8677).
- Select and store healthy scion wood for grafting fruit and nut trees. Wrap in damp cloth or peat moss and place in plastic bag. Store in cool place.
- Plan an herb bed for cooking and creating an interesting landscape. For example, choose parsley, sage, chives, and lavender. Choose a sunny spot and plant seeds or transplants once the danger of frost has passed (late-April or early-May in the Willamette Valley and Central Coast; June or July in Eastern and Central Oregon).
- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers to your flowering landscape this spring. Examples include candytuft, peony, penstemon, and coneflower.



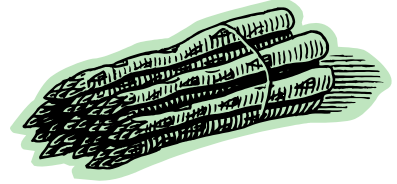
Maintenance and Clean Up

- Repair winter damage to trees and shrubs.
- Make a cold frame or hotbed to start early vegetables or flowers.
- Fertilize rhubarb with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Incorporate cover crops or other organic matter into soil.
- Prune and train grapes; make cuttings.
- Prune fruit trees and blueberries.
- **Eastern Oregon:** Prune and train summer-bearing and fall-bearing raspberries.
- **Western Oregon:** Prune deciduous summer-blooming shrubs and trees; wait until April in high elevations of Eastern and Central Oregon.
- **Western Oregon:** Prune and train trailing blackberries (if not done the prior August); prune back raspberries.
- **Western Oregon:** Prune fall-bearing raspberries (in late-February or early-March).
- **Western Oregon:** Prune clematis, Virginia creeper, and other vining ornamentals.



Planting/Propagation

- Plant windowsill container gardens of carrots, lettuce, or parsley.
- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers 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 a greenhouse.
- **Western Oregon:** 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.
- **Western Oregon:** Good time to plant new roses.



Pest Monitoring and Management

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Use delayed-dormant sprays of lime sulfur for fruit and deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose, bacterial canker of stone fruit and eastern filbert blight. Sterilize tools before each new cut.
- Control moles and gophers with traps.
- **Western Oregon:** 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.
- **Western Oregon:** Monitor for European crane fly and treat lawns if damage has been verified.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Pasteurize soil for starting seedlings in pots or flats, or use clean sterile commercial mixes.
- **Central Oregon:** Gather branches of quince, forsythia, and flowering cherries; bring indoors to force early bloom.



February 22, 2014



March 22, 2014



CLACKAMAS COUNTY CHATTER

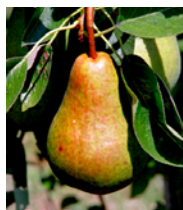
Chapter Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2014, 7 p.m.

Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr., Milwaukie

Espalier – An Artistry of Plant Training and Mastery

MaryVan Agtmael



Espalier is an attempt to control the nature of a plant by structuring its growth pattern with the use of rigid form. It works better than training our children, spouses or pets, according to Mary. After being raised on a farm and then gardening on her own property, Mary took the MG course in Linn/Benton Counties in

2007. She realized she really didn't know plants and gardening techniques. Later, Mary discovered espaliering in growing grapes. Now she teaches people how to espalier, so that anyone can grow a tree fruit.

March Program

Monday, March 10, 2014

Companion Planting & Rotation for the Vegetable Garden

Darren Morgan of Shonnard's Nursery

Improve yields with less work. Inter-planting and companion planting use the natural aspects of some plants to repel insects and diseases, balance nutrient use, and otherwise encourage other plants to grow. Crop rotation differs from companion planting in some respects, but uses many of the same principles to produce higher crop yields with few pests and disease problems and nutrient inputs.

This meeting will be our annual potluck welcoming the 2013 Interns to the Chapter. Veteran members, please bring your favorite dish to pass.

February Pruning Workshop

The annual pruning workshop will be held at the home of Marie Blacklidge on February 15 from 10 -1. (20182 S Ferguson Rd, Oregon City, OR 97045) This will be a wonderful opportunity to get some hands-on instruction in pruning fruit trees, roses, berries and more. Space is limited, so sign up early. Contact Marie Blacklidge at 503-860-0629 or Jane Collier at 503-266-1191.

Green Glove

Our Green Glove recipient for January is Sharon Andrews. Sharon has been extra busy this time of the year in addition to her work on the executive board as an advisor. She also participates in the Open Gardens, Directory, Historian and Photographer, Spring Garden Fair and Newsletter committees, in addition to volunteering at the End of the Oregon Trail Gardens. Our thanks to you for all the time you spend in service to our chapter!

Upcoming Programs

- **April 14** - How to Build a Living Wreath (and/or Vertical Panel). *Becky Sell of Sedum Chicks*
- **May 12** - Making the Most of Small Gardens. *Jolly Butler*
- **June 9** - Impact of Urban Trees. *Geoffrey Donovan of US Forest Service*

Chapter Events

- **February 15** - Pruning Workshop
- **March 8** - Garden Discovery Day
- **March 10** - Annual Chapter Potluck
- **April 12** - Secrets of the Tomato Masters
- **May 3 & 4** - 30th Spring Garden Fair
- **July 14** - Annual Chapter Outing: A tour of Vern Nelson's garden
- **August 11** - Annual Chapter Picnic

Garden Discovery Day

Saturday, March 8, 2013, 9 a.m. to noon

Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr., Milwaukie

Don't miss our 5th annual Garden Discovery Day. In one morning, you will gain essential gardening tips to start the 2014 growing season!

Session 1

- 9:00 Raised-Bed Gardening
- 9:30 Mason Bees
- 10:00 Pruning Trees & Shrubs
- 10:30 Early-Season Veggies
- 11:00 Starting Tomatoes from seeds
- 11:30 Growing Blueberries

Session 2

- Managing Slugs & Snails
- Lawn Care
- Low care fruit trees
- Pruning Fruit Trees
- Attracting Pollinators
- Spring Gardening Tips



Join the fun as we explore the latest gardening know-how through seminars, educational displays, soil pH testing service, and a gardening clinic, all free to participants. Be sure to tell your friends about this opportunity to receive many gardening tips from the experts! [click here for a .pdf of the event to share.](#)

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OSU Master Gardeners: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg> **Clackamas County Master Gardeners :** www.cmastergardeners.org

February 2014

Speaker Series

**Tuesday, February 11
7:00pm**

Mt. Tabor Presbyterian
Church

5441 SE Belmont Street

**Speaker: Sherian A.
Wright, amateur
naturalist and author.**

**Topic: "Want Fruit? Get
Mason Bees!"**

Save the date...

For Incredible

Edibles!!!

Back by popular demand
the **Incredible Edibles
Plant Sale** will be held on
Saturday, May 3rd.

Your chance to stock up
on a wide-array of organic,
locally-grown summer sea-
son veggies. One-stop
shopping for all your edible
garden needs! Mark your
calendar! **Details to come.**

Next month...

Tuesday, March 11

***"Secrets of Vegetable Gar-
dening in the Pacific
Northwest".***

Join long-time Northwest
gardener, garden designer,
and author, **Lorene
Edwards Forkner**, as she
shares the unique eccentrici-
ties of the Northwest grow-
ing calendar. Get encour-
agement and Lorene's
secrets for getting the most
out of our often-trying
vegetable gardening season.

Multnomah County Grapevine

In cooperation with the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program



"Want Fruit? Get Mason Bees!"

In the beginning... it was all about honeybees. Their precious honey has always been given high recognition. The honeybee is not native to our country but was brought to North America. With serious issues regarding the honeybee's decline, the mason bee is gaining in popularity, as another bee that serves as an early spring pollinator.

Mason bees are found all over the world, but the northwest has its own native - *Osmia lignaria*. Join author, **Sherian Wright**, and learn how easy it is to set up a permanent habitat for this often-overlooked native bee. Know how to tell if an apple is fully pollinated. View movie clips of a male mason bee emerging from his cocoon, a mating frenzy, and the female using her butt to dig mud to make mud balls for her cell walls. Find out why she is known as a super pollinator. With minimal setup, you can become proactive in the preservation of this very important second-source pollinator.

Sherian Wright, is the author of *"Mason Bees for the Backyard Gardener"*. Her past experience as a mechanical design engineer influenced her approach to studying and documenting mason bees for the past 10 years. Books will be available for sale.

Early Spring Edibles Pick-up and SALE



With the official arrival of spring it is time to envision your kitchen garden...harvesting nutritious just picked, goodness for your table! Swing by the ***Early Spring Edibles Plant Pick-up and SALE***. For those who took advantage of our 'Pre-order Sale' your orders will be waiting for you (Pre-orders pick-up by 2pm). **Didn't place an order? Don't despair!** There will be a luscious array of organic, locally-grown spring veggie starts from Asian greens to turnips, heirlooms to hybrids available for purchase. Stellar, proven varieties from which to choose.

When: Saturday, March 29th, 9am to 3pm

Where: SMILE Station, 8210 SE 13th Avenue, Portland, Sellwood neighborhood

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Washington County Chapter Chat

Good Dirt for the Master Gardeners of Washington County, Oregon

February 2014

CHAPTER MEETING & PROGRAM:

Thursday, February 13

6:30 p.m. Social time 6:45 p.m. Chapter meeting
7:15 p.m. Speaker Series Program

Location: First Baptist Church, 5755 SW Erickson Ave., Beaverton.

SPEAKER: Robert Emanuel, PhD Clean Water Services

Stopping the Silent Invasion - One Gardener at a Time

Invasive species cause serious damage to the environment, the economy and sometimes to human health. Sixty to-eighty percent of invasive plants are spread through gardens. Learn from an expert how to reduce the spread of both common and new invasives. Robert's career has focused on natural resources and watershed management: he is a professional botanist, social scientist, and water quality researcher for the National Park Service. Robert has worked more recently as water resources project manager for Clean Water Services in Washington County, and is the Noxious Weed Coordinator. Come on board! Every gardener has an important role to play to STOP the silent invasion.

REMINDER: Chapter meeting night is moved to the 2nd Thursday of the month for February and March. In April, it will revert to the 1st Tuesday of the month.

COMING UP:

Master Gardener TRAINING is in full swing!

Attendance at any of the remaining classes will provide 3 primary hours per session, or 6 hours per day. You can complete the 12 hours for annual recertification.

2014 Master Gardener COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS are due February 14. See the chapter website for details.

<http://www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org/>

Fair-Plex Demo Garden Wed. From 9 a.m. to noon.

Jenkins Estate Learning Garden Thursdays from **Jan 30** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come on out if you are interested. Bring gloves and shovel. Wheelbarrows and buckets welcome! Follow progress at <http://jenkinslearninggarden.blogspot.com/>

Fri. Feb. 7- Sun. 9 Yard Garden and Patio Show Portland Convention center

Sat. Feb. 15 Quick and easy Plant Propagation 10:30 – 12 noon. Forest Grove Library (Grow It Series)

Sat. Feb. 15 Pruning Demo 9 am – 12 noon with Tualatin Valley Garden Club 3835 SW Minter Bridge Rd.

Wed. Feb. 19 Rose Pruning Class Fair-Plex Demo Garden 9:30 - 10.30 pm.

Thurs.-Sun. Feb. 20-23 Portland Spring Home and Garden Show - Expo Center.

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February 2014
MASTER GARDENER™ NEWSLETTER



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