

The Garden News

Two Washington State Master Gardener Conferences

Remember the enthusiasm, excitement and interest created by the presenters and your fellow students in your Master Gardener Training Class? I do, mainly because I just graduated last December, but I also remember experiencing these same feelings when attending several WSU State Master Gardener Conferences with my Master Gardener wife, Judy. We eagerly anticipated the offerings of five different conferences all across the state, from Port Angeles to Richland, and were never disappointed.

Well, the 36th Annual Conference is being held this year on the WSU campus in Pullman, September 24-26, and all are welcome, not just seasoned veterans, but new graduates, and spouses alike. Registration details are not available yet, but this spring, look for class out-lines and registration information on the WSU web site, <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu>. Like at all past conferences, it's a great time to meet enthusiastic gardeners from all over the

state. It's a time to escape day to day chores and concentrate for two or three full days on all aspects of gardening and the services we provide to our communities. You generally will have four seminars on both Friday and Saturday, with four seminar choices for each of the time slots. The conference usually offers pre and post tours, as well as a welcoming dinner and a banquet. Organize carpools with other Clark County master gardeners, and we guarantee you will have a fun and educational weekend. You will come home fired up with new ideas for your master gardener projects and your own garden.

We encourage you to register for the 2009 State Conference... rekindle the enthusiasm from your Master Gardener Training Class days. And speaking of enthusiasm, I am very excited to announce that our very own Clark County Master Gardener Foundation is submitting a proposal to host the State Conference here in Vancouver in 2010!

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Calendar:

Wednesdays 10 a.m.
78th St. Greenhouse
nancysgarden@comcast.net

Thursdays 9-12
Fort Vancouver Garden

Feb. 3rd 7:00 p.m.
Master Gardener
Foundation of Clark County
Meeting at CASEE Center,
11104 NE 149th St Bldg. B
Brush Prairie, WA

Feb. 6th Plant Sale Deadline
<http://www.clarkcd.org>

February is the perfect month for planning your vegetable gardens and planting your bare-root fruit trees and cane berries.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



**CONFERENCES... *Continued***

The Organizing Committee (Dean Sutera, Fran Hammond and Karen Palmer) has received Clark County MG Foundation Board approval to proceed with a request to the State organization to hold the 2010 State MG Conference in Clark County. Our proposal is due by Feb. 14th, and we will learn of the State's decision by April 1st. We think that only one other county is presenting a proposal, and believe that we have a very good chance to be selected, considering that in its 36 year history, the State MG Conference has never been hosted by Clark County.

The Organizing Committee received and considered proposals from the Hilton and the Red Lion at the Quay to host the conference. We have toured the Red Lion at the Quay, and found all of its facilities ideally suited for a conference of our size (300+ attendees). The 2006 renovation of the hotel and conference rooms was top notch. We have also discussed our audio-visual needs with the hotel and their AV provider, and find their equipment and service to be state-of-the-art. After considering the costs of each hotel, we have selected the Red Lion at the Quay, and they are reserving the entire hotel for us for September 23-25, 2010.

We will keep you updated, but in the meantime, we'd like to hear from you. A dozen or more master gardeners have already stepped forward,

and volunteered their services in a number of different ways, but we are going to need a lot more people to make this a real success. Once we get approval from the State, we will be setting up committees and getting to work. What we have done so far has really been fun and exciting. We think we have the interest and talent here in Clark County to "blow the socks off" any previous Conference, and are anxious to prove it....WHAT CAN YOU GET EXCITED ABOUT? WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES DO YOU WANT TO WORK ON?

COMMITTEE POSSIBILITIES

Advertising...Speakers...Facilities...Food...
Sponsors...Tours and Local Attractions...On Site
Registration...Audio Visual...Entertainment...
Conference Store...Raffle and Silent Auction...
Banquet Program...Finance...Awards and County
Displays.

Please email your areas of interest to Dean at dsutera45@msn.com. We look forward to working with you.

Enthusiastically,
The Organizing Committee....Dean Sutera, Karen
Palmer and Fran Hammond
Please call Dean (687-1967) anytime for further
information.

RECIPES

Do you have a favorite recipe that uses ingredients fresh from your garden? Would you like to share it with your fellow gardeners? If so, please submit your recipe to my email address jeanne.cady@gmail.com.

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.

**MG COORDINATOR CAROLYN'S CORNER**

This month I'm working on ways to be more efficient and effective as Program Coordinator. One of my approaches is to be a better communicator. That will entail replying to the e-mails you send, so you'll know I've read them. Returning phone calls within one business day and being available in my office on a more 'regular' basis. Those have been my goals all along, but circumstances have often made them impossible goals to reach.

On that note, I wish to "communicate" how pleased and thankful I am for your willingness in the past few months to step up and take on some of the organizational jobs in the master gardener office. It is not the "fun gardening" activity that we advertise to our volunteers, but it is work that helps the program run more efficiently and effectively.

I have gotten rave reviews for the class of 2008 from several Veteran Master Gardeners. I am proud of you, and I expect great things from the Clark County Master Gardeners over the coming year.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Gordon

Organic Remedies

Tip of the Month:

Eggs and Water

Use: To repel deer

How to make: Combine 4 eggs with 1 quart of water.

How to apply: Pour mixture into a spray bottle and spray onto plants that you want to protect from deer.

get ready for spring to-do-list**CONIFERS**

Look for aphids, spray with insecticidal soap if needed.

SHRUBS & VINES

Tidy up any dead stems.

VEGETABLE GARDENS

Dig up any remaining root vegetables by end of February. Plan your garden.

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Cut tall deciduous grasses close to the ground. Comb out old growth of evergreen grasses with your fingers and cut back tattered growth.

BULBS

Check stored bulbs and discard any rotten ones. If shriveled, sprinkle lightly with water.

TREES

Prune fruit trees, filberts, ornamental trees and deciduous summer-flowering shrubs.

IN GENERAL

Assess the basic structure of your garden. Order seed. Keep bird feeders full of fresh seeds. Start cleaning up garden beds by removing windblown debris and cutting out dead branches.



News From The Greenhouse



C

old and snow, along with the holidays, kept the greenhouse crew from doing much work during the last few weeks of December.

When we returned in January to check on how the plants survived after being buried in a foot of snow, we discovered that one of the older fiberglass greenhouses had collapsed under the weight of the heavy, wet snow and ice. The greenhouse had been used as a propagation area for seedlings, pot

storage and protection from freezing temperatures for tender tropical type plants. Fortunately, the way the center beam collapsed there was very little damage to the tender plants or the propagation tents. As for the many plants outside, we will have to wait a few more months to see what has survived our first white Christmas. It will be a welcome sight to see the first green shoots and buds of Spring.



A Note from the Editor

We are always looking for articles for our newsletter. Do you have a tip, topic, suggestion or something of interest you would like to see included in our Newsletter? Please contact me at jeanne.cady@gmail.com. Deadlines for submissions: The 15th of each month.

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Clark County MG Endowment
<http://clark.wsu.edu/volunteer/mg/endowment/contribute.html>

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://clark.wsu.edu/volunteer/mg>

Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County

2008 CCMG ENDOWMENT REPORT

We “rang out” the old year with a total of \$36,960 in contributions to our Clark County Master Gardener Endowment! The contributors in 2008 were, by contribution category:

Visionary (\$5,000+)

Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County

Cornerstone (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Charles Adams
Wayne Chandler

Patron (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Odelia Stevenson

Sponsor (\$500-\$1,000)

Marilyn Brown
Merle Cisney
Roy and Marie Rich
Karen Palmer
UBS Financial Services, Incorporated

Founder (\$1-\$499)

Libby Adcock
Bobbi Bellomy
Nancy Benthin
Christopher and Judith Bice
Edward Bolke
Gary and Faye Bosman
Charles Brun
Bianca Elmer
Sally Greenlee
Elsie Grooms
Enchanted Gardens
Frances Hammond
Michael and Susan Haynes
Robin Holman
Christopher Huntington
Roberta Jacobs
Maan and Dixie Jawad
Peter and Gudrin Mahrt
Albert and Eloyce O'Connor
Benjamin Palmer
Ken Pellens
Karen Plitt

Bobbi Ricchuiti
Janet Senning
Kit Stowell
Lisa Sundstrom
James Trabue
James Walther

THANK YOU!!!

As you all know, the stock market has been declining in value as our overall economy struggles. To date, the WSU Foundation's investments, while having lost value, have only lost about half as much as the Dow. I only wish WSU was managing my investments!!

The good news is that you only actually lose money in the stock market if you sell at a depreciated value. For that reason, Dr. Brun has decided to NOT take any distributions from the Endowment in 2009. Our contributions will be left in the Endowment to increase in value along with the recovering stock market.

Because the stock market is depressed, many stocks are currently greatly undervalued and, consequently, are “good buys” for the long term. That makes investments made now even more valuable in the future. It's the old “Buy low, sell high.” philosophy at work! Thus, there's no better time to contribute to your Endowment than the present. We intend to make our contributions in the near future in order to maximize the number of shares they purchase for our Endowment. And, for the same reason, we urge you make your 2009 contribution as soon as possible.

Thank you for your past and future support!

Wayne Chandler
Marilyn Brown
Co-chairs, Endowment Committee

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

NEW PROJECTS--At our Board meeting January 06, the Board decided to pursue two *exciting* projects that hold great potential for our Foundation!!

The first "*excitement*" is hosting the 2010 statewide Master Gardener Conference. Dean Sutera is heading up this effort with Fran Hammond and Karen Palmer making up the rest of the steering committee. They are developing our proposal due February 14 to the State Master Gardener Foundation. The State Foundation will then select a proposal (so far, we only know of our proposal and one other) and inform the selectee in March. There are more details in Dean's article elsewhere in this newsletter.

I'm personally enthusiastic at the potential of showcasing the Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County and our Clark County Master Gardener Program! In addition to a fabulous gardening climate, Southwest Washington offers proximity to some outstanding pre and post conference tours. We will show we are a destination location for Master Gardeners wanting a fabulous gardening oriented vacation plus fun for the whole family!!

The second "*excitement*" is through Clark County. Clark County secured a grant to build and install 100 (50 in 2009 and 50 in 2010) raised beds and worm bins for families in Clark County.

In addition, we would mentor the folks in their first summer of growing their own vegetables using the "square foot gardening method" and evaluate the success of the project. We have to submit a bid for this project; so, it's not a "done deal" yet!

Bob Brunelle is heading up this effort. Ken Pellens, Dale Thompson, Al Pavelko, Nancy Funk and I are assisting Bob in developing our bid and, if the bid is successful, will head up various aspects of the project. But, we'll need help; so, stay tuned!

This project has the potential to raise **thousands** of dollars (and, you all know money excites me!) for the Foundation! These are funds that we will return to the community through our grant process. In addition to earning money for future projects, we will be fulfilling one of our purposes for existing as an organization—providing horticultural education to the citizens of Clark County!

OLD GREENHOUSE—Greenhouse #2 gave up under our heavy snow load and "imploded"! While it was disheartening to lose the greenhouse, it was wonderful to see how folks came together on Friday, January 09 to remove the debris. Within three hours the removal was complete, the remains were in two dumpsters provided by Clark County and we were chowing down at a luncheon potluck. And, the best news of all—no one was hurt!!

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT...*Continued*

2009 BUDGET—Your Board will meet in Executive Session January 22nd to set the 2009 Budget including determining what grant proposals will be funded. I plan on publishing the 2009 Budget in our next Newsletter.

THE FEBRUARY 03 EVENING MEETING—

Our first evening meeting of 2009 will feature Mary Jones talking on lavender (and, I'm sure lavender plants and her own lavender products will be available!). Mary is a fellow Master Gardener and local businesswoman and, just a fun person! So, come on out and enjoy our meeting!

YOUR BOARD—Your Board member names and contact information are elsewhere in this Newsletter and I urge you contact any one of us with any suggestions, concerns or "Thank Yous" you would like to convey. We're here to serve you and we can best do that when we know what you want!

Thank you,
Wayne Chandler
MGF Board President

Check Your Mailbox

Applications for 2009 membership in the Master Gardener Foundation have been mailed. If you decide to join, you will receive a membership card that gives you discounts at local nurseries and garden centers. Current discount participants are Bird's English Garden Nursery, Eastfork Nursery, Evergreen Terrace, Halfmoon Farms, Killdeer Farms, Lee Ann's Greenhouse, Pollock & Sons Nursery, Rosemattels Growing Ideas, Shadylane Nursery, Shaman Garden, Shoestring Valley Nursery, Silver Star Vinery, Soil Builders and Three Sisters Nursery. Discounts range from 10% to 20%. That should come in handy as you contemplate replacing your storm damaged plants! We look forward to your participation.



Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County

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