

NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER



OMGA

June 2011

Our Premier Educational Event

A promotional poster for the 'Gardening to Live Well' event. The background shows a bridge and a city skyline. On the left is a cluster of red and green tomatoes. On the right is a close-up of a bee on an orange flower and a purple flower below it. A circular logo with five orange petals is in the bottom right.

Gardening to Live Well
28th Annual
Mini College for Gardeners
July 13-16 2011
Newport Middle School
825 NE 7th St.
Newport, Oregon
Presented by the Oregon Master Gardener™ Association

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Oregon Master Gardener™ Association

NEW ADDRESS

OMGA
2397 MW Kings Blvd—
PMG 166
Corvallis OR 97330

Send *Northwest News-*
letter items to Betty
Faller at
fallers@teleport.com
in Microsoft Office or
rich text format by the
15th of the previous
months of publication—
March, June September
and December.

Letters to the Editor are
Welcome. Thank you!

Betty

We're on the Web!
oregonmastergardeners.org

2011 OMGA Executive Committee

President: Betty Faller
Past President: Tam Martin
President Elect: David Rugg
1st Vice-President: Marilyn Scheffler
2nd Vice-President: Jim Liskey
3rd Vice-President: Larry Sutton
Secretary: Janet Anderson
Treasurer: Katherine Johnson
Database/Web Manager: Larry Byrum
Newsletter Editor: Open
Historian: Marcia Sherry

Volunteer Needed Immediately

Our newsletter editor, Marti Olsen has requested that we find another editor due to personal issues. Only two issues remain to be published this year and the template is available.

Please read the job description on the OMGA website.

I really need your help filling this vital position that keeps all Master Gardeners and Chapters informed and connected.

Betty Faller, OMGA President



Have you Registered Yet?

What is fun, healthy, and has over 50 speakers and activities? That would be the 2011 Oregon Mini College for Gardeners. This year, the 28th annual event, brings us a theme of *Gardening to Live Well*. If your interest in gardening runs anywhere from the curious to the addicted, make your plans now to attend Mini College this summer.

Starting on Wednesday, July 13, you can learn leadership techniques that can be applied to your Master Gardener chapter or your other life. Then, whether you live in the coastal areas, the valley, or Central Oregon, you will find classes tailored to answering your local gardening questions. Other classes present a diverse opportunity for enlightenment. Subjects range from *Gardening in Pajamas* (this I have to see) to photography, to exercise and fitness.

When not involved in classes you can view the chapter displays from all over the state and hear presentations by this year's winners in the Search for Excellence competition. Depending on your taste for adventure there will be activities ranging from door prizes, to a huge silent auction, to garden tours. All of this is set in Newport Oregon.

The Lincoln County volunteers have been working overtime to make this trip the highlight of your summer.

Make your motel reservations, then enroll early by going to www.oregonmastergardeners.org/MiniCollege2011.htm. Invite your spouse, your neighbors and your co-workers to join you. Attendees do not have to be a Master Gardener or even from Oregon. Mini College is open to anyone. Friends you have not even met yet will be there to meet you.

Larry Sutton, OMGA 3rd VP

Chapter Host Needed



The OMGA Executive Committee is looking for a chapter to host the 4th Quarter Board Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012. Written protocol is available online at:

www.oregonmastergardeners.org

Click on Upcoming Events, then E-Board & Quarterly Meetings, then Guidelines.

Please contact Betty Faller:
fallers@teleport.com

Out My Front Window

My landscape has been blanketed with snow through most of the winter and the April 'snow' showers that promise May flowers hasn't revealed a glimpse of spring until something extraordinary happened...

I caught a glimpse of a cluster of tiny 4-inch tall tulips that I planted last fall. The 'Ancilla' bulbs are part of a special order from my trip to Keukenhof Gardens in Holland and I took a chance that the bulbs would survive the snow, the heat and the ever-present deer population at my home in Central Oregon.



What a reward and fulfillment of my expectations. Isn't it a beauty?

Expectations are highly personal and my goals and expectations as OMGA President are quite simple: Fulfill our mission statement. This means that OMGA and the chapters it represents are charged with:

- ✦ Enhancing and supplementing the OSU Home Horticulture Program (Master Gardener™ Program). Volunteer hours, outstanding education venues and financial support of the Master Gardener Endowment Fund are part of our pledge.
- ✦ We will work with other garden organizations to enhance gardening when appropriate.
- ✦ OMGA will award scholarships for post-secondary education in the fields of horticulture and plant sciences on the basis of scholastic merit and need.

All of us are to assume responsibility for performing special tasks and engaging in continuous activities related to the Program.



You have undoubtedly heard about the new 3-year Strategic Plan for OMGA. It is a set of strategies and actions that will build public understanding of the MG Program and its benefits as well as building a funding support for the program. Another strategy will create a plan of action that will provide continuing educational opportunities for all Master Gardeners. OMGA wants to become more visible at the chapter level and facilitate the sharing of ideas around the state.

The Strategic Plan committees have started to take shape but we need your ideas as a volunteer member of the team. I am also looking for that special person or persons that dream of being a project coordinator. Many of you will say your plate is full and I understand that feeling, but someone among our 3600 members has the enthusiasm to meet this challenge and succeed. If you are considering a greater leadership role in OMGA, please contact me.

Betty Faller, OMGA President

2011 CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
GARDEN TOUR



OVER HILL AND DALE
Saturday June 18, 2011

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hood River & Parkdale

Tickets \$7.00 in Advance • \$10.00 Day of Tour

Tickets available at

Waucoma Bookstore, Good News Gardening,

Columbia Center for the Arts, Hood River Extension Office

Tellis Fresh Flowers In White Salmon • Dickey Farms In Bingen

Klindt's Booksellers, Wasco County Extension Office in The Dalles

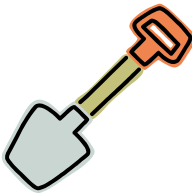


For more information:
hrgt2011@hotmail.com
541 386-3343



Spade and Wade

The Tillamook County Master Gardener Association will hold its fifth annual **Spade and Wade Garden Tour** on Saturday, **July 23, from Noon to 5:00.**



The six gardens, located in Tillamook and Netarts, will include such features as unique garden design, wide plant variety, vegetables, use of native plants, original combinations of color and texture, and beautiful garden settings. Visitors will have the opportunity to see which plants grow and thrive in our various microclimates and how gardeners deal with the challenges of deer, elk and wind. The tour is self-guided, and gardens may be visited in any order. Also included in the tour is TCMGA's own Learning Garden where refreshments will be served.

A **plant sale** will be held from **9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Pioneer Museum in Tillamook.** Garden art, cookbooks and other TCMGA merchandise will also be for sale. Plants will be provided by local master gardeners and seven vendors.

Proceeds from the garden tour and plant sale will support college scholarships for deserving county residents, the Learning Garden at the county fairgrounds, and gardening education throughout Tillamook County.

Passports for entry into the gardens cost \$15 and may be purchased at the OSU Extension office in Tillamook, or the Pioneer Museum after May 1, 2011. Passports will contain garden descriptions and complete driving directions.



For more information, call 503-842-3433.

Just the Facts

Name Badges

Did you know that Master Gardeners can opt to have their full name, or their first name and last initial engraved on their badge?

- o New MGs can choose this option before their badge is ordered.
- o Veteran MGs can choose to have a new badge printed at their cost, unless funds exist within the county to pay for new badges.

Your Business Card

Did you know that MGs are prohibited from listing their Master Gardener status on a business card? However, MGs can list their MG status on a resume or on their website as an educational credential, certification, and/or volunteer service.

- o Those using the MG title on a website or resume should note the first year that they were certified, as well as the last year they recertified.

My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view.

~ H. Fred Dale

Questions and Answers

Question: Liz Olsen, Master Gardener Program Assistant in Lincoln County, asks: "We have two wonderful Librarians who asked whether we could get an updated copy of the PNW Weeds. The one we have is from 2007. Is there an updated version available? We have received updated PNW binders for 2011 on Disease and Insects."



Answer: The OMGA purchases a copy of the PNW Insect Handbook and the PNW Disease Handbook each year, for each county Extension office with a MG Program. The OMGA does not purchase a copy of the PNW Weeds Handbook, primarily because this Handbook is focused on commercial agriculture, and has only a small section on home gardens and landscapes.

It may be worthwhile for the Lincoln County Master Gardener Association to consider purchasing a new PNW Weed Handbook. There have been product registration changes since 2007, and it would be useful to have at least one hardcopy of the latest handbook in the Lincoln County Extension Office Plant Clinic. The handbooks are also available [online](#).

Question: Several Master Gardeners asked if they are allowed to use the OMGA e-mail list to offer free or low-cost garden items to other Master Gardeners.

Answer: Using this type of e-mail to the ALL members on the mailing list is highly discouraged. We do not want members to be inundated with requests, announcements of items for sale, or product advertising - even if it is garden related. We appreciate your cooperation.

Here is a question that we received from the OMGA website 'Contact Form'. Many of you may be interested in the answer.

Question: I've been a Lane County Master Gardener for nine years and have attended the Mini-College for almost as long. For the first time since becoming a MG, I will not attend the conference due to the long distance from the OSU campus.

Did you have complaints about OSU hosting Mini-College? Has it become too expensive at OSU? Please explain.

Continued on page 8

Questions and Answers

Answer: In answer to your inquiry about the selection and location of Mini College: No matter where we host Mini-College there will always be questions about the venue but that is not the reason that your OMGA Executive Committee chose to move the venue for 2011.

Several issues created the opportunity to select Newport, Oregon as our 'host' city for Mini-College 2011. You may not be aware that in 1999, the Executive Committee instituted a policy (Under OMGA Policies: Mini-College #8 and #9) which states:

#8 Mini-College will be held on OSU Campus in 2000 and in Ashland area in 2001. A rotation schedule will be established for location in subsequent years (6/6/1999).

#9 Established a Mini-College rotation schedule of one year at OSU and the next year at another location beginning in 2002. Flexibility will be provided for the Board to revise this schedule as necessary (8/7/1999).

These policies were written and passed by the OMGA Board of Directors which includes a representative from each chapter, as well as the Executive Committee and all committee chairpersons, because it made Mini-College more inclusive. Holding the event in only one location tends to exclude those chapters furthest from OSU campus. It's a long drive from Pendleton, Astoria,

Klamath Falls, Bend, Medford, Ashland and Brookings and the number of attendees from outside the Eugene/Corvallis area is far greater than those close to campus.

Mini College has been held in several different venues over the years including, Yamhill County and Central Oregon as well as on the OSU campus. Ten plus years ago, OMGA and the OSU MG Program Coordinator at the time, Ann Marie Vanderzanden, openly discussed the need to continue to move the event around the state to build the feeling of inclusion. In 2001 Jackson County volunteered to host Mini College in Ashland. Jackson is a large chapter and had the energy to do this. It was a success but it was a strain. Lesson learned: find a way to split the work up. After this, we had an interim MG Program Coordinator, Jan McNeilan, who had a large hand in directing Mini-College. It was more convenient to hold the event at OSU campus to conform to her interim status. When Gail Langellotto, the current MG Program Coordinator, arrived in 2007, she continued the tradition of co-chairing Mini-College for 3 years. However, this arrangement was not sustainable, given the increasing and evolving nature of the MG Program Coordinator position. This made it necessary for OMGA to step up and take on more responsibilities with regards to Mini-College.

In 2010, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was created to accurately and succinctly describe the roles and responsibilities

Questions and Answers

of Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener Program™ and the Oregon Master Gardener Association with regards to Mini-College.

The need to include all chapters, not just those nearest the OSU campus, was a direct result of this to fulfill OMGA's obligations to the MOU. This allows chapters, besides Lane County, to help create and participate in organizing our premier educational event while highlighting their chapter's accomplishments. It allows other chapters to host local garden tours that showcase what is unique and challenging about their gardening location with respect to the rest of Oregon.

Here is a brief summary of the MOU:

Beginning 2011 OSU will assume a position as advisor to OMGA. OSU will actively promote Mini-College, recognize achievement through Statewide Awards, and approve advertising and information releases that reflect on the policies and mission of OSU. OSU will suggest speakers and class topics and provide guidance regarding the use of OSU facilities and support services. OMGA will assume all other duties formerly held by OSU and will plan and facilitate Mini-College.

Our OSU MG Program Coordinator, Gail Langellotto, will be responsible for selecting those classes that qualify as advance training classes for re-certifying Master Gardeners. The selections will be indicated on the

registration form.

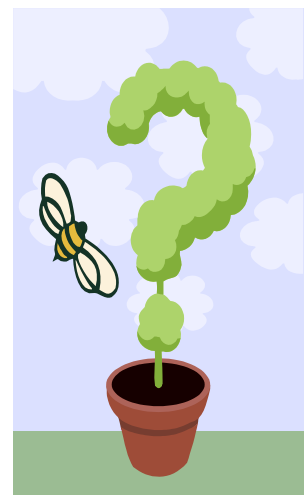
In addition to the policy enacted by the OMGA Board and the establishment of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) additional factors in last year's housing accommodations and excessive distance for lunch service created an inconvenience that caused considerable extra work and cost for the Mini-College committees. Costs, although not the deciding factor, have continued to increase at OSU over the past few years and added to our decision to seek another venue for 2011.

Your Executive Committee will continue to assess all costs as we select future sites for Mini-College and the OSU campus is certainly a consideration. We value each members input and will take it under advisement for future events.

Thank you for submitting questions for the Northwest Newsletter.

Please send further inquiries to:

**Betty Faller—
fallers@teleport.com**





Fall Fling in Polk County September 17, 2011

The ninth annual fall gardening festival presented by the Polk County chapter will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2011, at Dallas High School, 1250 SE Holman, Dallas, from 8:15 (when doors open) until 4:00 at the conclusion of the optional workshops.

The three presenters and topics for the day are:

“Ergonomics for Gardeners”

Tool designer, inventor, and writer **Bob Denman**, of Red Pig Garden Tools, is the only blacksmith in the country specializing in hand-forged garden tools. His store in Boring, Oregon offers more than 1,000 items, many of them unique or rare. He appears regularly on Garden Time TV and has been featured in numerous magazines.

“Rain Gardening—Landscaping for Healthy Streams”

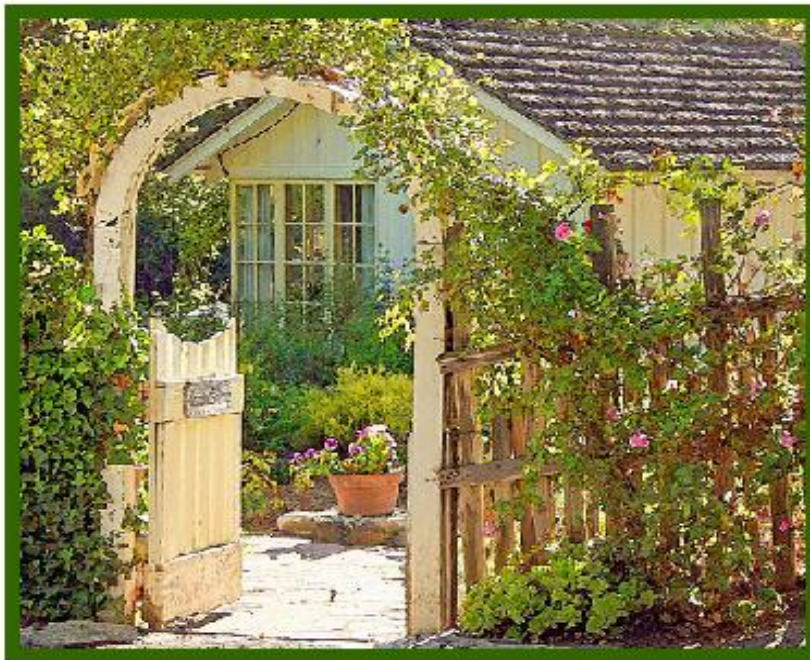
As we are increasingly aware of the need to protect our water supplies, one of the hot topics in the northwest garden world these days is rain gardens. **Derek Godwin**, Staff Chair for both Polk and Marion County Extension Offices, and Watershed Management Specialist, will talk about how to construct a rain garden that will collect and filter runoff from your property before it enters our streams.

“The Good, the Bad, and Why did I ever plant that?!”

This year’s keynote speaker is **Ciscoe Morris**, well-known author, Seattle Times columnist, world-wide garden tour leader, and radio and TV personality. His Friday night show, “Gardening with Ciscoe”, is broadcast on Northwest Cable News and he appears regularly on “Gardening by the Yard” on the Home and Garden cable network. His book, *Ask Ciscoe*, is published by Sasquatch Press. He is known for presenting garden wisdom with a sense of humor.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. The \$25 registration fee includes the three presenters, generous lunch and snacks, and access to vendors and informational displays. Many wonderful door prizes are awarded each year. In addition, three optional workshops following the main session will be offered for a small additional fee.

OSU Linn County Master Gardener™ Assn.
12th Annual
“Through the Garden Gate”
Albany Garden Tour



Saturday June 18, 2011 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Tickets \$10.00

**Starting May 15, tickets on sale
at the following locations:**

**Albany Visitors Association
Tom's Garden Center
Nichols Garden Nursery
Garland Nursery**



Get With It In Plant Clinic

**From the Desk of Gail Langellotto-Rhodaback, Ph.D.,
Statewide Program Coordinator**

Master Gardener™ plant clinics provide an invaluable service to the community, and are the historical foundation of the [OSU Extension Master Gardener Program](#). Plant clinic (sometimes referred to as ‘the hotline’, ‘plant desk’, or another similar term) is where Master Gardener volunteers’ skills and knowledge are truly put to the test. Folks come to us with all sorts of gardening questions – such that **Master Gardeners answered over 77,000 home and community gardening questions in 2010**, constituting almost 50% of our public contacts for that year!

Although this *quantity* of questions is impressive, it is the *quality* of our answers that matters most. Thus, I wanted to review a few guidelines that are meant to ensure that we serve the public well, with high quality answers to their gardening questions.

1. **Use Appropriate Resources:** In the internet age, it is relatively easy to find information about gardening. However, the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program requires volunteers to use appropriate resources, and to consult with OSU Extension faculty and/or expert Master Gardeners, as needed. Appropriate resources include the Pacific Northwest [Weed](#), [Insect](#) and [Disease](#) Management Handbooks; peer-reviewed journal articles, Extension publications, brochures and hand-outs; [eXtension](#) and/or university Extension websites; online materials produced by [eXtension](#) and/or university Extension Services; and other resources that contain validated, research-based content. In addition to working with county Extension faculty and expert Master Gardeners, on-campus resources (e.g. [OSU Plant Clinic](#); [OSU Herbarium](#), [Oregon State Arthropod Collection](#)), Extension specialists, and other OSU faculty should be consulted when needed.
2. **No Commercial Questions:** Master Gardener volunteers are not permitted to answer questions for commercial growers, or questions related to commercial production. Instead, these questions should be referred to your local Extension faculty member. Master Gardeners are also not permitted to make recommendations for pastures or pasture management, but they can identify weeds (including weeds from a pasture) using appropriate research-based resources and expert assistance.
3. **Don’t Identify ‘Shrooms (Unless You Have a ‘Shroom Expert):** Master Gardener are prohibited from identifying mushrooms, unless they work in close consultation with a recognized mycological expert.

Your Extension faculty member can help you determine if there are recognized mycological expert(s) in your area.

- 4. Don't Offer Medical Advice or Evaluations:** Occasionally, you may receive a sample, or someone may come in seeking advice, that could have implications for human health. Examples include: bed bugs, spiders, suspected arthropod-caused skin lesions, pesticide poisoning, poisonous plants, suspected allergens, etc. In these cases, it is important to remember that Master Gardener volunteers **are not** permitted to offer medical evaluations, diagnoses or advice on treatment. Instead, refer the person to a trained professional for these services.

Master Gardener volunteers are permitted to utilize appropriate resources to identify a plant or arthropod sample (e.g. bed bugs, poison ivy) – but not lesions, rashes or other symptoms that may have been caused by a plant or an arthropod (e.g. the bite marks or rash that could be caused by bed bugs or poison ivy). OSU Extension faculty staff and volunteers should refer all clients seeking advice on managing any potential life/safety situations to medical or other trained professionals.

- 5 Don't Overstate Your Answer:** Often, the samples that are submitted to Plant Clinic make it difficult to confidently arrive at an accurate identification. For example, you may receive a small portion of plant foliage, or a crushed arthropod sample between two pieces of tape. If this is the case, and especially for those cases where the identity of the plant or arthropod could have implications to human health (i.e. a doctor would treat a patient who ingested a non-poisonous plant differently than they would a patient who ingested a poisonous plant), it is important to use appropriate language when communicating findings to a client. An example of appropriate language is: "Based upon the information provided to OSU Extension and from the research conducted, it appears that this plant is a XXXXXX plant, which is listed as not poisonous.", rather than "This plant isn't poisonous."

Ultimately, it is important to remember that it is better to accurately say 'we can't answer that question' (for whatever reason – not enough plant material, sample too crushed to identify, no research-based resources on the topic) than to provide an incorrect answer.

Plant clinic is an excellent service to the community that forces you to put your Master Gardener skills to the test. It truly is where the rubber hits the road, and emphasizes the importance of continuing education for all Master Gardeners. Participating in continuing education programs and working with veteran Master Gardeners and your Extension faculty member helps you to keep current on information, understand appropriate resource use and recognize when to seek additional help or support.

I thank you so much for the 77,000+ research-based answers you provided in 2010, and look forward to even more gardening questions rolling in for 2011.

Remembering Sheila Shelley

Sheila Shelley passed away April 17th. We at TCMGA will all fondly remember Sheila. In fact, we would not be writing or reading these Thymes articles were it not for Sheila. That is because the name, Tillamook Thymes, was but a small contribution of Sheila's to our master gardener's association. Not only did Sheila make many contributions to our organization, her husband Bob also joined. Sheila and Bob were class of 1996 and shared the honor of Master Gardener of the Year in 1997. Not a small feat for two folks who, prior to landing in Tillamook, spent a good deal of their time (3 years in fact) sailing the world. Bob and Sheila were married in 1985 and eventually traveled via sailboat from Canada along the Atlantic Coast to the Caribbean and Venezuela and then back to Florida.

Sheila did almost everything in TCMGA and also was on the OMGA board as second Vice President. She was also President of TCMGA. She (and Bob) put in lots of hours in the demonstration garden (as the Learning Garden was called until recently). Sheila helped on all sorts of committees – including the garden tours. No wonder she was named OMGA Master Gardener of the Year in 2004.

We will all remember Sheila's smile and spirit as well as her expertise at playing charades at OMGA mini college. Being around Sheila was – well, just plain fun! She was a huge asset to our chapter and was probably one of the nicest people ever! We hope she is now basking in sunlight, enjoying a beautiful, weed-free garden.

OMGA Master Gardener of the Year - 2004



I Wrote Your Name

"I wrote your name in the sand,
but the waves washed it away.
I wrote your name in the sky,
but the wind blew it away.
So I wrote your name in my heart,
and that's where it will stay, always"

Author Unknown

Past, Present and Future Events

My ambition, as OMGA President, is to visit each chapter for a Board or Chapter meeting, a Fund-raiser, Educational Seminar or Garden Tour during 2011. Please join me on a visual tour of my visit to three chapter events.



Josephine County Fairgrounds entrance.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY



Meet Debra Henry in her tomato apron.



Wilma Christian (Veteran) and Claire Hobby (Trainee) are busy discussing information documentation at the MG desk. Claire even had a question for me.



Agents and other county Master Gardeners join in the fun at the Josephine County Plant Sale

Continued on page 16

More Chapter Events

The next weekend, April 25th, I traveled to McMinnville to join in the hunt for the perfect plant (s) at the Yamhill Chapter Plant Sale.



I visited with Marcia Sherry, President of the Yamhill Chapter, in front of educational display.

YAMHILL COUNTY



Last minute 'pep' rally before the frenzy.



22,000 plants served up to the public.



All well-planned Master Gardener events begin and end in the kitchen.

Still on the Road Visiting Chapter Events

Off to Polk County on May 6th to celebrate their annual Plant Sale which also included a corner filled with antiques and 'can't live without' garden art.



Chapter President, Delores May, welcomes me to the event.

POLK COUNTY



More shopping and what a plant selection.



Garden Art is never far from my heart. This old oven door has a new home in my Central Oregon garden.

As you can see, I've traveled far and wide and still have many more stops before I have visited all our chapters in action.

I am so proud to be a part of a local chapter and statewide organization that presents quality educational events such as those I have visited as well as our upcoming Mini College 2011 – Gardening to Live Well. Please join me in Newport for a time of fun-filled classes, advanced training opportunities and the making and renewing of garden friendships.

www.oregonmastergardeners.org. Click on Mini College to register.

Look for me at your upcoming Master Gardener chapter events. See you there!

Betty Faller, OMGA President

Reduce-Reuse-Recycle

With the start of the new year, it seems a good time to review some of the principles of sustainability. A few years ago, the Jackson County board made the decision to move that chapter towards becoming a “zero-waste organization,” meaning they are striving to produce zero garbage (or, realistically, as little as possible). It was also suggested that a column appear each month in their newsletter, *The Garden Beet*, to give suggestions for ways to carry this over into member’s homes. The following is adapted from that column.

The three key ideas of zero-waste are reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Reduce is the most desirable. If we reduce the “stuff” we bring into our lives, we create less garbage that will go into the landfill as well as eliminating the energy that is used to manufacture and transport all that “stuff.” At Master Gardener functions, everyone is asked to bring their own cups to reduce the amount of paper products used and thrown away. At events open to the public, real coffee cups and cloth napkins are used instead of paper. Rather than buying these reusable items new, they asked their ever-generous Master Gardeners to donate ones no longer being used.

They are also striving to keep paper use to a minimum, and two-sided copies have replaced multiple-page one-sided documents. Board minutes and *The Garden Beet* are sent out by email instead of paper copies.

At home, we can also reduce the use of paper products, reduce the miles we drive, reduce the plastic that comes into our lives, reduce the petroleum-based cleaning products we use, reduce (eliminate?) the chemical products used in our yards and gardens, etc.

Reuse is the second most desirable. Rather than throwing things out (once again to become garbage going to the landfill), finding a way to reuse items eliminates that garbage as well as the need to buy a new “thing” (once again using energy to manufacture and transport). Many in Jackson County are reusing paper by utilizing the blank side of one-sided pages before disposing of it. In their greenhouses, planting containers are washed and reused. And all those cups and napkins are used and reused many times over.

At home, we can choose reusable towels instead of paper towels, reusable rags instead of those disposable dusting thing-a-ma-jigs, a reusable broom instead of the disposable sweepers. We can donate items we no longer use to charitable organizations for reuse. And we can buy gently used items rather than new. (Craigslist, anyone?)

Recycle is the least desirable of the three, but still an important option. Items that can’t be reused can often be recycled into a new item.

Jackson County Master Gardeners have set up recycling bins in the back of the OSU Extension Auditorium for glass, plastic, paper, and vegetative food scraps.



At home, those who live inside city limits can utilize the disposal company's co-mingled recycling and yard debris bins. Their websites should have lists of what is acceptable. Many disposal companies also have recycling centers for those who do not have home pickup. Plastic items that are not acceptable in these recycling venues can often be saved for plastic collection events held in many communities annually or semi-annually. When necessary to buy an item, we can look for those made from recycled materials and avoid items made from or wrapped in plastic.



Individually, these efforts might seem to make little difference, but collectively, we can make a difference in our environment.

A special thank you to Jane Moyer, 2005 Master Gardener from Jackson County, for allowing us to reprint her article from the February 2011 issue of the Garden Beet.



The **Oregon State Extension Service** offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

All information provided by the **Northwest Newsletter** is believed to be accurate but readers must assume all responsibility for their own actions based on this information.

Occasionally a product or company may be named in an article but this does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of said product.

OMGA

The Oregon Master Gardener™ Association (OMGA) is an umbrella non-profit organization of 24 county-based Master Gardener chapters.

We support Master Gardener chapters and the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program in furthering sustainable gardening across Oregon.

Our vision is to enable OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners to be the premier source of information on sustainable gardening.

Our mission is commitment to sustainable gardening through:

- Partnering with the OSU Master Gardener Program to promote sustainable gardening practices
- Advocating for funding to deliver the Master Gardener Program across Oregon
- Fostering quality continuing education of all Master Gardeners.

Fun sustains our energy in carrying out these commitments