



WHAT'S UP WITH THE ONLINE TRAINING ?

Revisions for the 2011 version of MG Online Training course are underway. All comments and suggestions made by you and volunteers since January have been documented and shared with CDPE. CDPE staff are working on the following changes and improvements to be in place for 2011:

- Much easier registration process
- Less confusion navigating within each module
- Material within each module is designated as required for basic training, optional, or recommended for advanced training.
- Only quizzes and exams will be graded.
- The MG Training manual will appear in full. Links to individual chapters will still appear within modules.

PUGET SOUND WATER QUALITY PROGRAMMING FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

We don't have a good title for it yet, but MG faculty and program coordinators in the Western District have the opportunity for professional development and program planning at Puyallup R&E Center. Mark Tuesday, July 27th, 9 to 3 on your calendars for a workshop and regional program planning meeting about Master Gardener program involvement in Puget Sound WQ issues. Jim Kropf, District Director, has agreed to support travel to the meeting, but please try to carpool as much as possible. Agenda and details will come later.

Presenters will include:

John Stark, Pesticides in the Puget Sound,
Curtis Hinman, Low Impact Development/Rain Gardens,
Catherine Daniels, Organic Recommendations by MG volunteers.
Stewardship Partners, Collaboration on LID/rain garden education

ADVANCED MG TRAINING FOR EASTERN WASHINGTON MG VOLUNTEERS

(Please let MG volunteers know about these opportunities)

Weed Identification and XID Weed Identification Program

Saturday, July 10, 1-4 PM

WSU Spokane County Extension Office

222 N. Havana, Spokane, WA

RSVP 509-477-2048

Rich Old, developer of XID Services, Inc. is an expert in plant identification. His latest creation, 1200 Weeds of the 48 States, is a user friendly, computer-based weed identification tool that Master Gardeners will find extremely helpful in helping clients identify weeds. This is a class in basic plant morphology. Become familiar with all of the characteristics used in plant identification and understand the difference between identification, recognition, and taxonomy. This is a hands-on course where students will work individually and in teams to develop their knowledge of important plant characteristics. There is no registration fee for the class, but please **RSVP to 509 477-2048** to ensure we have enough plant samples for everyone attending the class.

Home Composting Workshop

Tuesday, July 20th, 5:30 p.m.

Clarkston Branch of Walla Walla Community College

1470 Bridge Street

Clarkston, WA.

Dan Caldwell has been hired as the Asotin County Home Composting Coordinator. Dan retired in 2003 as the manager of WSU composting facility. He has a Masters Degree from WSU and is a member of the Washington Organic Recycling Council (WORQ). He has a tremendous amount of experience and enthusiasm regarding composting. Call 509 243-2009 for more information.

MG ANNUAL ADVANCED EDUCATION STATE CONFERENCE

September 23-25, 2010 in Vancouver, WA

If you're not registered yet, get going! And get your MG volunteers ready, too. Program Coordinators will meet during lunch on Friday. Check out the program and registration info here:

<http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=807195>

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY MG MINI-COLLEGE

July 28th-31st in Corvallis Oregon. For those of you interested in attending and/or promoting this to WSU MG volunteers.... For information: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/mini-college>

AS ALWAYS please contact me with any questions, concerns or ideas. My everyday goal is to help you effectively manage great MG Programs in your communities.

Tonie Fitzgerald

Master Gardener Program Leader

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