



NEWSLETTER FOR MG PROGRAM COORDINATORS

JAN 2011

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Research Working for You Webinar

January 5, 2011 - 10:00 am

http://breeze.wsu.edu/research_that_works_for_you/

Speaker: Craig Cogger, PhD; Soil Scientist, Crop and Soil Sciences. Recycled organic materials such as animal manures, composts, and biosolids can supply plant nutrients, improve soil physical and biological properties, and contribute to soil carbon sequestration. This seminar will discuss research and guidelines on amendment choices and an update on herbicide issues in some composts.

2011 Online Training

WSU Center for Distance and Professional Education worked as hard as they could but weren't quite able to meet our deadline of having the DVD available for new interns who register in early January. The new improved online course is ready, but the accompanying DVDs are not. CDPE expects to complete DVD production by late January, but I can't make promises for other departments. Please tell anyone who is registering in the 2011 MG online training that DVDs will be mailed to them as soon as possible.

WSU MG Program Coordinators' Webinars

In an effort to cut back on expenses and "work smarter" I am implementing a bi-monthly webinar for MG faculty and coordinators in 2011. Please put **Friday, Feb 18th, 10 am to noon**, on your calendars for our first web-conference. At the minimum, you'll need a computer with web access, but I will be sending out more detailed information next month to get us all ready to participate.

We will continue with the MG cluster meetings planned for Feb of 2011, but these live webinars will replace my attendance at your MG cluster meetings after February of 2011. Let's think positively and embrace a new way of working in the new year!! ☺

Continuing Education Hours for MG Volunteers

Several of you have expressed interest in having specific criteria assigned to what qualifies for the CE hours for MG volunteers who wish to remain certified from year to year. If you are willing to help me create a policy for Continuing Education requirements, please let me know. I will set up a conference call for us to get the issues identified. Then we can work on a draft policy via email, before submitting it to the MG Leadership Advisory Council for adoption.

National EMG Coordinators online discussions

A relatively new national group has formed for communication and sharing among state and county MG program coordinators across the whole country! The first in a series of 2011 online discussions among Extension Master Gardener Coordinators (EMG Coordinators) will be on **Jan 19th at 11 AM** Pacific time. State, regional, and county Extension Master Gardener Coordinators are invited to participate in a facilitated discussion about **Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers**. Here's how:

1. Go to <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/hortcop>
2. Enter as a guest, and provide your name and what state you are from in the provided box. When you are in the system you will see instructions for having the system call your phone (or you may need to place a call to the system if your phone is on a line extension--instructions are provided as well as a help number if you encounter problems).

New Plant and Pest Diagnostic eNetwork Coordinator

WSU is pleased to have a new coordinator for the digital diagnostic network. Karen Ward is housed in Pullman in the Department of Plant Pathology and is working on how she will interact with the WSU Master Gardener Program in training people to be "First Detectors" of new and invasive plants and pests. She is meeting with WSU faculty around the state and has agreed to speak at our State MG Advanced Training Conference in Ocean Shores, September 22-24th, 2011. Karen may be reached at karen_flint.ward@wsu.edu or 509 335-3292. (Note underscore between karen_flint.)

Resources for MG Offices and Plant Clinics

Ohio State University's popular *PlantFacts* web site has merged several digital collections to become an international knowledge bank and multimedia learning center. On the site, the search engine accesses more than 260,000 pages of information from every land-grant university in the U.S. and several government institutions across Canada about plants. <http://www.plantfacts.osu.edu/>

The *Washington Invasive Species Council* hosts a website about harmful invasive species threatening Washington. www.InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov

Great Ideas from Our Cohorts

Carolyn Gordon, Coordinator in Clark County, wants MGs to start offering *Earth Friendly Garden Tours* and develop signage for features like drip irrigation, grass-cycling, wildlife habitat, composting, etc.

Debbie Burris, Coordinator in Lewis County, has been borrowing microscopes from the local community college whenever she had MG workshops on diagnosis and pest identification. Guess who the community college donated their "used" microscopes to when they bought new ones last year? The college also let Lewis County Foundation buy a new microscope at the college's cost.

Ivy Nelson, Coordinator in Stevens County, did NOT report that she wasn't going to train new MG Volunteers in 2011. She reported that she was *building volunteer capacity* by focusing on continuing education and other projects for veteran MGs.

State MG Advanced Training Conference in Ocean Shores, WA

Grays Harbor Master Gardeners are getting ready to welcome us to Ocean Shores on **September 22-24th**, 2011.

International MG Conference in West Virginia

West Virginia Master Gardeners are ready to welcome us to Charleston, WVA on **October 11-14th**, 2011. Read more and get on their notification list at <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/>