



NEWSLETTER FOR MG PROGRAM COORDINATORS

OCTOBER 2011

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NEXT WEBINAR DATE for MG faculty and coordinators (including volunteers who are coordinating their county programs) is **Friday, November 4th at 10 AM**. Agenda and access information will be sent closer to that date, but please put it on your schedules now.

ANNUAL PROGRAM COORDINATORS MEETING. Coordinators met at the Ocean Shores Conference last week and decided that time together for sharing ideas and helping each other with suggestions is so important, they want to meet for a whole day next year prior to the Annual MG Conference in Tri-Cities. I will be able to help with travel costs, if necessary, to make this happen. Please put **Wednesday September 12th 2012** on your calendars. I know this may be Fair time or MG training in many counties, but the Benton/Franklin County MGs chose the dates of Sept 13-15th for the Annual WSU MG Conference and we want to start a tradition of always meeting the day before that MG conference begins. Perhaps knowing the 2012 date this far ahead will help you plan to be able to attend.

END OF YEAR REPORTS. Here is the link I am using this year to collect numbers from your county programs. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MGStateOfficeAnnualReport>
Please fill it out to the best of your ability and submit by early December. You may do it whenever the bulk of your county MG activities are over. I will use these numbers to compile a statewide summary of the impacts of the WSU MG Volunteer Program for use with legislators, WSU administration, city and county officials and others when explaining the merit of our fine program.

WSU MG CAMPAIGN. Several months ago, the WSU Foundation and the MGFWS agreed to embark on a campaign to raise money in support of the WSU Extension MG Volunteer Program. Program Coordinators and Foundation presidents were asked to mail out a survey asking MG volunteers what resources from WSU were most important to them. The survey determined that of most importance to volunteers are opportunities for their own advanced education, support for on-line learning, materials for volunteers to use when teaching in communities, scholarships for MGs to attend basic or advanced education, and eventual support for the State Program Leader position.

During the first week of November Melissa Bean, of the WSU Foundation, and I will be holding focus groups in Wenatchee, Seattle, Olympia and Bellingham for people to review the materials we developed

for the WSU MG Campaign to raise money to support the goals listed above. MG Program Coordinators in those counties are providing lists of people to review the letters, brochures, and pictures that will be used when donors are approached to support the WSU Master Gardener Volunteer Program. Based on their feedback and that of other focus groups planned later in the fall, WSU Foundation will revise materials and be ready to launch a statewide campaign in the early 2012.

RESOURCES FOR COORDINATORS AND CLINICS

Using Facebook in Extension Programming

October 21, 2011; Webinar, 10:00 am

Presenter: Kevin Zobrist, WSU Extension Area Extension Educator, Forest Stewardship

Webinar URL: http://breeze.wsu.edu/online_extension_program/

Learn the steps to create a Facebook page for your program, appropriate and inappropriate uses for Facebook in Extension programming, tips for having success and avoiding pitfalls, and how Facebook compares with other available social media tools.

MG Foundation of Washington State quarterly newsletter

It is not necessary to be a member of a county foundation receive their quarterly newsletter containing articles about programs in other counties and horticulture topics of state or regional interest. The newsletter, *Seeds for Thought*, is distributed electronically, via the MGFWS ListServ. To "Subscribe" to the MGFWS ListServ, email your name and email address to: webmaster.mgfws@wsu.edu. If at any time you wish to "Unsubscribe" from the MGFWS ListServ, send a request including your name and email address to the same email address.

The **Western Plant Diagnostic Network** Summer 2011 News [Summer 2011 WPDN News](#) deals with invasive horticultural plants. This edition contains several examples and links of invasives that have been innocently introduced into an area, and then quickly expanded to fill an ecological niche. This edition deals with weed risk assessment – locally, nationally, and internationally. The horticultural industry, together with biologists and ecologists, has developed extensive guidelines to prevent the introduction of new plant species or cultivars that could become invasive in a given area.

The **Horticulture Society of New York** explores the issue of Horticulture “therapy” programs for prison inmates, detainees, and youth at risk: <http://www.hsnny.org/horttherapy.html>

Evaluation Based Program Development Workshop

This training is for WSU Extension professionals to build skills in the areas of program development, evaluation, and impact reporting. The workshops include training on active learning, practical application, and practice in developing evaluation tools to measure impact. Space is limited to the first 20 registrants.

When: Wednesday, November 30 thru Friday, December 2, 2011

Where: WSU Spokane

Register online: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011EBPD>

More info: <http://extension.wsu.edu/pd/Pages/ProgramPlanningandEvaluation.aspx> or contact Jim Lindstrom at jlindstr@wsu.edu

MG PROGRAM TRIVIA

Q: What does the “P” in “P-Patch” stand for?

A: Picardo, as in Rainie Picardo, whose family lent their farm for Seattle’s community garden in the 1970’s. In the 30 years since the City of Seattle bought the Picardo Farm and started the P-Patch Program, thousands of gardeners and volunteers have put untold amounts of hours, work and love back into the program that today includes more than 60 gardens, with over 1,900 plots on 12 acres of land. Read more at <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/aboutPpatch.htm>

THANKS TO....

Thank you very much to Cori Carlton, (Thurston County); Colleen Miko, (Kitsap County); Carolyn Gordon, (Clark County); Nicole Martini, (Pierce County); and Penny Simonson, (Spokane County); who took time from their crazy schedules as MG Program Coordinators to speak at the Annual MG Advanced Education Conference in Ocean Shores. You certainly added to the high quality of the 2011 program.