



State MG Advanced Education Conference, Sept 23-25, Vancouver, WA

- Meeting for Program Coordinators and Faculty, noon, Friday, Sept 24th, Vancouver Rm.
- Q and A session with Dr. Linda Kirk Fox, noon, Saturday, Sept 25th, Centennial Center

National MG Program Coordinators' Conference, October 6-8, UC Davis, Sacramento, CA

If you can find a non-state funding source to attend this, it will be worth your time. I will be attending this for the first time this year and look forward to interacting with other state program leaders, coordinators and people involved with the Consumer Horticulture National Community, eXtension's Horticulture Community of Practice, etc.

Change in MG Cluster Meeting dates from October to November

As always, program coordinators, faculty and MGs in leadership roles may attend whichever date works best for them. Agenda items from me are the same at each meeting.

- NW MG Cluster meeting (Western District Counties)- November 15th, Bremerton
- SW MG Cluster meeting – November 16th, Chehalis
- Eastern WA MG cluster meeting - TBA

MG Online Training for counties training this fall, 2010

Information about using OLT and registration are on the MG Program website at This is only for counties that are training this fall because much will be different in the 2011 version.

MG Online Training in 2011

Cinde Johnson and Center for Distance and Professional Education are making lots of changes for the MG online training course for 2011 including:

- new registration system
- easier navigation within each module
- identification of information as basic, advanced, or optional
- inclusion of new WSU MG manual
- new quizzes and exams

CDPE is aiming to have the course spaces open for county program coordinators and mentors by mid-November for counties that start classes in January.

New WSU Extension MG Manual

This new Extension publication will be included in the 2011 online training. All chapters will be included online and in the DVD that MG interns receive when they register online. The entire 600+ page book or individual chapters can be printed from those sources.

MGs who do not register for OLT and even the general public may order the 2011 MG Manual in CD form from Extension Publications. Price of the CD is expected to be about \$20. Printed copies will NOT be available from Extension Publications because of high cost of printing and mailing. (Since my last communication when I told you WSU *would* print hard copies, the department known as *Extension Publishing and Printing* was changed to *Extension Publishing* with changes in operations and staffing.)

Reminder about Certificates, Pins and Name badges

When you are ready to certify new MGs or recognize years of service for veteran MGs, send a list of names in each category to brigitta@wsu.edu. Do this at least a week before your event and she will prepare signed certificates from WSU and mail them to your office. Certificates and pins are provided by the WSU Extension MG Program state office. Name badges for MG volunteers must be purchased by the County office . See information at <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/logosnamebadgesapparel.html>.

Points of Interest

AmpleHarvest.org is an organization backed by the US Department of Agriculture, Google Inc., National Gardening Association and many faith/service organizations, that enables Americas 40+ gardeners who grow food to easily find a local food pantry eager for their excess harvest. Visit www.AmpleHarvest.org to find a local food pantry eager for their excess produce.

The WSU Professional Development Program, <http://ext.wsu.edu/pd/> has lots of links to programs about using technology to teach, planning and evaluating programs, and other professional skills. Visit the site and watch for the PD Notes announcements on the All Extension listserv.

Good Idea of the Month

Brigitta Jozefowski has added a new check-box to the MG Volunteer application on the MG Program website at <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/forms.html> This allows new volunteers to give or deny permission to WSU to use their pictures in educational and promotional brochures, videos, articles, etc. Having MGs indicate their preference this way negates the need for program coordinators and planners to have photo-release forms at events where pictures of volunteers are taken. Good thinking, Brigitta! She has also redesigned the list of documents on the Tools for Program Management webpage at <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/tools.html>

Press on, regardless, Everyone! Thanks for all your hard work to help WSU Master Gardener Volunteers be the best they can be!

Tonie Fitzgerald

Master Gardener Program Leader

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