



NEWSLETTER FOR MG PROGRAM COORDINATORS

January 2012

The definition of **WSU MG Program Coordinator** has become a term describing anyone - faculty, staff or volunteer- who manages the local WSU Extension MG program. 2012 finds us with MG Program Coordinators who are WSU faculty, WSU or county staff, other agency staff, and volunteers who have been charged with coordinating the MG program. My point in writing this is to say that when I send out notices for Program Coordinator webinars, meetings, newsletters or calls, I am addressing whoever is coordinating the MG program. No matter what your "official" title is, if you're managing volunteers in your county, please attend.

Monthly webinar discussions for WSU MG Program Coordinators are the first Friday of every month, 10-11 AM. Please set this as a recurring appointment on your calendars. Several minutes before 10 o'clock, go to breeze.wsu.edu/mg and log in as a guest. Contact Brigitta@wsu.edu if you need headphones to participate. Next webinar date: Friday Feb 3rd.

Archived webinars and these e-newsletters appear on the MG Program website under *Tools for Program Management*. Check out the new link for archived copies at <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/NewslettersAndWebinars.html>

National eXtension MG Coordinators have webinar discussions on 3rd Wednesdays of every month at 11 AM Pacific time. See the 2012 list of topics at <http://create.extension.org/node/89035>

This month's webinar, Jan 18th, is "*Handling Difficult Volunteers.*" I will send access information in a different email message.

Free Online publications: Owning a home in the woods is a dream come true for many people, but living in a forested setting presents unique challenges. Guides for Backyard Forest Stewardship, one for either side of the state, have great information on tree health, wildlife habitat, wildfire prevention and other topics of interest for landowners. (You'll recognize the information because draft forms of these publications were used with author permission in the WSU MG Training Manual.)

[Backyard Forest Stewardship in Eastern Washington](#)

[Backyard Forest Stewardship in Western Washington](#)

Tree Finder resource from Utah State University lets you search for trees that fit specific environmental, growth and ornamental characteristics.

<http://www.treebrowser.org/treeBrowser/usuTreeBrowser/index.html>

WSU was the first university in the United States to offer a science-based, four-year major in organic agriculture. WSU also developed the first online certificate program in organic ag, enabling food-system professionals to retool their skills to meet the demands of a changing and growing market for organic food. And every year, WSU educators conduct dozens of workshops and seminars in sustainable and organic production methods all over the state.

Here's the really cool part: our researchers' and educators' work has been done in collaboration with the region's growers, retailers, and environmentally concerned residents. Without their support and suggestions, we could not be where we are today. That's why we've launched this new e-newsletter, *Green Times*.

The first week of each month, *Green Times* comes with useful news, inspiring profiles, and fascinating science. You, in turn, can let us know of upcoming events in your area, people you think we should profile, or exciting innovations in sustainable and organic ag. Just follow the links below to contact the *Green Times* editor, to leave comments on the *Green Times* blog and manage your subscription preferences.

Green Times is archived at <http://organicfarms.wsu.edu/category/green-times/>.

The *Green Times* blog is located at <http://organicfarms.wsu.edu/category/blog/>.

Best Wishes in 2012 for a healthy and happy new year. As always, contact me at tjfitz@wsu.edu or Brigitta Jozefowski, Brigitta@wsu.edu regarding Master Gardener Program Management questions. We're here to help you!