

September, 2009



Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference in Pullman, Sept 24-26th

Less than two months away from this excellent training opportunity! District Directors will support travel for faculty and staff to attend this conference. Please make every effort to carpool.

Even if you've already done it, please send the conference link or print out the information and get it out to your volunteers. This is an excellent educational opportunity for interns and certified volunteers alike. Every session qualifies for MG continuing education. For you and volunteers with WSDA pesticide licenses, the pest/disease/diagnosis topics qualify for WSDA Pesticide Recertification credits.

Some of you have requested a chance to meet with other faculty and staff during this conference to meet each other and talk about statewide issues such as online training, advanced education opportunities, updated policies and cross-county collaboration. Please copy/paste the options below and return to me in an email to tjfitz@wsu.edu. I'll arrange a room for us and create an agenda for this meeting.

Meeting for Faculty and staff at the MG conference in Pullman. I prefer the following time:

- Thursday, 11am to noon
- Thursday, 7-8 pm
- Friday, 7:30-8:30 am
- Friday, noon to 1pm (during lunch)
- I have no preference

Please include the following agenda

item(s) _____

Online Training for Master Gardeners

Almost all of you have participated in one or more of the webinars that Cinde Johnson put on to demonstrate the features of the Online Training and talk with you about using it to supplement training in your own counties.

Understandably, there are still some concerns and downright angst about using it and getting volunteers to accept it. WSU Extension and Center for Distance and Professional Education are working very hard to make this program work. There will be a handout for Program Coordinators to distribute to MGs with explicit instructions on how to access information, as well as information on the registration website once they register.

We are closer to having a complete course, but not quite. Your patience in waiting to see it is appreciated. As Cinde has written in her updates, the University's decision to switch to a different online

course management system (from Blackboard to Angel) really delayed things, but we are close.... Please stay tuned.

Free Field Guides for Noxious Weeds

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board will send free copies of their field guides to MG program Coordinators for distribution to MG volunteers. There are separate versions for Eastern and Western Washington.

Order “Noxious Weeds that Harm Washington State, Eastern WA Field Guide” or “Noxious Weeds that Harm Washington State, Western WA Field Guide” from

<http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/education/education.htm> . The site lists their educational materials as PDF downloads, but you may call or email to have the booklets mailed to your office.

MasterGardener Magazine

It’s an e-magazine for now, but I attached the July issue for those of you who aren’t on the list. The attached July issue has a great article on Aphids and an article from me about MG Demonstration gardens. The editors selected the websites to include. Consider subscribing for the quality content!

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