



NEWSLETTER FOR MG PROGRAM COORDINATORS

JULY 2014

JULY WEBINAR – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATE

I will be out of the office the first two weeks in July. The **July webinar** will be **rescheduled for Wednesday, the 16th at our regular time – 10 am.**

Wednesday, July 16th, 10am-11am

Go to <http://breeze.wsu.edu/mg> and log in as a guest a few minutes before the meeting. Don't forget to run the Audio Wizard after entering the meeting to test your equipment.

Agenda to follow soon.

STATE MG ADVANCED EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Come to Learn, Stay to Play at the **Sound Gardening Conference, September 18-20 in Tacoma.** Flier Attached.

The Master Gardeners of Pierce County have planned a very full three days of activities for you this year. Attend all sessions, including the Friday lunch and dinner, and you will get twelve hours of Continuing Education credits. Take a tour, and pick up 2-4 more CE hours on Thursday morning and Saturday afternoon. See the complete listing at our website: www.pc-wa-mg-conf.org

Did you see the article in the February edition of the MG e-magazine, Seeds for Thought? Here is a link: <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/mgfws/files/2012/12/February-2014-Seeds.pdf?78857a> See page 3 for a review of all the high points of your trip to Tacoma. A recent addition – Marianne Binetti will be doing a book signing Friday afternoon.

EARLYBIRD HOTEL SPECIAL: For the first 50 people who register for the Conference and spend two nights in the Conference Hotel, the Forbes Four-Star Murano, get a \$20 rebate when you check out. Hurry – These are going FAST!!!

Don't Forget – Costs go up on July 1 and that is the date we open up the registration to non-MGs. Get your registration in now, and treat yourself to a mini-vacation in Tacoma. Take advantage of all the savings by signing up today! Got a question? Give us a shout at MGFPC@yahoo.com.

2015 SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE NATIONAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM FOR MASTER GARDENERS

The International Master Gardener Search for Excellence is the recognition program of Master Gardener volunteer work throughout the United States and Canada.

- Search for Excellence has seven categories in which Master Gardeners can demonstrate their outstanding contributions to their communities.
- All SFE applications must show that significant learning took place, whether by the Master Gardeners or the general public they were involved with.

All volunteer projects done by Master Gardeners are significant to their communities, but not all are Search for Excellence projects. The Search for Excellence is designed to recognize outstanding group projects, not an individual who does outstanding work. The IMGCC Search for Excellence Committee oversees the Search for Excellence Winners.

More details [here: http://www.extension.org/pages/29834/international-master-gardener-search-for-excellence#.U62OKU1OWUI](http://www.extension.org/pages/29834/international-master-gardener-search-for-excellence#.U62OKU1OWUI)

NEW MOA TEMPLATE ONLINE

Please check the status of your MOA with your County MG Foundation. A new template has been posted to the contracts office which is [linked](#) off our website under “I am a Program Coordinator” then “Required Volunteer Forms.”

MINOR VOLUNTEER CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM

If you have minors who volunteer in any way for your program, this [Minor Volunteer Consent and Release Form](#) must be filled out and kept on file. It is also attached.

ONLINE TRAINING

Steve Garl (Global Campus) will be sending a new link soon, as well as a document with instructions for students to register.

FOOD PRESERVATION TRAINING

Washington State University Extension is announcing a new food preservation program called **PRESERVE THE TASTE OF SUMMER**. It is a series of eight [online](#) lessons for the in-home consumer who wants to learn about food preservation and food safety. It is designed for beginning canners and also veteran canners who want to update their knowledge and skills. The lessons provide the most current USDA approved food preservation recommendations.

Please share this flyer with Master Gardeners and other interested community members.

This course has two purposes. (1) It offers the public an opportunity to update their skills in food preservation by taking the online course. The 8 lessons are listed on the flyer. After completing the online course, participants will receive a certificate. At this point participants can decide that is all they want, or (2) anyone who completes the series and receives a certificate can then participate in hands-on classes that will be taught around the state.

Details about the flyer: It is a PDF and on the back side there is a fillable section for you to list local contacts. If you only want to list one person you can take off the second fillable part. When you copy on both sides, tell the computer to flip on the “short side” – please run a test copy first.

Please help advertise this resource!

HORTICULTURAL MYTHS

Linda Chalker-Scott graciously answers questions regarding the scientific basis (or lack thereof) of gardening methods often found on the internet that become popular.

Please see her [website](#) “Horticultural Myths” should you have a question regarding the scientific validity of certain gardening methods.

http://puyallup.wsu.edu/~Linda%20Chalker-Scott/Horticultural%20Myths_files/index.html

CITIZEN SCIENCE – ENTOMOLOGY

Message from Sharon Collman:

If you have volunteers interested in learning techniques to build your office insect collection or who are just interested in insects, you are invited to send them. I've begun training MGs and have also invited entomologists to free workshops on pinning and other curating techniques. I have been collecting surplus insects to practice on. At this point, attendance at previous workshops is not required. We can handle some individual instruction to bring people up to speed. Volunteers who have come are enjoying it; some have said they think they like it as much as the gardening aspects of MGs. You or your volunteer can take the skills back and teach them your volunteers.

This effort is to help build our teaching and reference collection and is the beginning of an idea I have for developing an interested armature entomologist. Eyes looking out for interesting insect may spot invasive species before they are ever detected in traps. Indeed, MGs have spotted a number of new species in WA.

So far I have a student intern who has been willing to help teach so we can take individuals and provide tutoring as we go along. (Brochure Attached)

CIVIL RIGHTS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (REMINDER)

To clarify, you are to use **ONE** of the two example statements listed below to meet the Civil Rights Policies and Procedures notification efforts:

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation need to contact [name of contact] at [address, telephone number, e-mail address] at least two weeks prior to the event.

OR

Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact [name of contact] at [address, telephone number, e-mail address] at least two weeks prior to the event. Additionally, there have been questions regarding the use of the non-discrimination statement on public announcements.

Remember that Jami Gecas and Suzette Yaezenko (HR) must be contacted for all accommodation requests.

The statement of non-discrimination is **an additional**, separate statement which **must also be included** on all program and event announcements. You are to use the following statement to meet the public notification efforts:

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension Office.

SUBMIT TO CAHNRS NEWS

Promote your workshops, news article write ups and other items you'd like to share with CAHNRS at this link:

<http://news.cahnrs.wsu.edu/marketing/cahnrs-news-submission/>

COUNTY GARDENING CALENDARS FEED INTO WSU.GARDENING.EDU WEBSITE

When you add a gardening event to your county's website calendar, the event will automatically be placed in the gardening.wsu.edu "Gardening Events in WA" calendar. This link is toward the bottom of the main page (gardening.wsu.edu) on the left, but all you have to do is make sure you're noting gardening events on your county website.