



Seeds for Thought

November 2010 Volume 11, Issue 4

A newsletter from the
Master Gardener
Foundation of
Washington State

In this issue:

Ed LaCrosse, 2010 Master Gardener of the Year	2
2010 Media Award Winner	4
Upcoming Advanced-Ed. Events in Your Neighborhood	4
Asotin County: 2010 Ellen A'Key Grant Winner	5
Grant/Adams Counties Update	6
Report from the 2010 Statewide Advanced-Education Conference	7
Pictures from the Conference	7
County Briefs	8
A Special Thank You	10
2011 Conference Information	11
Contact Us	11
<i>Our thanks for the content for this issue go to:</i>	
• Jody Burns, San Juan County	
• Eileen Thornton-Davis, Benton-Franklin Counties	
Nameplate photo by Carol Robbins, Grays Harbor County	

Visit our website:

[MGFWS](http://www.mgfws.org)

Hello from the New State President

~~Judy Porterfield

I'd like to start with an old Chinese saying:

To be happy for an hour, have a bottle of wine.

To be happy for a year, get married.

To be happy for a lifetime, plant a garden.

And so my happy life has gone – with my very first memories that of a victory garden in the waning years of World War II. No matter where I've been, growing plants has been part of my personal landscape. I know I was the only one in my college dorm with indoor planters! And I knew that when I retired I wanted to become a Master Gardener.

This is a wonderful time to be a MG. Interest in gardening is widespread – especially in vegetables, and if you've checked your local grocery store lately you know why.

Many of us see that interest reflected in the questions we field at our plant clinics and gardens.

Once upon a time, we passed on gardening information between and among generations and neighbors, and some of us can still remember at least the tail end of that tradition – but today, with families moving around and across the country and the ever increasing urbanization (and suburbanization) of our population, that has changed.

Today MGs fill that niche: educating those who are interested in learning about gardening. The difference is that our information is science-based, supports sustainable practices, and is as accurate as we can make it. (My guess is that the “olden days” weren't quite as golden as nostalgia would sometimes lead us to believe.)



Judy Porterfield

(Judy Porterfield, continued on page 10)

News from Tonie

~~Tonie Fitzgerald, WSU Extension MG Program Leader

Two announcements I'm happy to make:

The new *WSU Extension Master Gardener Training Manual*, (EC0001), is completed! The 640-page new resource is a compilation of 25 chapters written by WSU faculty and a few guest authors. It's beautiful, with color photos, two new chapters on “Backyard Forest Stewardship” and “Fire-Safe Landscaping for Homes and Communities.” Here are the ways it will be available to MGs:

1. All new MGs, starting in 2011, will receive it automatically when they enroll in the online course. It will appear as individual chapters within related modules, and in full on the DVD that comes with the online registration. So, it will be included in the online training fee.
2. Veterans who enroll in the online course next year will get it the same as new MGs above.
3. Veterans who do not enroll in the online course may purchase the new manual in CD (compact disk) form and view it on their computers, copy it on their home printers, or take it to a copy center for printing. The cost of the CD has not been determined by University Publications yet, but it is expected to be about \$25.

People who are not MG volunteers who want to purchase the manual can do so through the County Extension offices or University Publications, just like ordering other Extension publications.

The second announcement is that by mid-November, the 2011 new, improved version of the MG online training will be

(News from Tonie, continued on page 3)

Ed LaCrosse

2010 Washington State Master Gardener of the Year

It is with pride and affection that the Board of Directors of the Master Gardener Foundation of King County places in nomination the name of **Ed LaCrosse** as 2010 State Master Gardener of the Year. Ed has been a Master Gardener for 20 years. His myriad contributions to the Master Gardener program at the state and county level are both extensive and impressive, meeting and exceeding - even defining - the criteria established for this award. Ed is also a member of the Native Plant Society and is a native plant steward for that group. Ed is a gifted leader with integrity, commitment, dedication to the Master Gardener Program and a vast knowledge of native plants.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Ed has organized and leads an extremely effective community-based coalition at the historic Neely-Soames Homestead Garden. For example, he leads a team from Hawkeye Consultants each fall, harvesting the garden for local food banks. Scout and other community groups also periodically work in the garden under Ed's leadership.



Ed LaCrosse

Ed works closely with personnel from the City of Kent, consulting and advising about capital improvements to both the house and grounds, as well as working with city personnel establishing a master maintenance plan. The garden features an herb garden, a vegetable garden, a grape arbor, a hops arbor, fruit trees, a compost center, and planting beds surrounding the historic Neely-Soames home. All plants are contemporaneous to the home.

He plans an annual Open House and Tour at the garden each summer to introduce other Master Gardeners and community members to this wonderful South King County asset. This tour is jointly publicized with the City of Kent, and all local legislators and council members are invited as well. A flyer that outlines a walking tour and containing information about the garden is produced each year under Ed's direction.

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

Ed is a member of the King County Master Gardener Speaker's Bureau, and has made many presentations to both community groups and Master Gardener Groups on native plants. As a speaker he is an asset to the community and to all Master Gardeners.

Ed has been a consistent and stalwart presence at all Master Gardener events in King County, including our Annual Plant Sale. As Chair of the Native Plant section, Ed selects and orders plants to be sold, as well as screening MG donations for inclusion in the sale. He has recruited and trained a team to work in this section, and supervises setup on Friday to ensure an effective display of the plants and personally works all three days of the sale. He also is a speaker at scheduled seminars at the sale.

Ed has initiated horticultural classes for the public at the Neely-Soames garden on a regular basis. These classes not only provide educational opportunities for those who attend, but also introduce attendees to the garden and its offerings as well as providing background information about the Master Gardener program.

PROMOTION OF THE WSU MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Ed's support for and promotion of WSU Extension and the Master Gardener Program has been tireless. His knowledge of and support for this program has literally become part of his DNA. He "walks his talk," and his life and his commitment speak volumes in support of the program and his fellow Master Gardeners.

Ed organizes a biennial Legislative Day for Master Gardeners around the state to gather in Olympia to meet with state legislators, not to lobby for money, but to provide information about the program. He is careful that all participants have relevant information and facts about the state program and its impact, as well as information about their own county program. He always encourages Master Gardeners to provide information about the program to all elected officials, including those at the local level.

LEADERSHIP ROLE

The Neely-Soames heritage garden was moribund and in disarray when he assumed his leadership position at the garden. He started there in 1998 by unloading the very first load of compost. Several years later he was asked to reorganize and pull the group together after almost all of the MGs and volunteers had moved on to other interests. He has grown this

(Ed LaCrosse, continued on page 3)

(Ed LaCrosse, continued from page 2)



Ed's in Charge . . .

group through his knowledge of native and heritage plants and his support of the volunteers. In addition to Master Gardeners (some of whom drive great distances to work there with Ed), many community volunteers have become active after walking through the garden and talking with Ed. Residents around the garden have become volunteers as well.

Ed has been a member and leader of the State Foundation Board for years. He is past State Foundation President, serving from 1999 – 2005, then again later in 2005 to late in 2006 following a resignation. His was a positive force during a time of reorganization and redirection within the Extension program.

He is a past Board member of the King County Foundation, serving in the 90's, and is past President of

that Board as well. Ed leads through example and experience and he recruits and nurtures leaders as well. He consistently encourages Master Gardeners to take on leadership roles. For example, at Neely-Soames he has assigned a leadership position in each part of the garden to a Master Gardener. That is the ultimate – and critical – test of a leader, to provide for leadership extending beyond one's own role.

COMMITMENT

Ed has been awarded the State Foundation Distinguished Service Award, and in 2008 that Award was renamed the Ed LaCrosse Service Award in recognition of his commitment, involvement and service.

Ed volunteers hundreds of hours every year – in the Neely-Soames Homestead Garden, at the Plant Sale, on the Board of the State Foundation, as a speaker, as a community resource, and in numerous other Master Gardener activities. His commitment is celebrated as a standard to which other Master Gardeners can aspire.

LEGACY

Ed LaCrosse is the living embodiment of the Master Gardener Program and its goals. The Master Gardeners he has inspired, the fledgling gardeners he has mentored, the community members he has educated, the flourishing plants and gardens he has nurtured, the coalitions of gardeners and community members he has established, the strong Master Gardener Boards and Board members he has empowered, are the legacy that Ed has given us all.

We are truly grateful.



Above is the nomination entry submitted by the King County Master Gardener Foundation, abridged. It was prepared by Judy Porterfield, Past President of the King County Master Gardener Foundation and now President of the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State.

(News from Tonie, continued from page 1)

available for Program Coordinators and MG mentors to view to begin program planning for 2011. Program Coordinators will soon receive notification on how to access it for review purposes. Changes include an easier registration system, easier navigation within modules, and corrections to errors noted last year. Within each module, the presentations and activities and videos are all designated as either required for basic training, optional, or advanced education. Only quizzes and final exams are graded in the 2011 version.

The production of the new WSU MG manual and refinement of the online training course have been long in coming, but I'm confident you will find both to be high quality resources for improved MG training.

Now I can turn my attention to Advanced Training Curricula for certified MG volunteers. Last year's survey of all MGs and coordinators showed this to be a priority, so it's a priority goal for me for the coming year.

Sarah Jackson

2010 MG Foundation of Washington State Media Award Winner

The state foundation Media Award recognizes journalists throughout our state who have been exemplary in their coverage of the WSU Master Gardener program. The 2010 Media Award was presented at the MGFWS Awards Dinner during the statewide Master Gardener Advanced-Education Conference, in September. It was presented to Sarah Jackson, a features writer for *The Herald*, in Everett. She was nominated by Master Gardeners from Snohomish County.

Sarah reports extensively on Snohomish County WSU Master Gardener events and projects. She has worked at *The Herald* since 2005. Snohomish County Master Gardeners, in their nomination, stated that Sarah reports facts in an unbiased manner, both in her coverage of specific Master Gardener activities and in stories that are broader in nature. A September 2009 feature highlighting the Snohomish County Master Gardener Sustainable Gardening Lecture Series is one example.

Sarah's articles always heighten the public's awareness and importance of eating healthfully through obtaining quality foods, emphasizing locally grown products.

Before her arrival at the *Herald* in 2005, she worked for four years at *The Olympian* newspaper. In fact, it is the Thurston County Master Gardener group that she credits with sparking her interest in gardening. Consequently, not only does she thoroughly cover Master Gardener activities, she's an avid gardener herself.

Snohomish County Master Gardeners submitted an extensive nomination notebook to the state foundation when they nominated Ms. Jackson. It contained several of the engaging articles that she has written. Many of these pieces feature Master Gardeners, including one about a vertical demonstration garden in Snohomish County and one that spotlighted this year's Snohomish County Master Gardener Foundation garden tour.

The state foundation was pleased to give the 2010 Media Award to Sarah Jackson, and thanked her at the conference for her work publicizing our program and helping us to educate the public about gardening.



Sarah Jackson

Photo courtesy of The Herald

Events in Your Neighborhood

~~Jody Burns, Master Gardener, San Juan Island County

Every Master Gardener program sponsors education events throughout the year, even in the winter! We thought you might be interested in knowing what some of your neighbors are doing. If your organization has an event they'd like to publicize in *Seeds for Thought*, send the information to Jody Burns, davisj@u.washington.edu.

Skagit County: November 16, 2010. "Ways to Use and Care for Your Greenhouse," presented by Charley's Greenhouse, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. WSU Mount Vernon NW Research and Extension Center (http://skagit.wsu.edu/mg/upcoming_events.htm).

Island County: November 16, 2010. "Spotted Wing Drosophila: Why Should We Care - What Do We Know?" A better understanding of the biology of the Spotted Wing Drosophila will help to answer whether 2010 is a typical year for *D. suzukii*. Are the large populations in fall actually nonbreeding, undergoing a physiological shift from reproduction to overwintering? Answering these questions will give a better understanding of the period of fruit susceptibility and perhaps insight into cultivar selection. Research continues to focus on developing conventional and sustainable methods for managing *D. suzukii* and answering these vital questions. A presentation by Beverly S. Gerdeman, Ph.D., Entomology. 7:00 p.m., Coupeville Recreational Hall, 901 NW Alexander St., Coupeville.

Island County: December 4, 2010. "Native to What?" Dr. Martin F. Quigley, Director of Chester M. Alter Arboretum at the University of Denver will speak on how we got to our current landscape values and practices and talk about what "native" really means to a gardener. Coupeville, WA. Contact Island County Master Gardeners at (360) 240-5558.

Thurston County: December 28, 2010. Bellevue Botanical Garden Lights Tour. Contact Jackie White at Jackie@mgftc.org for reservations.

And for a special treat, the **Master Gardeners of Victoria, BC** are hosting a daylong advanced-education conference in Sidney, BC, (20 minutes north of Victoria) on **January 29, 2011**. For \$55.00, you'll get the latest buzz about bees, raising chickens, growing vegetables year around, the best berries and fruits for the PNW, and a lunch keynote by Don Genova on how to catch the slow-food train. There's also a chance to attend on-site mini-workshops the following day for \$20.00. Contact mixingitup2011@gmail.com or phone Elaine Scott at 1-250-743-0965 for more information, including conference hotel specials.

Sustainable Kids' Sustainable Garden: The Winner of the 2010 Ellen A'Key Grant

~~Deloris Jungert-Davisson, Asotin County Master Gardener

The Master Gardeners of Asotin County area are really grateful to the King County Master Gardener Foundation for the Ellen A'Key grant award, which will support our project, *Sustainable Kids' Sustainable Garden*. We have met with the Principal, Eileen Loughney, fourth and fifth grade teachers Barb Creswell, Ella Roberts, Julie Zimmer-Meyers, and Judi Akers at Parkway Elementary School in Clarkston, Washington, and will begin meeting every Friday with four classes sequentially from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Photo by David M. Denham

Asotin County Master Gardeners who will participate in Sustainable Kids' Sustainable Garden Project

The goal of the project:

With an alarming rise in youth obesity and nutritionally related diseases, the goal is to implement a gardening/nutrition pilot project which will investigate long-term solutions to sustainable health through food choices, gardening, and physical activity. The project will target fourth and fifth grade students.

The reason we will work with the fourth and fifth grade "band" is that, according to Washington State Curriculum Standards, this is the year they explore complex systems. From K-3, students have learned about component parts of systems. This Master Gardener project is an excellent hands-on experience to explore complex systems. Educators and the principal at Parkway School will provide the science assessment and evaluation of the pilot program.

The objectives of *Sustainable Kids' Sustainable Garden* are twofold:

1) To design and implement a sustainable gardening project, consistent with the Washington State K-12 Science Curriculum Standards for Grades Four and Five. The academic learning requirements for Grades Four and Five include the following:



Photo by Deloris Jungert-Davisson

*Fourth-Grade Class with Their Teacher, Judi Akers (center, back) at Parkway Elementary School.
Master Gardener Deloris Jungert-Davisson is at far right, back.*

An Update on the 2009 Ellen A'Key Grant Winner: The Old Hotel Drought-Tolerant Demonstration Garden in Othello

~~Terry Rice, Master Gardener, Grant/Adams County

The Old Hotel Drought-Tolerant Garden, located in Othello, Washington, has seen many changes since its beginning last fall. When you visit the garden, you will find plantings of many drought-tolerant plants that are readily available in this area. We have added a border of basalt rocks that we gathered locally. We chose to use basalt because of its native origin



Photo by Terry Rice

Grant/Adams Counties Master Gardeners at July meeting at Old Hotel Garden

in our area. They really add to the garden and give it a more finished look. Three wine barrels are displayed in front of the Children's Art Building and also contain grasses, succulents and other plants to demonstrate the use of drought-tolerant plants in containers. People have expressed appreciation of the fact that all plants are labeled so they can find them for their own yards. A park bench has been located along the path so people can sit and enjoy the garden. The bench is dedicated to a well-loved kindergarten teacher who was an inspiration to us all.

We continue to offer garden-related classes at the garden. Some classes include Terrariums for Kids, Kid's Stepping Stones, Specialty Geraniums and Vegetable Gardening.



Photo by Linda Crozier

*Terry Rice & Granddaughter
Meghan with Garden
Stepping Stone*

Members of the Grant/Adams County Master Gardener Foundation held their summer meeting at the garden in July. We enjoyed showing off our garden. Pictures were also displayed at the Grant County and Adams County Fairs this summer.

We presented a PowerPoint Program at our local Rotary meeting in September and answered many gardening questions. We were encouraged to write a grant proposal for publicity activities.

We have been asked to expand the gardens to the restaurant area of the Old Hotel and are looking forward to planning and planting that area in the spring.

Many of these activities would not have been possible without the King County Master Gardener Foundation Ellen A'Key Grant. It has been a wonderful experience and we look forward to "playing in the dirt" for years to come.



(Asotin County, continued from page 5)

- a) **System thinking:** analysis of part-to-whole relationship of systems and sub-systems;
 - b) **Inquiry:** knowledge of how the natural world works, utilizing various investigative methods, systematic observations, field studies, and experiments;
 - c) **Application:** Making inferences and designing solutions to problems. The problems and solutions we will address include the alarming rise in youth obesity and nutritionally related diseases and the effect of healthier food choices and increased physical activity on "sustainable kids' sustainable gardens."
- 2) To provide training in program development, presentation and management for new Master Gardener interns with veteran Master Gardener mentors.

With the great support of our WSU Extension Agent, Mark Heitstuman, we are moving ahead with the hands-on curriculum and establishing a school orchard and garden. We will forward our materials to any interested Master Gardener organization--if that organization will provide feedback.

Contact Deloris Jungert-Davisson at veggies@cablone.net for more information.

2010 WSU Master Gardener Advanced-Education Conference a Success

~~Dean Sutera, Clark County Master Gardener Foundation Volunteer

Head of the Organizing Committee for the 2010 Conference

The annual statewide Master Gardener conference, presented by the WSU Master Gardener Program and the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State, recently finished three full days of exceptional learning experiences, fantastic sharing opportunities, and an incredible amount of fun. If you were there, you know what I'm talking about. If you weren't, plan on attending next year's conference hosted by Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties, in Ocean Shores, September 22-24.

If you attended this year's conference, go to this [website](#) and take a look at some of the photos taken by volunteers at the conference. If you didn't make it, take a look anyway, to get the feel for what's in store next September. The more than 80 volunteer hosts from the Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County created a beautiful setting for the conference at the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay right on the Columbia River in Vancouver.

The conference started with four optional tours, followed by a Welcoming Dinner Thursday night. After the keynote presentation Friday morning, participants jumped right into their choices of 28 seminars, as well as two more general sessions. The seminars and the whole conference experience were so superb that they prompted Viviane Simon-Brown, our keynote speaker, from Oregon State University, to send a "thank you" note saying, "What a wonderful conference you had! I can't remember when I've had so much fun, and learned so much, and felt so appreciated. My office world is definitely a letdown after such a vibrant, engaging, educational time with you ... I met a lot of interesting people who've given me good ideas for my garden (!) and my program."

(2010 Conference, continued on page 10)



Clockwise from top left: Keynote speaker Vivian Simon-Brown; the raffle and silent auction room before the madhouse began; Clark County Master Gardener conference chair and co-chairs and foundation president: Fran Hammond, Dean Sutera, Karen Palmer, Wayne Chandler; 2010 Master Gardener of the Year Ed LaCrosse; happy hour on the river deck at the Red Lion at the Quay.

County Briefs

~~News from Master Gardener Programs Across Washington State

Jefferson County Master Gardener Foundation Grants Program

In the fall of 2008 we launched a program whereby non-profit community organizations could apply for funding to support environmentally friendly and sustainable horticultural programs in our community. Although we are self-sustaining, we still had moneys from our fundraising activities in excess of our operating expenses and wanted to give back to the community. By November of this year, we will have granted almost \$20,000 for community gardens, Organic, Seed Alliance, school garden projects, Gleaners who harvest fruit from neighbors to go to the food bank and many other projects.

If our primary purpose is to educate the community on environmentally sound sustainable practices, this program does more than just educate, it also puts education into practice as the applicants have to do sound horticultural research in convincing us to fund their project and then they have to prove by our frequent site visits that they did what they said they would do.

For more information: contact Shirley Williams, email gswilli@earthlink.net or Kathi Boyker, email kboyker@mindspring.com.

Pierce County at the Puyallup Fair

The Western Washington State Fair in Puyallup, is a high point for Pierce County Master Gardeners. Starting in May, vegetables are planted by the many dedicated gardeners to produce enough plants to fill and back fill an indoor garden plot 16' by 40', for most of the month of September.

The garden demonstrates gardening in a small space, using techniques such as upright structures for vine growing produce. Composting and soil mixes are addressed and informational pamphlets and hand outs are available.

Master Gardeners staffed the educational display, answering questions from over 4,300 people, about vegetable gardening and sustainable horticulture practices.

A survey of the fair goers indicated that 57 percent were inspired to build a garden after viewing the display, 73 percent felt that Master Gardener advice had helped them save money on produce.

This was truly a group effort with over 130 MGs involved.

For more information, contact George Frey at 253-845-7721, or email georgefrey@yahoo.com.

News from Skagit County

Kari Russom, our program coordinator, is busy planning our 2011 Master Gardener training, which will be held Thursdays in January and February at Padilla Bay in Bayview-Edison. We will be training 15 Master Gardeners and 10 Hort Pros. The cost will be \$300, with \$150 being returned to interns once they complete their volunteer hours. Those who don't complete their hours will be certified as Hort Pros.

Our annual Plant Fair at the Skagit County Fairgrounds went well, and we've had another successful year in our demonstration garden, including having children from local elementary schools participate in our Dig-It program, where teachers cover basic botany in the classroom and the children then come out to the garden to plant vegetables

Know & Grow, our series of free workshops for home gardeners, has been running once a month at the WSU-NWREC auditorium by the Discovery Garden, and we continue our regular "Ask the Master Gardener" column in the *Skagit Valley Herald*. The Foundation has signed a three-year agreement with Azusa Farm and Garden to secure spring greenhouse space for our Plant Fair tomatoes. For more information, contact Jane Billinghamurst at jane.billinghurst@frontier.com.

Lewis County's Post-Christmas Fundraiser

While many Master Gardener programs wind down for the winter, the day after Christmas is when many Lewis County Master Gardeners go to work. Since sometime in the '80s we have been running a Christmas-tree recycling program. While we don't charge for taking trees, we do request donations and, with the help of a local farm -equipment business, we chip what we gather. Many MGs and local gardeners bring trucks and trailers on the days that we chip to receive mulch to use in their gardens. In recent years we have joined forces with Master Composters/Recyclers and Solid Waste. We will be doing this again December 24th-January 10th. The quantity of trees that are collected from year to year varies due to the weather, but is usually in the neighborhood of two to three tons. Not only are the trees kept out of the landfill, but we all get truckloads of wonderfully fragrant mulch for our demo gardens and home gardens.

(County Briefs, continued on page 9)

(County Briefs, continued from page 8)

Planning is already under way for our Spring Gardening for Everyone, to be held on Saturday, February 12, 2011. These are free gardening classes that cover a variety of topics including, but not limited to: fruit-tree care, grape pruning, seed starting, straw-bale gardening, and a variety of other topics. In conjunction with Gardening for Everyone, we will conduct hands-on workshops on rose pruning and grape pruning in our demonstration gardens.

Our 2011 training begins on January 5th so there is little time for Lewis County Master Gardeners to gather moss over the winter.

Whatcom County Events

Whatcom County held its annual Advanced Training on September 30th. Master Gardeners from Whatcom and several surrounding counties and Vancouver B.C. attended. The 150 participants in this all-day training heard Dr. Stephen Jones, Director of WSU/Mt. Vernon Research Station, speak on "Plant Breeding for Home Gardens." Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, from WSU/Puyallup, spoke on "Feed Your Soil Using Science-Not Snake Oil." She had copies of her new *Sustainable Landscapes and Gardens* for sale, too. After lunch an important local topic, "Soil Amendments Bite Back. What Gardeners do with Herbicide Residues in Organic Matter," was addressed by Colleen Burrows. She is Whatcom County's IPM Coordinator. Dr. Craig Cogger, from WSU/Puyallup, spoke on "Climate Change: Understanding the Science and Why It's Important to All of Us." Marianne Binetti, a well-known local author and columnist, ended the day with "Going Global: The Best Gardening Ideas from Around the World."

For more information contact Linda Bergquist at bergiesjl@comcast.net.

Yakima County Activities

Yakima Master Gardeners are winding down the "garden year" by staffing a booth at the Central Washington State Fair for a full week. Although fair attendance was up this year, the booth didn't receive many visitors until late each day and most were persons over 50.

The opposite was true for our clinic booth at the weekly Yakima Farmers' Market, where there was a definite increase in the number of general inquiries and information requests.

Meanwhile, our demo garden was busy presenting several free programs to the public and particularly to youth groups, culminating in the pumpkin decorating class for 53 youngsters on Oct. 9th.

Finally, in anticipation of the 2011 training sessions, we have decided to institute an interview process to screen and educate prospective interns, which will also allow us to introduce a more intensive computer lab to orient them to the new training program.

For further information please contact Tom Kerns at 509-966-6411 or email j.k.kerns@charter.net.

Noteworthy from San Juan County

San Juan County Master Gardeners celebrated the harvest season with a cider-pressing party at the Master Gardener demonstration garden. Everyone took home a gallon of freshly pressed cider to enjoy with their first pumpkin pie of the season.

The community education program continues in November with "Fruitful Legacy: A Historic Context of Orchards" in the United States presented by Susan Dolan, Landscape Architect for the U.S. National Parks. Co-sponsored with the San Juan Island Library.

And we're still busy taking advantage of the surprisingly good weather to keep digging and dividing those overgrown perennials in preparation for a successful spring plant sale.



(2010 MG Conference, continued from page 7)

That's quite a compliment coming from the Director of the National Network for Sustainable Living Education. Many of the 374 people attending the conference had similar comments about their learning opportunities, as well as about the fun they had entering the raffles, shopping the silent auction and MG Market Place store. And, that's not even mentioning happy hour on the River Deck overlooking the Columbia River, listening to wonderful music.

Make your plans now to join hundreds of your fellow Master Gardeners at Beach Class 2011 in Ocean Shores, September 22-24, 2011. The keynote speaker will be Amy Stewart, the award-winning author of five books on the perils and pleasures of the natural world, including two *New York Times* best sellers, *Wicked Plants* and *Flower Confidential*. You can get more conference information as it becomes available at www.regonline.com/mgfbeach2011, or by contacting Claudia Matthew at mgfbeach2011@gmail.com.

(Judy Porterfield, continued from page 1)

Will MGs still be relevant as we look into the future? Very much so, I think, as we can all clearly see major changes in the American approach to food and to diet on the horizon. The convergence of climate changes, growing populations around the world and the diversion of food crops into alternate energy sources already means that the old ways of feeding the world's people, and even the people here in the USA, are feeling the pinch of change. And food-safety questions continue to plague the marketplace, which only makes those home-grown veggies even more appealing.

Who better to be midwives to some of this change than knowledgeable and committed MGs? We are, and will continue to be, on the frontlines of these challenges.

I am honored to become President of the State Master Gardener Foundation at this time – especially following in Mary Shane's footsteps. She has done a magnificent job steering our MG organization through some tumultuous times – times that promise only to be more challenging as we all navigate difficult funding decisions by governmental bodies at every level.

A few words about me personally: I completed my MG training in 2003, and have been President of the King County Foundation for four years. I am a retired Human Resources manager, married with two daughters and one (absolutely sterling) granddaughter, and a total passion for Hydrangeas. To all of you I haven't yet met, I'm looking forward to the possibility. Invite me to a meeting and, if it is at all doable (and the passes aren't totally snowed in) I'll come.



Photo by "anslatudams"
'Pinky Winky' Hydrangea

A Special Thank You

*The Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State wishes to express gratitude and appreciation to **MasterGardener and Good Fruit Grower magazines**, for a donation during this quarter.*

WSU MASTER GARDENER ADVANCED-EDUCATION CONFERENCE
PRESENTED BY GRAYS HARBOR & PACIFIC COUNTIES

Beach Class 2011

MASTER GARDENER
Advanced-
Education
Conference
in
Ocean Shores

Sept. 22-24
Ocean Shores
Conference Center
Ocean Shores, WA

Keynote Speaker: Amy Stewart Best-Selling Author of *Flower Confidential: The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful in the Business of Flowers* and *Wicked Bugs: A Natural History of the Dark Side of Bugs*, available Spring 2011.

Sponsored by
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION Master Gardener Foundation
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION Master Gardener Program

Contact:
Claudia Matthew
Phone: 877 883-1114
Email: mgfbeach2011@gmail.com
www.regonline.com/mgfbeach2011

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

Seeds for Thought is a quarterly publication of the
Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State (MGFWS)
Published February, May, August, & November

Editor: MGFWS Executive Committee

Publisher: Mary Shane

Officer	Name	County	Email Address
President	Judy Porterfield	King	judyporterfield@yahoo.com
Secretary	Patty Brown	Lewis	yellowdog@toledotel.com
Treasurer	Eileen Davis-Thorne	Benton-Franklin	wagardenertr@gmail.com
VP Olympic Peninsula	Mike McFadden	Jefferson	lelandlakehouse@wildblue.net
VP Northwest	Stan Lundgaard	Snohomish	captstan@comcast.net
VP Southwest	Ben Trowbridge	Mason	ben.trowbridge@comcast.net
VP Metro	Betty Ryan	Pierce	honeyryan@msn.com
VP Northeast	Vacant		
VP Southeast	Chris Bailey	Benton-Franklin	mastergardenerwa@yahoo.com
WSU MG Program Leader	Tonie Fitzgerald	WSU	tjfitz@wsu.edu