



## APRIL NEWSLETTER

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### **Key words and phrases for evaluating this year's MG projects**

As you and MGs plan educational programs for 2010, don't forget to develop evaluation tools to measure impact of those programs. There are a few examples of evaluation tools on our website under Tools for Program Managers and there are others on the Professional Development website at <http://ext.wsu.edu/pd/>.

In 2009 MG coordinators and faculty came up with several key words and phrases to use in evaluation tools for Master Gardener community programs. These are listed on the MG website at <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/tools.html> (bottom of the page) and in the January, 2010 newsletter at <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/documents/January2010.pdf>.

### **Online Training Ideas that Work**

In the Cluster meetings in March, Program Coordinators talked about the new Online MG Training experience. There are many challenges, to be sure, and Cinde and I will continue to work with CDPE on easing these problems. (You all know what they are.)

It was great to hear of the creative solutions many of you developed. These ideas are shared here so all coordinators can benefit. Please contact people listed here for more information. Use the staff directories listed at <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/staffdirectories.html> for contact information.

Most counties decided to train every other week to give volunteers more time to absorb material and coordinators more time to prepare review sessions, field trips and hands on activities for the face-to-face classes.

Debbie Burris, Coordinator in Lewis County, is putting together click by click instructions for each module and hands these out at class. She has highlighted what she believes is most important for new trainees to read, view and complete as assignments. She is finding that most want to do more than she lists, but they are relieved to know they don't have to do everything in each module. See 4 examples of her click-by-click instructions on the Lewis County MG website at <http://lewis.wsu.edu/mg/>

Cory Carlton, Program Coordinator in Thurston Co, made a click-by-click instruction sheet for what MGs need to do for homework after viewing the presentations. She is working with a young Ameri-Corps volunteer who is not at all intimidated by the online training. They organized their volunteers into groups of 8 and each group has one MG mentor and one Computer mentor. MGs felt more comfortable working through computer difficulties with their Computer mentors than through the online support help. Many of the hands on activities and assignments are done in these small groups.

Mary Jean Grimes, Volunteer MG in Pacific County, said some MGs are going it alone and others need more help. She reserved computers at 4 area libraries once a week for small groups to meet together with a mentor and see how to navigate the online training.

Carolyn Gordon, MG Program Coordinator in Clark County, isn't training new MGs until this fall, but she had veterans who were willing to enroll to go through it and commit to being mentors for new interns this fall.

Marianne Ophardt, Extension Educator in Benton/Franklin County, told volunteers that she was only looking to see that they completed the quizzes, not all the assignments and activities. She said they relaxed somewhat after that, but most still want to do everything and know that they're doing it right.

Penny Simonson, MG Coordinator in Spokane, told all the new interns that 2010 MG interns were a *very special group* because they were helping to pilot testing the first year of MG online training and they were supposed to fill out the module surveys with all their comments. They are feeling a sense of importance in helping WSU switch to this new technology for all future classes. They are not complaining about difficulties, they are reporting them for us to fix. (Very clever, Penny.)

### **Online Training Registration for Fall**

There are 18 counties currently using online MG training, and we anticipate most others to train new volunteers this fall or in early 2011. Center for Distance and Professional Education (CDPE) must set up individual course sites for each county. If mentors want access to their site two months early for planning purposes, please let Cinde know this summer of your fall start date. (Due to the heavy use of the learning management software (Angel) that operates MG online training as well as academic courses and other distance education courses, CDPE is unable to open county course spaces more than two months before the start of each county's training.) [cindej@wsu.edu](mailto:cindej@wsu.edu)

Mentors can purchase DVDs of the online training instead of registering for online access to the course. The same price of \$50 applies to either the DVD or online access.

### **Advanced MG Education Opportunities**

MG Program Coordinators and faculty are planning several options around the state for MG volunteers to get Advanced Continued Education in 2010 in addition to the annual state conference in Vancouver. Volunteers in all counties are invited to attend any of these regional options. Listed here are options that are still in the planning stages, but please start letting MG volunteers know about the dates. More details on program specifics will come later.

Spokane County Extension Office. Advanced Weed Identification Workshop. Saturday, July 10, 1-4 PM.

WSU Prosser Research and Extension Center, Meet with research faculty to discuss horticulture related research and see test plots. Weekday sometime in July or August.

Field Day at WSU MT. Vernon Research and Extension Center, Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm.

Puyallup R&E Center. Rain Garden Workshop; purpose and construction training for MGs. Saturday in August or October.

Let me know if your county is planning something that would qualify as continuing education for MG volunteers and would be open to MGs from other counties. And, put a notice on the MG SharePoint calendar at <https://sharepoint.cahnrs.wsu.edu/mgp>

### **Next MG Cluster Meetings**

Eastern WA Cluster: Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Adobe Connect teleconference. Details for connection will be sent later.  
SW Cluster: Chehalis. Wed., June 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 2 pm. (Note time extended one hour)

**Tonie Fitzgerald**

Master Gardener Program Leader

WSU Extension at WSU Spokane

Mailing: PO Box 1495, Spokane, WA 99210-1495

Shipping: 412 E Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, WA 99202

509-358-7879 fax 509-358-7979

[tjfitz@wsu.edu](mailto:tjfitz@wsu.edu)

<http://mastergardener.wsu.edu>

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