



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

February—March
2011



UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA COOPERATIVE

Master Gardener Newsletter

Words from Wendy

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to 2011!

I hope you have all stayed warm and toasty over the past winter months. With the beginning of the New Year, I am sure I am not the only one who has experienced spring fever with the few days of temperatures reaching into the mid-sixties. I was out cleaning-up the broken branches from the December windstorm and raking leaves and pine needles that never blew away. Yes, I am a wishful thinker. I always hope living in Washoe Valley with all the wonderful wind, that all my elm tree leaves will blow away to the BLM land. Unfortunately, wishful thinking is just that. I still raked several trash bags full of leaves and debris.



There are neat surprises when working in the yard in mid winter; you never know what you may find hidden in the garden. This year, I found my daffodils have begun to pop-up, and my annual purple poppies have already germinated. These are sure signs that the gardening season is just around the corner.

With February upon us, I know that my spring itch will only get stronger. February kicks off the beginning of garden talks across the area. The Master Gardeners will again have the Gardening in Nevada series at Bartley Ranch, and many of the nurseries are starting to promote their talks. We have brought back favorites and added many new presenters and talks. Plus, our horticulture team has put together a new series of talks entitled "Nevada Landscaping that Works!" This series

is once a month, on the second Tuesday, and will run through the growing season. The talks will begin at Bartley Ranch and then continue at other locations. I have included the flyers for

these programs so you can mark calendars or post on the refrigerator.

I have two more big dates for you to mark on your calendars. First, if the inspections at our new building go according to plan, on April 1 the Reno office will officially move from our present location at 5305 Mill street to our new office at 4955 Energy Way.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Words From Wendy	1-2
Timesheets!	2-3
Email for Master Gardeners	3
Volunteer Opportunities	3-4
Educational Opportunities	4-5
Master Gardener Safety Tips	5
The Farwest Flower & Garden Show	6-7

Potlucks:

- * Reno Potluck February 7, noon
- * Douglas Potluck, February 9, 1 p.m.

Words From Wendy (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Fortunately, we are moving less than a mile from our old location. Second, the Spring Master Gardener class will begin on April 11 and run through May 24. Classes will be at our new Reno office and will run Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 1- 4 p.m. If you know of anyone who is interested in signing up, please have them contact our office to be placed on the interest list.

As you all know, we wrapped up a Master Gardener class this fall, and I would like to welcome all of our new Master Gardeners to the team:

Joan Bourbeau, Anne Hubbell, Austin Willis, Becky Hickman, Connie Glass, David Johnson, Dena O'Grady, Denise Stokich, Dennis Miller, Diane Willis,

Dick Pennock, Janel Franklin, Juliana Harris, Kari Earle, Linda Ritter, Linda Curry, Loretta Low, Marilyn Yezek, Melba Schoenfeldt, Michaela Hammett, Miriam Hutchinson, Pamela Quinn-Wiley, Patricia Dorrance-Robertson, Robbie Haar, Roger Merz, Sara Corso, Scott Rankin, Sharon Dorr, Steve Oxarat, Susan Hale, Susan Bechtold, Tanya Mead, Tina Leahy, Tracy Rupert and Vicki Bates (is this all?). Many of these new MGs have already begun volunteering in their communities!

The class would not have gone nearly as smoothly without the help of the Master Gardeners who traveled to both the Carson City and Douglas County locations to help facilitate and welcome our new volunteers.

We did something new with

this past class—we went on a educational walk through a local park. We did this in both Carson City and in Douglas. The feedback I received the day of the event was wonderful, and the written evaluations repeated that sentiment, even though we did the walks in mid-October and it was chilly to say the least. Since everyone enjoyed the walks, I will be planning a few more this year, independent of the MG class. Keep an eye on your email and newsletters for dates. I will keep the groups small to ensure the best possible interaction and provide several walks through various area parks. If you have a park that you think has good specimens for teaching hands-on diagnostic skills, please email me (hansonw@unce.unr.edu).

See you all soon!

Timesheets!

You will notice you have two timesheets in this newsletter. One shows the hours that the old database has recorded for your hours for 2010. If these hours are not correct please email or call me. The second timesheet is the new version we will be using until the online system is up and

running. This new sheet is set up in Excel and can be emailed to you. Master Gardener Michaela Hammett has worked many hours creating this new record system. This new design should make it easier for you to fill out and for our office to get regional numbers needed for yearly

reports.

If you have not turned in your 2010 hours please send them in ASAP!

We need to show our state government how wonderful the MG Program is and the value your

(Continued on page 3)

Timesheets! (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

volunteering provides for our state and communities. All your volunteer hours make a

difference.

Thank you so much for everything you do to make this program shine!



Email for Master Gardeners

Soon we will be eliminating the paper form of our Master Gardener Newsletter.

By Summer 2011, our newsletters will be going via email with hard copies available

in the Western Area offices. If you have not received this newsletter via email or



received any emails from me this year, please contact Ashley at her *new email* andrewsa@unce.unr.edu or call her at 784-4848 with your email address.

Volunteer Opportunities

Potlucks

Douglas: Douglas Extension office, **February 9, and March 3, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Reno: Reno Cooperative Extension office, **February 7 at noon.**

Volunteer Opportunities

Phones:

Phone calls at the Reno office are beginning to pick up with the arrival of warmer spring-like temperatures. As of March, we are back to the two-shift work day in the Reno office. Shifts are flexible, but we try to schedule volunteers: **9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.,**

Monday through Friday. If you need a mentor, we will team you up with someone. We would greatly appreciate any time you can volunteer. To sign up, call Ashley, 784-4848.

Reno office perennial dig: Our Reno office move date is April 1. We want to move many of the perennial plants to the new facility. If you would like to help transplant the perennials and bulbs from the front of the Reno office and the Cliff Fouts Demonstration garden into pots to be planted at a later date, please call or email Ashley to be placed on the call list, 784-4848 or andrewsa@unce.unr.edu.

Office Packing Committee:

We are still taking names if you like packing and organizing. Our Reno horticulture office needs you. When we finally get to the point that we have an official move date for our Reno office, we would greatly appreciate the help. We will be boxing up files, books, demo garden supplies, pots and everything that's movable/usable. If you are interested in helping, call or email Ashley to be placed on the call list, 784-4848 or andrewsa@unce.unr.edu.

Carson City Community Garden

Master Gardeners are needed in Carson City to volunteer at two

(Continued on page 4)

Volunteer Opportunities (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

community gardens - one on Beverly Drive and the other in the atrium at the Carson City office. We will be putting together a garden with the Ron Wood Family Resource Center and Food Bank (our neighbors in the building) to help them feed those in need. MGs are needed to help guide the formation, plant the garden and to mentor those who will have beds. If you are interested, please call JoAnne Skelly, 887-2252 or email skellyj@unce.unr.edu.

Lockett Spring Home and Garden Show

We need Master Gardeners to help staff our booth for the spring home and garden show. The dates for the show are **March 25 to 27**, and it will

take place at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center at 4590 S. Virginia St. Show hours are: Friday, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. We again have several three-hour shifts for you to choose from. If you have questions or would like to volunteer for a shift, call Ashley, 784-4848.

Capital City Farm Days

We are looking for Master Gardeners to create informational booths to help educate students, kindergarten through fifth grades. Children come with their classes and teachers and can spend five to 10 minutes at each booth, so eye-catching and easy-to-learn gardening information is best. In the past, booths have featured composting,

perennials, annuals and vegetables, from the farm to the table. It works best when two or more people staff the booth. The event is 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., **April 14 and 15**, at the Carson City Fairgrounds at Fuji Park. Setup is 7:30 a.m., April 14. For information, call Wendy or Sandy, 887-2252.

Plant Faire Extravaganza

The Plant Faire Extravaganza is right around the corner on **May 21**. If you have any plants in your yard that you would like to divide, now is the time to start digging. We have one-gallon pots available. We plan to offer a wide variety again this year, including annuals, perennials, vegetables and shrubs. If you have questions or would like to lend a helping hand, call Wendy, 784-4848.

Educational Opportunities

Gardening in Nevada

6:30 p.m., every Tuesday in February and March, beginning Feb. 2, at Bartley Ranch Regional Park. This event is cosponsored by Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. For more information, contact Ashley, 784-4848

Nevada Landscaping That Works!

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. second Tuesday of each month from February through November. See attached flyer for all the dates and locations. For more information, contact Ashley, 784-4848

Beetle Identification and Citizen Monitoring

We are recruiting Master Gardeners for a special project. Are you interested in learning more about beetles? Would you like to maintain tree health in our area? Would you like to take an advanced beetle class with Jeff Knight, Nevada's State Entomologist?

Sign Up Today for this FREE Training! Only 6 spots left! Thursday, February 24,

Educational opportunities (continued)

2011, 9 a.m. - 3 or 4 p.m. at the Nevada Department of Agriculture, 405 S. 21st St. Sparks.

Learn to identify beetles; recognize damage, larvae, etc; what trees are susceptible to each of the invasive beetles; what can be done if evidence (signs or symptoms) is found.

Participating MGs commit to giving a total of 5 team presentations to community groups between March 2011 and May 2012. These will cover recognizing beetles and their damage and how to be a citizen monitor. All presentation materials, including a PowerPoint slide show and handouts, will be provided. There is a travel allowance for MGs who teach. These events

can be given at Extension offices or other public venues such as the Nevada State Fair.

Contact JoAnne Skelly
skellyj@unce.unr.edu, 887-2252

Funding for this program provided by Nevada Division of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and Nevada Department of Agriculture.



Irrigation System Start-Up

TMWA is offering an irrigation start-up course this Spring. There are two sessions of this class, one on Wednesday, April

6th and the other on Tuesday, April 12th. Both sessions run from 5:30-6:30 p.m. For more information, please call TMWA's Kurt Winans at 527-2910.

Properly Setting and Adjusting Irrigation Controllers or Clocks

After attending the Irrigation System Start-Up class, your next step is to learn more about your controllers or clocks. This class also will be held twice. The first date is Wednesday, April 20th and the second opportunity to catch this information occurs on Tuesday, April 26th. Both sessions are from 5:30- 6:30 p.m. For more information on this class, please contact Kurt Winans at TMWA at 527-2910.

Master Gardener Safety Tip

Things to remember as you start pruning this year. Take care of your tools, plants and most importantly yourself.

⇒ Sharpen your cutting tools before you use them. Dull tools can lead to over-exertion and more work than you were planning.

⇒ Disinfect tools between plants. If a plant is infected with a possible disease,

disinfect between each cut.

⇒ Never carry tools in your pockets.

⇒ Never place blades in direct contact with soil. Many diseases and bacteria can transfer to the pruning blades.

⇒ When using a chainsaw, wear the proper protective equipment (close-toed shoes, well fitted heavy-duty gloves,

head and hearing protection, safety goggles, long-sleeved shirt and pants. Clothing should always fit well and not be too baggy). Make sure the bar-chain is at the appropriate tightness.

⇒ Take breaks to rest and to warm-up if it's cold.

⇒ Don't do too much at once.

Northwest Flower and Garden Show

by, Jane Scott, Master Gardeners

In February last year I was fortunate to be able to attend the five-day Northwest Flower and Garden Show, albeit for two days only. Two days weren't enough, but I still came away with renewed enthusiasm for this thing called gardening. How great it was to be surrounded by other gardening geeks and many experts in the field. The only downside to the show was having to miss some seminars to attend others that occurred simultaneously.

In the main halls, I found amazing landscape designs, all of which were appropriate for the Northwest. Rows and rows of vendors sold everything from dahlia corms to compost tea brewers to jewelry and clothing. I met the gentleman who invented the pot lifter (and, of course, purchased one). I was in awe of beautiful ikebana floral designs. I browsed booths selling seeds, birdhouses, mason bee houses, books, etc. It's a good thing that I had to limit my purchases to what would fit in my suitcase. But what I really wanted to do was attend the free seminars offered throughout the day.

One of my favorite seminars was "Horticultural CSI" presented by Linda Chalker-

Scott, PhD, who is an extension urban horticulturist and associate professor at Puyallup Research and Extension Center, Washington State University. The seminar focused on cultural rather than biological problems. Diagnosis of plant failure must start by identifying the plant and knowing what it should look like and what growing conditions it prefers. It's important to determine what has been done to the soil in the last several years and whether or not there were unusual weather events in the last year. Dr. Chalker-Scott emphasized the importance of knowing how the plant was installed. For plants that are less than 10 years old, plant stress and death are commonly caused by poor quality roots (circling, girdling, or kinked); improper soil amendment; improper installation (foreign materials not removed from root balls, planted too deeply); and improper staking. For plants greater than 10 years old, soil disruption and poor soil health can cause plant stress and death.

In a subsequent seminar,

"Rooting Out Problems Before You Plant," Dr. Chalker-Scott again stressed that poor root establishment will result in increased plant mortality. She

routinely removes all the soil from landscape plants in gallon and above containers and prunes the roots to avoid the circling and kinking that can be so harmful. She does this in a shady spot with a bucket of water alongside. She recommended

removing all excessively long roots and roots going in the wrong direction, such as under the plant. Roots should be spreading outward when planted. After pruning the roots, do not prune the top upon transplanting so that all the plant's energy goes to the roots.

Dr. Chalker-Scott also recommended against adding phosphorous to the soil because soil commonly is not deficient in phosphorous and excess inhibits the growth of mycorrhizae.

Another inspiring seminar was "The Nature of Wild Gardens" by Rick Darke, a published



Northwest Flower and Garden Show (continued)

author, photographer and consultant focused on regional landscape design, planning and conservation. The concept of the wild garden was introduced by William Robinson in a book first published in 1870. According to Mr. Darke, wildness "refers to the freedom of living things to exist and evolve without our complete control." The wild garden contains plants that self-sow and perpetuate themselves indefinitely. The key to success is to match plants to existing conditions as much as possible. Planting indigenous species is a safe and conservative approach to wild gardening. Exotic species that won't disturb the indigenous plant communities can be successful additions. The goal of a wild garden is to sustain a diverse plant community with minimum effort and resources. Management of the garden requires giving up some control and replacing emphasis on planting with emphasis on editing.

The wild garden is self-perpetuating with little effort. It requires little watering,

fertilizing or spraying. The wild garden nurtures other living things in the garden.

(Note: Rick Darke's seminar was based on his article, "What is Wild? ...and why it matters," which was published in the January-February 2010 edition



One of the many display gardens at the show. This photo is from the Northwest Flower & Garden Show Facebook photo collection. See more gardens visit their page.

of [The American Gardener](#).)

Joe Lamp'l, host of Garden SMART on PBS, gave an interesting presentation on the top ten new garden gadgets for 2010. These included garden clogs, a specific watering can, a lawnmower, propane driven leaf blower and more. Everyone attending this presentation got a ticket for a drawing at which every item demonstrated was

given away. Not bad.

I attended other seminars and missed many, many more. Topics included garden photography, dealing with global warming, pruning, vegetable gardening, designing, using color, starting seeds, creating topiary art, etc.

Sustainability was a common theme. Until you have experienced it, it is hard to imagine how great the Northwest Flower and Garden Show is. I highly recommend it. The next show is February 23 -27, 2011. There is still time to get tickets and plan a great trip north!

The exhibitor list is pages long and the speakers are outstanding! Visit the website at: www.gardenshow.com or link to them on Facebook - Northwest Flower & Garden Show.

WESTERN AREA

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

This newsletter is produced by the horticulture staff in the Washoe County office.

Wendy Hanson Mazet, Horticulture Program
Assistant, Master Gardener Program
Coordinator and Master Gardener
Newsletter Editor

Heidi Kratsch, Western Area Horticulture
Specialist

Ashley Andrews, Washoe County
Administrative Assistant

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners help people improve their lives through education. They are committed to improving themselves, their community and their environment by participating in horticultural education and activities. Master Gardeners are leaders in environmental stewardship through education.

Web site: www.unce.unr.edu

Area Offices:

Washoe County Cooperative Extension

5305 Mill St., Reno, NV 89502
(775) 784-4848
(ext. 120 for voicemail)
hansonw@unce.unr.edu

Carson City/Storey County Cooperative Extension

2621 Northgate Lane, Suite 15
Carson City, NV 89706
(775) 887-2252

Douglas County Cooperative Extension

1329 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville, NV
P.O. Box 338, Minden, NV 89423
(775) 782-9960

Incline Village Cooperative Extension

855 Alder
P.O. Box 3192
Incline Village, NV 89452
(775) 832-4150

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

208 Capital Hill Road
P.O. Box 256, Nixon, NV 89424
(775) 574-0101, ext. 28

Ask Master Gardeners questions at mastergardeners@unce.unr.edu.

The Master Gardener Newsletter is published bimonthly by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension for the benefit of Master Gardeners, their families and others.

The University of Nevada, Reno is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, creed, national origin, veteran status, physical and mental disability, and sexual orientation in any program or activity it operates. The University of Nevada employs only United States citizens and aliens lawfully authorized to work in the United States.

Brand names are used for illustration purposes only and do not constitute an endorsement by Cooperative Extension.

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Wendy in advance of your participation or visit.

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Reno, NV
Permit #26

University of Nevada, Reno
Cooperative Extension
WASHOE COUNTY OFFICE
UNR Mail Stop # 0408
Reno NV 89557