

# Start winter dreaming

BY MARCUS SMITH

**Mark your calendar for this year's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Master Gardening symposium on November 2.**

Curious about home winemaking? How about raising chickens in your own back yard? Want to grow your own mushrooms or make your own artisanal cheeses?

How does climate change affect my home garden? What's the best way to collect the rainwater that falls on my property? Can I catch and use the gray water my household produces?

These are just a few of the many questions under discussion at this year's

Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens Symposium sponsored by the Jackson County Master Gardeners Association. Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> season, this daylong event brings the region's leading authorities together for a lively exploration of topics and issues that challenge gardeners throughout southern Oregon.

For many area gardeners, Winter Dreams is the most eagerly anticipated educational experience of the year—a meeting of the minds with offerings for gardeners at any level of expertise. In addition to learning from scholars, researchers and practitioners, the symposium is a great opportunity to rub shoulders and swap ideas with fellow gardeners.

You'll be immersed in a unique learning environment where science-based practice and state-of-the-art thinking are seasoned with priceless hands-on experience and local garden lore.

Enrollment includes your choice of four 90-minute classroom sessions, plus a catered lunch where you can chat informally with the experts and other local gardeners.

It's as easy as it is rewarding: Choose the topics of interest to you, then reserve your spot by calling 541-776-7371 or emailing [robert.reynolds@oregonstate.edu](mailto:robert.reynolds@oregonstate.edu).

Summer Dreams takes place at the Rogue Community College-Southern Oregon University Higher Education Center in downtown Medford and parking during the event is free. For detailed class descriptions, visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/gardening>.

Marcus Smith  
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Choose from four 90-minute classroom sessions, plus a catered lunch to chat with the experts.



Rogue Community College/Southern Oregon University Higher Education Center, Medford.

**What:** The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens Symposium

**When:** Saturday, November 2, 9 am – 4:30 pm

**Where:** RCC/SOU Higher Education Center  
101 South Bartlett Street, Medford, Oregon

**Cost:** \$40 fee includes four 90-minute sessions plus lunch.  
Downtown Medford parking is FREE.

## A warm welcome to three new *Applegater* board members

It's official! Please welcome our new board members, who already have made significant contributions to the *Applegater* and are dedicated to the paper's ongoing presence in the Applegate Valley. With their wisdom, creativity and energy, we look forward to publishing for at least another two decades.



**Chris Bratt**

Chris was born and raised in San Francisco, California. After earning a BA in industrial arts from San Francisco State University, he started a family and began a career as a union carpenter. For many years he was a partner in a building contracting business in the San Francisco Bay Area as well as a teacher of carpentry and industrial arts. Upon moving to Applegate, Oregon, in 1976, Chris continued working as a building contractor and manager of his family's small woodland farm on Thompson Creek in Applegate. He is a founding board member of many local environmental groups including the Geos Institute, and was a founding member of the Applegate Partnership/Applegate River Watershed Council. He is a lifetime member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. His special interests include improving the environmental integrity of the Applegate watershed and seeking better utilization of small-diameter trees for building and manufacturing purposes. Chris believes the *Applegater* newspaper is an invaluable means of getting local news and independent thought out to all residents. He calls on all of us to help produce an even more creative, innovative and unique community newspaper.



**Debbie and Don Tollefson**

The Tollefson met and married on the Monterey Peninsula in the early 1970s where both their daughters were born in the early 1980s. They owned restaurants and a trucking company, Don did real estate and Debbie taught art at Monterey High School. After moving to the San Diego area, Debbie taught art at Mt. Carmel High School and later ran galleries in Rancho Santa Fe and Las Vegas. In the 1990s Debbie managed the La Jolla store of Draper's and Damon's and organized over 200 fashion shows in San Diego and Los Angeles. During that time, Don was a building contractor, then opened a number of stores in San Diego County while in management at Home Depot. In 2004, Don and Debbie found a new home on Thompson Creek in Applegate, where Don joined Oregon-Land in 2006. Debbie joined him in 2007, and together they opened Applegate Valley Realty in 2010. Because Don and Debbie are grateful for the way Applegate residents have welcomed them and supported their business, they give back to the community whenever possible. Among other activities, Don joined the Board of Directors of the Children's Advocacy Center in 2011, and now they are both excited to be part of the *Applegater* newspaper team.

## Thanks to our retiring board members


Undying appreciation is due our outgoing long-time board members **Linda Fischer, Joe Lavine, Hal Macy and Paula Rissler** for all their contributions over the years. We are grateful that Joe is staying on as our webmaster, and that Paula will continue with behind-the-scenes activities as well. The *Applegater* would not be here today without them.

## Technical and financial assistance available for landowners

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Jackson County offers technical and financial assistance to landowners of private nonindustrial forestlands. They are now accepting applications for the 2013 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for forest health and fuels-reduction projects in the Applegate Community Wildfire Protection Plan area. Cost-share is available for eligible practices including thinning, pruning, and slash treatments. Program incentives are also available for development of a Forest Management Plan. Priority will be given to applications within the Thompson Creek watershed.


If you have questions regarding the program or the location of your property, or would like to apply, please contact Erin Kurtz, district conservationist, Medford, Oregon, at [erin.kurtz@or.usda.gov](mailto:erin.kurtz@or.usda.gov) or 541-776-4270 ext. 108, or Peter Winnick, soil conservationist, Medford, Oregon at [peter.winnick@or.usda.gov](mailto:peter.winnick@or.usda.gov) or 541-776-4270 ext. 109.

Additional Links to the Oregon NRCS website:  
EQIP Program: <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/index.html>  
All Programs: <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>



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