

Tributes to Two of Our Own: Bill Bradley and Gray Thompson

Bill Bradley

served the Chapter as
President,
Vice-President,
Chair of the Spring Garden Fair™
Sign committee,
and Chair of the
10-Minute University™ committee.

Bill had a strong commitment
to education
and frequently worked
the phone clinic.

He was a MG Guide and
MG Diagnostician,
developed 10-Minute University™
handouts
and was a regular instructor.

He initiated tours at the
International Rose Test Garden
and gave many tours there.



Gray Thompson

A 12/29/2010 CCMG e-mail:

A Giant has Fallen

Our beloved friend, Gray Thompson, passed away this weekend. As you know, the OSU Master Gardener Program was started in 1976 by Gray and Duane Hatch. At that time, Gray was the agent in the Portland area and Duane was an agent in Lane County. The first classes were held in Eugene and in Clackamas County. Over the years, the program has grown to encompass 28 counties in Oregon. In 2009, there were 3,799 active Master Gardeners. What a legacy!

Gray believed strongly in the power of trained volunteers.

Did you know he took the Master Gardener training after retirement? As an official OSU Extension Service Master Gardener volunteer, Gray actively contributed to the program and the Clackamas County chapter. He taught "Garden Management" (including soils) to Master Gardener trainees. Chapter records show Gray was Vice President in '87-'88 and

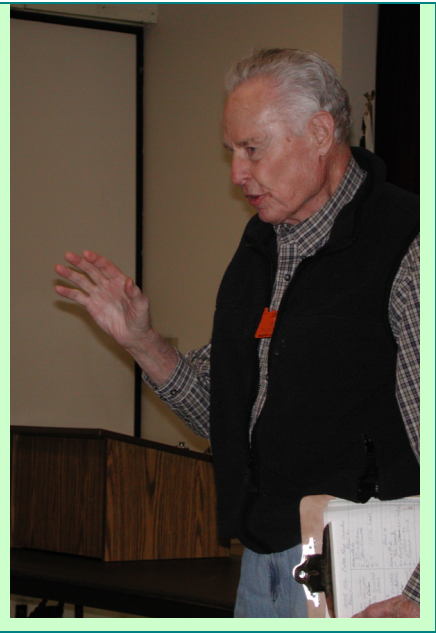


Gray at the 2010 Spring Garden Fair

President '88-'89. He was instrumental in setting up the Chapter's soil pH testing service which continues to be popular with local gardeners. Gray also led the Plant-An-Extra Row committee for many years, growing fresh produce for the hungry. Both of these programs continue today under dynamic, new leaders.

Gray stayed active with the Chapter despite hip surgeries and a bout with shingles. Gray and Norrene attended the OMGA Mini-College this summer. I last saw Gray and Norrene in November at the Chapter meeting. Both looked well and happy among fellow MGs.

Gray Thompson was truly a giant. From Ray and Jan McNeilan: "We will miss his never-ending enthusiasm, his pride in the MG program and his signature hello, "Ahoy there."



Gray
And
Norrene
Thompson



Bill Bradley, front center, and Gray Thompson, middle right, at a prior
year's Mini-College