

***Oklahoma Gardening*—OSUBG Ambassadors**

The *Oklahoma Gardening*—OSUBG Ambassador Program is coordinated by the Oklahoma cooperative Extension Service and the Oklahoma State University Botanical Garden (OSUBG).

The mission of the Ambassadors is to serve as *Oklahoma Gardening* and OSUBG representatives to maintain and further expand educational program outreach. Additionally, the program offers the opportunity to build stronger educational ties between the Stillwater community, Oklahoma State University and the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Criteria for the Ambassador program are:

- A personal commitment to volunteer service
- An interest in horticulture
- A desire to learn
- A willingness to share knowledge with others
- Residence in a proximity to Stillwater that makes volunteer service at the gardens a practical option.

Ambassador duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with garden maintenance
- Serve as studio garden project leaders and tour guides
- Assisting in TV program taping
- Conducting associated programs/activities
- Overall promotion of the educational efforts of the program and the department

A one-time fee of \$125 is requested of each individual their first year to cover membership fees/materials (Extension Handbook, shirt, nametag). After the first year, dues are \$25.00. Additional training values include complimentary one-year membership to OBGA, which includes associated discount privileges, quarterly newsletter, plus numerous classroom training materials and *Oklahoma Gardening* promotional items. Ambassadors are accepted through an application/interview process. The interview process is an informal opportunity for us to meet and further discuss the expectations from both parties.

Participants will gain useful gardening and landscaping skills to benefit them personally, as well as being actively involved in the most up-to-date gardening activities to further advance consumer horticulture programs statewide. Instruction consists of monthly classroom training, hands-on experiences at studio gardens, field trips and educational involvement with gardening enthusiasts, all starting in January of 2010.