This is the third year that this committee participated in the 4H Wildlife Stewards Youth Summit. The summit was held at Hoover Elementary School on April 22, 2010. The activity went on all day with approximately 270 students and 30 teachers and parents coming through our learning stations. Ten Master gardeners participated in this activity.

Our theme was slightly different this year, instead of teaching the children how to construct a working worm bin we focused on teaching them about the different type of decomposers found in a worm bin or in natural areas. To do this we had three learning stations that every child rotated through. One station focused on the life cycle and habits of the night crawler type of earth worm. The second station was all about red wigglers a very different type of earth worm. The final station was about other decomposing creatures (bugs) and fungi. As always worms and bugs and kids equals lots of fun. The day flew by.

Many thanks to Kathy Butler and Paula Lupcho for their research and help on getting the teaching points together and the different stations organized. Also to Nellie Oehler for her bug catchers and critters gathered. We held a training session prior to the day of the summit for our Master Gardener helpers and then went out and taught the kids. This means that we learned a lot too and ensured that we were at least as smart as the fifth graders coming through.

Ten Master Gardeners worked approximately 102.5 volunteer hours on this project. The budget for this committee was $200. Because we did not have to purchase worms this year we only spent $32.34.

Submitted by Deb Lauer

Nellie Oehler and Martha Picchi showing off the collection of bugs at the third learning station.
The five members of the Desk Committee (Heather Duchow, Desk Committee Chair; Lynn Snider and Andy Chiapisi, Information Resource Committee Co-chairs; Debbie Lauer, Mentor Coordination Committee Chair; and Kathi Tucker, Computer Committee Chair) logged 310 volunteer hours this year on a number of projects in support of the MG Information Desk.

The majority of the money spent by the Desk Committee this year was used to purchase a replacement for the portable digital projector. After much research by Kathi Tucker into the cause of the old projector’s color fidelity issues and extensive analysis of replacement options, a projector was purchased using $799 of a $1000 special allocation.

While the committee’s budget was $840 for FY2010, to date we have spent only $61.11 of the budget. Much of what the committee has accomplished since the last annual report was paid for with budget allocation from FY2009. For example, we purchased supplies for better organizing the MG Info Desk (letter trays) and arranging the library bookshelves (bookends, etc).

Also, the following books were added to the library last fall. They were selected with an eye towards what would be most helpful for answering questions posed at the Info Desk.

Deer-Resistant Landscaping: Proven Advice and Strategies for Outwitting Deer and 20 Other Pesky Mammals
Great Garden Companions: A CompanionPlanting System for a Beautiful, Chemical-Free Vegetable Garden
The Grape Grower: A Guide to Organic Viticulture
Natural Enemies Handbook: The Illustrated Guide to Biological Pest Control
Naturescaping: A How-To Guide for Gardening the Way Mother Nature Intended
The North American Guide to Common Poisonous Plants and Mushrooms
Pirone’s Tree Maintenance

The committee welcomes your input on the usefulness of these books and suggestions for other resources you would like to see made available to MGs working at the Info Desk.

Andy and Lynn completed the project of making sure all books in the BCMGA library are cataloged in the BookCAT software on the MG Info Desk computer. In the process, they developed a “weeding” policy for the library. The purpose of this policy is to ensure resources in the library are current and accurate. The policy was present-
ed to the BCMGA board and received board approval. The project that accounts for the lion’s share of the committee’s hours this year is the BCMGA Information Desk Procedures Binder. The committee adapted the Master Gardener Office Information Binder from Clackamas and Washington Counties for use by Benton County MGs. We documented our desk and office procedures, and put them in this binder for easy reference by MGs at the Info Desk. The binder includes instructions on how to use the microscope and associated software, directions for computer and email use at the Info Desk, a list of questions to ask clients, and general documentation of Info Desk procedures. Next time you’re at the desk, just take a glance at the binder’s table of contents. You’ll be surprised how much useful information is in this binder! In the process of adapting the resource from Metro Counties MGs we developed forms with extensive questions to help you collect all the relevant information for answering a client’s questions.

This was the first year that we officially collaborated with the Mentor Coordination committee. We trained mentors with regards to changes at the Info Desk and how to use the fantastic new microscope and associated software. We also provided a general refresher of Info Desk and Extension Office procedures.

One of the big changes at the Info Desk was the implementation of a computer-based daily logbook. This electronic logbook, created by Web Stiles, allows Barb Fick to easily collect data on questions asked of and answers given by Benton County MGs at the Info Desk. This helps her categorize and summarize the impact MGs have on the community when she needs to make reports in support of continued funding for the MG program. The electronic logbook replaces the paper daily log.

It may seem like there have been a lot of changes at the Info Desk this year, but we want to assure you that the changes don’t significantly affect how MGs work at the desk. If, however, you are feeling out of touch with the Info Desk and would like some help or company as you work at the desk, members of the MG Desk Committee are willing to “man the desk” with you bit to help you become comfortable with anything that may have changed since your initial MG training. Contact Debbie Lauer, Kathi Tucker (phone call is best) or Heather Duchow (email is best). Lastly, we’d like you to join us! If you have strong organizational skills, library experience, computer experience or are just interested in helping things run smoothly for Info Desk volunteers, you’d be a great fit! Contact Heather Duchow (email is best) about joining us at our next meeting.
The Mid-Willamette Valley Plant a Row (PAR) for the Hungry has kicked off a third growing season with overwhelming enthusiasm from Master Gardeners, home gardeners, and community garden activist in Linn and Benton Counties. A preliminary figure for 2010 shows 4,500 pounds of produce donated through the program (this figure does not include the MG demo garden at Starker Arts Park or the SAGE garden). Last year’s PAR’s total was 730 pounds.

PAR 2010 Activities- So far this year PAR has been present at the Albany and Corvallis Farmers Markets Insights into Gardening, MG Plant Sale, Spring Garden Festival, and at the Corvallis Community Gardens. Broccoli, cilantro, lettuce, and canning pumpkin starts were donated by Stahlbush Island Farms and seed packets from Nichols Nursery. Some of the left over vegetables from the MG plant sale were also given to PAR for distribution. PAR has distributed over 300 broccoli/cilantro, 150 lettuce, and 150 pumpkin starts to gardeners who have pledged this season! With the loss of Jason F. at Stahlbush Farms PAR might need to start their own vegetable starts for distribution. We will try to establish another contact there.

Who we are: PAR currently is a committee of 37 enthusiastic Master Gardeners representing both Linn and Benton Counties. We currently have pledges from 235 gardeners. Those who pledge are asked to report their donation (type and pounds) and donation location back to me via email willamettevalleypar@gmail.com. On average I get reports from about 10% of the gardeners who have pledged to report.

Worth noting: There are four groups of gardeners that have gone beyond “Planting a Row” for the Hungry. The first group to mention is the Boys and Girls Club
of Corvallis Garden Project. This garden was prepared by the Torch Club and then tended by Club House members over the summer. They got off to a late start due to the weather. By mid July they had their garden in. We had only one harvest for donations but that one harvest produced 42 lb of cabbage, 12 lbs of chard, and 1 lb of bell peppers. They had the most beautiful tomato plants with so many green tomatoes. Next year we will get the garden in sooner! The second group is the OSU Student Organic Garden. This garden was spearheaded by Pam DeWolfe and tended by her and her many volunteers. This garden includes individual plots for students to grow food for themselves and others. In addition there was a 15 x 110 foot garden plot just for PAR, where they planted acorn squash, delicata squash, tomatoes, and cabbage. They had weekly pickups over the summer by Linn Benton Food Share. An estimated amount of produce donated is around 1,000 lbs. The next group represents very enthusiastic Linn County Gardeners. In their first year of establishing the Willamette Community Gardens in Albany they donated 2,000 lb of produce to donations sites in Linn County. Their PAR garden was 15 – 4 x 10 foot rows. We have ordered them a PAR yard sign for display in their garden. The last group comes from North Albany Middle School hands-on elective science class. The kids grow plants in the greenhouse during the school year for restoration sites and also for a plant sale at the end of the school year. In addition, they planted corn in the courtyard over the summer and thought it would be great for the kids to donate the produce to the PAR program. They invited me out to the school to talk about the PAR program and the hunger needs our community. We are harvested the corn - 85 ears of corn were donated to a soup kitchen in Linn County.

Expenses: PAR ordered two large garden signs for a total of $78.00. Next year we might have the cost of starting our own vegetable starts.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation Site</th>
<th>2010 Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARDV</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community outreach</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish of Albany</td>
<td>1,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Street Youth Shelter</td>
<td>51.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philomath Food Bank</td>
<td>100 tomato plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philomath LDS</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Corvallis Food Bank</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry, St Marys, Albany</td>
<td>1,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Vincent, Corvallis</td>
<td>632.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Soup - First Christian Church</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Soup - St Marys, Corvallis</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linn Benton Food Share</td>
<td>1,000*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,184</strong>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*estimated as of 10/29/10
In 2009, the BCMGA Board created the Marie Madison Horticulture Scholarship to honor Marie Madison. Marie served as Benton County Extension Services Program Assistant for the Master Gardener and Master Woodland programs for 19 years from 1989 to her retirement in 2008. Marie was always available to help, guide, instruct, encourage, and support the Master Gardeners of this county and always provided assistance with a gracious smile, a generous heart, and a gentle spirit.

The scholarship promotes the academic study of horticulture, botany, and plant science. It is awarded on the basis of academic achievement, community service, and an interest in pursuing one of the listed three fields of study as a career.

Much had to be done by the Scholarship Committee in 2009 to organize and plan for this award. The scholarship had to meet IRS criteria for a 501 (c) 3 organization. The committee spent most of 2009 making sure we were compliant with IRS regulations. In September, that documentation was presented to OMGA, who forwarded this information to the applicable federal and state government agencies as part of its annual filings. All of this took 141 volunteer hours.

As part of the organization of this committee and to ensure continuity from year to year, committee appointments are for two years. Appointments are made by the president on a rotating schedule so that at least one member of the committee remains for the following year.

With the organization and filings done, we were ready to go. The application was placed on the extension website. Schools were notified that the scholarship was available, and, in the spring of 2010, a newspaper item appeared in the Corvallis Gazette Times about its availability.

In the spring of 2010, the board was asked to consider raising the amount of the award to $750 from $500, and this action was approved.

The committee met to evaluate the applications in June 2010. An objective scoring sheet was created that reflected the criteria. Each committee member judged the applicants independently, and based on the scores, a decision was reached. Volunteer hours for 2010 was approximately 35.

As a result of this first year, the committee realized that the original criteria did not include all students who either resided in Benton County or who regularly attends school in Benton County. The committee amended the criteria, and the board approved these changes.

The first recipient (2010) of the Marie Madison Horticulture Scholarship is Melissa Finley, a Philomath High School graduate. She is attending the University of Idaho and plans to study Environmental Horticulture.

Paula Lupcho, Chair
2010 Budget Allocation ................................................................. $361
  Funds Used .............................................................................
    Soil from U&D w/delivery ..................................................... -$80
    Irrigation parts ................................................................. -$30
    Seed starts, cover crop, fertilizer and structures...Free/on hand
    Did not use tiller this year. Saved $$$ and used a shovel
    Funds not used .................................................................... Around $250
Note: 2011 Chair may not have these items on hand. Jason had the use of work greenhouse space.

Total Hours Spent on Committee Activities ...................................... 170+
  Jason and Anna Fumasi – 150
  Others – 20+

Committee Contacts .................................................................. 30
  Note: Didn’t count food bank volunteers or recipients

Major Activities:
- Deadheading and weeding Perennial Garden
- Spreading bark chips on pathways and between garden beds and topdressing all beds with new soil
- Planting veggie seeds and transplants, planning successions
- Turning over cover-crop
- Pruning and training the ‘Marions’ and Blueberries
- Installing and programming drip irrigation system
- Applying and removing floating row cover protection
- Harvest and delivery of fresh produce .................................. 335 + lbs

Changes or Upgrades:
Lorne re-finished the MG sign and Irrigation hose hook-up
Used U&D Garden soil instead of Pro-Bark. Big difference.

-Jason Fumasi
The Clinic Table Committee conducted 32 separate clinic tables during 2010. There were a total of 1,403 contacts at the 32 events. Clinic Tables were conducted at the Wednesday and Saturday Corvallis Farmer’s Markets from May to October; the Starker Park Community Garden; the BCMGA Plant Sale; Corvallis Spring Festival; HP Community Garden; the Annual Sustainability Fair; The Benton County OSU Extension Office Open House; and The Wren/Blodgett Market.

A total of 33 Benton and Linn County Master Gardeners participated in this year Clinic Table outreach.

The 2010 Clinic Table Committee may be the most cost effective committee in the BCMGA. Our 2010 budget for the Clinic Table Committee was $165.00 of which we spent $28.44 (as of 18 Oct, 2010) for Jeweler’s Loops and a new Veggie book. The other items we had budgeted for were not replaced as everyone took extra care of all of our books and equipment.

Each year since 2006 has been better than the previous year. Likewise, 2010 was the most successful year yet for the BCMGA Clinic Table Committee. The Class of 2010 provided special clinic tables utilizing their projects from the Corvallis Spring Festival. Each of those projects more than double the normal contacts at our Saturday markets.

The BCMGA Class of 2010, both Benton and Linn County, were represented at every clinic table this year. It was impressive to see them jump right in and help with the knowledge they were ready to share. Many of the class of 2010 who participated did so numerous times. Many of the ‘veteran’ Master Gardeners were pleasantly surprised by the depth of knowledge and willingness to help displayed by the new class.

This is our last Annual Clinic Table Report. We wish Steve Naberhuis, our new BCMGA Clinic Table Chair, well in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie and Don Lauer
Co-chairs BCMGA Clinic Table Committee
The Adams School Garden is a new MG project for 2010. In the fall of 2009 I toured the Adams garden and observed the garden full of weeds which included deadly night shade, poisonous hemlock and a very healthy crop of Canadian thistles. I approached the garden coordinator and she said that she really wanted to have an up and going garden again, but was short of time and resources to get it going. I volunteered to round up some Master Gardeners and take on working in the garden to get it back in shape and make it a part of the school again.

In early March we started weeding the garden with Mrs. Ash’s third grade class room. She sent a few students out at a time and we weeded and spread hog fuel between the established raised beds. When a few of the beds had been weeded we started planting peas and carrots. Thanks to Barb Fick for the donation of pea seeds and carrot seeds the kids had fun planting them in raised beds and along the chain link fence. We had peas growing everywhere. We also planted lettuce and radishes. Several other MGs started helping and after spring break we started the after school garden club. 25 students stayed after school every Thursday to help with the garden. We planted many plants, continued weeding the remaining beds (15 in all). Some of the beds have established plantings in them which includes a wonderful bed of lupine, herb bed with established rosemary and lavender, oregano and parsley. We also have a bed with bachelor buttons, Mrs. Ash’s class put in a strawberry bed and another class room filled a bed with nasturtiums. We thinned some of the plants from these beds and planted starts that the kids could take home. Some of the herbs are used in the school kitchen. We also secured straw bales and a load of sheep manure compost from OSU Sheep Barns to put in a straw bale garden where we planted pumpkins and squash that were trained to grow up the chain link fence that surrounds the garden.

By the second week of June we had enough growing that we had a salad bar celebration and invited parents. The kids loved the lettuce, radishes, carrots and spinach and an abundance of fresh peas that grew in the garden. It was fun to see them all eat a big bowl of salad and comment how great it tasted.

Normally at the end of school the garden club disbands and volunteers are asked to water the garden. At my suggestion we asked to continue during the summer for anyone that wanted to participate. We met every Tuesday morning throughout the summer. Several parents, kids, and some MGs helped with the summer garden. We planted more summer veggies including potatoes and tomatoes, pruned, weeded and fertilized the existing late crop raspberry patch, staked tomatoes, put in pole beans, fall broccoli, cabbage and more
herbs. When school started in September the kids saw huge pumpkins growing up the fence, a nice bed full of corn, blooming dahlias, bright colored Swiss chard, lots of tomatoes, carrots, beets, a wall of beans etc. It was beautiful and then kids all enjoyed coming to the garden and sampling the fruits of our summer labor. They even served tomatoes, carrots and some greens as part of the school lunch salad bar. Their favorite thing to harvest were the potatoes. We need to put in more next year.

In the fall at “Day of Sharing” we put in a request for help and were lucky to get 12 engineers from HP to come help us out. We rebuilt 3 of the decayed raised beds using 2 x 12 boards. They were painted and covered before they were put in the ground. They also helped with some of the weeding and cleaned up the decorated tiles around the sundial that was made by the school several years ago and had become over grown. They also sanded and painted the garden bench that sets in the garden in honor of a past principal. We had them rebuild a three bin compost set up out of pellets that were donated by the school district. The one that was there was full of weeds and decaying.

Because of the new school year and garden students are in different classes than they were last spring so we decided late September to have a harvest feast with the students in Mrs. Ash’s new class and invite garden club members from the other classes who were involved last spring and this summer to join us as we harvested the veggies to make a big pot of stone soup. We worked for two days with the classes to gather and cut up all the veggies. I made a big pot of stock and we cooked a big pot of “stone soup”. We held an after school garden club celebration where the kids enjoyed reading the story about stone soup and then enjoying the soup, corn on the cob and bread which was donated by parents. It was great to see the kids eat the soup. A couple kids wanted to know where the kale was since it was mentioned in the story. I showed them the plants that were in the garden and they asked to try it. Along with some Ranch dressing they nibbled on the greens and commented that it really did taste great.

For this project we got $250 donation from the Benton County MGs. The funds were used to buy a new hose, nozzle, hose connectors, fertilizer, few seeds and plants, and boards, paint and nails for 3 new raised beds. We still have some money left which will be used this fall to buy some cover crop seeds, plastic or covering for an early garden project we are planning in the next few weeks. We also are going to plant some daffodil bulbs and finish putting the garden to bed by top dressing with some more sheep compost from OSU sheep barns.
We had 42 different students involved. Mrs. Ash’s class was active throughout the spring and the new class this fall helped with harvest and will be helping with the fall clean up and bulb planting yet to come this year. We also had 25 additional students in the garden club and several parents helped throughout the summer. 6 Master Gardeners were involved with the school project.

Connie Ash, the school garden coordinator said this was the best garden we ever had and is hoping to get more class rooms involved this coming year now that the garden is looking good. Several MGs donated plants and time to help out. We were able to get some extra plants from the demo garden and plant sale to use, as well as seed donations from MGs and parents. Tom Nichols from the OSU Sheep barns arranged for two truckloads of manure as well as straw bales for our straw bed.

Now that we actually have sturdy compost bins set up the school cook in excited in using the bins to start composting some of the lunch leftover.

Plans for 2011 are to start a little earlier in the year with an early spring covered garden for spring greens that can be served in the school cafeteria. We also want to try soil bag gardening along the fence and encourage class rooms to plant one bag with their students. We are going to try a variety of lettuces, radishes, carrots, and of course peas. These plants will grow fast and can be served in the cafeteria. We feel that one bag garden approach is doable vs a complete raised bed to get other classes involved and teachers hooked. Seeds for this project have been donated by Denson’s Feed and Seed. The raised beds will be planted and maintained by Mrs. Ash’s class and the garden club that we plan to start earlier this spring if we can get some MG and parent help after school.

Now that we have three rebuilt beds we want to redo 3-4 more this coming year. Also want to order a load of fertile mix to spread on top of the manure compost from the sheep barn.

If you like to work with kids and enjoy seeing them enjoy vegetables, this is the project for you.

Nellie Oehler, Chair
Budget: $250
To date we have only spent a little over $200 but are planning to purchase some cover crop and a few supplies to put the garden to bed for the winter in the next couple of weeks.
The Benton County Master Gardener Association 2010 Insights into Gardening was held on 6 February 2010 at the LaSells Center, on the OSU campus, in Corvallis, Oregon. The venue was in the same format as in previous years, three lecture sessions of one and a half hours, a thirty minute break between sessions, and a one and a half hour lunch period. We had nine classes with a total of 13 speakers. The 2010 Sessions and speakers were:

- Shade Plants  Darren Morgan
- Cover Crops  John Luna
- Grapes  Jessica Sandrock
- Native Plants  Joyce Eberhart
- Tree Fruit Production  Anita Azarenko
- Gardening on a Dime  Sheryl Casteen
- Everyday Veggies  Jim Myers
- Mysteries of the Rose  Kathleen Baughman
- All about Permaculture  Andrew Millison

There were 27 exhibitors at the 2010 Insights with many of our long time annual exhibitors returning. Each of the exhibitors furnished a $25 or greater raffle prize for our annual raffle. In 2010 Insights had an income of $1,212.05 from our raffle. The raffle was able to fund the 2010 Marie Madison Scholarship ($750.00) this year. There were 419 Gardeners registered for attendance at the 2010 Insights.

The OSU Book Store had their usual offering of books at Insights. The sale of books this year was a success and the Book Store will be back next year. Our income from the Book Store was $410.00.

The budget for 2010 was $6,850.00, our expenditures were $5,784.10. Our gross income was $11,767.45 including the raffle with a net income of $5,983.35.

In conclusion, the 2010 Insights into Gardening was a very successful event, enjoyed by the attendees, beneficial for the exhibitors, and another excellent example of what our Association can do for outreach to our community.

Don Lauer and Mindi Thornton
Co-Chairs, Insight into Gardening
This was a busy year for building projects in addition to our large garden. We have 20-30 master-gardener volunteers in our group with 7-10 showing up each Wednesday to help. The group has volunteered hundreds of hours to make this quite a successful demonstration garden.

**Projects:**
- building two new large raised-bed boxes
- constructing lids for the compost bins
- building soil box and storage deck with the plant-sale committee
- creating a wheel-barrow garden for water loving plants
- hosting two cooking demonstrations
- maintaining the Courtyard perennials’ area
- helping maintain MG flower-bed at fairgrounds
- publishing a history of the demo garden
- planting a permanent bed of asparagus

**Contacts:**
We notify the Gazette-Times each week to let them know the Master Gardeners will meet on Wednesday at the Demo Garden, and inform them what is on our agenda, which brought us 2-5 visitors most Wednesdays to ask questions. In addition, when we installed our first new raised bed, we had 25 visitors to observe and ask questions about building and installing a raised bed.

We hosted a cooking with Asian-greens demonstration in the spring when our greens were harvested. We also hosted a cooking-with-herbs demonstration in the courtyard during the BC Fair. These demos attracted 10-20 people each. We had a total of 522 visitors to the garden during the fair this year. We increased the time we host our garden at the fair by two hours to 6 hours a day and got 230 additional contacts compared to last year.

**Public Relations:**
We attracted many people from the community to the garden through our publicity and special demonstrations. We built 7 different types of tomato cages this year to demonstrate different materials and methods that people can use. We had a wasp nest removed by a local wasp-venom scientist. At harvest time, we gave away many pounds of produce to the local food banks, and recently we gave 4 large pumpkins to the Parent Enhancement Program.

**Current Progress and Projects:**
In November, we will finish harvesting and cover the main garden with a tarp to prepare for the winter. We plan to meet once or twice in the winter to plan next year’s garden and have a celebratory pot-luck for our members.

Respectfully submitted by Lucy Honig
Windowsill Gardening Committee Report

We have had another successful year of reaching out to our schools in Benton County. This year has been a little different since schools have been going through a big transition of teachers retiring and the rehiring of new teachers who were not familiar with our program so unfortunately, some of the classrooms did not benefit from having us come. This will be a year for me to meet with some of the new teachers to inform them about Windowsill Gardening and how this program compliments what they are teaching and how it enriches and addresses their science benchmarks. Last year we were honored to receive the Marje Luce Search for Excellence Award.

The Windowsill Gardening Program is a highly successful hands-on program for seven and eight year old children in the Benton County public schools. It strives to help children develop a foundation of understanding and appreciation of growing plants by learning different ways plants are propagated. Our volunteers demonstrate seven different ways to propagate plants such as seeds, bulbs, tubers, runners, division, grafts, and cuttings. The students learn how to identify the different ways of propagating plants through brightly displayed visuals and many opportunities for hands on learning. Students are engaged in interactive role playing as well as being able to observe and handle examples of plant material. Their windowsill garden is the culminating activity where each child is given a quart size Ziploc bag with potting soil for them to plant two different cuttings followed by five squirts of water into the bag. They are then put on the windowsills of the classroom for the students to observe their plants taking root. They also get to observe the water cycle taking place as their plants grow. When the cuttings are mature, the students transfer them into pots and take them home (often for Mother’s Day).

This year, our budget was $75.00. We spent $32.69 on Ziploc bags. We greatly appreciate and extend our thanks to Tom Verohaven of Peoria Gardens who generously donates all the potting soil for our program. Schmidts Garden has also donated to our program. All the examples of plant materials come from our volunteers. This year we spent $75.00, part of our reward money on a great folding garden cart which has been a real asset in helping us transfer all the teaching supplies from school parking lots and to the individual classrooms. This year I will be working on some new ideas as to how to enrich our program. The number of contacts our committee made this year averaged around 350. Our committee hours were 253.

Lindy Burgess
The primary mission of the Master Gardener program is to provide the public free access to the latest research and best practices in home horticulture. The Gearing Up For Gardening committee has done this for over 20 years (since 1989) by presenting a free lecture series to the public in January and February. This year our series included presentations from the OSU Horticulture department staff: Bernadine Strik “Berrylicious; incorporating berry plants into landscape”, James Cassidy “Food for the Soil; improving soil “, and Gail Langellotto “ABC’s of IPM; holistic control of garden pests”. Topics presented by other professionals from around the Willamette Valley included: Josh Kirchenbaum (Territorial Seed) “Veggies: Start to Finish”, Harry Lagerstedt (The Peach Place) “Propagation: Divide and Conquer – multiplying perennials”, Carrol Esterhuizen PT (Corvallis Sport & Spine Physical Therapy) “Plant & Rake without the Ache; gardening ergonomics”, David Sandrock (Sandrock Sustainable Landscapes for the Pacific NW) “Low Maintenance Landscaping”, and Stephanie White (Ferguson’s Fragrant Nursery) “Planning your Planters – edible and colorful container gardens”.

Our big success story this year is the filming and broadcasting of this series. Surveys have shown over-crowding at this very popular series was a negative experience for many in our audience. We were unsuccessful in finding another venue that met all the criteria as well as the Corvallis Library. So we thought maybe overcrowding could be alleviated by providing access to these lectures “off-line”. Cinda Flynn and Sherry Goeden took on the responsibility of learning how to use the filming and editing equipment at the CCAT Channel 29 class. With the initial help of Sean Brown at CCAT 29, they produced videos of the entire lecture series. CCAT 29 was very happy to repeatedly broadcast the lectures on their public access channel. In addition to TV, the series was available on the OSU extension website, and on DVD’s at the Corvallis Public Library, LBCC, and our Extension office. A big THANK YOU to Cinda and Sherry for all their time and effort to get this project successfully launched! Last year we almost doubled our attendance at the lecture series, with the addition of more than 500 people. This year saw only 47 additional attendees. We will be evaluating the impact of this project for several seasons, but early results suggest this has great potential to not only alleviate crowding, but to also reach a bigger audience. Another improvement in the audience experience was a result of the upgrades the Library made to their media equipment. The installation of a ceiling mounted digital projector with computer hook-up and improved sound system has given a huge boost to the image and sound quality. A big plus for the committee members was also found when we no longer had to bring our own digital projector for each lecture. This has made the set-up for the lecture series much easier. Thank you Corvallis Public Library.

Our big challenge this year was the replacement of our leader, Susi Swanson. After seven years as Chair, Susi Swanson decided to step down. Mary Mellard has agreed to take on the chair position. Susi has made the task much easier with all the duties, tasks and timeline so very well documented. Thank you Susi for all your work! The committee ends the year with 9 members: Cinda Flynn, Sherry Goeden, Mary Mellard, Susi and David Swanson, Judy Shaw, Barbara Vollmer, and Cynthia Wallace. Additional help with the media and computer set-up was provided by Steve Naberhuis and Web and Becky Stiles. The committee had a great time brainstorming new topics and speakers, and working together as a team to put on this very popular event. Together this group managed to host a lecture series which attracted 1166 people. Thank you to everyone for all their efforts.

Mary Mellard, Chair
2010 Kids for Conservation Day was held at the Benton County Fairgrounds on October 10, 2010. 8 Master Gardener Volunteers and 3 4-H youth helped staff the MG booth for the event.

Theme for this year’s booth was composters. We wanted to show the kids different kinds of composters that they can find around the home. We had several bins of “soil” with critters in them for the kids to dig around in. We had some small magnifying glasses the kids could use to look at the worms, spiders, beetles, rolly pollies, etc. We also had a worm bin with lots of little red wigglers and other critters to show how composting works. In addition we had two chickens which were a hit. They are excellent composters and also were fun for the kids to pet and hold.

For hands on activities we made living necklaces to take home. These were made by putting a kidney bean into a moist cotton ball which was then placed in a small jewelry bag that served as a little greenhouse for the bean to sprout and grow. The bag had a string tied to it so the kids could wear the necklace home.

462 necklaces were made by kids during the day. Around 50 adults and others visited the booth to learn about composting and stopped to play with the chickens. We were able to answer lots of composting questions and everyone seemed to have fun.

If we do this again next year I’d like to make better signage for the booth. The MG sign kept falling down, as did the worm posters.

All in all the day was a huge success even with the rain. The volunteers had fun as did the kids.

Nellie Oehler, Chair