

April 2016



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# THE GRAPEVINE

Columbia County Master Gardener Program  
505 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens OR 97051  
T: 503-397-3462

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/master-gardener-volunteer-program>

*It has been decided to have a newsletter dedicated to just our membership/organization. This newsletter will be published once a month and will be edited by the President of the Columbia County Master Gardener's Association. Please send any news items, pictures, etc. to Chuck Petersen @ [chpete@opusnet.com](mailto:chpete@opusnet.com) by the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month.*

## The President's Corner

Welcome to the new Columbia County Newsletter! This is our first edition and we are trying to figure out what and how we are going to do this. As we do not have the space constraints we had when it was all paper and sent out in the mail we are trying to add more information that may be of interest to you. I have always felt that more information about what was going on with OMGA and other chapters in the State should be available but didn't have an easy way of disseminating that information easily until now.

Vicki has volunteered to edit the Newsletter for a few months but long term we need to be able to do that ourselves. So I am looking for a volunteer(s) who would be willing to be a focal point where members would send the information for the newsletter before sending to Vicki for email publication. If you have any interest in that I would love to hear from you and we can see how it works out.

We have an annual picnic for CCMGA members in August that I am also looking for a volunteer to help out with. You would be responsible for letting people know when it is and insuring that all know where it is being held and handling all the minor and major details (I have a red book that tells all) to make it happen. If you think you may be interested let me



## Upcoming Events

### March 21

Demo Garden work begins on Mondays, 10 am to Noon

### April 2+3

Home & Garden Show, St. Helens, County Fairgrounds

### April 7

Demo Garden & Project Mtg 10 am

### April 7

Board Mtg 10:30 am

### April 28

Chapter Meeting & Speaker  
6:30 pm – Cool Plants

### April 30

21<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Fair, 9 am to 3 pm

## CCMG Board of Directors

- Chuck Petersen, President
- Wes Bevans, Past President
- Linda Bainbridge, Vice President
- Angela Sorensen, Secretary
- Kathy Johnson, Treasurer
- Lavina Patterson, Historian
- Pat LaPointe, OMGA Rep
- Wes Bevan, OMGA Alt. Rep

know and I will fill you in on all those details to see if that would fit for you.

The Demo Garden is starting off early this year as we have been wet and warm so the weeds and grass are growing rather quickly. If you have a chance to help out please come on out. The normal time for the work party in Monday 10:00 AM til noon and if this doesn't work for you and you would still like to help out the Garden is accessible Monday through Friday almost anytime during the day. If you would like to help out this way please call the Demo Garden Coordinator, Linda Bainbridge, at 503-366-3798 to see what you can do.

If you have any ideas, hints or criticism (be gentle) about this Newsletter please let me know as it is an idea in process and very little has been decided but we want it to be most useful for the most members.

Thanks,

--Chuck Petersen, CCMGA President

## Columbia County Master Gardener Association Chapter Meeting

April 28, 2016

### Cool Plants and New Trends: Dave Doolittle, Petal Heads Nursery



Dave and Annilese Doolittle launched Petal Heads™ in the summer of 2008 with the vision of offering unique plants, both annual and perennial, to other plant enthusiasts. They wanted to create a nursery that was a destination for some of the most sought after plants, as well as a location where fellow petal heads™ could experience the intimacy of hearing the "story behind the plants." To this day, Dave and Annilese still share this eagerness to have their customers go home with plants they can connect with. Please join us – open and free to the public!

### Recycling Garden Tools



With spring coming, you may be feeling an urge to clean out the tool shed as well as the closets. If you have any hand tools you've been thinking about recycling, we have a couple of good projects that can put them back to work. We will take any weeding tool, spade, hoe, trowel, or cutters. Drop them off at the shed near the garden at the Scappoose Senior Center, 33342 SW Meadow Dr. (Take EM Watts, L on 4<sup>th</sup> St, L Meadow Dr.) and we will clean them up and make them available to students taking the Seed to Supper classes in Clatskanie, Rainier, St Helens, and Scappoose. We can also use them for work projects at the Habitat for Humanity homes.

--Deb Brimacombe

## Dues – Due!

It's that time of year once again! Your payment of just \$10 for dues enables CCMGA to present its great selection of speakers at our month meetings, to fund different projects in the local area such as the Demo Garden, Community Gardens in St Helens and Scappoose, to send members to Mini College and to present the hard work done by Bug Crew by presenting the bug cases.



If you have a change of email, mailing address or phone number, please let me or Vicki know a.s.a.p.

So please send in your 2016 dues to the Treasurer. Katherine Johnson, 4832 N. Girard St., Portland, OR 97203. Thank You!

--Kathy Johnson, 2016 Treasurer

## 2016 Home & Garden Show



This year's event will take place at Columbia County Fairgrounds on **Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** and **Sunday April 3, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** It is hosted by St. Helens Federal Credit Union, The Chronicle and Dahlgren's Building Supply.

"You'll find everything you need to improve your home, update your yard, and bring more bounty to your garden, including vendors, demonstrations, products, fun, food and the always-popular St. Helens Community photo booth. The Columbia County Master Gardeners will be presenting at the show. Plus CRPUD will be giving away a free heat pump water heater." Free Tickets, stop by any branch for your free tickets, or download your tickets at [https://www.shcu.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/web\\_ticket.jpg](https://www.shcu.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/web_ticket.jpg)

Saturday: Dennis Snyder-**Unusual Fruits for the Home Garden**; Lynne Pettit-**Dragonflies**; LeRoy Schmidt & Judy Thompson-**Hardy Fuchsias**; Chip Bubl-**Deer Resistant Plants**; Pamela Hess-**Succulents**; Sandy Newman—**Irises, Goddess of the Rainbow**; Deb Brimacombe-**Bee Gardens**.

Sunday: Stephanie Patterson-**Living Herbs**; Chuck Petersen-**Hops**; Deb Brimacombe-**Microgreens**; LaVina Patterson-**Mason Bees**.

## Come to the 2016 Fair & Plant Sale in Vernonia on May 7th

The fair will be held at the Vernonia Schools Commons from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 800 certified organic tomato plants plus many other plants and vendor items available.

--Presented by the Vernonia Community Garden Group.

Columbia County Master Gardener™ Association's  
21<sup>st</sup> Annual

# Spring Garden Fair

**April 30, 2016**

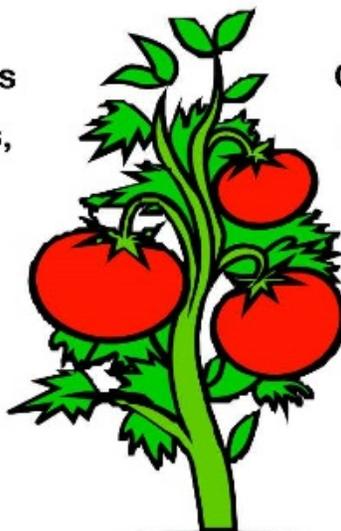
**9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**St. Helens High School Commons**

**2375 Gable Road, St. Helens, Oregon**

free parking - - please carpool  
free admission - - ATM on-site - - shop indoors & out

Dozens of local vendors will offer annuals, trees, perennials, shrubs, trellises, garden art, vegetables, ceramics, herbs, containers, hanging baskets and more.



Certified Master Gardeners will offer 5,000 tomatoes in over 30 varieties for only \$1.50 per plant, tomato and general gardening information, raffle tickets, hourly prizes and displays.

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Raffle tickets are on sale now for \$1 each from many Master Gardeners and at the OSU Extension Service in St Helens.

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Gardening information on plants and insects provided on site by Master Gardeners.



Presented in cooperation with  
OSU Extension Service, Columbia County  
505 N. Columbia River Highway, St. Helens, Oregon 97051  
(503)397-3462

## Save those boxes!

The Spring Fair Committee are asking you to do us a favor and start saving boxes for us to use at Spring Fair. Customers of Spring Fair last year truly appreciated having the boxes to use for all of their shopping enjoyment. Please bring your boxes to the St. Helens High School Commons on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. Thank You,

--Spring Fair Committee.

## 2016 Raffle Tickets



Calling All Master Gardeners Raffle tickets are now available for the Columbia County Master Gardener Annual Spring Fair to be held April **30** at the St. Helens High School from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. More than ever we need the support of all Master Gardeners to sell tickets. The contributions from the proceeds we receive from the Spring Fair raffle help us continue our educational programs. Tickets are available to sell or for purchase at the county extension office as well as the next Master Gardener meeting. Help make this year's fair the best ever. Your support is appreciated.

--Spring Fair Raffle Committee: Debbie Broberg at 503-366-7850

## The Columbia County Master Gardener's Association 21<sup>st</sup> annual fundraiser is *a mere few weeks away!*

There are at least 30 varieties of tomatoes and about 5000 tomatoes to be sold for \$1.50 each

It is with great pleasure that I THANK the COMMITTEE CHAIRS for their Extensive Hours and Tireless Efforts to make this event a success. They have done a GREAT JOB!

If you haven't had the opportunity and you would like to sign up to work at the Spring Fair - **It's not too late!**

You can help out unloading the truck at 1 p.m. at the St. Helens High School Commons on **April 29<sup>th</sup>**; or you can help set up the Spring Fair at 3:30 p.m.

All Volunteers who have signed up to work the morning hours are to report to the High School at 7 a.m. on **April 30<sup>th</sup>** (from 7 a.m. until 9 a.m. we will be tweaking the set up for the Spring Fair); Mid-day Volunteers are to come at noon.

Please remember to wear your Master Gardener Badge and your Master Gardener T-shirt should you have one. Ladies, remember to leave your purses home.

Doors to the Public will open at 9 a.m. and close at 3 p.m.

When the doors close at 3 p.m., clean-up of the high school will begin.

All Committee Chairs will have prepared for each of the Volunteers a "TO DO" List that will be handed out either at the business meeting on April 28th or in the morning of Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Remember to keep track of the hours spent working the Spring Fair! This can be used as payback.

Have fun everyone, I and the Spring Committee Chairs will see you at the Spring Fair!

*--Katherine Johnson, Spring Fair Coordinator*

# Columbia County Master Gardeners Association

## Chapter Meeting Minutes (Not approved)

February 25, 2016

President Chuck Petersen

Six officers and 16 general members attended.

**Speaker:** Sarah Jovan & Geoffrey Donovan – “Moss and Men”

Excellent presentations about the Forest Service research done on moss. The data was generated by testing moss in hot spots in Oregon and in Portland. It is being used in the investigations underway in Portland with emissions of Cadmium, Arsenic, and Selenium from glass factories in Portland.

### Housekeeping:

Secretary's Report - approved

Treasurer's Report - approved

Correspondence

- Mini College will take place in 2016.  
& International MG convention is in 2017

The OMGA and local chapters need to consider these items in their budgets.

- OMGA Leadership Conference is scheduled for two weeks this summer and its focus is on MG retention and improvement. Theme is “Search for Excellence”. If someone wants to nominate someone, give names to Chuck.

### Old Business

- By-Laws Changes – draft was reviewed with Board and accepted.
- Spring Fair - Fair date is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> at St Helens High School

## New Business

### MARCH'S MEETING:

Thursday, March 24, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Columbia Co. Extension Office, St. Helens

Free and open to the public

Topic: How to Recognize and Prevent Hazard Trees

Speaker: Paul Ries, Oregon State University, and College of Forestry

Every year, our landscape changes as trees fall or break, causing property damage, injuries, and power outages. While some tree failures are predictable and unavoidable, many can be prevented. By learning to recognize the warning signs that trees may be in trouble, homeowners can deal with the potential problems and correct them before something bad happens. From planting the right tree in the right place to pruning it correctly and caring for it properly throughout its life, there are many things people can do to keep landscape trees from being a liability, and instead to reap the benefits of trees as valuable assets.

Please join us as Paul Ries, Oregon State University; College of Forestry discusses how to be a responsible tree steward.

Adjournment 7:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted by

Angela Sorensen, Secretary



## Send-A-Friend Mini-College Scholarships

March 14, 2016

Dear Chapter President/Area OMGA Representative:

In 2002, a new policy was put into place which established a revolving fund to be supported by state and chapter donations. This fund is called "Send-A-Friend". The revolving fund works this way.....the funds donated last year will be used to make awards to applying chapters this year. Monies donated to the fund this year 2016, will be used to make awards for the 2018 Mini-College.

The Send-A-Friend Program has been very successful in raising funds the past years through donations. Starting this year 2016, new changes will take place. The Send- A- Friend Scholarship will be awarded to Counties with **INCOME** from the previous year of \$25,000.00 or less. On a first come first serve basis. There is funding for 9 OMGA Chapter's to receive a \$200.00 scholarship for Mini College 2016. This scholarship is to be used to help fund one or more of your Chapter Master Gardeners so that they may attend the 2016 Mini College on August 4th, 5th and 6th at Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon. Another way to utilize the scholarship is to send your Chapter's "Master Gardener of the Year" or "Behind the Scenes" recipient to Mini College so that they may be recognized.

Please notify your chapter's Executive Board and Extension Agent that the "Send-A-Friend" scholarship forms are available. They are attached to this letter and need to be filled out and submitted to receive the scholarship. They are available on the OMGA website.

**Deadline for "Send-A-Friend" application this year is: July 1, 2016.**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katherine T Johnson  
Send-A-Friend Chair  
503-289-4894  
dktjohnson@msn.com

## Application Instructions

### **Deadline: July 1, 2016**

Application forms are to be completed by the Chapter, signed by the Chapter President and submitted to the Send-A-Friend committee at the address below. It must be postmarked by July 1, 2016. Emails will be accepted and application must be received by July 1, 2016.

If you cannot meet the deadline, you should contact the chairperson immediately by phone or email to request additional time.

Send-A-Friend Chairperson: Katherine T Johnson  
4832 N. Girard St.  
Portland, OR 97203  
503-289-4894  
dktjohnson@msn.com

### Send-A-Friend Guidelines (SAF)

The following items are the Guidelines for submitting an application to receive a SAF scholarship to Mini-College:

- a) Each eligible Chapter may apply for one scholarship per year.
- b) Applicant must be a current Master Gardener or Master Gardener Trainee in good standing with their chapter.
- c) No applications will be accepted after the stated deadline.
- d) Maximum of 1 scholarship per Chapter. Current scholarship amount is \$200 per Chapter.

### **SPECIFIC CHAPTER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- e) Each Master Gardener Chapter is to screen their own applicants.
- f) Chapter President must sign application and submit to SAF Chairman prior to deadline date.
- g) The OMGA Treasurer will send award checks to the Chapter President.
- h) Funds are to be used for Mini-College registration only. All unused funds are to be sent back to the OMGA Treasurer to be placed back in the SAF fund within 30 days of the end of Mini-College. It is suggested these funds be used for recognition of outstanding members in good standing to send to Mini College, such as Master Gardener of the Year, Behind the Scenes, etc.
- i) If the person receiving the scholarship for Mini-College is unable to attend, funds may be allotted to another master gardener attending Mini College.

OMGA SEND-A-FRIEND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of OMGA wishes to apply for the \$200.00 Send-A-Friend Scholarship fund for Mini-College 2016.

Please send scholarship to:

Chapter President: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter President Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone/Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

To be completed by Send-A-Friend Chairperson

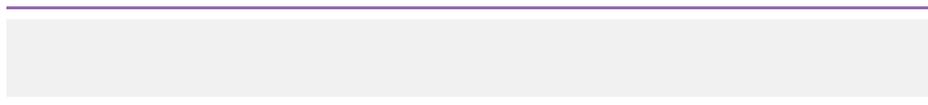
Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount requested: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Amount Approved \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

1) Please remember to mail in your Volunteer Log Sheets and include all number of public contacts and any pounds of produce you have donated to your Local Food Bank.



# First Call for SFE

Feb 22 2016

## MARJE LUCE SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE

The Marje Luce Search for Excellence is designed to give all of us new ideas on how we can improve our gardens, community outreach, plant clinics, and aligns with the summary below.

- The Search for Excellence program recognizes superior Master Gardener™ volunteer work, both throughout the United States and Canada (at the international level), and across the state of Oregon within the OMGA. All SFE applications must show that significant learning took place, whether by Master Gardeners or the general public.
- Projects represent one of seven categories: Youth, Demonstration Garden, Workshops, Community Service, Innovative, Special Audience, or General
- Project must have been in work for at least last 2 years
- Recognizes group projects, not individuals
- Must be easy to replicate, practical, original and creative
- Must align with the missions of OSU Extension and OMGA

Do you have a project you would like to share? We would like very much to hear from you.

Applications are **due by 15 May**. Volunteer judges will review your project against established criteria. You will be notified by 19 June of the results. If your project meets or exceeds the criteria and depending on time available, we will invite you to present your project at Mini College4-6 August.at Linfield College McMinnville

At Mini College OMGA will recognize those submissions judged to have met established criteria. OMGA will offer a forum for sharing information and experiences as well as a cash award to selected submissions. So, now is the time to dress up your chapter's show case project. Let the rest of us know what is working well for your chapter.

Look for application forms, guidance for submittals and other details on our OMGA website, or contact this year's SFE chair, Jim Liskey [pnjliskey@aol.com](mailto:pnjliskey@aol.com). I am also looking for volunteer judges by 15 April. It is a great opportunity to find out what is happening around the state.

# Oregon Master Gardener Association

## First Quarter Chapter Reports

2016

### Benton County submitted by Richard Taylor

- The 2016 Master Gardener training class is underway with 25 participants from Benton County and 19 From Linn County. Each trainee has a mentor who will help them learn about the organization, understand working at the Plant Clinic Desk and meet other master gardeners in ongoing activities. A team of 16 experienced MGs runs seven Plant Problem Scenario sessions during training. This orients trainees to working at the clinic desk by learning to ask questions and use appropriate resources to find answers.
- The Gearing Up for Gardening free talk series was hosted each Tuesday in January and February in the Benton County Library. The theme this year is "The Year of the Veggie". Each week a different topic in vegetable gardening is presented. The series has been popular, with 80 to 100 attendees every week.
- Insights Into Gardening was held on February 13 at LaSells Stewart Center on the campus of Oregon State University. Insights is one of two major fundraisers of the year for the BCMGA. 320 attendees participated in 12 different classes presented during the day and browsed through exhibitors displays in the lobby.
- Four Seed to Supper classes have started in Benton County reaching 80-90 adults in the beginning vegetable gardening class for people on a budget. Two of them (Philomath and South Corvallis) will offer a Child Grow Club at the same time the adults are attending Seeds to Supper. We are holding them in 10 locations within Benton and Linn counties. One of the classes will be in Spanish. Of note... Some of the trainees in this year's Master Gardener class took the Seeds to Supper class last year.
- The Outreach committee has produced a short tv advertisement highlighting upcoming Master Gardener events. The ad is airing on various local cable TV channels.

### Central Gorge Chapter submitted by

### Central Oregon Chapter submitted by Diana Hardin

The new year has brought much reflection and resolve to make being a Central Oregon Master Gardener a worthy and rewarding experience. With the emphasis on recruitment and retention state wide we have implemented some of the suggestions made at the leadership forum held at mini college. Changing the format of our monthly board meetings to allow more time for membership input and having committee reports written rather than presented are two changes we have started. Having a 10 minute University given by a chapter member at each meeting is another idea we have begun. We acknowledge that we have not done the best job of recognizing and showing appreciation for jobs well done by members and are working at correcting this.

This year our new Master Gardener class is one of the largest in recent history. We are training 34 and 2 transfers which is an increase of over 10 from last year. We have included the expertise of some of our own chapter members in the training schedule. Soils, Composting, and Vegetable Gardening are some of the topics taught by COMGA members.

Two exciting educational events are happening which may interest members state wide. The first is called "Living on a Few Acres". This event is being held at the Deschutes County Fair Grounds. It is presented by the Small Farms Division of OSU Extension in Deschutes County. It will be held on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. It is a full day of classes with many choices each session offering MG advanced training hours. Covering such topics as Mixed Use Irrigation in Home Landscapes, Native Bees, Growing Tree Fruits Successfully, and Controlling Wildlife Damage. For registration and more details go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/LOAFA> or call 541-548-6088.

The second educational event is put on by our Central Oregon Chapter. Our annual Spring Seminar being held at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds on April 16<sup>th</sup>. This too is an all-day affair offering 16 different classes, many of which qualify as advanced training. Always a fun get together of fellow gardeners with a lunch and an awesome silent auction included in the fee. Registration will open in March at our <http://gocomga.com> web site.

Plans are underway for community teaching of Vegetable Gardening both in English and in Spanish. Committees are hard at work planning community gardens, plant sales, demonstration gardens, and of course the upcoming Spring Seminar.

As you can see Central Oregon is hard at work in 2016!

**Clackamas County submitted by**

## Clatsop County submitted by

### Columbia County submitted by Pat LaPointe

- The Columbia County 2016 Master Gardener training class is underway with 27 students participating to promote better public understanding of sustainable gardening and maintaining our presence as a significant partner in Columbia County's future.
- The four Community Gardens Columbia County Master Gardeners support provided over 6414 pounds of produce for our local foodbanks. Currently, Columbia County has four gardens located in Saint Helens, Scappoose, Vernonia and Clatskanie.
- The Columbia County Chapter will provide garden seminars at The Home and Garden Show on April 2 & 3. We will be presenting 14 (11-15 minutes each) topics this year including Beekeeping, Soils, Native Plants, and Deer Resistant Landscapes.
- Seed to Supper classes are scheduled for April in Saint Helens, Rainier, Clatskanie and Scappoose. Six week vegetable classes are held in each location with hands- on gardens. Classes are free for low income families.
- The Columbia County Spring Fair is coming up on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Saint Helens High School. We will feature over 30 different varieties of tomatoes and numerous vendors supply various garden related items. Show starts at 9 AM and runs until 3 PM. The event includes a large raffle featuring many donated prizes.
- The New Bug Crew has a busy schedule this year. They have already visited the Columbia County Christian School where they installed a Mason Bee House. Several series of classroom visits are coming up in April and a special class is scheduled for the children at a 4H Camp in June.
- The Columbia County Master Gardeners are gearing up for the Demo Garden located at the Columbia County Fair Grounds. The fair opens on July 20.

## Coos County submitted by

### Curry County submitted by Bobbie Gross

Spring brings out the best in gardeners! Warm sunny days with plenty of moisture, encourages new plant growth, and marks the beginning of a new gardening season in Curry County. Enthusiastic veteran MG volunteers and new students are involved in projects that benefit the community. We're off to a great start! Here are the highlights.

## **Master Gardener Classes and Plant Clinics**

A “full house” is present at the MG classes with 16 new students and many veteran MG’s sitting in on the classes. Interest is high. To help the students be more comfortable with Plant Clinics they will be helping with, part of the class lunch hour is spent “solving plant problems: under the leadership of veteran MG’s Weekly Plant Clinics start in March after classes end, and are every Wednesday from 10 until 2 at the OSU Extension Office in Gold Beach. The new hours are meant to accommodate people during their lunch hours. Other Plant Clinics will be held at community events, Farmer’s Markets, and at local businesses, all good opportunities for community outreach.

## **Spring Lecture Series at the Curry Public Library in Gold Beach**

Curry Public Library and OSU Master Gardeners are presenting a series of gardening talks every Tuesday in March at 5:30 PM. The community is invited to learn about greenhouse growing, school gardens, keep bees and food as medicine. The talks are organized by OSU MG Program Assistant Scott Thiemann, with some MG’s participating as presenters.

## **MG Plant Sale Happening May 7**

Wednesday afternoons at the Gold Beach High School greenhouse, finds MG’s busy transplanting, trimming, watering plants in preparation for the MG Plant Sale at the High School. About 2,000 plants have been started from cuttings, and there are almost 1,000 succulents according to MG Carol. It’s the biggest fund raiser of the year for CCMGA, and also a great learning experience for the MG’s participating. The Plant Sale provides opportunities to educate the public as well. As our Plant Sale flyer says, there will be: “Experts on hand to answer questions on bee keeping and pollination, butterfly protection, raised bed gardening, and plant disease resolution.” We look forward to a great event!

## **School Gardens in Gold Beach and Brookings**

MG’s Mary, Pam, and Lynette, attended the School Garden and Farm To School Summit 2016 and came back with great ideas. Both Riley Creek School Garden in Gold Beach, and Little Bear Patch Garden in Brookings are thriving thanks to the work of Mary, Pam, Lynette, many other MG’s and others. Vegetable seeds will be started soon at the Riley Creek School Garden greenhouse, for the MG Plant Sale. Little Bear Patch Garden is now more handicap accessible thanks to work done this winter. The Youth In Transition (YTP) Program from Brookings-Harbor High School, under the leadership of instructor Michelle Pruden and help from MG’s, is actively involved in the garden.

## **Richey Memorial Garden Next to the OSU Extension Office in Gold Beach**

Thanks to MG Carol, the Richey Memorial Garden is being rejuvenated. It’s an opportunity for other MG’s and trainees to get involved as well.

## **Informing Members and Others Interested**

CCMGA has a Facebook page. Check it out at: [www.facebook.com/OSUExtCurryMG](http://www.facebook.com/OSUExtCurryMG)  
The Brambles, our CCMGA monthly newsletter, informs out members. It can be read by anyone on the CCMGA website: [Extension.oregonstate.edu/curry/mg](http://Extension.oregonstate.edu/curry/mg).

### **Douglas County submitted by**

### **Jackson County submitted by**

### **Josephine County submitted by Linda Dean**

We have a full class for the 2016 year. This class is eager to learn as much as they can and working in the greenhouses and helping in the preparation for the perennials sale in March. The plants grown in the greenhouses are sold at our Spring Garden Fair held this year in April. We always have a great turn out from the community.

On March 5th our yearly community classes called "Seeds of Spring" will have four sessions and 38 classes to choose from. This is already sold out. It is held at the Rogue Community College.

Our Elementary Schools gardening classes and Young Master Gardeners have started and they always have a great turn out. We get a lot of good comments from the teachers and parents. The kids love getting their hands dirty. Worms are one of their favorite things.

We have a member who is an Entomologist and is doing a Bumble Bee Survey. She wants to know when the first Bumble Bees come out here in the Rogue Valley. She calls it Citizen Science Project. In our Plant Clinic she had developed a Bug display of many of our valley bugs and has identified them all. How great is that.

The Master Gardeners of Josephine County has really grown over the years. We get a lot of retired people relocating here and they are hungry to learn how to garden and grow their own healthy food. It is so fun.

## Klamath County submitted by

## Lane County submitted by

## Lincoln County submitted by

## Linn County by Randy Peckman and Rane Webb

- The Linn/Benton 2016 Master Gardener training class is underway with 25 participants from Benton County and 19 From Linn County. Each trainee has a mentor who will help them learn about the organization, understand working at the Plant Clinic Desk and meet other master gardeners in ongoing activities. A team of 16 experienced MGs runs seven Plant Problem Scenario sessions during training. This orients trainees to working at the clinic desk by learning to ask questions and use appropriate resources to find answers.
- Preparation for the Second Annual Beevent Pollinator Conference is underway. The conference will be held on March 12th in Albany at the Holiday Inn Express conference rooms. Speakers will share information on Bumble Bees, Mason Bees and Planting to Help Pollinators.
- Seed to Supper classes have started in Linn County teaching beginning vegetable gardening class for people on a budget. Of note... Some of the trainees in this year's Master Gardener class took the Seeds to Supper class last year.
- A "Spotlight" article on one or two Master Gardeners who contribute to the success of our Chapter is being shared each month through our Weekly e-mail. We feel this is an important way to recognize their contributions and to let others know about their skills.

## Marion County submitted by Peter Dane

There has been a lot of enthusiasm and participation, for a wide range of our events.

On December 2 there was a large audience at the graduation ceremony, for the new Master Gardener, Class of 2015. The ceremony was held at the modern "Center 50+," near the State Fair Grounds, in Salem. About 31, of the original 43 trainees, completed the program, 4 more than last year. About 43 persons are signed up for the 2016 program. Classes started January 11, in the large meeting room, at the Marion County, Public Works Department.

The new VRS system is popular, for logging in volunteer hours. This year, to be "Certified" to work at the "Help Desk," one needs 10 hours, of approved education classes, and 20 hours of volunteer work.

New MCMGA officers were elected for 2016, with Bill Sutkus, as President.

The first week in January the new "Trainee Guide, 2016" was distributed to better orient the new Master Gardener trainees to all the programs and activities.

A weekly course in gardening, for the general public, was given by some of our members at "Center 50+." Among the weekly speakers was Harry Olson, on "Greenhouses," and Maynard Hammer, on "Oregon Native Plants."

To help Committee persons to be "on the same page," Jim Lisky has us now using the program from: [www.dropboxmail.com](http://www.dropboxmail.com) It makes for quick referencing of documents.

In mid-January, several Master Gardeners followed up on our leader, Neil Bell's request, to plant the 100 small, native shrubs around the "Gordon House," designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. It's near the entrance to the "Oregon Garden," in Silverton.

January 26, Sean Hogan's presentation at the monthly, association meeting, at the Salem Public Library, was titled "All Season Performance in the Garden."

February 15, there was a promotional tour, for the new Trainees, of the 23 specialty garden plots and work areas, at the Marion Demonstration Garden.

February 18, at a special MCMGA Directors meeting, three guests encouraged our participation and sponsoring of an OSU affiliated "Youth City Farm," on a six acre site, at Chemeketa City College, in Salem. It's to mentor "at risk youths,"

February 20, there was an "Apple, Pear & Grape Pruning" workshop at our garden.

February 23, at our monthly meeting, Leonard Foltz, of "Dancing Oaks Nursery," gave a picture show on "gardening at the edge of the oak savanna, with four seasons of plants." Close to 70 persons attended. Paper bookmarks were distributed, listing the dates and speakers, for our meetings in 2016

February 27, there was a Rose Pruning Workshop, at the Marion Demonstration Garden.

The Plant Sale Committee is meeting to prepare for the big, Annual Plant Sale, April 30

A few of our Master Gardeners participate in a weekly garden radio program, each Thursday, at 8:45 am, KBZY, 1490 AM.

### **Multnomah County submitted by**

### **Polk County submitted by Marsha Graciosa**

#### News from the Inspiration Garden

A grant from Oregon Community Trees, an Arbor Day Foundation, was granted.

West Coast Metal Buildings donated and erected a 12 x16 metal building. Master Gardeners built a ramp into the building and will store potting soil and decorative bark for future use.

Three metal garden sculptures were donated and placed in the garden, set in concrete.

Work continues with mulching, mounting a birdhouse and two mason bee houses along with building six boxes for the small fruit tree orchard.

#### Education Program

Linda Hardison, Oregon Flora Project Director and Linda Boyer, Restoration Biologist, Native Plant manager of Heritage Seeds presented a short program Feb 11th on the Oregon Flora Project, "The One and Only Resource for all Oregon Plants" [www.oregonflora.org](http://www.oregonflora.org)

#### Fundraising and Clinics

The plant sale committee is moving forward with plans for our annual fundraiser May 6-7 2016. An article appeared in the Independence Itemizer Feb 9th highlighting Master Gardeners as they prepare perennials for the sale.

A clinic is set for Feb 27-28 at the Polk County Home and Garden Show.

#### Other projects

Plans are set for MG trainees to be able to payback some hours at the Dallas Youth Garden as mentors to high-school aged youth throughout the summer.

Brunk House Gardeners in conjunction with the Polk Co Historical Society are busy pruning roses and preparation for the Blossom Drive event in April.

Gental House in Monmouth and the fairgrounds in Rickreal have been given up as projects as our chapter's focus has been on our Inspiration Garden in Independence.

### **Tillamook County submitted by Jerri Sly**

This new year we have had a good start for the Tillamook Master Gardeners with our classes beginning and moving forward. I am really pleased to say that this year we have 28 apprentices. One of the exciting things is that 9 of these are men. It is really inspiring to see the interest and concerns that brought them to the classes. The attendance for the hardy perennials is also very, very good.

There has been a tremendous amount of energy being created with our Plant Sale coming up on the 1<sup>st</sup>. week-end in May. We had a pot-cleaning workday in February in the Livestock Barn at our fairgrounds. We have Apprentices growing vegetables. Signs being created and we have a local business in town that has a greenhouse and has offered to let us use it to get our tomato seeds other veggie seeds and plants started. We are even working on a plan for what we might have to do with any plants that might be left over.

Our Learning Garden is off and running and prioritize projects for the 2016 year. They are starting to discuss propagation in the hoop house for the 2016 season. There are projects like moving our shade garden, re-siding the shed, propane tank cover and water feature.

Our Farmers Market is starting to put signup sheets up at our weekly classes and they is filling up fast. We have three markets in our county so it can get a little hectic getting them all organized, but so much fun when the season starts.

Our new extension office building is coming right along. At our last board meeting we had a plan to look at that has the grounds all laid out and ideas for plantings and walkways. Do I have to say there was a lot of interest in what the finished spaces will look like? At this point we are looking at the building being ready for the November Board meeting that will be here in Tillamook.

## **Umatilla County Submitted by Sue Stefancik**

Our December meeting had the following new officers sworn in: Carol Mills, President; Richard Bertram, Vice President, Judy Witte, Secretary Deborah Fritts, Treasurer and Fred Basquez, as State Representative.

A new budget was in approved in February.

Our booth at the local Altrusa Bazaar was a success and we will continue to have a booth selling plants in 2016.

Five graduates received their certificates and name badges and recertification certificates went to over 17 members.

Upcoming projects for 2016 are as follows:

- Review of the three gardens that we have. One in Hermiston and two in Pendleton. A new direction will be taken with the River Walk Garden with a partnership with CAPECO and a new manager, Taylor Smith from Americorp. More volunteers and funding will be available.
- New Master Gardener training class started in February, taking place in Milton-Freewater.
- Seeds to Supper class to be scheduled in March for the county.
- Our plant sale will be May 7<sup>th</sup> in Hermiston. The Arts Festival is taking place that weekend and they had over 1,000 folks attend.
- We will have a question and answer table at our local D&B store, on Saturdays throughout the summer.
- In February we'll take an educational field trip to the Sage Center in Boardman.

## Wasco County submitted by

## Washington County submitted by

## Yamhill County submitted by Apryl Garmon

The year starts busy with **new MG training classes** with 21 trainees for 2016. The mentor program has been well developed over the past few years and six senior mentors and four mentors from last year's class give the trainees individual and small group assistance. We have found that not only does this program provide better education, the class completion rate is 99% for the past few years. Most classes average 50+ attendees with other Master Gardeners adding to their education hours. And of course there is the food, there is always great food. Classes will run through mid March ending in the final class and potluck for the full membership.

The **Greenhouse** is now in full swing seeding the last three weeks in February, and 4,000 plugs to be planted in March for the annual Plant Sale event. Many perennials that hide from the cold winter temperatures have been transfer to the outside beds and they are being divided and groomed for the sale.

The **Plant Sale** project is in full swing with this being our only major, annual fund raiser. The sale, always held the last Saturday in April, will be at the Yamhill County Fair Grounds April 30th. This year we are trying something new with an additional half-day sale on Sunday May first. The prices are always "more than reasonable" and it is always a big event for Yamhill and surrounding counties gardeners. As with last year, those plants left will receive a new home at The McMinnville Community Garden for either growing or selling for the garden profits.

The **Community Garden** opens in March with several new raised beds for public and Master Gardener use. This is the third year in our new location on Burnett and we expect even larger public participation than our successful 2015. The location has a large covered area with picnic tables, a large open grass area and is next to a walking labyrinth by the McMinnville Cooperative Ministries. The community garden donated over 1300 pounds of fresh vegetables and the Food Pantry Garden, with the great assistance of many YCMGA members, donated over 10,000 pounds to YCAP food bank.

In addition to starting spring work at the Community Garden, raising plants and organizing the Plant Sale, the Yamhill Master Gardeners are preparing for their annual public education seminar **Spring Into Gardening**, March 12, held at the McMinnville Community Center. This year's theme is "Home Landscaping... Small Changes – Big Impact", and includes eight classes focused on everything from Restoring Established Home Landscapes to Designing an Irrigation System. The group has worked hard this year to get the admittance price down and provides the event for \$20 to the pre-registered public, which includes a box lunch and snacks.

Mini College will be held at Linfield College in McMinnville again this coming year. All are invited to the Thursday evening (Aug. 4) Cook-Out at the Yamhill County Fair Grounds Demo garden. Please plan on joining us if you are attending Mini College August 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Three New Things we are starting this year:**

A new project for YCMGA this year is a **member's database**. This allows members to find contact information easily and quickly. Although this is in its initial stages we are also able to list committee members, approximate time frames for the specific events, projects, and/or committee activity, and member's special interest and skills. This has become a valuable tool for members and will be expanded to hold additional information as needed.

The YCMGA has started its first **Seed to Supper** class. The Newberg Head Start is the host agency. We have 24 in the class. The Head Start family and children garden is being incorporated into the course to provide hands-on activities. Concurrently, we have gardening activities for 25 children of class members. We are also working with potential host agencies for 2 additional class sites.

Also new this year, we will start **regular monthly social meetings** (some with an educational presentation) to increase participation and membership retention. Although the Board Meeting are always open to the full membership, this will allow the entire group, (not just committees) to meet on a regular basis, increase the opportunity for educational hours, and of course – there will be FOOD.

\*Provided to you by the OSU Extension Service Columbia County

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