

December 2016



THE GRAPEVINE

Columbia County Master Gardener Program
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<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 by the last Thursday of every month.

The President's Corner

The Holidays are here and unless you are winter gardening not much is going on in the garden.

At our last meeting of the year the drawing for door prizes at our meetings was reinstated and a budget voted in for it. I need a volunteer to coordinate and handle the drawing at our meetings. If anyone is interested in taking this on please let me know and I will fill you in on what is required.

I have included a letter I received from Gail Langellotto for this Newsletter which gives a lot more detail On the International MG Meeting being held in Portland this year.

The rains have come in earnest and please be careful when driving as leaves, water and dark roads can make a day get a lot worse in a hurry.

Have a Safe and happy Holiday season.

--Chuck Petersen, CCMGA President



Upcoming Events

December 1

Demo Garden & Project Mtg 10 am

December 1

Board Mtg 10:30 am

December 1

Bug Crew Meets 1 pm

CCMG Board of Directors 2016

- 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 Bevans, OMGA Alt. Rep

Columbia County Master Gardeners Association

Board Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2016

President Chuck Petersen, Presiding

House Keeping

Secretaries Report – No minutes were available. Will be presented at December meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Accepted as Presented

Correspondence – None

Committee Reports

- **Picnic** – The Abels have not submitted any bills. Chuck will follow up to see if there is a need for reimbursement or if we want to make a donation to them. If we give them a donation, the secretary will need to provide a form for their taxes.
- **Field Trips** - Linda Bainbridge is the new Field Trip Coordinator.

Old Business:

- **Facebook Page** - Angela will be reporting on the Facebook initiative at the December meeting.

New Business

- **Habitat for Humanity Project** – Pat La Point reported that planter boxes will be constructed for a new house.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted by Angela Sorensen with input from Chuck Petersen.

Please remember to turn in Your Volunteer Log Sheet!

This is very important to show the state our number of volunteer hours and donated produce!



OSU Extension Master Gardener Program
Statewide Program Leader's Report, Gail Langellotto
4th quarterly Board of Director's Mtg., Oregon Master Gardener Assoc.

Over the past quarter, I have been working on the following projects:

1) **International Master Gardener Conference.** Registration launched on October 10, 2016. Please make sure to share this information with your Master Gardener colleagues and friends. The conference website is <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/>. You can find information on registration, tours, and lodging on the site. Register on or before January 13th to receive the early bird registration discount (\$50). As of today (October 31st), we have 246 people registered from 34 states and two Canadian provinces. Rooms at the Crowne Plaza are about 25% full. Rooms at the DoubleTree and the Inn at the Convention Center were 50% full when I last received a report (~2 weeks ago). Some tours are already half full. Fourteen chapters are participating in the bike display (being coordinated by Marcia Sherry). A total of 110 people have purchased tickets to the opening reception. A total of 139 people have purchased film festival tickets. One new sponsor has signed on to support the conference: Jan and Ray McNeilan. Five out of 82 trade show booths have been secured. A total of 26 projects have been recognized as International Search for Excellence Winners, including:

- Grafted Vegetable Garden Trial (Marion County), 1st place, Research
- NORCOR /Spring Plant Fair (Wasco County), 3rd place Special Needs
- 10 Minute University (Clackamas County), 1st place, Workshop
- Yaquina Bay Lighthouse and School Garden (Lincoln County), 3rd place, Youth

Kym Pokorny is writing a press release for Oregon winners, which will be released closer to the conference date. I will write press releases for the other 22 winners, so that they can share news of their award with their local communities.

A host has been confirmed for the 2019 IMGC (Philadelphia, PA), and we are in talks with Virginia to host the 2021 IMGC.

I'm giving up my term as the chair of the International Master Gardener Committee, to focus on putting on the 2017 conference. A new chair will take the lead in 2017, and will work on updating IMG Committee bylaws so that they provide a better roadmap for how to manage the organization.

We are seeking volunteers for a variety of jobs at the IMGC ~ ticket takers for the film festival, speaker hosts for concurrent sessions, trade show volunteers to assist exhibitors

on move-in day, decorations crew to help set up decorations, etc. Sign up sheets will be posted on the conference website.

Make sure you're signed up to receive the IMGc newsletter:

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/2016/04/28/imgc-2017-newsletter/>

2) **Garden Ecology Lab & Citizen Science:** I have two new graduate students, who will be working on garden ecology projects, starting in the spring of 2017. One will be working on garden pollinators, and the other on garden soils. We will be working closely with Master Gardeners to conduct research. As part of this effort, I am working with Brooke Edmunds to develop a citizen science training course for Extension volunteers. You can learn more about our efforts, and sign up for the Citizen Science in the Garden newsletter by visiting Brooke's website:

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardencitizenscience/>. There is also a short profile on our lab group on this site:

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardencitizenscience/2016/10/19/meet-oregon-state-university-garden-ecology-lab/>. Note that one of the students listed in this profile (Robert Yarnall) decided to transfer his major from horticulture to sociology, which we both agree is a better fit for his interests and skill set.

I've been teaching a graduate class in garden ecology this term, where we read papers related to our research interests, and work to develop our respective projects.

By November 30th, I'll hear back from the USDA, on a grant proposal that I submitted with Andony Melathopolous (Assistant Professor of Pollinator Health) on the value of garden pollinators to urban and peri-urban agriculture. If funded, this grant would greatly expand the number of gardens we can sample.

3) **Online Master Gardener Course:** Signe Danler is the online Master Gardener course instructor. Signe has been revising existing modules, and getting the course updated and ready for a January 2016 launch. We have worked together to revise the following modules: pesticides, sustainable landscaping, Master Gardener program. Signe develops the revision, and I review prior to her recording the updated module. Signe will also be working to develop regionally-specific modules for the online MG course, particularly for eastern Oregon. Currently, we have a limited presence in Eastern Oregon, and want to provide the modules as a way to support MG trainings, locally.

4) **MG Coordinators Manual:** I'm updating the MG Coordinators' manual, to reflect recent changes in policy (e.g. recertification, forms). My goal is to have it complete by the OSU Extension Conference, November 14th.

5) **National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture:** I continue to serve as the secretary for this initiative, which is focused on providing a unified voice for industry, academia and non-profits to promote the value of plants, gardens (community, school, private) and landscapes (botanical gardens, urban forests, public parks) to decision makers and the general public ~ in an effort to grow institutional support for research and extension in consumer horticulture (e.g. gardening). We're submitting a pre-proposal on the topic to the Specialty Crop Research Initiative ~ due November 8th.

6) **MG Trainings:** I've cut down on my MG training schedule for 2017, to make room for the extra demands of the IMGC. I have nine trainings on my schedule, where I average 28 talks per year. In the future, I'd like to keep my scheduled talks to 20-25 per year. I've done 35-40 talks in some years, and that schedule makes it harder for me to keep balance against other projects.

7) **MG Awards:** The Executive Committee asked me to look at some potential changes to the statewide awards. Starting in 2017, the last three winners of the Behind the Scenes award will be invited to serve as a judge for the statewide awards. Also, I clarified and added suggested point values to the scoring system (see attached). Questions about the statewide awards were: 'should service in other states county?' and 'should number of hours volunteered count?'. We count MG service in other states towards our statewide MG awards, because we have always practiced reciprocity with other states, and expect that other states would do the same for us. Also, we don't county number of hours volunteered, per se ~ but do give credit for the number of years someone has been an active Master Gardener. We don't county number of hours as a scoring criterion, because we do not want to encourage burnout.

Please note that nominations for county MG of the year, state MG of the year, county behind the scenes and state behind the scenes are due to me (gail.langellotto@Oregonstate.edu) MAY 15th of each and every year. I need a nomination form, and I need a photo of your nominee.

Over the past few years, I have had to repeatedly email county coordinators, OMGA reps and OMGA presidents to let them know of the deadline. Every year, I still get late submissions ~ and sometimes, these submissions are so late that they can not be accommodated. Please get your submissions in on time.

We will still be honoring MG award winners, even though we are not having Mini-College in 2017 (because of the International Master Gardener Conference). The Executive Committee has talked about driving out to counties to personally present awards. And, there may be a way to honor MG award winners at the IMGC . . . I just don't have a solid plan for that, just yet.

Items of Interest to the MG Program

- 1) **Eastern Oregon MG Program:** we are still woefully understaffed in Eastern Oregon. Janice Cowan is continuing to work on a 1039 appointment (less than half time appointment that is sometimes available to folks who have retired from OSU). She is writing an Eastern Oregon horticulture newsletter, and fielding horticulture questions in the region. But, MG trainings in Eastern Oregon are on hiatus until we can secure support for new hires.

- 2) **MG Program Coordinators showcase of excellence:** at the upcoming home horticulture working group meeting (in concert with the OSU Extension Conference), we are highlighting innovative and impactful MG Program projects or initiatives, including: Teaching Volunteers how to Teach (Michelle Sager, Wasco County), Field Trips to Teach Plant Problem Diagnosis (Brooke Edmunds, Benton/Linn counties), Volunteer Project Selection and Evaluation (Amy Jo Detweiler, Central Oregon), OSU Training for MG Association Board Members (Joy Jones, Tillamook County).

- 3) **Home and Commercial Horticulture in Lane County:** Lane County Extension is hiring an Assistant Professor of Practice to serve tree nut, tree fruit and cane fruit producers in Lane County and the Southern Willamette Valley. This person will also provide leadership for the MG Program in Lane County. With this hire, Brooke Edmunds will go from a tri-county appointment (Linn, Lane and Benton) to the much more manageable (and fair) appointment of Linn and Benton Counties. Lane County will also benefit from more targeted attention, by the person who will be hired into this position.



**Oregon Master Gardener Association
Quarter Chapter Reports
4th Quarter 2016**

Benton County submitted by Richard Taylor

- Seed to Supper Workshop and Tomato Tasting Event - The Community Garden Action Team held a workshop on cover crops and soil building in the Demo Garden on September 10 at the Benton County Fairgrounds. Over 20 Seed to Supper participants and community members attended Workshop #5 of 6 in the summer series held at the MG Demonstration Garden and other community gardens. Immediately after the workshop, a tomato tasting was held in the Floral Courtyard. 31 varieties of tomatoes were available to taste. The varieties were well received and the extras donated to the Food Bank.

- Dig and Divides - All of our Dig and Divide dates have been filled. The final dates for Fall are:
 - Tuesday Nov. 1 and Thursday Nov. 3. Hours count, the food is great, the company is even better, and there are often a few free plants to choose from. Plants from the fall and early spring Dig and Divides as well as greenhouse starts will be sold at our main fundraiser the first Saturday in May.
- October BCMGA Members Meeting – The new Board members for 2017 were introduced to the members. Our guest speaker was OSU PhD horticulture student, Lyle Wallace who gave a talk about Seed Saving!
- 2016 Class Graduation - The 2016 Linn/Benton Master Gardener Graduation and Awards Luncheon will be held Thursday, November 10 at Oddfellows Hall in downtown Corvallis.
- Seed to Supper and Kids Grow Training – Teams of instructors and assistants are needed for the 2017 Seed to Supper (S2S) free basic gardening series for adults gardening on a budget. Adult S2S classes and youth Kids Grow classes will be held at various sites in Corvallis and Philomath during the cooler spring months of Feb & March. Volunteers needed include: Leaders of adult and youth groups, which can be shared among several MGs at each site; Classroom set-up and clean-up helpers; Snack/meal prep; Demonstrations on topic(s) of your interest within the curriculum during the class and/or during the growing season. *There will be an upcoming training for instructors in January
- Plant Clinics at Farmers Market – Plant Clinics were held every other Wednesday and Saturday in September and October at the Corvallis Farmers Market.

Central Gorge Chapter submitted by Eric Bosler

As this report is being drafted the Central Gorge Master Gardeners are still in full swing. Plant clinics are still responding to questions from the community. Our booth at Hood River Saturday Farmer's Market finishes out a very full and productive season this Saturday and the Extension office plant clinic's last scheduled day is on Halloween. While plant clinics are winding down we won't be idle long as Master Gardener training classes begin January 18th. Applications for new Master Gardeners as well as returning members are being accepted. The class schedule is complete and it looks like an outstanding line-up. This year classes will add emphasis to "hands on" segments of.

Greenhouse Feasibility: A committee is in the process of evaluating the possibility of CGMGA building a greenhouse. The chapter has traditionally propagated vegetable starts which make up the majority of the plants sold at our annual plant sale.

Consideration of this large project includes not only production of plants for the sale but also additional educational usage for the facility.

Kokedama Ball Workshop - After attending a kokedama ball class at mini-college, Master Gardeners from Wasco Co and Central Gorge decided to try a joint event with the 2 MG chapters. The kokedama ball workshop was held October 20 at the Mosier Grange.

Project planning for 2017 is well underway. The annual budget and slate of officers will be up for final approval at our 4th quarter meeting.

CGMGA members are designing a Community Garden Network to educate and support the community garden leaders in the region. We are currently compiling the list of community gardens and their leaders in the area to invite them to a February meeting that asks what the needs are of the leaders. Throughout the year, we will take those needs and put on 3 workshops for the leaders and 1 for the gardeners.

Graduation is the big feature of our 4th quarter meeting and, along with a great potluck dinner, the committee putting on the meeting has some surprises planned.

Central Oregon Chapter submitted by Diana Hardin

Many Central Oregon Master Gardeners are calling 2016 The 'Year of the Green Tomato'. After some freezing temperatures in late June followed by many 95+ degree days this summer many tomatoes had a most difficult time setting fruit. Despite the above conditions it was a good year for summer squashes and helped to raise the total amount food donated to our local food bank – Neighbor Impact. Between our Extension demonstration garden and the Hollinshead Community Garden over 2,000 pounds of produce was donated. The moving of our NW Crossing Raised bed Community Garden to a large park in North West Bend was very successful. To date all of our gardens have been put to bed for the winter.

Plans are under way for the Hollinshead Garden Project in conjunction with the Bend Parks and Rec. Dept. to develop a Hollinshead Education Garden. The Department is going to contribute the hardscape, walkway, irrigation, and fencing. A local

landscape design company, 'North of South', is working with our Master Gardeners for the design of the education beds. Handicap accessibility will be a component of this exciting new garden project.

Our annual Recognition Night has been held and 23 new Master Gardeners received their long sought after Orange Badges. Members were honored for their years of service and one member worthy of mentioning is Rocky Bisette who has given over 7,000 hours to the Master Gardener Program in Central Oregon.

Year end activities included electing our 2017 officers and passing our 2017 budget. The chapter was involved in giving over 50 community education classes this past year. And, plans are already underway for classes next year starting with our annual Spring Seminar in April.

Training will be a new adventure this year as we will be moving our classes to the brand new Oregon State Cascades campus in Bend. Advertising for new trainees has already begun and registration will conclude at the end of December.

Of interest in this technology age is our annual scrapbook of chapter activities and events which is now entirely on line for members to peruse. If your chapter is interested in doing this, as well, I can put you in touch with our chapter historian who can share the particulars of creating a scrapbook on line. All members were encouraged to take photos and post them on an online Flickr Account. Thus, one person running around trying to cover all the happenings of a busy chapter is relieved of much of her travel time.

As I will be stepping off the OMGA board in December, I want to say thank you for all I have learned and the many new friends I have made. I will be bringing our new OMGA Rep to the Tillamook meeting. Jeanine Johnson will be a fine addition to the board and I will look forward to her reports.

Clackamas County submitted by

Clatsop County submitted by Barbara Hassan

After a very lengthy, intensive Coordinator search, Linda Jones, a former CCMGA Master Gardener, was selected as our new Clatsop County Master Gardener Coordinator. The search for this position included two OSU faculty and 3 veteran Master Gardeners (Walt John, Chris Bennett and Von Whitney). Linda Jones, familiar with the program and her responsibilities, hit the ground running and has been working diligently to fill the void when our previous coordinator vacated the position months earlier, and ensuring that this year's students are able to complete and log the required number of community service hours necessary for certification.

After consulting with numerous social media experts at Mini-college and with the help of OSU Victor Villegas, Barb Hassan has already begun migrating CCMGA's webpage to the OSU site to facilitate mobile capability and enhanced member privacy.

Successes: As you're aware, CCMGA's Fresh Starts Program was one of the finalists awarded the Marje Luce Search for Excellence! This year's program is already in full

swing; kicking off the new school term with a class on propagation in the greenhouse at Astoria High School (AHS). There were 10 students, one AHS coordinator, and four Master Gardeners in attendance.

In this class the students learned how to clone geraniums by taking cuttings from several varieties, the proper way to plant them in pots, and how and when to water the cuttings. Since these are special needs students, the Master Gardeners learned which students needed one on one instruction, which needed the most encouragement and which are able to work well with the others. It was a good beginning to the school year.

Co-chairs Pam Holen and Linda Holms are looking forward to including other CCMGA members that are interested in this program so that they can maintain a high ratio of MG's to students

Challenges: A number of CCMGA BOD positions for 2017 remain open/without prospective nominees. Perhaps this quarter's Leadership Forum will provide ideas to stimulate interest and encourage member participation.

Columbia County submitted by Pat LaPointe

The new Bug Crew held a Bee Education Day at the Clatskanie Farmer's Market in September. They sponsored the bringing of Mason Bee nesting tubes or nests so they could be opened to access the cocoons. The Bug Crew helped clean the cocoons and remove mites so the bees would remain healthy. They also assisted those who had nesting hole blocks that could not be opened for cleaning. They provided ideas about how to keep the blocks clean and reduce mite infestations.

Columbia County Master Gardener Chapter was proud to report that 2322 pounds of produce was donated to the Food Bank. Once again, Saint Helens beat the Scappoose garden with the most donated. The Scappoose volunteers are looking forward to the year where they are able to spend less time weeding and be in the position to have more time to tend row after row of healthy vegetables.

40 people attended the BugNuts EduFormance event held at Avemere in Saint Helens. "Batman and the Blood Sucking Insects" was the theme. This was a fun way of teaching. The volunteers dressed up and told their audience about insect life-cycles.

Coos County submitted by John Uno

Eighteen of our initial 24 trainees along with 2 holdovers will receive full status of completely trained master gardeners; this means that our group will increase by 20 fully qualified members!

Our community gardens have been all made ready for winter. This last year was probably the most successful year we have ever had as far as the amount of harvested produce is concerned; 1,500 lbs. of produce was given to various local food pantries throughout the county.

The plant clinic and the farmers' market both had a successful year, and now are closed until the spring.

The disparity between our organization's promised hours for activities and the available hours which our members are willing to commit to such activities is slowly being resolved.

We are fiscally sound.

Curry County submitted by Bobbie Gross

Autumn brings us colored leaves, the return of rain, the end of the gardening season, and a chance to look back at a very successful year of CCMGA activities. We're already looking ahead with enthusiasm to next year. Here are the highlights of our fall activities.

Riley Creek School Garden in Gold Beach

Exciting things are happening at Riley Creek School Garden. The beautiful new greenhouse is complete, and the hydroponic lettuce project has begun. Plants are small now, but the plan is to supply lettuce to the school cafeteria throughout the school year. According to MG Mary, "In the future, the 4th and 5th grade kids will be helping mix nutrients, start seeds, and monitor pH and water levels."

The outdoor raised bed gardens have been supplying quite a bit of produce to the school cafeteria as well. Many Riley Creek students have helped with the harvest, and tasted apples, raspberries, beans, tomatoes, and carrots.

Fall Festival, a celebration of the garden, took place on October 12. Children and adults enjoyed walking around the garden tasting fruits and vegetables, guessing the weights of pumpkins, making "apple slinkies", participating in a seed scavenger hunt, eating lettuce wraps and other fall themed treats made by MG's. This successful event was a good time to "show off" the garden.

Everyone is very excited to have FoodCorps AmeriCorps Service Member Amelia Clements, working with students. FoodCorps works to connect kids with healthy food in schools. According to Amelia, "FoodCorps Service Members serve in low-resource schools delivering hands-on lessons in growing, cooking, and tasting healthy food; improving school meals; and encouraging a school-wide climate of health." She'll be teaming up with MG's, teachers, administrators, food service workers, local farmers, and others. Having Amelia using the Riley Creek School Garden is a perfect match. Many thanks go to Cathy Boden who wrote the grant to fund Amelia's position.

Little Bear Patch and The Bridge Garden in Brookings

Little Bear Patch is getting a new look this winter. Lumber was donated to renew the raised beds that were deteriorating. MG's, YTP (Youth in Transition Program) students

from Brookings-Harbor High School, and school personnel, will be building the beds and renewing the soil during the winter. It will be ready for use in the spring. Winter crops are planted and growing at The Bridge Garden. The work is done by YTP students with help from MG's. Produce from the garden is used in the school cafeteria or sold at the Farmer's Market by YTP students. Salsa was made by the students, and herbs dried and bagged, both sold at the Farmer's Market. Money earned goes right back into supporting the garden. It's a great learning experience for the students.

Agness Tomato Festival

MG's Mary and Janet brought a car full of flowers from the Riley Creek School Garden, to the August 21st Agness Tomato Festival. The Festival centers around the Agness store garden where fresh produce and herbs from the garden are used in their sandwiches, soups, and salads. CCMGA had an information booth, a vegetable hunt in the garden for the children, and encouraged visitors to taste some vegetables. Mary and Janet sold the flowers to make money for incidental purchases for the new greenhouse at Riley Creek.

Curry County Fair in Gold Beach

August 25 – 27 found MG's at the Curry County Fair engaging children in gardening related activities. Thursday centered around water. Friday activities had children matching seeds with fruits and vegetables. Saturday found children matching leaves to plants in the MG demonstration garden close by. Seed packets were given as prizes. We're trying to "grow" future gardeners.

An assortment of vegetables and "crazy critters" were entered in the Fair from the Riley Creek School Garden grown with the help of many children. "Best of Show" junior award was received for the beautiful speckled lettuce, and "Largest Summer Squash" junior award was given to a zucchini grown in the garden.

Garden Tour

After the September CCMGA meeting, MG Mark treated us to a tour of his lovely hillside garden. Mark grows everything you can imagine from berries to fruit trees, vegetables, flowers, and hundreds of orchids in his greenhouse. During the tour, Mark told about how he transformed his yard. We learned a lot and got a good workout.

Plant Sale

Tuesday afternoons at the Gold Beach High School greenhouse, is the place to be. Plant propagation takes place for the 2017 Annual Plant Sale, a very popular event in the community. MG Carol says that close to 1,100 plants are in pots now. Currently, rooted cuttings are being transplanted to small pots. The goal is to offer bigger plants at the sale, so they need an early start. MG Terry is propagating succulents in her greenhouse. All MG's are welcome to help out

"Go Garden Go Green"

Healthy eating and gardening go hand in hand. Participants in the October 1 "Go Garden Go Green" event in Gold Beach, found this out first hand. It was organized by OSU MG Program Assistant Scott Thiemann, and Stephanie Polizzi SW Oregon OSU Extension dietitian, with help from MG's. Stephanie presented a program about "Food as Medicine", which was followed by a nutritious vegetarian lunch enjoyed by participants. A tour of the Riley Creek School Garden took place in the afternoon. This is the 3rd year this event has taken place, though each year is different.

"Gardening and Community" series at the Chetco Community Public Library in Brookings

October 8th saw the last of the monthly garden talks begun in April, at the Chetco Community Public Library in Brookings. They have been well received by the public. The series, now in its second year, is sponsored by OSU Extension/Master Gardeners, and is organized by Program Assistant Scott. MG's participated as presenters.

"Considerations and Challenges in Creating Your Landscape" was the last in the series presented by Scott.

Douglas County submitted by Nancy Fuller

This quarter Douglas County elected officers for 2017. Chris Rusch is President, Larry Sutton Past President, Anne Bacon Vice-President, Treasurer Patrice Sipos, Secretary Barbara Robinson, Membership Chair Diana Circle, Publicity/Facebook Barbara Horst, Newsletter Editor Bonnie Courter, Website Vicki McAlister, OMGA representative Nancy Fuller and OMGA alternate representative Kish Doyle. Our Winter Training Director is Denise Fennel.

Our Discovery Garden work continued, bringing us beautiful plants and flowers. Our greenhouses are already at work getting prepared for next spring's plant sale.

Our Victory Garden opened its new education section, complete with instructional signage. In this section, the public can not only learn more about sustainable gardening, but can help themselves to the ripened vegetables.

The Victory Garden has now been put to bed for the winter after providing 5,439 pounds of produce that was donated to the local food bank. Master Gardeners donated 1,550 pounds of produce to the food bank from their own personal gardens. The food bank estimates that these donations are equivalent to \$8,769 worth of food!

Our Winter Training class is already full with thirty-four trainees enrolled. This is the earliest time the class has been full, so we are excited to know there are so many ready to join our group. Training begins in January 2017.

Jackson County submitted by Barbara Davidson

Jackson County Master Gardener Association (JCMGA) has had a busy summer and fall. Our annual Fall picnic in late August was well attended, and our Agent's 2nd Taste-off contest for members' produce (tomatoes, squash, corn, peppers, etc., including most unusual) is becoming a popular event.

We have had a 2-year running battle with the County to secure a larger greenhouse for our practicum for Spring Garden Fair. The County had so many incredible hoops, but the 5' deep concrete footings were poured and these very high poles capable of handling a 5-story building are now in place. We hope to have the greenhouse up and running in the foreseeable future.

JCMGA'S 2016 MG class graduated 61 with 4 pending completion of hours. Four dropped from the class (health, jobs, etc.) and three transferred in. JCMGA provides a dinner with gala decorations transforming our auditorium for these new Master Gardeners attended by about 100 people. Our Family Food Educators provided outstanding catering.

A new program instituted by Rhianna Simes, our Master Gardener Coordinator, is called Plant Clinic Geek-out held monthly after the plant clinic closes. A specific plant family is the focus. Open to all plant clinic workers, volunteers bring in plants or food representing the focus family. Our last meeting had 12 attendees who had a fun time getting better acquainted with the lamiaceae (mint) family via numerous plants, as well as mint patties from Seely Farms in Clatskanie, Or., rosemary cheese, rosemary and thyme cracker thins, and homemade mint flavored ice cream.

JCMGA's School Grants Committee has put their application on-line and met last week to review 21 Jackson County school applications for gardening projects. We awarded \$4,250 to be delivered in a couple weeks to 19 schools, providing gardening experiences for approximately 2,570 students.

JCMGA's major educational event, Winter Dreams-Summer Gardens, a one-day gardening symposium where public may choose 4 classes from approximately 35 offered, is this weekend with 250 pre-registered attendees. OSU Professor Cassidy is keynote speaker focusing on Soil.

Josephine County submitted by Linda Dean

Now that the hours of the new students are in and they are now qualified Master Gardeners they are still busy working. The days in the plant clinic are down to two a week as the busy season is over.

We had a great year in raising and selling our plants both in the greenhouses and the perennial garden. Over the years these efforts that are made by our members provide the funds that we use to be meet our organizational needs.

As the year comes to a close we look forward to the new year. We are working toward a terrific Seeds of Spring, our one day of classes on all types of gardening that is presented for our community. It is held at the Community Rogue River College and is always at capacity. Next comes the Spring Garden Fair. It is now held at the Josephine County Extension Building. Seeds will be ordered once the committee chooses the number of tomato varieties that are needed and other veggies and flowers. A hard decision to make.

We are still on track in developing a demonstration garden. Lots of hoops and loops to go through but so far it is going to happen. We are looking forward to developing it and having it available for the public to view.

Our K-12 Program and Young Master Gardeners Program are reaching many children in the area and they are truly loving getting their hands dirty and seeing how things grow. The instructors say they enjoy it as much and the kids.

Klamath County submitted by

Lane County submitted by Ron Faust

Our fall festival in September was a great success, with good attendance, plus we made about \$2400. Thanks to all our volunteers and co-chairs, Vicki Harrison and Leslie Jehnings.

Sustainable landscape committee received a \$3000 grant from EWEB for the 5th year. Former MG and EWEB statistician found participants used 21% less water in the growing season in 2015 by using the tips and techniques in the two day seminar. The sustainable landscape training and certification course will next be held Dec. 14-15th.

Plant diagnostic committee have monthly plant problem prowls thru the growing season, and they are the backbone of the training program. A problem is researched in advance, notes and pictures are taken, and assembled into a newsletter, The Prowler, which will now be available thru the diagnostic specialist committee link in the Master Gardener only section of the LCMGA webpage.

Our board has been busy too, with a work party to reorganize and streamline archival material stored in the basement to make things easier to find and access.

After much discussion and research, lifetime membership has been discontinued and replaced with a new program that recognizes hours and includes additional hour badge bars for 1000hrs and above. Present lifetime members will be grandfathered in.

Lincoln County submitted by

Linn County by Randy Peckman and Rane Webb

- Fifteen Linn County Master Gardener Trainees will graduate this year. They continue to participate in many of the on-going projects LCMGA supports. Trainees have been at the Farmer's Markets (4 different locations in the county) to help answer gardening questions as well as working the Help Desk at the Extension office. Several have been regular workers at the Linn County Demo Garden. They have worked in school gardens, helped at the Community Gardens, and worked the Container Planting Days, helped with the Garden Tour and more.
- The Third Annual Beeevent Pollinator Conference is set for Saturday, March 4, 2017 and will be held at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center. Planning sessions are on-going and speakers have been secured. Securing vendors is starting. Native Mason Bees will continue to be one of the topics, but we also plan to cover other pollinators as well. One of our trainees has made an incredible bee themed quilt for a raffle at the Beeevent Pollinator Conference.
- A series of Bee Harvesting classes are being held at the Linn Co Extension Office to learn about how to harvest mason bee cocoons and why that is encouraged. The public is also invited to these classes. Included in this series is a Train the Trainer session. The Train the Trainer class will expand the number of LC Master Gardeners who will be able to teach classes related to Mason Bees and cocoon cleaning.
- We are continuing a "Spotlight" article that is published in the Linn Master Gardener Weekly Email. Each month we spotlight one or two Master Gardeners who contribute to the success of our Chapter. This is a way to recognize their contributions and to let others know about their skills. Our hope is that these recognitions will contribute to membership retention.
- A four week Fall series "Pacific Northwest- Brown Bag Talks" are being held at the Albany Library and in Lebanon at LBCC has started. Topics for this Fall series are: Fall Plants for Color and Birds, Safe Gardening Practices, What You Should Know About Raised Beds, and PNW Mushrooms and other Fungi. These are open to the public. The first session had 24 people in attendance.
- The LCMGA Demo Garden Team continues to meet twice a week. Much of the fruit and produce has been donated to FISH of Albany Food bank. Fall vegetables have been planted and end of year clean up has started. The project of adding signage continues. The latest signage was for new fall crops (ie planting garlic) and information on the Brown Bag Talks and becoming a Master Gardener. A large evergreen that had grown into an oak tree was removed. This area will be transformed into a new Pollinator Bed.

- Four Linn County Master Gardeners attended a two day Soils Science Class for Master Gardeners taught by James Cassidy (OSU instructor).
- The Willamette Community Gardens has continued to donate produce to a local food bank. Several MGs support this garden.
- Membership meetings this fall included a visit to Homestead Dahlias, a membership potluck at the Demo Garden (where by-law changes were voted on and approved) and will be followed by the Trainee Graduation with a potluck luncheon, recognition awards, voting for the 2017 Board and start of the 2017 MG membership drive. In December, we will have a Membership Holiday Social.

Marion County submitted by Tobie Habeck

Our first meeting for the 2017 plant sale was held last week at the State Fair Ground in Salem. We're planning on our sale being there for the first time. Plant Sale Chairs walked through the Columbia Building to determine how much space we will have and how to set up the sale. We discovered that we will have a tremendous amount of space, all in doors and dry.

Marion County's Search for Excellence submission won the State designation for Research for our grafted vegetable demonstration at the Oregon Gardens. We were notified this month that we won first place in the Research Category for the 2017 International Master Gardeners which will be presented at the convention next summer in Portland.

Master Gardener Jim Liskey has been busy setting up and running the Junior Master Gardener Program. We'll be hosting Junior Master Gardener Facilitator training on the 11th and 19th of November at the Salem extension office. Designed for teachers, garden coordinators, volunteers and teens interested in sharing their love of gardening with others.

We have 33 trainees on track to complete their volunteer hours and graduate in December. We have 72 requests for applications for the 2017 classes. Apps will be mailed shortly and the plans for the classes starting in January will begin.

This is our first year of using the Volunteer Reporting System. Both trainees and veterans began using the online system last fall and it seems to be working well for all with a "getting used to it" period. This will be the first year also that veterans must meet the 10/20 hours' requirement.

Polk County submitted by Marsha Graciosa

Our newsletter has been successfully published and e-mailed to members. Several master gardeners contribute articles and the publication is well received.

Fall Fling was well attended and involved 35 volunteers. Cider Fest at Brunk House was also well attended with approximately 100 contacts with the public during clinic and tours of the house. Fourteen volunteers arrived to assist the Historical Society with this event.

Inspiration Garden updates include: pavers installed under the gazebo, rolling door installed on storage building, along with ongoing planting and maintenance.

Polk County will participate in the bicycle and roses display for the IMGC in July 2017.

Plans for the 2017 Plant sale have been discussed and calls for perennials have gone out to members.

Nominations of officers for 2017 have been received and voting takes place Nov 8th.

The Dallas Youth Garden, where Master Gardeners mentor and advise, has donated two ton of produce to local food banks.

Currently we are forming a team to design a program for conducting workshops, demonstrations and presentations at our finished Gathering Place building in the Inspiration Garden.

We say good-bye to our MG program assistant, Alisha Atha, and welcome new program assistant, Pam Scharf. Pam has worked at the extension office several years and has supported the 4-H program. We're happy to add her familiar face to our program.

Tillamook County submitted by Jeri Sly & Lyn Holman

After a successful Garden Tour in July, involving 6 varied gardens and 50 volunteers, members of TCMGA continued their busy activities. The Tillamook County Fair was held in August; since the Learning Garden is located at the Fairgrounds, members volunteered as hosts and welcomed nearly 1500 visitors who stopped by to ask questions about the Garden and discuss their own personal gardens. The Garden is also a place where Fair visitors can find a quiet spot in the shade in which to escape for a few moments the noise and activity of the Fair. Work continues at the Garden, harvesting tomatoes and raspberries for the Food Bank and preparing it for winter. All plants have been removed from the trugs and some sown with a cover crop. The hoop house has been emptied.

At our last meeting, we received reports of our Plant Clinics at Farmers' Markets during the summer. We had 29 different volunteers work at the Tillamook Farmers' Market on 8 Saturdays for a total of 200 volunteer hours. There was a total of 168 recorded contacts on a wide range of subjects. We also hosted plant clinics at the Pacific City

Market 4 times during the summer with 11 different volunteers for a total of 30 volunteer hours and at the Manzanita Market 4 times with 8 different volunteers helping.

One of the important TCMGA projects is to work with the Oregon Youth Authority in training the young men in horticulture as part of the Trask River Agriculture Project. The director of the program, Cris Roberts, one of our Master Gardeners, gives us monthly reports. I am including a paragraph from her September report to illustrate the work that they do there:

We aren't quite looking like fall yet. Our tomatoes and cucumbers are coming along nicely as well as our summer and winter squash ...! Our winter carrots are tenaciously pushing through their grubby ground with promises to us of delectable sweetness in a month or so. We have been picking apples, basil, and the remainder of our blueberries but leaving our winter-harvest beans to bulge in their pods until later when we can harvest them, dry them and plop them into our winter soups and stews. Our corn and tomatillos are filling out their wardrobes, and peppers are beginning to put on some bulk. We've had much fun in the baking arena lately, too, with a successful run of Mediterranean pizza, Winter Kuri (deep red) squash muffins and strawberry-rhubarb-blueberry shortcake. In case you are worried about our sweet-and-carbohydrate consumption, let me assure you that we often enjoy at this time of year the produce fresh from the garden such as our succulent, no-bitter cucumbers and tomatoes that spill fragrance into the air even before they are cut ...

The young men in the classes benefit from learning about growing plants as well as being able to consume the produce they plant and harvest.

TCMGA is presently making preparations to host the Fall Leadership Forum on November 4th and the Quarterly OMGA Meeting on November 5th. We are looking forward to welcoming and meeting members from around the State. Today as I write it is a sunny day with no rain; we hope that will be the case that weekend as we invite those attending to join us in the Learning Garden on Saturday morning for a breakfast. In addition to attending the Forum and the Meeting, we encourage you to take time while here to visit the many interesting sites in Tillamook County.

Finally, on a beautiful sunny day in September, members of TCMGA gathered at our Learning Garden to remember a beloved member of our group, Pamela George, who died in August after a short battle with cancer. Pam had been a member since 2011 and quickly played an important role in all aspects of our organization. She was adept at writing grants that benefitted our Learning Garden and was especially effective in raising funds for the hoop house erected there in 2014. More importantly, as President for the years 2014 and 2015, she had an incurable optimism for what we could do and a remarkable talent for getting members enthusiastic about projects. As Past President, she continued to provide leadership and was looking forward to becoming involved with IMGCC in 2017. One of the projects she helped establish is a quilt block board in our Garden, where quilt blocks are attached in memory of loved

ones; on that day in September, we added one for her. The family requested that memorials be made to TCMGA and we are presently making plans to use the funds in a way that will be a memorial to her and a benefit to the entire community here in Tillamook County.

Umatilla County Submitted by Sue Stefancik

August saw the Umatilla County Master Gardeners at a booth at the Umatilla County Fair where we answered questions from the public. August and September, we were at the Pendleton Farmers Market and the Milton-Freewater Market. In Pendleton, we have the test kitchen and give out samples of the item of the week that's determined by the Pendleton Farmers Market. We finished with watermelons in August and tomato tasting in September. In Milton-Freewater a booth is set up for their weekly market and the group is present for gardening questions. We continue our presence in the community having booths at events like the Hermiston Family Health and Fitness Day.

We continue to receive education hours at our monthly meetings, we also have a monthly breakfast where we invite folks to share gardening tips and suggestions. In October, we toured the center for Enology and Viticulture at College Cellars; Walla Walla Community College. Two year degrees are available in the science of farming wine grapes and the science of winemaking. An excellent tour! We will have a booth at the annual Altrusa Holiday Bazaar on November 19th, where we sell items but also promote the upcoming 2017 Master Gardener Class.

Gardens are closed now; November will bring election of officers and in December the installation of new officers and graduation to the 2016 class.

Wasco County submitted by

Washington County submitted by Sandy Japely

Annual Plant Sale

The potting teams are busy! The Annual Plant Sale is the Chapter's key fundraiser, so the team led by Marilyn Berti and Kathi Stoffel has been collecting perennials for the past couple of months. During the winter months, the plants are housed at the Chapter's Fairplex Demonstration Garden in Hillsboro, the Chapter's Learning Garden at Jenkins Estate and in the greenhouses at PCC-Rock Creek. Astilbes, hellebores, heuchera, hostas, spring bloomers, natives and drought tolerant plants sell well. The plants will be sold April 27, 2017 at the WCMGA annual plant sale held at the Washington County Fairgrounds Armory building.

Speakers Bureau Presentations

Requests for sustainable gardening presentations continue to grow. Garden clubs, schools, libraries, churches, and other non-profits submit requests every month. Eleven

master gardeners are trained presenters, with 19 topics available for presentation using PowerPoint and visual aids.

Fairplex Demo Garden/Jenkins Estate Learning Garden

Very dedicated work parties continue at the two WCMGA on-site educational gardens. The Demo Garden team meets every Tuesday at the Washington County Fairgrounds from 9 am to 12 noon; Jenkins Learning Garden team meets every Thursday at Jenkins Estate from 10 am to 1 pm. Both gardens donate the produce grown in their respective gardens to local food banks. Over 1,500 pounds of vegetables, fruits, and herbs were provided to feed the hungry during the 2016 harvest season.

Well-Attended Educational Events

Attendance continues to climb for the Chapter's onsite educational events. Fairplex Demo Garden July-October presentations included: Gardening made Easy/Adaptive Gardening, Planning and Planting for Year-Round Harvest, Container Gardening, Improving Garden Soil, Perennials: Divide and Conquer, Geranium Cuttings for Propagation. Still to come in November are classes in Fall Rose Pruning, Dahlia Care and Mason Bee Cocoon Cleaning. Jenkins Estate Learning Garden classes held July-October focused on Planning and Planting for Year-Round Harvests, Herbs: Culinary and Other Uses, Dry Waterwise Gardening in the Northwest, Backyard Composting, and Deer-Resistant Gardening.

A WCMGA-sponsored field trip is scheduled for Friday, November 4 to Boring, Oregon to visit Iseli Nursery (www.iselinursery.com) and Red Pig Tools (www.redpigtools.com). Bob Denman, owner of Red Pig Tools, provided a very lively and informative demonstration of proper/improper use of garden tools at the October evening Chapter meeting.

Alternative Sites for Demonstration Garden at Fairplex

As a result of feedback from an electronic survey sent to WCMGA members, a committee was formed to review alternative sites for the WCMGA Demonstration Garden currently housed at the Washington County Fairplex. The Committee was formed to look at possible new locations due to accessibility and visibility issues at the current site that have existed for many years now. The Committee undertook a wide search; narrowed the focus to four, including two new options – PCC – Rock Creek campus and the Westside Oregon Food Bank Learning Garden. Committee members visited the sites, identified pros and cons of each location, and made recommendations to the WCMGA Board. Decisions from the Board will be forthcoming later this fall/winter.

Yamhill County submitted by Apryl Garmon

It was wonderful to have everyone visit Yamhill County again during the 2016 Mini College held at Linfield College. We especially enjoyed hosting the 85+ attendees Thursday night at the hospitality BBQ, held this year at our McMinnville Community Garden. Not only did this location give us a great facility, but other county members were able to see the newer garden and the improvements made by our MGs. Thank you for coming and we look forward to seeing everyone at next year's International Master Gardeners Convention in downtown Portland.

Our September social/educational event was given by one of our local members, Michael O'Loughlin. Michael is a bee keeper and gave us information on concerns such as "what is killing the honey bees", "other pollinators", and shared one of the honey bee combs from his personal hives.

Also in September the group had a field trip to the Misty Mountain Mushroom Farm and saw first-hand how Shitake and Maitake mushrooms are grown (a 10 week process). At the end of the trip each attendee received a Shitake mushroom kit to grow their own. Several members were excited to show their success at starting their growing process at the October board meeting.

With our President-elect having to move to the President's position, two of our members have agreed to share the President's elect's position and responsibilities for the remainder of the year. We thank Rita Canales and Nancy Woodworth for their help and stepping-up at our time of need.

One of the most exciting things to happen during this quarter's Help Desk at the Yamhill County Extension office was someone brought in a large approximately 1 foot wide) fossil. The fossil is an Atlas vertebra from a Columbian Mammoth, which stood about 15' at the shoulders, per Mike Full of the Willamette Valley Pleistocene Project. The client's son had found the fossil while swimming in the Yamhill River. (Wow, sometimes it is more than a leaf or a bug!)

This time of year, one of the big projects for our area is the McMinnville Community Garden. As of the first of September, it had produced 8,700 pounds of food donated to the food bank at YCAP, with an expected 2,000 pounds in September and 4,000 in October. We have added an additional 22 raised beds, a large shed has been constructed for tool storage and the greenhouse has been cleaned out and covered with a ply-file so it will be ready to do early starts for upcoming gardens.

YCMGA has continued to have booths and help locals with questions during the two farmer's markets we support during the summer. As of mid-October, those jobs will be completed until next year. We also supported the Fun Friday Night events in Dayton. The Insect Committee continues to meet twice a month. At the Yamhill County Fair Grounds, our Demo Gardens have been cleaned up and new information signs/sheets placed for the new display of annuals. (From this clean-up project, the old small trees and shrubs were given to the high school.)

We continue to be busy with meetings and planning for upcoming events for the rest of this year and next. Some of those current projects include

- * Propagation of plants has started for next year's plant sale and the planning work has started for this our only fund raiser
- *MGs work weekly at the Newberg High School's horticultural classes
- *Seeds to Supper continues to expand in several of our county's areas in both English and Spanish speaking classes
- *Our annual, public education event "Spring into Gardening" planning meetings and reservations are in full swing
- *2017 classes start in January and the scheduling and mentoring projects are almost completed
- *Our retreat for 2017 planning will be Nov. 12
- *Graduation and election of new officers will be at our big potluck Dec. 14; this year held at the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center as we have outgrown the Public Utilities Auditorium.

YCMGA want to wish everyone a very Happy Holidays and Great New Year.