

May 2016



# THE GRAPEVINE

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

dreamstime.com

<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

Well the weather keeps getting warmer and so far March and April have set records as the warmest on record and I hope that doesn't mean a repeat of last year as the gardens really needed a lot of watering to keep ahead of the heat.

As I write this we are in the final preparations for our annual Spring Fair which is our main fund raiser for Columbia County Master Gardeners. I hope you all had a chance to participate and enjoyed it. We have lost a few Vendors because of health, finances and age and are looking for more people interested in becoming Vendors. If you have a hobby or an interest in growing vegetable starts that would lend itself to being a Vendor we would love to hear from you. If interested please contact Wes Bevans or Kathy Johnson and they can fill you in on all the details.

A new Community Garden has been started in Rainier and is being developed by Master Gardeners and led by Lynn Green. They are making good progress and the proceeds of the garden will be going to their local food bank.

I am still looking for feedback from anyone who wishes to



## Upcoming Events

### MONDAYS:

Demo Garden work on Mondays, 10 am to Noon

### May 5

Demo Garden & Project Mtg 10 am

### May 5

Board Mtg 10:30 am

### May 26

Chapter Meeting & Speaker  
6:30 pm – Hardy Fuchsia's

## 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 Bevans, OMGA Alt. Rep

give it for the new format of the Newsletter. Please let me know if there is something you would like to see or more that you do not want to see here. We will be having some of our members producing articles I hope you find interesting in the future and if there is anything you would like to produce for the Newsletter let me know.

Until Next time keep it cool or at least not too warm and happy gardening!

Thanks,  
--Chuck Petersen, CCMGA President

## Columbia County Master Gardener Association Chapter Meeting

May 26, 2016

### Hardy Fuchsia's: Sue Randel

Sue is the past president of Oregon Fuchsia Society and she may bring plants to sell. 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

### Vernonia Garden Fair & Plant Sale - MG Volunteers Needed

The Vernonia Community Garden Fair & Plant Sale is coming up on May 7th. It runs from 9am-3pm. If anyone is looking to for payback hours, this is a great opportunity. We need people on May 6th for setup from 3-6, and then again on Saturday. If you could contact Bill at this email, [bill@rangelights.com](mailto:bill@rangelights.com) or you can call his cell at 971-998-3705.

Job lists include: 1) Staff the MG booth, answering questions; 2) Assist customers with tomato plant selections; 3) Help independent vendors if they are dying for a

coffee/lunch/bathroom break and don't have help; 4) Cashiering (We have a lead cashier). Thank you so much,

--Bill Langmaid

## Habitat for Humanity

*A DreamTeam of Master Gardeners installed a new 4x12 foot raised bed at the recently completed Habitat for Humanity home in St Helens on April 27. Kathleen, the new home owner, could hardly wait for the DreamTeam to arrive with supplies, but she was even more excited to see them leave so she could start making real plans for her new vegetable bed. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this dream come true. To join the DreamTeam and help with future projects, contact Gail Taylor. She's in the MG Roster.*

## A Spring Fair Thank you!

Every year I am totally amazed at how wonderfully smooth the Spring Garden Fair runs. It's not due to anything I have done, but the efforts of my committee chairs and all the volunteers! Once again you have gone above and beyond your duties and have done a wonderful job – Thank you!



--Katherine Johnson, Spring Fair Coordinator



*Plant Identification Walks are being planned by OSU Extension Service and the information for these is provided below:*

### OSU Extension Spring 2016 Plant Identification Walks

Knowing common native plants, as well as some key invasive species, is a critical skill for woodland owners and outdoor enthusiasts alike. Recognizing native plants and understanding some of their characteristics can provide valuable information about the site where you find them; you can also use this knowledge to choose plants that enhance wildlife on your property. Recognizing invasive plants can help you in early detection of new arrivals and avoid spreading them around.

**Join us for one or both of two upcoming plant identification walks:**

- **Date/Time: Saturday, May 7 from 11am – 12:30pm**
- **Location: Winter's Hill Vineyard (6451 NE Hilltop Ln, Dayton). Meet at tasting room.**

This walk will be led by Oregon Master Naturalist and botanist Jeanie Taylor. We will cover common trees, shrubs, and wildflowers in both conifer forest and oak woodland, with a focus on how native plants can be used in woodland management to attract wildlife. Vineyard owner Emily Gladhart will be on hand to talk beneficial insects and share her experience with cultivating native plants on her property. Bring your binoculars; the

property is on the Willamette Valley Birding Trail map and nesting season will be in full swing.

\*\*You may also join us after the plant walk for lunch and discussion at the Winter's Hill tasting room from 12:30 – 1:30pm. Bring a bagged lunch. Optional wine tastings available.

- **Date/Time: Saturday, May 14; 9 – 11am**
- **Location: Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (19225 SW Pacific Hwy, Sherwood). Meet next to restrooms in parking lot.**

This walk will be led by local botanist Ginny Maffitt. We will identify common trees, shrubs, and wildflowers in a riparian setting (i.e. in wet areas near rivers and streams), and you will receive a list of native plants on the refuge with some background about their uses. Check out this article for information about the TRNWR mini-wetland that we will visit during the tour. The paths are gravel, level and ADA-friendly for wheelchairs and walkers.

**Information for BOTH plant walks** - Dress for the weather and bring: Plenty of water; a camera or your phone to take pictures of plants; and your favorite plant identification guide.

We will have both *Trees to Know* and *Shrubs to Know* books available for sale at the walks. If you'd like to purchase a copy, let us know when you register. Space is limited for both of these events. Please register by following this link. If you have any questions, please contact Brandy Saffell (email and phone number below).

Brandy Saffell, Education Program Assistant  
Forestry & Natural Resources  
Oregon State University Extension Service  
505 N. Columbia River Highway  
St. Helens, OR 97051  
(503) 397-3462  
brandy.saffell@oregonstate.edu



## Social Media Resource Available

Gail Langellotto wanted Master Gardeners to be aware of a resource available for understanding and utilizing Social Media and gave us the following link. If you are interested in seeing what kind of things are around please follow the link and take a look.



<https://sites.google.com/a/extension.org/social-media-resources/welcome>

This is the link to the site for social media training for Extension MG volunteers.

## New Bug Crew Meeting Notes from Thursday, April 21

NEXT MEETING, Thursday, May 19, 1 pm – 2 pm **at the Demo Garden** (The Extension meeting room is close due to sewer work.) We'll work on our plans for the bee display.

If anyone would like to meet to work on insect ID and curation, please let me know (Deb Brimacombe 503-543-3294). We'll set up a separate meeting time to focus on the bugs.

### Schools

- The date for the Classroom visit to Lewis and Clark is still not set. Barbara Lines will be the contact person for the New Bug Crew school visits. We are ready with a plan for this outing. Sue has created a 'build a bug' display and has collected the bug parts. Lynne will have a table for water bugs and Debi will have the bug display. Although, due to individual schedules we won't be able to go between May 6 through the 20th.
- We have another school visit set for May 26, 9:30-10:15. Middle School, 7&8 grades Special Needs, 12 students. Let Debi know if you're interested in helping. We will be taking the bug collection and letting the students enjoy the bugs and help with questions. They are currently studying Life Sciences.

### Spring Fair plans

- We have two main displays – Spiders and Pollinator Plants.
- The posters are done, plant signs are ready (thank you Sheryl) and Rose and Sue are making a few spider headbands for children.
- You are all welcome to come help in the New Bug Crew area on Saturday. We don't have a sign-up, just come when you can for as long as you like. Bring your costume parts, such as antenna or wings, if you want to stand out in the crowd.

### Vernonia Plant Sale

- Debi and Linda will take the Spring Fair Displays to Vernonia for their Plant Sale on Saturday, May 7 from 9 am – 3 pm. If anyone wants to join them let Debi or Linda know.

### County Fair Demo Garden Plants

- We will have an Evening Meeting regarding Ground Nesters June, 2, at 6:30 pm at the Extension. This will be a place to learn more about the bees we want to represent in the Demo Garden.
- Lavina has started to clean up the Demo Pollinator Garden and making plans to add flowers for bees to supplement the butterfly pollinator flowers we had on display last year.
- We need to firm up our display ideas. Debi will discuss plans with Linda Bainbridge and draw out what we will do to make an example area in the garden for ground nesting bees.
- We will have only two tables, back to back with one set of posters describing the ground nesters and flowers. The table will face the path this year.

## Insect ID

- We need to work on the Demo Garden Insect Collection. If you are working in the Demo Garden, please collect insects for the display.
- We also want to create three small bug boxes for the three Seed to Supper teaching groups: St. Helens, Scappoose, and Clatskanie/Rainier. Collect anything you see in your gardens. No insect is too common at this stage of the project.
- Lynne and Peggy spent time working on the spider collection which we want to continue to improve.

## Other Planned Projects for the year to keep in mind

- 4-H Camp on June 21 – Debi will buy two new nets, (possibly one D-net for water bugs) so we can take the groups for a bug hunting trip. Camp Kiwanilong is in Warrenton. Take a look you at the location on Google Earth or Google Maps. There is a trail that meanders between small lakes and ponds behind the main grounds. I'm looking at the trails near the top of the page behind the large tin roof on the edge of the main grounds.  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Camp+Kiwanilong/@46.1600526,-123.9540838,574m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m2!3m1!1s0x549364207d47a403:0x8876b4e320e50a1b!6m1!1e1>
- Children's Fair - on Halloween – Peggy created a couple of possible crafts that we can explore.
- Create a new color/activity booklet for Fair.
- Mason Bee Wash in late October/early November. Ron has completed his nesting period and found that the bees do prefer his 11.5" trays over the 6" trays. I'll try to make arrangements to have some of the longer trays available at the bee wash. I know my collection of bees grew fast after using the longer trays.
- Summer Long Bee Count – our own data compiled from our own gardens. Forms are available if you need more.
- Jackson Bottom Wetland Field Trip.
- Water Bug Collection Field Trip.
- BugNuts, a Fall Show – Possibly a 'What's My Line' theme. Avamere would like to have us come back this fall. Give it some thought. For new members, we each choose an insect we want to research and represent with costume pieces. Current BugNuts may select a new insect or stay with one of our past bugs.



### Cover Crops and Green Manures

Next to proper site selection, the soil - its structure, quality and fertility - is the most important and basic element of successful gardening. As gardeners, we are taught this in the very beginning. Organic matter is a vital part of soil health providing a wide range of benefits to our gardens –soil is easier to work, water and nutrient retention is improved for easy absorption by plants, improved soil aeration that helps soil warm up earlier in the spring.

Soil organisms break down organic matter and over time it becomes depleted. Gardeners need to build and regularly replenish soil with organic matter. We maintain piles of decaying vegetation or barnyard manure. We haul in compost by the sack, wheelbarrow or even truckload, arduously working it into the earth. One technique, however, that is often overlooked by home gardens is the use of growing cover crops to produce green –manures that can be directly tilled back into the earth, the backbone of any annual cropping system that seeks to be sustainable. Too often gardeners neglect the fact that gardens that are left fallow and naked succumb quickly to soil erosion and nutrient depletion, as well as falling prey to a rampant invasion of weeds.

I must admit that I too have been guilty of such practice. In past years I have covered the vegetable garden with black plastic. This was effective in keeping weeds at bay and warming the soil up faster in the spring but it really did very little else other than providing a warm and dry refuge for mice. And although I worked compost into the rows before I planted, the soil wasn't as vibrant and alive as it had been in the past. Like me, the soil was becoming tired. The task and cost of hauling and moving truckloads of compost was too daunting so I decided to try planting a cover crop this year instead. A cover crop is nothing more than plants grown at a time when others do not occupy garden space, becoming a green manure crop they are tilled back into the soil. Now my garden is covered with a vibrant green carpet of rye, hairy vetch and Austrian winter peas.

Information regarding cover crops and green manures abounds in research reports, Extension bulletins and the like. Although sifting through all of this knowledge can be somewhat overwhelming, the use of these gardening techniques needn't be. It does require some thought and planning. The major benefits are the addition of organic matter and improvement of soil structure but there are numerous other benefits as well: nitrogen production (legume cover crops), increased soil microbial activity, nutrient enhancement, weed suppression, soil and water conservation, pest management benefits (creates habitats for beneficial insects), economic benefits, and the ability to be used in different rotations throughout the year.

#### **Buckwheat**

There are three classifications of plants to grow for cover crops which include grains and grasses (cereal rye, winter wheat, spring oats, and spring barley), legumes (common vetch,

hairy vetch, clovers, Austrian winter peas, and fava beans) and other broadleaves (rye and buckwheat). Most often cover crops are grown as a mixture, combining the advantages of each of the component species. Sometimes they will function synergistically, providing more benefits than the individual grown alone. Most are sown in the early fall for winter coverage to be turned into the soil in spring. Some, like the frost tender buckwheat, make an excellent choice for summer, being ready to turn in 30 days. Just remember, if allowed to grow too large, it becomes difficult to turn under.



Planting is a simple matter without any special requirements. Just choose the best time of year and situation for the plants you are growing. Although the seeds can be sown in rows, broadcasting is the simplest way, giving broader and closer coverage. Sow into prepared garden soil and rake to a depth of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. They also may be planted prior to harvest of many late season crops by under sowing or sown between rows provided adequate irrigation is available.

When to turn the crop under is a matter of debate. Some experts say the best time to turn the crop under is before the plant has a chance to flower. Others say the best time is after most of the plants have started to bloom or are close to heading, but before going to seed. The claim is that harvesting earlier is fine but the plants will not have reached their maximum amount of stored nutrients and potential organic matter. Whichever you choose, don't wait too long and allow the plants to become woody as they are much slower to decompose. If they happen to flower, take heart. They provide forage for pollinating insects.

Mow the vegetation down mechanically or manually and then turn under using a tiller or spade to a depth of 3 to 6 inches – provided the soil is dry enough, of course. In about three weeks, the matter will be decomposed enough and the garden ready to plant again. Your fruits and vegetables will love you for it and your soil will be healthier to boot.

*--Robert Hammond, Columbia County Master Gardener™*

# Columbia County Master Gardeners Association

## Chapter Meeting Minutes - unapproved

March 24, 2016

Presiding: Chuck Petersen, President

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

*Gave a great presentation on tree problems and maintenance. 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.*

### Housekeeping:

*Secretary's Report:* Accepted. A copy of the "snack" schedule was provided to Sue Snyder who is helping with calling people to remind them. Thanks Susan!

*Treasurer's Report:* Accepted.

*Correspondence:* Mini College, International Conference and OMGA Leadership Council Schedules and Activities – more details are coming.

### Committee Reports:

- *Demo Garden (Linda)* – purchased new lawnmower. Posted maintenance sheet to help manage equipment. Work has started and will continue each Monday from 10-12. People can also go and work during the week until 3 pm.
- *Spring Fair (Kathy)* – Talked to new class members about the fair, keep saving boxes. Drop off Friday at school.

### Old Business:

- New online newsletter started last month. Chuck is looking for feedback on how to improve it.
- Linda Beutler will be doing a talk about Clematis. Books still available. Need more people to get better book price.

### New Business:

- Scappoose Watershed Council Native Plant Sale is Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Leroy said that County Fair Board needs help planting flowers on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-1.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Angela Sorensen, Secretary.

# Columbia County Master Gardeners Association

## Board Meeting Minutes April 7, 2016

### President Chuck Petersen, Presiding

#### Housekeeping:

*Secretary's Report* – No meeting minutes from March meeting due to not having a quorum.

*Treasurer's Report* – Kathy reviewed budget and new accounts. She does need to transfer some money from savings to checking to cover expenses.

*Correspondence* – Received a letter from Ace Hardware (St Helens) outlining need to check IDs for charge and credit card accounts.

#### Committee Reports:

- Fairground Garden (Linda) - Discussion about managing large rose bush in garden.
- Spring Fair (Kathy) – Discussion about vendors. They are aging and doing other activities. Still working on securing vendors for this year and future years.
- Scappoose Bay Watershed Council Greenhouse – native plant sale is this Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10am-2pm

#### Old Business:

- Wes will share hard copies of the updated By-Laws. A soft copy has been added to the MG thumb drive.
- Newsletter is now in email form. Chuck is seeking feedback and suggestions on content. Discussion included input about putting in an overview at beginning of newsletter so readers can go to content they want to see. Also was suggested to put links to quarterly reports, which would make the newsletter shorter.

#### New Business:

- OMGA budget and International Meeting (Kathy Johnson) - A large discussion involved options on how the OMGA will manage funds in 2017 when the International Conference will be in Portland. Board members will review options and vote at the next local board meeting.
- Rainier Food Bank Garden – Discussion around giving \$250 to group for fencing. Lynn Green will provide report on what is going on. This will be brought up and voted on at the April Chapter Meeting.
- Kathy is working with Vicki to update roster

**Adjournment:** Noon.

Respectfully submitted: Angela Sorensen, Secretary.



OMGA Board of Directors Minutes  
First Quarter Meeting, March 5, 2016  
Jackson County Extension Office

**Executive Committee Attendees**

Marilyn Scheffler, President-Elect & President	Secretary, Susan Nesbitt
David Rugg, Past President	Historian, Seamus Ramirez
Treasurer, Katherine Johnson	Database Manager Carolyn Farias

**Board of Directors Attendees**

All chapters were represented except: Curry and Washington. Ten of the representatives or alternates were new. All members introduced themselves.

**Call to Order** Marilyn Scheffler

Meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.  
Dave Rugg, Past President, asked to be added to the agenda. Linda Dean, Josephine County moved to accept the amended agenda, Linda Coakley, Yamhill County seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Welcome by the Host Chapter**

Barbara Davidson, Jackson County representative, welcomed everyone.

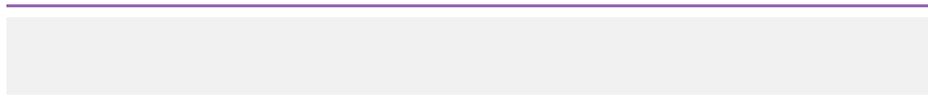
**Requests to Give an Oral Chapter Report**

Four counties (Jackson, Marion, Lincoln and Central Gorge) asked to give an oral report.

**Chapter Handbooks**

President, Marilyn Scheffler, reminded everyone that each OMGA representative and alternate should have a handbook that contains the following items: Guidelines and Responsibilities for the Representatives and Alternates, current roster, Bylaws, Policies & Procedures, Program Summaries, Minutes, Meeting Agendas, Compiled Quarterly Reports, etc. All of these items can be found on the OMGA website.

During the year the secretary will send changes made to OMGA documents and forms. Changes to the Policies and Procedures will be sent as an insert with the appropriate page number so it will not be necessary to reprint the entire 54-page document. If you bring a handout to the meeting, please have it pre-punched for a 3-ring binder.



It was noted that some Representatives and Alternates can only send and receive documents in the pdf format. In the future all documents will be sent as both pdf files and in the Microsoft Office format.

## **Executive Committee Report**

The Executive Committee agreed to meet one month prior to each of the OMGA Board of Directors meetings. This year the meetings will be held the first Friday in May, July (this meeting will be held the second Friday so it doesn't conflict with the Fourth of July holiday) and October at the Linn County Extension office in Tangent, Oregon. This allows sufficient time to send any needed documents or information to the Chapter Representatives and Alternates.

## **Approval of Fourth Quarter 2015 Minutes**

Diane Hardin, Central Oregon, moved to approve them as sent.

## **Financial Report**

Three files were sent: 2015 Year-end Report, First Quarter 2016 Report, and a group of reports that included 2015 Mini-College Financial, 2015 Silent Auction, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Leadership Forum financial reports, and the 2016 OMGA Budget.

Again, some internet providers will not accept files as large as the OMGA Financial Reports. Chapter representatives affected by this are urged to contact their internet provider to find out how this can be resolved.

### Year-end Report

- Total Assets \$ 95,651.31
  - Restricted Funds \$ 10, 822.66
  - Cash Reserves \$ 27,004.24
  - Non-Restricted Funds \$ 57,824.41
- The Year End Assets are \$264.47 short. \$166.80 is due to an outstanding check on which payment was stopped and \$97.67 is due to the time difference in which OMGA reports are due and when the e-Trade balances are posted.
- As of November 1, 2015 there were 3,684 Oregon Master Gardeners

### 2016 First Quarter Report

- Total Assets \$ 93,866.65
  - Restricted Funds \$ 10,822.72
  - Cash Reserves \$ 27, 275.98
  - Non-Restricted Funds \$ 55,767.95
- The Year End assets are \$183.72 short again due to the time difference in the OMGA and e-Trade reports.
- Dues notices were recently sent. One chapter has paid their dues. Dues are due April 1, 2016.

## **Audit Report**

John Farias, chairperson of the Audit Committee, reported that both the 2015 End of Year Report and the First Quarter Reports were reviewed and passed. They will be filed.

## **Executive Committee Roster**

Al Cook, OMGA President, resigned earlier this year. Dave Rugg, Past President, reviewed the process outlined in Article 6, Section 4 of the OMGA Bylaws. Since the position of President is the one that needs to be filled, he requested a motion to ask the President-elect to move to the position of President. Eric Bosler, Central Gorge moved to appoint the President-elect to the position of President. Linda Coakley, Yamhill County seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There were no nominations for President-elect. The responsibilities of this position have been accepted by other people: Gene Nesbitt, Yamhill County, is coordinating the Leadership Forums, and Al Cook, Josephine County, will take care of the Karl Carlson Memorial Fund.

Other committee chair people are:

Jim Liskey - Search for Excellence,  
Terry Hoffman – Extension Educator,  
Katherine Johnson – Send-A-Friend.

The Second Vice President position is also open. Barbara Davidson, Jackson County, is finding the speakers for the Mini-College classes.

## **Chapter Reports**

The following chapters gave an oral report:

Barbara Bailey – Wasco County  
Peter Dane – Marion County  
Heather Fortner – Lincoln County

## **2016 Leadership Forum**

Gene Nesbitt, Yamhill County, thanked OMGA for their support in organizing the Forums. He reported that the theme for 2016 workshops is Recruitment and Retention. The focus is on methods and activities used in each region to increase both recruitment and retention. The First Quarter Workshop was well attended with thoughtful lively discussion.

Volunteers are needed to help with both the Central Gorge and the Tillamook forums.

Several suggestions were offered for the Leadership Forum at Mini-College. There was strong interest in having a workshop on Social Media. Gail Langellotto said that the National Master Gardener organization has developed an on-line training program about Social Media that leads to a certificate in social media. The link to this training is: <https://sites.google.com/a/extension.org/social-media-resources/welcome>.

The category and number of hours for participating in the Leadership Forum are determined by each County Agent. The general rule is that anything that helps a Master Gardener do their job better can be counted.

### **2016 Mini-College – General Information**

The theme is: Heroes for Horticulture. The contract has been signed and the deposit made. Rooms are reserved at the following motels: Red Lion Inn and Guesthouse International Inn. Rooms will again be available in the Linfield Dorms and we are working with Linfield to rectify the issues experienced last year.

Online registration will open May 1, 2016. The fees are very similar to last year.

A third party bookstore will provide a wider selection than last year. They will be located in T. J. Day Hall. Thus, while we will have Chapter Sales, no book sales will be permitted.

The banquet will be Friday evening on the lawn behind ICE Auditorium. There is unlimited seating. The Volunteer Appreciation Potluck Social will be held at the McMinnville Community Garden with a tour. Starbucks will be open during Mini-College.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas: Banquet Decorations Chair, Chapter Sales Chair, Dorm Activity Chair, Volunteer Coordinator, and Hospitality Chair.

Information and instructions for the Silent Auction, the primary fund raiser for OMGA, will be sent in March.

### **2016 Mini-College – Classes**

Barbara Davidson, Jackson County, reported that a wide range of speakers on very interesting topics have been secured. The keynote speaker will be Owen Dowel who is a well-known landscape architect. The majority of the classes, excluding the art classes, will count for recertification. It was requested that Gail Langellotto assist with adding some advanced classes.

### **Report from OSU – Gail Langellotto**

Gail reported that in 2015 Oregon was honored with two International Master Gardener Search for Excellence awards: Seeds to Supper and Plant Problem Scenarios teaching modules. Thirty five

Master Gardener Volunteers provided responses to over 2,000 “Ask an Expert” questions. Sustainable gardening classes were taught in elementary schools, high schools, public housing projects, immigrant and refugee community organizations, correctional facilities, community gardens, demonstration gardens, etc. Her complete report can be found at: <https://magic.piktochart.com/output/11301606-2015-master-gardener-report>, <https://magic.piktochart.com/output/11301606-2015-master-gardener-report>.

## **IMGC17 Updates – Gail Langellotto**

It will be held July 10-14, 2017 at the Oregon Convention Center. All of the keynote speakers are confirmed as well as many of the session speakers. They are currently working on selecting a tour company and deciding on the most interesting tours. More information about IMGC17 is on Gail’s Facebook page. It was suggested that she also make this information available on the OMGA website since many members are not active on Facebook.

OMGA will have a booth at IMGC17 to showcase what the OMGA Chapters are doing. Barbara Davidson, Jackson County, moved that OMGA do something that would demonstrate Oregon Master Gardener’s work. Seamus Ramirez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Barbara Davidson, Jackson County; Barbara Hansan, Clatsop County; and Jerri Sly and Pam George, Tillamook County will work on ideas to present at the June Board of Directors meeting.

It was also suggested that OMGA could sponsor an activity during the conference to highlight Oregon. The suggestions included: self-guided walks of near-by areas, Name that pest with pictures of weeds, insects or plant diseases placed throughout the vendor’s booths to encourage the attendees to visit the various booths, Gardener Olympics and features of OMGA Chapters projects. Gail explained that the last suggestion will be used in decorating the bicycles that will be strategically placed as convention decorations.

## **OMGA Strategic Planning for 2017 and Beyond**

Dave Rugg, Past President, explained that in 2017 Mini-College would not be held since IMGC17 will be in Portland, Oregon. Thus, there will not be a Silent Auction which is the primary fund

raising event for OMGA. The lack of revenue from the Silent Auction means that we need to carefully review the OMGA budget and decide on the best course of action. He presented 3 options: 1). Use reserve funds and conduct our business as usual. 2). Do not do any projects and only handle absolutely necessary managerial expenses. 3). Select projects and managerial expenses that we think are the most important to continue providing. *A copy of Dave Rugg's proposal is attached as a pdf file.* Representatives are asked to discuss this at their chapters and be prepared to discuss these options at our next meeting.

### **OMGA Website Update**

We are underutilizing the OMGA website: <http://omga.org/>. Representatives are asked to make sure the link to their local chapter websites is working and that their local website is current. Only Oregon Chapter Master Gardener websites are linked to the OMGA Website.

### **Gardener's Pen**

The deadline for the April Issue is March 15, 2016. The theme is "What's Underfoot?" Please send articles relating to the theme or a personal gardening experience that you wish to share as an email or an attachment in Word, PowerPoint or Publisher format

to: [GardenersPenNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:GardenersPenNewsletter@gmail.com). A book review would also be appreciated as well as information about special events in your chapters. Suggestions for themes for future newsletters would also be appreciated.

### **Future Meetings**

<b><u>Executive Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Leadership Forum</u></b>	<b><u>Board of Directors</u></b>
May 6, 2016, Linn County Extension Office	June 3, 2016, The Dalles	June 4, 2016, Discovery Center in The Dalles
July 8, 2016, Linn County Extension Office	Mini-College, August 4-6, 2016, McMinnville,	Mini-College – August 4-6, 2016, McMinnville,

	Oregon	Oregon
September 30, 2016, Linn County Extension Office	November 4, 2016, Tillamook County	November 5, 2016, Tillamook County

**First Quarter Chapter Reports**

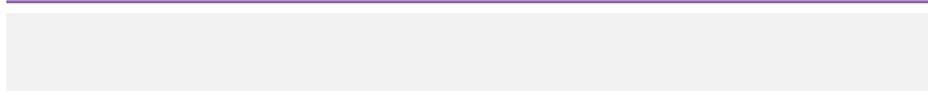
**2016**

**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 exhibitor’s 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 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!

## **Clatsop County submitted by Yvonne Whitney**

New Clatsop County Master Gardener Association Website started in January highlighting a Membership survey. A great location for members to find current, updated information, pictures and events of what Master Gardeners are doing in Clatsop County.

New Master Gardener class of 26 is very engaged and interactive. As an association this is so exciting and critical to our future .

New date for our annual Spring into Gardening event "Feast for the Eyes" will be May 14th instead of in April . We hope the later date will provide warmer weather on the coast, more conducive to spring gardening activities. We should have more plants for the plant sale, more mature and better prepared for the garden. We also hope to have less conflict with other Spring events in our community.

New plant identification tags for our Demonstration Garden are being developed by our Master Gardeners. They will be cemented in and tamper proof to prevent removal. This is a two-year project with weather proof Laser Tags including Botanical and common name, URL university references and QR codes. When complete our Demonstration Garden will be the first Botanical Garden in Astoria, Oregon.

New Membership Committee focusing on both new and veteran membership interest, development and retention . Evaluation using a membership surveys in process.

New collaborative partnership with local schools , small farmers and foresters is moving forward faster than we could imagine.

## **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.

### **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).

## **Jackson County submitted by Barbara Davidson**

Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens is a 1-day gardening symposium sponsored by JCMGA the first Saturday in November. We have been reviewing and analyzing how things worked and what we can do to improve overall. Also, our 2-day Spring Garden Fair is Apr 30-May 1 and requires all hands on board to make it run smoothly.

JCMGA veterans who provide the instruction in seeds and propagation for the incoming MG class each year have been asking for a new, more efficient green house for several years.

After obstacles with the County over flood plain issues, we thought we were all set, only to discover that the County now requires a structurally sound stamp and the greenhouse we ordered does not have that stamp. Our Practicum group working with the 75 new MG class members will face challenges as they prepare for this year's Spring Garden Fair.

A Head Gardener elected from our 23 gardens will serve as a representative on our JCMGA Board. We are presently doing a 2-day training for Plant Clinic Mentors.

Our Horticulture Agent is involving veteran Master Gardeners with the new class in regular hands-on activities.

### **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.

### **Lincoln County submitted by Heather Fortner**

The 2016 Lincoln County Master Gardener training class is well underway with a full house of 26 students. Team projects are a large part of the training this year, and soon the students will be choosing their demonstration projects and gardens. Veteran Help Desk members are running

training sessions in Help Desk procedures for other veterans to refresh procedures and to facilitate the training of the apprentices.

With the addition in late 2015 of an adaptive garden demonstration site at Oceanview Assisted Living Facility, the LCMGA now has five active demonstration gardens: the Yachats Demonstration and Community Garden, the Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Demonstration Garden, and the Oregon Coast Community College Demonstration Gardens in both Newport and Lincoln City. A project is underway to create a brochure describing these gardens for the public to facilitate garden tours. The information gathered from the brochure research will be used to submit the gardens to Oregon Coast Quest Handbook.

The LCMGA monthly newsletter *Coastal Currents* is again available after a hiatus of a year when the long serving editors retired. It is available both online and in hard copy.

The Lincoln County Master Gardener Association Directory will have a few additions this year: a photo of members and a sentence about their gardening specialty. This is for apprentices to learn about the interests/skills of MG veterans and it will help to connect a name to a face.

The Oregon Coast Community College held a PowerPoint class in February for the LCMGA in order to help members better prepare their public presentations

Thirty LCMGA members volunteered in a booth at the Newport Seafood and Wine Festival held Feb 25-28 in South Beach and recorded over \$7,000 in sales. This event is one of our major fundraisers for the year.

Notice of the inaugural Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Scholarship has been issued to all High Schools in Lincoln County and applications for the four-year scholarship are due by April 1.

The venue for our annual plant sale (May 21) has changed this year to the Lincoln County Fairgrounds in Newport. This gives us almost twice the area that we formerly had, and this year LCMGA is sponsoring educational and informational booths in addition to the expanded plant sections. We look forward to an active growing season and a bountiful plant sale in May.

The very popular Round Table teaching and sharing informational two-hour public sessions continue with two per month, held in both Lincoln City and in Newport. Subjects covered through March are The Dirt on Dirt, Bees and Beekeeping, Best Vegetables for the Coast, Using Fertilizers and Growing Potatoes and Alliums on the Coast, and Coastal Perennials.

### **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.

## **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.

### **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.

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.