Call to Order: Tam Martin  10:30 am  
Tam announced that Bill Eller, President, was not in attendance this day due to the passing of a family member. A card will be passed around for signatures.  
Welcome: Rick Mishaga, Vice President of Clackamas County welcomed everyone to Oregon City.  

Minutes: Marilyn Scheffler  The minutes of August 5, 2009 were presented and approved as written.  
Treasurer Report: Katherine Johnson  
Handouts: Net Worth 2009 – As of 10/31/09:2; 2009 Membership as of 10/31/09; Mini College 2009 financial report; and 2010 Budget Proposal OMGA.  
Katherine reported that OMGA Net Worth is $67,521.09. Allocated funds for Save a Friend account is $3,335.42; newsletter mailing account $273.33; and Alumni Center 2010 deposit $2,500.00. Therefore total OMGA available funds are $61,412.37. Motion was made and carried to approve the treasurer’s report as presented. Membership as if 10/31/09 is 3,600; compared to 3,626 members as of 12/31/08 and 3,555 members as of 12/31/07. Gail Langellotto remarked that the 26 on-line members were included in the 751 trainees so accordingly our OMGA membership as of 10/31/09 is 3635 instead of 3,660. Audit Report: Sam Sadtlter. Audit of 3rd quarter financial activity was completed and approved.  

Program Leader report: Gail Langellotto  
It was reported that OSU is reorganizing and/or cutting some departments and several departments, including the horticulture department, have been merged into one large department. This new department is now known as Division of Earth Systems and Science Department. Pay cuts are likely for many faculty members (1.5% to 4.5%). Furlough days for required for classified staff members.  

Structurally, the Extension is not involved. However, these cutbacks will impact Extension in various ways: extension initiatives will change; 4H now charges $15 fee statewide; fees for services and programs will be applied; solicitation for contracts, grants, and partnerships will increase; and new perspectives of the College of Agricultural Sciences will occur. Also, involving county changes is that retiree vacancies are not being filled because of an OSU hiring freeze.  

MG Programs: On-line MG course is becoming quite successful. The MG course was selected as the best non-credit program for the western US region by the University Continuing Education Association. The new online volunteer reporting system is newly launched. Now volunteers can enter in their service hours online. Coordinators can similarly track volunteer hours for their county or for individual MGs. The Garden Calendars have been revamped and revised to better reflect our commitment to sustainable gardening.  

Regarding liability insurance, all chapters should be aware that there are three levels of liability: Extension, OMGA, and Chapter. All chapters should become aware of their coverage. Gail also encouraged everyone needs to check out Gail’s Facebook fan page at OSU(Oregon)MG.  

Mini College Wrap up 2009: Betty Faller  
Successes were: highest attendance for Leadership Day and mini college; registration check in relocation and procedures were well received; room complaints were down; new silent auction process worked well. Proposals are: update policies and procedures on division of duties; resolve timing of 1st VP term
to include solicitation of chairpersons for next year beginning in August, rather than waiting for term to begin in January; consider a two-year position for mini college co-chair or have another person in training for the position. **Suggestions** for new chair positions: Awards/certificates/ribbons; securing freebies; speaker research-search out local speakers; sponsorships; vendors. **High cost areas:** AV support; long distance keynote speakers; printing. **Potential untapped revenue:** Market garden tour to the public; market special session speaker to the public; sponsorship.

**Registration:** Patty Driscoll
RegOnline is asking for a $150.00 fee to be paid now to enable them to process for next year; the $150.00 fee for next year’s mini college would then be waived. Approval was given and Katherine will pay the fee now.

**Mini College finance report:** Katherine Johnson
Income for 2009 mini college was $48,896.00; expenses were $43,538.00. Profit therefore was $2,562.44. Actual expenses were more than budgeted; however actual income was more than budgeted.

**Data Base:** Annette Frye  In Annette’s absence, Marilyn indicated that she would obtain the new roster from Annette and provide everyone with it via email attachment.  **Historian:** Cathy Burdett  With Linda Eggiman’s assistance the history of OMGA has been tracked back to 1982; this project has taken two years to accomplish. However, all books are completed. There are seven new books and almost all OMGA historical documents have been retrieved. New historian will continue to obtain past documents and make certain all new activities will be recorded. Tam Martin remarked that the mini college scrapbooks are on display and everyone should check them out because there is a lot of great information available.

**OSU MG Foundation:** Dave Rugg
Dave explained that his position in this foundation was to act as liaison between OSU Foundation and OMGA. The original agreement was between OSU and Extension; not OMGA. The original purpose of the endowment is in an abstract fashion and nothing specifically is written. Currently there is $121,514.23 in the foundation; non-assessable funds are $100,005.20; assessable funds are $21,509.05. The question now is ‘where does OMGA go from here?’ We need to debate the concerns and budget within our capabilities. We need to balance the abilities of OMGA and determine the needs of the endowment of OSU. Dave indicated that there must be future decisions made.

**Two minute Chapter Reports:** All chapters except Clatsop reported.

Lunch: lunch was provided by Clackamas County.

**Eco-Gardeners project:** Larry Bryum
Larry reported that OMGA is currently working on a new external OMGA website that will contain documents and information available to all Master Gardeners. This website will be in conjunction with the Gardener’s Pen Newsletter being posted on this website and help reduce the number of mailings for each newsletter publication. This website will allow more timely information to members and be much more cost effective than that of currently mailing newsletter to all members. This conversion is hoped to be in effect by mid 2010. The newsletter will be mailed to total membership for at least the first two issues in 2010; to inform everyone of our progress in the conversion and to ensure everyone has a good transition with mini college 2010 and how the website will be completed. **Data base**
information will also be incorporated into this website; but no specific details are determined yet. Consideration will be taken for security, confidentiality, and access for all OMGA details.

Questions arising from this announcement:  Q. Would this eliminate all newsletter mailings?  A. No, all those members who would require USPS mailing would still receive it that way; this change in process is only a matter of eliminating most mailing.  Q. If OMGA is saving money by not mailing the newsletter out; why do members have to pay for an increase in OMGA dues?  A. OMGA dues are not only used to mail newsletters; they are used to purchase PNWs which have greatly gone up in cost; OMGA pays for a portion of each Board of Directors meetings; and purposefully holds the full cost of mini college at a minimum. It has been 10 years since the last dues increase and they were only raised by $2.00 each.

Gail commented that overall this conversion and design of new website will allow OMGA to continue to grow and that expansion will be beneficial. Assurances were made that all possible cautionary methods will be incorporated in the planning and completion of this project and that each step towards completion will be announced when available.

**OMGA Logo:** Rod Bach
Rod asked if anyone knew what the OMGA logo is. It was surprisingly learned that OMGA does not have a logo. Only various forms of OSU logos have been used. In consideration of this, it was proposed that we have a contest to see if an acceptable OMGA logo can be designed. The prize for this design would be attendance to mini college; and the announcement of the logo would be at the 2010 mini college. Rod indicated that more information regarding the parameters of such a contest and the rules for the contest would be forth coming and announced to everyone.

**Nominations for officers for 2010:** Tam Martin
The following nominations have been accepted for 2010 roster of officers and committee chairpersons:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Tam Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>President Elect</td>
<td>Betty Faller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Bill Eller</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Vice President</td>
<td>Dave Rugg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Vice President</td>
<td>Marilyn Scheffler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Katherine Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Linda Eggiman</td>
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</table>

Nominations from the floor for Secretary was Linda Eggiman. When asked if Linda would accept this nomination, she indicated yes and was entered as secretary nominee. Sam Sadtler moved to accept these nominations; motion was 2nd and motion passed.

**Appointed Positions:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>Terri Hoffman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Database</td>
<td>Larry Byrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardener’s Pen editor</td>
<td>Laura Swanson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit Committee Chair</td>
<td>Al Cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demo Gardens</td>
<td>Bonnie White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send a Friend</td>
<td>Marcia Sherry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silent Auction</td>
<td>Mary Mellard and Marilyn Scheffler</td>
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<tr>
<td>McNeilan Scholarship</td>
<td>Carol Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension Educator Grant</td>
<td>Terri Hoffman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>Larry Byrum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special Projects:
A. OMGA Logo Chair Rod Bach
   Marilyn Scheffler, Larry Byrum, Patty Driscoll
B. Eco-Gardeners Pen/Database Team
   Record Retention/Job Descriptions
   Marilyn Scheffler, Linda Eggiman

Mini College 2010: Dave Rugg
One concern for 2010 will be housing and dining as Bloss Hall and Arnold Hall will be under renovation. Suggested housing will be Weatherford Hall and dining in Market Place West. It was noted that these facilities would require a lot of walking and may be too difficult for many people. It was also noted that there will be limited parking at these facilities. Attempts will be made to make arrangements for shuttle buses; but they can be costly. Decisions will be made and dorm prices will be available after the first of the year. Suggestions: Have chapters begin to poll people now to get a head start on planning; final decision needs to be made early January. Some options suggested were not to do Weatherford Hall; and/or have meals catered. Everyone was encouraged to email Gail, Dave, or Patty with their ideas and concerns.

Gail announced that she will continue to work with the facilities arrangements and the classes. Dave provided a bit of trivia concerning the first mini college in 1986. He stated that OMGA borrowed $1,500.00 to put on a mini college and at the end of the event, was able to repay the loan. Mini college has certainly come a long way from that first event and has certainly been a very rewarding adventure. It appears that it is easier to plan each mini college if there is a theme to apply classes and materials to. According to the evaluations this year, suggested themes are ‘return to our roots’; ‘do what MGs do best’; and ‘backyard basics’. Right now the end result appears to be “Beyond Backyard Basics” but no decision is made yet.

Dave announced that to assist a smoother transition for mini college planning; he has added some new positions for chairpersons. The following positions are still open for chairpersons: Awards/certificates; proofing printed material; administrative assistant; banquet decorations; chapter displays; front desk coordinator; maps and signs; photographers; registrar—one or two people to work with Patty; sponsorship; registration on site; vendors.

Leadership Day: Betty Faller
The suggested theme for the 2010 Leadership Day will be “Beyond Basic Leadership”. Hopes are to obtain presenters within the membership. Some topics might be ‘What is the Productivity Level of Your Chapter Meeting?’; ‘Forming Partnerships to Benefit your Chapter’; The Critical Link Between OMGA and Your Chapter’; ‘Communication Skills’; ‘Can you Improve Your Presentation Style?’ Contact Betty for more suggestions or if you can suggest a presenter.

Budget: Katherine Johnson
Katherine started out with the explanation of the process the budget goes through before it is presented to the Board for approval. Beginning in September all committee chairs are asked to present their expense budget figures for the next year. These figures are provided to the budget committee and the budget committee reviews the figures for accuracy. Once approved by the budget committee, the proposal goes to the Executive committee for review. Once the Executive committee adopts the budget; then the Board of Directors are asked to make the final approvals.

The board members reviewed the budget proposals and accepted them up to the endowment fund. There were questions on why it was only $2,500.00 with the rest tied to the profit of mini college. It was
explained that OMGAD does not know what profits will be incurred in 2010 and it was preferred to be conservative until the actual is known. Adjustments can be made at a later date. It was also questioned why we can’t take unused newsletter costs to apply to the endowment fund. Again, until we know if the conversion happens or what the conversion will cost, we need to be conservative in budgeting and can always review this figure at a later date. After further discussion, the 2010 budget was accepted by the Board of Directors.

President’s Project: Tam Martin
As president, Tam reported that she has a vision to visit as many chapters as possible. She wishes to attend events to learn what our chapters are doing; also hopes to provide short trainings to Chapter Boards and provide increased communication between Chapters and OMGAD. To fund this program Nichols Garden Nursery seed packages would be sold to each of the chapters. If there are any funds unused during the 2010 year, ½ of those funds will be allocated by the executive board to operating costs and ½ would go to another 5013c organization that focuses on youth/pets/gardens. Tam then asked if there was enough interest from the board to pursue this project. Decision was made to have Tam pursue this project and provide specifics at the March quarterly meeting.

Job Descriptions: Marilyn Scheffler
Marilyn reported that with Linda Eggiman’s assistance, OMGAD now has, with just a few remaining, all OMGAD officer; appointed positions; and special projects job descriptions completed. A notebook will be completed for the summary duties as pertaining to the bylaws and policies; the specific job descriptions; and the procedures to complete of each position. This information will be available electronically and available on the website, hopefully completed by the March bod meeting.

The OMGAD EBoard facilitated creating a plaque for outgoing OMGAD President, Bill Eller. Tam Martin will send it to Bill.

Meeting adjourned 3:00 pm
Marilyn Scheffler - OMGAD Secretary
OMGA 2009
4TH QUARTERLY CHAPTER REPORTS
BENTON COUNTY
OMGA REPORT
NOVEMBER 7, 2009

Benton County Master Gardener’s Association had a successful year and looks forward to another great year in 2010.

During the “Kids Day for Conservation” the kids dug up camas bulbs and replanted them into a container to take home and grow.

The “Plant Sale Committee” has had several potting parties already. Mark your calendars for the plant sale in early May.

The “Clinic Table” has finished for the season. It held around 26 clinic tables at Farmer’s Markets and other places like community gardens and had over 1000 contacts.

“Insights into Gardening” committee has been planning for next year’s February 6th seminar. Again, mark your calendars!

Finally the “Gearing up for Gardening” committee is in training with the TV crews. Starting this year the seminars will be broadcast on a local access TV channel so more people can view them. Training is going well. All are welcome at these highly informative lectures.

This is my last meeting as the OMGA Representative for Benton County. I’ve enjoyed my two years with you all. Someone you all know will be taking my place: Carol Small.

Thank you.

Tom Capel
BCMGA Representative

Central Gorge OMGA Report
Nov 7, 2009

Where are we going?
With so many of us attending Mini College in Aug, the enthusiasm for the MG program was running high upon returning. A brainstorming meeting was set for Sept to explore our focus and envisioning for the future direction of the program. The meeting was attended by over 30 members (it was the pizza that enticed them) and many ideas came forth.

It was felt a focus on community gardens and education should be emphasized as well as ideas to strengthen our mentor program. Fulfilling payback hours is an ongoing problem and several good ideas came out of the discussion.

There will be an attachment to my report highlighting our ideas when they are sent out to all the chapters.

Community Gardens
It was decided to tour 3 existing community gardens for our quarterly garden visit. We have some new project leaders and a work party spent a Saturday on the biggest one helping create new spaces and work with the composting. Over 50 families have gardens at this location.

Projects
Several lofty goals have been accomplished at the Library with the installation of an irrigation system being the largest. Ongoing care and landscaping is done on a regular basis.
The Care Center has a monthly work party with a wheelchair accessible raised beds on the docket for an upcoming project.

The Learning Garden at the extension office also has regular upkeep with work parties.

Potting parties have already started for the Spring Plant Sale.

**Gorge fruit & Craft Fair**
A Plant clinic was set up for the duration of the weekend fair in Oct.

**Graduation**
Our graduation is tomorrow night and our officers selected for 2010.

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**Fourth Quarter Report 2009**
**Central Oregon—Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties**
**November 7**

On October 29, the horticulture staff held the annual recognition night for Master Gardener™ volunteers. Twenty-two trainees were graduated to veteran status; sixteen were present to receive their certificates. Five of the new veterans also received their 100 hour bars. Volunteers and guests were treated to dinner and a slide show of the year’s events before honors and awards were handed out. It was a lovely evening. Applications are available for the 2010 training year which begins on January 16 at OSU Cascades. Training will be on Saturday again.

COMGA’s first bulb sale was a big success. We learned from the experience of many other chapters what to do or not to do. Thank you for your input (from reports). We took pre-orders from Master Gardeners and friends. All money was collected with these orders. At the end of the pre-order period, bulb numbers were totaled and sent, along with payment, to the bulb company. The bulbs arrived in late September/early October and were sorted according to pre-orders. On October 24, the bulbs were distributed. Two classes on the history of bulbs and bulb care and planting were given, one in Bend and the other in Redmond. Classes were attended by members of the community, as well as, by Master Gardeners.

Other projects that are getting some attention right now include the annual Spring Seminar and Garden Market which will be held at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds and Expo Center on April 24th, 2010 and the development of new educational display boards which is being lead by our historian. She has done a lot of legwork already and now is busy getting volunteers lined up to help on this project. Our end of the year community service project will culminate on December 4th when many of us get together to decorate a tree for hospice. After decorating the tree we will meet for a final time in 2009 at a luncheon filled with fun and good tidings for the holiday season.

We have been busy with details for our association this year too. Our new president is hard at work getting committees together to review projects to make sure that we are spending our time and efforts in ways that support our purpose. This year we have revised our by-laws and revisions were voted in at the October general meeting. The budget committee met for over 15 hours to ensure a sound process and budget were achieved. The new process was strict but organized well and really made the project coordinators, and others requesting money, think about why and how money was being spent.

A new board was voted in at the August general meeting and in November they were announced at Recognition Night. Everybody from the 2009 board will return except for the alternate state representative which is an open position at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
OMGA Q4 REPORT
CLACKAMAS COUNTY - 7 NOVEMBER 2009

Hours have been turned in, the numbers tallied, and the results are amazing. The “metro” program as it is known, is comprised of Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas counties. Combined, (for those who did report their hours) the three counties logged 35,851.5 total hours; 115 “interns” completed the 66 hour practicum; 307 veterans completed 25 or more hours. Market and clinic hours/contacts have not yet been reported and tallied. Additional information will be available for the Q1 2010 report.

Clackamas County Speakers Bureau was on fire this year. Master Gardeners presented topics ranging from bird-friendly gardens to composting. Most of the requests came from Garden Clubs and church groups, but also included the Soroptimist International women’s group, and the Wade Creek House antiques & collectables as part of their annual Garden Event. In all, 25 speakers fulfilled 19 requests, and engagements are being booked for 2010.

10-Minute University was also a popular community educational tool that continues to be in high demand. Overall, 958 attended these mini courses at the Spring Garden Fair, Oregon City Farmers market, the Milwaukie Center, Tualatin Garden Tour and various Speakers Bureau engagements. Presentations for 2010 are filling in fast!

Our Extra Row program produced a bountiful harvest this year with over 300 lbs of produce from tomatoes, potatoes, and summer squash. Not only did the chapter contribute to various charities, but 15 chapter members also participated in the program, designating part of their home gardens to feeding the hungry.

A new program is in the works for Spring 2010. We are currently planning a “show” for the community – right when people are really starting to think about gardening; this Master Gardening Fair will debut on Saturday, March 6th. With the huge interest in home gardening and surge in first-time gardeners, we will offer an array of information about gardening and acquaint clients with our resources and programs. In conjunction with 10-Minute University, the Fair will include displays and presentations on Mason Bees, Pruning, Year-round Vegetable Gardening, Growing Berries, and Raised Bed Gardening. In addition, soil testing and clinics will be held to provide “teachable moments” to help educate the community. A chapter display will also be showcased to inform people about our chapter, related programs and activities we’re involved with, as well as Extension Service information. A children’s activity is also planned to get future gardeners off to a good start; young ones can plant vegetables seeds in pots to take home.

Thanks to all who attended the 4th Quarter meeting here in Clackamas County. We wish you all the best for the Holiday season and look forward to another successful and bountiful 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Mantei

Columbia County Master Gardeners
November 7, 2009

Summer is gone and our Demonstration Garden has been put to bed for the winter. There are plans for new signage to make it clearer what is in the garden by making it easier to see and read. Two of our Master Gardeners surveyed the garden to show on a map the precise location of all our different plants and displays for better record keeping (in case some of those new signs disappear) and planning purposes.

Master Gardener Heather Bee is coordinating a community garden to raise winter vegetables. This is being done to show how a garden can be used almost year round to raise a variety of food stuffs.

Our Scappoose plant clinic was held every Saturday this year but as the questions we got from the public declined markedly after the Spring rush we will be having the clinics less often as the season progresses.
Several tours were scheduled for our organization to the Japanese Gardens and the Oregon Garden were very popular and well received by our membership.

The Master Gardeners working in Scappoose and St Helens with Community Gardens had a lot of success in bringing people out to learn more about gardening or to just participate if they did not have the space themselves.

Our Master Gardeners have been volunteering with the Scappoose water shed to help plant more native species in the area to bring those plants back into the environment where they have been lost or overrun by invasive species or land use practices.

We also have volunteers working at the Oregon Zoo and assisting in educational tours on a Sauvie Island farm to show grade school students what a farm is like and where the food comes from before the stores see it.

Chuck Petersen  
CCMGA State Representative.

COOS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS  
Quarterly Report  
November 7, 2009  
Oregon City, Oregon

Anita Straus  
OMGA Representative  
Carol Dominick  
Alternate Representative

Community Gardens

Master Gardeners volunteering at Lady Bug Landing Community Garden in Coos Bay continue to help feed the hungry in the South Coast area. Over 800 pounds of produce grown by the Coos County Master Gardeners in the Master Gardener beds at the garden was donated to a local food bank. The produce included spinach, peas, arugula, lettuce, chard, kale, artichokes, squash and rhubarb.

Construction at Good Earth, the Bandon garden, continues to take shape. A state-of-the-art shed has been installed and construction of the beds is under way. A talk on soil improvement and cover crops recently presented by MG Roland Ransdell at Good Earth was well attended by people in the community.

To date, volunteers at Pioneer Community Garden in Coquille have grown and donated 446 pounds of summer and fall produce to the local food bank. The produce included kohlrabi, red cabbage, broccoli, many types of squash, cucumbers, lettuce, tomatoes, radishes, peas, beans and Swiss chard. This garden received over $6,000 worth of donations and 2,000 hours of volunteer labor to bring the garden to fruition.

The garden in the small mountain community of Powers is thriving. It is one of many sponsored by the South Coast Community Garden Association. Approximately 500 pounds of produce was distributed to the community through the produce stand, Powers Food Bank and by hand delivery to senior citizens. Through generous donations of materials and labor, more beds and a covered entranceway are in the planning stages. The children from Powers Elementary School harvested produce from their first Children’s Garden Program and will also help harvest carrots, potatoes and sunflowers grown for the Plant-A-Row for the Hungry Program.

Harmony Garden in Lakeside is in the process of building cold frames for two beds to test growing a few veggies during the winter months. Other beds are being winterized and a greenhouse is being researched for the future.

Events at community gardens this summer included:
**Fall/Winter Vegetables**
Master Gardener Roland Ransdell gave a talk on August 15th at Lady Bug Landing about planting a fall and winter vegetable garden. A small plant sale took place at the same time. Proceeds from the lunch and the plant sale went to the South Coast Community Garden Association to promote more community gardens on the South Coast.

**Growing Garlic and Seed Saving**
September 12th found MG Mary Dixon at the garden giving a talk to a crowd of attendees on growing and harvesting garlic and saving seeds.

**Harvest Fundraiser**
On September 16th the Coos County MGs in conjunction with the South Coast Community Garden Association hosted the 4th Annual Harvest Fundraiser at Lady Bug Landing Community Garden. Chef (and Master Gardener) Jardin of Black Market Gourmet prepared a special lunch using produce from the garden.

**Annual Children’s Garden Program**
The weekly Children’s Garden Program at Lady Bug Landing (held June 20th through August 29th) had an average of 10 children at each class. The classes start with seed tapes and planting, then how plants grow, what types of veggies are which (leaf, seed, fruit, stem, etc.), composting, and includes talks on how food exchanges around the globe, such as how Italy got tomatoes, or how hot peppers ended up in China, and how far bananas have to travel to get to Oregon. As for how successful this program is, there’s still food being pulled out of the students’ plots and most of the children will end up with their own family plot next year.

**Tomato Taste-off/Grand Opening**
Pioneer Community garden members held their grand opening on September 26th with a contest for best tasting tomato and prizes for adult’s and children’s games. Master Gardeners, community gardeners, and others donated tomatoes for everyone to enjoy.

**Plant Clinic/Farmers Market**
Our popularity at the Coos Bay Farmers Market continues to grow. We manned a plant clinic table from May through October and were able to answer many garden questions at the site or through follow-up at the Plant Clinic located in the Extension Office in Myrtle Point. Informal plant clinics are held each Saturday morning in the community gardens in Coos Bay and Coquille.

**Growin’ Yer Grub**
Our kids’ camps for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders were held in Coquille on August 4th through 7th and in North Bend on August 18th through the 21st. Hands-on activities included Food and Nutrition, Gardening, swim time, healthy snacks, games and special speakers to end each day. Scholarships were available for these camps.

**Upcoming Events**
Classes are shaping up for our Master Gardener training which begins on January 7, 2010.

Coos County MGs are busy planning for their spring seminar “Fertilize Your Mind, the ‘Dirt’ on Backyard Gardening” to be held at Southwestern Community College in Coos Bay on March 27th.

Our annual Tomato-Rama will again be held on May 15-16th at Pony Village Mall in North Bend.

**Curry County**
Curry County Master Gardeners are busy. This year we have 2569 volunteer hours & 1473 contacts to report.
In addition, we have recently completed installing raised garden beds at the Kalmiopsis Elementary school in Brookings. Over 150 children have participated in this garden project since June producing 70 pounds of produce which was donated to the local food bank.

6th, 7th, & 8th graders at Riley Creek Grade School in Gold Beach have been assisted by Master Gardeners in clearing blackberries & undergrowth & planting trees & shrubs in a stream restoration project. Additional projects are being planned for the elementary school in Port Orford.

With construction of the new Gold Beach library, Master Gardeners assisted in landscape, design, planning & planting of phase I. Phase II scheduled in the near future will include additional landscaping as well as a raingarden.

In Brookings, the annual Curry County Master Gardeners Association sponsored Coastal Arts & Garden Tour this year had over 250 people in attendance. The City of Brookings Parks Department is in the process of renovating Lower Stout Park & have Master Gardeners serving as advisory committee members.

Hal Wilson

DOUGLAS COUNTY:

Following Mini-College in Sept. Douglas County master gardeners gathered for our annual potluck and chapter meeting at our lovely Discovery Garden. We take this time to invite any and all who might appreciate our corner of the world to join us. This year we had 56 members and six guests, including three members of Josephine County Master Gardeners. They very kindly brought us a tree to plant in the garden and it now resides in our Japanese area. We held our second annual tomato taste-off with nineteen entries and prizes of gift certificates to purchase plants from our greenhouse area.

October saw the beginning of our Diagnostic Group meetings. These meetings involve our extension agent, Steve Renquist, and a core group of our outreach volunteers. They meet once or twice a month to discuss current issues identified as of interest or concern in our county. We also got down and dirty in our Victory garden for 2010 by getting the area plowed, composted and cover crop seeded for the winter. Our first annual salsa taste-off was held following our Oct, 29th meeting and results were not in as of printing deadline.

November finds us struggling with publishing our newsletter on line with positive and negative feedback, of course. Those members that request a hard copy can still receive theirs in the mail. We currently have 47 people that do not have email accounts. We are also in the process of evaluating our outreach venues to determine if we are meeting the needs of the community and to see how we can better utilize our resources at each venue.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Register St. Rep
Douglas County
--
CAROLYN

Oregon Master Gardener™ Association
Fourth Quarter Report
November, 2009
Josephine County Master Gardener™ Association

Two recent events have caused our chapter to reflect and acknowledge a very busy year with many projects, events, and successes—as well as a lot of hard work, fun, and (of course), FOOD!

Our annual banquet and class graduation was a blast. It featured fun (costumes, aprons, heretofore unknown signing talent, and food (Italian Bistro theme) as well as a hard working committee. A few highlights included:

- We graduated 46 of the most enthusiastic students we've seen. Each received $10 gift certificate from the Grange Co-Op and a 1 pound bag of mycorrhizae as well as the usual certificate and badge.
• We honored some special couples, including the Master Gardeners of the year (to a couple), the Behind the Scenes Master Gardeners of the year (another couple), and our Golden Trowel Award (to still another couple). The Golden Trowel is given to the person who has given and given and given without asking, whining, or crying.
• We said “goodbye” to our outgoing OSU staff, Tal Blankenship, and “welcome” to our incoming staff, Bob Reynolds.
• We awarded t-shirts to those MGs who volunteered to prune trees and shrubs for “Paint Your Heart Out”.
• Those members with the most hours also received a one pound bag of mycorrhizae. The two highest reported 828 hours and 879.6 hours.
• As much as we love food, we fortunately didn’t have to eat the giant pumpkin that won our contest. At 680 pounds, it unseated Charlie Newsom who had won the last six out of eight years at 200+ pounds. He was second.

Our Planning Retreat gave us a nice day to identify our accomplishments for 2009 and identify some issues, projects, and goals for 2010.
• Accomplishments we are proud of include work on by-law and job descriptions, establishing a K-12 program and getting it off to a great start, 2 position changes which have brought great results—publicity and special projects, refining our mentoring program.
• Future issues and projects identified should give me plenty to report on this coming year. Stay tuned to hear about revising our elections and officer eligibility procedures, better acknowledgement of volunteers, new fundraising ideas, meeting changes to be more efficient yet involve more members, provide more re-certification options, move our local newsletter to an E-News version, develop an annual calendar, and figure out to landscape our asphalt since our Extension Office doesn’t have land on which to do more traditional demonstration gardens.

Other: Greenhouse and cold frame repairs are underway with a new perennial committee planning how to enhance our Spring Garden Fair offerings and enhance our student’s experience. Save the dates and attend our two annual events: Home Gardening Seminar, February 20, 2010 and Spring Garden Fair, April 24-25.

Carolyn McCord
Josephine County Representative

Klamath County Quarterly Report to OMGA, dated 11/07/09
It has been a difficult year for the Klamath County chapter of OMGA. Relationships between association leadership and program staff soured due in part to unwelcome changes in program policies. As a result, several long time veterans have departed the scene, some voluntarily and some by request of staff. Never-the-less, some significant accomplishments were made during the year. Our annual Spring Garden Fair was successfully conducted. We again participated in the Farm Expo, an introduction to agriculture for all fourth graders in the county conducted at the County Fairgrounds over a two day period. For the first time, our chapter developed a budget and we voluntarily donated funds in the amount of $1500 to the local Extension Office.

Master Gardeners continued with their involvement in the Klamath Garden. The Klamath Garden produced approximately 20,000 pounds of produce during 2009. The produce was donated to the Klamath-Lake Counties Food Bank and other food pantries throughout Klamath County. During the 2009 growing season, OSU Master Gardeners were featured on a regular basis in the local newspaper. Each week the public submitted their gardening questions to the Herald and News and the Master Gardeners answered them. The column generated a lot of positive publicity.

New leadership has recently taken over the reins and attitudes seem to be improving. Our Awards Banquet last month was well attended; door prizes, including two scholarships for next year’s training program, were initiated to encourage attendance. Plans for next year’s activities are being made. Monthly meetings are being extended from nine per year to twelve to enhance planning. Changes to mentorship arrangements are under discussion with staff. Inclusion of more “fun” activities in our schedule is being contemplated. For example, a field trip to Ashland Greenhouses to tour their production facilities and see their poinsettia displays is taking place today. A concerted effort is planned to promote participation and payment of dues by eligible members.
Lane County Master Gardener Association Chapter Report  Nov 5, 2009

At the most recent meeting of the board of the Lane County Master Gardener Association, there was a discussion of and unanimous support for the request from Gail Langellotto to the OMGA, for the pledge of a gift of $5,000 per year for 5 years to the Master Gardener Endowment Fund. Lane County Master Gardeners are deeply appreciative of all of the service that Gail has provided to individual counties since her arrival – visiting and helping to trouble shoot as well as teaching the most amazing classes. Who has not now heard her descriptions of the bizarre sex life of certain insects? Thank you Gail!

Because of lackluster sales of bulbs at our previous Fall Bulb Sales, we changed tactics for a fall event this year and incidentally netted around $1,800.00, by having a Fall Garden Festival. No purchased bulbs! Money generating activities included a silent auction, sales of used books and donated bulbs, baked goods, birdhouses and recycled garden art. Free workshops and classes included composting, winter gardening, pruning, tool sharpening, food preservation, wine making, and winter storage of garden produce.

Volunteers of the OSU Extension Service in Lane County have requested our County Commissioners to refer a 5 year Local Option Tax to the May 2010 ballot. Once we have confirmation from the Commissioners, the campaign will start and we know that it will be more work but are optimistic that the citizens of Lane County will show their support of Extension Service by passing the ballot measure.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Horne
Lane County OMGA Rep

Oregon Master Gardener™ Association
Fourth Quarter Report
November, 2009

Lincoln County Quarterly Report

We had a good summer and early fall on the central coast. The garden at Food Share of Lincoln County, lovingly tended by MG’s, provided lots of much-needed vegetables to Food Share pantries in our county. Since I volunteer at Food Share, I know how much people appreciate getting this great food.

The Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Garden continued to delight folks and to provide another source of food for our needy. The kids from Sam Case Elementary School teamed up with MG’s and Oregon State Parks for a final harvest this month that was highlighted in The Oregonian.

We had another successful Fall Bulb Sale at the Newport Rec Center that will bring beautiful flowers that will certainly brighten everyone’s spirits in the springtime!

Finally, we had another fun time at our annual Apple Squeeze on the Alsea River – good fellowship and swapping gardening stories.

MARION COUNTY MASTER GARDENER CHAPTER REPORT
November 7, 2009

Marion County Master Gardeners have begun planning for next spring’s plant and yard art sale. It’s Friday April 30 through Sunday May 2 and already is looking to be bigger and better than even this year’s blockbuster.

One of our Board members was inspired by a Search for Excellence presentation at Mini-College—the Master Gardener Apprentice program presented by Jackson County. We have tailored the program to fit our needs and the Board voted to institute it beginning with next year’s class. It will make our mentoring program more specific to the desires of the new trainees and will provide much more information about specific activities of our various committees, Help Desk and clinic responsibilities. We will also continue to interview prospective trainees to answer their questions and make sure they understand the amount of
volunteer time required to become a Master Gardener. We hope to have the same success that Jackson County has had in improving retention of our membership.

We have developed guidelines for the granting of funds from our newly budgeted “Member Education Program” and will be advertising its availability through our newsletter and monthly chapter meetings.

We are taking advantage of a low spot in The Marion Garden by installing a rain garden that will use run off from nearby storage sheds. It’s based on a workshop presented last month to the membership.

Our “Help Your Neighbor” day has continued to be successful. The garden looks great and one day a month all the workers can enjoy a potluck lunch.

Margy Johnson.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Multnomah Chapter’s Demonstration Garden has been a great success for our 1st year. Over 15 hundred lbs of healthy, safe, fresh produce has been delivered to local support groups to be distributed to members of our community. The 77 Master Gardeners who have played in the garden for over 1,000 hours have learned a tremendous amount about installing, designing, and maintaining a demo garden. We have been pleased to share it and its produce with the community. Our challenge and goals for the coming year is to bring more of the community into the garden. On September 26th we held our 2nd annual Plant Sale at the new demonstration garden, a nice crowd. We also let the community tour our demonstration garden and has 5 – 25 minute Garden Chaps given by our chapter members. Since this is my 2nd year as OMGA representative, I am ending my term and turning it over to Marilyn Kongsliie and Linda Eggiman. Thanks all of you for what I learned and the great friendships. Joyce Hemmerling

Establishment of Polk Co. 4-H Master Gardener, Agriculture, Forestry and Extension District

Polk County Master Gardeners are currently working with other Polk County extension service programs like 4-H to gather signatures for putting an initiative on the May 18, 2010 ballot to fund the Polk County extension service. To place the initiative on the ballot, 6,215 verified signatures of registered voters in Polk County are required. As of November 4th, we collected 7,752 signatures so we anticipate meeting our goal of 8,000 signatures by November 12th. If we are successful in placing the petition on the ballot, the petitioner’s will form a PAC to campaign for Yes votes. As a non-profit organization Master Gardeners are not allowed to contribute to a PAC. We will consult with OMGA Treasurer Katherine Johnson about how we can support a vote drive in favor of this initiative within IRS guidelines.

If the referendum passes, the Extension Service District will be funded after July 2010 to serve all of Polk County. It would be governed by the Polk County Board of Commissioners with input from OSU Extension services. If the initiative fails, the Extension Office would be closed by September, 2010 and Polk County Master Gardeners would have to explore various options from closing to alternate ways of sustaining itself.

Tillamook County Chapter Report November 2009

Lots of things have happened since we last saw you all at Minicollege.

While MiniCollege was in session The Tillamook County Fair, “Where Pigs Fly” was happening too. There were 1,166 visitors to the Demo Garden during the Fair this year.

Our Demo Garden Shed has a new metal roof and a new name. It is now our Learning Garden.
Our Annual TCMGA Picnic was held on August 23 at Smith Homestead near the Tillamook Forest Center on Hwy 6 with 40 attendees. They were treated to a synopsis of our educational activities at MiniCollege plus a rousing round of Charades, a new tradition initiated in the evening hours in Corvallis.

Autumn Festival Classes were held October 24 at OSU Extension featuring Cooking, Garden Tips and examining your Credit Score.

November 14 is the date for our Annual Holiday Tea, A Tillamook Tradition. So get dressed up and come on over for a gala social event for the Tillamook Community. We’d love to see you there.

Our annual Annual Holiday Awards Banquet and New Officer Installation will take place at the Tillamook Creamery on December 10 at 6:30 PM.

New Officer Training and 2010 Project Priority Setting will take place on December 11, 2009

Sam Sadtler November 2009

UMATILLA COUNTY:

INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION by Mary Corp, Umatilla County Extension Agent
Mastering the art of gardening can be intimidating to some, yet as Umatilla County Master Gardener Norah Pratton recently found, once you have a trained eye and a methodical approach even the biggest challenges can be overcome. Pratton recently was faced with a gardening problem brought to her attention by her Costa Rican host family on a trip abroad to Costa Rica.

Pratton, a local Hermiston resident who completed the Oregon State University Master Gardener training program in 2008, found that being in a foreign country with only limited Spanish-speaking language skills didn’t stop her from being able to unravel the mystery of what was killing the plants in her host’s home garden. First she closely examined the plant finding evidence of insects, then with numerous gestures and broken Spanish, she was able instigate a trip to a local nursery and there engage in some additional pointing and reading pesticide labels in English to secure a treatment to control the pest.

She is quick to give the credit for her successful mission to her training as an OSU Master Gardener and the practice she gets as a volunteer answering homeowner gardening questions for both her neighbors, community members, and now even internationally. “I didn’t even have the language and no resources,” says Pratton. But she is quick to point out, “The scientific approach works!” and maybe a little luck she modestly adds with a laugh.

Pratton uses a method called “SOAP” which she learned from fellow Master Gardener Jeannette Byrnes, a retired nurse. The SOAP method follows a four step process: Subjective – What does the client thinks the problem is? Objective – What do you see? Assessment – What is the real problem based on all the resources at your disposal? Plan of action- What is the plan to solve the problem?

The SOAP model is just a part of the intensive training that OSU Master Gardeners receive in their training program according to Mary Corp, OSU Extension Agent who coordinates the county training program. Corp says, “We are able to greatly increase the knowledge of our class participants in sustainable gardening practices that work in our local growing environment with our expert instructors, and then add all the enthusiasm of our volunteers and the sky is the limit!

Thank you Norah for sharing your International Experience.

WASCO COUNTY CHAPTER REPORT, NOVEMBER 7, 2009

First frost arrived this week in The Dalles so gardens are being put to bed for this year.

All 11 of our new trainees completed their payback hours and two will be holding an office and a third will be our historian. We are thrilled to be able to include some new MG’s on our board.

Our group had a combines volunteer payback log of 4,579 hours and 9,839 contacts.

We put our Dalles Imagination Garden to bed with new information from James Cassidy of the OSU Soils Dept. He told us to simply cut off our plants instead of pulling them out of the ground which destroys soil structure. The worms will take care of the roots during the winter. One of the raised beds has now sprouted a new crop of Swiss chard!
Our 2010 garden tour will be in South Wasco County on June 19th. It will feature High Desert Treasurer, all owner designed, planted and maintained gardens. There will be several educational spots including animal abandonment, a huge problem in rural areas.

Our bulb sale has made about $400.00 profit so far. We plan to be at the Farmer’s Market for 4 weeks next fall. We thought one week would be enough but it was not and the second week was the final market. We do have bulbs for sale today so feel free to help us out.

We look forward to hosting the OMGA 2nd quarterly meeting on June 5th, 2010 in the Dalles.

Respectfully submitted, Lana Tepfer, Wasco County Rep.

Washington County Chapter Report November 7, 2009

Activities and Outreach
MG phones are complemented by the formation of an expert-consultant panel, provision of digital cameras, training sessions to facilitate internet searches, and computers with improved capability.

Funds raised by the spring plant sale are our biggest source of income. Perennial plants are now being donated for the event with the goal of acquiring 2500 plants.

Grants. Potential grants are in greater abundance than we realized. This leads to the recognition that ‘how to do it’ seminars are available for grant writing. A grant for an eco-roof for our garden shed has high priority.

Propagation workshop September 26 was poorly attended in spite of skillful presentation and good publicity. If this activity is done again it needs to be combined with another event.

City of Hillsboro future park along NE 53rd Avenue. Such projects move slowly. To reaffirm our future participation in the development of a demonstration garden, a statement of agreement has been created and signed with the Park Development Manager.

MG Demo Garden
Activities here continue. A ‘kit’ for a greenhouse with dimensions 16x16 ft designed for easy assembly is challenging but progressing well. This is complemented by a new wood fence, a pathway for strolling through garden ‘rooms’, and a most remarkable mural painted on one side of the shed. The shed has been constructed to support the future addition of an eco-roof. Please come---we welcome your visit!

David Rullman

YAMHILL COUNTY CHAPTER REPORT, NOVEMBER 7, 2009

Yamhill Counties Master Gardeners have started a new group who are learning all about propagation of existing plants by planting cuttings and seeds. Yamhill County residents will benefit when these newly propagated plants are sold at our spring plant sale. We already have more than 40 flats of these new plants growing in our greenhouse. We are busy planning our December graduation potluck supper for Master Gardener Students who have completed their payback hours.

Kathleen Bennett