

2009 Annual Report of the OSU Master Gardener Program

1. Program Name and Key Personnel

Program title: OSU Extension Master Gardener™

Name of working group: Home and Community Horticulture

Key faculty and staff, phone number(s), academic department(s), campus or county:

** denote faculty/staff changes during the 2009 calendar year

Gail Langellotto, (541-602-5175), Horticulture, Statewide Coordinator

Patty Driscoll, Horticulture, Statewide Program Assistant

Sam Angima, Agent, Staff Chair, Ag/MG, Lincoln County

Neil Bell, Agent, Horticulture, Marion and Polk Counties

**Tal Blankenship (retired in 2009), Horticulture Instructor, Josephine County

Chip Bubl, Agent, Staff Chair, Agriculture/Horticulture, Columbia County

Steve Castagnoli, Agent, Tree Fruits/Horticulture, Hood River County

Brian Charlton, Agent, Ag/Crops/MG, Klamath County

Mary Corp, Agent, Agriculture/MG, Umatilla County

Janice Cowan, Agent, 4 H/MG/ Horticulture, Baker County

Elizabeth Daniel, MG Program Assistant, Hood River County

Amy Jo Detweiler, Agent, Horticulture, Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson Counties

Steve Edwards, MG Program Assistant, Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson Counties

Barbara Fick, Agent, Horticulture, Benton and Linn Counties

Beret Halverson, Metro MG Program Assistant, Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties

Clint Hett, MG Program Coordinator, Union County

**Sunny Hunt (retired in 2009), Agent - OFNP/MG, Clatsop County

Joy Jones, Agent, Ag/4-H/MG, Tillamook County

Lynn Long, Agent, Staff Chair, Ag/Hort/MG, Wasco County

Linda McMahan, Agent, Staff Chair, Ag/Hor/MGt, Yamhill County

Gail Miles, MG Program Coordinator, Polk County

Weston Miller, Agent, Hort/MG, Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties

Shelley Palmer, MG Program Assistant, Curry County

Ross Penhallegon, Agent, Ag/Hort, Lane County

Kim Phillips, Agent – Master Gardener, Coos County

Steve Renquist, Agent, Ag/Hort, Douglas County

Bob Reynolds, Hort. Instructor/MG, Jackson County and Josephine County

Linda Renslow, MG Program Assistant, Lane County

**Sandra Rohne (hired in 2009), MG Program Coordinator, Clatsop County

Kristy Weidman, MG Program Coordinator, Klamath County

Jordis Yost, Metro, Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties

2. Description of the program

OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ volunteers expand Oregon State University's ability to reach and assist the citizens of Oregon. After receiving extensive training from OSU Extension Service faculty,

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Master Gardeners are certified to provide non-biased, science based information to citizens who are seeking a diagnosis, advice or information on a plant, garden or home horticultural issue. The title "Master Gardener" (which was trademarked by Oregon State University in 2001 to preserve the title's integrity) is recognized by Oregonians to identify a knowledgeable advisor who represents Extension and Oregon State University. For many Oregonians, the Master Gardener program provides a window to the services and activities of Extension and Oregon State University.

When the Master Gardener program began in the mid-1970's, its focus was primarily directed at diagnosing plant problems and offering solutions. While still a major focus, Extension faculty and volunteers working in the Master Gardener program also develop and deliver a variety of educational programs that address critical issues in the community. These programs include: least toxic and integrated pest management, water quality protection, yard waste management and composting, sustainable landscaping, organic gardening, waterwise and fire resistant gardens, children's and school gardens, as well as adaptive gardening. Master Gardeners are encouraged to find educational opportunities, or to help plan and develop outreach activities and programs that will help extend Oregon State University's education mission more effectively to all Oregonians.

Currently, the Master Gardener program has a presence in 28 of Oregon's 36 counties (see 'Geographic Extent of the Program'), and at least 3,699 Master Gardener volunteers (Table 1). After completing the 9-12 week training period, the volunteers are much more aware of Oregon State University, its Extension Service, the College of Agricultural Sciences, and how they all tie together to provide extended education to the citizens of Oregon. Very little advertising is necessary to attract new applicants each year. In fact, many counties maintain waiting lists for their annual Master Gardener training course.

In 2009 the program was in the able hands of 28 Extension faculty and program assistants. OSU Extension faculty and staff in each county or group of counties directed their efforts toward recruiting, training, and managing the activities of their trained volunteer staff. While the Master Gardener program requires adept managerial skills and high input by county Extension faculty and staff, the investment can result in substantial dividends. For example, the service provided and the public contacts made by Master Gardener volunteers amplify the ability of Extension faculty and staff to provide service in their community (Table 2). This embodies the historical foundation of the Master Gardener program: to provide a staff of trained volunteers who can extend knowledge and assistance to more people and through more channels than would be possible by Extension faculty and staff, alone. The interaction between Master Gardener Extension faculty and staff and Master Gardener volunteers thus puts meaning in the term "extended education".

The value of the Oregon Master Gardener program can be examined in several ways to gain a perspective of the importance it plays in OSU Extension's community horticulture educational efforts. First, Master Gardener is one of Extension's most popular volunteer programs, as measured by the number of new volunteers who seek entry each year (at least 823 in 2009), as well as by the number of volunteers who elect to remain in the program for succeeding years (at least 3,105 veterans in 2009). Second, a measure of the need for the program can be seen in the number of people who come to the Master Gardeners for information and advice (i.e. public contacts). Finally, a FTE (full-time equivalent) monetary value can be determined, based on the hours that the volunteers donate to the program.

In 2009 there were at least **3,928 active Master Gardeners** who made at least **169,173 public contacts** and donated at least **195,989 hours** to the program. The hours donated to Extension by Master Gardener volunteers resulted in approximately **94 FTEs** for Extension (calculated as hours donated divided by 40

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hours*52 weeks=2080 hours worked by 1 FTE). This translates into a dollar value of **\$4,086,370.65** (calculated as hours donated multiplied by \$20.85, the dollar estimate per volunteer hour for 2007¹).

The range of hours donated by Master Gardener volunteers varied by county or regional program (Table 1). However, the number of hours donated by Master Gardener volunteers within a county ($r^2=0.86$, $F_{1,19}=117$, $P<0.0001$) and the total number of public contacts and the number of Master Gardener volunteers within a county ($r^2=0.44$, $F_{1,18}=16$, $P=0.0008$) could be explained by the total number of volunteers within that county. These relationships were robust to the removal of the Portland Metropolitan Master Gardener program, which is an outlier with regard to the total number of Master Gardeners participating in the program. Specifically, there are 1,105 Master Gardeners involved in the 3-county Portland Metropolitan Master Gardener program. The next largest program, Jackson County, reports less than half that number at 419.

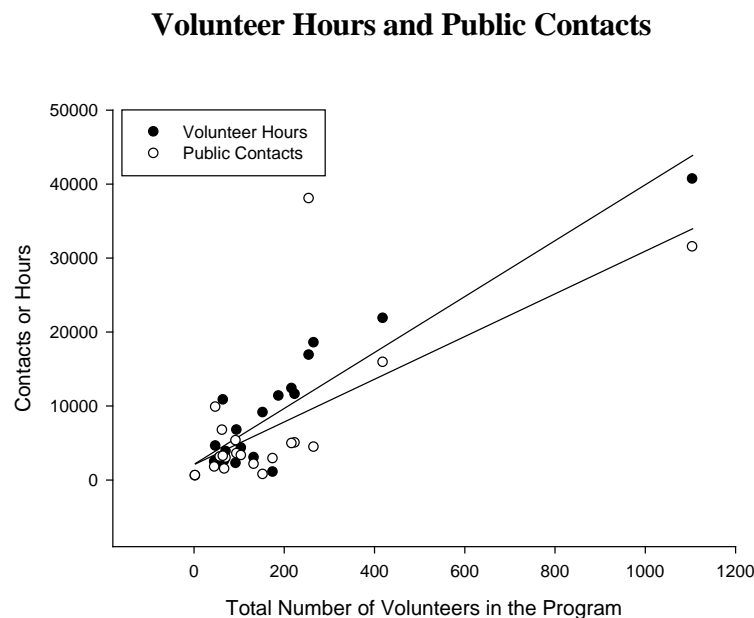


Figure 1. Number of volunteer hours and public contacts generated by Master Gardener programs in 2009, graphed as a function of the number of Master Gardener volunteers within each program.

On average, 76% of the 823 trainees completed all of the requirements necessary to become a certified OSU Extension Master Gardener, although the percent varied across counties (33% to 100%; Table 1). The other 24% of trainees either did not finish the training course and/or did not complete their volunteer service hours. On average, 59% of the 3,105 veteran Master Gardeners chose to recertify in 2009, although the percent of veterans who recertified varied substantially across county or regional programs (24% to 100%; Table 1).

It is important to note that recertification is not necessary to remain an active Master Gardener. Instead, recertification is required only for those Master Gardeners that serve in Plant Clinics or in another venue where they will be delivering a diagnosis or recommendation to those seeking advice for a home horticultural problem. Nonetheless, although recertification is not required, attendance at classes or other events that qualify for recertification credit helps to foster an informed and current corps of volunteers.

¹ http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html

Table 1. Training and retention of OSU Master Gardener volunteers in 2009.

County	Course Cost Per Trainee‡	Master Gardeners			Trainees Completing Service (%)	Veterans Recertified (%)
		Trainees	Veterans	Total		
Baker	\$10	1	2	3	100	100
Benton	\$70	37	151	188	NR	42
Central Oregon*	\$275	39	56	95	56	100
Clatsop	\$45	18	115	133	67	28
Columbia	\$20	18	75	93	72	32
Coos	\$120	22	41	63	45	67
Curry	\$145	15	53	68	33	36
Douglas	\$90	46	220	266	90	30
Hood River	\$70	21	50	71	81	92
Jackson	\$120	76	343	419	87	45
Josephine	\$70	54	170	224	85	24
Klamath	\$145	29	29	58	93	100
Lane	\$150	55	200	255	78	69
Lincoln	\$165	29	124	153	79	52
Linn	\$80	7	34	41	100	NR
Marion	\$100	34	183	217	80	46
Portland Metro**	\$315	190	915	1,105	67	47
Polk	\$75	25	150	175	76	33
Tillamook	\$70	20	85	105	65	59
Umatilla	\$70	19	27	46	63	78
Union	\$95	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Wasco	\$40	10	38	48	100	100
Yamhill	\$90	21	44	65	NR	NR
Statewide***	\$390	37	NA	37	86	NA
TOTAL or MEAN ± SE	\$115± \$18	823	3105	3928	76% ± 4%	59% ± 6%

NA=Not Applicable. Master Gardener trainees who receive training through the online Master Gardener course go on to become certified OSU Extension Master Gardeners and active veterans through their local county Extension office.

NR=Not Reported. No report was received for the 2009 reporting year.

*Central Oregon includes Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties

**Portland Metro includes Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties

***Individuals trained through the Statewide Master Gardener Program enrolled in the online Master Gardener course.

† Not including the cost of the MG Handbook.

‡The percent of trainees completing service, for the statewide program, represents the percent of students that passed the final exam and successfully earned a Certificate of Home Horticulture.

‡Not including the cost of the Master Gardener Handbook, which is an additional \$30 per student

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Table 2. OSU Master Gardener: Volunteer Service and Public Contacts

County	Hours of Volunteer Service	Number of Public Contacts^z	Mean Hours of Volunteer Service Per Master Gardener	Mean Number of Public Contacts Per Master Gardener
Baker	555	589	185	196
Benton	11,340	10,590	60	NR
Central Oregon*	6,731	3,550	71	37
Clatsop	3,011	2,113	23	16
Columbia	2,242	5,300	24	57
Coos	3,029	6,725	48	107
Curry	2,596	1,473	38	22
Douglas	18,537	4,426	70	17
Hood River	3,843	2,966	54	42
Jackson	21,848	15,885	52	38
Josephine	11,575	5,000	52	22
Klamath	2,430	3,100	42	53
Lane	16,875	38,021	66	149
Lincoln	9,104	740	60	5
Linn	6,054	11,309	148	276
Marion	12,345	4,924	57	23
Portland Metro***	40,666	31500	37	29
Polk	1,051	2,879	7	16
Tillamook	4,301	3,297	41	31
Umatilla	2,462	1,747	53	38
Union	NR	NR	NR	NR
Wasco	4,579	9,839	95	205
Yamhill	10,815	3,200	166	49
Statewide	NA	NA	NA	NA
TOTAL or MEAN ± SE	195,989	169,173	66±9	68±15

3. Geographic Extent of the Program and Master Gardener Associations

In 2009, Master Gardener programs were active in 28 of Oregon's 36 counties (Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Grant, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wasco, Washington and Yamhill). During this time, the program did not have an active presence in Gilliam, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Wallowa or Wheeler counties.

A total of 23 Master Gardener associations, which are separate non-profit entities from the OSU Extension Master Gardener program, were active in 2009. The Oregon Master Gardener Association and its local chapters work to enhance and supplement the Oregon State University home horticulture program, by assuming responsibility for performing special tasks and engaging in continuous activities related to the program, promoting the wide dissemination of information available as a result of University study and experimentation and working with other gardening organizations to enhance gardening in Oregon, when appropriate.

Master Gardener associations contribute logistical support to their local Master Gardener program. Special events, such as the Central Oregon Master Gardener association's Spring Seminar and the Curry County Master Gardener association's Garden and Art tour are organized by association members, with guidance from program faculty and staff. However, the bulk of the planning and preparation is completed by the association and its members.

Association members pay dues to the Oregon Master Gardener Association, (OMGA), which is a statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit, as well as to their local association. Dues paid to OMGA and to Master Gardener associations are used to finance the activities of the associations, and may in part be used to contribute financial support to their local Master Gardener program and to their community (see section 11, Extramural Funding). However, OSU Master Gardener volunteers are not required to pay dues to the OMGA or their local chapter in order to be active in the OSU Master Gardener program. Furthermore, some counties, such as Baker and Union counties, have active Master Gardener programs that are not supported by Master Gardener Associations.

Beyond state borders, the OSU Master Gardener program has a national and an international presence. For example, counties that border California and Washington count individuals from these states as active Master Gardeners in their program. In addition, the 2009 offerings of the online Master Gardener course included students from 8 US states, (CO, MO, WA, CA, PA, TX, NY, HI) 1 US territory (Puerto Rico), and 5 countries (Denmark, Canada, Mexico, Trinidad, Myanmar).

In terms of activity on an international level, Extension faculty and OSU Master Gardener volunteers currently serve on the International Master Gardener Conference Search for Excellence committee. This conference, which convenes every other year, includes representatives from every state in the union, as well as 4 Canadian provinces (British Columbia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Quebec). The 2009 conference was held in Las Vegas, NV. A total of 5 OSU Extension Faculty members and 2 OMGA members represented the Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener Program at the conference.

4. Flagship Programs and Actions

In December 2008, the Home Horticulture Working group met in Corvallis, OR, and decided that the two flagship programs of the OSU Master Gardener Program would be **Sustainable Gardening** and

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Local and Backyard Food Production. These areas have always been a focal point of Master Gardener trainings and service, and having formally decided upon these programs will help to guide communications about the Program, basic and advanced training opportunities and planned Extension publications.

The following are brief descriptions of these flagship programs, and a few examples of actual services the Master Gardener program is providing to the public.

Sustainable Gardening . A ‘sustainable garden’ is defined as one where the gardener is able to meet their needs and expectations, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Lectures, workshops, seminars and Extension publications teach Master Gardeners and others how to adopt and maintain more sustainable gardening practices. Some of the efforts that align with this goal, many of which were initiated in 2009, are listed below.

Metro Natural Gardening: The Metro Natural Gardening program (part of the Portland Metro Council of Governments) teamed with OSU Extension to deliver a series of public presentations in the Portland Metropolitan area. This collaboration represents a true vote of confidence in the Master Gardener Program’s commitment to sustainability. For more information, please visit www.oregonmetro.gov/garden.

Eco-Gardening: Amy Jo Detweiler and Linda McMahan signed an MOU for online WaterWise classes and an Ecological Gardening Series with OSU Extended Campus. These offerings will greatly expand and build upon the successful delivery of the online Master Gardener course to our clients and others interested in learning about sustainable gardening.

OSU Garden Calendar: In 2009, the OSU Garden Calendar (<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/calendar/>) was substantially revised to better reflect our commitment to sustainable gardening. Pest monitoring and management recommendations highlight least toxic and non-chemical approaches. Maintenance and clean-up practices focus on cultural and physical controls. Chemical recommendations have mostly been removed from the calendar, to minimize the need for annual revisions. The calendar was also reformatted to make it easier to use.

Local and Backyard Food Production. Local and backyard food production contributes to a sustainable food system, greater food security and a nutrient rich diet. Lectures, workshops, seminars and Extension publications teach Master Gardeners and others about the various aspects of vegetable gardening and fruit production in a private or community garden. Some of the efforts that align with this goal are listed below.

Mini-College: The theme of the 2009 Mini-College was ‘Backyard Food Solutions: Local. Sustainable. Secure.’ Over 30 combined classes, workshops, and tours focused on the art and science of locally growing, preserving, and cooking foods. Attendance at the 2009 Mini-College set a record for the event, at 405 people.

Garden Enhanced Nutrition Education: The Garden Enhanced Nutrition Education workgroup consists of Master Gardener Program faculty and OSU Extension Nutrition Educators. This workgroup aims to foster healthy eating habits, and to utilize gardening as a vehicle to support healthy eating and physical activity. Products of this collaboration include the ‘Growing Healthy Kids’ curriculum (for 1st through 3rd graders) and the GENE community garden grants. The GENE community garden grants provided \$20,800 to 6 community gardens across the state. Funds were

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provided by the the Oregon Department of Human Services, via the Governor's Initiative Against Hunger.

Planting Seeds of Change, *An Edible Educational Endeavor*: was organized by a group of concerned citizens in the Lebanon community including Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital, Lebanon Community School District, Linn County Master Gardeners Association, local growers and businesses and now the school districts of Sweet Home and Albany with accompanying businesses.

In 2008, the group installed a Teaching Garden at Seven Oaks Middle School, Lebanon, OR, where they grew vegetables and flowers. This garden taught educationally at-risk students math, literature, science and nutrition, through applied practice. The garden also provided these children with nutrient-laden food and lots of exercise working the garden. In 2009 another Teaching Garden was installed in Lebanon. In 2010, there are plans to expand teaching gardens to other parts of Lebanon, as well as Sweet Home and Albany. In fact, the Albany School District received funding to install teaching garden at Oak Grove Middle School, partly due to the success of the Lebanon Teaching Gardens.

Planting Seeds of Change received top honors from the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce in 2009 the "Outstanding Program of the Year". In addition, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Farm to School Program, the Oregon Department of Education, Farm to School Program and Ecotrust are using Planting Seeds of Change as a model for other similar programs. The USDA Northwestern Representative for Farm to School visited the program in 2009, which resulted in the program being further honored, and receiving additional funding.

Demonstration, community and school gardens at fairgrounds, city parks, extension offices, and experiment stations, are used to show effective growing methods, new plant varieties, and approved pest control strategies to local citizens. Additionally, demo gardens in many counties are often designed to provide the local food-bank with produce during the harvest season. These include the Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Garden (Lincoln County), McMinnville Community Garden at the Salvation Army (Yamhill County), Grassroots Garden (Lane County) and the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden in Tillamook County.

Produce donations to local Food Banks: In 2009, Master Gardener Programs donated at least 33,800 pounds of produce to local Food Banks or Food Pantries. This is an extremely conservative estimate, since most Master Gardener Programs donate produce to community organizations, but not all Programs record their donations.

5. Notable Events in 2009

The Master Gardener program saw many new initiatives, developments and challenges in 2009. A few of these are listed below:

Tax Service Districts: In 2009, two counties geared up for ballot measures that would provide sustainable or long term funding. Polk County and Lane County citizens considered ballot measures that would result in sustainable or long-term funding for Extension. The citizens of Polk County passed the measure, by a wide margin. Unfortunately, Measure 20-158 was defeated in Lane County, which resulted in the closure of the Eugene office on September 2, 2010.

6. Program Activities

The components and target audiences of the Master Gardener program are very diverse. Because of this, a number of methods are used by county program managers to extend community horticulture education to their clientele. These methods include the following:

Plant Clinic: Plant clinic takes the form of a phone line, email address, or walk in booth at local Extension offices. Through plant clinic, Master Gardener volunteers provide research-based and unbiased answers to questions from local clients. Plant clinics are essential to the efficient functioning of county Extension offices. Via their service, Master Gardener volunteers relieve the local professional staff of the continual plethora of questions. Plant clinics may also be found at local farmers' markets, Master Gardener events (e.g. educational conference, plant sale, etc.) or at other venues. A total of 22 of the 23 Master Gardener programs (excluding the Statewide Master Gardener program) held some sort of Plant Clinic in 2009. Of these, 21 programs (representing 25 counties) held Plant Clinics at an Extension office. A total of 21 Master Gardener programs (representing 25 counties) staffed a plant clinic at a local Farmer's Market or at a Master Gardener event. A total of 19 Master Gardener programs (representing 23 counties) staffed a plant clinic at another venue, such as the state fair, county fairs, garden stores, public libraries and other sites frequented regularly by gardeners.

Demonstration, community and school gardens: Gardens at fairgrounds, city parks, extension offices, and experiment stations, are used to show effective growing methods, new and locally adapted plant varieties, and sustainable garden design. Many demonstration gardens include theme areas, which demonstrate adaptive gardening, vegetable gardening, herb gardens, or childrens' gardens. Additionally, demonstration and community gardens in many counties (e.g. Lane, Yamhill, Lincoln and Coos counties) provide local food-banks with fresh produce during the harvest season.

Conferences, Seminars Talks are used in various ways by Master Gardener programs and volunteers to extend research-based information to those who need advice. Conferences include the Home Garden Seminar (Josephine County), Winter Dreams and Summer Gardens (Jackson County), Insights into Gardening (Benton County), Fall Fling (Polk County), Spring Home and Garden Classes (Tillamook County), Spring Garden Seminar (Clatsop) and Spring Seminar (Central Oregon). These events are day long or multi-day conferences that are organized by Master Gardener Associations, in cooperation with local Master Gardener Program staff. Many Master Gardener Associations hold hour long educational seminars, which are open to the public. These 'brown bag' seminars are often held at lunch, or in the early evening, in order to attract a broad audience. Linn County, Benton County, Lane County, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson and Josephine are a few of the Master Gardener programs that host these seminars. Speaker bureaus have been established in many counties, as means to link Master Gardener volunteers who are willing and able to teach one or more garden-related topics with civic and other organizations who would like to host a presentation. Jackson, Benton, Lane, Douglas, Marion and Columbia counties, as well as the Portland Metro program facilitated speakers bureaus in 2009.

Youth Programs involve students in "hands-on" programs to educate them on gardens and gardening; ultimately empowering them to grow and maintain plants. Several counties have formed partnerships with local public schools to develop demonstration gardens to expose children to the joys of gardening. Some counties are assisting with school greenhouses where students can grow seedlings to use in the school landscape or to plant at home; giving the student an opportunity to take home what he learns and/or grows at school. Other counties have developed partnerships with local community youth programs to extend horticulture education to both the youth and other community members.

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Counties with active youth gardening projects include Jackson County (Youth Garden Project), Yamhill (Carleton Elementary School), Curry County (Kalmiopsis Elementary School), Lake County (Junior Master Gardeners), Wasco County (4th grade gardening classes, 2 week training), Coos County (Cooking and Gardening Day camp), Tillamook County (week long 4-H Gardening camp and projects at elementary, junior high and high schools) and Marion County (school educational program).

Garden Tours and Plant Sales: Master Gardener Associations in Tillamook, Hood River, Linn, Wasco and Curry counties use garden tours as a fundraiser. However, these tours are also educational in nature, and highlight sustainable gardening techniques, unique and inspiring garden design and adapted plant varieties. Many Master Gardener associations also hold plant sales, where they integrate the mission of the OSU Master Gardener Program (education and outreach) with their fundraising efforts. At a plant sale fundraiser for an association, the educational programming should take center stage, as is the case with 10-minute University at the Clackamas county plant sale or day long seminars at the Lane County bulb sale.

Beautification Projects: Many Master Gardener Programs and Associations work with their local civic organizations on beautification projects. These include Tillamook County (CART'M Recycle Beautification), Marion County (Oregon Garden in Silverton waterwise parking lot plantings) and Yamhill County (City of Newburg Beautification project). Once again, education is paramount in these projects. The Tillamook County CART'M Recycle beautification project demonstrates the reuse and repurposing of discarded items as garden containers. The Marion County project in the Oregon Garden demonstrates how a palette drought resistant and drought tolerant plants can be used to beautify a challenging garden space.

7. 2009 Program Highlights, by County

Benton County: This was the second year of the PAR (Plant a Row) for the Hungry and the new chair of the committee did an excellent job making the project more visible in the community. Farmer's Markets, Fall Festival, and at Small Farms events all had the display of the project with MGs collecting peoples emails to notify them where they could drop off extra produce and nuts or other food products. The most difficult task is collecting data on how much produce is donated because of the program.

Central Oregon: In 2009, our master gardeners were successful at adding onto the community garden in Bend. Eighteen additional plots were added and we were able to place community members from our waiting list. We also had a group of mg volunteers partner with OSU Extension to help manage our OSU Demo Garden in Redmond. This new partnership will help in advancing the educational garden more quickly. A new educational demonstration garden was put in on site at the Prineville Extension office.

Clatsop County: Increased Sunday Market Booth from semi-weekly to weekly (23 weeks). New participation in Community Garden. New participation in Growing Healthy Kids. New garden and displays established at Animal Shelter (Pet Friendly Garden). Discovery Garden renovation (Native Plants). Continued support of many ongoing projects, notably Spring Garden Seminar, Demonstration Garden and OSU Extension Info Line.

Columbia County: Active Master Gardener™ participation in community gardens in Scappoose, St. Helens, and Rainier with much of the produce going to the food banks. • Modest assistance for the first Sheriff's Department jail garden. It was a great success thanks in large part to two very adept

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clients. All produce was donated to the Columbia Pacific Food Bank. Plans are to double the size next year to 4000 square feet. • Direct assistance to 13 low income beginning gardeners to establish their gardens. • Weekly plant clinics at the Scappoose Farmers market from June through September. Monthly clinics in Vernonia in association with a community arts festival from May through October. There were one-day clinics in Clatskanie and Sauvie Island. • Two presentations to WIC audiences on container gardening. • Weekly radio show on gardening. • Bi-weekly gardening articles in two local newspapers. • Articles in the gardening/small farms newsletter that goes to 1000+ families in the county. • Educational outreach with the Sauvie Island Farm Foundation and Metro for grade school classes on growing food and the ecology of the farm. • Provided assistance to the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council on their greenhouse growing program for native plants to be used in restoration projects. • Educational programming in the Clatskanie School District on gardening. Targeted at elementary youth and some done in conjunction with the Expanded Food and Nutrition Project. • Put on a pruning demonstration at the demonstration garden at the Fairgrounds attended by 50 people. Held a grafting workshop at the Extension office. • Provided education to preschool children at the Pumpkin Festival in Yankton. • Maintained and upgraded the demonstration garden at the Fair Complex which was visited by about 1000 people during the five days of county fair. • Put on the Spring Fair which attracted over 1000 people and netted about \$3,000 to be used for educational outreach activities. • The Master Gardener chapter meetings had an excellent speaker series that reached both MGs and a few people outside the MG group.

Coos County: The Coos County Master Gardeners provided close to \$3000 to county schools to support or begin garden programs. They also provided a college scholarship to a graduate of a Coos County high school who is studying a plant related topic. The garden seminar in 2009, "Fertilize Your Mind: The Dirt on Backyard Gardening" had record attendance this year (more than 150 people).

Douglas County: The Douglas County MG chapter provided regular plant clinic answers and diagnostics at four locations around the county. We also have an answer booth at all major fairs including the county fair, home show, Earth Day, and Arbor Day. The chapter members have a very active outreach program providing 74 presentations to community groups. The horticulture learning center continues to grow and serve as the premium gardening demonstration area and class area for the county. The garden has thousands of visitors each year and since adding our new lavatory we are now teaching hundreds of people at the site including childrens classes, pruning classes, and Master Gardener Training classes. We now have five greenhouses to teach propagation and seeding and to produce thousands of plants for our annual plant sale.

Hood River: The program completed its 6th year of training in Hood River county. We will have 60 trained master gardeners returning to the program in 2010. Master Gardeners volunteered their time in office plant clinics, farmers markets, Saturday markets and at community and master gardener events. They worked to complete the Japanese Heritage Garden located at the Learning Garden on the grounds of the Hood River Extension Office. There are currently 11 garden features at the Learning Garden. The Hood River Library Low Water Garden was remodeled and updated with additional plantings and large boulders. The Hood River Care Center Garden was kept cleaned and maintained and will be expanded with raised vegetable beds in 2010. The Community Garden project at La Clinica was revitalized and cleaned up. In 2010, Education workshops will be held at the garden and Master Gardeners will use a plot at the garden as an educational tool and to raise vegetables for the local food bank. Educational displays were at the Hood River and Skamania County Fairs. Central Gorge Master Gardeners hosted an educational garden tour that included 7 gardens in White Salmon Washington and in Hood River. A first time garden tour combining gardens in each state. The spring plant sale held at The Learning Garden on the Saturday before Mother's Day was quite

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successful and will be held again in 2010. Several master gardeners were instructors at the annual training and in community education classes and at garden club meetings.

Jackson County: .The program expanded the Children's Garden summer program to include 9-11 year olds and included 72 total this year. We gave \$3,505 in educational grants to 13 schools for their horticulture related programs. And at the university level, we gave a \$2500 scholarship to Miriam Hawk, an OSU viticulture student from Jackson County. Community education grew substantially with As for classes, 1625 people attended our 59 classes and more than 30 groups we spoke to. Our TV show, Scott's Garden, Mary Foster and ten other Master Gardeners reached thousands of viewers with each of its 30 presentations. And now you can watch all the year's presentations on the KDRV website. Two Master Gardeners are now the garden columnists for the Mail Tribune with a column every week.

Josephine County: The Josephine County Master Gardeners completed another successful year graduating a new class of volunteers, managing a great Spring Fair and Home Gardening Symposium, and many community service projects. They co-sponsored a Plant-A-Row program in the county.

Klamath County: 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. Working in the greenhouse, Master Gardeners started many of the plants that were transplanted in the garden. Master Gardeners also worked in the garden planting and harvesting vegetables. Because of all of the organizations involved, the Klamath Garden not only produces food for hundreds of families throughout Klamath County, it is also continues to help children and adults establish links between plants, gardening, and healthy living. This has been a very successful partnership and project.

Junior Master Gardener Summer Camps:

During 2009, OSU Extension held two summer camps for young garden enthusiasts entering grades two through six. Eighteen Master Gardeners dedicated over 200 hours helping during the camps. Over 60 area youth spent five, fun-filled days learning about the art and science of gardening, as well as how to prepare a variety of homegrown snacks and meals. Working alongside OSU faculty and Master Gardener volunteers, campers engaged in stimulating, hands-on projects and activities that helped them establish links between plants, gardening, and healthy living. Each day the program focused on a different area of gardening and nutrition education. This is the second year that OSU Extension has held the JMG summer camp. Because of its strong reputation, the camps fill quickly. OSU Extension intends on holding at least two camps during 2010.

Herald and News : Ask A Master Gardener:

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 question and answer forum appeared in the Living Well Section of the Sunday Herald and News. The column generated a lot of positive publicity.

Educational Events -- The following include the events Master Gardeners were involved in during 2009:

- Farm Expo
- Master Gardener Spring Fair

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- Tulelake Butte Valley Fair
- Tulelake Migratory Bird Day
- Klamath County Migratory Bird Day
- OIT Arboretum
- Keno Saturday Market

Lane County: The 2009 MG program in Lane County was selected by the Garden Clubs as a recipient of part of their proceeds from their Plant Sale. MGs staffed an ask a MG booth at the event and received \$1,500. The Fall Festival replaced the Bulb Sale with positive results.

MGs are doing more collaborative events with Master Food Preservers.

Lincoln County: We had the highest rate of students do their payback hours and get badges this year at 79%. This followed a guided assignment of demonstrating to the public what they learned in class. Following this success we started moving towards doing more demonstration gardens than community gardens to enhance our education basis for MG program. We successfully started one demonstration garden in Yachats and drew contracts for Newport and Lincoln City in partnership with Oregon Coast Community College campuses. In 2010 we will be shifting our whole focus to these gardens and only partially support community gardens although Master Gardeners will still be involved in these gardens.

Marion County: Marion County Master Gardeners continue to operate a year-round clinic in the Extension office as well as offering clinics throughout the County from spring through Fall. The demonstration garden, known as the Marion Garden, continues to evolve and now includes a Native Garden as well as a pruning demonstration garden. It was a venue for three workshops this year. The Association members also teach elementary school students in area schools about plants in April and May. The Speakers Bureau provided Master Gardeners to speak to community groups on 32 occasions this year as well as organizing weekly radio programs on KBZY in Salem. Master Gardeners also grow and donate produce to Marion Polk Food Share as well as volunteer to sort food monthly.

Polk County: The Polk County Master Gardeners continue their commitment to the community in their work at the Polk County Fairgrounds, Brunk House, Gentle House and the Delbert Hunter Arboretum. The annual Plant Sale, the primary fundraiser, and the Fall Fling, the community education program, continue to be very popular. Youth outreach continues with the 4H Junior Master Gardener Camp and a community garden with the Central School District initiated by one of the 2009 trainees. A major focus has been gathering signatures to put a Polk County Extension Service District on the ballot in May 2010. Out of 181 petition gatherers, 64 Master Gardeners gathered 4300 signatures out of the 8200 turned in to the county clerk. The next challenge will be to get out the vote in May. The Polk County Master Gardeners are up to the challenge.

Portland Metro Area: Master Gardeners in the tri-county Portland Metro region participated in a wide range of activities, from plant clinics to demonstration gardens and from school gardens to leading tours at the International Rose Test Garden. We trained 190 new master Gardener Volunteers and managed 915 active MG volunteers in our wide-reaching program. In 2009, we over served over 31,500 in plant clinics (office and remote) and produced over 2,000 pounds of produce for distribution to low-income groups in the community.

Tillamook County: Tillamook county Master Gardeners held their third Annual Community Pruning Day, providing assistance to those unable to prune due to physical limitations. Held the first Saturday

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in March, right after pruning class, gives the new class members a chance to work with Hardy Perennials and practice their new pruning knowledge. The Master Gardeners also helped Food Roots, a local non-profit, with a pruning project teaching kids basic pruning at the Junior High. We also offered our Spring Home and Garden Classes and our Autumn Festival Classes for Adults and Youth. North County Master Gardeners worked with school children teaching basic planting (vegetables and pumpkins), then in the fall the children were allowed to return to pick their own pumpkin. July featured our annual 4-H Gardening Day Camp where children learn the basic needs of seeds, plants, and people. They were able to plant seeds and transplants, weed and prune and prune in preparation for the county fair. Each day cooking projects helped them learn where food comes from and how to enjoy it. We extended our commitment to the Tillamook OPTIONS program for alternative High School students. Not only did they experience hands-on learning at the Demonstration Garden, we shared a four week insect identification training with them. The Speakers Bureau offered "What You Should Know Before You Start to Garden" to church and community groups. The Master Gardeners assist in editing and mailing a quarterly OSU Extension Newsletter "The Tillamook Tiller" to county residents. MG's presented plant clinics at two county Farmers' Market locations from June through September as well as offering clinics at Aldercreek Farms Spring and Fall Festivals and at the Spring Home and Garden Show presented by the Fairgrounds. In addition to the annual Garden Bus Tours, "Wade and Spade" Garden Tour, and the Gardeners Tea, the Master Gardeners helped the OSU Seagrant Watershed Agent create and develop raingardens and participated in Invasive Species field trips. Over 1000 people visited the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden during the Tillamook County Fair.

Umatilla County: This year our Master Gardeners participated in home garden visits and suggestions in response to phone calls for assistance with gardening problems; local Farmer's Markets (Pendleton, Hermiston, Pilot Rock); booths at Spring Spectacular, Spring into Summer, the HAREC Centennial Celebration and Umatilla County Fair; articles were written and published in the Hermiston Herald and the Umatilla County Employees Monthly Newsletter; helped with the green house at Alt. Ed. and planting with the 3rd graders at Sunset Elementary, as well as getting school kids involved with the Community Gardens, of which we have 5. The produce from all gardens totaled 11,800 lbs. and was donated to local churches, The Salvation Army, Tanya's House, Agape House, Pendleton Senior Center, BMCC JOBS program, Domestic Violence Shelters, and CAPECO (local food assistance program).

Union County: Provided training for 14 new Master Gardener Trainees and Recertified 7 Old ones So we now have 14 Certified Master Gardeners for 2009 which means that of the 14 trainees 7 completed their hours and requirements

Wasco County: Our big effort this year was to start the construction of The Dalles Imagination Garden (DIG). We started by obtaining community support in the form of nearly \$4,000 worth of gifts and grants as well as significantly more time volunteered by community supporters and donations of products. At the grand opening dignitaries such as state Senator Ted Ferrioli and The Dalles mayor Nikki Leitch. This year raised beds were completed and planted and The Dalles Wahtonka High School provided support from their construction class to build a shed and their art class for numerous murals.

Yamhill County: Community Garden is association with the Salvation Army. As part of this Master Gardener Janet Gahr led a 4-H club in horticulture. City of Newberg. This program continues with dedication of a WaterWise Garden kiosk (some funds from OSU and YCMGA), more than triple the number of horticulture students at Newberg High School as a direct result of the involvement of master gardeners.

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Table 3. 2009 Program Activities.

County	Plant Clinic				Conference, Seminar, Talks			Gardens			
	Extension Office	Farmer's Market	Master Gardener Event	Other Venue	Educational Conference	Educational Seminar Series	Speakers Bureau	Community Garden	School Garden	Demonstration Garden	Other Garden
Baker	***	***	***	***			***	***	***		***
Benton	***	***	***	***	***		***	***	***	***	***
Central Oregon*	***	***		***	***		***	***		***	***
Clatsop	***	***		***	***			***		***	***
Columbia		***	***	***		***	***	***		***	***
Coos	***	***	***	***		***	***	***	***		
Curry	***		***	***	***		***		***	***	***
Douglas	***	***	***	***	***		***	***		***	
Hood River	***	***	***	***			***	***		***	***
Jackson	***	***	***		***	***	***			***	
Josephine	***	***	***	***	***		***				
Klamath	***	***	***	***				***			***
Lane	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	
Lincoln	***	***	***				***	***	***		
Linn	***	***	***	***			***	***			
Marion	***	***	***	***			***			***	
Metro**	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	
Polk	***		***		***			***		***	***
Tillamook	***	***	***	***	***		***	***	***	***	***
Umatilla	***	***		***	***	***	***	***	***	***	
Union								***	***		***
Wasco	***	***	***	***			***	***	***		
Yamhill	***	***	***	***			***	***	***		
Statewide***					***						
TOTAL											

*Central Oregon includes Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties

**Portland Metro includes Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties

***Gardeners Mini-College is the educational conference coordinated by the Statewide Master Gardener program and the Oregon Master Gardener association.

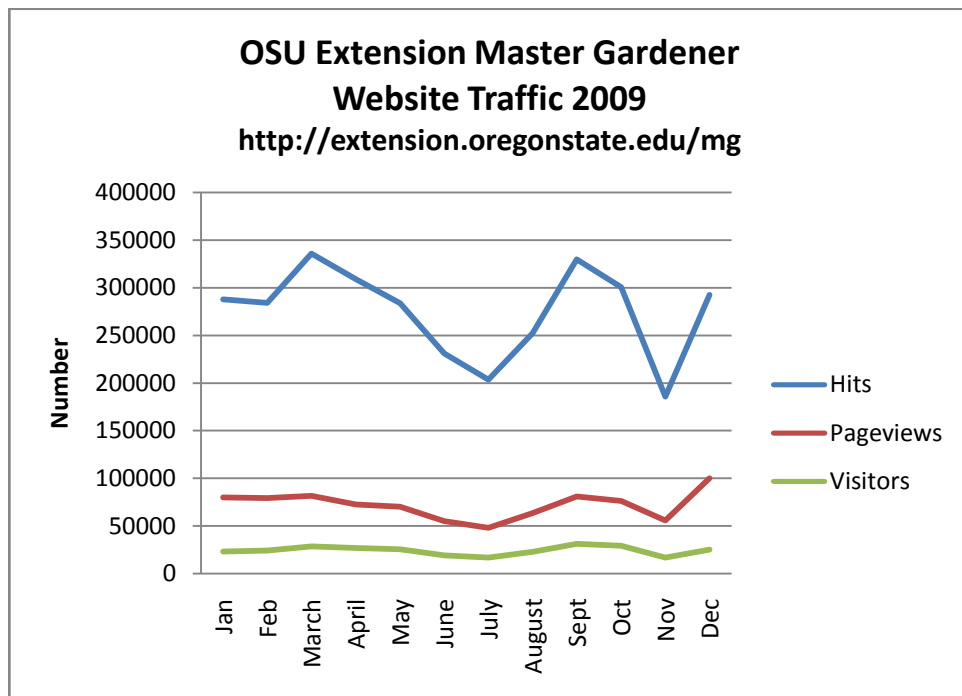
8. Media Outreach

Newspaper, TV, Radio: In 2009, outreach via newspaper, television and radio outlets is estimated to have generated an additional **2,683,000 public contacts**. This number is based upon the 361 newspaper articles reported by Master Gardener programs across the state (where I roughly estimated a readership of 5000 per article), 64 TV interviews (with an estimated viewership of 10,000 per TV spot), and 1,190 radio spots or radio shows (with an estimated listenership of 200 per radio spot).

Master Gardener Newsletters: In addition, newsletters from most Master Gardener programs were distributed to volunteers on a monthly basis. The Oregon Master Gardener Association produces a newsletter that is distributed to all OMGA members 3 times per year. Based upon the number of Master Gardeners associated with county programs, as well as the frequency of circulation at county and state levels, newsletters resulted in an additional **30,000 contacts** (almost exclusively with current Master Gardener volunteers).

Web 2.0 Technologies: The OSU Extension Master Gardener Program continues to grow its online presence through the use of web 2.0 technologies. In 2009, there were 4 Facebook and 3 Twitter sites set up and maintained, across the state.

Master Gardener Website: In an effort to increase the visibility and outreach capacity of the program, the statewide Master Gardener program website (<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg>) was substantially revised in late 2007. The site went public in 2008. This site provides information about the program as a whole and has links to individual counties with Master Gardener programs throughout Oregon. An up to date calendar of Master Gardener and other gardening events is maintained on the website. Links to the OMGA, Master Gardener Endowment, and general horticultural references may also be found on the site. In 2009, the website had 3,297,901 hits (a visit to the site or associated subpages), 862,862 unique page views and 289,060 unique visitors. These numbers represent increases of 16% (hits), 7% (page views) and 5% (unique visitors) from 2008



9. Recognition of OSU Master Gardener Volunteers and of the OSU Master Gardener Program

OSU Master Gardener volunteers and programs received several awards in 2009. At the Annual Gardener's Mini-College, the Oregon Master Gardener Association presented the Marje Luce Search for Excellence awards to Master Gardener Programs and Associations in Benton, Jackson, Yamhill, Hood River and Marion Counties. The three counties in the Portland Metro Area were jointly recognized for their collaboration on a Search for Excellence project.. OMGA also presented the Behind the Scenes Award and the Master Gardener of the Year Award to volunteers from Central Oregon.

In Tillamook County, Master Gardener Robert Dunn was name the Tillamook Area Chamber Citizen of the Year and Master Gardener Karen Matthews received a Watershed Stewardship Award from the Lower Nehalem Land Trust

Lincoln County Master Gardeners were honored by their County Commissioners, by having the second week in July 2009 recognized as 'Master Gardener Week'. The Master Gardeners celebrated this week by hosting a series of classes and open houses at demonstration gardens up and down the coast.

An OSU Extension Diamond Pioneer Award was given to a Master Gardener volunteer from Klamath County, and the OSU Extension Association Cooperator Award was given to Master Gardener volunteers from Washington, Yamhill and Polk Counties. Polk County also received an OSU Extension Association Business Award.

Local municipalities also recognized the importance of Master Gardener volunteers and the Master Gardener program to their community. The Lincoln County Master Gardener program was recognized by the Lincoln County Food Share, Cascade Mission and Seal Rock Garden Club. Yamhill County Master Gardeners were recognized by the City of Newberg.

The online Master Gardener course was recognized by the University Continuing Education Association as best non-credit program (tied for first place).

In 2009, four Master Gardeners were chosen as Diamond Pioneer awardees. They are Polly Blum, Rose Marie Caughran and Doris Crimmins from Yamhill County and Helen Howard from Marion County.

10. Partners and Cooperators

In 2009, the OSU Master Gardener Program partnered with a variety of partners to expand the scope and reach of the Master Gardener Program. A few of these cooperators are listed below.

- Organic Gardening Certificate Program: Oregon Tilth, Portland State University, Metro, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

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- Online Master Gardener Course: OSU ECampus
- Growing Healthy Kids: OSU College of Health and Human Sciences; OSU Extension Nutrition Education Program, Oregon Department of Human Services
- Demonstration, Community and Other Gardens: Portland State University (Metro), Hood River Cultural Trust (Hood River), Google (Wasco), Salvation Army (Yamhill), Food for Lane County (Lane), Lincoln County Food Share (Lincoln), Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen (Josephine), Lettuce Grow (Statewide), Lower Nehalem Land Trust (Tillamook), Hood River Care Center (Hood River), Hood River Library (Hood River), Delbert Arboretum (Polk), Gentle House (Polk), Clatsop County Animal Shelter (Clatsop), Powder River Corrections (Baker)
- Community Gardening Classes: Metro Natural Gardening Program

In addition, local businesses across the state often contribute in-kind or monetary donations that are used to complete program and chapter projects to benefit residents of the specific county. Examples of local business support can be seen via the sponsorship of Master Gardener conferences in Benton county and Central Oregon, or the donation of excess plants or seeds for Master Gardener plant sales. The value of these in-kind and monetary donations to Master Gardener chapters has not been assessed on a statewide level.

11. Extramural Funding

In 2009, the Master Gardener Program received at least **\$349,084 in extramural funding**. The source of these funds came from cash and in-kind donations from Master Gardener Associations (\$89,850), revenue from class fees (\$206,271), grants in support of Master Gardener programming (\$25,457) and other sources (\$27,506). A breakdown of funds, by county, can be found in Table 4.

In December of 2009, the **total cash value of the endowment was \$131,120.26**, with an **endowed balance of \$108,372.84**, and the **spendable cash balance was \$22,747.42**. Although funds have yet to be withdrawn from the endowment account, the endowment will eventually be used for support staff and needs of the statewide MG program.

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Table 4. Funding and fiscal support provided by the Master Gardener Associations in Oregon in 2009.

County	Financial Support from Master Gardener Associations (US\$)		Revenue Generated from Fees (US\$)			Grants Received in Support of Programming (US\$)		Other Funds Received (US\$)
	Cash Donations	In-Kind Donations	Master Gardener Training	Community Classes	Other Sources	Internal Grants	External Grants	Other
Baker	NA	0	0	1,200	0	0	0	0
Benton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central Oregon*	500	521	10,000	0	0	0	2,168	981
Clatsop	2,000	0	810	0	0	500	0	0
Columbia	2,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	0
Coos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curry	1,000	0	2,465	0	0	0	5,500	0
Douglas	5,000	0	5,000	2,500	30,000	0	0	0
Hood River	0	0	3,370	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	6,546	45,516	7,425	6,839	0	0	0	0
Josephine	0	6,727	5,400	480	0	0	0	0
Klamath	1,725	0	5,615	0	0	0	0	8,800
Lane	0	5,000	8,500	4,263	1,600	0	0	0
Lincoln	1,190	0	5,460	0	0	0	1,200	225
Linn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marion	0	0	4,100	300	0	0	0	0
Metro****	2,000	3,500	68,000	0	0	0	0	0
Polk	1,000	0	1,350	0	0	0	0	0
Tillamook	625	0	1,675	2,358	1,874	0	495	0
Umatilla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wasco	0	0	1,800	0	0	0	3,844	0
Yamhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide*****	5,000	0	22,887	0	0	11,750	0	17,500
TOTALS	\$28,586	\$61,264	\$154,857	\$17,940	\$33,474	\$12,250	\$13,207	\$27,506
GRAND TOTAL = \$350,164								

NA: Baker and Union Counties do not have Master Gardener associations and thus are not in a position to receive fiscal support from an association.

*Central Oregon includes Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties ****Portland Metro includes the Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington County Master Gardener Associations.

12. Summary

The OSU Master Gardener program had another year of successes and innovations in 2009. Active programs and associations across the state worked to educate Oregonian's about the art and science of all aspects of sustainable gardening. Educational conferences and seminars allowed Master Gardener volunteers to expose large segments of the general public to an array of gardening topics, while plant clinics in Extension offices and farmer's markets provided the opportunity for one on one interaction, which focused on a specific question or problem of concern to the client. By any measure- be it fiscal (**\$4,086,370.65 value of volunteer service** and **\$349,084 in extramural funding**), public contacts (**169,173 people worked with a Master Gardener in plant clinic or attended a Master Gardener educational program**), donations to Food Banks or Food Pantries (at least **33,800 pounds**), media exposure (**2,683,000 additional public contacts via TV, newspaper and radio alone**), the number of individuals who elect to become a Master Gardener (**823 new trainees, of which 76% completed their service practicum**) or the number of individuals who elect to remain active in the program (**3,105 veteran Master Gardeners, of which 59% recertified in 2009**) – the Master Gardener Program represents a huge benefit to Extension, Oregon State University and the people of Oregon.

All that is accomplished in the Master Gardener program would be impossible without the dedication and talents of **the 3,928 Master Gardener volunteers who donated a combined total of 195,989 hours to the program**. Also essential to the success of the program are the **24 Master Gardener Associations that contributed a combined total of \$89,850 in support of local and statewide programs**. As historical sources of funding for Extension have decreased over the years, the volunteer hours and fiscal support of Master Gardeners and associations have allowed the program to flourish at a time when a variety of challenges could have diminished the program. Nonetheless, funding issues continue to challenge the Master Gardener program. Securing a sustainable funding stream for several counties and for the statewide Master Gardener program is essential to maximizing the capacity of the Master Gardener program to train volunteers, develop timely and relevant programs, and work with the citizens of Oregon to promote sustainable gardening practices and backyard food solutions.