

2011 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:

** denotes faculty/staff changes during the 2011 calendar year

† denotes new county Master Gardener Program, for 2011

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

Patty Driscoll, Horticulture, Statewide Program Assistant

**Sam Angima, Agent, Staff Chair, Ag/MG, Lincoln County (left Master Gardener program in 2011 for administrative assignment within OSU Extension)

Neil Bell, Agent, Horticulture, Marion and Polk Counties

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

**Maxine Day, Agent, Staff Chair, Agriculture, Grant County (left program in 2011)

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

**Anita Dotson, MG Program Assistant, Clatsop County (left program in 2011)

**Katie Etienne (left program in 2011), MG Program Assistant, Coos County

Barbara Fick, Agent, Horticulture, Benton and Linn Counties

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

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

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

Robin Maille, MG Program Coordinator, Union County

Linda McMahan, Agent, Chair/Ag/Hort, Yamhill County

Gail Miles, MG Program Coordinator, Polk County

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

**Elizabeth Olsen, MG Program Coordinator, Lincoln County (joined program in 2011)

**PamiOpfer, MG Program Assistant, Linn County (joined program in 2011)

Shelley Palmer, MG Program Assistant, Curry County

**Diana Pappas, MG Program Assistant, Clatsop County (joined program in 2011)

Ross Penhallegon, Agent, Ag/Hort, Lane County

Jordan Rainwater, MG Program Assistant, Klamath County

Steve Renquist, Agent, Ag/Hort, Douglas County

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

Linda Renslow, Horticulture Support, Lane 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, 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 and adaptive gardening. Master Gardeners are encouraged to participate in 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.

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 **Local and Backyard Food Production**. These areas have always been a focal point of Master Gardener trainings and service, but now formally guide communications about the Program, basic and advanced training opportunities and planned Extension publications.

In 2011, the Master Gardener program had a presence in 28 of Oregon's 36 counties (see section 3. 'Geographic Extent of the Program', for more information), and 4,143 active 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 2011 the program was in the able hands of 31 Extension faculty members, program coordinators, and program assistants, although there was staff turnover during the year. 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, the program is one of Extension's most popular volunteer management programs, as measured by the number of new volunteers who seek entry each year (842 trainees in 2011), as well as by the number of volunteers who elect

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to remain in the program for succeeding years (3,322 veterans in 2011). 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 **2011** there were at **4,143 active Master Gardeners** who made at least **208,039 public contacts** and donated at least **192,378 hours** to the program (Tables 1 and 2). The hours donated to Extension by Master Gardener volunteers resulted in approximately **94 FTEs** for Extension (calculated as hours donated divided by 40 hours*52 weeks=2040 hours worked by 1 FTE). This translates into a dollar value of approximately **\$4,191,916.62** (calculated as hours donated multiplied by \$21.79, the dollar estimate per volunteer hour for 2010¹).

On average, 67% of the 842 Master Gardener trainees who enrolled in on-site Master Gardener trainings completed their volunteer service obligation, although individual counties ranged from a low of 25% retention to a high of 100%. The range of trainees completing their volunteer service in 2011 (25% to 100%; Table 1) across programs was quite large.

On average, 54% of the 3,354 veteran Master Gardeners chose to recertify in 2011, although the percent of veterans who recertified varied substantially across county or regional programs (23% to 100%; Table 1). In some counties, recertification is not necessary to remain an active Master Gardener. Instead, some counties require recertification 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.

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

Table 1. Training and retention of OSU Master Gardener volunteers in 2011.

County	Course Cost Per Trainee†	Master Gardeners			Trainees Completing Service (%)	Veterans Recertified (%)
		Trainees	Veterans	Total		
Baker	\$120	4	6	10	75	66
Benton	\$80	25	119	144	72	40
Central Oregon*	\$245	28	90	118	61	91
Clatsop	\$45	18	145	163	67	26
Columbia	\$45	20	65	85	45	23
Coos	\$120	21	65	86	81	77
Curry	\$145	13	44	57	46	39
Douglas	\$150	46	232	278	67	32
Grant	\$170	8	13	21	25	85
Hood River	\$70	23	58	81	57	95
Jackson	\$145	77	381	446	84	32
Josephine	\$70	55	190	238	87	24
Klamath	\$145	19	27	46	95	100
Lane	\$175	80	200	280	85	60
Lincoln	\$165	14	77	91	100	60
Linn	\$80	19	105	124	84	24
Marion	\$70	36	170	206	72	51
Portland Metro**	\$445	197	952	1149	65	46
Polk	\$70	18	164	182	72	32
Tillamook	\$70	16	84	99	88	62
Umatilla	\$85	18	46	64	39	30
Union	\$120	14	11	25	36	64
Wasco	\$70	5	35	40	89	100
Yamhill	\$90	35	75	110	60	34
Statewide***	\$390	33	NA	NA	NA	NA
TOTAL or MEAN ± SE	\$135.00	842	3,354	4,143	67%	55%

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.

*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, which is an additional \$30 per student.

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Table 2. OSU Extension Master Gardener hours of volunteer service donated, number of public contacts made and documented pounds of produce donated by Master Gardeners in 2011.

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	Documented Pounds of Produce Donated to Food Banks/Food Pantries
Baker	571	857	57	86	NR
Benton	10223	15215	71	106	611
Central Oregon*	9105	8633	77	73	569
Clatsop	3510	2205	22	14	7
Columbia	2100	1500	25	18	1,072
Coos	4415	1819	51	21	1,542
Curry	1886	1696	33	30	110
Douglas	16968	5055	61	18	3,200
Grant	310	248	15	12	150
Hood River	5000	8100	62	100	400
Jackson	18964	28049	43	63	NR
Josephine	10,064	53,600	42	225	NR
Klamath	2307	47	50	1	NR
Lane	12400	15000	44	54	55,000
Lincoln	7038	3000	77	3	800
Linn	5312	3914	43	32	NR
Marion	11776	4173	57	20	NR
Portland Metro****	44068	36025	38	31	12,574
Polk	6911	1999	38	11	654
Tillamook	5958	6067	60	61	326
Umatilla	1711	2918	81	139	5,265
Union	349	153	14	6	105
Wasco	4195	3116	105	78	300
Yamhill	7237	7350	66	67	5,000
TOTAL or MEAN ± SE	192,378	210,739	51	53	87,685

^zA public contact represents one person who used the services of the OSU Extension Master Gardener program in 2011, via use of or participation in plant clinics, public gardening classes, demonstration days and other activities.

NR = Not Reported

3. Geographic Extent of the Program and Master Gardener Associations

In 2011, 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 24 Master Gardener associations, which are separate non-profit entities from the OSU Extension Master Gardener program, were active in 2011. The Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA) and its local chapters work to support the Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener Program in all but 3 counties that have an active Master Gardener Program. The three counties without OMGA chapter include Union, Baker and Grant counties.

Association members, almost all of whom are also Master Gardeners, pay dues to the OMGA, which is statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit. Members also pay dues to their local chapter. Dues paid to OMGA and to Master Gardener chapters 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 10, 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. For example, Baker, Grant and Union counties all have active Master Gardener programs, even though they do not have an active OMGA chapter. Furthermore, not all Master Gardeners in counties that do have an active OMGA choose to become a member of the OMGA.

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 2011 offerings of the online Master Gardener course included students from 11 US states, (CA, CO, GA, IL, IN, LA, MI, MA, NV, UT, WA) and the District of Columbia.

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 2011 International Master Gardener Conference was held in Charleston, West Virginia, where Oregon was well-represented. The Statewide Coordinator of the Oregon Master Gardener Program taught a class on pollinators to approximately 80 Master Gardeners. In addition, four Master Gardeners made the trip from Oregon to West Virginia, to learn from and network with Master Gardeners from around the world.

4. Extent of Program Activities in 2011 (Table 3)

In 2011, 100% of all county and regional Master Gardener Programs held mobile plant clinics at local farmer's markets, and 92% held plant clinics in county Extension Offices. Master Gardener events (88%) and other venues (92%) were also popular locations for mobile plant clinics. Educational conferences were hosted by 54% of county and regional Master Gardener Programs. Educational seminar series were hosted by 46% of programs. Master Gardeners served as speakers for community

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events in 75% of the programs. Community (88%), demonstration (75%) and youth (67%) gardens were also popular programmatic activities in 2011.

1. Notable Events in 2011

The Master Gardener program saw many new initiatives, developments and challenges in 2011. A few of these are listed below:

Transfer of Responsibility for Mini-College from OSU to OMGA: In 2010, preparations were made to transfer the responsibility for Mini-College planning from the Statewide Master Gardener Program to the Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA). Thus, the 2011 Mini-College was planned and delivered by the OMGA in Newport, OR.

Statewide Ask an Expert Launch: Although select counties and program had been participating in the national eXtension Ask an Expert efforts since 2010, OSU Outreach and Engagement formally launched Ask an Expert in Oregon in March of 2011. In the first year of statewide efforts, OSU Extension faculty and Master Gardener volunteers answered 2,197 questions. Of these questions, about 60% were of the type that are normally answered in plant clinic and Master Gardener volunteers answered nearly 30% of all questions submitted.

Social Networking Takes Off: The Oregon Master Gardener Program is on Facebook, Twitter, Blogger and Flickr. Although Master Gardeners have been slow to adopt some social networking tools, in 2011, we surpassed 1,000 Facebook fans. The [OSU Master Gardener Facebook page](#) remains a lively online space to trade news about research, stories and events of interest to Oregon's gardeners.

Planned Gifts to the Statewide Master Gardener Program Fund: The Statewide Master Gardener Program fortunate to be the recipient of a \$600,000 retained life estate gift from Bob and Barbara Bailey. This was part of \$1.6 million total gift that the Bailey's included in their estate program to benefit the College of Business and the Mid-Columbia Research and Extension Center, in addition to benefitting the statewide Master Gardener Program.

In addition, Y Sherry Sheng and Spike Wadsworth started talks with the Oregon State University Foundation to increase their planned gift of \$500,000 to endow a professorship for the Statewide Master Gardener Program to \$1,200,000 ~ an arrangement that was finalized in 2012.

Because the gifts are planned gifts, they will not be realized in the near term, but they ensure a strong program for future generations of Master Gardeners.

Cancellation of Reciprocal Agreement between Polk County Fairgrounds and Polk County Master Gardeners: Since an Extension Service District was established in Polk County in 2010, the reciprocal agreement of volunteer time in exchange for rent with the Polk County Fairgrounds was cancelled. This meant that Polk County Extension and Master Gardeners would now be charged rent. This encouraged the Master Gardeners to look for a location for a Demonstration Garden and a new venue at which to hold Chapter Meetings and Master Gardener Training. Polk County Master Gardener Chapter Meetings and annual Master Gardener trainings moved to Trinity Lutheran Church in the Fall of 2011.

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Table 3. 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	Youth/School Garden	Demonstration Garden	Other Garden
Baker	***	***	***	***			***	***		***	
Benton	***	***	***	***	***	***	***		***	***	
Central Oregon*	***	***	***	***	***		***	***	***	***	
Clatsop	***	***	***	***	***	***		***	***	***	***
Columbia		***	***	***			***	***	***	***	
Coos	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	
Curry	***	***	***	***		***	***	***	***		
Douglas	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***		***	***
Grant		***						***	***		
Hood River	***	***	***	***		***		***		***	***
Jackson	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	
Josephine	***	***	***	***	***		***	***	***		***
Klamath	***	***	***	***			***	***			***
Lane	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	
Lincoln	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	
Linn	***	***	***	***		***		***	***	***	
Marion	***	***	***	***			***	***		***	
Metro**	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	
Polk	***	***	***	***	***						***
Tillamook	***	***	***	***	***		***	***	***	***	***
Umatilla	***	***	***	***	***		***	***	***	***	***
Union	***	***						***		***	***
Wasco	***	***		***			***		***		***
Yamhill	***	***	***	***			***	***		***	
TOTAL PROGRAMS (%)	22 (92%)	24 (100%)	21 (88%)	22 (92%)	13 (54%)	11 (46%)	18 (75%)	21 (88%)	16 (67%)	18 (75%)	10 (42%)

*Central Oregon includes Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties

**Portland Metro includes Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties

Master Gardener Curriculum in Adult and Youth Correctional Facilities: Via cooperative programming and agreements between the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program, OSU Professional and Non-Credit Education, the Oregon Department of Corrections and the non-profit, Lettuce Grow, the Master Gardener curriculum was taught in adult and youth correctional facilities around Oregon. Inmates and youth authority students were able to work through the online Master Gardener course (which had been burned to CDs, because inmates don't have access to the internet). The online Master Gardener curriculum was supplemented by in-person lectures by Master Gardener volunteers, OSU faculty and Lettuce Grow volunteers, and hands-on experience in prison and youth authority gardens. During 2011, 14 adult inmates and 7 youth authority students completed the Master Gardener basic training course, passed a comprehensive final exam, and earned a Certificate of Home Horticulture from OSU Extension. This is the first example in the nation, of which we are aware, of the Master Gardener curriculum being brought to correctional facilities.

2. 2011 Highlights from County Programs

Baker County: The Baker Master Gardener Program participated with booths at the Wednesday Farmer's Market, and the Baker County Fair. They sponsored and assisted with presentations at the "B" Vegetable Garden, the Fruit Tree Pruning, and the Landscape Design classes. Presentations were given to the Baker County Garden Club. Four of the eight participants of the 2011 Master Gardener / Horticulture training are committed to completing their volunteer service hours through the Master Gardener Program.

Benton County: The public continues to attend events sponsored by the OSU Benton County Master Gardeners. The "Gear Up for Gardening" presentations at the public library are now filmed so people can check out the DVD at the Extension office or at the library. These popular presentations can also be downloaded from the web.

Central Oregon: This year our master gardener volunteers significantly increased their outreach in working with youth in the community. They offered a class called Kids-n-Containers in all three counties. This class was a one day workshop for kids and their families. They also worked with Tumalo Elementary Schools as an ongoing project in their school gardens. One victory in particular was having the students and teacher remove all of the old tires they were using to plant in and replacing them with raised beds. Another ongoing project entitled Growing Kids was done in partnership with the Redmond Boys and Girls Club. This weekly project including planting, growing, and harvesting their own food. They also learned about integrated pest management. A third project that included working with kids was that at the Environmental Center in Bend. Volunteers worked with schools and the Bend Boys and Girls club in the outdoor learning garden on site. Another unique projects is that at the wildlife sanctuary Chimps, Inc. Several volunteers are working with staff to teach them how to start seeds and successfully garden so that they can provide local food to their chimpanzees and lynx.

Clatsop County: The Master Gardener Help Desk/Info Line was available 2 times/week to the assist the public from May to October. The Master Gardeners held a weekly plant clinic at Astoria Sunday Market and at the River People Farmers Markets and assisted clients with recommendations and advice on horticultural problems from May to mid-October. Clatsop County Master Gardeners maintained the Demonstration Garden at Clatsop County Fairgrounds providing for public display and education. The Pet Friendly Garden at the Clatsop County Animal Shelter provided education on

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gardens specifically designed for pet safety - this received the prestigious Marje Luce Search for Excellence Award in 2010. Master Gardeners were present to answer questions at the Clatsop County Fair Booth (*at the Demonstration Garden*), the Necanicum Bird Discovery Day, Weedeaters Event, and at Community Garden Tours. The semi-weekly KMUN Radio Show "Diggin' the Dirt" featured topics in horticulture and was hosted by a veteran Master Gardener.

The Clatsop Co. Master Gardener Association's sponsored the annual Spring Gardening Seminar featuring four speakers, hosted vendors and a plant sale for over 125 participants. The CCMGA was also able to sponsor a scholarship to a graduating Senior pursuing an education in horticulture in 2011.

Columbia County: MGs involved with three food production community gardens including one started by the new Clatskanie class. Vernonia group deep in planning for a new school garden and curriculum as the new school is being completed. Clinic outreach in Scappoose (~10), Vernonia (5), and Clatskanie and at the Spring Fair in St. Helens (1). Three educational classes (grafting, and two pruning workshops) were all well-attended. 52 radio shows were produced with MG technical help. Faculty wrote ~50 gardening newspaper columns and delivered 3 public gardening food production lectures. Spring Fair raised about \$2000 to support Extension educational efforts. Demonstration garden attracted about 700 people at the County Fair.

Coos County: Coos Master gardeners took an active role in the annual Master Gardener training. They acted as mentors, and veteran MGs taught compost and plant propagation.

The tenth annual "Fertilize Your Mind" seminar is a joint effort with Oregon State Extension Service and the Coos County Master Gardener Association, and was attended by 110 people. The keynote speaker was Vern Nelson. An additional 12 classes were held on a variety of topics focusing on sustainability.

Growin' Yer Grub (GYG) Summer Day Camp was held for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Activities included growing and cooking food, making crafts, and learning about insects. The GYG camp is a collaborative project between the Master Gardener Program, 4-H and the Master Food Preservers.

The Master Gardener Plant Clinic at the OSU Extension office in Myrtle Point was open twice a week from February through October and reached 494 contacts. A second Plant Clinic was also held once-a week at the Coos Bay Farmer's Market from May until October, which reached 828 contacts.

Coos Master Gardeners participated in many public events this year, including four local festivals, and the Coos County fair. The Master Gardener booth at the Coos County Fair received a red ribbon this year and MGs provided presentations, and hosted the Plant Clinic table for five days. Also new at the Fair this year was a Demonstration raised bed which was built, planted, maintained, and used for educational purposes by the Coos MGs. Master Gardener's Tomato-Rama Plant Sale raised over \$11,000 this year with the association members again growing and/or providing all of the plant material for the event. Funds from the sale were used for educational projects including four school garden grants and four scholarships which were awarded in to high school and college students from Coos County. Many Coos MGs are actively involved in starting and maintaining four community gardens with the South Coast Community Garden Association (SCCGA). These community gardens donated over 1500 lbs. of produce to local food banks. The gardens were also used for educational gardening classes.

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Curry County: Curry County Master Gardeners continued their support and involvement with two school garden projects: Riley Creek Elementary in Gold Beach, and Kalmiopsis Elementary in Brookings. Over 500 contacts were made through volunteers working in the gardens with the students.

Volunteers worked with Curry Transfer and Recycling (CTR) to host workshops at local home and garden shows to instruct the public about the benefits of recycling. CTR now offers a compost bin option to Curry County customers, based on the information provided by Master Gardener volunteers.

The 5th annual Coastal Garden and Art tour attracted over 300 participants. The Kalmiopsis Elementary school garden, Little Bear Patch, was the site for an all-day plant clinic, barbecue, and vermicomposting workshops throughout that day.

Local volunteers continued to donate time to advisory boards and work parties for county civic projects; including the Curry County Library's rain garden/bioswale project in Gold Beach, Stout Park in Brookings, and a city-wide beautification project in Port Orford involving at-risk youth.

Douglas County: We continued to train veteran Master Gardeners to lead a strong plant clinic effort. We have a group of 18 veteran MG's who meet once a month with the Extension agent in our Advanced Diagnostics Group. The purpose of this group is to have a strong team of trainers for our new Master Gardeners who enter the program each year. By having a strong team of leaders we can spread the work load of the plant clinic and staff four locations around the county during the April to October period. We also have added two more sites on alternating months during the April to October period.

Our other two major areas of focus were on making our excellent Discovery Garden demonstration area more user-friendly by improving signage and sustainable themes. The victory garden at the same site produced over 1.5 tons of produce for donation to the needy through the United Community Action Network (UCAN). We continue to develop a high quality winter training program that gets high evaluations for teachers and strong support for our large mentoring program that helps us retain a high percentage of first year volunteers.

Grant County: The Grant County MG program is in it's second year. In this short amount of time, the Master Gardener program and volunteers have started and continue to maintain several community and school gardens throughout the John Day region.

Hood River:Master Gardeners harvested and donated 400 pounds of produce from the La Clinica Community Garden to the local food bank. A garden project was initiated with Klahre House/Next Door, Inc. Alternative School on the grounds of Mid-Columbia Research and Extension Center. This project was used to integrate language arts, health and science standards from the Oregon Department into instructional activities. The food was grown by Klahre House students, and prepared by the students and the school's cook for lunch. Some food was sent home with the students. The Klahre House garden had raised beds structures and a 100 square foot row garden.

Central Gorge Master Gardeners had a large educational display at the Hood River County Fair titled "From the Mountains to the River - OSU Master Gardeners Learning and Working Together". The display featured anoxious weed display, a poisonous plants display, easy and interesting garden art features display, and OSU Extension Service Master Gardener materials. The display even contained

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a water feature and seating area. The annual “Over Hill and Dale Garden Tour” was held at 7 gardens from Hood River to Parkdale.

In addition, brochures were updated for all of the garden features/displays in the Learning Garden at the Mid Columbia Research and Extension Center.

Jackson County: The Jackson County Master Gardener Program receives strong financial and volunteer support from the Jackson County Master Gardener Association (JCMGA). In addition, the JCMGA annually provides a scholarship for a Jackson County High School graduate who is or will be a junior, senior or graduate student at Oregon State University to further his or her education in a plant-related field. The JCMGA also funds community garden grants.

The Jackson County Master Gardeners did lots of neat things, which are highlighted monthly in the “Garden Beet” newsletter. The newsletter can be accessed at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/gardening/mga>.

Educational programming included the 12-13 week Master Gardener training class; monthly public programming, Spring Fair classes, and the annual all day Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens gardening symposium. In addition, the Master Gardener speakers bureau provided talks on a variety of horticultural and gardening topics around the community.

Plant clinics were held at the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC) and outreach clinics were staffed at the Ashland and Medford Growers Markets and occasional other community events.

Master Gardeners continue to develop and maintain the more than 20 demonstration gardens at SOREC. In addition, they host a children’s garden program in the summer, and appear on the ‘Scott’s Garden’ segments on KDRV television (<http://www.kdrv.com/greenspace/>).

Josephine County: The K-12 program expanded to reach over a dozen schools and several school gardens.

Klamath County: In Klamath County, a third of the total volunteer hours (2307) were spent in the Extension office Plant Clinic this year (762 hours). From May through October, M.G. volunteers answered nearly 300 gardening questions from the public. In addition to their usual volunteer activities, M.G.s started a monthly Plant Clinic at the Klamath Falls Farmers' Market from June through September, and a demonstration garden at the downtown Community Garden where they hosted a Q&A session throughout the summer. A Klamath County Master Gardener also enrolled as an Expert on the online OSU AaE program.

Lane County: Master Gardeners continue to support the OSU/Lane County Extension office providing many outreach activities throughout the county. The loss of county funding in 2010 resulted in the loss of most other Extension programs in Lane County. However, this did not deter the Master Gardeners. The OSU/Lane County office moved at the end of 2010. The new address and phone numbers posed a huge challenge to getting the word out that the MG program was still going strong in 2011. MGs jumped in to help get the word out. OSU Extension faculty member, Ross Penhalegon, engages the media as often as possible about Master Gardener program activities. The media contacts Ross weekly. The MGs work with Ross to present many trainings throughout the county including, compost, worm bin, pruning, sustainable landscape, adaptive gardening, and general gardening talks as requested.

Lincoln County: The Lincoln County Master Gardener transitioned from having Sam Angima as their Program coordinator to a position in Extension administration. Master Gardener class coordinators and the hospitality team were essential for keeping the program moving forward during this transition. The Lincoln County Master Gardener Association continues to be very supportive of the Lincoln County Master Gardener Program, by donating funds raised from their plant sale and other fundraising efforts, as well as via in kind donations. Lincoln County was the site for the 2011 Mini-College, marking the first time for many years that the annual Gardeners Mini-College was held outside of the campus of Oregon State University. The Lincoln County Master Gardener Association offered two half scholarships for the Master Gardener basic training class, and two scholarships for Master Gardeners to attend the 2011 Mini-College. The program has endeavored to expand its presence throughout the county, and currently maintains two demonstration gardens, one demonstration/community garden, and the school garden at Yaquina Bay Lighthouse, which is tended in cooperation with the students at Sam Case Elementary school. Master Gardeners also participate in plant clinics at four Farmers Markets throughout the county. The Lincoln County Master Gardeners continue to expand community partnerships with Oregon State Parks, Presbytery of the Cascades and Yachats Presbytery, Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses, various Chambers of Commerce in our county, Lincoln County Commissioners, Ford Foundation, Youth in Action group, Oregon Coast Community College north and south campuses and more.

Linn County: Linn County Master Gardeners were able to host plant clinics at more farmer's markets in the year 2011. This activity is a great way to meet new people that are interested in gardening and let them know more about the Master Gardener program and OSU Extension. Each market generates at least 20 direct public contacts. The garden tour was very successful again in 2011. Many community members attend this event. The Master Gardeners had their first plant sale this year at the Linn Co. fairgrounds with the hopes of doing a bigger and more organized sale in 2012. The Linn County Master Gardeners also hosted an OMGA Board meeting and received positive feedback about the event.

Marion County: Master Gardener volunteers staff the Home Gardener help line in the Extension office throughout the year and in 2011 served 2,173 clients in Marion County. They also staff clinics at various County venues throughout the year including Salem Saturday Market, the Yard, Garden and Patio Show, Earth Day, Agfest and the State Fair. They sponsor a school education program that in 2011 provided horticultural education on seed growing in 19 Salem-Keizer classrooms, reaching over 500 first-graders. The Master Gardeners also present "bug classes" to area schools including Turner Elementary, Forest Ridge Elementary, the Orego Green Schools Summit and the Oregon Garden Home School day, reaching approximately 1400 adults and kids total. The Master Gardeners continue to develop the Marion Garden, their 1.75 acre demonstration garden behind the Extension office, utilizing the space for public workshops on tree fruit pruning, ornamental pruning and beneficial insects. Master Gardeners continue to offer presentations weekly on KBZY 1490 radio and also in 2011 provided speakers to 12 area organizations, schools and also to the WIC program WIC-o-rama, reaching a total of 759 clientele

Polk County: The Polk County Master Gardeners donated almost 7,000 hours of volunteer time in 2011, making almost 2000 public contacts at various venues. The 18 new trainees from the class of 2011 completed over 1,000 hours of payback, with 13 graduates. Public events included presentations by local gardening experts at monthly Chapter Meetings and the renowned Fall Fling, a day-long series of presentations by local and nationally-renowned gardening personalities. This year's keynote speaker was Cisco Morris of "Gardening with Ciscoe". The primary fundraising event, the annual Plant Sale attracted over 1,000 people on May 7th & 8th. Funds from this event

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enabled the Master Gardeners to award two scholarships of \$2,300 each to students participating in the Horticulture program at Oregon State University. They also donated \$200 each to five local libraries for a total of \$1,000. Each donation was split evenly between adult and children garden-related books. Other donations were made for 4H/Open Class County Fair Awards and the Oregon Master Gardener Association. The funds are also used for reference books for the plant clinic and office libraries; OSU lab fees for clients; and presentation equipment for the Master Gardener Training, chapter meetings and the Fall Fling.

Portland Metro Area: In 2011, we trained 175 new volunteers and supported an additional 730 active volunteers. • Metro area Master Gardener Volunteers contributed 44,000 hours of volunteer service for OSU Extension Service in 2011, reaching 36,025 Oregonians through phone and other plant clinics and contacted an additional 14,000 people at events. • Master Gardener food gardens donated 12,500 pounds of produce to the community. • In 2009, we created inter-agency agreement with West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District providing office space for Master Gardeners in Multnomah County. • Master Gardeners produce many internal training opportunities to increase organizational capacity in plant problem diagnostics including Master Gardener Clinic Video Series. This educational material has been used by 3 other MG programs in Oregon to help support their training. • Ten Minute University, an educational program organized and instructed by Master Gardeners, provided short-format learning opportunities for 821 Oregonians through 71 presentations in 2010 at farmers' markets and other venues. • We maintain many productive relationships with various community partners to deliver horticultural education to the general public including: Oregon Zoo, Metro, International Rose Test Garden, Pittock Mansion, and more.

Tillamook County: During 2011 Tillamook County OSU Master Gardeners helped people to learn more about gardening in a sustainable manner, thus helping people to reduce their environmental impact. They helped increase awareness of local hunger issues, helped people raise their own food in community gardens, and they donated funds and food to local food banks both as an organization and individually. They helped educate children, inmates, retired people and other community members through a wide array of programs. They helped educate their own members by providing educational programs and providing scholarships for the Master Gardener training and OSU Master Gardener Mini-College, and they awarded two college scholarships to young people studying agriculture or horticulture. They helped to beautify their communities by helping to design and develop landscape projects. They pruned people's yards who could not afford to have it done, and they helped at numerous community work days for Habitat for Humanity and other non-profit groups. They taught people how to recycle and compost to reduce the amount trash generated. And they serve on a wide array of civic-minded committees, sometimes providing the leadership, but usually providing the able hands to do the work.

Umatilla County: The Umatilla Master Gardeners continued to work in the River, Tower and Hill community gardens, as well as on the demonstration garden at the Hermiston Research and Extension Center. In addition, a Tower Garden educational series was presented at the public library. Other community events included: Spring into Summer, April PGG Spring Spectacular, Church of God Altruza Bazaar, November Pendleton Farmer's Market, May to October Planting Demonstration, Tomato Tasting Hermiston Farmer's Market, 3 Saturdays D & B Plant Clinic, Alt. Ed. Greenhouse Project Community Demo Days.

Union County: Our Master Gardener volunteers and trainees spent a lot of time in the community garden in 2011. They increased the number of planting beds, improved the water system (3 spigots instead of one), and planted a variety of perennial plants to enhance the appearance of the garden. Volunteers also worked on individual projects around the community including maintaining the

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plantings around the animal shelter, sprucing up one of our “pocket” parks, building planting beds at the community arts center, assisting with the high school plant sale, and landscaping the front of the OSU Extension Office. Several of our volunteers were excellent plant clinic participants and helped address the variety of questions and concerns that were presented at the Extension office. Four OSU extension agents or specialists instructed classes for us (berries & grapes, fruit tree management, plant pathology, weed Mgt.& pesticides), two EOU professors taught classes (botany, soils) other experts taught entomology, plant id, composting, pruning, and beekeeping.

Wasco County: The Dalles Imagination Garden (The DIG) is a partnership between the Wasco County Master Gardener Association, North Wasco County School District 21, and the Wasco County OSU Extension Service, Horticulture, 4-H and FCH program areas. The mission is to use sustainable gardening to engage youth in the development of healthy lifestyle habits. We plan to accomplish this through the involvement of youth in the planning, design, development, and continual care and maintenance of the children's educational garden. The garden design creates a colorful, engaging, user-friendly space that stimulates the interest and imagination of children and their families. The garden offers opportunities to involve area youth in skills-building activities including design and construction, as well as providing education on plant and soil science, nutrition, food preparation, and food preservation. We continue to work with the youth at NORCOR (the regional jail located in The Dalles). Not only do they participate in The Seeds and Soils classes that we conduct but Master Gardeners go to NORCOR twice per week to work in the greenhouse alongside the incarcerated youth. Both the youth and the Master Gardeners look forward to this activity. The plants grown in the greenhouse are sold to the public as a fund raiser for the Master Gardeners.

Yamhill County: The master gardeners in Yamhill County continued to be part of several major programs. Here are the highlights. 1. The Mentor Program. Yamhill County has now been offering a mentor program for new class members for 10 year. This is mostly organized by veteran master gardeners with approval from the MG coordinator and is helping to increase activities and retention for new class members. 2. The community garden in cooperation with the Salvation Army continues to be a major public service. It includes donations to the Salvation Army food pantry (5,000 pounds in 2011), assisting community members, including low-income families, with gardening plots, raising flowers to sell to support the activities of the food pantry, and a children's program for a 4-H group organized by one of the family members and a master gardener. 3. The city of Newberg WaterWise garden and the cooperative effort of the master gardeners and Newberg Public Works with the Newberg High School students continues to be a huge success. The cooperation has more than quadrupled high school participation in horticulture class in the past four years, leading to more students from the county wanting to make horticulture a profession. The garden officially opened in 2011 and the garden and program with the high school were featured in the Powered By Orange Tour stop for Yamhill County.

3. Media Outreach

Newspaper, TV, Radio: In 2011 outreach via newspaper, television and radio outlets is estimated to have generated an additional **3,869,600 public contacts**. This number is based upon the number of newspaper articles reported by Master Gardener programs across the state (where I roughly estimated a readership of 5000 per article), TV interviews (with an estimated viewership of 10,000 per TV spot), and radio spots or radio shows (with an estimated listenership of 200 per radio spot). These are extremely conservative estimates, considering that most of these newspaper columns, tv and radio spots are also accessible via the internet. In addition, many of these media outreach efforts are regular features that have generated a faithful following. A sample of these regular spots include

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Ross Penhallegon’s regular ‘[In the Garden](#)’ television spots on [KEZI](#), Jackson County Master Gardeners’ regular television features on ‘[Scott’s Garden on KDRV](#)’, the Central Oregon Master Gardeners’ regular appearances on the cable television show ‘Good Morning Central Oregon’, Chip Bubl’s weekly ‘[The Garden Spot](#)’ radio program on [KOHI](#) and Neil Bell’s weekly ‘Master Gardeners’ Question of the Week’ column in the Statesman Journal.

Table 4. OSU Master Gardener: Volunteer Service and Public Contacts

County	# of Newspaper Articles	# of TV spots	# of Radio spots	Estimated Public Contacts Via Media Outreach
Baker	8	0	0	40,000
Benton	15	0	0	75,000
Central Oregon*	2	24	0	250,000
Clatsop	14	0	50	80,000
Columbia	50	0	52	260,400
Coos	42	2	2	230,400
Curry	27	0	3	135,600
Douglas	6	5	14	82,800
Grant	0	0	0	0
Hood River	5	0	7	26,400
Jackson	12	50	2	560,400
Josephine	12	8	9	141,800
Klamath	8	0	0	40,000
Lane	49	80	16	1,048,200
Lincoln	15	0	20	79,000
Linn	25	0	0	125,000
Marion	52	0	52	270,400
Portland Metro***	2	0	0	10,000
Polk	15	0	0	75,000
Tillamook	48	0	54	250,800
Umatilla	6	1	3	40,600
Union	1	0	0	5,000
Wasco	5	0	14	27,800
Yamhill	3	0	0	15,000
Statewide	0	0	0	0
TOTAL or MEAN ± SE	422	170	298	3,869,600

Other Source of Media Outreach: In addition to newspaper, television and radio spots, all county Master Gardener Programs have websites advertising their educational programs, and many have social media pages. Currently, 12 Master Gardener Programs have Facebook pages, 4 have Twitter pages, 2 have blogs and have YouTube accounts. Fifteen Master Gardener Programs participate in eXtension’s Ask an Expert service, where faculty members and advanced Master Gardeners receive and reply to the public’s gardening questions, via the OSU Extension Ask an Expert widget.

4. Extramural Funding

In 2011, the Master Gardener Program received at least **\$298,274 in extramural funding**. The source of these funds came from cash and in-kind donations from Master Gardener Associations (\$56,800), revenue from class fees (\$143,802) and grants in support of Master Gardener programming (\$58,384). A breakdown of funds, by county, can be found in Table 4.

5. Summary

The OSU Master Gardener program had another year of successes and innovations in 2011. 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 (**\$4,191,916.62** value of volunteer service and **\$298,274** in extramural funding), public contacts (**210,739** people worked with a Master Gardener in plant clinic or attended a Master Gardener educational program), media exposure (**3,869,600 additional public contacts** via TV, newspaper and radio alone), the number of individuals who elect to become a Master Gardener (**842 new trainees, of which 67% completed their service practicum**) or the number of individuals who elect to remain active in the program (**3,354 veteran Master Gardeners, of which 55% recertified in 2011**) – 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 **4,143 Master Gardener volunteers** who **donated a combined total of 192,378 hours to the program**. Also essential to the success of the program are the **24 Master Gardener Associations that contributed a combined total of \$56,800 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.

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Table 4. Funding and fiscal support provided by the Master Gardener Associations, generated from fee-based classes and grants and received from sources in 2011.

County	Financial Support from Master Gardener Associations (US\$)		Revenue Generated from Fees (US\$)		Grants Received in Support of Programming (US\$)		Other Funds Received (US\$)	Total (US\$)
	Cash Donations	In-Kind Donations	Master Gardener Training	Community Classes	Internal Grants	External Grants		
Baker	NA	NA	\$960	\$240				\$1,200
Benton		\$400						\$400
Central Oregon*	\$1,350		\$7150			450		\$8,950
Clatsop	\$1,550		\$810		\$100			\$2,460
Columbia	\$2,100		\$900	\$300				\$3,300
Coos			\$2,400	\$2750				\$5,150
Curry	\$425		\$1,625	\$130				\$2,180
Douglas	\$750	\$2,250	\$6,750	\$2,000			\$24,000	\$35,750
Hood River	\$11,000		\$4,200					\$15,200
Grant	NA	NA					\$1,360	\$1,360
Jackson								
Josephine								
Klamath	\$1,375		\$3,944					\$5,319
Lane	\$15,000	\$2,759	\$12,032	\$4706		\$46,034		\$80,531
Lincoln	\$2,500	500	\$2,925		\$700	\$7,600		\$14,225
Linn	\$1,000		\$1,520	\$500				\$3,020
Marion	\$800		\$4,000					\$4,800
Metro**	\$5,000		\$60,000				†\$18,000	\$65,000
Polk			\$1,260					\$1,260
Tillamook	\$966	\$500	\$1,600	\$575				\$3,641
Umatilla								
Union	NA	NA					\$2,377	\$2,377
Wasco	\$2,000		\$2,800			\$3,500	††\$13,500	\$8,300
Yamhill	\$1,200		\$1,800	\$350				\$3,350
Statewide***	\$3,375		\$27,126					\$30,501
TOTALS	\$50,391	\$6,409	\$143,802	\$11,551	\$800	\$57,584	\$27,737	\$298,274

NA: Baker, Grant 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.

***Master Gardener trainings delivered online.

†Extension district funds

††cash donations to support the Dalles Imagination Garden