

October 2020



THE GRAPEVINE

OSU - Columbia County Master Gardener Program

505 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens OR 97051

Phone: 503-397-3462

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/master-gardener-volunteer-program>

OMGA Newsletter: <https://omga.org/newsletter/>

It has been decided to have a newsletter dedicated to just our membership and local organization. This newsletter will be published once a month and will be edited by the President of the Columbia County Master Gardener's Association and the Master Gardener Program Coordinator. Please send any news items, events, articles, pictures, etc. to Sonia @ Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu by the 25th of every month.

The Past President's Corner

Greetings Columbia County Master Gardener Association Members,

We begin another month in isolation and I hope your gardening efforts have been fruitful. I have more apples and pears than usual but my tomatoes have not done as well as I would like. At the Demo Garden the tomato plants we put in are doing well but the tomatoes are not ripening as quickly as we would like so it looks like what I am seeing is not all my fault.

The Executive Committee has decided to try and get a virtual Association Meeting going on October 22, at 6:30 PM. We are trying to get a speaker for a presentation. Keep an eye out in your email for details as to how to join. It will be a Zoom meeting and since we will be using the OSU Extension Office Zoom account we will not be limited to 30 minutes as free Zoom calls are. It has been a while since we have tried to meet but at least we will have something for you. If all goes well we also have tentative plans for Chapter meetings in November and December as well. Those meetings would be held on November 19 at 6:30 PM and December 17 at 6:30 PM. So watch this space for future developments.

Continued on next page...

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu



Upcoming Events

Oct 22 – via video conference

Chapter Meeting with Guest Speaker 6:30 pm, email invitation to follow

Oct 26th – 30th

Master Gardener Volunteer Appreciation Week! Thank you Dedicated Volunteers!

Still Accepting Membership Dues!

\$10 annually, payable to CCMGA, mail to your Treasurer, Brooke McClain

Past Issues of the Grapevine [HERE](#)

Past Issues of the Country Living [HERE](#)

Link to the OSU Online Resources and Publications - Searchable Directory:

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/>



[Columbia County Master Gardeners Association](#)

2020 CCMGA Executive Committee

- Sandy Newman, President
- Chuck Petersen, Past President
- VACANT, Vice President
- VACANT, Secretary
- Brooke McClain, Treasurer
- LaVina Patterson, Historian
- Rachel Krager, OMGA Rep.
- VACANT, OMGA Alt-Rep.

Continued from page 1...

The Demo Garden is still going as the vegetables we planted are still producing and LaVina has been taking in produce to the Food Bank every week. I am not sure how much we have donated but it is several hundred pounds. Some has been vegetables but the majority has been apples and grapes. From now on it will be only the vegetables we have planted. In the coming weeks if you can help out at the Demo Garden it would be greatly appreciated as we are getting ready to shut down for the winter and any help would be gratefully accepted. (* see pages 4-5 for more details)

It has been a rocky year (though only seven months) and I hope next year is better, but it still looks like we have a lot more to slog through before we see real light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully it will be sunlight not a train coming though.

~ Until next time remember to keep it dirty, Chuck Petersen, Past President, CCMGA

**** Call for Self-Nomination for the CCMGA Secretary Position!**

We are urgently looking for a willing volunteer to fill the recently vacant CCMGA Secretary role. Thank you to Bree Riggs for stepping up earlier this year to fill this needed position.

Please email Sonia Reagan with your interest at Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu

**** Call for Self-Nomination for the OMGA *Alternate* Representative Position!**

We are still looking for a willing volunteer to fill the OMGA Alternate position. Thank you to Rachel Krager for stepping up to fill the OMGA Representative Role.

<https://omga.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/h.Reps-Introductory-Information-for-Handbook.pdf>

For a copy of the Guidelines & Expectations for the OMGA Alternate Representative, please email Sonia Reagan at Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu

**** Call for Self-Nomination for the CCMGA Vice-President Position!**

We are seeking a willing volunteer to fill the vacant CCMGA Vice-President role. Thank you to Sandy Newman for stepping up to fill the role of President recently.

Please email Sonia Reagan with your interest at Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu



Call for Board officers for the Home Orchard Society

Submitted by Brooke McClain

** Note from Sonia: If you are a member of the HOS, please consider applying to fill a Board officer role, as their organization seems to be in peril. As you read the below letter to HOS members, please keep in mind that your own CCMGA organization may be in this same position very soon if our volunteers do not step into leadership roles and fill the necessary Board officer positions.*

September 19, 2020

Dear Home Orchard Society Member,

The past several years have seen a steady decline in HOS members willing to take on the responsibility as Board officers and Committee chairpersons. Also, Covid-19 has caused the cancellation of all of our classes and events this year. As of December 2020, the Board will only have 2 of 9 positions filled. A decision must be made regarding the future of HOS. Without the strength of an active working Board, as well as staunch member support, HOS cannot continue--and with sadness will close on December 31, 2020.

Since 1975, Home Orchard Society has been teaching "how to grow good fruit at home". We host a variety of events throughout the year. In the early spring, HOS offers pruning and grafting classes. The Fruit Propagation Fair follows in March – providing a diverse selection of scion wood, rootstocks, custom tree grafting, lectures, and a wide selection of plants and books for sale. In August, we gather for our summer potluck and host a bud grafting workshop. The All About Fruit Show follows in October. Hundreds of diverse fruits can be tasted, varieties identified, and orchard related lectures offered. Each fair requires months of preparation by both the Board and active member volunteers. Planning and organization is necessary throughout the year in order to fulfill all of our obligations.

Every non-profit must have an active Board of Directors, Officers, and volunteer members to support their operations throughout the year. Without this structure, HOS cannot continue. Listed below are the openings. If you are interested in serving, please enter your name by one of the positions. Provide your mailing address, phone number and email address at the bottom of the page. Also, please attach a short biography about yourself. Mail this completed letter to Home Orchard Society, P. O. Box 12, Molalla, OR 97038. You may also submit via email: hoselection2021@homeorchardsociety.org. This letter must be returned by Oct. 16, 2020, so a formal ballot can be submitted to members. Thank you.

President _____

Vice-President _____

Secretary _____

Director _____ Director _____

Director _____ Director _____

Your Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Volunteer Activities Winding Down in the Demonstration Garden!

Volunteer activity resumed in the Columbia County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at the fairgrounds in mid-July, and though winding down for the season, there are still a few volunteer days left. Several of you have completed the necessary steps to resume volunteering – thank you!

Here is how you may participate:

- Remember: ALL volunteer hours and re-certification requirements (for new trainees as well as active MGs) have been rolled over to next year, so you do not need to feel obligated to resume your volunteer work.
- There are **several specific steps** that you will need to take before your volunteer activity may resume.
- Keep in mind that any/all of this is subject to change very quickly, as has been the case with our program for the last 5 months, and updates will be promptly provided by email.
- **The remaining work days have been designated as Mondays from 10am-2pm until the garden closes in the fall. However, please feel free to come for a shorter duration if you wish**, even if just a half hour of your time... no need to work the full 4 hours, but Mondays are when the garden is open and available. Because our resumption plan and workday hours had to be cleared with the fairgrounds board, these are presently the only times to work in the garden.
- Remember to sign up ahead of time for a volunteer shift by emailing or calling LaVina or Sonia – thank you!

Below are the steps that a MG Volunteer needs to take before they are ready to resume work in the demonstration garden. Please keep in mind that because we are a program within Oregon State University, we are obligated to follow [OSU's resumption plan](#), and the following requirements are not coming directly from Chip nor I, though we are tasked with ensuring they are followed. We are also working collaboratively with the fairgrounds board and must respect their policies. In this plan, we're looking to resume activities in ways that limit risk of illness to volunteers, faculty, staff, and our community.

These are the steps to take to resume volunteer activity:

- There is a [Guidance Document](#) to review and sign.
- Every year, MG volunteers must complete the [Conditions of Volunteer Service](#) for the coordinator to have on file (as many of you already have done for 2020).
- This year, and going forward, all active MG volunteers must annually complete the [Code of Conduct](#) agreement.
- All active MG volunteers must complete **OSU's Covid Awareness** training online before returning to work in the garden. Sonia will need verification of this important step before access to the garden may be granted - OSU sends out a list of volunteers who have completed training periodically, or you may print/scan your completion certificate to Sonia. Volunteers can sign up for and complete the training online, at this link: <https://envisionextension.thinkific.com/enrollments>.
- Because of these requirements, the demonstration garden will only be accessible to active volunteers who have completed all of the above steps. Please do not invite non-MG volunteers, friends or family to join you in your work efforts.

- There are multiple ways to complete the required paperwork:
 - **(preferred method)** email/call Sonia and she can send you digital copies to sign online,
 - print, sign and mail to the office, or hand deliver to the dropbox outside the extension office,
 - OR print, sign and scan by email to Sonia.

- Once you have completed the above steps:
 - email Sonia or LaVina and/or call to **sign up** for a work day;
 - arrive at the demonstration garden and wear a face-covering;
 - wash your hands each time upon entering the garden (we will provide a handwashing station);
 - sign-in for contact tracing purposes;
 - check with the demo garden coordinator, LaVina, for a task to complete;
 - be prepared to use your own labeled tools (preferred method), or to sanitize shared tools after use (sanitizer provided);
 - follow social distancing guidelines;
 - adhere to the posted signage for policies and safety precautions at the garden.

From the guidance document, “Taking steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infections (or any other spread of disease) at OSU is a shared responsibility. Every member of our community – including you – must do their part. This means adhering to national, state, local health, and university guidelines and requirements.”

Please ask if you have any questions! ~ Sonia Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu 503-397-3462 or 503-880-6263

Scappoose Community Garden Welcomes Volunteers

By Gloria Van Lydegraf

The Scappoose Community Garden is thriving, and welcomes volunteers every Monday and Thursday morning starting at 10 am. During the heat of the summer, volunteer work parties have been starting at 8:00 am, but with the cooler fall temperatures we will be going back to the official starting time of 10:00 am. Garden Coordinator Judy Thompson states, “The Monday and Thursday work days go pretty



much year round depending on the weather. We start early when it is too hot to last til noon. Once volunteers know what needs done, they can come anytime that is convenient for them.”

“I am proud of our garden and think it is both beautiful and a fun place to volunteer if you like getting your hands in the dirt. Every year we learn from what we plant, what goes wrong and what tastes the best. I continue to learn through visiting with the other volunteers and trying new techniques and new vegetables each year. It's a good place to spend your time.”

The Scappoose Community Garden is owned and operated by The Scappoose Community & Senior Center, a non-profit owned by its members. People can purchase produce from the garden 10am til noon Monday and Thursday. All sales are by donation - we have no set prices. The money goes to the center but is put into a separate account which supports the garden.



The Community Garden provides produce to the kitchen of the Community Center for meals served there. Produce also goes to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank in Scappoose. If we have excess above that, we take it to the bread store, which is also owned by The Community Center. Ms Thompson reports, “Last year we gave some produce to Community Meals at the Lutheran church in St. Helens but that has also been cancelled this year due to COVID. “

”Another big piece we are missing this year is the Seed to Supper

program. Last year we had two classes - daytime and evening. The center provides a classroom and the students come out to the garden for projects. We let them have a portion of a raised bed to plant anything they want. This provides more opportunity and volunteer hours to teach and assist with the classes. We love to use our garden as a teaching tool. We also hope they will come back and volunteer when they complete the class.”

The Community Garden is located next to The Community Center at 33342 SW Meadow Drive in Scappoose. For more information, contact: Judy Thompson 503-543-2080 judy33241@centurytel.net

Oregon Master Gardener Association - President's 3rd Quarter Report

Submitted by our OMGA Representative, Rachel Krager

From Chris Rusch, OMGA President: “Thanks to all who participated in our OMGA Quarterly meeting on September 18th via Zoom. We had over 30 participants! We opened the meeting by recognizing our many members that have been affected by the horrific wildfires affecting Oregon. Many of us have family and friends who lost everything in these fires. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected.

We had an informative update from Gail regarding our Master Gardener activities, including supporting those affected by wildfires, a few new hires (yippee!!), and announced “Master Gardener Week” scheduled for October 26-29. Check later for details. Gail and her staff are developing an on-line, virtual MG training for 2021 that will be available to all our MG’s for recertification and for our new recruits. In addition, Gail announced the State Master Gardener of the Year. Congratulations to Barbara Davidson of Jackson County! Gail announced the State “Behind the Scenes” Master Gardener of the Year. Congratulation to Michael O’Loughlin of Yamhill County!

Also we discussed the dilemma of OMGA recruitment. As most of you know we are still facing some vacancies on our Executive Board and other important “heads of committees” positions. Most notable, our President Elect position remains vacant. Our Gardener’s Pen Newsletter needs a new editor. If we want to remain relevant and viable as an organization, we need to be able to have a strong executive board to keep up with the needs of our organization. Please contact me if you are available to serve.

Sue and Eric and their hard-working committee have put together an excellent program to look forward to for mini-college in 2021, so make sure to MARK YOUR CALENDARS! At this meeting we agreed to have a Virtual Mini-College in 2021 due to these uncertain times. We are very excited to be able to reach more Oregon gardeners using this venue. Stay tuned as details are developed.

The remainder of our Quarterly meetings this year will be via Zoom. Our 4th Quarterly meeting on will be November 6 at 1:30. Our Annual Retreat will be held December 1. Mark your Calendars for these important meetings. All are welcome.

We covered many other important topics. Please look for our minutes and OMGA Quarterly Reports on our website soon. I have attached the results of our “State of our Master Gardeners” questionnaire results. Thanks for all who participated.

Thank you everyone for your patience and support. Take care of each other.” ~ *Chris Rusch*

OMGA Questionnaire Results

To help Master Gardener Chapters come up with the best solutions in moving forward in re-opening and modifying our programs in compliance with the OSU Covid-19 restrictions, it would be great to get a view into what is going on with all the Chapters in our state. In response, OMGA sent out a questionnaire and asked Chapters to take the time to answer these few questions. Here are the results as of September 1, 2020.

15 Chapters Responded *(Sonia notes that since these results came out, decisions have been made re: 2021 – see pg. 9)*

1. Is your Extension Office open? 3 No; 10 Yes; 2 Yes, but not open to MGs
2. Is your Plant Clinic open? What are your protocols? 12 No, but operating remotely; 1 No; 2 yes, using OSU recommended protocols.
3. Are you having Chapter meetings? What is the format? Zoom, conference call, outside face to face?
1 Yes, face to face outside; 12 Yes, via Zoom; 1 Yes, via Zoom but board only; 1 not meeting
4. Are you able to work in your Demonstration Gardens and greenhouses? What are your protocols?
13 Yes, using OSU protocols; 2 No
5. Have you modified your “pay-back” hour requirements for your new class of 2020? What are your modifications like? 9 deferred to next year; 6 reduced
6. Are you making plans for 2021 new class? Reduced size? On-line?
6 Yes, online; 2 Yes in person (one reduced class size); 7 no new class for 2021, concentrating on offering recertification training and the 2020 class.

Thank you to everyone for taking the time to briefly answering these questions. We can use the responses as discussion for planning our 2021 year. ~ Chris Rusch, OMGA President, crusch@hughes.net, 541-825-3837

How does 2020 effect my standing as an OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer and what do I need to do to continue as one in 2021?

Update provided by Gail Langellotto, Statewide MG Program Coordinator

1. **Master Gardener Volunteers remain active in the program into 2021, no matter the number of educational or volunteer service hours accrued.** We encourage continuing Master Gardeners to pursue opportunities to complete their continuing education hours, as circumstances allow. Please report your 2020 volunteer service hours and continuing education hours using your program’s volunteer reporting system. [Remember that reading relevant OSU Extension publications can be applied to continuing education requirements.](#)
2. **Master Gardener Volunteers who were certified in 2019 or 2020 (meaning that they completed required educational and volunteer service hours) can carry over their certification to 2021, and are eligible to receive recertification stickers for their badge.** Current Master Gardener certification is required to work in the plant clinic, teach workshops, or write articles on behalf of OSU.

3. **Master Gardener Volunteers are eligible for the 2021 training program, which will be focused on skills building for current Master Gardeners.** This includes 2020 students and will be offered at no charge.



HOW DOES 2020 EFFECT MY STANDING AS AN OSU EXTENSION VOLUNTEER?



→ Master Gardeners remain active in the program into 2021, no matter the number of educational or volunteer service hours accrued.

We encourage continuing Master Gardeners to pursue opportunities to complete their continuing education hours, as circumstances allow. Please report your 2020 volunteer service hours and continuing education hours using your program's volunteer reporting system. Remember that reading relevant OSU Extension publications can be applied to continuing education requirements.

→ Master Gardeners who were certified in 2019 or 2020 (meaning that they completed required educational and volunteer service hours) can carry over their certification to 2021 and are eligible to receive recertification stickers for their badge.

Current Master Gardener certification is required to work in the plant clinic, teach workshops, or write articles on behalf of OSU.

→ Master Gardeners are eligible for the 2021 training program, which will be focused on skills building for current Master Gardeners.

This includes 2020 students and will be offered at no charge.

What now?

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO CONTINUE AS A MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER IN 2021?

- Complete OSU's required 'Conditions of Volunteer Service' form
- Complete 10 hours of continuing education*
- Complete 20 hours of volunteer service*

* If limited volunteer activities are available in 2021, as a result of COVID or other factors, this requirement may be suspended.

Though there will be no new cohorts of Master Gardener Volunteers trained in 2021 across the state, OSU Extension Service and the Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinators will strive to provide our volunteers as well as our community members with relevant, engaging and meaningful continuing education and training opportunities. ~ Sonia Reagan

**** Stay in Touch! **** Be sure to follow the CCMGA [Facebook](#) page and the online [Blog!](#)

October 26-30th, 2020 Celebrate Master Gardener Week!



In a year when we were needed more than ever, Oregon’s Master Gardeners

rose to the multiple challenges of 2020 in simply amazing ways. It’s time to celebrate our accomplishments! Join online for a film festival, statewide address, and beneficial insect trivia, and connect with other Master Gardeners across the state during this weeklong celebration and recognition. Registration for Master Gardeners will be opening on October 19th.



*Volunteers are just ordinary people with extraordinary hearts. They offer the **gift** of their **time** to teach, to listen, to help, to build, to grow, and to learn. They expect no pay, yet the **value** of their work knows no limit. They know the unexpected **joy** of a simple kind gesture, they plant tiny seeds of **inspiration** in countless lives. Volunteers are just ordinary people who reach out to others, and together make a **difference** that lasts a lifetime.*

*To each and every one of our Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers: I appreciate **YOU!** ~ Sonia Reagan*