



Spring 2024



OUR ROOTS: EXTENSION SERVICE AND THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Debbie Carroll

You may be surprised to learn that the history of the Master Gardener™ Program extends back into the 19th century. The land grant university system was signed into law by Abraham Lincoln in 1862, just one year into the Civil War. It was a then radical idea: government land-grants to support public education for the working class. The act set aside public lands for the establishment of universities with emphasis on agriculture, mechanical arts, military tactics, and practical, scientific education.

By the early 1900s, most states had established their universities (Oregon State University in 1868) and were pioneering new techniques and methods, primarily related to agriculture production. The desire to extend this knowledge to a broader population so it could be applied in the real world led to the creation of Cooperative Extension Service in 1914. Individual counties established extension (farm) agents whose mission was to disseminate the university advancements to rural communities where they could be put into practice.

There was resistance in many rural areas to the so-called “book farmers” from the universities. Such sentiment was depicted by Hank Kimball, the bumbling farm agent featured in the 1960s television sitcom, *Green Acres* (to take a trip down memory lane click here: <https://youtu.be/Vnm4d55LxRE>).

Through time, the focus of Extension was modified to reach its targeted audiences and to better reflect the times. Early resistance to new methods prompted outreach to younger generations. It



was recognized that youth may be more receptive to new technologies, and Extension formed “Corn Clubs” for boys, and “Tomato Clubs” and “Canning Clubs” for girls. These were the early forerunners of the modern 4-H program.

Fast forward to 1971. Two Extension agents assigned to major metropolitan areas in Washington State became overwhelmed by the public demand for information about home gardening and urban plant problems. Initially, they attempted to remedy the burden by getting information out via mass media, but these efforts simply made more people aware that Extension was a

source of free and reliable information, and the demand increased. This ultimately led to the creation of the Master Gardener Program. The concept was to recruit individuals to receive university-level training at relatively low cost, who would then be



called upon as volunteers to fulfill the public demand for home garden and plant-related information. There are now active Master Gardeners in all 50 states, with more than 95,000 MG’s nationwide, providing over 5,000,000 hours of volunteer service annually.

Our Curry County Master Gardener volunteers are part of a long legacy and a large contingency of dedicated individuals with the mission to “Cultivate resilient and healthy communities throughout Oregon through sustainable horticulture education and gardening projects that are rooted in science and that are supported by OSU Extension volunteers.” May we always do better than Hank Kimball

Upcoming Events and Training

April 14: Earth Day at The Curry Library (Gold Beach)

Master Gardener volunteers will be joining the festivities with two activities. We’ll be giving kids seeds in origami seed packets and encouraging them to plant those seeds with a special person in their life. We will also be refurbishing one of the planted areas at the library. This is a wonderful opportunity for Master Gardener volunteers to demonstrate how to plant shrubs and to talk with the community about their sustainable gardening



questions. Contact Julia Bott for more information at jbott@batnet.com.

May 11: CCMGA Annual Plant Sale

Our Annual Plant Sale is approaching FAST! The sale, on Saturday, May 11th, is a wonderful opportunity to pick up plants and vegetable starts for your Spring garden.

This is our main fundraiser and supports Curry County Master Gardener programs throughout the year. These funds support the school gardens in Brookings, Gold



Beach, and Port Orford, as well as saving funds to build a new teaching greenhouse and demonstration garden to provide classes for our community. Last year's fundraiser was a huge success.

Help with the sale set-up is needed on May 10th. Additionally, prior to the Plant Sale, there is still a lot to do at the greenhouse. Master Gardener volunteers who would like to help prepare plants, please drop by any Tuesday. We are there from 12 noon to 2 pm. For more information email Deb Carroll (dacarroll622@gmail.com) or Ali Van Otterloo (alivanotterloo@gmail.com).

April, May and June Training offered by OSU Extension Services: Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series for 2024

This year's Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up series is aimed at helping gardeners take a bite out of hunger.

This webinar series is available on Zoom and broadcast live on the OSU Extension Services's Facebook page. It is also available for later viewing. OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers receive 1 hour of Continuing Education Credit for each class.



- April 9: [Flavor, Savor: Growing Culinary Herbs](#)
- May 14: [Nowhere to Grow but Up: Gardening without Land](#)
- June 11: [What's Eating My Food?: Garden Pest Management](#)

For all 2024 webinars in the Level Up Series see:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2024>

Riley Creek School Garden Update

Lori Phelan

Riley Creek Elementary School in Gold Beach has a beautiful educational garden and hoop house where teachers bring students for lessons on horticulture and home gardening.

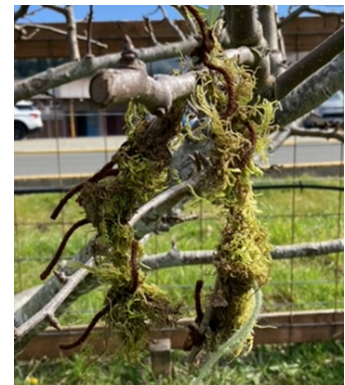


The Riley Creek MG group meets every Monday 12 pm - 2 pm for garden maintenance. There is always much to do in the Spring and many hands make light work. Come join us.

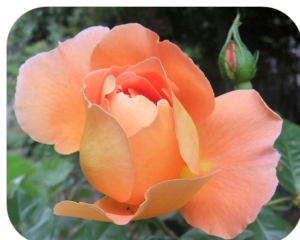


In February, a group of MG's met to plan for the year. We identified many sensory plants to add to the gardens. Hopefully these will be a hit with the kids. We're also adding an additional strawberry bed since they are always popular. Succulent and native plant beds are taking shape; a work in progress. The pollinator bed (added last year) is flowering and drawing bees already. This winter the green house has been used for hydroponic lettuce and broccoli. The usual vegetables and flowers are already waking up in the beds outside. The raspberries have been pruned, dug up and soil amended. Beds are being prepped for the Spring plants.

Worms are being lovingly fed by the kids weekly. The 5th grade class came out and planted sunflower seeds that have started to germinate. The 2nd grade class comes out regularly to write poems, draw pictures and scout for bugs. They graze and eat what is available. Fourth graders built Hummingbird wreaths (see photo).



The greenhouse is full of vegetable starts for the Annual Plant Sale. Looking forward to seeing you out there.



News From Your Co-Presidents

Debbie Carroll & Ginny Knox

We have had a great start to the 2024 year, with a fantastic group of new trainees. It's wonderful to see so many enthusiastic new faces, along with the "perennials". It's also brought us a nice group to include Port Orford and Pistol River with volunteer activities.

The biggest thing going on for our association these days is work on our new greenhouse. We are getting very close to being able to order the greenhouse and start construction in the next couple of months, and then the fun begins for real!

But before we get carried away with our dreams, we have our Plant Sale on Saturday, May 11th. "All hands on deck" is our hope and request. We really do need just about every volunteer to help us either get set up on May 10th and/or help during the sale on May 11th. Please sign up on the TeamUp calendar at <https://teamup.com/ksa7919614bd52037a>



We also are excited to announce that we have a new Education Program Assistant. Paul Maree (pictured) has accepted the position and will start in mid April. He brings a lot of experience working with volunteers, and he seems eager to get to know everyone. Again, we thank Julia for filling in for the past 6+ months!



Monthly Garden Tips

Sarah Mocas

It's April, and there are so many plants to put in the ground! If weather and soil conditions permit, start your marigolds and transplant hardy perennials. But, in general, hold off on moving trees and shrubs until fall rains begin. On the Oregon coast it's also a great time to start a vegetable garden. Among the vegetables you can plant, consider beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, slicing cucumbers, endive, leeks, lettuce, onion sets, peas and potatoes. While spring planting is fun, don't overlook garden maintenance and cleanup. Preparing garden soil for spring planting will support the growth of your plants. (See the April link below for details.)

In May, if the soil is consistently above 70 degrees, then it is time to plant tomatoes, squash, melons, peppers and eggplant. Using a soil thermometer will help you know when to plant. On the coast, other vegetables to plant are snap beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, pickling cucumbers, dill, kale, parsnips, pumpkins, summer and winter squash and sweet corn.

As the weather warms, pest monitoring and management also steps up. The Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices and is a useful source to guide you decisions on the use of both fertilizers and insecticides (link below).

Hopefully by June your planting is done! In your vegetable garden, some thinning and harvesting can begin which also encourages summer production. Now gardening maintenance and pest



management move to the top of the list. Per OSU's recommendations, learn to identify beneficial insects and try adding some plants, such as alyssum, Phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow and dill, to attract beneficial insects to your garden. The promotion of biological control agents (beneficial plants and predators) can be tried before using chemical controls. To start, consider physical and biological controls. Then try the least-toxic options such as, insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides. OSU recommends using chemical controls only when necessary and only after thoroughly reading pesticide labels. (See the June link.) Material is based on information from OSU Extension Services.



- **April** <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/techniques/april-garden-calendar>
- **May** <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/techniques/may-garden-calendar>
- **June** <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/techniques/june-garden-calendar>

News Briefs and Announcements

2024 Master Gardener Class Moves into Training Phase

Julia Bott

It was an exciting 2024 Master Gardener Training Course, in part to the very engaged class and in part to NOAA storm and flood warnings issued on three of our in-person class days. The other training days were bright and sunny and the students' willingness to be inside on a rare sunny day shows their commitment.



This class brings great geographical representation, including people from Brookings, Pistol River, Gold Beach, and from Port Orford. Youth garden programs are also getting a boost as the class includes the new-to-gardening horticulture teacher at Pacific High School and three Curry Watersheds Partnership Youth Education Program staff. In addition, many of the class members have signed up to help at the school gardens. Others are very interested in staffing plant clinics or providing hands-on education to adults and all eagerly looking forward to helping at the plant sale.

This class brings a variety of skills and lots of enthusiasm for the program; welcome to the 2024 CCMG Class! Photo Credit Cindy Myers

Welcome

- Paul Maree is the new Extension Education Program Assistant.
- Bethy Myers, Jen Nelson and Ma'yet join us from the Curry Watersheds Partnership. Bethy and Jen are with the Youth Education Program. You may meet them and their students in the school gardens. Ma'yet oversees this program as the Youth Education Program Coordinator. <https://www.currywatersheds.org/programs/>

Winter Seed Distributions

Three seed distributions were held in late February and March. In addition to getting seed, these were wonderful opportunities for visitors to ask Master Gardener volunteers gardening questions.

At the plant clinics, 12 MG volunteers answered many questions about gardening in general, as well as some specific inquiries about what was causing damage to people's plants. The plant clinics are always important as they meet the educational mission of the CCMGA.



Between Brookings, Gold Beach and Port Orford, over 100 people stopped by to pick up seeds. More than 1,000 seed packets were given away, benefiting more than 400 people.

Approximately 800 seed packets were left at the Port Orford and Brookings Libraries for further distribution; gardening books and tools are also available at the library. In addition, the Gold Beach Community Center distributed approximately 100 packets of seeds. Photo credit: Kim Foster

Curry County Master Gardeners Association Membership

BOARD MEETINGS are monthly on the 3rd Tuesday from 10:00 am to noon, at the OSU Extension Office, 2930 Ellensburg Avenue, Gold Beach OR.

Meeting minutes:

- [CCMGA Minutes 1-2024](#)
- [CCMGA Minutes 2-2024](#)



For information on applying to the 2025 MG program see <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/curry> or email currymg@oregonstate.edu

HOW TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON

Contact the Curry County Master Gardeners-OSU Extension office at 541 247 6672, or visit <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/curry>

THE BRAMBLES NEWSLETTER

Publisher: Sarah Mocas smocas0@gmail.com

Editor, Ginny Knox gklucygirl@gmail.com

The Brambles is emailed to active members, and can be found on

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/curry/master-gardener-tm-program-home-gardening-landscape> and <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/newsletter/brambles>

Brambles is published quarterly. The last Monday of the month, prior to publication, is the cut-off date for submitting articles for the Brambles; email them to the editor and the publisher.

Already a Master Gardener: Visit these sites to volunteer:

GOLD BEACH HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE

29316 Ellensburg (at the rear of school)

Contacts: Deb Carroll dacarroll622@gmail.com and Ali Van Otterloo alivanotterloo@gmail.com

Annual Plant Sale Project spoken here.

LITTLE BEAR PATCH GARDEN AT KALMIOPSIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

650 Easy Street, Brookings

Contact Julia Bott, jbott@batnet.com

RILEY CREEK GARDEN

94350 6th Street, Gold Beach

Contact Lori Phelan homesbylori17@gmail.com

DRIFTWOOD SCHOOL GARDEN

Port Orford

Contact Jen Nelson jen.nelson@currywatersheds.org

Curry County Master Gardener™ Association

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Co-Presidents: Debbie Carroll & Ginny Knox

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Treasurer: Julia Bott

Secretary: Ali VanOtterloo

Membership: Lori Phelan

Newsletter: Ginny Knox & Sarah Mocas

Past President: Debbie Richter

OSU Education Assistant: TBD



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Master Gardener™

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