



**Oregon Master Gardener Association
Second Quarter 2016 Chapter Reports**

Benton County submitted by Deborah Kern

- The OMGA Award Winners/nominees for Benton County for 2016 are: State Master Gardener of the Year: Lynn Trimpe; Benton County Master Gardener of the Year: Kathy Clark; Behind the Scenes Award: Christina Clark and Sophie Grow.
- MB Plant Sale: Our Annual Plant Sale was held May 7th at the Benton County Fairgrounds. One of two major fundraisers, the proceeds from the plant sale will be used to support all of our committee and project work through the Master Gardener program. This year's plant sale offered over 10,000 plants.
- Spring Garden Festival: The new MG trainees presented informational displays at the Corvallis Spring Garden Festival on Sunday May 1st. The trainees showcased eight different and informative gardening topics. Their displays were very impressive and they did an excellent job engaging the public at the event. The display boards from each group of presentations will be archived and available for checkout for plant clinics at the summer Farmer's Markets and future classes or event.
- Seed to Supper Workshops: Seventy adults and 15 children participated in the Seed to Supper and Kids Grow workshops this spring. Additional workshops will be offered each month through September. Topics include garden pest tour, small fruits, irrigation, winter gardening and composting.
- Neighborhood Planting Kiosks (NPK): Is a collaborative effort between Master Gardeners, Evening Garden Club, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, and Corvallis Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry (CBUF). The Kiosks will be placed in area neighborhoods and will be updated weekly with gardening problems that are occurring that week, along with research based solutions. Kiosks are currently being constructed. More info at NPKpost.blogspot.com.



Central Gorge Chapter submitted by Eric Bosler

Master Gardener classes for 2016 were completed at the end of March. 24 new trainees, a full complement of mentors and recertifying Master Gardeners enjoyed and participated in a wide range of class subjects. Capped off with a “test night” highlighted by a wonderful potluck dinner, training this year set the tone for an interesting and productive new year of education and community outreach.

Seed to Supper classes began the week following Master Gardener training. Conducted in the recently completed new facility of the Hood River FISH Food Bank, classes were augmented with a number of hands-on activities which included seed planting. Attendees were excited to follow the progress of their starts. The new plants, along with others contributed from the Master Gardener annual plant sale, provided the basis for each graduate’s new gardens.

May brings Mother’s Day and the Saturday prior is the traditional date of the CGMGA annual plant sale. All the plants offered at the sale are produced by chapter members. “Potting Parties” held in the gardens of MG or generous friends always yield a wide variety of perennials. Greenhouse-propagated vegetable starts are always the stars of the show. Growing the plants for the sale is in itself a wonderful, hands on, learning experience that is a logical extension of the recently completed training classes.

Spring has come early to the Columbia Gorge and sparked an equally early flush of gardening questions. Plant clinics are always lively. Held 2 days a week in the Master Gardener office at the Extension office, at Saturday Market, and a variety of other events around the community, plant clinics are a major focus of our members. Payback hours are certainly a motivation but this is secondary to the desire to expand our gardening knowledge and to share this with the community we serve.

Central Oregon Chapter submitted by Diana Hardin

A busy quarter for our Central Oregon Chapter. We combine an educational event with our biggest fund raiser of the year. Our ‘Spring Seminar’ offered 16 classes with most being advanced training, a garden market with local vendors, a silent auction, and attracted 200 participants.

The community gardens at Hollinshead (a former search for excellence winner) and NW Crossing are underway with Opening Days April 30th and May 7th.

Hollinshead starts with gardeners lining up at 0500 and all 90 plots assigned with a 14 person waiting list. After the registration ends a cleanup work party follows. The Hollinshead Gang have also been involved in teaching two classes for Bend Parks and Rec. The first was ‘Water wise Planting and this Saturday they will teach ‘Successful Seed Starting of Central Oregon Vegetables. A monthly garden class is taught at the community garden starting in May.

NW Crossing had a big move this year. All the raised beds and were transported to a new spot at one end of a new park called Discovery Park. All 51 beds were assigned on opening day with a wait list of 16. New raised bed soil was placed in each structure by Instant Landscaping. The formula was a joint effort by our agent, AmyJo Detwieller, and the vendor. To that each gardener added 2 large bags of compost and they were ready to garden. In the previous spot almost all had built cloches and those were removed and stored over the winter at a very generous Master Gardeners home. So, those were reattached as well. What an effort it is to move a garden!

Community Education Classes for Beginning Gardeners are scheduled and include two classes this year taught in Spanish. A seed starting class was taught to the public at the Extension office in May and will be followed by a transplanting class in June.

Master Gardeners have started well over 2000 seedlings in our Extension Greenhouse located on the fairgrounds in Redmond. A hands-on learning event for our trainees. Each of the germinated seeds has been transplanted into a 4inch pot and hoping for good grow on to be ready for our 'INCREDIBLE EDIBLE' Plant Sale in June. With permission from the fairgrounds we have added local vendors who will set up in parking lot D in front of the Extension Office. A new venture for us. The plant sale will include 8 learning stations with demonstrations on everything from how to plant a tomato to season extenders. Master Food Preservers are joining in with demonstrations as well.

A Plant Clinic Booth at our Home and Garden Show was a busy spot. With the new tablets purchased with the Educator Grant Award last year we were able to get researched information on site for clients. Many short ½ hour classes were held in an adjoining classroom.

Topics ranged from 'How To Grow Strawberries' , 'Flower Arranging' to 'Composting at Home' and 'Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon'. A favorite class was 'Why Don't My Plants Look Like That'. Gardening is a popular topic and these classes were well attended by show attendees. All were taught by COMGA members.

Clackamas County submitted by

Clatsop County submitted by

Columbia County submitted by Pat LaPointe

- Congratulations to the 2016 Class of the Columbia County Master Gardener program. 27 students participated in this year class and it was well represented by all cities in Columbia County.
- The Columbia County Master Gardener volunteers are busy getting ready for the 2016 Demo Garden located at the Columbia County Fair Grounds. The Demo Garden not only provides fair attendees the opportunity to visit a well-represented

garden, it also provides the perfect setting for wedding pictures. The fair opens on July 20.

- Cherry tomato plants came in last place this year at the Columbia County Spring Fair held on April 30th. Most of the 4,662 tomato plants were sold in the first hour and a half. Only 28 cherry tomato plants remained at the end of the event. 1500 raffle tickets were also sold. Committee member are gearing up for year 22 and the Saint Helens High School is rented for April 29, 2017. Should we order more or less Cherry Tomatoes next year?
- Dreams are made of memories and wishes and sometimes a bit of craziness. That sums up our work for Habitat for Humanity and Kathleen's new garden box. Seeds, soil, wood and enthusiasm described Columbia County Master Gardener volunteers who installed a raised garden bed for Veteran home owner Kathleen Grant.
- Columbia County Master Gardener's just completed our first year of Seed to Supper classes. The instructors chosen for the first year were exactly what we needed to get the program off and running in Columbia County. Comments are already being shared from friends of students and everyone involved believes that our biggest problem in the future will be how to accommodate all of the students wanting to take the classes. There were two sections this year, one class of ten in St Helens and another class of ten in Scappoose. Both teams of instructors were backed by mentors to help during the hands-on sessions of the classes. Students received their certificates of completion after attending five out of six classes. Though the classes are written to help first-time gardeners learn how to get started, we had several students able to share their gardening knowledge in class and students began to call each other their gardening buddies. One comment made by more than one student was that they were sorry the classes came to an end.
- "BUG, SLUGS AND GRUBS" highlighted the New Bug Crew event held on May 24 as third-graders from McBride Elementary School looked at winged aphids that they caught in a small, clear plastic container. Students from the newly formed garden club participated in this event. Volunteers from the Columbia County Master Gardeners brought insect education samples to teach students about different insects and how they each eat. After a short lesson, students and volunteers went to the garden to find some examples of such insects. McBride garden club students meet once a week and with the help of three volunteers, students have been growing vegetables in the garden which they plan to eat at the last club meeting of the year on June 7th.
- The Scappoose garden will have a Garden Fest on August 20 to invite the community to come enjoy the garden, fresh produce, and learn from Master Gardeners.

Coos County submitted by John Uno

- Community Gardens: located in Bandon, Coquille, Myrtle Point, Coos Bay, and Lakeside. All the gardens rented all of their beds and are growing vegetables and flowers well. All of the gardens are fiscally sound.
- Tomatorama plant sale: May 14 & 15, 2016. The net profit from the event was approximately \$13,000.00. All the master gardeners had a meaningful time.
- Scholarships and Grant Programs: School garden grants for \$3,550.00 for eight local schools garden related programs and seven scholarships were given to seven students for \$1,000.00 each.
- We are gearing up for the County Fair with a demonstration garden and an informational booth.
- Teaching Program: We had a catered dinner and graduation ceremony for 26 trainees; an enjoyable evening was had by all.
- Education: A day long Fertilize Your Mind garden seminar on 3/26/2016 was fully attended and was very informative. We have a Master Gardener booth staffed in both the Bandon and Coos Bay farmers' markets. Four free lectures on various garden topics were well attended. We also have a biweekly plant clinic.
- Finances: We are fiscally sound.
- Group strength: We currently have 66 veterans and 28 trainees; or 94 members.

Curry County submitted by Bobbie Gross

We're all smiling after the very successful plant sale CCMGA had on May 7. This is one of the many worthwhile projects benefitting the community that MG volunteers are involved in. MG's are informed of all the happenings through the monthly newsletter [The Brambles](#), and on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/OSUExtCurryMG. Here are the highlights.

Outstanding Plant Sale!

The selection of perennials, succulents, herbs, and veggies was amazing, with thousands of plants for sale as well as succulent planters, fairy gardens, and MG crafted bird houses and garden totes, on May 7 at the Gold Beach High School multipurpose room. The great variety of plants, lots of customers, good volunteer participation, great leadership and organization, and a beautiful day, all contributed to an outstanding plant sale. Educational booths were at the sale as well. The public got the opportunity to learn about Monarch butterflies and how to grow milkweed for them, and about raising honey bees and Mason bees. We also had a Plant Clinic table, and

roaming MG's answered people's plant questions. As CCMGA's only fundraiser of the year to support our community projects, it more than exceeded our expectations. All this was made possible by the hard work of leaders Debbie, Carol, Pam, Mary, Saloma, Pam and the many MG volunteers and high school, middle school, and elementary students that helped them. Propagation started in the fall and continued through the winter and spring, with cuttings and seeds grown in the Gold Beach High School greenhouse, Riley Creek School Garden greenhouse, and Little Bear Patch greenhouse, which CCMGA have access to.

Continued Rejuvenation of the Wild Azaleas in Azalea Park in Brookings

New growth is happening on most of the wild azaleas pruned and weeded by MG's last fall. CCMGA in collaboration with the City of Brookings Parks & Recreation Department, are involved in this long term community project to rejuvenate the azaleas. MG Dennis organized the May 4th work day, another will be held in the fall. Helping these grand old azaleas thrive is worth all the efforts of the participating MG's

Riley Creek School Garden in Gold Beach

The Riley Creek greenhouses, now empty, were packed full of tomatoes, basil, lettuce, and pepper plants for the MG plant sale, grown by MG's and Riley Creek students under the leadership of MG Mary. The old greenhouses are ready to be moved to make room for the new hoop house coming this summer.

The garden is looking great! Crews of kids and volunteers cleaned up the raised beds and planted peas, beets, onions, lettuce, pumpkins, zucchini, cucumbers, and carrots. A fun end to the school year is the Strawberry Festival coming on June 1. Summer hours for the garden will be Monday and Wednesday afternoons, and vegetables picked will go to the High School cafeteria and food bank.

Little Bear Patch Garden in Brookings

Little Bear Patch Garden is now ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant, and is handicap accessible, thanks to funds donated by All Care. This allows any student to be in the garden no matter what their disability may be. Many students are using the garden.

According to MG leader Pam, it's exciting to see them so enthused about working in the garden.

Little Bear Patch is used regularly by students in the Youth In Transition (YTP) Program from Brookings-Harbor High School, under the leadership of instructor Michelle Pruden, with assistance from MG's. A class of 25 middle school students also comes twice a week to the garden, and has been planting and transplanting veggie starts with assistance from MG's. Many of these were sold at the MG plant sale on May 7.

Both classes are getting ready for their big plant sale on May 21, held at the high school's Bridge Garden. Plants the students grew at Little Bear Patch, leftover plants from the MG plant sale, products made by the YTP class and art class, will be for sale. Proceeds going towards garden maintenance.

“Gardening and Community” at the Chetco Community Public Library in Brookings

A series of gardening related talks is happening monthly starting in April and continuing through October, at the Chetco Community Public Library in Brookings. It's sponsored by OSU Extension /Master Gardeners and is organized by Program Coordinator, Scott. MG's are participating as presenters. “Square-Foot Gardening” is the first of the series, presented by MG Mary Anne.

Junior Master Gardener Program

An exciting new program to get kids interested in gardening, is taking place at the Chetco Community Public Library Annex in Brookings. Under the leadership of Program Coordinator, Scott, with help from MG's Bob and Bruce, raised beds were built and monthly classes began. 50 kids along with 10 parents attended the first class, making mini-greenhouses out of gallon milk jugs. There's lots of interest, a good start to a new program.

Community Outreach

MG's have many opportunities to volunteer for community outreach this spring and summer. Plant Clinics are held every Wednesday at the OSU Extension Office in Gold Beach. Each month there will be an MG Plant Clinic/information booth at the Farmer's Market, as well as at Fred Meyer and Chet's Garden Center in Brookings, alternating between the two. MG's will also have Plant Clinic/information booths at the Azalea Festival in Brookings, at the Curry County Fair, and at the Agness Tomato Festival.

Douglas County submitted by Anne Wickersham

Winter Training Class

Thirty-two new students graduated from our Sustainable Gardening Winter Training Class March 15th. They are now learning about all the programs and projects DGMG's are involved in. Thanks so much to Denise Fennell and her team for making this another successful Winter Training.

Trash to Treasure

WOW, what a sale - \$2,980.29 was the net amount we made! It was a great time for all shoppers and Master Gardeners alike. Ann Severson will be chairing this fundraiser in 2017.

Plant Clinic

The Plant Clinic has been really busy as we continue orienting with our winter training program students. We had over 100 visitors each month in the Plant Clinic in March, April and May! The clinic will be open Monday through Friday in May through September.

Community Outreach

Amy Staats is heading up a team to teach basic gardening skills to young folks. Amy and Jude Stensland, both from the 2016 class, recently collaborated on creating a vermicompost bin for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Umpqua Valley as part of their after-school Garden Club program. Amy is working with the Boys & Girls Clubs through AmeriCorps as their Garden and Healthy Lifestyles program facilitator and manages the Green Thumb Garden Club on the campus in Roseburg. The program encourages healthy habits for the students through activities relating to gardening, nutrition, art, science, and physical activity.

Our first group of youngsters toured the Discovery garden on April 22nd. April 30th was Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA with Master Gardeners assisting.

Jude is stepping up to become our new Community Outreach Chair and she has agreed to shadow the current Chair, Leo Grass, for the next year.

Japanese Garden

The Japanese garden is intended as a place for quiet reflection. Many trees and shrubs are represented in the Japanese Garden. Among these are: rhododendrons and azaleas, maples, dogwood, pines, cedars, viburnum, crape myrtle, bayberry, andromeda, winterberry, and others.

Some of the highlights of the garden are: the walking paths, stone lake, stepping stones, and arched bridge. Jon Thran made some awesome wood-burned inscribed signs to identify some of the major trees and shrubs. They look great and add to the educational features of the garden.

The Japanese Garden began in 1998 when Roseburg's sister city, Shobu, Japan brought visitors to Roseburg who connected with the Master Gardener Program volunteers. Together, they came up with the plan to have a Japanese Garden at the Discovery Gardens at River Forks Park.

Spring in the Rock Garden

Winter seemed like it was never going to end, and then one day the first flower appeared. Because we have small plants from all over the world and we planted several hundred bulbs last fall, our flowers seem to magically appear around the beginning of March. We have some very interesting tulips which are pink, white and very slender. Many of our more worldly flowers are in shades of yellow.

Last fall, we covered several of our smaller pathways with leaves and in the last few weeks we have added some soil and rocks and planted a number of oregano and other small "steppable" ground covers along the edges of the paths. In the next few months, they should fill in and provide a nice aroma as they are stepped on by visitors.

Some of our new plants include a "pixie dust" ultra-dwarf Alberta spruce which is on the top of the mountain along the path. It is about 7 inches tall now and will grow to about a foot. The seating area is ready for visitors to sit and enjoy the shade.

Victory Garden

The Victory Garden has expanded its growing area this year and hopes to increase its yield beyond the 5,000 pounds of produce donated last year to the local food bank, United Community Action Network (UCAN). The garden has new drip lines that will conserve water more effectively. The members are also developing a self-guiding educational area that demonstrates sustainable gardening practices.

Continuing Education

As expected, the presentation by Mike Winters from Wintergreen Nursery Landscaping and Florist at our February 25, 2016 Continuing Education Program "How to Prepare Your Soil for Spring" was excellent. In March, we had a nice, thorough, professional presentation by Sara Runkel, Small Farms and Food Systems Coordinator, Douglas County OSU Extension Service, on "Garden to Table – Food and Produce Safety"! From the beginning to the end, (preparing the soil, to planting the produce, harvesting the produce, cleaning the produce, preparing the produce for the table and finally storing the produce/food), Sara covered it all.

Master Gardener Bruce Graven's April 28th Continuing Education Program/demonstration on "Other Uses for Row Cover" was a great success for several reasons. First, the presentation was well attended and received by our fellow Master Gardeners. Second, the presentation was a hands-on demonstration in a real life setting, unlike a formal presentation in the OSU Auditorium. Thirdly, to our surprise, it was the first ever Continuing Education presentation in the Discovery Garden. We certainly recognize the main purpose of the Discovery Garden is community outreach and education, and as such, hundreds of presentations, formal and informal, are made every year. It has just never been used as a continuing education program presentation setting. What an oversight!

While we may be enjoying a nice rainy spring/summer, we most likely remember the terrible 2015 fire season. Regardless of the projected fire season, it is extremely important that we prepare for the fire season. Kyle Reed, Fire Prevention Specialist of the Douglas Forest Protective Association gave a great "Firewise – Fire Season Outlook" presentation at our May 26, 2016, MG Chapter meeting. It was obvious during Kyle's presentation that awareness, preparation and implementation of wildfire safety practices apply to all of us regardless of our residential setting.

Plant Expo 2016 - Smashing Success!

"Give yourselves a round of applause."

Attendees at our recent Chapter meeting did just that in celebration of our very successful Plant and Garden Expo. Each year seems to get better and better with this year on track to be even more profitable than last year. As of May 8th, the total income from the sale was \$31,049.77, and with the continuing post sales, we should top any previous years easily.

Our loyal customers were excited to be there, especially those in the first hour. They began lining up outside the entrance shortly after 8 a.m. Imagine the starting gates at a horse race with the adrenalin building up in the horses.....the gates open and they are off! Now put human faces on those competitors and you are envisioning the scene as our doors opened for business. Master Gardeners worked hard in preparation for this sale and it showed in the quality of our inventory and the camaraderie among us. The potluck was a feast to behold in the Master Gardener tradition. MG Betty Ison's beautiful bouquets from her garden made one think maybe we should be dining by candlelight to further the ambiance.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has announced the following nominations for next year's Executive Board:

- President - Chris Rusch
- Past President - Larry Sutton
- Vice-President - Anne Bacon
- Secretary - Barbara Robinson
- Treasurer - Patrice Sipos
- OMGA Rep - Nancy Fuller
- OMGA Alternate - Kish Doyle
- Membership - a runoff election to be held between Barbara Horst and Diana Circle

This slate of officers will be voted on at the July 28th Chapter Meeting. We are so appreciative of all these outstanding nominees who bring so much talent, energy, and dedication to our organization.

Jackson County submitted by

Josephine County submitted by Linda Dean

Josephine County Master Gardener's have been very busy this last quarter with the new class members finishing up there classes and now working on meeting the hours of obligation for their schooling.

Our Spring Garden Fair was a great success and again, as last year, was held at the OSU Extension grounds. The weather did not co-operate as well as we had rain, hail and a little sun. We had what we all called Oregon weather. You can have it all in one day. Everyone that worked had a great time selling the plants they worked so hard to grow.

The Seeds to Supper program is doing well. Our other programs directed in helping the school children to learn about gardening are working hard at their raised beds and some of the school gardens have out grown their original spaces. Some are making new beds for a bigger and better garden. The kids love it.

Every year we help Fred Meyer with their Fuchsia Day, planting the customers purchases into their pots. It is a very popular day and keeps everyone busy.

This year we gave scholarships of \$1,000 each to two High School Seniors planning on a higher education in Agriculture. Each year it's hard to find any young person planning on going into Agriculture as a profession.

Klamath County submitted by

Lane County submitted by

Lincoln County submitted by Heather Fortner

The second quarter of Lincoln County Master Gardener Association started with the completion of the classroom portion of the training by 25 apprentices, and all are now working on their respective projects in the five demonstration gardens in Lincoln City, Newport, and Yachats. The Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Garden is expanding to accommodate students from Yaquina View Elementary School in addition to students from Sam Case Elementary School. The new students will be concentrating on pollinator plants, and the students from Sam Case are concentrating on the growing of vegetables.

The Lincoln County Master Gardener Plant Sale was held on May 21, and it was our largest plant sale to date. The venue had been changed this year from limited space at the Newport Armory to more spacious quarters at the County Fairgrounds. With almost twice the square footage available, the association was able to offer, (in addition to the thousands of plants grown by our volunteers) informational booths on beekeeping, adaptive gardening, pollinator plants, food preservation, food and nutrition, and rainwater collection, composting, and cloche building. The public response to our new location, expanded plant offerings and adjunct information was extremely positive. We

set an all-time record in income for the 2016 plants sale and look forward to growing it even more in the next few years.

We were delighted to select a scholarship recipient for our inaugural \$4000 (4-year) Master Gardener scholarship this year, and presented it in late May to a senior from Newport High School who is continuing her education at OSU in ecological engineering. At a recent board meeting we voted to set aside funds for a second 4-year LCMGA scholarship to be awarded next year.

The Seeds to Supper program is having their first class June 7th and there will be 2 classes per month scheduled from June through August. The classes will be taught by a team of teachers trained by Oregon Food Bank personal.

Linn County submitted by Randy Peckham & Rantee Webb

- The Linn 2016 Master Gardener Trainees have met with their mentors for desk training and are currently working the Linn County Extension Help Desk. Trainees participated in the Spring Garden Festival in Corvallis, presenting information on chosen topics and answering questions from the public. Trainees are participating in many other LCMGA projects and activities too.
- The second Annual Beevent Pollinator Conference was a great success with 110 attendees. The conference was held on March 12th in Albany at the Holiday Inn Express conference rooms. Speakers shared information on Bumble Bees, Mason Bees and Planting to Help Pollinators. Feedback about the presentations was very positive and there were many comments about how this information will be a benefit to their home gardens. This conference was also a very successful fund raiser for LCMGA. A third annual conference is in the planning stages.
- Seed to Supper classes in Linn County teaching beginning vegetable gardening class for people on a budget have mostly been completed with approximately 80 individuals attending these classes.
- A “Spotlight” article on one or two Master Gardeners who contribute to the success of our Chapter is being shared each month through our Weekly e-mail. We feel this is an important way to recognize their contributions and to let others know about their skills. We all like a pat on the back.
- The LCMGA Demo Garden has just started a series for eight noon hour classes open to the public (free). These will be held twice a month from May –August covering these topics: soil, time to plant, water needs, companion planting, pollinators, pesticides, composting, worm bins, fall gardens, gardening best practices, and Q & A sessions.
- The Pacific Northwest Brown Bag talks has started. This four week series is presented in Lebanon and repeated in Albany. Topics are: Tick Tock: Timing

your Vegetable Garden Planting, New to Oregon-New to Gardening?, Growing Great Salad Greens, and the Wildflowers of Mary's Peak Meadows.

- Approximately 30 LCMGA Master Gardeners worked at Wilco in Lebanon and/or Tom's Garden Center in Albany helping with their Container Planting Days. Master Gardeners gave plant selection, sun/shade, and watering advise as well as helping arrange and plant the purchased plants.
- Several LCMGA Master Gardeners have helped with weeding and are helping a plant sale at the Willamette Community Gardens.
- Preparations are underway for the "Through the Garden Gate" Garden Tour which will be held on June 18th. Six gardens and the Demo Garden will be on the tour. Some of the gardens featured belong to LCMGA Master Gardeners.

Marion County submitted by Tobie Habeck

Marion County has been experimenting with new way to sell plants after our annual May 1st plant sale had to be cancelled due to problems with available parking at our Marion Demonstration garden. Construction on the Health and Service building closed off most of the parking which we use for the plant sale. We were down to about 20 parking spaces which wouldn't work for our very large sale.

We first offered our inventory to Master Gardeners over a couple of weekends. We are now using an online sale which we have never tried before and it seems to be working. We're already thinking this may be a usual thing for next year.

We're currently talking with Marion/Polk food share and Chemeketa Community College about working together on their "Youth Farm" of 6 acres. Future plans are for a greenhouse, yurt to be used for a class room and an orchard which was partially planted in the last month.

2016 trainee group ended classes the first part of April and are busy getting hours in at the desk and the Marion Garden. We have 8 raised beds which are being planted with vegetables of many varieties including one bed with sunflowers of all sizes and colors. The "Flowers of the Sun" should be quite spectacular once they start blooming and we already have several papers interested in taking pictures and featuring the bed.

Instead of monthly open houses this year, we will try to have more instructional classes that might attract a smaller group since we still have parking problems until late fall with the building construction.

Multnomah County submitted by

Polk County submitted by Marcia Graciosa

During March and April many volunteer hours were spent growing plants and planning our annual fundraiser, the Plant Sale, making it the most successful ever.

Events were planned for the Inspiration Garden. Our Arbor/Earth Day event was poorly attended due to weather and competition of other events in the area. A recognition Event was held for the Central High School welding students and a generous donation was given by our chapter for welding equipment. The students used recycled material to construct a gazebo, a gate for the Rose Garden and a gate for the Asian Garden.

Inspiration Garden updates:

- The cabinets, electrical and plumbing have been installed. Now we are working on touch-up painting and furnishings.
- P.J. Plunket is developing a map/directory of all plants in the garden and has created a web site on weebly.com for the garden. Our own website is www.inspirationgarden.org. On this site you can view an overhead video by Shirley Bushness.
- The small fruit tree/urban orchard was planted to demo close spacing and pruning twice a year of semi-dwarf fruit trees.

Tillamook County submitted by Jeri Sly & Pam George

OMGA 2nd Quarter Report 2016

Tillamook County

This spring we have been busy bees! Our annual Plant Sale was the biggest success we have ever had. We had a great time working as a team to cultivate, prepare and pull off this sale. We hosted vendors who sold well. We greeted community friends and visitors from all over the county who came to buy our famous tomatoes and well cared for plants that we bring in from our own gardens.

We are very grateful to our community partner, Food Roots, for writing the grant that has brought Seed To Supper to our community. Eight Master Gardeners took the training and five of us worked together with our lead teacher, Evelyn VonFeldt, to teach 25 new students. We plan to teach this class again as soon as another opportunity becomes available.

Master Gardener, Daria LaMasney, has partnered with House of Grace, a local half-way house for women who are trying to get back on their feet after their experience with the criminal justice system. We were able to raise \$1,600.00 through an on-line crowd funding source entitled SeedMoney. Currently, ground is being broken for raised beds for growing vegetables. Dahlia beds are being planted to give the women an opportunity to open up their own flower stand to finance expenses.

Our Learning Garden at the fairgrounds is in phase three of renovation. The garden has been transformed due to some extraordinary leadership and skills. Our fearless leader, Linda Stephenson, committed for her third year of leadership to see the renovation through. Master Gardener, Doug Holman, is a LLC and dedicated volunteer who has lent his skill and muscle to transformational changes complete with a fully operating hoop house. In the past, Pam George has been able to write some grants that gave us the extra income to get our new projects accomplished. The combination of these three people has become the “perfect storm”. With every project comes a key element, all those Master Gardeners who come in and make things happen. We have team leaders in the hoop house, which helps keep things productive and sanitary! We have some really great people who are highly skilled and work hard. There’s always lots of socializing along the way.

Our 2016 Wade & Spade Garden Tour is this summer on July 16th. We are trying something new by featuring local artists (many of whom are Master Gardeners) in the gardens. We have quilts, whimsical garden signs, garden mosaics, fiber art wall hangings, horseshoe art and some unique paintings. We are also partnering with two local garden centers who are on the tour trail. They are selling tickets for us and also offering box lunches. We hope this partnership is a profitable one for them. There is an historic tree trail tucked in behind one garden center close to Cloverdale. There will be tree trail walking tours and we have also identified other historic trees along the garden tour route for people to enjoy. We hope for the best turn out ever and to raise some significant funds.

We decided to work with our local community college Foundation and have dedicated our community scholarship funds to them to grant to students in the natural sciences field of study. This has taken a great deal of pressure off of a very busy Scholarship Committee. We are lucky that one Master Gardener is Chair of the Foundation and the other is the President of the Tillamook Bay Community College Board of Directors. It’s a great partnership for us to have. A new extension building will open in January right across the road from the community college. It will house partner organizations and build more opportunities for us to work cooperatively as a community. Master Gardeners will be working with the landscape designer to develop a native plant landscape around the building. We will not be involved with daily landscape maintenance, but more with design, plantings and pruning.

Umatilla County submitted by Sue Stefancik

The 11 new Master Gardeners completed the class located in Milton-Freewater this year. In Milton-Freewater there may be an area for Master Gardeners to plant and tend using native xeriscaping for a group project. Also Master Gardeners will be involved with the planning of the Frazier Farmstead Museum garden that is located at 1403 Chestnut Street in Milton-Freewater. Large blackberry bushes are being removed, irrigation developed with eventual planting of native plants. A greenhouse and gift shop on the wish list for this Museum.

Gardens have changed this year. Hermiston Master Gardeners had their location moved due to the community garden being part of the 10-year plan for Good Shepherd Medical Center expansion project. Irrigation, security lighting, fencing will be added to the new area. Master gardeners have two plots and use them as teaching plots for people to come and view such as covered rows, pole planting like beans. This garden area will not be ready until August so the group feels they won't be planting this year. Pendleton has two gardens with the Pendleton Community Garden located on the River Walk and the South Hill Garden, a small plot with six plots that are rented out by locals.

We continue to be represented at many functions around the county. St. Anthony's Hospital in Pendleton had a Hospital Wellness Day with us having a table where we helped children plant seeds and discuss gardening; D&B Supply Store has us set up at a table for Q&A from the public. We will continue to have a table at D&B for the rest of the summer. Milton-Freewater Jr. Show had a Q&A table and the big event for the day was the Eastern Oregon Arts Festival in Hermiston. The Arts Festival is our money maker as that's where we have our plant sale. We did not sell out of plants that day and were able to sell the remainder at the Pendleton Farmers Market the following Friday. We will be at the Pendleton Farmers Market once a month using the test kitchen and passing out samples of foods that go with the theme of the market that Friday evening. Last week we passed out pasta and pesto salad as the theme was Herbs. We are getting ready for Peas in June!

Other activities for our group is the teaching of Seeds to Supper classes in Hermiston with 30 people attending; Pendleton at the Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center and a class at Blue Mountain Community College and at the River Walk Garden.

For our own education credits one of our members thought a Food Preservation workshop would be a great addition. So in June or July we'll have Hood River extension come and teach this all day class. A group of us ventured over to Baker City to the Baker City Extension Services "Garden Symposium". A day filled with classes and excellent instructors from Boise, Spokane and Baker City.

Wine Tour of the Walla Walla Valley and local garden tours are scheduled for something fun for the group to do. We also get together to discuss gardens and just plain friendship the first Saturday of the month for breakfast.

See you at Mini College!

Wasco County submitted by

Washington County submitted by Sandy Japely

Annual Plant Sale

Washington County Master Gardener Association annual plant sale netted \$10,600 dollars. Led by Kimberly Culbertson, an extremely dedicated team of master gardeners have been gathering, housing, and lovingly caring for over 3,000 plants since last fall 2015. The plants were sold April 23 at the WCMGA annual plant sale held at the

Washington County Fairgrounds Armory building. Over 2,900 plants were sold; the remaining 200 plants were offered to the demo/learning gardens and/or donated to Habitat for Humanity. All told, 94 volunteers helped make the sale a huge success – 5 key volunteers were responsible for potting up all of the plants/shrubs, 22 helped the day prior to the sale, and 65 helped the day of the sale, doing everything from providing information, selling plants, hauling plants, providing hospitality food, etc.

Speakers Bureau Presentations

Six gardening Speakers Bureau presentations took place in Washington County during Q1 2016. Six more took place in April; and several more during the month of May. Eleven master gardeners are trained presenters, with 19 topics available for presentation using PowerPoint and visual aids.

Demo Garden/Learning Garden

Work parties continue at the WCMGA two gardens. Demo Garden team meets every Tuesday at the Washington County Fairgrounds from 9 am to 12 noon; Jenkins Learning Garden team meets every Thursday at Jenkins Estate from 10 am to 1 pm. In partnership with Tualatin Hills Parks and Rec, for 2016, the Jenkins Learning Garden team has taken on the additional tasks of refurbishing onsite grapes and creating a deer-resistant garden demo area.

Educational Events

Successful May educational events open to the public included: Tomato Planting and Growing, Attracting Butterflies and Bees to Your Garden, and Growing Northwest Native Plants.

Rich Baer, Portland Rose Society expert, with over 30 years' experience, presented at the May Chapter meeting. Rich has over 800 roses in his own home garden. Robin Akers, Portland Parks and Rec horticulturist, will present at the June Chapter meeting.

Field trip to Deepwood Estate, in Salem, is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21.

Membership Survey

President Sue Ryburn distributed an electronic survey via SurveyMonkey to get feedback from WCMGA membership about possible sites for the Demo Garden.

Intel Grant

WCMGA received a \$10 per hour grant from Intel – dollar amount is based on hours worked by Intel employees and retirees for non-profits like WCMGA.

Yamhill County submitted by Apryl Garmon

Our large and only money making event for Yamhill County was our **Annual Plant Sale** on April 30 and May 1. Almost 12,000 plants sold and \$24,000 made over the two days' sale, an increase of almost \$4,000 over last year. We tried something different this year and added Sunday (shorter hours) to the traditional Saturday only sale. Twelve percent of the sales came on Sunday making it successful enough to continue next year. One of the upsides of the Sunday sale was the ability to have more in-depth conversations with customers regarding plant needs and suggestions as there was more time with the smaller crowd. Signs and advertisements are being adjusted to advertise for a two-day sale next year.

We had 20 students complete the **MG training** this year with the help of 12 mentors. The mentors will continue to work with their students to help and encourage them to complete the hours needed for graduation.

Our new **Seeds to Supper Program** has been very successful in Newberg and the team is currently working on request to expand the program to McMinnville and Willamina.

Both the Newberg and McMinnville **Farmers Market** have started, and we will be staffing weekly a MG booth in both towns. For the first time we are using an on-line system to schedule shifts for the McMinnville market, and the program is both easy and efficient. This user friendly program also prints you the list of times you have scheduled for your records. So far this has been a successful trial, and those members wishing or not able to use a computer are still able to call the Extension Office to schedule by phone.

The **Community Garden** is going very well with all beds sold, several additional beds being built (there is growing waiting list) and the irrigation system installed is working well. We donated 80 lbs of herbs to YCAP this spring. Greenhouse space was loaned to Linfield College's "Center for the Northwest", a program encouraging gardening for Hispanic families. The Community Garden has been selected as a bonus garden for the McMinnville Garden Club's Annual Garden Tour held the last Sunday in June which should bring us several hundred visitors that day.

YCMGA was pleased to increase their **scholarship donations** this year to \$7,000 with 7 students each receiving \$1,000.

Our annual "**Spring Into Gardening**" in March was a great success. We had a large percentage increase of attendees over last year with 175 participants (included 20 walk-ins the day of the event). Class options will be increased from two to three for each time slot for next year. The general public and MG attendance last year was a 50-50 split (an increase over last year's public participation). We continue to work on keeping the cost of the event and lunch low.

Yamhill MGs are working hard to host this year's **Mini College at Linfield College** the first weekend in August. Information to sign-up has gone out. Classes, professors and overnight reservation information is available on line at the OMGA website. Everyone is invited to a Thursday evening picnic/social at the McMinnville Community Gardens hosted by YCMGA. Chapter Reps, don't forget to collect your chapter's 10 auction item for the Silent Auction.