



**Oregon Master Gardener Association**  
**Quarter Chapter Reports**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2016**

**Benton County submitted by Richard Taylor**

- **Demo Garden** - 22 signs have been put up in the Demo Garden as part of a self-guided tour. Free workshops will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup> (garden irrigation and planning for winter), August 20<sup>th</sup> (cover crops and soil-building), and September 10<sup>th</sup> (common tomato problems). The July 16<sup>th</sup> workshop attracted 15 participants.
- **Seed to Supper Follow-up Workshop** - There were 7 people, 2 of whom were new, plus Master Gardeners at the Seed to Supper follow-up workshop in the Giving Garden at the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The workshop focused on fruits. They were engaged, and one expressed an interest in becoming a Master Gardener.
- **Benton County Master Garden Association monthly meetings** - The meetings are suspended for the summer and will begin again September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **2017 International Master Gardener Association Conference Bicycle Display** – The BCMGA has decided to participate. Sheila Schweizer and Rich Taylor will design and decorate a bicycle for Benton County. Afterwards it will be returned to the BCMGA and locally auctioned as garden art.
- **Outreach Committee** - The Outreach committee has been in existence for one full year and has brought a coordinated focus to publicizing Master Gardener events. The Outreach Committee consists of the following subcommittees:
  - **Broadcast** - for radio and TV coverage.
  - **Design** - creating artwork for ads, posters, and brochures
  - **Photo and Video** - capture photos and videos during the BCMGA events
  - **Print** - develop print media to promote MG projects and events
  - **Display** - organizing displays in storefront windows to publicize Master Gardener events
  - **Delivery** - identify places that would accept posters, signs, and bookmarks and then deliver them all.
  - **Social Media** - utilize Facebook, Instagram and other social media tools to communicate MG events and activities

- **Recruiting and Retention.** This subcommittee has developed slogans for buttons and distributed them, has arranged for recruitment tables at local nurseries, and has encouraged Associate Members to join.
- **Spring Garden Festival** - A new group needs to be identified to organize the Spring Garden Festival because the Madison Avenue Task Force will no longer assume this responsibility.
- **Benton County Fairgrounds Entrance Gardens** - A committee of Benton County Master Gardeners has taken responsibility for maintaining the four garden beds at the entrance to the fairgrounds. To enhance the educational value of the garden beds, the committee has;
  - Developed a plant list for each bed
  - Created and installed plant labels for the varieties in each bed.
  - Created informational signs to be posted at each bed, including a QR code that links to pages on the BCMGA website.
  - The website page will include the plant lists and links to other resources.
- **Master Gardener Glen Canning** was recognized in the Corvallis Gazette Times recently for his work at Mt. View Elementary School teaching gardening in the classroom and the school garden. The link to the full article is [http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/school-garden-provides-a-ha-moments-to-students/article\\_dbc662d2-5b18-5f9f-940e-2fc37d4d5dc5.html](http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/school-garden-provides-a-ha-moments-to-students/article_dbc662d2-5b18-5f9f-940e-2fc37d4d5dc5.html)

### **Central Gorge Chapter submitted by**

### **Central Oregon Chapter submitted by Diana Hardin**

Though it has been only a few weeks since my last update Central Oregon has had a busy two months. Starting with our Community Gardens and Demonstration Garden, the late spring weather and many frosty nights caused the loss of many tomatoes and tender seedlings just starting up. The losses in the Community Gardens have all been replanted as well as the Demonstration Garden. With the increasing warm weather they are making up for lost time. Tomatoes are finally setting on and we should have ripe ones in the not too distant future. The Demonstration Garden at the Deschutes County Office is battling a different problem. Rock Chucks have taken up residence and smoke bombs down their holes have only moved them from one garden area to another. Traps are set for the voles which have invaded the lawn area. For the first time, the Demonstration Garden is also having deer munching. It is a reminder to you all that it is not easy being a Central Oregon Gardener.

Our June Plant Sale, which we now hold at the Extension Office, was a great success. We invited vendors from our local area to participate and the Deschutes County Fair Grounds generously allowed us to use a parking lot near the Extension Office to set up their wares. A small fee was charged and we plan to continue having vendors in the future. The demonstration stations throughout the MG part of the sale were well received and many shoppers stopped to learn how to properly plant a tomato and what to do to protect their tender veggies from the frost. All of the left over plants were donated to nonprofit agencies in the area with gardens for the hungry and homeless.

The annual High Desert Garden Tour was held in Redmond this year with seven gardens on display. The gardens ranged in size from small inner city lots to a home with seven acres. One of the homes hosted an OSU Extension demonstration table. Displayed were trees and shrubs which grow well in our climate, Insects you might find in your home garden and a plant ID quiz with a prize offered for the most correct answer sheet. Our Demonstration Garden was also on the tour this year and another OSU Extension table with many handouts on Central Oregon Gardening were available for attendees.

We hold our quarterly meeting tonight at a local business, Empire Stone. Hardscaping will be the topic of information and the business has built an outdoor pizza oven and has generously offered to bake us pizzas.

Our August meeting will be in a member's home and a potluck dinner will be held. We will also nominate the slate for next year's officers at this time.

### **Columbia County submitted by**

### **Coos County submitted by Blair Holman**

The Coos County chapter has had a very active and busy last couple of months.

- Our Coos County Master Gardener of the Year Award was presented to our dynamic duo, Steve Richardson and Donna Rabin, for their outstanding contributions to our chapter over the past five years.
- At our July meeting, our chapter was pleased to present a total of \$7,000 in scholarships to seven students who are either beginning or continuing college. The major focuses of their studies include Forest Management, Horticulture and Environmental Studies.

- We continue staffing our Master Gardener booth every Wednesday at the Coos Bay Farmers Market and generally have more than 50 contacts per day. We also staff a Master Gardener booth at the Bandon Farmers Market once a month.
- We continue to be impressed by our incoming trainee class with its 20-plus members who are actively involved with staffing both our Plant Clinic and Farmers Market. Several have already completed their required 60 volunteer hours towards receiving their badges and we are encouraging more to finish their hours.
- During the last week in July, we assembled a Master Gardener booth at the Coos County Fair and maintained a Plant Clinic within for the entire 5 days of the fair. The booth was well received and resulted in many contacts and gardening questions from the public.
- In August, many of our veterans and trainees will be actively involved with the OSU Extension Coos County 4-H summer program “Growing Yer Grub,” in which children, grades 3-5, learn about nutritious snacks, gardening and more. There will be two, weeklong workshops held in various parts of the county and are normally well attended. Our veterans and trainees will spend many hours with the children helping them learn the basics of gardening and “where our food really comes from.”
- Many of our Master Gardeners continue to be actively involved within our five local community gardens. Community gardens are located in all the larger population centers of the county and are doing well. Several of the gardens have active Master Gardener beds tended by our Master Gardeners and all the produce is given to the local food banks in the local community.
- Due to our declining veteran membership and the unexpected transfer of several others outside the community, our chapter is revisiting its many community commitments in an effort to better manage our volunteer hours and efforts. To begin to address this situation a questionnaire is planned to determine the priority programs in which we participate.

### **Curry County submitted by Bobbie Gross**

We've been blessed with lots of sunshine on the coast so far this summer, good for gardening and gardeners. Curry County Master Gardeners are involved in many worthwhile projects benefitting the community this summer. Here are the highlights.

### **The Big News! Riley Creek School Greenhouse Is A Reality**

With the help of many MG volunteers and others, and a lot of hard work, the beautiful new greenhouse is nearly complete. It's been in the planning stages for a while, under the leadership of MG Mary, and it's exciting to have it actually happen. Having the greenhouse will give Riley Creek students the opportunity to use the garden all during the school year, and not be dependent on the weather as they are for the outdoor garden. A food corp person along with MG's, will be helping 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students grow hydroponic lettuce starting in September. Hopefully this will supply lettuce to the school cafeteria all through the school year.

The outdoor gardens have been supplying vegetables and fruits to the high school cafeteria summer free lunch for kids program.

Garden hours are Monday's and Wednesday's from 1 to 3 PM, and is open to the public.

### **A Time To Celebrate**

CCMGA is having a summer potluck party at the Riley Creek School Garden on August 17 instead of a monthly meeting. It will be a time to get to know fellow MG's better, to celebrate our accomplishments, and to see the new greenhouse.

### **Little Bear Patch and The Bridge Garden in Brookings**

YTP (Youth in Transition Program) is making great use of both gardens this summer, under the leadership of instructor Michelle Pruden with help from MG's and other volunteers. Both gardens are located on school property. Little Bear Patch was an MG created garden. The recent Bridge Garden was made with the help of many contributors. Students have been involved in all aspects of gardening, including building raised beds, planting, harvesting, preserving, and selling items at the weekly farmer's market. They learn organic and square foot gardening techniques from MG volunteers and others. Their gardening experience teaches them good life skills.

### **Community Outreach**

- MG's have many opportunities for community outreach this summer.
- At the **Agness Tomato Festival**, on August 21, MG's will have an information table and will sell produce from the Riley Creek School Garden to support the new greenhouse.
  - At the **Curry County Fair, August 24 – 27**, Mg's will be engaging the public in a variety of ways.
  - **Plant Clinics** continue to happen every Wednesday at the OSU Extension Office in Gold Beach, as well as once a month at Fred Meyer and Chet's Garden Center in Brookings, alternating between the two.
  - The "**Gardening and Community**" series continues once a month 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.

### **Plant Sale**

Plant propagation is in full gear for the 2017 annual plant sale in May. According to MG Carol, 140 different varieties of plants have been started already at the Gold Beach

High School greenhouse. MG's are encouraged to bring in cuttings from plants that are different from what has already been started. MG's are welcome to join the propagation every Tuesday at noon at the greenhouse.

### **Garden Tours**

On Wednesday, Sept. 21, MG's will enjoy a tour of 2 lovely gardens after a short CCMGA meeting. MG Mark grows everything you can imagine, from vegetables to fruits to flowers to bees. We will tour an ornamental garden after that. It's always fun to see other gardens and get good ideas for your own.

### **Douglas County submitted by Anne Wickersham**

**Plant Clinic - Chris Rusch:** The clinic has been averaging 6 or 7 contacts per day. Calls are coming in on aphids and peach leaf curl. Trainees are finishing up their required 36 hours in Plant Clinic so there are more slots available on the calendar. The June calendar is fairly full but needs for July and beyond are significant. Newbies who have completed their 36 hours may sign up for Veteran slots.

All trainees have worked their required two days in the clinic. They are a very enthusiastic class. The calendar is full with trainees but veterans are needed. The Clinic had over 100 contacts this month including walk-ins, phone calls, and emails.

**Community Outreach – Leo Grass:** Barbie Hamby and Leo toured 40 first-graders through the gardens earlier in the month. Leo and Jennifer Russell will be planting milkweed seed with children for Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA on April 30th. On May 11th Leo will be giving the Elks a Discovery Garden tour, and on May 12th he will be giving a presentation to the Sutherlin Garden Club.

First, a big hooray and thank you, for Jude Stensland, for stepping up to become our new Community Outreach Chair. Jude is a member of our 2016 class, and she has agreed to shadow me for the next year.

Jennifer Russell and I had a great time at the YMCA's Healthy Kids Day. We helped a hundred or so kids plant bean and pumpkin seeds. Jennifer has also volunteered to do a summer reading and planting program at the Douglas County Library. Thanks, Jennifer! Also a thanks

**Westside Greenhouse – Maureen Benice:** Westside will go back to their regularly scheduled Tuesday workdays after the Plant Sale. Maureen will be sending out an email with this information and will not be sending out a weekly email after that time.

There are annuals, as well as some perennials, for sale at 50% off on Tuesday mornings. These plants are located in Greenhouse #1 as well as those outside surrounded by pink ribbon. Maureen brought seeds for giveaway.

**Eastside Greenhouse – Bruce Gravens:** Crews have been working hard on inventory for Plant Sale. They will be working this next Tuesday on labeling and moving plants in

preparation for shipping. People who have volunteered to be a part of the tomato paste trials may pick up their tomatoes from Bruce.

The Eastside will continue with their Tuesday morning crews and will be doing divisions and cuttings. Watering issues have been resolved and structures are being worked on.

The Eastside sold about 10% more than last year at the Plant Sale. They are planning 2017 growth and propagation using the last 2 years of data from inventories.

**Facebook – Denise Fennell:** Our Facebook page is up to 700 likes. Denise stressed the importance of not only “liking” our page, but sharing the content posted. As an example, Denise shared the far-reaching effects of people sharing our Plant and Garden Expo poster.

Sixty-two people shared it, which resulted in it reaching over 2000 people! It was also shared on two other County pages, reaching 1800 on one page and 1300 on the other.

**Nominating Committee - Bonnie Courter & Maureen Benice:** The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce 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 - Diana Circle

This slate of officers was 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. Be sure and give them kudos for all the work they do and offer them your full support.

**Plant Expo 2016 - Smashing Success! - Barbara Robinson:** 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.

Plant Sale Results – Barbara Robinson: Barbara asked those present to give themselves a hand for a job well done. With post plant sales to date, we have now surpassed last year’s income total. There were many other conflicting activities going on the same day so we feel very fortunate to have had such a successful event. Attendance was up 267 from last year, and 463 pounds of food was collected for UCAN, also an increase from last year.

Thanks to all of you who worked in any capacity to make our sale a success. Know that you are appreciated in any capacity you contribute. another successful year!

## **Jackson County submitted by**

### **Josephine County submitted by Linda Dean**

Summer in Southern Oregon is great. Fairly mild and a bit on the warm side at times. Great gardening weather, weeds love it. Our members are always busy and this summer is not different.

We are in the planning stage of designing and building a demonstration garden. It will be a big task to undertake as we have asphalt around most of the county extension office. The committee is working with all the offices to come up with a plan that will work. We have been pushing for this for several years. Let's hope it will be completed soon. The plant clinic is working hard, both at the office and at the grower's market. When the fair is on the plant clinic moves to the Josephine County fairgrounds. They are very busy this year. We also have a perennial garden that sells plants every Tuesday. It also takes a lot of work but we do very well with the plants our members donate so we can sell them. The new class enjoys learning all about the planting and care of the plants.

We are through growing in the Greenhouses for the summer. There is planned maintenance to be done before winter which will include a new cover on one or both. There are also upcoming classes to be held for the community and will help the Master Gardeners work on their hours of Education. Several of our members are off on great vacations. Our First Vice President is in Sweden touring many of that country's beautiful gardens. The pictures he has sent are terrific.

Most of our members are also very busy in their own gardens but they do find the time to volunteer to help where they can. Our apple trees were pruned in the spring and now the apples are ripe and ready to be picked and make someone a great pie. That is our report this quarter, enjoy the rest of the summer.

### **Lane County submitted by Sharon Faust**

This has been a very positive quarter for us. The extension ballot measure passed by a large margin. Now we no longer have to worry about cuts to programs. Thanks in particular to regional administrator John Panches for his guidance and leadership. At this time, no decisions have been made on how to best increase visibility and service to Lane County.

Our spring plant sale was a big success; we netted about \$18,000 which was \$5,000 more than last year. We moved to a new location at the Lane County fairgrounds with better parking and more room. Big thanks to Katie Werner and Laura Hoover for the many hours of planning and work. Tis dynamic duo aren't

resting on their laurels, they have already reserved the fairground location for next year and are making lists on what they may want to change.

The diagnostic specialist committee has welcomed fourteen new members. They worked through ten tutorial problems and went on two plant problem prowls. One was in the Water Wise Garden in Alton Baker Park and the other at Skinner Butte, where our new extension forester, Lauren Grant discussed the impact of drought and coping mechanisms on various trees.

We have the building permit for our new plant clinic. Transforming the old porch will cost about \$17,500. Most of this is already committed in contributions of materials and cash donations. Work started in June.

The adaptive garden committee planted their new educational bed on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. They had five presentations in June and activity directors from local care facilities were personally invited to visit the demo garden and schedule a presentation.

Compost specialists did five demos in this quarter and they have started painting a mural at the compost demo site at Kaufman House. Their annual Compost Crawl on July 13<sup>th</sup> featured a field trip to the Biosolids Management facility and Biocycle farm. They also have an opportunity to participate in the BRING tour on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking forward to our fall festival on September 24<sup>th</sup> at River Road Park. We hope to report equally good news about this at our next meeting.

### **Lincoln County submitted by**

### **Linn County by Randy Peckman and Rane Webb**

- The current class of 18 Linn 2016 Master Gardener Trainees continues working the Linn County Extension Help Desk and has participated in many of the on-going projects LCMGA supports. Trainees have been at the Farmer's Markets (4 different locations in the county) to help answer gardening questions. Some of the trainees have also helped with **The Power of Produce (PoP) program which is designed for kids (5-12 yrs). They receive \$4 in tokens for produce at each July & August Albany farmers market that they attend.**
- The Third Annual Beevent Pollinator Conference is set for Saturday, March 4, 2017 and will be held at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center. Planning sessions are on-going as we line up speakers and vendors. Native Mason Bees

will continue to be one of the topics, but we also plan to secure speakers to cover other pollinators as well.

- We are continuing a “Spotlight” article that is published in the Linn Master Gardener Weekly Email. Each month we spotlight one or two Master Gardeners who contribute to the success of our Chapter. This is a way to recognize their contributions and to let others know about their skills. Our hope is that these recognitions will contribute to membership retention.
- The LCMGA Demo Garden series for eight noon hour classes open to the public (free) is almost complete. These were 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. Early attendance was low, but the later classes had 6-10 attendees.
- The four-week series “Pacific Northwest- Brown Bag Talks” was held 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. 75 people attended these talks. Speakers for the Fall series have been secured.
- LCMGA Master Gardeners staffed the Demo Garden during the Linn County Fair that was held at the adjacent Linn County Fair/Expo Center to answer the many questions about gardening. There were positive comments about the variety in the Demo Garden and about the useful informational signage throughout the Demo Garden. About 300 people visited the Demo Garden during the Linn County Fair.
- A “Thank You” pot luck gathering at the Willamette Community Gardens to recognize those who helped with planning (and construction) of the new shade shelter. Also welcomed was the newest gardener (born in July). Several MGs support this garden.
- The Albany LCMGA “Through the Garden Gate” Garden Tour was held on June 18th. Six gardens and the Demo Garden were on the tour. Some of the gardens featured belong to LCMGA Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners greeted attendees and answered question at each of the gardens. About 275 people attended (with thunderstorms twice in one day this was a great turn out).

### **Marion County submitted by Tobie Habeck**

Marion County did well with OMGA awards this year. MCMG Jim Liskey has been awarded the OMGA State Master Gardener of the Year. Congrats to Jim for a well-deserved award. We have also been awarded the Marge Luce Search for Excellence Award for our “Grafted Tomato Trial” at the Oregon Garden in Silverton. More information on the award will be given at the Mini College banquet by the three MCMGs

who worked on it: Tobie Habeck, Harry Olson and Eric Suing. We also received \$250 from the Karl Carlson Award to be used for a DIY greenhouse demonstration in the Marion Garden.

Our “Flowers of the Sun” trail is starting to show flowers. We have many new varieties demonstrating new colors, sizes—from 13 inches to 7-8 feet, multiple heads and uses of the seeds. It’s been lots of fun watching them grow and start to bloom with the amazing colors now available—from deep, dark red to chocolate brown to pastels-lemon yellow with a pale red center.

We are exploring new ways and locations for our annual plant sale. It was voted on by the plant sale committee to try holding the sale at the State Fairgrounds in Salem next spring. It gives us more space, more parking and potential for additional educational booths for the public. When we were unable to have our annual sale this past spring due to parking problems around our usual cite at the Marion Garden, we promised the public we would come back in 2017 “bigger and better”. We are attempting to make good on that promise.

As reported last quarter, we’re in talks with Marion/Folk Foodshare and Chemeketa Community College Youth Farm to be involved in projects as they expand their horticultural program with a 6-acre area behind the college. We’re currently working with them to choose plants for their wetlands project. We anticipate working with students in greenhouses that will be built and a horticultural building that if funded will eventually be the home of the extension office and all things plant related with the college.

Our current class of trainees are busy in the garden and at the desk working off their payback hours and using the Volunteer Reporting System (VRS) this year. Both Trainees and Volunteers are using this reporting system for the 2015-2016 reporting year for the first time. It’s taking some time to get used to but will be an aid in reporting hours for Neil this year.

### **Polk County submitted by Marsha Graciosa**

In the month of June our newsletter editor resigned and after a two-month search for a replacement, two members of our trainee class of 2016 have stepped forward to become co-editors.

Also in June, the preparations for the 4th of July Independence parade float began. This is part of our community outreach. Our float, about pollinators, won first place.

July's chapter speaker, Carol Infranca, gave a short overview of social media and how we can use it for information and advertising events.

July is Summerfest in Dallas. The PCMG staffed a clinic booth for all three days. Currently we're selling raffle tickets for a \$45 gift certificate to Red Baron Box Co as a

fund raiser for our annual educational offering to the community, "Fall Fling", which occurs September 17<sup>th</sup> this year.

We continue with watering gardens, harvesting fruit and vegetables and taking fresh produce to area food banks. We look forward to our annual pot-luck, ice-cream social at the Gathering Place, our newly finished building at the Inspiration Garden at Mt Fir Park in Independence, Oregon.

### **Tillamook County submitted by Jeri Sly & Lyn Holman**

Our summer is here and lots and lots of creative gardeners are hard at work. We had a very successful Spade to Wade Garden Tour. We had four home gardens and one Tree Walk Garden. This was a year's worth of preparation and an incredible amount of work by TCMGA volunteers and garden owners resulting in an outstanding 2016 Spade & Wade Garden Tour on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

We had a different vision of what a TCMGA Garden Tour could look like and decided to step outside the usual Garden Tour offerings and try something a little more creative this year. All the gardens offered were on acreage except for our TCMGA Learning Garden, which we love to show off. We included a Certified Organic Farm, a converted pasture which looked like an old country village, a narrated tree walk with over 70 different trees, a Zen garden with an Old Growth pathway, a His & Hers Garden, and a Heritage Tree Trail driving route. As you probably noted, part of the focus this year was to educate our guests about the variety and importance of trees.

The Garden Tour committee discussed different ways of how TCMGA could be more inclusive and somehow involve the community in our Garden Tour. We participate in our June Dairy Parade and passed out cards saying "Save the Date" cards with seed packets attached. Next we asked local artists to display and sell their art work in the gardens. We had two artists per garden and by the last day we were being asked by other artists to please be put on the list for our next Garden Tour. We also had two garden centers involved, one at each end of the tour who volunteered to sell passports for us, and again this included more of the community to our Garden Tour. We had many smiling faces and positive comments about this year's Garden Tour from the guest, volunteers, and artists.

Our Learning Garden seems to change daily, always something being redone, replanted, new sitting areas, always changing, it is so much fun watching the workers create. And the rewards we get from all of the produce we can pass one to those in need and the Seed to Supper group.

### **Umatilla County Submitted by Sue Stefancik**

Our last big event was at the Pendleton Farmers Market where we had the test kitchen and served berries and yogurt. We don't have regular meetings in June or July; in

August we have a picnic for the group. Our presence is known all over the county at the various events. Milton-Freewater has a question and answer booth at their Farmers Market. In Pendleton we have the test kitchen at their Farmers Market. Once a month on Friday evening we serve some food samples that goes with the theme of month. People also donate their volunteer time at three local community gardens and have a question and answer table at a local garden and supply store. Hermiston Master Gardeners have Seeds to Supper classes going. Next up will be the Umatilla County Fair in August located in Hermiston and a community wide garden tour where 7-8 gardens will be on the tour. A wonderful way for folks to get the word out about our local county Master County group. We start up our meetings at the college in September.

### Washington County submitted by

### .Yamhill County submitted by Apryl Garmon

Like all chapters, the purposes for our organization to assist the OSU Extension Office increases in the spring/summer. Questions and inquiries about “what’s wrong with my plant” or “what is this” jump to much larger numbers this time of year. Our help desk work load increases and so does the number of MGs needed to keep up. The veterans are working hard in conjunction with the trainees to keep up. The Insect Committee continues to meet twice a month for educational purposes and help with insect ID questions from the public. MGs also manned tables at planting events at Fred Meyers, Wilco, and Kramer’s Nursery in McMinnville and Newberg this year to answer questions, and our weekly Saturday radio show continues to help on local station KLYC, To the Root of It.

Also, Yamhill County has **two farmers markets** we staff weekly at Newberg and McMinnville, and they are bringing in their share of questions. At the McMinnville Farmers Market on Thursdays, we also share the booth with at least one Master Food Preserver to answer questions and give out food preserving class schedules. “Once you grow the food you need to know how to save it to feed you all year.” The new data base program which allows members easy and quick access to sign up on-line (in conjunction with calls to the office) is working very well, and sends a reminder notice which is a big help to members during this busy time.

Now that the weather is better and things are growing, so are the number of **educational presentations**. Some of those this quarter have been a local nursery, Redridge Farm, presenting “Growing Perennials and Annual in Garden Design”; Ruth Estrada gave a presentation on Tissue Culture, Heather’s presentation on “Insects and Pests in Your Vegetable Garden” at the McMinnville Community Garden; in June, Michael O’Loughin gave a class on “Frogs and Salamanders”; and Gene and Sue Nesbitt gave us a presentation on Japanese garden design and showed slides and examples from their recent trip to Japan.

The **Demo Gardens** were refurbished this quarter with a new front on the greenhouse, fences stained and the flower beds redone. Our water pressure irrigation problem has been solved with a new bank of valves (thanks to the help of a retired irrigation specialist). Mary Murphy and Patty Doxtater have redone the herb garden, and the flower beds and rose garden are looking their very best this time of year.

We have also had **booths at most of Yamhill's local city special events** including Newberg's Camilla Festival, Dayton Friday Nights and McMinnville's Community Garden's children's program. YCMGA is also in charge of the Intake Booth for all Yamhill County Fair horticultural entries, which is happening the same time as Mini College this year.

The **McMinnville Community Garden** is a very busy and active place. The garden was moved a few years ago, and has really come into it's own with almost all of the projects under drip irrigation. We worked with Duniway Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grades early June to pull weeds and plant tomatoes, all the garden's left over plants have been given away to non-profits, and open enrollment with the children's program is in full speed ahead in conjunction with the McMinnville Garden Club. Eight of the raised beds and all of the open garden are designated for YCAP's food bank, and are cared for by master gardeners and donated hours of raised bed participants. The Community Garden was featured this year as a bonus garden for the McMinnville Garden Tour in June, the same day as their open house, and brought us several hundred visitors. Those attending Mini College will get a firsthand look on Thursday, August 4, at the BBQ hosted by YCMGA. Last year the event was located at the YCMGA demo garden at the Yamhill County Fair Grounds, but with the county fair the same date, this event has been moved to the Community Gardens. We are excited for you to see the space and come join us for the party.

YCMGA has six **20-year member awards** this year:

Gayle Price            Katie Anderson            Barbara Boyer            Keith Winfield  
                                 Robert and Barbara Grossman

YCMGA is especially proud this year to have increased our **scholarships program** to \$7,000. Each \$1,000 scholarship was being awarded to assist local college students in the horticultural fields.

**We are looking forward to seeing you at the OMGA Mini College. Come join in all the fun!**