



**Oregon Master Gardener Association  
2018 First Quarter Chapter Reports**

**BENTON COUNTY**

**Benton County Master Gardener's Association 1st Quarter 2018 Report  
Submitted by Richard Taylor**

**Gearing Up for Gardening:** This series of free gardening talks is held weekly in January and February at the Benton County Library. The theme of this year's series is "Seeds, Weeds, Trees, Tools and Soils Ole!" The handouts from the speakers are made available in the Benton County Master Gardener website.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/gearing-gardening>

**Insights Into Gardening:** This annual gardening seminar was held on February 10 on the Oregon State University campus. Gardening classes were available for novice and experienced gardeners alike. The event was well attended with over 300 gardening enthusiasts. Attendees provided lots of positive feedback as well as opportunities for improvement.

**Demo Garden Planning:** The Demo Garden team met on February 13 to begin planning which crops will be planted and grown this year. A key topic of discussion was the watering system at the fairgrounds. The drip watering system will be revamped to provide and control the amount of water each individual crop requires. The soil in the demo garden was analyzed and determined to have excessive amounts of fertilizer.

**February Association Meeting:** The theme of the meeting was "DEMO Garden Triumphs and Failures". Members shared successes and failures in the Demo Garden.

**Annual Plant Sale:** The organizers are looking for excess plants in resident's garden to dig and divide to sell at the annual plant sale fundraiser in May.

**New Master Gardener Training:** Classes have begun and Benton County has 25 new trainees. All trainees have been assigned a mentor.

## **CENTRAL GORGE**

### **Central Gorge Master Gardeners First Quarter Report 2018**

Winter is still upon us and it's snowing as I write this report. However, this winter has been very mild compared to the 10 ft. of snow at my house last year. The bulbs are emerging and we hope that we don't get a severe cold snap.

We welcomed our 17 new 2018 Master Gardener Trainees and one Horticultural Proficiency trainee with a social event at a local restaurant. This event was followed by the Mentor/Mentee orientation at the Extension Office. Classes began in January.

Our new greenhouse will be totally up and running by the end of February complete with tables and benches. Look for an article in the Gardener's Pen.

We will be starting our seedlings soon for our Spring Plant Sale on Mother's Day weekend and are looking forward to using the new Greenhouse. We also held our Holiday Greenery Event in the Greenhouse in December making wreaths and swags for the Fish Food Bank. We included the public in this event and will do so again next year. We are taking these winter months to plan our various projects, train and orient our new Master Gardeners and plan our fund-raising events.

Submitted by Sandy Montag

## **CENTRAL OREGON**

### **First Quarter Report to OMGA Board of Directors Winter 2018**

What a difference a year makes! At this time last year, Central Oregon had record snowfalls and low temperatures. This year, we have had warmer than normal temperatures and the snow packs are well below average. While the lack of snow is a blessing for those who hate to shovel, when we get to the summer months, the lack of water will be a serious issue in our desert environment.

This year, the OSU Master Gardener Training Program has twenty-two new trainees, including two online participants. Training is on Fridays instead of Saturdays and is held at Tykeson Hall on the new OSU Cascades campus. Classes began January 19, 2018 and will continue for ten Fridays, through April 6, 2018. Several of the sessions are approved as Advanced Education for veteran master gardeners, which give the veterans a chance to satisfy their continuing education requirements as well as meet the trainees. On March 2, 2018, COMGA will host a lunch for the trainees, giving everyone another "meet and

greet” opportunity. On March 9, 2018, our annual Project Fair will be held, giving the trainees an overview of the things the master gardeners are doing in our community. It will also give the trainees an opportunity to sign up to help with the projects and satisfy their required community volunteer hours.

With the new year, projects are being restarted and things are getting busy.

**Hollinshead Community Garden:** Hollinshead Community Garden (HHCG) is beginning preparations for the 2018 growing season. They will have an annual orientation meeting April 14, 2018. This year, instead of having gardeners stand in line to get plots, HHCG will be using a lottery system for gardeners vying for one of the empty plots. The lottery will be held April 15, 2018 and opening day is scheduled for April 28, 2018. There will also be several community classes at the garden; the schedule will be finalized in the next few months.

**Northwest Crossing Community Garden:** Northwest Crossing Community Garden (NWXCG) will have its opening day April 28, 2018 and as they did in 2017, a lottery system will be used for gardeners wanting an open bed. They will also have community classes at the garden during the summer.

**Year-end Community Education Report:** In 2017, we held 28 classes with 372 attendees. The average rating on a 1-5 scale was 4.81. Topics frequently requested for 2018 include berries, fruit trees, tomatoes, potatoes, and native plants. There will also be a strong focus on waterwise gardening, especially with the new waterwise garden being in place at HHCG. Between March 31 and April 26, there will be classes on “Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon” offered in Madras, Sisters, Prineville, Sun River, Redmond, and Bend.

**Spring Seminar:** Planning is well under way for the annual Spring Seminar, scheduled for April 21, 2018. This is a daylong community gardening event, held at the Deschutes County Expo Center in Redmond, with sixteen classes scheduled. Topics include “Growing Tree Fruit,” Prune Like a Pro,” “Tree Selection for Central Oregon,” “How to Have a Flower Garden—Not a Critter Salad Bar,” “Central Oregon Climate and How It Relates to Gardening,” Home Grown Goodness: Vegetable Varieties,” “Intro to Vegetable Gardening,” “Perfect Plants for Brown Thumbs: Cactus,” “Cold Climate Clematis,” “Bring on the Cold! Freezing Your Harvest,” “How Gardening Will Save the World,” “DIY: Growing Gorgeous Succulents in Containers,” “Irrigation for High Desert Gardens,” “Turf Grass Maintenance,” “The Ruby Red Jewel of the Summer Table,” and “Straw Bale Gardening.”

**Home and Garden Show:** The Home and Garden Show will be May 4-6, 2018. The OSU Master Gardeners will offer several one-hour classes for the public, with topics

covering best vegetable varieties for Central Oregon, growing tomatoes, adaptive gardening, waterwise gardening and the importance of native bees in our landscape. We will also have a mobile plant clinic all three days of the event, where members of the public can ask about gardening questions and problems. In 2017, more than 700 people visited the booth to get gardening advice and with the population of Central Oregon growing, we expect to see similar numbers this year.

**Plant Sale:** The annual plant sale will be held Saturday, June 2, 2018, at the OSU Extension Office in Redmond. This is always a popular event with our gardening public. Several hundred seeds are ready to be planted and seedlings will be nurtured in the greenhouse, in time to provide a variety of vegetables and herbs for the public to buy. There will also be a mobile plant clinic during the sale.

**KPOV Radio:** For many years, several COMGA members have been delivering weekly 4-minute radio spots on local radio KPOV. The practice continues this year, with topics including “The Language of Flowers,” “The ‘Why’ of Permaculture,” and “Spots and Rots – What’s Wrong with my Plant.”

Spring is just around the corner and the next few months will be very busy for the OSU Master Gardeners and our gardening community. We can’t wait!

Respectfully submitted by  
Vickie Minor  
COMGA State Representative

## **CLACKAMAS COUNTY**

### **Clackamas County Master Gardeners First Quarter Report 2018**

Focus of the first quarter 2018 is planning for the gardening year, chapter programs, and training for new Master Gardeners.

The Chapter is actively involved in the Seed to Supper program. This OSU Extension program through Master Gardeners trains participants in low-cost ways to build healthy soil, plan a growing space, choose a crop, care for a garden and enjoy its bounty. The program involves six classes which begin February 21st and conclude March 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Chapter’s first major public service event of the year is Garden Discovery Day on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The program offers twelve 10-Minute University classes. In addition, clinics,

soil testing and informational displays on mason bees, raised beds, growing blueberries, sheet mulching, season extension for vegetables, seed-starting and pruning are available. This event is held at the Milwaukie Center, the same location as the 2017 OMGA Second Quarter meeting in Milwaukie.

New Master Gardener training in Clackamas County began February 9<sup>th</sup> and will conclude March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will welcome the 2018 interns at a potluck dinner prior to our March meeting.

The Chapter's first quarter meetings will be: January - "Fall and Winter Flowering Plants"; February – "Environmental Impacts of Wild Fires", March - "Resource Fair".

Dick Nelson

## **CLATSOP COUNTY**

Our Seed to Supper program starts May 17th thru June 21st. We will teach low income populations low budget vegetable gardening to feed their families.

The city of Astoria donated to us a plot of land (60 by 80) next to the Columbia River with full sun. It will be our new Learning Garden of which we have already put up a deer fence. We will be teaching successful growing of food, demonstrate proper composting and propagation techniques. All veggies will be donated to the Food Bank. We will also have a pollination and flower garden. A shed is next to store our tools and a greenhouse may follow.

Clatsop County  
Joanie Chapel

## **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

### **Quarterly report from Columbia County Master Gardeners by Amie Kopecky**

Columbia County Master Gardeners will be hosting five Seed to Supper classes in partnership with the Oregon Food Bank located in Scappoose, St Helens, Rainier, Vernonia and Clatskanie. Classes held in Scappoose, St Helens, Rainier and Clatskanie will have access to our Master Gardeners supported Community Gardens. As a special gift to our participating Seed to Supper students they will receive a ground cover for their first garden bed.

Our educational season began February 5th with Columbia County Master Gardener classes at the St Helens extension service office with 21 students. Master Gardener Dennis Snyder and Extension Agent Chip Bulb hosted a dwarfed apple rootstock grafting workshop on February 10th with a successful turnout. Master Gardeners will also be hosting a pruning workshop on February 24th. We have more workshops planned for the year. We also have Master Gardeners participating in the Junior Master Gardening program training taking place in March.

The Columbia County BugNutz are making plans for the year and working on curating the collection. We are featuring Beneficial Insects and Pests this year. They made a beneficial insect “Gardening with Bugs” presentation to CCMA at their January chapter meeting. They are also rehearsing for a BugNutz EduFormance for the local chapter of DAR on beneficial insects and pests called “A Revolutionary History that Includes Bugs”. Four members are participating in the Oregon Bee Atlas Program.

The Columbia County Spring Fair is April 28th, 9-3pm. We will have 34 varieties of tomatoes and six varieties of peppers from Yoshitomi Nursery. There will be a raffle for the public to truly enjoy for only \$1 a ticket. There are vendors and counting for all the goods needed for your season to come. Hope to see you there.

Our Demonstration Garden is in its final planning stages for what it is to be this year. We have many plans and hope we can pull it all together for our County Fair in July.

We are happy to report that there were several volunteers to cut our ground cover this year resulting in easy sales.

## **COOS COUNTY**

### **COOS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Report for 2018**

**Submitted by: Terry Harris, OMGA Rep.**

- Master Gardener Trainee Program: We have 16 excited and energized trainees this year enrolled in our program. They have two weeks of training left then they are off to get their volunteer hours in. We are excited to have new volunteers and ideas coming into our organization and look forward to great things this year.
- Fertilizer Your Mind: We are in the planning stages of getting trainees and Veterans signed up to once again have a successful event held at the community college in Coos Bay on March 31st. There will be 12 classes available packed with information from knowledgeable speakers.

- **Tomato-Rama Plant Sale:** Our biggest fundraiser for the year is gearing up and will be held May 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at Pony Village Mall in North Bend. Volunteers are signing up to grow and/or contribute all kinds of vegetable and fruit starts, as well as yard and landscaping plants. Our group provides the bags of garden soil, pots and planting guides to help the volunteers get started and make our sale a huge success. The proceeds from the sale goes to college scholarships, school garden grants, as well as outreach and education projects.
- **Community Gardens:** We have 5 community gardens that are advertising right now to get people to sign up for plots for this year. Our gardens are usually sold out so we are looking forward to another successful year.
- **Spring Gardening Series:** The South Coast Community Gardens and Master Gardeners are presenting a series of three events from February through April covering “Compost and Biodynamic Composting”, “Is it ready yet? When and how to harvest vegetables” and “Vertical Vegetable Gardening”.

## **CURRY COUNTY**

## **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

### **First Quarter 2018, Douglas County Report to OMGA by Nancy Fuller**

December in Douglas County was a quiet time. The gardens were peacefully sleeping and the Master Gardeners (MGs) kept busy by looking at seed and plant catalogs when they weren't getting ready for the Christmas holidays.

In January, we began our Winter Training program with 32 new trainees and three Master Gardeners transferring from other chapters. We welcomed them on their first day of class with an excellent pot-luck lunch. Classes are being held in our newly remodeled auditorium.

We began their hands-on training quickly. Within a few weeks of starting class, they toured our Discovery Garden and were in the greenhouses planting seeds and learning how to care for the seedlings as they began to sprout. They were also introduced to the special treatment our plants receive before our annual plant sale fundraiser on Mother's Day weekend.

By the end of January, the trainees had also been through the pruning fruit tree sessions. They were learning more about the greenhouse plants and how they can use these educational sessions for payback hours.

New swinger bars were awarded to members in January. Volunteer hours ranged from 60 hours (many trainees from the 2017 class) up to the 16,500 hours earned by Betty Ison.

February finds our chapter getting ready for our “Spring into Gardening” seminar. It will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup> at Umpqua Community College. This is an annual event for our chapter. Classes will provide education on building garden soil, xeriscaping, vegetable gardening, growing berry crops, container gardening, gardening tools, etc. The Master Gardeners will be joined by Master Food Preservers (MFPs) presenting sessions on fermenting foods and basic vegetable preservation. Community members will present sessions on home wine making and home beer brewing. It should be an educational and fun day.

Our new trainees are settling into various jobs at the Discovery Garden and greenhouses. They are enthusiastically volunteering their time while still learning new information.

Shirley Purcell recently received a Cooperators Award from the OSU Extension Association (OSUEA). Each year the OSUEA recognizes individuals for the significant contributions made to Extension programs that enable the programs to accomplish so much. Shirley was nominated by Sara Runkel, Nellie Oehler and Steve Renquist, a combination of both MGs and MFPs.

Our chapter is also getting ready for our annual Trash to Treasure fundraising sale on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Our auditorium space is smaller this year due to the remodeling, but we are excited to host this fun event. Many shopping bargains will be available with all items donated by chapter members.

We’ve had a recent cold snap and even snow on the ground, but we are all looking forward to the warmer spring days. We are ready to garden!



## **JACKSON COUNTY**

### **First Quarter Chapter Report Jackson County submitted by Barbara Davidson**

Late in 2017 the JCMGA Board approved a different structure for the day to day operations of the Association. Committees were assigned under a variety of working groups: Executive Functions, Gardens, Communications, Program Support, Member Services, Administrative, Spring Garden Fair, Outreach, and Winter Dreams.

We are looking forward to having our new greenhouse fully functional for this spring's fair, May 5 and 6, at the Expo in Central Point. Also, this year's class, although only about 50 students, is diligent in their class work and busy getting ready for Spring Fair. One of their first undertakings is to assemble succulent dishes. As usual, this is the best class ever!

Our Plant Clinic Representatives will start their 2018 service with Growers' Markets in April—one in Medford and one in Ashland. The Plant Clinic training for Mentors will be March 26 and 30.

## **JOSEPHINE COUNTY**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Report 2018 Josephine County – Candace Bartow**

The OSU Extension Cooperator Award was given to Debi Ashton for her extensive work as a Master Gardener, Master Food Preserver and Master Land Steward by the OSU Extension Association.

Karen Pleasant, our OSU Extension Master Gardener Coordinator retired in December. Sara Runkel will replace her as an OSU Extension Agent working with the Master Gardener program, and developing educational programs for home gardeners and small-scale commercial operators. Sara begins on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Junior Master Gardeners - Starting on January 24<sup>th</sup>, five Master Gardeners teamed up with the 4-H Department to begin a Junior Master Gardener Pilot program at Highland Elementary School. Currently there are ten students from grades four and five involved in the program.

Classes for new Master Gardeners began on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. There are 30 students and 6 mentors.

Several social events are planned to allow new students and veteran Master Gardeners to meet in a non-classroom setting.

Monthly Happy Hours

Movie Night Jan. 27 – Greenfingers

Bingo Feb. 24 with potluck taco bar

Chili Cook-off March 24

- Seeds to Supper – planning is happening for the March and April classes.
- Seeds of Spring – will occur on March 11<sup>th</sup> at Rogue Community College with 34 classes.
- Greenhouse - the greenhouse is up and running with seeds started and cared for by students and greenhouse mentors. The plants are used for our major fundraiser the Spring Garden Fair as well as several of our other projects.
- Perennials – this group is busy potting and dividing plants for the Spring Garden Fair.
- Demonstration Garden – The work continues with new plantings, hardscape and clean up. The grand opening is set for the Spring Garden Fair.
- The Insect Working Group has been working on a Bumblebee Survey to find the place and date for the first bumblebees in our county.

## **KLAMATH COUNTY**

### **LANE COUNTY**

**Lane County Master Gardner Association**

**OMGA Board Report - March 3, 2018**

**Submitted By: Julie Huynh and Kate Kloos**

#### **Upcoming Event Dates 2018:**

- Spring Plant Sale: April 28, 2018 at Lane County Fairgrounds.

#### **Completed:**

- Denise Ashley has been hired as a replacement for Linda Renslow, LCMGA Office Specialist, and began 2/15/18. Denise worked in Lane County 2008-2010 in a variety of positions. She then moved to the Extension Admin support team in Corvallis. Contact information for Denise is 541-344-5859 ext 34401, [denise.ashley@oregonstate.edu](mailto:denise.ashley@oregonstate.edu).

- Jeff Choate took the new Board through a DISC Behavioral Styles training in January to build skills in communications and teamwork.

### **Work In Progress:**

- The Spring Plant sale preparation is well underway. There are only a few tomato seeds, and no peppers this year, so we are looking for donations of these seeds.
- Looking for more outlets to sell the LCMGA Cookbook and Garden Journal.
- Investigating the options, costs, and benefits of hosting a community garden tour as a fundraising and public awareness raising activity. WE agreed to offer the LCMGA Demo Garden as a garden of the Eugene Symphony's 2019 tour to understand the scope of this undertaking.

## **LINCOLN COUNTY**

### **Lincoln County Master Gardener Association**

#### **1Q2018 Quarterly Report to OMGA**

**Submitted by Deanna Trail, OMGA representative**

#### **FIELD OF CANDIDATES NARROWING FOR NEW LINCOLN COUNTY MG PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Liz Olsen, our MG Program Coordinator, will retire from that position once her replacement is in place. In-person interviews for a new Master Gardener Program Coordinator were arranged by OSU Extension in Newport on February 13. Three members from LCMGA participated along with other members of the small woodlands and farming community. LCMGA members in attendance reported the final four candidates are impressive. We look forward working with the new MG Program Coordinator by April 1.

#### **2018 NEW CLASS HAS 20 STUDENTS**

This year's Master Gardener class has 20 members. Some are new to the Oregon Coast; others have lived here 20+ years.

#### **NEW BOARD INSTALLED WITH 2 Co-Presidents and 2 Co-VPs**

In November's General Meeting, the members elected its slate of new officers which include Marlene Shapiro and Diane Primont, as co-presidents and Lynn Holland and Lindsay Clark as co-vice-presidents. Continuing on the board is Secretary Kristi Kind, Treasurer Sharon Busby, and Mary-Ellen Townsend as historian. Deanna Trail assumes a new role as state representative. Past president, Donna Davis, completes the board for 2018.

#### **FIRST GENERAL MEETING SET FOR MARCH 14**

The first quarter 2018 General Meeting will occur on March 14 which will feature formal adoption of the 2018 budget. We will have both a seed exchange and a cookie exchange

#### **PLANT SALE SCHEDULED for MAY 19.**

Our annual Spring Master Gardener Plant Sale is scheduled for May 19. The Plant Sale Committee met to organize for the sale. Many members already have their greenhouses filled with starts. The event will be held again at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds.

### **GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE SEEKING SITE AND INSIGHT**

The Educational Greenhouse Committee continues to explore sites for a proposed educational greenhouse. The purpose is to

- 1 - expand our ability to start plants for the annual Spring Master Gardener Plant sale,
- 2 - offer more hands-on educational training for Master Gardeners,
- 3 –offer direct training to other members of the community, which could extend to youth groups, like 4-H, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts,
- 4 – and perhaps provide a site to conduct field trial demonstrations.

The Committee will contact other county MGA chapters that have an educational greenhouse to learn from their experiences in obtaining a site, building the greenhouse, and its use.

### **DEMO GARDENS SUMMARY**

Our demonstration garden committees are meeting to plan the upcoming season. The demonstration garden at Oregon Coast Community College in Lincoln City was awarded a Certified Wildlife Habitat designation by the National Wildlife Federation last summer. It has also launched a keyhole garden last fall which is walled in the shape of a keyhole and was filled with layers of newspaper, twigs, cardboard, ash, denim blue jean cotton, and manure. The center receives ongoing compost to provide moisture and nutrients. The design has African origins and tested with good results in the US for efficient production. It will be ready for planting this spring.

Each garden has its own challenges and benefits. The 1-acre Yachats garden requires paid assistance to maintain its condition. Two of the other gardens are at community colleges, one at a retirement center, and one at a popular Oregon state park.

### **POPULAR PUBLIC OUTREACH “ROUND TABLE” SERIES UP & RUNNING**

Under the steady hand of Ann Geyer, last year’s OMGA rep, our 2018 Round Table Series debuted on January 25 with a discussion of Healthy Soils from members of the Ten Rivers Food Web. On February 8, Katherine Johnson (OMGA Treasurer) led a discussion on Roses which shattered popular myths on rose growing. Other roundtables this quarter include Wildlife Gardening on February 22, Coastal Vegetables on March 8, and Rainwater Harvesting and Stormwater Solutions on March 22. The series will continue into May. A fall series is also being considered. Speakers include selected experts and expertise from within our LCMGA membership.

These sessions which last no longer than 2 hours each are well attended and garner good advance notice in media. Each serves to educate on the subject matter and the role of MGs in the community.

### **2018 PLANNING SESSION REVEALS SOME GOALS**

In January, the new presidents held a planning meeting for goal-setting input for 2018. Among the subjects that received popular support included the development of the “hoopie house” greenhouse project and tours of members’ gardens.

**LINN COUNTY**  
**Linn County Master Gardener's Association 2018**  
**1st Quarter Report**  
**Janice Gregg, OMGA Linn County Representative**

Demonstration Garden

The Demonstration garden was put to bed for the winter, but improvements continued to be made. A new mason bee storage area was added to the storage shed for the supplies needed for sales and teaching. It soon will be “waking up” and MGs will be planning and preparing for the new year in early March.

New Master Gardeners

Training began in January for new Master Gardeners, with 13 new trainees. We look forward to their fresh energy and contributions they will make to our program.

Teaching

Linn County Master Gardeners continue to teach in a variety of venues:

- Linn Benton Community College Extended Learning in Sweet Home
- Lebanon Lunch time Gardening Series
- Seed to Supper Program
- At BEEvent Pollinator Conference
- PNW Talks in Lebanon and Albany

BEEvent and Pollinator education

The Pollinator conference named BEEvent topic this year is “Creating a Pollinator – Friendly Landscape” and is held the first Saturday in March (March 3).

During the months of November, January and February, various training were given to Master Gardeners to enable them to answer questions while working MG tables. In particular emphasizing mason bees since there is a lot of interest and expertise has been developed in the Linn County Master Gardener Association. Mason Bee Cocoon Cleaning and Training happened in October and November.

**MARION COUNTY**

## MULTNOMAH COUNTY

The tally from the 2017 training: 160 interns started the training program and 149 “finished” (attended) the in-class training. As of now 135 of those have passed the on-line test with an average score of 90% (the lowest score was 73%, passing score is 70%).

Our February meeting was well attended and inspiring: “*Food Forestry and Regenerative Gardening*”, Teague Cullen, Winslow Food Forest. “A Food Forest is a human-designed, edible forest ecosystem. Imagine wandering through a flourishing forest where almost every plant is edible...” say Melissa and Teague Cullen, the organic farmers behind the Winslow Food Forest, located here in Portland.

In January Paul Bonine from Xera Plants came to entice us with many plants that would be easy and hardy and beautiful. His new book is: *Gardening in the Pacific Northwest* - from Timber Press.

In December we had our annual Greens Gathering where we listened to wonderful music by two of our members while we made wreaths and centerpieces and ate holiday treats.

Our November Speaker Series, this Tuesday, November 14, covers a timely subject 'Heavy Metals in the Garden'\* with OSU Assistant Dean and agronomist, Sam Angima. Sam told us all the horrors that might be in our soils, then told us not to worry about it too much. (He also told us how to do something about it.)

We are starting seeds, seed tape and planting in our Demo Garden. The new “Annex” section is just getting going also. There are different sections that are planned out and waiting to be planted. We were planning on getting a very large greenhouse donated to us and were working on how to have it moved and installed. We were just told that it is not going to happen so we are working on plans for a greenhouse.

There was a successful pruning clinic last weekend at the Oregon Food Bank garden in Clackamas County.

Lorna Schilling

## POLK COUNTY

### **Polk County 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report 2018**

As we enter 2018 the main focus for Polk county is the training of new Master Gardeners and preparation for the plant sale. We have weathered the winter and fought off the doldrums ready to take on spring.

We have officially called a hiatus to the Fall Fling. It could return on a bi annual basis but for now it has been tabled. As a result, we are in the process of forming a new educational committee. This committee will encompass many of the community outreach programs already in place as well as some new duties. It is our hope to showcase our wonderful Inspiration Garden and its meeting place as a community outreach hub. Pruning workshops and hands on demonstrations are being planned at least once a month into summer.

Our new storage facility is complete except for a name. This new facility should serve our needs for years to come.

As always, the plant sale shifts into high gear as we prepare green houses and separate perennials in preparation for our main event of the year. We are really excited this year as we will be INSIDE the main building of the fairgrounds this year. Years past have seen cold windy weather bring additional unwelcome challenges to an already challenging event. The hope of a warm, comfortable, catered, successful event drives us forward.  
Submitted by George Woodward

## **TILLAMOOK COUNTY**

### **OMGA report from the Tillamook County Master Gardener Association, March 3, 2018 Submitted by Linda Stephenson**

TCMGA is working with Tillamook Bay Community College on the gardens around the new Center housing the Partners for Rural Innovation. These gardens were initially funded through a grant from the Grand Ronde and were meant to be native plants. However, contractors did not follow that plan. Master Gardeners have taken this on as a project coordinated by John and Barb Casteel and the intent is, over time, to make this a true native garden with many signs to help visitors learn more about the plants that will be chosen.

TCMGA is planning a Community Pruning Day to help disabled or elderly people who are unable to do this for themselves and cannot afford to hire professionals to do it for them. This is a one-day event and it not only helps our community but also gives apprentices a chance to practice the skills they are learning in the Master Gardener classes. Last year almost 30 people from all over the county applied.

In an effort to help TCMGA members learn about other groups and activities in the county, speakers are being invited to give short, informative presentations at our monthly Board meetings. So far we have had speakers from the Tillamook County Food Bank,

Tillamook County Beekeepers Association and the Extension Office regarding the growth of field corn by dairy farmers in Tillamook County.

## **UMATILLA COUNTY**

## **WASCO COUNTY**

### **OMGA 2018 FIRST QUARTER REPORT**

January saw the beginning of our year with 20 new Master Gardener applicants. A welcome meeting was held and mentors had the opportunity to meet their mentees. New candidates received their notebooks and information on meetings and materials. An additional new Master gardener has transferred into our group after taking her classes in Clackamas County. Our classes for 2018 began on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Master Gardeners have been invited to meetings on the new “Blue Zone” for The Dalles. Their stated goal is to “Create a resilient food environment within The Dalles where healthy and local foods are available, accessible, and embraced by all.” How we can help with this project is not yet defined and we will continue to follow the project; looking for an opportunity for Master Gardeners to assist.

We share a greenhouse at NORCOR, providing educational opportunities to incarcerated youth. The planting season began with all electrical systems working well, a new watering system with timers in place and the covering reasonably sound. Planting for Spring Fair is in progress. New Master Gardeners must pass a criminal history check prior to participating in this program.

A new event for this year, a Seed Exchange, was held in cooperation with the Wasco County Public Library. The Library hopes to hold this as annual event, possibly developing it into a program in which there are year-round resources available at the Library. Master Gardeners volunteered to run the exchange. Attendance was good at the event. We look forward to developing the Seed Exchange for the future.

A rose pruning workshop is scheduled for March 3. Master Gardeners hold this workshop at Sorosis Park rose garden. The event is open to the public and all Master Gardeners are invited to participate.

Master Gardeners are providing refreshments and appetizers for The Dalles Art Center’s opening show themed “Garden Art”. This is our second year for this event.



The Dig, (The Dalles Imagination Garden), will need some of the raised beds replaced this year due to age. We are working on acquiring supplies to renovate some of these raised beds at our demonstration garden, hoping to replace all in the next three years.  
Submitted by Louise Sargent

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

### **OMGA Chapter Report submitted by Jacki Lindquist 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: 2018, February 18, 2018**

Elections were conducted for open positions on the Executive Board of the Washington County MG Chapter at the November meeting in 2017. A combined Board meeting of incoming and outgoing Board members was held in December to effect a smooth transition. The new 2018 Board consists of a great mix of existing Board members, new to the Board members as well as a few returning to the Board members; thus, we expect this to produce a dynamic group process.

For months previous to the first of the year plans were underway towards the 2018 WCMGA Plant Sale. The Sale, which was highly successful in 2017, hopes to garner over 2,000 plants from our gardener group and has been taking in plant starts for months. It has been recently reported that the count of plants received is now over 1,800 which means that the total will be likely to well exceed expectations. The Sale will again be held at the Armory located on the edge of the Washington County Fairgrounds on April 28, 2018. MG volunteers will again staff the sale providing superior customer service and education towards plant success of the customers.

Our long-time Fairplex Demo Garden in Hillsboro was joined by the Demonstration Garden at the Jenkins Estate over two years ago. Both offer great opportunities for MGs to provide hands-on educational opportunities for Washington county communities. For a few years now the Portland Community College Rock Creek Campus has offered WCMGA a place to house plants in their greenhouse area for the plant sale as well as a great classroom and lab area for an annual Propagation Workshop. We have now created, with this partnership, an opportunity to begin the development of yet another demonstration garden area that will be in a slightly different area to offer better access for MGs to work and provide service as well as community members to visit and enjoy a variety of the aspects of gardening.

MG Intern training began on February 6 continuing on consecutive Tuesdays at the First Baptist Church in Beaverton for the Washington county area. Current MGs serve as volunteers and others come to receive recertification hours. As always, the added bonus is connecting with brand new potential chapter members.

## YAMHILL COUNTY

### OMGA Quarterly Report---Jan/Feb/March 2018-----YAMHILL, COUNTY, ORE.

I am Nancy Woodworth, OMGA Rep., from Yamhill County. January would seem to be a quiet month for gardeners, but not for this group! First of all, we are working on our Spring Into Gardening educational gardening classes which will be held on March 17, at the community center in McMinnville. We have 11 exceptionally qualified speakers whose topics are quite varied. We have a raffle, door prizes, catered lunch, vendors, and many wonderful sponsors.

We have a committee involved in the Seed to Supper Program. This is a joint program for beginning gardeners with the Oregon Food Bank & OSU Extension Service. Every year in Yamhill County it expands due to the exceptional dedication of Sue Nesbitt's husband, Gene. Right now we have 2 classes in McMinnville, 2 in Newberg and hopefully Sheridan in the near future.

Our community garden is busy starting seeds for our county food bank. They have spinach & peas in the ground and are starting from seeds 1000 Walla Walla onions. The public can also rent a raised bed. Right now they have 4 people that graduated from STS renting a raised bed.

And of course, our annual plant sale. It is scheduled for May 12 & 13 at our county fairgrounds. Our greenhouse and demo garden are located there and we rent a fairgrounds building for the sale. Our plants for sale begin and grow at the greenhouse, and then are transferred, via wheelbarrows, carts and pickup trucks a few hundred feet to the sale building. It's a very convenient and efficient process.

January also began with our new trainee training. We have 23 students plus 2 taking it online. It's a much younger group than usual and many more men than normal. All us veterans love the fact that they are so enthusiastic about learning about gardening. It's a real joy to interact with them.

Finally, since the new president of OMGA is our own Sue, she has been writing an article for our newsletter each month. The subject matter is OMGA and her first article for February 2018 was "What is OMGA?" She talked about its purpose, funding sources, dues and revenue generated from mini-college. The month of March will be "History, Purpose + Objectives", taken from the book OMGA Mission and History written by Cathy Burdett (Yamhill County). To Cathy's history, Sue has added "Mission & Objectives". Her articles are very informative, and I think all the chapter newsletters should include Sue's articles.

Yes, we are busy...and that's how we like it!