



## **OMGA 2018 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Reports**

### **BENTON COUNTY**

### **CENTRAL GORGE**

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

We can't believe that the summer is over and school has started. The summer has been very dry here in the Gorge with hazy and at times very smoky skies. The beginning of our rainy season cannot get here fast enough.

We have begun to plan for our spring plant sale now. Since we are no longer dividing perennials, we want to use our green house to propagate perennials, seed annuals and vegetables. A group of us went to Yamhill to learn about their process for starting plants. This will be a fantastic learning opportunity for the Central Gorge and will result in a new and innovative plant sale.

In the second quarterly report, we discussed organizing presentations in two of our gardens. We will host a tool care and storage workshop in the learning garden on September 15, from 9-12. Master gardeners will be on hand to help the public. If the tools need more intensive sharpening, a professional tool sharpener will be available to provide that service for a small donation. On July 27, we presented a seminar on waterwise gardening at our water wise library garden. Unfortunately the weather was very warm and we only had a few participants. We will revisit this and possibly schedule it for a different time of year.

We will be evaluating all our projects and will contact Central Gorge about their evaluation process. We have noted that some of our projects have very little master gardener participation while some have little education components. We are also interested in developing or incorporating in our projects a mentor/mentee component which would continue throughout the year. Stay tuned for updates.

We also examined our plant clinic structure. We now hold plant clinics at the Hood River Farmer's Market, various festivals, Ace Hardware in Hood River and at the Extension. Staffing at the Farmer's Markets has been a challenge and we often serve out of town

tourists. Our plant clinics at Ace Hardware in Hood River, however, have been wildly successful providing an abundance of plant questions and problems. Next year we are considering staffing clinics at the Ace Hardware in Hood River 3 Saturdays a month and 1 Saturday in White Salmon. We will then eliminate the Farmer's Market plant clinics but continue the Festival Clinics. As a result of a surge in plant clinic problems from Ace Hardware we have decided to add an extra half day clinic at the Extension to process all the requests. Most of our Extension clinics allow the public to walk in which can interfere with the timely processing of plant problems. This new half day will be closed to walk in clients. We also discussed establishing plant clinic experts who can be available for consultation when Rachel is not in the office.

It may be time to change our class structure. We met with Rachel for a brain storming session and developed a few ideas. We discussed extending the Master Gardener training throughout the year and not just in the winter. Possibly we would have basic training in the winter on Wednesday evenings as we do now for approx. 6 weeks. Field trips and hands on learning in our gardens or other gardens could be sprinkled throughout the year to take advantage of seasonal opportunities. Rachel will be working out the details and we are excited about all the possibilities.

Submitted by Sandy Montag

## CENTRAL OREGON



### Third Quarter Report to OMGA Board of Directors

Fall 2018 The weather in Central Oregon has ranged from wonderfully mild temperatures, to blistering heat at the end of July into August. We thought we might escape the smoke but August reminded us that wild fires surrounded our area and air quality was seriously impacted. None of us are quite ready for winter but all of us would like to see the smoke clear so we can finally see some sun and have some great late summer weather.

As of August 2018, COMGA membership held steady at 76 members. We have 60 recertified veterans, 9 newly certified members (from the 2017 class), 7 associate members and 22 trainees who are expected to complete the requirements to become full-fledged master gardeners. Seven master gardeners attended the G2 conference in McMinnville in July and by all accounts, they learned a lot and had a wonderful time.

**Plant Sale:** The annual plant sale was Saturday, June 2, 2018, at the OSU Extension Office in Redmond. The waiting line started forming early and by the time the sale

opened, there were 79 people in line. By 9:45 AM, 300 customers had come through the sale and by noon, 525 people had attended the event. Several booths were set up so customers could stop and talk with master gardeners about insect ID and IPM. There were also demonstrations on tomato and iris transplanting, there was a mobile plant clinic and the OSU Master Preservers were on site to provide information on how to preserve the garden bounty. Since the sale was at the OSU Extension Office, customers could also take self-guided tours of the demonstration garden. More than 1400 plants were sold and the few that were left were donated to charitable organizations in the area. Overall, it was a huge success for the OSU Master Gardeners™ in Central Oregon.

**Community Education:** The OSU Master Gardeners™ held 43 classes at the community gardens during the summer, reaching almost 600 new and intermediate gardeners. The top method of learning about classes was the OSU extension email blasts and website, closely followed by COMGA's website, [gocomga.com](http://gocomga.com). Participants learned about growing tomatoes, gardening with kids, waterwise gardening, pollinators, growing garlic and insect management in organic gardens. The last class will be at the end of September, on winter garden bed preparation. Based on the popularity of these classes, we will continue offering them.

**Hollinshead Community Garden and Northwest Crossing Community Garden:** Both community gardens have been extremely busy and very popular, hosting most of the community gardening classes held this summer. Between the two gardens, there are approximately 150 individual beds, with some dedicated to growing produce for NeighborImpact, a non-profit organization in Central Oregon which supplies food to the food pantries and kitchens in our area. Many individual gardeners donate their surplus produce to this effort. With the summer coming to an end, both gardens will close for the winter in October.

**High Desert Garden Tour:** The 25<sup>th</sup> annual High Desert Garden Tour took place on Saturday, July 21, 2018 in Bend. Six home gardens were featured, each with special features to give visiting gardeners ideas on things they could do at their own homes. This has always been a well-attended event for the gardening community, with around 500 people participating. This year, the tour was more popular than ever - 740 people purchased books to tour the six gardens – a new attendance record! The feedback was very good and the consensus was that the tour is a valuable part of the summer gardening event calendar.

**Gardening: Get Good At It:** We continue to do our weekly broadcasts on **KPOV 88.9 Radio**. Topics coming up in the fall include Season Extenders, Storing Your Harvest, Fall Soil Amendments, Spring Bulbs to Plant Now, and Storing Tools for Winter. Because of the popularity and success of our weekly radio broadcasts, the OSU Master Gardeners™ will begin doing podcasts for the station sometime in the near future. This is an exciting development for our chapter and we will update the status when we know more.

Respectfully submitted by Vickie Minor COMGA State Representative

## **CLACKAMAS COUNTY**

### **Clackamas County Master Gardeners**

#### **Third Quarter Report, 2018**

The Clackamas County Chapter has had a busy summer. The popularity of the farmers' markets continues to grow providing the Chapter opportunities to staff clinics and help attendees gain a greater understanding of gardening opportunities and resources available to them through the extension service. One of our most popular clinics was held at the Clackamas County Fair (August 14-18). During this period, 358 people stopped by with a wide array of gardening questions.

Master Gardeners, Eve Freeman and Nancy Muir, received FOX News 12 "Be the Change Award" for their dedicated work in growing vegetables for area food banks. So far this growing season, they and their fellow volunteers at the Clackamas County Master Gardeners "Grow an Extra Row" gardens have donated 2500 pounds of produce to First Presbyterian Food Pantry, the First Baptist Food Pantry in Oregon City and the Milwaukie Center in Milwaukie, Oregon.

Our annual picnic was held on August 13<sup>th</sup>. We had a Mexican food theme which included a salsa making competition. More than 50 people attended the event.

The third quarter chapter meetings were:

August 13 – Chapter picnic

September 10 - Author Donald Olson discussed his new best-selling guide "The California Garden Tour" which includes the 50 best gardens to visit in the Golden State, He also talked about his guide "Pacific Northwest Garden Tour" which highlights the 60 best gardens to visit in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia..

## **CLATSOP COUNTY**

Our Clatsop County chapter continues to be active in the community with our various projects.

Phase one of the new Learning Garden has been a very rewarding effort, and definitely a "learning garden". The compost we purchased for the new raised beds did not prove to be as good a growing medium as we assumed it would be. Our vegetable starts, and those planted from seed, struggled to perform so we had a soil analysis done. The results lead us to taking corrective measures which included adding the required amendments and adjusting the watering schedule (we were overwatering). As a result

we came through the summer with lots of wonderful produce to donate to our local food pantry. A goal realized! This coming year we hope to complete phase two by installing a greenhouse on the site. The plans are for it to be used for propagating starts for our spring garden seminar plant sale, hands on demonstrations for MG's and community members and some MG classes.

Our first, six week, Seed to Supper classes were well attended and a success. We are planning on expanding the program to include more classes next year.

Our 2018 speaker series, free and open to everyone, has been well attended. We have held the talks in both Astoria and Seaside in effort to reach out to more of the county residents.

We enjoy answering questions at our booth at the Astoria Sunday Market every week, and have someone in the office at the Help Desk every Tuesday and Thursday.

CCMGA is currently getting ready for our annual Winterizing Your Garden event to be held on Sept. 29. It will include speakers, plant sale, hands on demonstrations on dividing plants, and a sale of new and gently used gardening items.

Linda Holmes, Alt. State Rep.

## **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

### **Chapter Representative Quarterly Report**

#### **Columbia County Master Gardener Association**

**September 10, 2018**

Summer activities:

1. Columbia County has approximately 110 paid members.
2. Farmer's Markets - Master gardeners have booths at the markets in Clatskanie, Scappoose, Vernonia, and Goble
3. The BugNutz have taken their insect displays to the Scappoose Farmers Market to discuss pollinators and to the 4-H Camp in Warrenton to educate the campers.
4. Columbia MG conducted a Beekeeping workshop and have participated in bee education at the Scappoose and Clatskanie Farmer's Markets.
5. The Demonstration Garden during the Columbia County Fair, July 18-22, had a total of 1242 visitors. It looked wonderful and had voting for the favorite raised bed – "The Insectary" won. As always, the Master Gardeners put in a lot of hard work and there is a need for more help all growing season.

6. The Demo Garden at the fair grounds has been productive as well. Fifty-two pounds of produce have been taken to the food bank with more to follow. CCMGA also helps support community gardens in Scappoose, St Helens, Vernonia, Clatskanie and Rainier.
7. CCMGA annual picnic on August 26 was another success with wonderful weather, delicious food and a good attendance.

Submitted by Deborah Broberg Columbia County Chapter Representative to OMGA

## **COOS COUNTY**

### **OMGA**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report**

**By Terry Harris, Coos County Rep.**

**September 6, 2018**

Our county has been very busy all summer. Our community gardens have been experiencing sold out beds, lots of produce being produced and happy gardeners. They have been donating excess produce to local food banks and missions, and one garden has been putting out a box on the sidewalk outside the garden with excess produce for the public to enjoy, somehow it keeps ending up empty! The gardens have also been having their own plant sales, which have been going over great, and they are using the proceeds to build new sheds, buy supplies, and build more beds.

We also awarded 2 scholarships to students who will be attending the University of Oregon this fall.

Our booth at the Coos County Fair went well, with a lot of contacts with people seeking gardening advice and tips. We also received a blue ribbon for the great decorations following the theme "Cowboys, Rides & Apple Pies".

The members decided to add a discussion at the end of each monthly meeting regarding various subjects of interest to our members. The first of the year we were each given an index card and told to write down a subject or question that we would like to have discussed. The cards were all put in a bowl and one card is drawn out each month with the subject for the day. We've had things like, growing tomatoes – problems and solutions, growing potatoes, questions about roses, etc. We've had some very good discussions and helpful information from all our members and it has added a fun and interesting aspect to our meetings. Our members are a wealth of information and it's nice to be able to share that information.

One of our members has been grafting Sungold tomato plants. According to reports from those people who have purchased them the plants are doing exceptionally well and producing bumper crops.

Three of our members served as judges this year for the Coquille Indian Tribe garden competition.

Several of our members had a great time making hypertufa planters as our donation to the G2 silent auction as gift baskets. Hypertufas are planters, containers, etc. made from towels or heavy cloth soaked in a mixture of concrete, peat moss, perlite and a few other ingredients and draped over various forms to dry. We used laundry baskets, waste baskets, large bowls, etc. and they turned out great. Each planter had a themed gift basket in them and were well received at the auction. We will be having another class to make more for ourselves!



With Summer winding down and our gardens coming to an end, our gardeners are preserving their bounty and getting ready for Fall.

## CURRY COUNTY

Master Gardeners have had a busy and productive summer. As fall approaches, we look forward to some moisture after a very dry summer.

### **Annual Plant Sale.**

Propagation is well underway for next year's sale. We have about 15 trays of cutting started so far, with plans to visit another couple of local gardens for additional cuttings. We also have over 100 gallon size plants started from last year's leftovers that just finished a beautiful display of blooms in the courtyard of the Gold Beach High School where they are kept.



### **Riley Creek Garden-**

Master Gardeners continue to actively participate in gardening activities at the Riley Creek Elementary School Garden in Gold Beach. A part time garden coordinator has been hired by the school, and she is pleased with the support offered by our group. After the close of summer school, most garden harvests went to volunteers and the local Food Bank. Hydroponic lettuce has been started for fall, the planting provided a great training opportunity for those unfamiliar with hydroponics. School is now back in session and all are looking forward to kids being back in the garden.

### **ABC Preschool-**

Weekly programs continued through August at the ABC Preschool. The program is teaching gardening topics to 8 to 10 kids ages 2 to 5. Assistance has been provided planting and growing strawberries, potatoes, tomatoes, green beans and peas in raised beds.

### **Plant Clinics**

Plant clinics are winding down with less traffic as the gardening season comes near the end. Throughout the summer master gardeners have fielded questions about insects, disease, and plant identification.

### **Youth Library Program**

Curry County Master Gardeners initiated a new program this year at the Chetco Public Library in Brookings to teach youth gardening topics. The program, titled "Gardening Basics for kids included four one hour session in August. Topics included weeding and identifying plant parts, gardening for butterflies, seeding and transplanting starts, soil basics, photosynthesis. Attended by parents, kids, grandparents, and aunts, the program was a success, and lessons were also



learned by master gardeners that will enable us to improve the program going forward.

### **Soil pH Testing**

One of our members familiar with pH testing in the food industry has initiated a program to provide soil pH testing to the gardening public in Curry County. Those interested in having soil tested are provided guidelines for sampling, the test results, and a summary of the test results and implications. We are hopeful that once the program is up and running it will generate some funding for the association, as well as increase our exposure and value to the public.

Submitted by Debbie Carroll, CCMGA State Representative

## **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

### Douglas County 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2018 Report to OMGA

Summer is always a special time for us here in Douglas County. Our monthly meetings are held at members home. We have a pot-luck and sometimes our agent Steve Renquist will do a diagnostic workshop at the member's home.

We have a booth at both the Canyonville Farmers Market and the Roseburg Farmer's Market. Those staffing the booth have been busy answering questions about vegetable gardening.

Our outreach committee has been on the go this summer. They have done tours of the Discovery Garden, given talks on winter gardening, xeriscape gardening, how to control wildlife around your home, and a monthly talk at the Glide Garden Club. Beside all that they manned the booth at the fair where they had 50 people sign interest cards for the Winter Training. We are pleased to say that the class of 32 has been filled for a few weeks and there is now a sizeable waiting list. Thanks to the Outreach Committee.

We have had elections for new officer, who have been up and running for 3 weeks. We said good bye to John Punches, who was our Regional Director for 24 years. We have named our barn the Punches Place. It had a complete make over provided by our members who are skilled craftsman. He will be sorely missed.

With the Karl Carlson Memorial Grant we will be doing etiquette signage for the Discovery Garden. We will be sure to send a letter and pictures as it is installed.

Coming up is the Tomato and Pepper Taste off at our September Meeting. We will also be meeting Willie Riggs our new Regional Director. In October we will have our Awards Banquet with an Aloha theme, to honor all our hard working members.

## **JACKSON COUNTY**

### **OMGA 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER CHAPTER REPORT 2018 – JACKSON COUNTY**

Jackson County Master Gardener Association (JCMGA) is happy to report that we have a newly hired Master Gardener Coordinator—Erika Szonntag, who spent 2 years in Paraguay with Peace Corps as an agriculture agent, more recently worked in Colorado in a gardening/landscaping business, and has prior experience with the Forest Service. Special thanks to Jane Moyer MG05 and our Practicum Leader who stepped up for the first half of this year to serve as Interim Agent and saw our 2018 MG Class off to a great start.hh

Our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual “Winter Dreams Summer Gardens” Symposium is scheduled for Saturday, November 3, 2018, 9 am to 4:30 pm at the RCC/SOU Higher Education Center in Medford. Over 30 classes are offered. [www.jacksoncountymga.org](http://www.jacksoncountymga.org)

JCMGA’s annual Summer Picnic was held August 25 where 120 MGs and their friends and family came together to celebrate their garden harvests with grilled burgers prepared by Food Preservers and the many “potluck” contributions from our gardening family. Special “Stepped Up” awards were presented by the President, and recognition given to gardeners with biggest squash, unusual tuber, large tomatoes and other distinctions.

Internationally known local artist, Betty LaDuke, is donating some of her paintings to the Extension and JCMGA. She is known for her paintings about farming and farmworkers. Guidelines for care and presentation of this art work are being developed.

JCMGA Board has adopted a new organizational chart around working groups:

Program Support, Member Services, Spring Garden Fair, Community Outreach, Winter Dreams, and Technology.

Barbara Davidson, OMGA Representative

## **JOSEPHINE COUNTY**

## **KLAMATH COUNTY**

## LANE COUNTY

### Lane County Master Gardner Association OMGA Board Report - 3rd Quarter, 2018

Submitted By: Kate Kloos

#### Upcoming Events:

1. **BRING Garden Tour - Sunday 9/9/18**

For the first time we signed up to be a stop on this year's [BRING Recycling Garden Tour](#) happening 9/9/18. We believe it will be a good educational opportunity to engage the community in gardening practices and good exposure for Lane Extension services. There are nine gardens on the tour this year. MGs are busy volunteering in the Demonstration Garden in preparation for the BRING tour, cleaning up beds, weeding, pruning and installing area and individual plant signage. Preparation for this event has spurred conversations about the long term vision for the demo garden and how decisions are made with regards to work done in areas of the garden. We are seeking collaboration with local landscape architects and University of Oregon in developing the long-term plan. In addition, we are discussing the role of Master Gardeners versus contract labor for some of the work that needs to be done on the property. Many volunteers are needed on the day to work stations throughout the property, including Adaptive Gardening, Composting, Pruning, and the Mobile Plant Clinic.

One focus of the tour will be the work-in-progress on a front yard Rain Garden that is just about ready to plant. This Rain Garden is the product of collaboration with the Long Tom Water Council and Lane Community College. Lane County MG's have done much of the work on this project, digging out the area, setting up irrigation pipes, connecting downspouts, determining appropriate plants, and filling trenches once we passes inspection. As the weather cools we will be ready to plant.

2. **[Fall Harvest Festival - Saturday, 9/22/18](#)**

The annual Fall Festival (September 22) planning is well underway, with all committee chairs filled and workshop speakers secured. We are still seeking houseplants for the sale. Seminars include topics like Winterizing the Garden, Container Gardens, Glorious Garlic, Drip Irrigation, Extending the Growing Season, Gardening for Life, as well as others. The Harvest Festival is a fun day and a great celebration of the bounties of Oregon summer.

#### Other Projects Underway:

- **Membership:** The Board is working on a brief survey to all MGs to get more information on why MGs choose not to be members of LCMGA. The August Garden Gate newsletter includes a description of the OSU Master Gardener

Program and the Lane County Master Gardener Association to help explain the benefits of LCMGA membership.

- Board Elections: Nominations for the 2019 LCMGA Board positions are underway.
- The Mobile Plant Clinic has been all over the county this summer, successfully engaging the community at festivals, nurseries, and company gatherings.

## **LINCOLN COUNTY**

### **LINCOLN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION – 3RD Q 2018 REPORT TO OMGA**

by Deanna Trail September 9, 2018

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH ROUNDTABLES.** The Fall Series of Roundtable presentations are underway and promoted to the public. Topics include Build Your Own Cloche, Ornamental Plants, Garlic, Onions and Other Edible Alliums, Bareroot Plants, and Pacific Northwest Native Plants. Ann Geyer is facilitating the fall series as well as the spring sessions. Most speakers are active members of our chapter. Our press coverage and attendance has been good.

**ACTIVITY IN OUR DEMO GARDENS.** Our five demo gardens are all in service. Some have offered programs to the community. Newport's South Beach garden presented a talk on natural dyes from an apprentice who focused on growing the plants as her project. In Lincoln City, the progress of the African Keyhole Garden installed last year was shown as a way to effectively manage water and compost with record yield to the food pantry. Yachats has held a Getting Your Garden and Tools Ready for Winter open house in September, a Garden to Table fresh food tasting event in August, and a General Plant Clinic in July.

**NO MG WEEK IN 2018.** After serious discussion, there will be no Lincoln County Master Gardener Week and related activities during the week this year. It was agreed to allow for each garden to hold events at times that best worked.

**GOOD RESPONSE AT OUR FAIR.** Our county fair, held in early July, was a great attraction for our Master Gardener program. Member Pam McElroy demonstrated adaptive gardening techniques. Our coordinator Pami Monnette arranged for 10 flats of veggie starts to be given away to the public for completing a simple survey about preferences on gardening education. Several gardening questions were fielded. We also promoted the upcoming 2019 training.

**FARMERS MARKET PRESENCE.** After taking much of the season off, we are returning to the Newport Farmers Markets for selected dates to answer questions and promote better gardening practices. Service here is eligible for Help Desk time.

**MEMBER GARDEN TOURS.** This year we have been conducting member to member tours of our home gardens and greenhouses. Six home gardens will be viewed this year on four dates. These include one with a larger greenhouse, an urban garden arising from construction debris, and a certified Wildlife Habitat area. Our coordinator has determined there is enough learning to qualify for continuing education.

**FUN MEMBER EVENTS.** An end of summer BBQ Potluck and tomato tasting event was held in September. We travelled to The Thyme Gardens on the Alsea River in June for a garden and grounds tour then shared a gourmet herb based lunch. We'll return in October to long-time members Loyd and Verna Collet's orchard an old-fashioned apple squeeze for the freshest ever apple juice.

**E-NEWS WEEKLY IS A COMMUNICATION HIT.** Pami Monnette, our coordinator, issues each week an e-mail packed with announcements, upcoming events, calls to action, and on-line learning opportunities. It is colorful, useful and consolidates a bevy of e-mail blasts into one source. Some of this information may repeat or be varied on our Facebook page or website.

**ADDING MG STAFF.** Lincoln County Extension is hiring a program assistant for Master Gardener and Seagrant programs. This is in process.

**GROWING GARDENERS CONFERENCE.** Several of us in chapter leadership and others enjoyed this year's conference in July for a day or the whole event.

## LINN COUNTY

### OMGA 3rd Quarter Chapter Report 2018, Linn County

Janice Gregg, Linn County OMGA Representative

Growing Gardeners Conference. Linn County had seven Master Gardeners (trainees and certified MG's) attend the conference. All were supported by partial scholarships to attend.

Spring Garden Tour. Our spring garden tour, "Through the Garden Gate" was well attended this year. We continue to learn better ways of advertising and making the tour easier and more appealing to the public. In visiting with some of those attending the tour, it was evident that this is a great way for people to learn how to put gardens together in creative and responsible ways.

Demonstration Garden. The Linn County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden is located on the north side of the Linn County Exposition (a very popular venue for large events and shows on weekends). Two major motels are directly north of the garden. Because of the location, there are a lot of people that visit the garden. A great deal of effort has gone into putting educational posters throughout the garden. We find that many visitors are stopping to read the information and if Master Gardeners are present, ask more questions.

## Accomplishments:

- In early July, the paths in the garden were upgraded to quarter minus crushed rock, with donation from Knife River. Though well tamped down, it is still difficult for wheel chairs to traverse the garden, so continue to seek solutions to the problem.
- Linn County Fair. Garden was open for much of the fair hours with a clinic table. Approximately 400 visitors came into the garden.
- Mother Earth News Fair. The garden was kept very busy for the two days of the fair with 747 counted visitors. These visitors were very interested and asked a lot of questions. We had a sudden outbreak of Flea Beetle two days before the fair and used this as a great teaching tool.
- Over 85 pounds of produce has been taken to St. Mary's food kitchen. The garden is not a production garden, but still has a good amount of produce that can be donated.

Mason Bee Events Eight workshops are scheduled in Linn and Benton Counties. Several new MG's are being trained to become instructors. We continue to sell bee keeping items.

Tomato Tasting Event The tomato tasting event in Lebanon was well attended. Blossom end rot is the big question of the year!

Albany Farmers Market A clinic booth was set up and maintained by Master Gardeners once a month again this year. Community members look for the booth to ask questions.

## MARION COUNTY

### OMGA 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report for Marion County

Plant Sale: We are exploring growing our own plants for next year's plant sale. This project will require lots of commitment, planning, labor and a greenhouse dedicated to plant sale. Yamhill Co. MG's graciously met with a group of Marion Co. MG's to share information on how they operate their plant production and sale. And share they did! We came away with 300 cuttings and supplies.

Areas of concern include growing trees and shrubs due to the amount of time required to produce a significantly large product. Caution is needed regarding patented plants, but we have a list of them for reference. We are also exploring the purchase of plugs from nurseries. A temporary license is needed when we conduct the sale next spring.

Demonstration Garden: We have an Ad Hoc Committee taking an intense look at our demonstration garden and its future. Is the garden meeting our mission by being a demonstration garden with occasional workshops for the public, or should it be more? For now, we are developing a Marion Garden Brochure. The purpose of the brochure is to serve as an introduction to the garden which will be handed out at our

Community Plant Clinics. It will include a map of the garden which can be used as a self-guided walking tour. Increased exposure may result in community groups wanting to use the garden as a resource, for an outing or "fair." If so, we'll need to be better positioned with infrastructure such as seating, shade, restroom facilities, etc.

Submitted by: Cyndy Shorter

## **MULTNOMAH COUNTY**

Multnomah County Master Gardeners- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report 2018 Submitted by Lorna Schilling

There has been a lot of work done in our demo garden and the demo garden annex this summer. We have posts in for grape and hardy kiwi trellises as well as a classroom area set up in the annex. There are sturdy benches made by volunteers. There are about 5 raised beds in that are growing veggies. We spent \$4 on our veggie starts for seed potatoes. We have gotten donated tomatoes, peppers, onions and summer squash. Each bed has its own water timer on it. More beds will be put in before long. We have really appreciated the \$500 grant to help get this going.

We have donated more than a ton of produce to local food pantries and a lot is still getting ripe.

We had talks in the garden in July and August. Gail Langellotto talked about how gardening will save the world in June. Then in July we learned how Providence Milwaukie's Community Teaching Kitchen and Oregon Food Bank's Seed to Supper program have teamed up to create healthier communities. In August, Paul Sanford taught us how to make gardening fun for children. The heat and smoke kept some people away for this.

Last Saturday we had our annual harvest party. It is very fun to enjoy the afternoon together eating wonderful food, sausages, salsas from the garden and homemade ice creams. The weather was perfect for this event.

## **POLK COUNTY**

As fall approaches we are hustling to finish summer projects. Work continues at our inspiration garden primarily paving and concrete in conjunction with the city.

At our last board meeting it was made official our Fall Fling will not be returning. This was a tough decision but it is in hopes of doing 4 or more smaller events at our gathering place.

The search is on for candidates for several soon to be open positions on our board. No doubt great nominees will be found.  
In Service. George Woodward, Polk county

## **TILLAMOOK COUNTY**

OMGA report from Tillamook County, September 15, 2018

Summer has flown by in Tillamook County. We've had amazing weather and many opportunities to participate in ongoing activities.

Master Gardeners have been active at three Farmer's Markets in the county. North county has a market in Manzanita, central county's market is in Tillamook and south county has a farmer's market in Neskowin. Many people stop by our booth with questions and needing information about coastal gardening. It is a good opportunity for us to talk to people about the Master Gardener program, also.

Master Gardeners in Tillamook teach horticulture classes at Trask River High School which is part of the Oregon Youth Authority. These classes are similar to those taught for our new Master Gardeners. In June six youth graduated from their course.

June Dairy Month is important in our county because of our well known dairy industry and The Tillamook County Creamery Association. The dairy parade in June is very popular and Master Gardeners took advantage of the opportunity to participate with our representative Tilly the Cow riding in the parade. Tilly passed out "save the date" cards for our July garden tour.

The Spade and Wade garden tour was held on July 21. Six gardens were featured on the tour. Four gardens were in the Tillamook area and two were in Cape Meares. The weather was amazing and over 190 people took advantage of the opportunity to visit these beautiful and unique gardens and the garden owners. Each garden also had an artist selling their wares.

The Tillamook County Fair was held August 8<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>. Our Learning Garden is located on the fair grounds. The garden is a beautiful, peaceful spot where fair goers can find a shady spot to rest, eat lunch or enjoy an ice cream cone. Since it is a Learning Garden we have many examples of raised beds, crops that grow well in our area, native plants, a shade garden and visitors can tour our hoop house. We also have an area for children to play with a sand pool and toys and a slide. Over 1500 visitors came to the garden while it was staffed.

One of our Master Gardeners, Ken Jackson, had a model train in the garden for the second year. This is a major draw for children and even grown-up train enthusiasts.



Respectfully submitted, Linda Stephenson, Tillamook OMGA Rep

**UMATILLA COUNTY**  
**WASCO COUNTY**  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
**OMGA Chapter Report**

Washington County Master Gardener Association – Submitted by Jacki Lindquist;  
OMGA Rep.

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter- September 10, 2018:

This was the final year that the Washington County MG Demo Garden located at the Washington County Fairgrounds would be operational during the County Fair Days. More than 3,000 participants, from babies to seniors enjoyed all aspects of the Gardens. As always the Kids Zone was a hit beginning with a scavenger hunt and ending with pulling a prize carrot.

Transitional efforts are underway to ensure that Washington County MGs will continue to have a presence at the County Fair with the demo garden closing as of December 2018. There are numerous residents that have come to anticipate and expect education and information regarding gardening activities at this long-standing event. Washington County MGs expect to develop a strong partnership with potential OSU Extension and 4-H programs that allow us to be involved with Clinic activities for fairgoers in 2019.

A strategic planning session was conducted for key members of the Washington County MG Board in an effort to look at long term and other issues that our Chapter faces. As a result, 5 key priorities were identified: educating MGs, identifying what the public wants/needs from MGs, increasing intern/veteran MG engagement with organization, supporting OSU Program activities and initiatives and fundraising. Champions for each of these priorities have been identified and will lead associated activities over the coming years.

In early June, the Washington County Master Gardeners Association (WCMGA) broke ground at their new educational/learning garden, located on the PCC (Portland Community College) Rock Creek campus. Along with numerous partners, the WCMGA is working towards their goal of turning gravel into garden by converting a 1/3-acre parking lot into an interactive educational garden. The site design includes a variety of garden “classrooms” that provide venues for learning about waterwise gardening, insect habitat, native pollinators, fragrance plants, and native plants.

The space will incorporate aspects of both garden design and functionality, including irrigation options, art installations designed with repurposed materials, and natural aesthetic elements (boulder, gravel). As visitors stroll through the various garden classrooms they will be able to stop at learning stations with information about pollinators, insects, and plant maintenance. Monday and Wednesday work parties have been established. So far 40 dump trucks of topsoil and 10 truckloads of compost have been received. The irrigation system is now up and running and the leads are seeking plant and tree donations. Contact has been made with PCC with the interest of MGs to participate in class projects for the 2018-2019 Academic Year. Other contacts have been made with the Xerces Society and the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation with hopes of great future opportunities of partnering towards community educational activities and projects.

## **YAMHILL COUNTY**

OMGA Quarterly Report --- July/August/Sept. 2018 -- Yamhill County, Oregon

July was a busy month for the group. G2 was a success as usual. Wonderful speakers and activities. We were particularly proud that our own Sue Nesbitt was the State M.G of the Year and our Polly Blum was the State Behind the Scenes M.G of the year. Both are so deserving.

On July 28 the McMinnville Community Garden held it's Open House and had a very nice response from the public, the gardeners working their raised beds and the Master Gardeners. Alan Wenner, M.G in charge of the garden reports that the garden is producing over 1000 lbs. of fresh produce each week, which is harvested and delivered to our local food bank (YCAP).

Our committee organizing our gardening seminar, Spring Into Gardening, holds it's first meeting for the 2019 event on September 11. Seems like we just held it!

We finished our participation in the McMinnville Farmer's Market on August 30 for 2018. Our tent is located on asphalt, so the site is a "hot" one regarding the extreme heat we've had this summer. Even so, all the staff have given their "all" and helped many people with their plant problems. It's a wonderful venue for us to advertise our organization. Newberg's Farmer's Market continues to October.

The fall season appears to be just as busy as the previous months have been. The planning for 2019's activities will be starting and new graduates will be getting involved in our established committees. We always need new blood, new ideas. And this new group can be relied on to "jump right in".

Submitted By: Nancy Woodworth, Yamhill County OMGA Rep.