



OMGA 2019 1st Quarter Chapter Reports

BENTON COUNTY

Benton County Master Gardener's Association 1st Quarter 2019 Report Submitted by Richard Taylor

BCMGA Plant Sale Transition Plan : In response to the decision to stop using dig and divides as a primary means of acquiring plants to sell at our annual plant sale, The Plant Sale team has developed a transition plan to propagate plants from cuttings and plugs from nurseries. The transition will be complete by 2024.

Sale Year	Dug Perennials	Propagated Perennials	% Propagated Perennials
2019	5700	300	5
2020	5400	600	10
2021	4800	1200	20
2022	3600	2400	40
2023	2400	3600	60
2024	0	6000	100

Insights Into Gardening: The one day educational event was held at La Sells Stewart Center on the OSU campus on February 9, 2019 and was well attended, despite the weather. Out of 350 registered attendees, there were 50 no shows. One guest speaker was also not able to attend, due to the snow. On the bright side, 20 attendees registered and paid on the day of the event. The feedback from attendees was generally positive and the organizing committee has compiled the feedback, looking for ways to make the event even better. One challenge for 2020 is that La Sells may be undergoing remodeling and may not be available. The committee is looking for other venues.

Gearing Up For Gardening : The 2019 series of 8 weekly free gardening talks, held at the Corvallis Public Library, is being well attended, with 90 – 100 attendees each week. The final presentation, **Beeutiful Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs, and Shrubs – What to Grow to Feed Our Pollinators**, is scheduled for 2/26, weather permitting.

Upcoming Membership Meetings : Our Vice President, Debbie Lauer, has an interesting slate of programs scheduled so far for this year.

March – Worst Gardening Mistakes

April – Organic Pesticides – Kaci Buhl

May – Plant ID – Melanie Link-Perez (Herbarium Curator at OSU)

June – Come as you are > Gardening Tours of local MG home gardens

July – looking for suggestions for garden visits

Membership – The board is considering adding longevity awards for 5 and 10 years of active membership as a way to foster retention. More discussion on this proposal will occur at the March board meeting.

CENTRAL GORGE

CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDNER

2019 First Quarterly Chapter Report

Hood River County

Winter has certainly blessed us, as I sit looking out my window watching the snow fall. This time of year gives us the opportunity to look over seed catalogs and make plans for our spring and summer gardens. It is also a time for Master Gardeners to plan our various projects and train and orient our new Master Gardeners.

We ended 2018 in our new Greenhouse with our Holiday Greenery Event. We made wreaths and swags for ourselves and our community to be distributed to the Fish Food Bank and WGAP.

The 10th anniversary of the Japanese Garden in the Learning Garden is coming up on Friday May 17, 2019 and we are planning a celebration to mark this occasion. The Japanese Heritage Garden was created as a lasting tribute to the Japanese community in Hood River and their sacrifices during World War II. The Portland Taiko will be featured.

We in Hood River County will also need to mark our calendars for the 2019 Garden Tour which is scheduled Saturday, June 22, 2019. This year nine gardens will be featured and it is always impressive to see these gardens, and the work and talent that went into creating them.

As we enter 2019 the main focus for Hood River County is the training of new Master Gardeners and preparation for our plant sale. We have changed our class format this year with a 6 week series on Wednesday evenings in February thru March 2019. These classes are open to the public and a pre-requisite to becoming a Master Gardener. New Master Gardener students will spend the year learning and participating in our various projects and will not be staffing our plant clinics until their 2nd year.

This year our new Greenhouse will be expanding giving us the capabilities of our Greenhouse facility to enable us to propagate broader variety of plants for the annual CGMGA Plant Sale. The addition of a hoop house will provide shade for protection of plants as we move out of the greenhouse.

Hood River County will be going up for a 5% prepared food tax measure and operating levy to create additional revenue streams in the May election. The additional revenue will continue to fund county supported programs like Hood River County OSU Extension Service, Public Health, Parks and Rec, the Sheriff's Department and search and rescue. Master Gardeners are playing a role to help outreach what Extension does in the community and writing letters of support to communicate the impact of the Master Gardener Program.

Submitted By:

Barbara Kilkenny

Central Gorge Master Gardener

CENTRAL OREGON



First Quarter Report to OMGA Board of Directors

Winter 2019

For Central Oregon Master Gardeners, 2019 got off to a flying start with our first Board meeting on January 3rd. New and continuing Board members are: President, Nancy Glick, Vice Presidents, JoAnne Abbott, and Kathy Geary, Secretary, Vickie Minor, Treasurer, Tim Schindele, State Rep, Gary Weber, Alternate State Rep, Diana Hardin, Historian, Jan Even, Membership Coordinator, Jolene Dodge, and Communication Liaison, Rocky Bessette. Master Gardener training classes began January 11th with advanced botany and composting sections. Our extension office in Redmond is getting some additional space with new construction. A bid was awarded and the tentative start date is February 2019. The new building will connect with the existing building via a breezeway and the plans include classroom space that will accommodate up to 80 people as well as a second certified kitchen.

The 2019 Plant Sale will be June 1, 2019 outside the OSU Extension Service Office in Redmond offering for sale approximately 1,700 transplants consisting mainly of annual vegetables, fruits and a few herbs and flowers. Varieties are specifically selected to be suitable

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for Central Oregon growing conditions. There will also be approximately 10 vendors selling garden related items or other items, and also a used gardening book sale, Mobile Plant Clinic Booth, Insect ID and Management Booth. Last year we had 525 customers attend our event.

The Spring Gardening Seminar is well on its way. There are 16 classes, 4 sessions with 4 classes in each session. The seminar will be held on April 20, 2019 at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo. Classes are: Young Tree Care, Growing Gorgeous Succulents, Sprinkler Systems, Basics of Greenhouse Management, Turfgrass, Native Bees & Other Pollinators, Culinary Alliums Plus, Gardening Basics, Weeds, Miniature Garden Landscapes, Drying Your Harvest, Vegetable Gardening, Hypertufa Basics, Growing Dahlias, Straw Bale Gardening, Landscape Considerations & Strategies When Purchasing a New Home. Nine of these classes are approved for advanced credit. The registration packet will be online at www.gocomga.com in the first part of March.

The Northwest Crossing Community Garden in Bend opened the application process for its 51 raised garden beds on February 1. Application deadline is April 15 and opening day is scheduled for April 27, the same as the Hollinshead Community Garden. We'll be seeking veteran volunteers and trainee volunteers at our Master Gardener Training Class Project Fair on February 22. We have 4 returning veterans two of whom were trainees last year. A focus for this year's NWX garden will be to advise and assist gardeners to make upgrades to their bed and cloche structures to help prevent invasion of chipmunks and golden mantle ground squirrels. These rodents' large numbers have been a serious pest problem in our 4 year old location, causing widespread damage and discouraging many of the gardeners. Mentors and Trainees will be well versed in cloche construction and will be on hand to help gardeners upgrade their beds. Our chapter also works cooperatively with Bend Park and Recreation Department, who as owners of the garden provide maintenance support and wildlife management expertise. Project leaders from both gardens are working together to create well-documented and uniform garden operating procedures. These will help bring consistency and continuity from year to year and to future community garden additions.

The new Community Ed Committee will be made up of volunteer COMGA members who have been identified as showing strength and ability to teach classes for various COMGA and OSU Extension educational opportunities. This committee will be charged with the goal to have all our annual community education venues have consistent topics throughout our tri-county area. This will mean coordinating between (but not limited to), KPOV, NWXCG, Hollinshead Community Garden, Hollinshead Waterwise Garden, Redmond Demonstration Garden, Home & Garden Show, the COMGA blog, Chapter social media accounts, and even our Spring Seminar. We hope that with this direction and guidance, COMGA, will have updated and common threads for educational topics at any given time.

The "Speakers Bureau" will fall under the auspices of the Community Ed Committee. It is filled with those veteran COMGA members and trainees, who have shown an interest in presenting classes as an instructor or as a Teachers Assistant (TA). During our Chapter registration process, veteran MG's indicate what programs they are interested in. Those indicating their interest in Community Ed (whether during registration or Project Fair) will be contacted to see if they'd like to join the Speakers Bureau. The details aren't complete, but there will be minimum standards for participation in the Speakers Bureau (possibly by teaching or TA'ing at least once during the growing season). Once the Community Education Committee ok's a topic, the Speakers Bureau will be asked for volunteers to teach and TA the class.

The COMGA website's blog is live again, with postings twice a month by Liz Douville who is a long time Master Gardener and who authors a regular gardening column in the Bend Bulletin daily newspaper.

The KPOV 4-minute weekly gardening segment will have been on-air and on the gocomga.com website (transcripts and audio) for six years in May. Since September 2018, these broadcasts are available as podcasts at - <http://kpov.org/gardening-get-good-at-itpodcast>.

2019 Membership Report.

As of February 17, 2019

Paid members 63

Associate members 4

Trainees 37

It is anticipated a few additional MG's will become members before the end of the year.

Respectfully submitted by, Gary Weber, COMGA State Representative

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

CLATSOP COUNTY

FIRST QUARTER REPORT 2019

The committee for the Spring Plant Sale and Garden Fair is busy working toward our May 11th date. This year we are redesigning the educational aspect to include one keynote speaker and two booths that will feature our own MG teaching and offering hands on experiences in Composting and Pollinators. The shoppers at our plant sale will be better informed this year as we will have members of our chapter roaming the isles of plants ready to advise the shoppers on the best varieties to buy for their specific area. There are many micro climates on the coast!

The Demonstration Garden committee is busy re-designing parts of the garden. Through the years it has become very shaded and hard to work due to the growth of nearby trees, with large shallow roots, which we are not allowed to remove.

The Seed to Supper program is bigger this year. Classes will be held in three separate places instead of only one.

The Learning Garden committee is working on a planting plan for this year to maximize what we will donate to the local food pantry. They are also researching the cost and management requirements of a greenhouse.

Joy Jones did a presentation to our Board covering good ways to review and update our handbook. She also discussed the role of the Coordinator and the Coordinator's relationship to the Board. It was very helpful to both new and returning Board members.

On February 6th, our Board received a letter of resignation from our coordinator, Linda Jones. She will leave a big void. Her guidance, support, enthusiasm and ability to help our chapter "make things happen" will be greatly missed. Our chapter has been plagued with a revolving

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door when it has come to retaining Coordinators. We have eight in the last ten years. We feel that OSU views the job as a much less demanding position than it is and should update the job description and pay scale to reflect what is real.

Linda Holmes
Clatsop County State Rep.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

COOS COUNTY

OMGA 1st Quarter Report 2019

By Terry Harris, Coos County

We are starting our year out with a normal south coast winter, no more nice warm drought. We've had lots of rain, even a couple days of snow and chilly temps. We are so looking forward to Spring, hopefully a little more sun.

Our MG Training is under way with 17 new students! Hopefully all of them will see the benefits of fully participating in our county chapter and help replenish our workforce.

Our community gardens are filling up fast and getting a lot of new interest.

We have several projects that are ongoing and a few new ones to plan. The annual Plant Sale will be held in May and unfortunately one of our biggest growers has retired from our group, leaving a large hole in our inventory of plants. We have a dilemma in that only a few members have green houses and most try to use any and all available spaces in their homes, garages, etc to start plants for the sale.

Now that there is a lot of controversy regarding the OSU “best practices” guidelines for the plant sales it also impacts our supply of plants. The smaller county chapters are having a real struggle trying to keep their inventory up, unlike the larger counties, we don't have access to large greenhouses or a lot of growers. Our plant sale is the largest source of income for our student scholarships, school garden grants, yearly operating costs and any other projects our membership would like to offer for public education and further our cause of teaching people how to grow healthy food.

I have been one of the two people from our county asked to participate in an exploratory committee with Gail Langellotto to hopefully find some acceptable solutions to the “best practices” issue.

The end of March we will hold our annual “Fertilize Your Mind” event at the Mill Casino. This is a fun, well attended event open to the public with great speakers and gardening know-how.

It's looking like a busy Spring and we are looking forward to it!

CURRY COUNTY

Curry County Master Gardener Association Quarterly Chapter Report, February 2019 Jeffrie Hall – State Representative

Fall has come and gone, now winter is about to end. But we have been busy in Curry County. After a drier than normal fall the coast is getting its winter. Still the plants are preparing for spring like we are. A new class of Master Gardeners will graduate soon, just in time to add their skills to plant clinics and other projects. Also a new board of directors is taking over after two years of very capable leadership from the past board who are still always available to help with any issues. The year ended with a holiday party held December 8 at the Blue Water Cafe in Harbor. It was a well-attended affair, new MGs who were present received their official badges and there was a fun gift exchange

Riley Creek:

The middle school students, have been learning about composting and worm composting. Kitchen waste from the cafeteria is used to feed the worm bin and add to the compost bins in the garden. Lettuce for hydroponic tubs in the greenhouse was sown in early fall and is being harvested and now replanted. Garlic was planted by a first grade class from cloves harvested from last year's crop, beds were prepared for winter, and fava beans planted as a cover crop in some of the beds.

October 17 was the **Fall Fest**, a great success. Students, along with their families, took part in apple peeling, apple picking, seed art, a pumpkin weight guessing contest, eating made-to-order lettuce wraps, and probably the most alluring, fresh apple cider pressing. Kids also had a chance to harvest carrots, beets and peas from the garden.

Herbs have been planted in pots for Mother's Day and now in the quiet time before spring a new irrigation project is being installed. The old system was inefficient and a tripping hazard.

ABC Preschool:

Classes start May 12 and go to the middle of September. Barb Caey is working on her lesson plans. She has had great support from the teacher, and volunteer help. This will be the program's 4th year. A long term goal would be to establish the program in other local preschools. The children really enjoy the age appropriate gardening projects and crafts.

Plant Sales:

CCMGA participated in the **Brookings Holiday Bazaar** on November 10, at the Brookings High School. Over 90% of the plants and containers brought were sold. The merchandise was all of the planters not used in the spring plant sale, wreaths made of succulents, some fall table centerpieces, and individual succulents.

The **May Plant Sale** is approaching. Fifteen trays of cuttings have been transplanted to individual pots in the Gold Beach High School greenhouse. Some have been moved outside to join all the other outside plants. The faster growing plants are being potted up to gallon containers and many succulents are being propagated and divided. A date has been set for making Hypertufa and Driftwood containers to be filled with succulents. And it is almost time to start the vegetables!

Future projects:

"Seed to Supper" training starts March 30 in Brookings at the *Living Waters Church*. A number of volunteers have expressed interest in the program. It is free and will help teach people about "gardening on a budget". It is a joint program of Oregon Food Bank, OSU Extension Service, and the Brookings Harbor Food Bank.

Landscaping Class Scott Thiemann of OSU and Karlie Wright of the Curry County Library will be implementing a new 6 week program created to help middle schoolers learn landscaping skills.

CCMGAs will again be participating at the **Earth Day** event at *Dragonfly Farm* in April. “**Gardening Basics for Kids**” 2018 was the first year for the program for kids at Chetco Library in Brookings planned and organized by Julia Bott. Classes start in May.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Over the past several years Douglas County has worked on improving our signage in the Discovery Garden. The chapter has been helped in this endeavor by OMGA through the Karl Carlson Grants and the Extension Educator Grant Program.



Most all of the 16 gardens within the Discovery Garden have signage that tells about the garden and identifies plants found in the garden.



Most recently we have added a bike rack, a doggie station and etiquette sign. The paths in the Discovery Gardens have been updated to all of our visitors an enjoyable walking /wheelchair



experience.



The new winter training class has 33 trainees and the participants have been helping with the pruning of the gardens. Steve Renquist, our Extension Agent has provided many hands on

pruning classes this year. This is Steve's last Winter Training Class as he plans to retire later in the year.

Steve's leaving will be a huge loss for Douglas County. WE would appreciate hearing from chapters who don't have a horticultural agent housed in their county.

Douglas County is also getting ready for our Trash to Treasure Sale in March and our annual Plant Sale in May.

Rosemary Brinkley, Douglas County Rep.

JACKSON COUNTY

2019 1st Quarter Board Report

JACKSON COUNTY

Barbara Davidson, 2-28-19

In November 2019 JCMGA awarded a total of \$4,525 to 12 Jackson County schools for the 2018-2019 school year. Other activities in 2019 include:

- JCMGA board has approved an organizational restructure with a chair for each of 5 working groups: Business Plan, Demonstration Gardens, Member Services, and Technology.
- Solar Committee has been appointed to study PV system and possible use for greenhouses.
- Practicum has studied ways to meet new sustainable requirements for the plant sale:
 - 1) Cuttings of native plants, 2) seeds, 3) houseplants.
- * Gardens and Grounds has a new pump—Yea!!
- * Children's Garden used a grant to refurbish raised beds and irrigation system.
- The 2019 MG class has 53 members under the direction of our new MG Program Coordinator Erika Szonntag—Welcome??
- Everyone is working toward our Spring Garden Fair, May 5 & 6, 2019 at the Jackson County Expo Center.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY

2019 1st Quarter Report, March 2, 2019

Carolyn McCord, OMGA Representative

During the first quarter of 2019 Josephine County Master Gardeners have been busily preparing for two of our biggest events of the year:

- Seeds of Spring, our 30th annual Seeds of Spring garden seminar, will be held on March 16, 2019 on the Rogue Community College campus. Kick off that winter frost and join other gardeners in sessions that will prepare you for those glorious warm spring days in your garden. Choose 4 sessions from among the 39 offered. Hurry! Pre-registration closes March 7. Walk-in registration is on a space available basis only. To see session descriptions

and registration information, see our website (<https://jocomastergardeners.com/seeds-of-spring.html>)

- Spring Garden Fair will be held on Saturday, May 4, and Sunday, May 5. The greenhouse team and their crew of current students report that seeds are sprouting despite the lack of sun and the perennial folks are propagating like mad from our new “Up from the Asphalt” Idea Garden native plants. Our tree program is being re-vamped this year but we may have some real bargains that need some TLC and a new home. By May our facilities will be almost over-run and we will be ready for our biggest fundraiser of the year. Grants Pass is lovely in May. Come see us.

We currently have 36 people participating in Master Gardener training, including one online student and one Home Horticulture certificate student.

New projects and activities:

- “Up from the Asphalt” Idea Garden. Our chapter’s long-time dream for a demonstration garden has finally come true. And, yes, it did rise from a portion of asphalt removed for the purpose. Veggies are planted in a variety of containers designed to demonstrate to the public possible options for their own home areas. Native plants are featured in the ornamental portion of the garden. Existing garden areas were incorporated into the Idea Garden and include grapes, apples, and berries. A mural was painted on the building adjacent to the garden. We received lots of positive comments as we hauled gravel and soil
- and went through our first experimental year. Signage decisions were made this week and a grand opening is planned for spring.
- Two new activities grew out of the Idea Garden work. A grape tasting event was held for our members only. Of the 24 producing grapes, the favorites of those attending will be propagated from cuttings to sell at future fund raisers. The event may be open to the public in future years. Because the Idea Garden committee did a lot of cleanup during development, a Maintenance Monday activity was started to accomplish a variety ongoing cleanup tasks for the Extension grounds.

A recap of 2018:

- We graduated 26 new Master Gardeners and recertified 98 for a total of 124 certified Master Gardeners in Josephine County. There were 238 total Master Gardeners which includes all of the trainees and all of the veteran MGs who did not recertify.
- We reported 10,934 volunteer hours, 7,508 direct public contacts and 2,084 hours of continuing education but we know not all hours were reported.
- Our plant clinic answered 1,954 questions. The top three areas for questions were about general culture, trees, and vegetables.
- The Master Gardener program was featured in the local newspaper 18 times including articles written by members and feature pieces written by reporters. Our publicity chair was on KAJO radio every Wednesday except in July and August and the Master Gardener Facebook page had 467 “likes”.

KLAMATH COUNTY

LANE COUNTY

Lane County Master Gardner Association

OMGA Board Report - February 25, 2019

Submitted By: Kate Kloos & Vicki Harrison

Upcoming Event Dates 2019:

- Spring Plant Sale: April 27, 2019 at Lane County Fairgrounds, 740 West 13th Ave.

General Updates:

- New Board leadership is getting oriented and setting the agenda for the year. We have a terrific board this year and our meetings are filled with great discussion. Unfortunately, we had a resignation of our Membership Coordinator, Bonnie Houston, who did a terrific job tracking our members, but due to family matters she has resigned her post. We welcome Steve Marks as a Bonnie's replacement.
- We are undergoing a review of bylaws and developing a process for adding new committees. Specifically, we've had member interest in developing a Publicity Committee to coordinate messaging out to the community for all our activities and classes. Discussions have been around how challenging communications can be due to considerable changes in the media community and how complex the responsibilities and relationships are between Lane Extension, OSU Extension, Master Gardener Association, and political levies. Our discussions have been about who should disseminate which messages what is needed to effectively promote our classes and programs. We have more work to do before establishing a new committee.
- We have had considerable discussion regarding the plant sale and new "No Dig" guidelines for plants. There is an effort to increase propagation of plants and the purchase and use of plugs for our all important annual fundraiser.
- This year we have a wonderful group of 30 Master Gardener trainees and 11 horticultural proficiency students.
- We have issued a stipend in the amount of \$1,000 for an intern to assist in the Master Gardener training. The Board is very interested in the process and timing to replace our temporary Lane Horticultural agent, currently Ross Penhallagon.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln County Master Gardener Association 1st Quarter Report

Submitted by Ron Woodard II

Board Officers

A new slate of officers is in place, voted in at our general meeting in January. We have continued the use of co-presidents and co-vice presidents and now we have co-past presidents, as well.

Class of 2019

We have a class of 21 apprentices and a further 3 who are taking the classes online. Classes are underway and held every Thursday, through the end of March.

Planning Session

We have held a planning meeting to set goals and to allow new ideas to be explored. It was decided to continue working on a plan for an educational greenhouse as our major goal. We are also continuing with tours of gardens and other educational and/or gardening related recreational opportunities to offer to our members.

Fundraisers

Of our two annual fundraisers, one will be done the last weekend in February consisting of a booth at the Seafood & Wine Festival. Proceeds from this first fundraiser are earmarked for the scholarship that our chapter offers to high school students graduating in our county. The second, our annual Plant Sale will be at the Fair Grounds (Commons) in Newport during May.

Community Education

A program of Roundtable discussions is underway. This fall set of programs is being offered in a north county location and on Saturdays to make them available to a wider group of people. Topics offered include: African Violets; Pond Landscapes; Flower Arranging; Container Planting; Tomatoes; Dahlias and Straw Bale Gardening

LINN COUNTY

2019 OMGA 1st Quarter Chapter Report, Linn County

Demonstration Garden

A donation of 2, 6 foot pig troughs was placed in the flower garden.

Hardscaping project was completed in the garden: pavers were placed on the new central pathway and south fence.

Work in the garden will begin in March.

Pollinator Projects:

Mason bee cleaning events and classes completed the 2018 year.

Next projects: promoting summer pollinator bees such as leaf cutter bees and mason cane bees

Conference: March 2, 9am-3:30pm

Pollinators are essential to survival of plants in gardens, farms and nature. Learn how to host and nurture bees, butterflies and more with Linn County Master Gardener Association and OSU Extension. Some of the topics that will be covered are:

- Monarchs and Milkweed in the Pacific Northwest presented by David James, associate professor in the Department of Entomology, Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension at Washington State University.
- Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas, speaker Rich Hatfield, senior conservation biologist with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. The Bumble Bee Atlas is currently being compiled by citizens in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

- Desirable Plants for Bees by OSU's Gail Langellotto, who coordinates the statewide Master Gardener program. Gail will share research about specific plants and bees that are desirable in home gardens.
- Meet the Bees by Rich Little, insect specialist (retired Entomologist) and member of the Oregon Bee Project Advisory Committee. The Oregon berry bee, a tiny metallic green and blue pollinator, and other native bees will be introduced to us in by Rich.

Monarch Way Station

Station has been prepared for planting and completed by a team of students and Master Gardeners.

Garden Tour Preparation

Seven gardens will be featured this June. Planning is progressing well.

New Linn County Master Gardeners in training

Seven trainees have been attending the spring classes.

Classes to be Offered this Year:

- Sweet Home Saturday Garden Classes
- Lebanon Second Monday Gardening Series
- Albany Library "Noontime Gardening Talks"

The LCMGA is exploring the way to better engage members, both new and experienced. Ideas are welcomed.

MARION COUNTY

OMGA 2019 First Quarter Report for Marion County

We kicked off our 2019 MCMGA classes with 54 trainees signed up to attend, and are now holding steady with 43. Always seeking improvement in our training program, the following steps were taken for the new class:

Mentor Program

In the past, we assigned several trainees to one mentor. Sometimes a mentor felt overwhelmed with too many trainees assigned to them, or a trainee and mentor relationship may not have been a good fit. This year, we have mentor teams. The mentors can share the responsibilities of a mentor, it increases the chance that at least one of the mentors will be in attendance at the class and sit with the trainee and the trainee has two mentors to choose with whom to make a connection.

We also asked the veteran MGs that attend the training for continuing education credits to sit among the trainees and be a "Mentor for the Day." Previously, veterans tended to sit together in the back of the room and didn't mingle a lot with the trainees.

We also solved the problem of a mentor feeling that they needed to be an expert in all things regarding the MG Programs. We developed a Resource List for trainees and veterans, that lists

the email addresses of MGs that are willing to share their knowledge of different programs areas such as The Plant Sale, The MCMGA Structure, the Volunteer Reporting System (VRS), The Marion Garden, The Community Plant Clinics, etc.

Another strategy to get people talking is we've asked everyone to be at their tables at 8:45 for a 15 minute discussion prior to the beginning of class. The topic of the week is sent out a day or two before class and the mentor leads the discussion. For instance, our topic for February 11 was:

“How do you deal with these vegetable garden issues either in your own garden or in advice you might give to a member of the public?”

- Planning and preparation (Test soil? ...Plan and layout? ... Till?)
- Watering (How? ... How much? ... How do you know how much?)
- Weeding (How? Strategies to minimize?)

Class Content

This year we have set aside a day to focus on the details of certain program areas. We know that certain trainees have varying degrees of fear about what they are expected to do as a Master Gardener and lack the confidence to do some of the volunteer work.

In the past, we only touched briefly on VRS, Community Plant Clinics, and the structure of MCMGA. This year, we are planning to spend more time familiarizing trainees with VRS, having them sign on and use it during the class time. We will also set up a mock Community Plant Clinic, complete with the whole set up (the banner, handouts, reference materials, etc) allowing them to become familiar with the set up before signing up for the first time. Also, we are going to spend more time on teaching tips – the idea being that our trainees will one day be teaching workshops and need tools on how to teach others.

Board of Director's

As with many other chapters, we started the new year with new Board members. We welcomed a new President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Communication Representative, Garden Representative, Education Representative, OMGA Representative, Membership Chair, Plant Sale Chair and Member at Large. We are still looking for a Treasurer Elect.

Submitted by: Cyndy Shorter February 2019

OMGA 4th Quarter Report for Marion County 2018

Advanced Education

As part of our Five Year Strategic Plan, we identified that we must do a better job of providing a pathway for Master Gardeners to acquire advanced specialization in their area of interest.

Beginning with the 2019 class of trainees we will provide a first step, perhaps called Tutorials, to start the trainee on a path of continuous learning. Tutorials will allow the trainee to explore different areas of interest and determine which area they may wish to receive more advanced training. The details of how we move beyond the tutorials are still being worked out;

determining topics, writing lesson plans, developing curriculum levels, etc. Once the Master Gardener completes all the training levels, they will be considered a specialist in that area.

Also, because we have begun propagating plants for our annual Plant Sale fundraiser, we built into this plan the teaching of propagation to trainees and veterans. This will be a great opportunity to become a specialist in propagation.

And finally, we are planning to have Master Gardeners become specialists in the Backyard Habitat Improvement Program (BHIP). The Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District is developing a certification program whereby property owners can be recognized for making their landscapes more supportive of a diverse variety of life. The tentative role for the Master Gardeners is to offer up-front assistance to applicants, who would attend a MG workshop on backyard habitat followed by MGs doing a site visit to a person's property. For MGs wanting to get involved in this program, a four-month course of self-learning is being developed - beginning in January 2019 with two two-hour sessions a month devoting a month each to conservation, habitat, native plants, and invasive plants.

Submitted by: Cyndy Shorter November 2018

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

First Quarter Report for 2019 to OMGA from Multnomah County

Multnomah Master Gardeners started their year off with several Board meetings to finalize their budget for the coming year.

The January chapter meeting hosted Linda Chalker-Scott, Extension Urban Horticulturist at Puyallup, WSU. She spoke on Garden Myths and the good, bad and ugly research about gardening. At that same chapter meeting the membership said "Thank You" to Corinne Thomas-Kersting for two great years as President of the chapter. She will continue on as Past President on the board.

The February Chapter meeting hosted Glen Andresen on "How I Grow 40 fruit trees on my 60 X100 foot city lot". Very informative and entertaining for the huge crowd of Glen's followers who attended.

The March chapter meeting will host Willi Galloway on how to get the most out of your garden for cooks.

Our chapter began the 7 week Metro Master Gardener Trainings on Feb.8th with another large turnout. There were over 100 registered for Multnomah County Master Gardener Training and another 80 or more between the other two counties, Clackamas and Washington. Truly the training numbers are back up this year in the Metro area.

Under the direction of Rich Becker, Kathy Fetty, Bevin Peters and others we are continuing to work on our Incredible Edible Sale slated for May 11 the day before Mother's Day. This is a very popular one day sale of veggie starts and some perennial starts that due to a scheduling conflict will happen one week later than previous year. It will bring all hands on deck for this one day fund raiser. We are getting ready to start our very busy farmer's market season with clinic tables all over the metro area, staffing our phone banks and welcoming a new group of interns later this Spring.
Submitted by Marilyn Frankel

POLK COUNTY

Hello all, as I write this snow is falling and it seems winter will go on forever. Trainees are midway in their studies on their way to becoming the new class of Master gardeners. Plant sale committees and growers groups are gearing up for another amazing event. Our education committee is planning its community outreach for the year and developing some fresh new subcommittees. I recently attended the PNW pollinator conference at OSU and that has me revved up waiting for warmer weather and all the activities that come along. We at Polk County MG hope everyone is as ready for spring as we are. George Woodward

TILLAMOOK COUNTY

Tillamook Report to OMGA, March 2, 2019

Tillamook is midway through the 2019 Master Gardener classes. We have 24 apprentices who are participating. Our strong mentor program welcomes and supports the apprentices as they go through the classes so they feel included from the very start.

TCMGA is building a larger presence on social media. Not only are we on Facebook but we are in the process of building a new web site. Our Communication Committee is in charge of this as well as weekly "Blasts" sent to the membership to inform them of upcoming service opportunities, activities and general information.

Spring Classes are being planned for Saturday, March 30. We will have a featured speaker on "Gardening for Bees-SHFT" (shrubs, herbs, flowers, trees). We will also have classes on caring for roses, ways to extend the gardening season and dealing with moles. One Green World will also be there. Other presenters are still in the works.

Seed to Supper classes will be starting soon. They will be presented in three locations: north Tillamook County, south Tillamook County and central Tillamook County. Master Gardeners have partnered with Food Roots for several years to teach this popular program.

TCMGA's Community Pruning Day will take place on March 16. Master Gardeners and apprentices will be working on gardens of seniors or disabled community members who otherwise would not be able to get this work done.

We are also planning for our annual plant sale on Saturday, May 4.

Our president this year, Cammy Hickman, has a goal of extending the educational aspect of our program. She and our membership will be looking for renewed and innovative ways to share information and engage the public.

Respectfully submitted-Linda Stephenson

UMATILLA COUNTY

WASCO COUNTY

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Report to Oregon Master Gardeners from Washington County Master Gardeners.

The **Education Garden move** from Washington County Fairgrounds to Portland Community College Rock Creek has been completed. The college donated space and labor to help with site development next to their Learning Garden. As can be seen from the following information this will be a mutually beneficial relationship.

The **WCMGA Education Garden at PCC Rock Creek** is being used for some of the course work being done by the Winter term Landscape Technology Department Soils classes. Students are learning how to take soil samples and interpreting soil tests using our site. They are also conducting water infiltration tests and conducting a count of macro organisms present in the soil. Susan Albright and Sue Ryburn are invited to give a tour of the garden and speak to the class about how soils are being managed in the new garden site.

WCMGA has started our **In the Garden Series** as February with classes through December on a wide range of sustainable gardening practices. Classes are at both of our garden sites---at PCC Rock Creek and Jenkins Estate. Interested people can find details at <http://washingtongardening.org/upcoming-events/> .

April 27th Gardenfest Plant Sale will be held in the greenhouses at PCC Rock Creek. In addition to an "Ask a Master Gardener" plant clinic booth, we are expanding our sale to include 15-minute gardening sessions focusing on water-efficient gardens, creating habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects, gardening in containers and small spaces, and identifying invasive weeds(classes); information booths from community partners (Xerces Society, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Tualatin Valley Water District, Seed 2 Supper).

WCMGA received an **award from Juan Young Trust grant of \$9000** for structures in our new Education Garden at PCC Rock Creek. The grant will be used for canopies for outdoor classrooms, information kiosk, seating for children and other "hardscape" features.

The WCMGA has been invited to participate in the **Science GeekOut Fest** on April 20th at the Beaverton Library. This event will feature fun STEM stations for children and their families. A large crowd because STEM programs are very popular with families in our area. We will be able to showcase informational materials as well as provide a hands-on activity such as mini-worm composting, or looking at seeds under a microscope.

YAMHILL COUNTY

OMGA Quarterly Report -- January/February/March 2019 -- Yamhill County, Oregon

January and February have had a wild variety of weather which affects Master Gardener's plans for beginning propagation for our plant sale only a few months away. But we have started procuring starts from our reliable nurseries as well as getting started with seeds.

Our new trainees began their immersion into Master Gardeners with a great amount of enthusiasm and energy. We have a vast variety of retirees that have backgrounds in areas that our committees were excited to welcome. Us veterans really enjoy the "new blood".

Our gardening seminar "Spring Into Gardening" to be held March 16 is off and running. We have a very experienced group of committee chairs who have worked the event for the past few years, which makes the whole process run very smoothly. Everyone always wants to improve this year's event and they make every effort to do so. The respect and cooperation between the members of this group makes this project very enjoyable to be a part of.

Our Community Garden is expanding more and more. The produce grown and donated to the Food Bank for 2018 was 16,500 lbs! The Garden has 238 raised beds, which are used by private individuals and for the Food Bank. We are all so proud of what this group has accomplished. They now feel confident enough to offer MG recertification classes for any chapter as well as offering the classes to the public. They are supporting Seed To Supper participants, have a children's garden, and have started a GoFundMe to procure funds for further expansion.

Submitted By: Nancy Woodworth
 OMGA Representative
 Yamhill County MG