



OMGA 2019 4th Quarter Chapter Reports

BENTON COUNTY

Benton County Master Gardener's Association 4th Quarter 2019 Report Submitted by Richard Taylor

Insights Into Gardening 2020 –

Planning is well under way for our annual Insights Into Gardening conference, to be held at La Sells Stewart Center, on the Oregon State University campus, on Saturday, February 8, 2020. We have a lined up a great list of speakers on Edibles, Ornamentals, Beginning Gardening, and General Interest topics. Registration will be available in December.

Gearing Up for Gardening –

This lunchtime series of talks is held every Tuesday in January and February at the Benton County Public Library in Corvallis. The theme for 2020 is early year garden planning. Topics such as tool maintenance, soil preparation, seed starting, and when to plant will inform and entertain attendees during our first two cold and wet months of the year.

Dig and Divides –

As our association transitions to only propagating plants to sell to the public, we are still digging up plants in peoples gardens, carefully cleaning all of the soil from the roots, and potting them up for sale in the spring. We have collected over 3000 plants this fall.

Graduation Celebration –

We will be recognizing our new Master Gardener trainees for 2019 at the Philomath Scout Lodge on November 14.

CENTRAL GORGE

CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER

2019 Fourth Quarterly Chapter Report

Hood River County

Here in Hood River County Fall is in its full brilliance. The nights are getting colder, as the days feel sleepy and warm. The trees are losing their leaves and getting ready for Winter. Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams already have snow and everyone is excited for the ski season to begin. The cycles of life, the seasons are so very beautiful, and I am reminded to be grateful for the abundance in my life.

Hood River county Master Gardener's are winding down and this year is coming to an end. Our volunteer hours have been sent in, and we are looking forward to celebrating the year at our Master Gardener Graduation & Appreciation Night! A pot luck is planned as well as our 4th quarterly meeting. It is always a plus to see our recent graduates and enjoy the delicious food.

On Saturday December 7th we will be gathering for our 10th Holiday Greenery Event in our new greenhouse. Our wreath and swag making project has been a huge success and we all look forward to it every year. This event is a service project, as we donate many wreaths and swags to the FISH Food Bank and WGAP.

The FISH Food Bank celebrated its 50th anniversary on October 12th. In the morning there was a pumpkin patch party for the clients; in the afternoon there were garden tours and visits to the FISH Food Bank. Master Gardeners helped spruce up the garden for these events.

Recently a survey was sent out to all Master Gardeners in Hood River County. This survey was designed by our 2019 President Renee Taylor. In this survey seven questions were asked:

1. What is your current Master Gardener status?
2. Which course schedule do you prefer?
3. What are the best ways for CGMGA to communicate with you about chapter news? Please choose all that apply.
4. I have a good understanding of CGMGA programs, activities, and business?
5. How can we encourage attendance at Association meetings?
6. What do you like best about the Central Gorge Master Gardener Association?
7. How can we improve the Central gorge Master Gardener Association?

These questions were answered by Master Gardeners and the results showed that most Master Gardeners preferred the 2018 schedule. This schedule had classes starting in January and ending in April. The best ways to communicate about chapter news was through the newsletter and email. 96.3% of our members thought they had a good understanding of CGMGA programs, activities, and business. To encourage attendance at Association meetings 61.5% wanted speakers included and 50% wanted quarterly Association meetings scheduled. Master Gardeners shared what they liked best about Central Gorge Master Gardener Association.

These answers included:

1. I love learning about gardening and doing the plant clinics. However, the relationships with other master gardeners is vital to my participation.
2. The people are great and I love the focus on sustainability and growing food.
3. Getting to work with folks with a common gardening interest
4. The great membership we have
5. Being of service to the community
6. Knowledge gained and connections with other members
7. Learning, fellowship, giving information to others and garden tours

The last questions asked was “How can we improve the Central Gorge Master Gardener Association?”

1. A stronger member/mentee program
2. Stability...add back more festival type plant clinics. Team building activities to build more cohesiveness.
3. Tighten up the course to January through April
4. It would help to talk about who we are as an association.
5. I appreciate more specific topics rather than general
6. Increase the work projects, giving new Master Gardeners opportunities to meet required volunteer hours
7. I think that we could improve the people piece. I think that its challenging for people that are new to the Master Gardener program to walk into a class full of people they do not know. It would help to create opportunities for new and old Master Gardeners to connect with each other and feel more welcome.

Looking out my window at the Columbia River, I am again reminded to be thankful and to have gratitude for a life full of family, friends, nature and gardening. Thank you to the Master Gardener program for all I have learned about gardening, friendships, and community. Submitted by: Barbara Kilkenny

CENTRAL OREGON



Fourth Quarter Report to OMGA Board of Directors Fall 2019

It was a full season of **“educational” activities** for COMGA in 2019. The number of classes provided to our community increased a little from last year. At the time of this article we have given over 48 community classes during our growing season. We also provide educational

opportunities through OSU. Thoughts for **future community education activities**: Our 'Growing Veggies' community classes were very popular this season. Many classes were at capacity for the given venue. The COMGA VP Community Ed elect (Elizabeth Weide) and I are considering requiring registration for ALL 'Growing Veggies' classes, not just for the Bend and Redmond venues. If enough people are wait-listed, another class in that county may be provided. Class evaluations request thoughts for future topics. The Spring Seminar workgroup has reviewed these suggestions and will be offering a few of these suggested class topics at their 2020 venue. Elizabeth and I will also suggest some of these topics for next year's community classes. We hope to involve more Master Gardeners as instructors next year! - JoAnne Abbott

Closing Day at Hollinshead Community Garden is October 12 in 2019. The 90 prolific flower and vegetable plots will be emptied and cleaned right down to the bare organic soil, with no green nor other colors left to visualize nor drool over. All plot numbers gathered, all wheelbarrows cleaned and repaired and all tools cleaned and sharpened. Everything will then be neatly stored in the HHCG shed for the winter until next Spring's opening day. One item that will NOT be stored, NOR MOVED (ever), is the new table inside the HHCG gate. It is used primarily for preparing vegetable donations for NeighborImpact. Master Gardener Evie Cox's all around handyman Tyler Peters built it for HHCG and donated it to the garden. According to Mary Ann Hart, Marilynn (Friley), Kirsten (Hinton), Evie (Cox) and I gave input as to what we would like. We needed something sturdy, a bit larger to accommodate the new larger coolers, insulated, a bit taller and with some shade. Mary Ann indicated that Tyler "went above and beyond those requests". He removed the old structure and with a little manipulation installed the new table with the help of a few of his buddies. Soon, Kirsten will purchase fabric and sew some new "curtains" to keep the sun out on the front side. But in the meantime, the old shade cloth is back on top of the new and improved table weighted down with rocks and clamps. Now is the time to reflect on what went well in your gardens this year, what didn't and what you might plan for next year's growing season! Happy Fall! – JoAnne Abbott

Summer came to an abrupt end Friday (9/27) at the **Northwest Crossing Community Garden!** Snow on our tomatoes and morning temps falling below freezing put an end to many vegetables that were still hanging on. Never-the-less, some of our NWX gardeners stayed calm and continued on with their frost hardy plantings in hopes that sunny Fall days would push them along. It all eventually comes to an end of course, but for now there's that stubborn gardener tenacity and optimism that refuses to let another season become history. At NWXCG gardeners have the option to Fall garden. A few warm souls will register and continue with cold hardy vegetables some of which will even improve with frosts. Or they might plant shallots, onions and garlic. This will also give our returning gardeners a chance to keep perennials over winter. For those ready to call a season a season, the NWXCG official Closing Day happens Saturday 10/5. Gardeners remove the last veggies from their raised beds and remove all loose materials from their sturdy cloche frames to present less of a grip for those harsh winter winds. It's not too early to be thinking about 2020 of course and there will be plenty of planning to do during the winter to get ready for it. One area of focus will be our raised bed cloche design.

Though successful this year, we know that choice of materials and design can be improved. And to implement those improvements, we are planning to offer cloche-building-hands-on training sessions for Master Gardener Mentors again in 2020. They'll pass those learnings along to our NWXCG gardeners. – Gary Weber

At the last workday at the **OSU Extension Demo Garden** we saw a record number of hard working volunteers who managed to load up the dump truck **twice** with garden debris. Everyone pitched in to help get the garden ready for winter by pulling up some of the plants that were affected by the frost and especially taking down the shade cloth from the greenhouse. Thank you to all who showed up and worked so hard. The final workday for the year is October 15. - Liz Douville & Vicky Kemp

OSU Report: The **2020 Master Gardener training** program is open for applications. The price of the training is \$275, down from \$295. Scholarships will be available. Revised training requirements will be to complete 8 days of classes (down from 10), and 48 hours of other volunteer time (down from 60). This will bring better alignment with national standards. Classes will be held on Wednesdays in the new conference room. With the move from Bend to Redmond, the hope is that more people from Jefferson and Crook counties will sign up. Under consideration is offering advanced training in May and/or June when the weather and traveling are better. The new and improved **ECCO database** (software for recording plant clinic information) will be hosted on equipment based in Portland. Several counties have contributed funds to the project. A request has been made to OMGA to consider awarding a grant to help get the project completed so it could be available for implementation in 2020. There are still some kinks to be worked out but the system is ready to be tested. The new ECCO looks much easier to navigate and seems more user friendly. Major changes include logging in to one county and being able to see other county information, being able to search for questions and responses, and being able to upload images. One other major change is that MG completed questions will be marked "pending", and marked as closed after review by an administrator. Intake will be done by hand using the current diagnostic form, with data entered afterwards. Master Gardener **Recognition Night** is scheduled for October 29, 2019 at the Deschutes Brewery Mountain Room. - Amy Jo Detweiler, Toni Stephan

2019 is a busy year for this **VP of Master Gardener Education**. The mission of this VP is to increase the number of members participating in educational and social opportunities, and encourage their engagement in the business of our association. The first General Meeting in February was exciting and informative with a presentation on "How to Watch and Get the Most Out of an OSU Extension Master Gardener Webinar," with a very tasty potluck luncheon enjoyed by all who attended. The meeting was followed in March with a Webinar Viewing Party. The attending members watched a live webinar and shared in a tomato themed potluck. The 2nd General Meeting was held in June. And after an overview of the business happenings, members were treated to a Sage on the Stage presentation on "Emergency Preparation and Fire Safe Landscapes." The presentation was followed by a tour of a property to use their new

skills in identifying areas of fire insecurity. In August, we moved into the height of the busy Master Gardener growing season, and a growing number of members attended the 3rd General Meeting-COMGA Board Election & Annual BBQ - an afternoon into evening time of story-telling, laughter, good food, and raffle prizes! And the announcement of the 2020 COMGA Board Members! In September, members were invited to attend a lunch 'n tour at Rainshadow Organics, a local farm-to-table restaurant. Members were treated to a chat with the chef during lunch, followed by an informative tour of the farm. The 4th General Meeting agenda in October includes the vote on the 2020 budget, an autumn themed potluck luncheon, and a Sage on the Stage presentation on "How to Prepare the Perfect Cup of English Tea" by the owner of our local AK Tearoom- with a cup of tea and a scone for everyone. In November, as we move into the cooler days of fall and the shorter days of winter, COMGA members have the opportunity to share in a Book Discussion Luncheon in November - just for fun. This year the book choice is "The Trouble with Goats and Sheep" by Joanna Cannon. Also in November, this 2019 VP of MG Ed, and the 2019 VP of Community Education, along with the incoming VPs of 2020 will host a New MG Coffee to discuss with the newly certified Master Gardeners about what to expect and how to plan for their first year as a Central Oregon Master Gardener. December defines the Holiday Season and the COMGA Master Gardeners love to get together, share stories of gardens and friendship, and eat. The theme of our Holiday Luncheon this year is "Sharing the Abundance." Our themed luncheon will be adorned in greenery from the forests around us with a catered buffet luncheon, and a giving tree dedicated to our local food bank. 2019 is a busy year with business meeting and event attendance numbers up, and many, many smiling Master Gardeners. – Kathy Geary

The Spring Gardening Seminar committee is busy recruiting speakers for next year's Seminar which will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2020 at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo middle sister building, Redmond. Information about the seminar will be available online at gocomga.com around the first part of March. – Rocky Bessette

Report submitted by Gary Weber, COMGA State Representative

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

CLATSOP COUNTY

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT 2019

Our chapter has enjoyed a busy fall so far.

Our “Winterizing Your Garden” event, which has been held every fall for 12 years was the best ever in terms of educational outreach. Our Master Gardener teams set up and attended several booths specializing in topics such as; bees, pollinators, soils, dry farming and more. We also had hands on demonstrations on how to make sedum wreaths as well as a kid’s corner where the young ones made paper bag “bird nests” and learned about birds. Attendance figures were slightly off from last year but there was much more interaction between the Master Gardeners and the attendees.

The Learning Garden is winding down now and the committee is proud to report that over six hundred pounds of produce was delivered to the local food pantry. The workers at the pantry said customers always asked for the Master Gardener’s produce because it was the best!

A new project application was presented to our Board and approved at our last meeting. It affords our chapter an opportunity to reach out to Jewell School, a small K-12 school in a very rural area of our county. We will be consulting on various aspects of a planned garden that will ultimately include participation by math classes, wood shop, science classes and the school’s in house food services. Due to the school’s very rural setting it is the focal point of the community. The Master Gardener outreach through this project will also extend to the greater community. It is a very exciting new project for our chapter.

Our recent field trip to two Portland area nurseries was fun and we learned new things about propagation, soil amendments and organic dry farming.

The Demonstration Garden committee is working on modifying the landscape plan. Many plants are getting shaded out by large trees that belong to the fairgrounds. A new array of spring bulbs is also being planned.

Clatsop County Master Gardeners look forward to a busy and rewarding 2020.
Linda Holmes, State Rep.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

COOS COUNTY

CURRY COUNTY

Curry County Master Gardener Association Fourth Quarterly Chapter Report, November 2019 *Jeffrie Hall – State Representative*



The weather is changing, rains have started, but there are some nice days between. Fall crops are maturing and winter crops are growing s l o w l y. “See you in June, garlic.” Bees are fewer in number and the spiders are making the Halloween decorations, and mushrooms, lots of mushrooms. Master Gardener plant clinics, projects, classes, events are winding down in Curry County. It’s budget and planning time for next year. Sign ups for next year’s Master Gardener classes are underway.

Plant Sales & Greenhouse: The propagated perennials are being transplanted into 3” pots as they develop roots. This year Carol Hobbs purchased a professional *Osmocote* controlled-release fertilizer with minor elements mixed into the potting soil that will feed the “little darlings” just the right amount of nutrients until the sale. Hypertufa and driftwood planters for the Brookings Holiday Bazaar are being planted. The greenhouse is getting very full; we are running out of room. Money from the Holiday Bazaar will go to the Land & Building Fund, for a larger facility, someday!



Planters for the Holiday Bazaar



A very full greenhouse

Education



concrete floor.

Riley Creek Elementary School:

The “Fall Fest” will be held October 23 for all students and their families. Apples will be peeled and pressed for cider, pumpkins weighed, and fall crowns made. Many students are attending classes in the garden during the weekdays with support from the new faculty. Ali Mramor has been researching sign companies to use the Karl Carlson Grant for garden signage and has found an online company that has kid focused sign templates. Composting & vermiculture will be the first ones purchased. And thanks to Gold Beach Rotary and Rotary International the hoop house will get a

“Dig Your Library” Julia Bott:

For the fall classes at the Chetco Community Library in Brookings they focused on harvesting bush beans, celery, chard, parsley, lettuce, and planted herbs. The kids transplanted sage plants from pots and discussed the amount of time taken for the plants to grow the care they required. Finally, they harvested the still somewhat green pumpkins, planted garlic and fava beans, and prepared the beds and tools for winter. “Kids loved harvesting the vegetables and eating straight from the garden.”



Harvest time

Planning for “Dig Your Library 2020 has begun. Three goals have been set: expand available planting area; expand visibility and awareness of program; and expand the ages and number of participants. Additional beds are being planned for a part of the annex that is visible from the street. An additional session each week at a different day and time that works better for adults and/or moms and tots is being planned. We are looking at a raised bed or two that will make it easier for seniors to participate. The kickoff for “Dig Your Library” 2020 is Saturday March 21. It includes a DIY vermiculture bin building and care workshop followed by a session in the garden.”

Julia is also working with the Brookings School District to try to get more kids to participate in the library program.

Classes in Curry

New Adult Classes at Riley Creek: The last class on vermicomposting will be taught by Ali Mramor on October 26. The other classes that have been held taught how to make hypertufa containers, then plant them with succulents, and how to prepare garden beds for fall and winter

Other County Classes:



Hypertufa Class Part 1, Riley Creek

The “Home & Health Speakers Series” at the Chetco Community Library in Brookings started in June & continued through early October, the last two classes on “Eating for Health –The Whole Food Plant Base Diet” & “Urban Permaculture & Creating an Edible Landscape at Home” were well attended. A class on hardscaping and irrigation by Paul Prosch-Jensen was held at the Port Orford Public Library recently.



Small part of a hillside with many perennials

Fall into Landscaping Or “Autumn is Awesome”

Scott Thiemann, Master Gardener Coordinator, conducted a landscaping workshop in late September, attended by Master Gardeners and potential members. Properties were visited that had a variation in size and types of landscaping: from an “urban cottage garden”, home with extensive hardscaping, beach garden with a wide variety of plants in a fairly small space, a garden with vegetables, chickens, heathers and rhododendrons, and a yard featuring many beautiful perennials and dahlias. The climate on the coast here is good for planting landscape plants in the fall which will establish themselves before the summer drought.



DOUGLAS COUNTY

Douglas County Master Gardener’s 4th Quarter Report November 2019

Douglas County Master Gardeners honored its hardworking members at its annual awards banquet in October. Many members were recognized for giving countless hours in a variety of areas, including our Discovery Garden, the Plant Clinic and to the community.

The Victory Garden has reaped great success with its harvest. They have surpassed last year’s total by 972 pounds with 7,235 pounds of produce. Their variety of fruits and vegetables are donated to UCAN, which distributes it to local food pantries. They also had an all-time record weekly weight of 1,015 pounds.

The Discovery Garden’s iris garden has been completely renovated with a new cinder block border and a greater variety of irises. The addition of more perennial plants will provide color throughout the year when the irises are not blooming.

Coming up on November 23 is our annual bake sale held at Sherm’s Market. This much-anticipated event allows our gardeners to show off their baking skills, too. Lots of wonderful home-baked goods can be purchased just in time for Thanksgiving.

The greenhouses’ crews are busy cleaning, pruning and propagating plants to prepare and protect them for the winter season.

Our annual winter training will begin in January. Potential students are being interviewed and mentors are being recruited. We are pleased that our Horticultural Agent, Steve Renquist, has postponed retirement and will take the lead this year.

JACKSON COUNTY

JCMGA 4TH QUARTER BOARD REPORT

October 26, 2019

Jackson County MGA has been busy, as usual. In late August we hosted our annual picnic in the Arboretum. The weather and fires cooperated, several MGs entered their produce for judging/tasting, and 85 attendees enjoyed the hamburger provided potluck dinner. Awards for continuing MGs were presented.

Our Master Gardener class graduated 39 with 106 people attending—Congratulations to our newest members!! Eighteen student awards were distributed.

A native plant nursery is being established on the Extension grounds. Perennial and house plant cuttings are being readied for our Spring Garden Fair May 2-3. We have started “pop up sales” as a way to handle surplus plants. These are usually held on the Extension grounds and usually consist of mostly native or perennial starts. The last native plant sale netted over \$1000.

Our chapter would like to develop a 5-year financial plan. We would appreciate hearing from chapters who could share procedures, resources, and other tips on accomplishing a financial plan.

Barbara Davidson, JCMGA Representative

JOSEPHINE COUNTY



JOSEPHINE COUNTY

2019 4th Quarter Report, November 2, 2019
Carolyn McCord, OMGA Representative

We approved a new logo for our Master Gardener chapter several months ago but I forgot to share it at the time. It is shown above, better late than never.

Josephine County Master Gardeners ended their summer with the county fair and a grape tasting event and jumped right into fall with the start of a new year of youth activities and planning for activities for the year. New officers were elected for 2020 and the new students finished up their payback hours and are looking forward to a celebration banquet honoring their achievement. Additional information on these and other activities is available on our web page, <https://jocomastergardeners.com/index.html>, or our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/jocomastergardeners/>. Our monthly newsletter is posted on the web page and contains a lot of pictures. Here's a few details:

County Fair – Our chapter helps with set-up, decorating, judging, plant clinic, and cleanup of the vegetable and floral areas of the fair, as well as donating prize money for winners in the various categories. During the fair, Master Gardeners made 356 contacts with fairgoers.

Grape Tasting Event – The second annual grape tasting event was held September 2, the same day as our last OMGA meeting. So far this event has been limited to our chapter members to ensure an adequate grape crop and to avoid food service concerns. Despite the fact that some of the varieties were over ripe this year, there was certainly no problem with adequate supply. After the event was over arrangements were made for Josephine County Food Bank to come get the remaining grapes. They left with 326 pounds of grapes! Suffolk Red was voted the favorite this year. Cuttings from favorites are grown by our Perennial Committee for their sales.



Youth Programs – Popular youth programs are starting another school year. Young Master Gardeners, held in cooperation with the library, present interesting gardening topics each month of the school year for two different age groups. Junior Master Gardeners, held at Highland Elementary, uses the Junior MG curriculum. Some Highland students will be “graduating” to junior high so they are forming a new group.

\$\$\$ - The perennial sale in September was very successful and brought in \$1100. That and other positive transactions had our treasurer in smiles at the October board meeting.

Election of Officers – New officers elected for 2020 are: President, Mark Shallheim; Vice President, Terry Ruiter; Secretary, Pat Etchells; OMGA Representative, Breezy Schallheim; OMGA Alternate Representative, Diane Lewis. Treasurer, John Etchells, will continue for 2020. His position is appointed rather than elected. We have had two vice presidents in the past but dozens of nominations and pleading phone calls did not result in a nominee for the additional VP position.

New class – Our new class graduation and recognition dinner will be held November 16. We will be recognizing 23-25 new MGs (number not yet known until payback deadline) as well as our MG of the Year, Behind the Scenes MG, and a 20 year member.

KLAMATH COUNTY

LANE COUNTY

Lane County - 4th Quarter Happenings

Fall Festival

Our annual Fall Festival was held on the cool and blustery September 28th but that didn't deter the community from attending our workshops, sampling apples, and gathering gardening information. The Master Gardeners partnered with the Master Food Preservers for an excellent event and some crazy good soups for lunch! This year we added a Volunteer Coordinator which really helped organize a smooth flow leading up to and through the festival, and we added security training for the Greeters. Attendees enjoyed fresh pressed cider and many

delicious samples of apple varieties. We sold out of our fruit trees, fall veggie starts, and spring bulbs, but had ample supply of garlic bulbs.

Plant Clinic and Mobile Plant Clinic

The Plant Clinic had a very busy summer and is now experiencing a bit of a slower pace. Through September 15th, the Mobile Plant Clinic has held 65 booths at farmers markets, community events, plant sales, gardening store, community gardens and a home and garden show. Besides the Eugene-Springfield area, venues have included Creswell, Cottage Grove, Lowell, Veneta, Florence, Junction City, Oakridge and other rural Lane County locations. The Mobile Plant Clinic has made approximately 2400 contacts with the public. Our Extension office has had many requests for soil pH testing this season and a team of Master Gardeners has been helping clients understand their garden soil makeup and how to ameliorate it for the best plant production, based on their individual needs. A new soil testing area has been set up in the basement for a more convenient on-site testing.

Propagation Classes in Preparation for the April Plant Sale

“Hands on” Propagation Classes are underway in Lane County. The plan is to create a series of classes that follows the general calendar/ timing to take cuttings from a variety of cultivars. Shirley Betourney will be offering the series of classes that provides hands on practice with your own plant stock. Soil, containers, and hormone liquid costs are being covered by the LCMGA board.

The goals of the classes are to invite more MGs to propagate plants for the Plant Sale, as well as safely create more “GREEN” without digging soil and/or transferring known insects, worms, or diseases. When possible, other MGs who have experience in certain cultivars are available during the classes to offer their technique and advice. The first class was held in September on softwood, and the second will be in January on hardwood of dormant cultivars and natives. The third will be in February and the fourth is TBD in the Spring or early Summer.

Kate Kloos

LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln County Master Gardeners Association 4th Quarter Report

Twenty of our students will graduate on Nov 14 and become new Master Gardeners. So far we have five signed up to take the class, this next year. The new class will have a new style badge, looking like the current badge and the paper badge on a string will be eliminated. No more blowing in the wind and getting tangled up!

The Officers for next year will be voted on at our Nov 14 meeting. The proposed budget will probably be presented at a later date.

The Yachats Demo Garden has donated 603 lbs of produce as of our last board meeting. They are applying for a grant to replace more of the beds with the 2 ft high "Durable Greenbed" that has a 25 year life. South Beach Demo Garden was able to have some of their produce certified and used to benefit the Oregon Coast Community College students access to fresh produce. They are located at the College's South Beach Campus. Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Demo Garden had a successful year with continued high attendance of 1655 people as of our last board meeting. They had a harvest as well with their grade school students, who dearly love to harvest potatoes and carrots, some of which are by necessity "magic"! Oceanview Demo Garden looks forward to building another wheel chair accessible bed and to installing a drip irrigation system. The Lincoln City Demo Garden plans has put their beds to cover crops but plans to plant a escallonia wind break still this fall.

Membership renewals forms will be passed out at our Nov 14 meeting, those who we unable to attend will receive theirs by mail.

Roundtables continue to provide information and are winding down after a successful season. Submitted by Ron Woodard II, Lincoln County OMGA Representative

LINN COUNTY

2019 OMGA 4th Quarter Chapter Report, Linn County

Overview. As we conclude the year, we see that it has been very busy and successful in getting out the gardening message. Starting with the pollinator conference, a very successful demonstration garden, spring garden tour and continued bee/pollinator information extended to the community and concluding with a graduation hurrah.

Wrapping Up the Year. Graduation is Thursday, Nov 14th from 2:30 to 4:30 at the Boy Scout Lodge in Philomath. It is a small bites and treats potluck. Awards and recognitions will be enjoyed by all who attend.

Bee Happenings. Ranee Webb has headed up our bee/pollinator efforts. Sales of bee houses have been tremendous and we find we are in need of skilled workers that can router the blocks for making mason bees houses, getting them ready to sell.

Ten classes for cocoon cleaning have been offered. Out of 150 slots there are only 30 to 35 slots left so more classes are being offered throughout the county. There are a lot more instructors this year and they are hoping to have even more classes next year.

We continue to encourage people to subscribe to “Bee Notes” (an online email) to keep up to date on pollinators, what’s happening now, what should be done with the different pollinators.

Certification Hours. In order for certified master gardeners to get their training hours, our home horticulture agent has set up webinar every Monday in October at the extension office. People watched the webinar together and discussed it afterward. Brooke provided popcorn and answered questions.

Demonstration Garden. We are harvesting and donating a lot of food. The garden is starting to wind down and is being prepared for winter. Soil has been added to beds and trees trimmed. The garden has carrots, beets, lettuce and cabbage planted for winter. The herb garden is in the process of being reworked.

Facebook. The Facebook pages are very active and a great resource for the community. We encourage Oregon Master Gardeners to check out the site (Master Gardener Programs of Linn and Benton Counties).

PNW Brownbag talks. The PNW Brownbag talks were held in October on Wednesdays from Noon – 1:00 pm at the Albany Public Library, 2450 14th Ave SE, Albany.

October 2 - Gardening with Native Plants - Joy Eberhart, Benton County MG

October 9 – Basic Entomology - Rich Little, Linn and Benton County MG

October 16 – Fall Vegetables – Grace from Garland Nursery

October 23 – Plants for Color and Birds - Darren Morgan from Shonnard’s Nursery

October 30 – Putting Your Garden to Bed – Betty Goergen Linn County MG

Submitted by Janice Gregg, Linn County OMGA Representative

MARION COUNTY

OMGA 2019 Fourth Quarter Report for Marion County

November Elections for Board Positions

On November 19th at the Annual Membership Meeting, elections will be held for 6 positions on the MCMGA Board or Directors:

Education Representative

Communication Representative

Garden Representative

Secretary

OMGA Representative

Member At Large

Plus, we still don't have a Treasurer-Elect from last elections. This has been a tough position to fill.

Marion Garden

One of our consistent challenges has been to get the public visiting our garden. We continually work on ways to get people to visit. Because the garden is off the main road and behind a tall building, it may not be obvious how to get to it even if one has the address! So, we've been working with Marion County (who owns the property) to get some signage on the main road that will direct people down the correct driveway to find us. While there is no cost to us, the size and placement of the sign has been in the negotiation phase for some time. Finally, we have an agreement that we will have a permanent orange sign with the words Marion Garden and an arrow pointing in the direction of the garden. No logo, but that's all the space there is without making it too small to read. We'll take what we can get!

Vandalism in the Garden

We have an ongoing issue with vandalism in certain areas of the garden (dry tomato crop; flowering plants). There is also evidence of the homeless sleeping in areas of the garden. And we've even had people show up with empty buckets presumably to pick our harvest when they didn't expect any Master Gardeners to be present. We have added appropriate signage (necessary in order to allow prosecution) stating "no trespassing" and "no picking". We are considering the addition of a large, heavy-weighted "welcome sign" stating we are open sunrise to sunset. Next step to consider is a working security camera system, which one of our Master Gardeners has offered to donate.

2020 Master Gardener Classes

The schedule is complete, the location is secured and we have 36 applicants thus far for 2020. Classes are set to begin January 6th. This year we plan to have an online payment option for the class fee and have set a new timeframe for when payment is due. It will be due no later than December 5th which is the same day as the Class Orientation meeting. In the past, it was due the first day of classes and we would always have last minute drop-outs, sometimes with absolutely no communication at all. But by then we would already have assembled packets for them including the Sustainable Gardening book and all paperwork necessary to be signed and submitted. Hopefully this way, we won't be wasting that time on those that change their minds as their tuition will already have been paid.

Membership Directory

We have always produced a paper booklet that contains basic information about our program, along with the names, photos and contact information of every Master Gardener in Marion County. It's very labor-intensive, has associated printing costs, is only updated annually, gets lost so we print extras to have on hand, and is generally a lot of work for a handful of people.

We are in the process of establishing an online directory which will eventually replace the paper version. It's called Ultimate Member by Wordpress and you can read more about it here <https://wordpress.org/plugins/ultimate-member/>.

There's a basic free version, but we've opted for the version that adds features and costs \$249 per year, less than printing the membership directory annually which was running about \$340. Members will set up their own user name and password and be able to update their own profile contact information and photo as needed in real time. They can list their areas of interest in the gardening world. Best of all, this information is searchable! There's opportunity to set up instant messaging and email groups, distribute surveys, all of which should improve communications.

There will be no additional fees to manage this as our website administrator says this will be included in the duties for which we already pay him.

Respectfully submitted by Cyndy Shorter, OMGA Rep

10/23/19

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Fourth Quarter Report to OMGA from Multnomah County Master Gardeners

September brought some early Fall weather to Portland and many gardens were slowing down and being put to bed. Our Sept. speaker's series was presented by Jim Dixon on creative culinary tips for cooking from our seasonal gardens. Greta Binford, Professor at Lewis and Clark and expert on spider venoms, informed us in our October Speaker Series on the great diversity of methods spiders use to trap and capture their prey. This was a very informative talk on spiders both here in the Northwest and around the world.

September 14th was our annual Harvest Fest held at our own Demonstration Garden. We honored our award winning Master Gardeners and gave special appreciation to our new group of interns. This potluck not only allows us to savor our bounty from the year but to also hold a special salsa contest. Our now famous homemade Mexican Chocolate ice cream, and our ever anticipated rhubarb and blueberry sorbets are always a hit.

This year we assisted the June Key Delta Community Center in building raised beds for growing their own vegetables. The money came from a Space grant we helped facilitate from the East Multnomah Soil and Water District.

The new Demonstration Garden is moving along rapidly with the continued building in a larger space. The earlier developed DG has now been transfer to the Learning Gardens Lab in conjunction with a local intermediate Portland Public School. The perennial gardens are maturing, the beneficial meadow was just planted with Fall grasses, the eco lawn is prepared for Spring planting, the veggie beds are all planted with cover crop or covered with burlap bags and planning has started for next year's education programs. The dry farm trial at the garden was a success with 280 lbs of North Georgia Candy Griller squash the big producer. The second crop of early girl tomatoes were all harvested and counted as well. Plans are on the way for more dry farming experimentation at the garden. We are very proud of our Demonstration Garden and all we have done in the few short months since we started.

The metro Recertification Day is slated for Nov. 9th where our interns receive their long awaited badges. This year we will also fulfill our obligation to OSU Master Gardeners by listening to ***A Diverse Garden is a Healthy Garden - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in your role as an OSU Master Gardener volunteer.*** Presenters: Yolando Sánchez, Jeff Selby, and Koffie Dessou of the City of Portland, Office of Equity and Human Rights. Rounding out the day's program will be ***'How trees grow and why they die!'*** Presenter: Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester, Clackamas, Hood River, and Marion Counties and ***'Is the Insect Apocalypse Upon Us?'*** by our own Gail Langellotto, Statewide Coordinator, OSU Extension Master Gardener Program, Associate Professor of Horticulture, OSU.

Stay tuned for more from Multnomah Chapter in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Frankel, OMGA Representative, Multnomah County Master Gardeners

POLK COUNTY

Hello all

The seasons have definitely changed. Here in Polk county we have been dealt a couple heavy blows to our ranks with the passing of members that were near and dear to us all. Al May and his daughter Deloris May both lost there respective health battles and are now at peace. Al had been an active member for 23 years here joining the master gardeners at the young age of 74. He is already missed. Deloris was a pillar here and one of the members that went out of her way to make everyone feel welcome. She was one of the faces that greeted me personally and I will always remember that. She was extremely active having held most all offices at one time or another. Two of the greats here in Polk County.

Our Inspiration garden has had a stellar year, with large paving projects getting completed, if you are ever out our way stop on by. Both the Inspiration garden and our Dallas youth garden donated well over 3000 lbs of fresh produce each to the food bank. The Brunk house had their apple cider press event that I am told had a great turn out. The work done by our ranks is amazing.

As the norm for this time of year we are getting ready for a new class of trainees and mentors to help them navigate the program, and get them off on the right foot. Our October chapter meeting had a hands on bee demonstration by none other than myself. It was well attended and I believe people learned a thing or two. Plant sale committees have begun to meet and decide how we will continue to grow and change with the new best practices policy. As one year closes another begins time is funny that way.

As I hustle to get beds and plants ready for fall and winter I hope everyone has a chance to get out and enjoy the garden. I need to keep that in mind myself. I will not be attending the 4th quarter as I am headed off for a much needed vacation. We will be represented by Rachael Montesano.

In Service George Woodward

TILLAMOOK COUNTY

OMGA report from Tillamook County, November 2, 2019

After a very busy spring and summer, Tillamook Master Gardeners celebrated another successful year with our annual TCMGA picnic. It is held in our Learning Garden in September when everything is still beautiful, blooming and bountiful. It's good to take some time to get together to just enjoy the good company and, this year, great weather. Our Learning Garden was put to bed at the end of October. It's ready for a well-deserved rest (as are we). Our final tally of food for The Tillamook Pantry was 811 pounds of food. More to celebrate!

Our Fall Classes were held October 26 for Master Gardeners and the public. Our keynote speaker was Daniel Sparks, the new OSU Forestry Extension Agent for Clatsop, Tillamook and Lincoln Counties. He shared information about Coastal Trees and how they were used by indigenous people and their importance today. He also talked about various pests that attack our coastal trees. Many people along the coast are concerned about the recent prevalence of spruce aphids and the damage being done to local trees. Daniel reassured those in attendance that the appearance of spruce aphids is cyclical and the trees will recover given time. He especially encouraged people to give their trees a chance to recover before getting discouraged and cutting them down. It may even take up to five years.

Other Fall Classes included helping gardeners use online resources at home to learn more about sustainable gardening and another class created colorful, crafty garden markers to bring information and sparkle to next year's garden. Janice Gregg taught a hybrid class on culinary oils and flavored vinegars including tasting various oils and making our own herbed vinegar. The final class was a guided tour by the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum Director Gary Albright, of historical Kilchis Point in Bay City. (Many thanks to local MGs Kristy Lund, Arla Ayers and Vickie Wight who shared their knowledge and expertise.)

Tillamook Master Gardeners continued to hold plant clinics throughout the county at various activities. These included the Alder Creek Farm Festival, Hidden Acres Fall Celebration, Port of Garibaldi Night Market and Farmer's Markets in Manzanita, Tillamook and Pacific city.

As busy as everyone is, it is sometimes hard to get the word out on all that is happening and to keep members informed. So instead of filling everyone's email boxes with frequent or repetitive notices, our Communications chair sends "The Blast" on Thursday mornings. Necessary information is sent to this individual during the week and after it is compiled, The Blast is sent. This has worked well for our association and chances are emails are now being read instead of going directly to the Trash.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Stephenson, Tillamook OMGA Rep

UMATILLA

WASCO COUNTY

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Washington County Master Gardeners November, 2019 Report to OMGA

Fundraising

The effort to increase profits from the yearly plant sale (GardenFest) continues. The training received by the plant propagation team from Yamhill Master Gardeners is being implemented. Next year we hope to increase sales by combining information and activities with plant groupings. (E.g. attracting pollinators, drought tolerant plants)

Our fundraising team is reaching out to corporations to develop mutually beneficial relationships.

Community Activities

WCMGA participated in the PCC Rock Creek student-led Harvest Festival. "Spider-mania" at the Education Garden featured three activities for children.

Other information

Our incoming treasurer was featured on KOIN as part of the Welders (Women Encouraging Living Donations) which was formed last year.

The memorial service for Dave Winchester, long time member, will be November 30th. A memorial bench in his name will be placed in the Rock Creek Education Garden in January.

YAMHILL COUNTY

October/November/December 4th Quarter Chapter Report 2019 Yamhill County

Our Awards Committee nominated Michael O'Loughlin for the OMGA "Behind The Scenes Award" and we were disappointed he did not receive it. Unfortunately, when he became a MG he did not record his hours, not realizing their importance. He is recording now and next year we will renominate him, with his hours listed.

One of our long-term volunteers died recently—Bob Grossman. He has been a MG for 23 years. He was MG of the Year in 2000. He lead our Insect Committee for years and contributed every month to our newsletter with his articles about insects the public may encounter that month and contact us for information on their insect issues. A year ago we dedicated our MG Library to Bob and his wife, Barbara who was also a MG. There is a door plaque announcing "The Bob & Barbara Master Gardener Library". We all miss him daily.

Our Community Garden had another record year of production. We had 12,000 pounds of fresh organic produce harvested and delivered to Yamhill Community Action Partnership for distribution to food-needy people. Every month Alan Wenner, lead Community Garden volunteer, writes an article, including photos, for our newsletter bringing us up-to-date on their monthly activities and their vegetable's maturation.

Our OMGA Reps. are currently “Fractured Friends Forever”. This is in reference to their bones being fractured from falling this summer. I fractured my femur the first part of August and our Alt. Rep., Tonia Beebe, fractured her tibia and fibula the middle of September. So we get together regularly and compare pain and progress. I’m still using a walker and Tonia is in a wheelchair. But, both injuries are temporary, so we should be able to attend future OMGA events. For the Tillamook event, Polly Blum will be representing our chapter and will take notes and make a report to our BOD in November.

Our Seed To Supper program has lost it’s sponsorship and the committee is now working on alternative ideas on how to continue or to start a whole new program. We are having our October BOD meeting on 10/26 and we will discuss what to do. It’s a major set back but we have many creative people in the chapter who can be counted on to provide ideas. So 2020 is going to see changes.

Exciting news is that our member, Anna Ashby, has become only the second person to earn the title “Master Beekeeper” in Oregon! She just finished the exam after two years of progressing through the stages of knowledge acquisition. She wrote an article for our newsletter explaining the program and it’s impressive what she now knows about bees. It’s a wonderful program and something the recipient should be very proud to have accomplished.

Submitted by Nancy Woodworth, Yamhill County Master Gardener OMGA Rep.